

Japanese nation. As a nation they have commended themselves to the world in a wonderful way. They have adopted civilization more rapidly perhaps than most nations of the world. Their power is felt throughout the world to-day. They have fought great battles and won great victories, and they are capable of achieving great things in industrial pursuits as well as in war. I do not deny their shrewdness, intelligence and high moral worth as a people. But we say that it is not desirable to admit a very large number of them into the Dominion of Canada in any one year, that we cannot absorb them satisfactorily, that they are not a people who will assimilate with the people already in the country who have built up the civilization we enjoy. The tendency of an influx of Orientals is to lower the standard of living. This is not saying anything in disrespect of those people. They are perhaps, according to their lights, as good people as our own, and have perhaps to a greater degree lived up to their opportunities. But they are a dangerous element in this respect, that they carry a keen competition into all the walks of life. They do not perhaps make money any faster than the ordinary white man, but they hold on better to what they make and send it to the country from which they have come. That is not what we want in this country. We want citizens who will spend their earnings in the country and become a part of it. We do not find the Orientals to be of this class or such as can be easily absorbed. I believe the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Templeman) delivered a notable speech in Victoria, British Columbia, last summer, which I read with a great deal of pleasure, and I would like to hear him repeat that speech in this House. If he was correctly reported, he took the same view of this question that I am taking, that the Japanese were not a desirable class of immigrants, that they could not be easily absorbed, and that therefore it was not in the interests of Canada to encourage an influx from Japan. We are told by hon. gentlemen opposite that there are other considerations which make this treaty valuable to Canada. They say that we will derive great profit from the increase of our trade with Japan. Well, I have been looking up the Department of Trade and Commerce report in order to see what has been the trade between Canada and Japan in the past few years. I find that our exports to and our imports from Japan were as follows:—

	Exports.	Imports.
1903.. . . .	\$325,181	\$1,487,451
1904.. . . .	342,116	1,998,801
1905.. . . .	510,925	1,914,787
1906.. . . .	494,102	1,662,929

And in the nine months of 1907, we exported \$538,548 and imported \$1,658,795.

In other words, our total exports, and that is really all that counts with me—although I know hon. gentlemen opposite count a dollar bought just as much as a dollar sold—our imports from Japan were about \$3. to \$1 we exported. In all we exported about a half a million dollars worth of goods in a year. That is not an immense business, and the years I have given will show that that trade has not developed in leaps and bounds. It is a very small trade, certainly not a trade, in order to obtain which, we should open doors to a flood of Japanese immigration. Is there any likelihood of our becoming, within the near future, large exporters to Japan? I think not. They do not use much of our goods. We are told that our flour is of too high a quality and the price too high to suit Japan. In fact the trade between Canada and Japan is a very small item; and to point to the possibilities of such a trade as an inducement for our admitting hap-hazard a large immigration from Japan is placing the matter on a commercial basis and a very poor commercial basis indeed. But this question is one of national importance. It is not confined to British Columbia. We in the east, who have been watching the trend of events, are as thoroughly alive to the danger as our compatriots in the west. Although we are not in as close contact with that influx of orientals at present as to realize what it means, still we are in sympathy with the people of British Columbia in their desire to make that province a white man's country. The first opportunity I had, after the trouble in Vancouver, of making a public address, I expressed my conviction that this country must, in the near future, restrict the immigration from Japan to a very small number or actually prohibit it, even should we have to abrogate the treaty. The abrogation of the treaty may be considered too drastic. Some of my own friends on this side will think perhaps that it is an extreme course to take, but I can see the peril to which this country will be exposed if we allow these people to come in by the tens of thousands. In saying this, I mean no disrespect to the Japanese nation. I have not the slightest thought of doing them the slightest harm, but our forefathers have been at the expense and trouble during centuries of building up a civilization of which we have every reason to be proud, and it would be a retrograde step if, in a moment of weakness, through a desire to increase our trade, we were to ignore all the dangers of the introduction of a large population, alien in sympathies and traditions, and whose presence in our midst would be a menace to the institutions we all desire to uphold.

This is not simply a matter which affects the labouring man. Of course it affects the labouring man first and for that reason ought to have the sympathy of every member of this House. But it is a matter affect-