

*Oriental Aliens*

I take it, from the statement of the Prime Minister, is the intention of the Government; and I have no hesitation in stating that in my opinion it is the policy that should be followed by the Government. We do not wish to ban from oriental countries, those who wish to come here for the purposes of trade, who wish to come here as tourists, who wish to come here for the advantages of the educational facilities that Canada possesses—we should welcome all of these. The great hope for the future lies in disseminating the best ideas of education and giving these people all that is valuable in our culture and if possible getting for ourselves all that is valuable in their culture.

I submit, Sir, that end will be obtained if the amendment which has been moved by the Minister of Interior is accepted. Under that amendment, I think, it would be quite possible for the Government by friendly negotiations, by friendly means, to secure almost precisely the same position that exists in South Africa, that exists in New Zealand, and that exists in Australia today. And that can be done without, in a public way, by declaration of this Parliament, offending the sensibilities of a proud people in a manner which I am sure hon. members from British Columbia and other members of this House do not wish to do. My hon. friend from British Columbia would be well advised, in my opinion, and would further the very cause they have at heart, if they accepted the amendment offered by the Government. If that is done, and the Government are given an opportunity, they can be held to account in this House if they did not seek earnestly and seriously to give effect to the sentiments that have fallen from hon. gentlemen's lips in this House on both sides in respect to this very important question.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg Centre): There are a few things which should be said in regard to this question.

An hon. MEMBER: At this time of the night?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, at this hour of the night. A good deal has been said with regard to the maintenance of our Canadian standards, and especially with regard to the necessity of seeing that the standards of labour should not be lowered. I agree that, under existing circumstances, with as much unemployment as we have at the present time, it becomes very essential that we should restrict immigration. That

[Mr. Crerar.]

is a temporary expedient, but I should like to have it clearly put before this House that it is, at best, but a temporary expedient. It is no solution of this great problem which we face. A great deal has been said with regard to the orientals coming into this country and forcing themselves upon us. I should like to know who brought them into this country. For years labour has been pleading that something should be done to prevent unfair competition. The great corporations went over to China and Japan and brought coolie labour into this country. Why? Simply for two reasons, in the first place because it was cheap labour, and in the second place because it could be more readily handled. That is undoubted, and we can go all over the coast, and we have been able to do so for a good many years, and find great corporations who are doing this. In the first place the Canadian Pacific Railway brought the orientals in to work on construction on the docks and later on at other kinds of work. Other large corporations brought in these orientals because it was cheap labour and easily handled. Some of the orientals who have been brought in during these years are beginning to acquire a little money and going into business, and now, for the first time in all these years, we hear the cry going up from some business men, the retailers' association, and some of the financiers, that something must be done, as these orientals are beating us at our own game. I think it is well on this occasion that we should review the past and recognize very clearly that it is these big corporations and financial organizations that have been responsible for the oriental immigration to this country. I desire to suggest here that, even if we passed exclusion laws at this time, we would not begin to solve the problem. Why? Simply because we are beginning to get cheap labour done over on the other side of the Pacific. We have our transportation facilities now, our ships and so on. I remember two or three years ago while working on the docks in Vancouver, handling a cargo of crude tobacco from the southern states that came over the Great Northern. It was sent to China. I cannot say that the very self-same firm to which it was consigned afterwards sent back the return cargo, but I know there was a return cargo of manufactured cigars and cigarettes. If some of the big firms cannot get the cheap labour here they are going to get it over there. It is only