

*Immigration Act*

gration from Asia, and P.C. 695, as amended, including an amendment passed about a week ago, which deals with immigration from all other parts of the world.

This is the provision made by P.C. 2115:

From and after August 16, 1930, and until otherwise ordered, the landing in Canada of any immigrant of any Asiatic race is hereby prohibited, except as hereinafter provided:

The immigration officer in charge may admit any immigrant who otherwise complies with the provisions of the Immigration Act, if it is shown to his satisfaction that such immigrant is—

And these are the points to be noted:

—the wife or unmarried child under 18 years of age, of any Canadian citizen legally admitted to and resident in Canada, who is in a position to receive and care for his dependents.

Provided that this regulation shall not apply to the nationals of any country in regard to which there is in operation a law, a special treaty, or agreement, or convention regulating immigration.

Of course, the order in council does not yet apply to Chinese because there is this special law dealing with them, the Chinese Immigration Act, but when that act is repealed, Chinese immigration will automatically come under this order in council.

An order in council is not a very solid foundation for an immigration policy. Orders in council can be changed on short notice and without parliament having anything to say about it. This immigration policy should be in statute form. But if we are to carry on under order in council P.C. 2115, then surely the members of this house are entitled to have some definite idea of the numbers of women and children who may be allowed in.

The minister said today, "Oh, I don't know; I have no idea how many there may be". He just threw up his hands without attempting to give the house the remotest idea.

There are some figures available from which one can make a guess. For example, at the time of the 1941 census there were 23,556 married male Chinese in Canada, and 1,177 married female Chinese. That means a difference of over 22,000—22,000 more married Chinese males in the country than married Chinese females. The difference in British Columbia is over 12,000. There are more than 12,000 Chinese married males in British Columbia over and above the number of Chinese married females.

I do not know what these figures signify. They may mean that there are 20,000 Chinese wives in China who would qualify to come in under the order in council.

Mr. COLDWELL: How many naturalized citizens are there among the married men?

[Mr. Green.]

Mr. GREEN: I do not know. It may mean 10,000 or 12,000 wives could come to British Columbia under this order in council. Taking that with the children who would be eligible, the result may be that under the order in council we will double the total number of Chinese in Canada. The total number now is 34,627. I am simply putting an extreme case. I do not believe that anything like that number are involved, but we are entitled to know, we should get a far more detailed statement of the problem we are dealing with under this bill.

Another thing the minister should explain is whether under the order in council a single man will be able to go to China and get married and then bring back his wife—over and above the question about married men now in Canada. Another question is whether it will be permissible to bring in picture brides as the Japanese did for many years. Young women sent their pictures to Canada, were selected on the basis of those pictures and allowed to come in and be married here. These and many other details should be given to the house and to the country before we are asked to vote on this bill.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, British Columbia, my home province, has to absorb most of the immigration from Asia. That has always been so, and I presume it will continue to be, because we happen to be facing on the Pacific ocean. The present distribution of Chinese in Canada shows 53·7 per cent living in British Columbia. The figure is 18,619. Then comes Ontario with 6,143, or less than a third of the number in British Columbia; Alberta with 3,122; Saskatchewan, 2,545; Quebec, 2,378; Manitoba, 1,248; and in the three maritime provinces a total of only 569.

Mr. REID: British Columbia has more than all the others.

Mr. GREEN: Yes; the percentage is 53·7. Your arithmetic is good. Then these figures should be compared with those of the United States. In 1940 the United States had a total Chinese population of 77,504—in other words slightly over twice as many as Canada, with a total population ten or twelve times as great as ours. In that country 56·7 per cent of the Chinese live in the three Pacific coast states. Washington, our neighbouring state, has 2,345 against British Columbia's 18,000, although Washington has a much larger population than British Columbia. Oregon has 2,086, and her population is also larger than that of British Columbia. California has 39,556, and her population is six or seven times greater than the population of British Columbia.