

groups to whom, because of race or religious beliefs, we do not extend all the rights of citizenship;

Therefore be it resolved, that, in the opinion of this house, the government should take the necessary measures to exclude from the country all persons belonging to those groups to whom we do not grant the full rights and privileges of citizenship.

The Japanese belonged to "those groups" mentioned in the resolution; yet every Liberal and Conservative member of this house, alike, voted against that resolution; and the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, in speaking against it, told the house how satisfied he was with the manner in which the gentlemen's agreement between Canada and Japan had worked.

The hon. member for New Westminster, speaking last night, said he was sorry that the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation had brought into political discussion the question of votes for Japanese. May I tell the hon. member for New Westminster that the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation did not bring that issue into the political arena. If it was brought into the political arena and if it became a political issue, it was brought there by those who thought they could use it against the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. That is how it was brought there. Let me tell the committee how it happened. During the discussion of the Franchise Act in 1934, the late Mr. Woodsworth spoke against the section in the act disfranchising the Doukhobors in British Columbia, and in the course of his remarks he mentioned that he was in favour of extending the franchise to the orientals. This dialogue took place in the house during the discussion:

Mr. Mackenzie (Vancouver): Is the hon. member in favour of enfranchising orientals in British Columbia?

Mr. Woodsworth: I am in favour of enfranchising orientals in British Columbia.

Mr. Neill: Did you say that during the late election in British Columbia?

Mr. Woodsworth: I did.

Mr. Neill: I did not hear of it.

Mr. Mackenzie (Vancouver): Is the C.C.F. in favour of it?

Mr. Woodsworth: Yes.

Mr. NEILL: Go on; finish the sentence.

Mr. MacINNIS: When we say, yes, that is all that is necessary. I did not stop reading it because I did not want to read it; I stopped reading it because I thought—

An hon. MEMBER: He thought there was a catch in it.

Mr. MacINNIS: Let me tell the hon. member that I act on principles. Do not think you will catch me. When you act on principle you do not have to worry about being caught.

Mr. NEILL: It reads, "I will go into your district and tell them." I have it here.

Mr. MacINNIS: If my hon. friend has it there I shall be glad to have him read it; I have mislaid the mark I had showing the page. I have been in British Columbia, a resident of Vancouver, since 1908, or thirty-five years, and I have never known an election yet in which the oriental question was not an issue. It was kicked around by both political parties, each one trying to make capital out of it against the other. But I agree that the question of the franchise did not become a political issue until 1934 when the C.C.F. decided that, because the orientals were brought to British Columbia by greedy employers for cheap labour, it was necessary to raise their standard of living by putting them on a par with white workers. The purpose of the old parties who wanted to exploit both the oriental worker and the white worker was to keep them apart. We decided to raise them to the status of citizenship and extend to them all the rights of citizenship so that they could better defend their own interests and the interests of all workers.

Mr. NEILL: I have that extract, which states:

Mr. Mackenzie (Vancouver): Is the hon. member in favour of enfranchising orientals in British Columbia?

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Mr. Neill: I did not hear of it.

Mr. Mackenzie (Vancouver): Is the C.C.F. in favour of it?

Mr. Woodsworth: Yes;

Then there is a semi-colon. The hon. member stopped reading in the middle of a sentence. Mr. Woodsworth then went on to say:

—there is no doubt about that. I will go into your riding and tell them so; there is no doubt about that.

I also have some letters here from the hon. gentleman himself.

Mr. MacINNIS: Anyone who knows anything about punctuation knows that a colon or a semi-colon is as good as a period. It is amusing to see the attempts that are made to-day to confine this question to the Japanese. If it will help the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, let me say that the C.C.F. has not changed its position since Mr. Woodsworth made that statement. If it does change its position on that question; if it ever discriminates as between race and race, then I shall be no longer a member of the C.C.F.