Columbia. I wish also to give a statement of the number of Hindoos alone entering British Columbia in the whole period, as I do not think it has ever been presented to this House.

1904-5 45 1905 6 887 1906-7 2,124 8 months of present year 1,956	Year.		Number of Hindoos.								
1906-7 2,124	1904-5									•••	
	8 mon	ths	of	pr	esei	at :	yea	r .	•••	•••	

Total 4,512

According to the best information I can gain, of that 4,512 British Indians who came into British Columbia, 1,421 left for the United States, leaving a balance of 3,091 remaining in British Columbia. Thus we see that 9,000 Japanese, 1,000 Chinese and 3,500 Hindoos have come into that province, according to my calculation, although I have not been able to arrive very definitely at the numbers. Still there are undoubtedly many thousands of Orientals in that province.

It seems to me important to find out the cause of this. How was it that a certain class of oriental labour was able to pay \$500 a head to come into this country? How was it that such a number of Hindoos were brought into that province in the same year ? How was it that such a large number of the Japanese, out of all proportion to the number of Japanese already in British Columbia, were brought in the same year 1907? The hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) when he was in British Columbia spoke about this subject in Victoria, and I had the honour of listening to him. He suggested-he did not state very emphatically, in fact I think I should put it even more mildly and say he insinuated -but at least he left the impression that he knew the reason why Japanese had been brought into British Columbia. The reason he presented was very far-fetched, official correspondence and events have demonstrated that his theory was absolutely wrong, his reason was not a correct reason at all. He suggested the extraordinary reason that Mr. W. T. R. Preston, who was tragically described as a discredited official, who had been superintendent of immigration in Great Britain, who was not believed by his own colleagues, who could not be believed on oath, according to the views of some people was the cause of the Jap-anese immigration into British Columbia. I have no brief for Mr. Preston. I took the opportunity during the investigation of Mr. Preston's work in connection with the Labour Bureau in England to cross-examine Mr. Preston myself and I must admit that I am not absolutely sure that he did not do more than he was ever paid for doing and was understood to be doing in connection with the Immigration Department in England. But because he may have made mis-takes in England in connection with immi-

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gration, it is a tremendous stretch of the imagination to think that as a commercial agent he would go to Japan and send the Japanese to British Columbia. I wish to remind my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) that the Conservative press took that statement up after he left the province and I mention it here because we have had to meet that assertion. What have the British Columbian press to say upon this question, that this discredited official was taken hold of by the Department of Trade and Com-merce and transferred to Japan, that the government had secretly endorsed a treaty and just after the treaty was settled this discredited agent, at the expense of the people of Canada, was sent to Japan and was the direct cause of the importation of Japanese. I made some inquiries about Mr. Preston's appointment, but if Mr. Preston cannot be believed on oath, then I suppose hon. gentlemen will say that those who would promote his interest could not be believed on oath, so perhaps it will be of no use to read the orders in council by which he was appointed commercial agent to Japan. I find that Mr. Preston was not in Japan until six months after the contracts were made in British Columbia un. der which the Japanese were brought into this country. I think it is fair to say that much in Mr. Preston's defence. I am not criticising the statement of the hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) for the sake of doing it, and I would not have referred to this except that it has been brought up in the Conservative press as a good argument and it shows that it must have been difficult for my hon. friend to find a reason.

I wish now to come to the real reason of the importation of a large number of orientals within such a short period. We have some information. The government sent Mr. Mackenzie King as a commissioner to British Columbia to look into this question, and I have before me two of the contracts that were made, part of the evidence given before the commissioner, that account absolutely for the immigration of the Japanese into British Columbia at this period. These contracts were made with the Wellington Coal Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. As regards the Grand Trunk Pacific, I cannot speak so positively. 1 have looked over the evidence to see if the Grand Trunk Pacific had made contracts to bring them in, but I did not find it. I looked over the evidence carefully, and according to that evi-dence I found that two contracts were made, one by the Wellington Coal Company and the other by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and these explain fully the large influx of orientals into British Columbia this year. I desire to call the nature of these contracts to the attention of the government. I do not think it ought to be possible for contracts to be made to bring orientals