

tion of the continent of Asia will be a unit in the effort to win their deserved recognition.

President Roosevelt's Far-Sightedness.

That was a stroke of far-sighted diplomacy on the part of Roosevelt, when the indemnity due the United States by the agreement of the nations, was in a most Christian spirit declined, or deflected—to be expended upon the education of the young men of China in the universities of America, thereby creating a large body of enlightened public opinion in China in favor of the United States. On the other hand, as Canadians we are doing little more than heap up mountains of bitterness and animosity by our treatment of those who have come to our shores. Far better it seems to me to exclude the Chinese entirely than to mulct him of \$500 upon his admission, thus discriminating against him as a race. As if that were not enough, we increase his contempt for us by permitting him to ignore our laws and to practise harmful customs which are not tolerated even in many parts of his own land.

Scandalously Unhealthy Conditions Tolerated.

II. The problem is intrinsically serious. We have again sinned against the Chinese and also, I may add in this connection, against the Japanese by permitting them to settle in little colonies huddled together more unsanitarily than in their own land. Hence it is not surprising to read a report from the City Health Officer, stating that in Chinatown tuberculosis has increased one hundred per cent. in a comparatively short time. Has this not some connection with the somewhat alarming fact that British Columbia is the only province in the whole Dominion where the progress of this dread disease has not yet been arrested? At the present time in the City of Vancouver we have a population of approximately eight thousand people confined to a space three or four city blocks long and little more than a block wide; in Victoria a population of about five thousand in a similarly congested area. Already both Toronto and Montreal have a Chinatown of several thousands. One could not very well over emphasize the seriousness of this condition; serious not only to the Chinese themselves but serious to the public at large. Disease germs believe in and practise social unity, whether we do or not, and the least that we should do is to insist that the Chinese should observe the ordinary laws of sanitation and hygiene, adopting methods of life compatible with Canadian ideals and customs. This, by the way, would also help us to solve one of our modern economic problems, for the more the Chinese are compelled to adopt our standards of living the less likely they are to under-work or under-sell their Canadian fellow-citizens.

The Vending of Drugs.

The menace in regard to the vending of illicit drugs by the Chinese is well known in British Columbia and yet in notices in the press of the individual cases where mention is made of arrests and consequent fines, one would naturally think that we treated the whole pernicious system as a huge joke. In Vancouver we have probably eight hundred opium users and in Victoria five hundred, about 10% of the population, while there are hundreds of vendors of noxious drugs for profits, employing, so I am creditably informed, high-powered automobiles for their distribution to outside points. Still fresh in our memories is the loss of one of the finest police officers in the Dominion, Chief McLennan, who was shot dead by a drug-crazed negro in the city of Vancouver. Numberless other lives have gone out by the same agency and still the traffic continues.

Gambling and Gambling Syndicates.

Another serious menace to law and order is found in the fact that tens of thousands of our Chinese habitually gamble, in practically all our Chinese communities in stakes from a few cents up to hundreds of dollars. This evil also is very strongly entrenched. Rentals as high as five hundred dollars

per month are paid for a gambling joint and it is no uncommon thing to see a legitimate business closed out on our streets to be superseded by such a den. Dozens of them are running in our large Chinese communities in open violation of the law. In Hong Kong and Canton open gambling is a thing of the past, but Canada is still a Mecca for gambling syndicates, although we must know that violation of law by Chinese must create violators of law among Canadians. Again I insist that since these people are with us, apparently to stay, the least we can do is to inculcate into their minds a wholesome respect for Canadian laws, ideals and institutions, remembering that if we fail to Canadianize the Oriental, he will not fail to Orientalise us.

Suggestions Towards Solution.

III. The solution. In making suggestions in regard to the solution of this problem, I am fully aware that it is very difficult and complicated, with its economic, legal, national and international relationships. I realise that nothing but vigorous and fearless treatment of the whole problem will in any way prove adequate. Present conditions have developed through many years of partial indifference, on our part. We Britishers are so tolerant and so considerate of the customs and practises of other people that we have permitted the growth of conditions which will now require a most strenuous effort to correct. Briefly, my suggestions toward the solution are as follows:

1. Uniformly just and adequate immigration laws. (I would not exact five hundred dollars from a Chinaman while I admit other races free).
2. A less invidious discrimination in the matter of franchise (I would not enfranchise an ignorant and undesirable European who can scarcely read and write, while I deny the franchise to a Japanese who is a good citizen and a graduate from a Canadian University).
3. The appointment of executive and administrative officers who spurn bribes no matter how large, even in hundreds and thousands of dollars.
4. Vigorous and persistent law enforcement, not spasms of inconsequential fines, which so far as gambling is concerned are paid by a syndicate and not by the gambler!
5. An adequate constructive, social programme. At present we have none worthy of the name. In this connection our greatest need is, not more missions but outstanding social centres as a counter-attraction to gambling dens and haunts of vice.
6. A sane and fervent evangelism.

I am satisfied that by the adoption of such a programme our Oriental problem would soon be solved, our Oriental conditions wonderfully improved, and, since we rise or fall together, our standard of Canadian citizenship bettered accordingly.

Help Yourself To Better Service

If people are to get more service from public utilities they must first make it possible for the utility to provide such service. It is impossible to furnish 1921 service at 1914 rates.

Only by showing a satisfactory balance on present operations can they finance the replacements and extensions so badly needed.

To deny them relief is to withhold it from themselves.

British Columbia Electric Railway Company