

given, the percentage of infection in that country is believed to be high. Also in the Philippines (32 per cent), and Samoa (70 per cent), as well as in Southern Mexico (12 per cent were reported, probably much higher as a whole), Central America (30 per cent), the West Indies (percentage not available), and Porto Rico (89 per cent).

I would remind the Government that there is a possibility of immigration from the West Indies; therefore this matter is of considerable importance. (Reading):

Conditions favourable to the propagation of the hookworm parasite and the spread of the infection are: moist and warm climates, where the ground is seldom dry; lack of sufficient protection to the skin in the way of shoes and clothing, the parasite most often gaining entrance to the human body through the soles of the feet; insufficiency, or total absence, of sanitary precautions in the disposal of excreta, permitting the soil and water supply to be filled with the hookworm larvae; the use of human excreta for fertilizing purposes, as is largely done in some parts of China and other Asiatic countries.

Experts of all countries are agreed that the anaemic condition caused by the hookworm parasite is an enormous economic loss, in that it depreciates the working value of the labouring population from 33 per cent to 50 per cent and is a large factor in retarding the development of the communities where it exists. . . It being estimated that from 60 to 80 per cent of the total population of India is infected with the hookworm, it follows that every country importing coolie labour from India is bringing to its own soil a heavy stream of infection. This is the chief source of the disease in the tropical colonies of Great Britain, where Hindu labourers have been imported under contract to work on the large estates devoted to the raising of sugar, coffee, rubber, etc.

I have read sufficient to impress on the members of this House the seriousness of this question. The hookworm does not show its effects immediately; it takes years sometimes. It is an insidious disease, but the result is inevitable. Wherever the hookworm takes hold, the population is bound to degenerate physically. It is the duty of the Government, in my opinion to make the most careful investigation of this side of the question. If any class of immigration, whether from India, China, or any other part of the world, will introduce into Canada a disease which will devitalize our population, it is the duty of the Government to see that that immigration is barred.

I wish to draw attention to another phase of this question. Asiatics generally, and particularly the Hindus, do not attempt when they come to this country to live according to our standards. I have in my hand an extract from the report of the medical health officer for Vancouver for 1912 which says:

[Mr. Stevens.]

We have always had trouble from overcrowding and insanitary conditions among foreigners, Japanese, Chinese, Hindu, Italian. From a sanitary point of view, I consider the Hindu worse than the lowest class of Chinese. It is impossible to conceive a more filthy condition than the manner in which these men live.

I do not wish to lay to the door of any people a charge which is not due. Certain members of the Hindu colony live under ideal conditions. They have become wealthy through exploiting their fellows, but the bulk of the Hindus are just as this report describes. The conditions in which they live are absolutely disgraceful, and the greatest problem is how to raise them from that condition.

We oppose the immigration of Orientals into Canada on another ground. Many years have demonstrated that they will not assimilate. That is of vital importance. We have not begun to assimilate the Chinese, although they have been with us sixty years. Physically, mentally, morally, socially, and in domestic matters, they are entirely distinct from us. They may have their own civilization, about which I have nothing to say at the moment, but I hold that it is distinct from that civilization which we hold dear. They have no conception of our ideals or of democracy; they are totally unfit to exercise the rights and privileges of citizenship as we understand it; and on that score they should not be admitted. Lastly, we cannot hope to preserve our national type if we allow Asiatics to enter Canada in any large number, and it is the sacred duty of the Government and of the people of Canada to preserve that type so far as we are able.

Mr. W. E. KNOWLES (Moosejaw): The first two speeches on this very important subject this afternoon were delivered in a very sane manner and without any political bias. I do not think that any hon. gentleman in this House will say that there was anything in the slightest degree offensive to members on the other side in the remarks of the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver), or of the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux). I do not say that I agree with all that has been said by these two hon. gentlemen. But in the main I take the view held by my hon. friend from Edmonton with regard to the conduct of this very important matter, now that there has arisen this new complication over the decision of Chief Justice Hunter. Some observations of my hon. friend for Rouville seem to carry with