

Mr. STIRLING: It did not suit them to.

Mr. NEILL: They declared war the moment it favoured them.

Mr. A. W. ROEBUCK (Trinity): I hope that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) will not expect those who follow him in this debate to take part with him in his discussion of the Japanese question, and certainly not to follow him in some of his logic or attitude. It seems to me that the hon. member loses a little of the influence he might otherwise possess in this house and in the country by too evident a dislike for the subject of his remarks. What he fails to appreciate in the policy of the Prime Minister is that it is guided not by likes and dislikes. We all have a right to like whom we please; kissing goes by favour, but statesmanship is based not upon favour but upon justice. I caught the words from the hon. gentleman himself that the way to treat the oriental is with strict justice. Of course that is right. It is not whether we like the Japanese or dislike them; they are human beings and have certain rights, and those rights must be respected, not for their sakes but for our own sakes.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Why will not Toronto take some of them?

Mr. ROEBUCK: I think Toronto has a number of Japanese-Canadian citizens. They are not Japanese; they are Canadian citizens of Japanese origin.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Your province will not take them.

Mr. ROEBUCK: Our province has not the power to do otherwise than to take them, and there are a fair number of Japanese Canadians, and some who are not Canadians, in the province of Ontario at the present time. I am not going to defend the Japs, but I find it difficult to imagine that anyone can be so bad as the *bête noire* of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. It may be so, but it does not make any difference whether they are good, bad or indifferent; our job as legislators, the Prime Minister's job as a statesman guiding the affairs of this country, is to deal out even-handed justice to everybody. When it comes to immigration into this country we have a right to say that this one shall come in and that that one shall not. The Prime Minister is within his rights when he says that there shall be no more Japanese immigration to this country, but when it comes to dealing with Canadian citizens born in this country or nationalized by us in a solemn way by legal

process, that is another matter. These people are Canadian citizens and have a right to be treated as Canadian citizens.

Mr. O'NEILL: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. ROEBUCK: Certainly.

Mr. O'NEILL: Would the hon. member consider that a person born in this country and holding dual citizenship is a good Canadian citizen?

Mr. ROEBUCK: All you have to do is to show that and you can cancel the Canadian nationality of the individual; but you must not punish the innocent because of the guilty. There may be some who have dual nationality, who owe a loyalty to the emperor of Japan and who attempt to show the same attitude toward the king of England. It cannot be done. If you can show that, there is no difficulty at all in cancelling the British citizenship, and I rather think you could cancel the nationality of even a person born here, although I am not so sure about that. My point is that you must not do these things by rumour and assumptions. Even-handed justice requires that we prove such charges against the guilty individual and not in a broad way assume that all must be guilty because of some national characteristics. I have found even in my short experience that usually characteristics attributed to large sections of a community, to groups, to nationalities, to races and so on, have very little foundation in fact. They are usually fictions. For instance, there is a fiction that the French are excitable, the English phlegmatic, and so on; I could mention many more. Usually these are not based upon facts but upon assumptions. The French are often phlegmatic and the English excitable. So that perhaps it may be with those of Japanese origin who have had the benefit of long years of association with Canadians and of Canadian training. It may be that they are not quite so bad as, say, the military clique who guide the destinies of Japan. It is not my intention to-night to argue the question of the Japanese or to constitute myself their champion.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: You sound like it.

Mr. ROEBUCK: I am the champion of democracy, of justice and of right, applied to anybody; and I am not going to imbibe here the violent prejudices of the hon. gentlemen from British Columbia.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Oh, nonsense.

Mr. ROEBUCK: I have listened with a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to