

*Oriental Aliens*

Ship captains who have sailed the seven seas speak of the port of Vancouver as the best harbour they have ever entered. Tourists speak of the sunny slopes of the Pacific as the land of sunshine, the California of Canada, a land loved by all who dwell there. Why should we, with a country like that on our Pacific coast turn it over to the Orient, and that is what will happen in the future if the laws of this country continue as they are at the present time. It seems to me that every person who has the vision of a greater Canada should try and keep British Columbia a land for the white race to dwell in, and not turn it over to the Orient. People who live in the West know from experience that if immigration of the Asiatic race is not checked and if the tide of immigration flows as it has in the past, the time will soon come when the white race will have to retreat across the Rocky mountains and British Columbia will be left in the hands of the Orient. The present state of affairs has only to continue for a short time for that day to come. I ask who will be responsible for that state of affairs? It will be the members sitting in this House to-night who will be responsible if they do not enact laws here that will stop oriental immigration to our shores. Why cannot that be done now, and done once for all?

The increasing tide of oriental immigration at the present time is striking at the very root of our civilization. It is tearing the foundations from beneath our home life, and home life reflects itself upon a nation; it always reflects itself upon the prosperity of a nation. We cannot have an A-1 country and a C-3 class of people. It is against all laws of economy to expect such a thing. Home life either makes children good citizens or a public nuisance; and I say that so long as the working man in this country is forced to compete with the oriental they cannot have in Canada the home life he ought to have. Our workmen cannot even have the semblance of home life if they have to compete with Asiatics. Why should not the interests of the Canadian people come first? Why should we have to cater to the Asiatic? Why should we allow these people to land on our shores? Let us look for a moment at the manner in which the Japanese treat white men when they go to Japan and let me say in this connection that I am not going to make statements that cannot be verified. There was a man named Mr. C. J. Kirkpatrick, formerly of the Royal

[Mr. McBride.]

Naval Service but who for five years was employed as a civil engineer at Yokohama by the Japanese government. Let us hear what he says about what the white people are up against in Japan. This gentleman declares "There is absolutely no law for the white man in Japan." He goes on to make several other statements. He tells of a practice on the part of the Japanese rickshaw men of demanding a fee of 25 yen for carrying a European or an American whereas they only ask 5 yen for carrying a Japanese. Imagine what an outcry there would be if we were to extort 25 cents from the Japanese or the Chinese on our street cars, and only charge our own people 5 cents. That would be discriminating against the Asiatic race, they would tell us. Well, that is the kind of discrimination which is carried on in Japan against the whites.

A few months ago a Mrs. J. Gray, wife of an accountant in the Lane-Crawford Company, a large wholesale establishment in Yokohama, refused to pay what she considered an exorbitant fee demanded by the rickshaw men. What happened? One of the men caught hold of the lady, twisted her arm and abused her in a most shameful way, and because her husband interfered he was summoned before the courts. Notwithstanding the evidence, which was wholly against the rickshaw men Mr. Gray was convicted of a criminal offence, and only escaped a sentence of six months in a filthy Japanese prison by the whole white population of Yokohama going to the authorities and offering an apology.

Mr. Kirkpatrick has made the statement that at the time of the riots in Vancouver some of the citizens of Japan boasted that if they did not get the same rights in Canada as the white people, the Japanese in Vancouver would cut the water mains and set fire to the city. They further declared that if the military were called out they were well prepared to take care of themselves. I have no doubt of the accuracy in the main of the latter statement, bearing in mind that all the Japanese who come to Canada are trained, either in the navy or in the army, before they are allowed to leave the Empire.

At the present time the Japanese companies are making a determined effort to secure control of the Pacific shipping and the Japanese government is giving—or at least it was a year ago—a subsidy to help these companies to control the shipping. Now what are the orientals doing in Can-