

a moment ago, which I desire to lay before the House now, is this—and hon. members will at once see the force of it.

You cannot show me any instance where the oriental has pioneered in Canada. Can you? They do not pioneer. How have our prairies been settled? They have been settled by the hardiest white men in Canada. Who were the pioneers in Quebec, the maritime provinces, northern Ontario, the wilds of British Columbia, the mining districts? White men, the best of white men. But your oriental, where is he? He is in the heart of the cities. Where is he in the Okanagan? He comes in there after the white man, struggling, experimenting and suffering disappointment and perplexity, has developed the country. After the white man has done the pioneering work in developing the markets, along comes the oriental and picks the plum. Where is he in the cities? He is to be found in the very heart of our cities, living under conditions which are anything but satisfactory. I want to emphasize that point. The oriental does not pioneer; he contributes nothing towards the opening up and development of the new country; he does, however, come along behind the pioneer and pick the plum.

In conclusion, let me ask this. Shall Canada remain white, or shall Canada become parti-coloured? Shall British institutions, traditions, ethics, and social standards prevail; or shall they, by blind neglect and purposeless procrastination, submit to a peaceful conquest by the fore-runners of the hordes of Asia? Shall Canadianism, which we are always proud to picture as the perfection of British democracy, prevail; or shall it recede before the races that, as I have already said, are incongruous and incompatible with our mode of life? This is the problem before the House; this is the danger that we call upon the Parliament of Canada to avert, and this is the menace which we who know the difficulties, who understand the problem, are absolutely determined to resist to the uttermost extremity.

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the mover of this resolution, the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. McQuarrie), has said, and others who have spoken in the debate have agreed with him, that this is not a local, nor a provincial, nor, for that matter, a national question; that it is larger than a national question, it is a question of great concern to all parts of the British Empire; it is a great international and world prob-

[Mr. Stevens.]

lem, and it is from that point of view that I think we must all consider the arguments that have been presented this afternoon and evening. The House is to be congratulated on the tone of the debate from the moment it commenced. There has been an effort on the part of hon. members to approach this subject from the point of view of national interest, and to keep away from anything in the nature of party controversy. I need scarcely say that, in this regard, I am most anxious to follow all who have spoken before me in the course of this debate. The question should not be considered as a party question; it is a great national question, a great imperial question, a great international question, and we should all deal with it from the point of view of the responsibility which a question of such magnitude brings. If I refrain from going into the figures which have been quoted in the course of the debate this afternoon; if I refrain from making any mention of the statistics of the number of Japanese or Chinese who have come to this country during the last few years, I do so simply to avoid introducing any element of

party controversy into the discussion, for hon. members will see at a glance that there is nothing that has happened since the 6th of December which could make this question so burning at the present moment. The argument that has been presented to-day all refers to immigration from the Orient during recent years, during the period of the administration which preceded the present one. For that reason and that alone, I shall refrain from saying anything about the statistics which have been quoted in the course of the debate.

Respecting the problem itself, may I say that I agree entirely with the view of the hon. member for Centre Vancouver (Mr. Stevens), as to this being fundamentally a great economic problem? In stating that it is an economic problem, he simply reiterated what has been said by most of the speakers who have addressed the House on the subject this afternoon. It is partly a racial question, partly a great political question; but it is primarily an economic question, a question of competing industrial and social standards. I have given a little thought to this problem during recent years, having had occasion several years ago to investigate the causes of immigration from the Orient, and ever since, having seen with increasing clearness, the vast significance of the problem to our country and other countries.