

*Oriental Aliens*

there has not been the slightest effort to make this a political question.

It is true that on the public platform in British Columbia to-day you will not hear a debate carried on as in former years in reference to the entrance of the Japanese, because British Columbians realize that in the Japanese they had a loyal ally during the war. But that change of tone is not to be taken as indicating any weakening in the attitude of the people of British Columbia in regard to Asiatic immigration. On the contrary, the question has assumed a graver aspect, and it is generally recognized that unless this immigration be strictly controlled, it will probably become a question of increasing difficulty between the two countries. Therefore it is of vital importance that the question be taken up between the two nations and brought to a satisfactory conclusion without further delay. As a resident of British Columbia, there is no doubt in my own mind that not only is this Asiatic immigration a serious menace to the people of that province, but that the people of eastern Canada are also involved and must face the seriousness of the situation.

It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to prolong the debate. The ground has been well covered on other occasions, and it has been very well covered this afternoon, the various treaties having been discussed and their operation fully dealt with; but I wish to assure the House that it is the desire of the people of British Columbia that action should be at once taken in regard to this matter in order that we in that province may have a better condition of affairs than at present obtains as a result of the continued immigration of Asiatics.

In conclusion, I may say that in order to counteract the effects of the presence in the province of persons of that class, in order that we may take care even of the present situation, it is essential that we bring in many good Britishers and thus regain predominance so far as the proportion of the different classes of the population is concerned.

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, I hesitate at this late hour to delay the House in the further discussion of this problem and would not do so were I not convinced that the matter is one of paramount importance, and that if we fail to give it complete consideration to-night there will be difficulty in our doing so at any later period in the session. If, therefore, I touch in some measure on

[Mr. J. H. King.]

points that have already been dealt with I ask the indulgence of the House and assert that I do so with but one desire, that of driving these points home and convincing my fellow members of the House, just as we on the Pacific coast are convinced, of the seriousness of the problem.

This is not, Sir, a racial question; I desire to lay that down at the very outset of my remarks. In approaching the question, I treat it, as I think all do who understand it thoroughly, as a sociological, an ethical and essentially an economic problem. There is very much in the oriental philosophy, their history and their religious beliefs, etc., that is attractive and that forms a most pleasing study for the scholar. But, Sir, we must realize this, and Parliament and the Dominion of Canada must realize it, that the two races are distinct in type, in tradition, in ideas, in their whole outlook on life. They are distinct branches of civilization. It matters not how highly we value the attractive features of oriental civilization, the question before us to-night is this: which shall prevail, ours, or theirs? It is from that angle that I desire to approach the discussion of this subject.

The first reason which I offer in opposition to further immigration from the Orient is based on a very keen appreciation of the magnitude of the source. Let me say to the House that there are 800,000,000 orientals facing us on the Pacific slopes of this country—60,000,000 in Japan; 340,000,000 in India; 400,000,000 in China; many millions of others in smaller spheres. Just visualize, Sir, for a moment what it would mean if there was even a tremour of immigration, unrestricted, from such a prolific source of supply as a population of 800,000,000 to a country the total population of which is 8,000,000. We in Canada cannot absorb any considerable movement of immigration from such a source as that.

Then, Sir, in looking at this question from the economic point of view, I find myself in most excellent company. Many hon. members may hold the view that the position taken by British Columbians and western Canadians is a narrow and prejudiced one. But when I read to the House very briefly a statement by Lord Milner I think I offer a reference, if I may so term it, which warrants my taking a position similar to that which he took in years gone by. As representative of the British Crown in South Africa he gave this question intimate study under the most trying circumstances, and he has this to say: