

is to my mind the most vital, the most important matter which has been before parliament since confederation. And I do not concur in any sense with the efforts which have been put forth to make this a merely sectional or political issue. Holding the views which I do upon the subject I desire to discuss it from the standpoint of loyalty to my own native Canada, of loyalty to the flag under which we live. The hon. members who have preceded me have dealt very fully and ably with various features connected with the question, and it will not be necessary to give in further detail or cite the many able efforts which were made by those opposed to Chinese and Japanese immigration, efforts which resulted in parliament declaring, feebly it is true, in 1885 for a white Canada by imposing a head tax of \$50 upon Chinese entering our Dominion. Again, in 1900, with more emphasis the parliament of Canada declared for the principle of a white Canada by increasing the head tax to \$100. In 1903 parliament again declared in no uncertain voice for a white Canada when the head tax on Chinese was increased to \$500, and this was coupled with the statement made upon the floor of this House that Japan had agreed to restrict the emigration of labourers to this country. Sir, I was one of those who favoured at that time a policy of exclusion, and I have not changed in that regard my views then held. The action of parliament, however, was accepted by the great majority as settling the question accepted by all as a compromise, and thus disposed of and regarded as definitely settled. Recent events have shown that we were unduly optimistic, that a \$500 tax does not altogether exclude, for within the past seven months some 900 Chinese have paid the head tax and the understanding given to this government by the then and still accredited representative of Japan, has been evaded, in that the maximum was 600 Japanese labourers, as I understood it, to arrive in Canada in any one year. The arrivals, however, from 1st July, 1904, to 30th November, 1907, are 11,113 (of whom 10,000 have arrived in past few months), and as has been pointed out another new and disturbing feature also is the influx of Hindoos, over 4,000 having arrived in the past two years. And thus we have again reopened the question of whether this Dominion of ours or any portion of it is to be white or yellow. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has stated that the situation as far as Japan is concerned is different. I agree with him fully in that statement, but from the very fact that it is different and more difficult it is the more dangerous and the remedy naturally must be the more drastic. Sir, by those who favour—and they are not a few—oriental immigration into Canada, the statement is made that labour was scarce in the west. That may be true, but it was equally true

Mr. SLOAN.

as regards Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia or the prairie provinces. Labour in all parts has been sharing to a less or more extent some degree of our prosperity. But you would seek to rob the labourer of his legitimate share of this prosperity by an unjust competition. And as has been pointed out not only the labourer but all classes and conditions are affected by the influx of Japanese, and other orientals. The potent result being naturally to discourage those of our own race who would, were different conditions prevailing, be more readily inclined to settle on our western shores. Again it has been contended that we must have cheap labour to develop our natural resources. The natural resources of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, the prairie provinces have been developed by white labour, and it is a gross libel to say that the Pacific province with resources more varied, more extensive, more valuable, cannot be developed with white labour. It will mean a more equal division of the wealth produced. It may mean a decrease in dividends and a consequent shrinkage of unearned stock values to a proper legitimate basis, to employ white labour, but the final result will be good business for Canada, for Canadian enterprise and Canadian dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

We are just rounding off the first century of British dominion on the Northwest coast of America. In that brief space of time through the indifference of Imperial statesmanship we have lost large areas of territory and coast line both on the south and north of what we now hold. And my firm conviction is in view of past history and present conditions that unless there is a complete reversal of policy, time will see our present possessions of British Columbia from the Rocky Mountains westward to the Pacific ocean become a colony, and ultimately a possession of a united orient.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Never, never.

Mr. SLOAN. Hon. members say 'never, never.' We can all subscribe to that sentiment, but never, never, does not stop the locust swarm of Asiatics now coming, nor is it in any sense a check on the uncounted millions of the far east. Who can pretend to say what the outcome will or will not be. I state my convictions viewed in the light of past and present policy.

We have to trace England's rise to greatness to her position as a great world power, to her present position of naval and commercial supremacy through a long gradual process of development. We see in our own generation looming up on the horizon of the Pacific, appearing with meteoric suddenness another great world power, both commercial and naval, a nation young, vigorous, aggressive, with recuperative powers as yet undimmed by devastating wars, a giant undoubted, with possibly limitless ambition. Who can tell? That