

understood by the people of Eastern Canada, or at all events, by those who represent its constituencies in the Dominion Parliament concerning the stand which has been taken by the people of this Province beyond all peradventure, it is this important question. Sir, the Acts which have been unanimously passed in this House during previous sessions show in the clearest possible manner the feeling of the people living in the Province of British Columbia. We have the first Act, which was passed in 1900, which was re-enacted in 1902, and again passed in 1903-4, during the first session after the Conservative Government came into power into this Province. This Act again passed this House in 1905, as well as during our last session in 1907.

Disallowed by Ottawa.

And it is hardly necessary for me to add that, on every occasion, these Immigration Acts have been disallowed by the authorities at Ottawa. (Hear, hear.) These Bills have not been disallowed on the ground that it was not competent for this Legislature to pass them. The position was not taken, and, moreover, it could not have been properly taken, that the passage of these measures was an unconstitutional act, and if any question of unconstitutionality had been involved, it was the bounden duty of His Excellency the Governor-General and of his advisers at Ottawa to leave to the courts the settlement of the question, whether these Bills were constitutional or not, and in that way the issue, whether these particular Bills, which are commonly known as the "Natal Acts," are within our jurisdiction would have been settled for all time to come. (Hear, hear.)

So far, sir, as we can go in the way of enacting such legislation, we have on five different occasions passed these Bills through all their stages in this House, and in this manner this Province and this House have demonstrated in the clearest possible fashion to the Eastern people, to those who are at the present time in power at Ottawa, and to those who occupy seats in the Dominion Parliament, whether they sit in Opposition or on the Government benches, and, I think, it will be generally agreed that it is this Province, and this Province alone, which is best fitted to come to a decision upon this matter. (Hear, hear.) That it is the decisive wish of the people of British Columbia, wholly irrespective of party, that an Act drawn along the lines of the "Natal Act" should become the law of the land. (Cheers.)

What About Commission?

And, if some may be inclined to think that any question can be raised in regard to the people in the East, not being thoroughly acquainted with our views upon this great issue, what, I may ask, about the Commission which was appointed, I think, either in 1900 or 1901, by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to examine into and prepare a report upon the subject? These Commissioners were: Mr. Clute, who is now one of the judges of the High Court of Justice of the Province of Ontario; Chris. Foley, a prominent laboring man, who on one occasion was a candidate for the House at Ottawa for Yale-Cariboo, and who was also a candidate at an election in the City of Vancouver some years later; and D. B. Munn, a resident of the City of New Westminster, who was completely familiar with the conditions surrounding this question, as far as capital is concerned. And this gentleman, I presume, was placed by the Government at Ottawa upon this Commission on account of his well-known interest in cannery development, as well as of the large amount of money which he has invested in canneries which are operated on the Fraser river. (Hear, hear.)

Of these three gentlemen, one, Mr. Clute, was a well-trained lawyer; another, Mr. Munn, was a large cannery operator; while the third, Chris. Foley, was a man in whom the laboring people of this Province had considerable confidence. And these gentlemen, at great expense to the country, went throughout the whole of the Province, taking evidence on oath, and they were further provided with counsel to assist them in their labors. The result of all this was, that they in due course brought down a report, which was submitted to the Parliament at Ottawa during the session of that year (1902), and it is only necessary to read from this report, which was the result of their labors, after they had heard serious and voluminous testimony, to show the nature of the conclusions at which they arrived.

Their Opinion of Japanese.

These gentlemen, treating of the Japanese, say:

"He is more independent, energetic, apt and ready and anxious to adopt, at least in appearance, the manners and mode of life of the white man. He avails himself of every opportunity to learn English, and often makes it a condition of his contract of hiring that he may do so. It is said that he is not as reliable in respect of contracts as the Chinese are, and that, while adopting to a certain extent our