

*Oriental Aliens*

principle is this, that we absolutely prohibit British immigration and then we say that we cannot prohibit Japanese immigration. One hon. member who spoke this afternoon quoted Kipling's words about Canada being daughter in her mother's home and mistress in her own. Are we mistress in our home or are we not? Kipling said we were daughter in our mother's home; he did not say "illegitimate product" or "hired girl"; he said "daughter". Canada has all the privileges of a daughter. Will the fond mother—and Britain has ever shown herself to be a fond, lavish mother to her children—refuse to her well-beloved eldest born child, Canada, the privileges and rights that she has granted to her other children, Natal, New Zealand and Australia? Is it likely that she would, and at whose dictation would it be? An alien, yellow Germany. I can add another word; I can say a yellow, alien, heathen Germany.

I know it is unpopular in this day and generation, and considered old fashioned, to introduce any question of our relation to our God in a matter of public or even private affairs; but perhaps we might for one minute turn aside from the pursuits of the material and ask ourselves: Do we, can we, should we, expect Providence to bless this nation in its undertakings when we deliberately open our doors to an influx of an alien, heathen population in ever-increasing numbers? Japan is in the peculiar situation. Japan is not a nation living in ignorance or for lack of opportunity concerning the gospel message at all. Japan is heathen to-day by solemn and deliberate choice. Quite a number of years ago the Japanese appointed what I suppose in this country would be called a royal commission to settle two questions: Would it be for the benefit of Japan as a nation to change its religion, and if so what religion would they adopt? They were quite impartial; any religion that was good and practical would have received their sanction. After due deliberation they decided to remain heathen, and heathen they are likely to continue. A few missionaries will catch a few converts. A Japanese will turn Christian to-morrow if he thinks it will promote his interests in this country or in the United States, but at heart he remains a Japanese and a heathen. To-night when we are voting on this resolution we must remember that we are voting in accordance with the interests of our constituents and our country, but we must also remember that we owe some responsibility to the God

[Mr. Neill.]

whom we at least profess to follow in our religious experiences.

I submit that this House and this Government must alone assume the responsibility if this legislation is not enacted. We were told again that the Japanese are a proud race and that we must not hurt them; that they will fight. Yes! The pride of a race that makes a gentleman's agreement with the United States of America, that makes a gentleman's agreement with the Dominion of Canada and before the ink of the paper on which the agreement is inscribed is dry, that starts to break that agreement and evade its promises! If it is not in their official declarations—and I can show it in one instance at least—it is in their public press: you will see it openly boasted how they have broken their promises. The Gentleman's Agreement! the very fundamental basis of the existence of which is in the good faith of the contracting parties!

So much for the good faith of Japan; so much for its national pride. They are much more sensitive in their national pride than in their sense of honour. But if we must soothe and assuage that national pride, let me say we do not claim that they are to be excluded because they are an inferior race. They are far from that; I must admit; we must all admit that in many respects the Japanese can outbeat us in the field of industry. For instance, we must admire their thrift, their industry, their large families. Their unity as a nation is a remarkable feature. The family is behind the individual, the company behind the family and the nation behind them all. They are absolutely a unit in working out any industrial or economic pursuit. I for one am not ashamed to say that Canada will not survive in competition for economic advantage or racial supremacy under present conditions of Asiatic competition. That is an humiliating statement to make, but it is true, as every man in British Columbia knows. I said, under competing conditions. On equal grounds, we can meet them, but we cannot meet them under competing conditions. We might imitate their habits of thrift or industry or even as regards their large families, especially in these days when race suicide is coming to the fore; but we do not want to imitate them in their low standard of living or in the way they work, their lack of recreation, lack of comforts and lack of culture.

We do not want our women working long hours in the fields and factories, regardless