

TRANSFER OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN
(Leader of the Opposition) moved:

For a copy of all correspondence passing between the Prime Minister of Canada and the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, since 10th July, 1920, respecting the transfer of natural resources.

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): There is no objection whatever to adopting the motion, but I would like to point out to my right hon. friend that the officers of the Department of External Affairs and the officials in my office state that there are letters, either in the Prime Minister's office or in the Department of External Affairs, from the Prime Minister of Canada to the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, other than those which have been addressed by myself, and replies thereto, which I am prepared to lay on the Table of the House now. The date referred to here is 10th July, 1920, which is, I think, the day my right hon. friend formed his administration. It may be that he is desirous of some correspondence being brought down to which he was a party. I would be glad to bring it down if he would tell me where it is, but I cannot locate it in the department.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am afraid my hon. friend in taking office has taken on too many new assistants and secretaries, and kept too few of the old. These letters were dictated by me in the usual course, are purely official letters, and the copies must be there. I myself have sent for the copies subsequently to their being written and have seen them. There should be no difficulty at all in finding them.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: So far from doing what my hon. friend suggests, I rather went out of my way to provide for his old secretaries.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Not in your own department.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, in my own department. I am only too anxious to bring the correspondence down, but I am unable to locate it. I have had inquiries made, and shall make further inquiries, but up to the present I have not been able to find the correspondence on any file.

Motion agreed to.

ORIENTAL ALIENS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE FUTURE
IMMIGRATION

Mr. W. G. McQUARRIE (New Westminster) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the immigration of oriental aliens and their rapid multiplication is becoming a serious menace to living conditions, particularly on the Pacific coast, and to the future of the country in general, and the Government should take immediate action with a view to securing the exclusion of future immigration of this type.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in rising to propose this resolution, I do so with considerable diffidence. I realize the importance and the comprehensive extent of the subject. I appreciate my own limitations and my incapacity to place this matter in a satisfactory manner before the House. My one comfort, however, is that I am to be followed by hon. gentlemen, particularly those from British Columbia, who will be able to make up for any of my deficiencies. There is a huge mass of material before me, and it will be necessary for me to make a comprehensive statement, but I intend to be as brief as possible.

The resolution calls for the exclusion of the immigration of oriental aliens. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that this does not include British subjects such as, for instance, East Indians, who are popularly described as Hindus. The word "immigrant" is defined in the Immigration Act as follows:

"immigrant" means a person who enters Canada with the intention of acquiring Canadian domicile, and for the purposes of this Act every person entering Canada shall be presumed to be an immigrant unless belonging to one of the following classes of persons, hereinafter called "non-immigrant classes,"—

i. Canadian citizens; and persons who have Canadian domicile;

ii. diplomatic and consular officers, and all accredited representatives and officials of British and foreign governments, their suites, families and guests, coming to Canada to reside or to discharge any official duty or to pass through in transit;

iii. officers and men, with their wives and families, belonging to or connected with His Majesty's regular naval and military forces;

iv. tourists and travellers merely passing through Canada to another country;

v. students entering Canada for the purpose of attendance, and while in actual attendance, at any university or college authorized by statute or charter to confer degrees; or at any high school or collegiate institute recognized as such for the purpose of this Act by the Minister;

vi. members of dramatic, musical, artistic, athletic or spectacular organizations entering Canada temporarily for the purpose of giving public performances or exhibitions of an entertaining or instructive nature; and actors,