

The resolution was submitted to a special meeting of the Ministerial Association of Vancouver and carried, a small minority dissenting.

The following remarks may be made on the whole situation:

(1) The feeling in British Columbia is not against admission of East Indians alone. The question has become acute over the admission of the wives of East Indians already here. But the whole question of Oriental immigration is involved. There is a general demand here for an entire change in Canada's treatment of this problem, as well as of her dealings with Orientals now in the country. If there is to be any preference, it ought to be for the East Indians. They are our fellow subjects. And surely a man who has fought for the flag has a stronger claim on us than a refugee from the Boxer uprising. But the claim is strongly urged that a large immigration of Orientals of any race is a menace to our national life.

(2) British Columbia has already more Orientals than she ought to have. The proportion of Orientals to Whites is now 1 to 12 in the whole province and 1 to 9 in Vancouver. Owing to our climatic conditions, as well as our location, this is the place where Orientals prefer to settle. And it is unjust for the Eastern Provinces to insist on British Columbia extending hospitality to a still larger number of these people when she has already far more than is consistent with national health and safety. Orientals will not assimilate with our people. As an advocate of their cause put it recently, "they are an unassimilable clot in our civilization." They are segregated in our towns and cities, they preserve their national characteristics, in many cases they live in conditions which we believe to be unhealthy physically and morally, and they form everywhere "a community within a community." The blame for this state of affairs may be ours as well as theirs, but wherever the blame may lie, the fact remains. There can never be a homogenous Canadian people if these people in considerable numbers continue to be admitted.

There is no thought of suggesting that the Oriental belongs to an inferior race. Their friends say that there are men among them whom it is a privilege to know. But they are different, and cannot assimilate with Canadians. And a foreign mass undigested will be fatal to national life.