

members from the province of British Columbia, and it is very pleasing to know that all thirteen are unanimous, so far as I can gather, in their opinion towards this resolution.

The oriental first came to the Pacific coast in 1849 at the time of the California gold rush, and the people of California were tremendously pleased with the orientals because they were of the opinion that the fame of their mines had challenged the attention of the whole world, and that the fact of men coming from China bore tribute to the fact that California was a big mining country. In the first Fourth of July parade ever held in San Francisco, orientals took part, lending to it an air of novelty and oriental splendour which was very pleasing to the people of California. But the joy of the Californians was very soon turned to dismay when they discovered the effect that the orientals were having on the social and economic life of the state of California. From California the orientals spread north into the province of British Columbia. The British Columbians had at their disposal the experience of the people of California, and those earlier settlers of the Pacific coast province did not view with a great deal of approbation the influx of the oriental, because they believed that as the number of orientals increased, the opportunities for the white race decreased, and so we find that in the first session of the first legislature conveyed in the province of British Columbia in the year 1872, a resolution was passed calling for a head tax of \$50 on every Chinaman coming into the country. In the same session a resolution was passed prohibiting the employment of orientals on public works. In 1874 a resolution was introduced calling for a head tax on orientals. In 1876 there was a resolution asking for a tax of \$10 per head on all males wearing long hair in the shape of a pig-tail or cue. In 1878 a resolution was passed that every Chinese person over twelve years of age should take out a license of \$10, payable every three months in advance. In 1878 the oriental question was discussed for the first time in the federal parliament. In 1884 the member for Victoria in this House moved a resolution to exclude orientals altogether from the province of British Columbia—a resolution very similar to the one we are debating to-day. In 1885 a bill was passed imposing a tax of \$50 per head on Chinese. In 1891 seventy petitions were received from the province of British Columbia by

this Parliament praying for the total exclusion of orientals. In 1892 more petitions were received by this Parliament than had been received in 1891. In 1899 the head tax was increased to \$100, and in 1902 it was again increased to \$500. Last year the province of British Columbia enacted legislation to prohibit orientals from taking part in any work on government contracts. This legislation, we understand, has since been disallowed. I am not prepared to discuss the disallowance of that act of the British Columbia legislature, any more than to say this, that the very fact of the legislature of British Columbia deeming it wise and expedient to enact such legislation simply goes to prove the absolute and complete necessity of having something done to restrict the progress and the march of the oriental so far as British Columbia is concerned.

All of these proceedings that I have related were accompanied by much argument, by long speeches and lengthy talks in the various legislatures, and there were some very great prophecies as to what would happen if oriental immigration was not somewhat curtailed. We are to-day in the presence of prophecies matured, prophecies fulfilled. The seed has been sown, and the harvest is here. We find that these various acts and the different attempts that have been made to deal with this question have to a very large extent merely skirted around the question. There has never yet been a comprehensive dealing with the issue. We find legislation passed against men with long hair; we find that a head tax has been imposed from time to time, but these attempts have been altogether ineffectual to cope with the situation. We are now confronted with a fifty years' growth problem. There is an old saying, and a very true one, that possession is nine points of the law.

I believe that it is good policy to settle this oriental problem with the oriental while the white population is still in possession of the province of British Columbia, rather than to defer the settlement of the issue until the time when the oriental himself is in full and complete possession of that great province. One of the serious handicaps, Sir, that we suffer from, I think, is the handicap of indifference. There was a time when that great stretch of country now known as the states of Oregon and Washington was British territory—the Columbia river was supposed to be the international boundary.