

Japanese Immigration

monthly, for payment. On the other hand, the rural company may collect at intervals of six months or possibly only once a year. Yet they have to pay every month for long distance calls originating on their lines, and they get nothing for doing this. There is no fee collected by rural lines for long distance calls originating on those lines, where there is connection with the Bell Telephone Company. For many years I have been associated with one of the largest rural telephone companies in this section of the country, and we simply collect money for the Bell Telephone Company. If one of our customers defaults, it is our misfortune, because we have already paid his long distance fees.

I have in mind a farmer who at one time was president of a farm organization and did considerable telephoning to Toronto. Afterwards he failed, and we were left not only with our own telephone bill, but with a large long distance bill which we had already paid, but on which we could not collect. Every year in connection with rural lines we lose a certain amount of money which we have paid over to the Bell Telephone Company on calls originating on our lines. We have to look to the farmer for our money, and if he does not pay we are out that much. I have always felt that the Bell Telephone Company should allow some fee for long distance work originating on rural lines.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre) in the chair.

On section 1—Telephone companies.

Mr. NEILL: Should not this bill have gone to the railway committee?

Mr. HOWE: It is now being more or less piloted by the government. A similar bill was considered thoroughly in the railway committee last year and they seemed to be for it. I see no reason why it should not pass to-night.

Section agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION ACT, REVISED STATUTES, 1927, CHAPTER 95

The house resumed from Friday, February 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Neill [Mr. Thompson.]

for the second reading of Bill No. 11, respecting Japanese immigration.

Mr. D. A. McNIVEN (Regina City): Mr. Speaker, I should like to extend my personal congratulations to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) upon the presentation of his motion for the second reading of this bill. This was a task which he accomplished with his usual thoroughness and logic. I regret exceedingly my inability to support the measure so ably sponsored by the hon. member, as this question is regarded by all members from British Columbia as being of paramount importance to that province. I would not for one moment discount the local problem which this bill is designed to correct, but its provisions are much wider than that; they may assume national, if not international, proportions.

The world situation is so complicated and complex to-day that we should hesitate before taking any action, the consequences of which we are unable to foresee and against which we may or may not be able to protect ourselves at this time. The question of oriental immigration has always been important on the Pacific coast, and this problem is reflected in all the provinces to a greater or lesser degree. We were told the other evening that in 1923 restrictions were imposed upon Chinese immigration. At that time the matter of Japanese immigration was left open or guarded by an agreement entered into between the Canadian and Japanese governments. I have no doubt that distinction was made because of the fact that during the world war Japan was a member of the allied forces, and her fleet protected the Pacific coast and was responsible for keeping away from our shores the German raiders which had created a certain amount of havoc in that part of the world and which were subsequently disposed of by the Australian navy.

We were also told the other evening that in years gone by there had been a certain laxity in immigration matters, and as a result many orientals, of both Chinese and Japanese origin, had entered this country without authority. We were told how in recent months action had been taken to examine into these illegal entries and that some nine hundred orientals had left the country because they knew that they would be deported in any event in a short time, while another six hundred had actually been deported. As an instance of the long arm of the law I should like to cite a case in Regina. Some time in August, 1937, an oriental was arrested in that city charged with having entered