

There are nearly as many Chinese in British Columbia as there are Japanese, and besides that there are some 2,000 East Indians, possibly not that many.

Mr. NEILL: Fifteen hundred.

Mr. MacINNIS: These are the blood brothers of the two million East Indians who have volunteered to fight for this country as well as for their own. Yet when these East Indians went to the legislature in British Columbia, these people who were British subjects before they came to this country, they were denied the right that every British subject should have, no matter in what part of the British commonwealth he may find himself. A few days ago we paid homage in this chamber to a woman, an oriental, one of the loyal Japanese race.

Mr. NEILL: Chinese.

Mr. MacINNIS: Chinese; that was a slip of the tongue. Along with many other members of this house I attended the reception given in her honour by the Chinese minister. I was greatly amused to find my British Columbia friends there sipping their cocktails quite unembarrassed.

Mr. NEILL: Was I there?

Mr. MacINNIS: I did not see my hon. friend. I did not mind that, but I wondered how they were going to square themselves with the Chinese, our gallant allies, when they went back to British Columbia and told them, "You are good enough to fight the Japanese but you are not good enough to have the vote in British Columbia."

The hon. member for New Westminster referred to the objections raised to the Japanese in the United States and he quoted a statement by one Miller Freeman. I do not know who this gentleman is; he may be a quite important person; but some little time ago I noted in the press that an action had been started by the native sons of the golden west in California to have the names of Japanese of United States birth removed from the register voting. The state appeal court consisting of seven judges gave judgment against this action without leaving the bench. I always thought that in the treatment of minorities the British people were ahead of any other nation in the world. I would hate to think that the United States had a better record than ours in this regard.

I have referred already to China and to what that country is doing in the great struggle in which we are all engaged. But there is another country toward which the eyes of the

[Mr. MacInnis.]

world are turned these days on account of the resistance put up by her people against a relentless foe. I refer to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. I was interested to note that one of the sections in the constitution of the Soviet Union provides for equal rights for all citizens. It reads:

Equal rights for citizens of the U.S.S.R. irrespective of nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social, and political life, shall be an irrevocable law.

I would not like my country to be behind any other country in those things that put the hallmark of civilization upon people.

The hon. member for New Westminster referred to the fact that some churches had declared against repatriation, while others were in favour of it. I have seen a resolution by at least one church against repatriation, but I have not come across any resolution in favour of the repatriation of persons of Japanese origin in Canada which has been passed by any church.

Mr. REID: The Baptist Church of British Columbia, at a conference in Vancouver, went on record.

Mr. MacINNIS: I have before me *The New Canadian* of May 29, which contains a resolution passed by the United Church of British Columbia at their conference. Referring to what we call repatriation but which for most of the population of Japanese origin in British Columbia would not be repatriation but would be deportation or exile, they have this to say:

Such proposals as to deport large numbers of people born in Canada or who otherwise have acquired Canadian citizenship, is contrary to the Christian conscience and carries with it natural reactions in a deep threat to unity in Canada and of smoldering ill-will with promise of future wars from outside of Canada.

The resolution went further and said:

We protest against the selling of private property by the government without the consent of the owners because the people belong to a particular race or are of a particular national origin, and against the application of the law of Canada in a different way with respect to persons due to difference of race or of national origin.

I associate myself completely with the resolution and protest of the United Church. I wonder if, when Franceschini was interned for a short time, his holdings were sold by the custodian of enemy property.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes; the assets of the Dufferin Construction Company were sold to the government of the Dominion of Canada. I can answer that question immediately.

Mr. MacINNIS: They were sold, but not in that way; he carried the deal through.