

couver East that I had seen no estimate in the Department of External Affairs with respect to Japanese. I was fearful there would be a review of this question and a reference to a debate which took place in the house a few weeks ago. Since it has been agreed that there will be some discussion on the Japanese question, I suggest that there should be as little reference as possible to the debate which has already taken place on this subject.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): I am asking only for the latitude granted at the request of the Prime Minister to the hon. member for Vancouver East.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not trying to circumscribe the hon. member in what he has to say. However, I do not think the hon. member for Vancouver East referred to an earlier debate. If he did, it was only to a limited extent. I would ask hon. members not to revive the debates which have already taken place.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): To the best of my ability I shall keep within those limits.

It seems to me that as a member from British Columbia I should express my views, because I know I hold a view which is shared by a great many people in my province. The impression has gone out that practically all the people of British Columbia are desirous of the deportation of these Japanese. That is not true, because I hold in my hand clippings from the Vancouver *Sun*, which is looked upon as a good Liberal paper. In one of these clippings I notice that the members of the Student Christian Movement, from the campus of the university of British Columbia, urge Ottawa to refrain from sending to Japan those Japanese-Canadians who signed up for return but now wish to remain in Canada. The article goes on to say:

We urge that the government give due consideration to the conditions of perplexity and despair under which many Japanese-Canadians expressed the wish to be sent to Japan.

And here is another extract:

Six interior locals of the International Woodworkers of America petitioned Ottawa following a week-end meeting in Kamloops. The union thus goes on record as being the first major organization to demand that Japs be allowed to return here permanently, now that the war is over, and enjoy the franchise.

Harold Pritchett, president of the B.C. district, IWA, said his union has many Japanese members in the interior.

The IWA is of the opinion selective service should establish an appeal board to which loyal Japs would have recourse if they want to stay west of the Cascades.

At present Japanese face deportation to other parts of Canada if they choose to remain in this country.

I should like to make myself quite clear that I hold no brief for the Japanese in Japan, not even for their god-emperor Hirohito. I believe that war criminals must be punished, in whatever country they may be found. But I have great love for justice, and all that I would ask hon. members to keep in mind is that justice should be done.

I came to Canada forty years ago, in the spring of 1905. One of the things that influenced me in choosing Canada as my future home was the fact that it was under the union jack, a flag that has always stood for justice. Hon. members in the debate on the flag spoke strongly and pleaded that nothing should be done now that would jeopardize national unity. Yet I feel that if this question of the Japanese is not handled very wisely it will have a definite effect on empire unity in the days ahead.

I believe that in the past Canada has not acted clearly or wisely so far as racial minorities are concerned. I believe it was in 1914 when we had in Canada what was known as the *Komagato Maru* question. A Japanese vessel of that name came into Burrard inlet loaded with Hindu men and women seeking entry into Canada. They were refused admission, and the vessel sailed back with that load of people. Remember, these were men and women migrating from one part of the British empire to another. They came to Canada from a country under the union jack. Then sometimes we wonder why to-day India is so antagonistic to the British empire.

Speaking of racial prejudice, we have had a lot of that in British Columbia. I know that for some years, coloured people were refused admission to the Crystal swimming pool in the city of Vancouver, but I am glad to see in the issue of the Vancouver *Sun* of November 8 that the Vancouver parks board have decided to lift the colour ban. That is all to the good, but what is not so good is the fact that the Ottawa *Evening Citizen* of Friday, November 15, tells of the colour ban being applied in Toronto "the good". Let me read this article:

A Toronto negro, tears in his eyes, told the city board of control to-day that his fifteen-year old son had been refused admission to an ice rink in North Toronto. The negro, Harry Garrey, concluded with an apology for "taking up your valuable time."

"I don't know that we have any work more important than trying to overcome things like this," Mayor Robert Saunders told Garrey. "We assure you this matter will be investigated."

The control board was told by Alderman Norman Freed that young Garrey and five of