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"AN ACT TO REGULATE IMMIGRATION INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1908"

SPEECH

—OF—

HON. W. J. BOWSER, K. C.

Mr. Bowser Introduces Bill.

In introducing Bill No. 2, "An Act to Regulate Immigration into British Columbia" Hon. W. J. Bowser, K.C., Attorney-General, said:

Mr. Speaker, in rising for the second time to introduce the Bill which is entitled "An Act to Regulate Immigration into British Columbia," I will endeavor to be as brief and concise as possible in making the few remarks which I purpose addressing to this House on the question which is now before this Legislature.

This question is vital and all-important as far as this Province is concerned; and, therefore, in order to do justice to it and to explain in a proper manner the legislation which has taken place in this relation, I may, perhaps, find it necessary, in placing my views before the House, to enter into certain details and infringe upon the time of the House to a somewhat greater extent than is usual in such circumstances. It has been stated by some hon. gentlemen in this House, and particularly during the debate on the Address—I think, by the hon. member for Chilliwack—that this is a question which the people in Eastern Canada do not properly understand; and that these people are not thoroughly acquainted with our views in respect to it, and especially in reference to the particulars of the treaty between Japan and Canada, which came up for discussion

during last session in the House of Commons at Ottawa.

All Are Agreed.

But, in my opinion, and I think that the hon. members on the opposite side of the House will agree with me in this, this is the only question upon which all the people of British Columbia, and the members of all political parties, are in thorough accord, and our people are unanimously agreed that somewhere such a satisfactory settlement must be reached as will for all time to come keep out the Asiatic immigrants, who are now permitted to come into this country and compete with the laboring men of this great Province. (Cheers.)

We have most clearly and emphatically shown in the past, and particularly in the Bill which was introduced into and passed through this House last session, and I suppose that the same fate which befell that Bill will befall the proposed legislation of this session upon this subject, that as far as the Province of British Columbia is concerned, and as far as it can express its opinion through the members elected to represent the people in this House, something of an effective nature should be done, and that at an early date, to keep out these Asiatics. (Cheers.)

East Should Understand.

Now, sir, if there is any one public question which should be thoroughly