

May I illustrate the point I should like to make by citing an example which affords a striking parallel? In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, an officer of the Crown of that day discovered what he claimed to be a law governing the precious metals, where metals of different qualities or quantities of fineness were put into circulation as coinage in competition with each other. That law has come to be known as Gresham's law of the precious metals. What Gresham discovered was that, where two kinds of metals were in circulation as coinage, if one was of finer quality than the other, the baser metal tended to drive the finer metal out of circulation. The latter came to be either hoarded or melted down and sold as bullion, or used in the international exchange; and that, in the course of a very short time, the only metal that remained in circulation was the metal of less fine quality of the two. That was but an illustration of the law of competition applied particularly to the precious metals. I believe that economic science will yet come to assert that a similar law obtains as between competing industrial and social standards where such exist. And in this great problem of immigration, of peoples of different races, different habits and different modes of thought and life being brought into competition with each other, I think we view the matter aright when we assert that, sooner or later, the particular civilization that has a lower standard will, if it is permitted to compete with a civilization of a higher standard, bring the higher standard down to its level. It is for that reason that I regard this subject as of so great importance to our Dominion. In speaking of the oriental standard as different from our own, I do not wish to imply that orientals are in any way a less splendid people than peoples of European races. When oriental labour in this country comes into competition with white labour in this country, it does so under conditions vastly different as between the two. White labour, with the associations that are attached to family life as it exists amongst those of our own families, carries with it obligations of a character which do not adhere to the family life of those who come to us from the Orient and who enter into competition with our labour. I need only mention that all white labour in this country has obligations of a character which are related to the social life of our country, with regard to which the labour that comes from the Orient does not have a like relationship, for example, the observance of one day in seven, the obliga-

tions attaching to the education of children, the membership in labour organizations, the affiliations with clubs and churches and the like,—all these and very many other associations that I might mention go to make up the social standard of living of our people. The people from the Orient when they come to our shores do not have like standards to maintain. The result is that unless our labour is protected against this competition, sooner or later it is brought down to the economic level of the race that is competing against it. I think that has been demonstrated very clearly in a number of our industries. There is no doubt that in many parts of Canada where competition of the Orient with our own labour has been great, our own labour has been driven completely out of the field of effective effort. From this point of view we are justified in regarding this question in all seriousness, for what has been going on on a limited scale to-day may in course of time proceed on an international scale.

North America is peculiarly situated as respects this problem because on this continent European civilization is brought into competition with oriental civilization. It is here that these two civilizations are brought into competition with each other. This continent has already for the most part been peopled by the white races of Europe; they have established their standards here. Of recent years the peoples of the Orient have been coming in increasing numbers, and their civilization with its lower economic standards is being brought into competition with our own. Consequently the great problem to be decided is, which of these two civilizations is to prevail. If I am correct—and I believe I am—in the assertion that it is a great economic law that the lower civilization will, if permitted to compete with the higher, tend to drive the higher out of existence, or drag it down to the lower level, then we see the magnitude of the question viewed as a great national problem.

There is not only that aspect to be considered. There is another important national aspect that claims our attention—the desirability of a country having a homogeneous people. It must be admitted that every country should have the right to control the composition of its own population. That is a fundamental right which I think we are in duty bound to assert. As has been said over and over again in this debate, it is impossible ever to hope to assimilate a white population with the