

demand their sympathy because they are a sister province; they too go down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters, and they know what an influx of a couple of thousand fishermen voting and acting with one mind would mean to their interests. I appeal to the province of Ontario, the home of industrial workers, getting more and more powerful in their unions; they know the effect of allowing a large influx of oriental labour with its low wages and low standards of living. They are beginning already to experience the effects of the competition of Japanese-made goods, sold in Toronto at prices for which the raw material could not be purchased there. I appeal to hon. members from Quebec, that home of Canadian chivalry, and I tell them they have no more loyal friends in Canada than the people of British Columbia, who will be beside them in any movement in support of minority rights, because we too are a minority and we feel that we too should get such treatment as our special conditions require, just as the people in Quebec ask the government that they shall be given such treatment as their traditions and history warrant. We ask their sympathy in that regard. As far as the prairies are concerned, it is a matter more of self-interest because, being nearer to British Columbia they visit backward and forward, and they are beginning to realize that what is our trouble to-day will be theirs to-morrow; they will be the next victim.

As regards British Columbia, I do not need to appeal to them, because they know. I voice the sentiments of British Columbia, I speak with the united voice of British Columbia to-night. It may be asked, by what right do I, an ordinary private member, claim such a right. I have no written authority from the people as a whole, other than those of my own district, but I do voice the sentiments of a man fully qualified to speak for the people of British Columbia, that is their premier. What is his record? He was elected by a large majority at a general election held some eight months ago. He presented his brief not long ago to the Rowell commission; I have a synopsis of it here, and the very first item on it was: Oriental immigration prohibited and orientals returned to their home countries. Since then he fought a by-election about a week ago, and that program was a prominent feature of the campaign. He won an opposition seat, and this program formed perhaps a not insignificant part in that victory. Therefore I quote

[Mr. Neill.]

him; only I am asking something much more moderate than he asks.

There is growing up in British Columbia a feeling that will not be allayed by promising them a commission of three members to investigate themselves. The time for that has gone by. I am going, if the right hon. gentleman will allow me, to plagiarize a sentence from the speech delivered by the leader of the opposition before six o'clock this afternoon. Speaking of post-war conditions in Germany he said: "There gradually grew up in Germany a feeling that they had been unfairly treated." That is the situation in British Columbia. There is no more fatal and bitter resentment than that caused by the gradual growth of a feeling that people have not been fairly treated. It is far more desperate and dangerous than a sudden flare up of resentment over a single overt act; there is no question about that. It may be that the Canadian historian of the future, when he comes to record the dismemberment of the nine provinces of Canada, will have to begin a paragraph or chapter with these words: "There gradually grew up in British Columbia the feeling that they had been unfairly dealt with." And that feeling is there. It is not confined to British Columbia alone; it exists for other reasons on the prairies as well, and it would be well if the government took steps to quench that flame before it reaches a point at which it cannot be quenched.

I am going to leave the issue to the house. Democracy, according to the dictionary, is a system of government under which the power rests in the hands of the people and is exercised directly or indirectly by them. In my own language it is the duty of the government to carry out the wishes of those governed. To support my views I quote the Bishop of Liverpool, who in a recent speech said:

—it was a democratic principle of this country that if a sufficient number of people wanted a thing sufficiently and pressed for it, they would get it.

If not, as one man wrote me, it ceased to be democracy and became "demockery." I await the issue of the house on this bill with the anxious hope of an innocent man on trial for his life; but I tell the government that the people of British Columbia are determined to get some measure along the lines I have indicated. The issue is now up to the house and the government.

The house divided on the motion, which was negatived on the following division: