

also of children born of coloured parents. This statement is repeated on page 20 where it is stated of the Japanese children born in Canada that all the other racial characteristics with the exception of the different racial physical characteristics, in a short time will be gone, and in which statement we concur, for the children now born in British Columbia are as distinctly Japanese as their parents or grandparents.

The granting of the franchise will not, and indeed could not break down the peculiar racial characteristics which the Oriental has, and which it is admitted still exists. It would, however, as they themselves readily suggest, further economic assimilation, but are we in Canada prepared to allow an unassimilable race of people to control the economic and political life, if not of Canada, then that of British Columbia, the dangers of which have become more apparent in that province during the past number of years.

The brief speaks of the Japanese race as being a proud one, etc., a fact with which we find no fault, although it is not generally known just to what extent this pride of theirs really goes and which is now becoming more apparent in British Columbia. We take no great exception to this, but it should be pointed out that national pride does not pertain to any one race or nation. When the question of good feeling is introduced by them as one being related to that of trade, the fact should not be lost sight of that Australia has gone a great deal farther in restrictive legislation against the Oriental than has Canada, in closing her gates entirely to them, yet Australia has been doing more trade with both China and Japan over the past number of years than has Canada.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. Are the orientals or Japanese or Chinese who settled and remained in Australia allowed to vote?—A. My information is no. To continue:—

One wonders at many of the arguments advanced on page 22. For example, they state that the Japanese system of Government is like ours and one can only wonder just why such an argument would be made or if they really expect such a statement to be believed. And again, what the fact of their navy being modelled along lines similar to that of Great Britain has to do with the granting of the franchise to the Japanese in British Columbia is somewhat difficult to understand, unless it is being used as some kind of threat or bogey.

On page 21 they speak of a time to come when by force of numbers the franchise will have to be granted to them, and it is stated it will be then too late. Further they ask the question, "Does Canada want a blood purge similar to that of Hitler with regard to the Jews in Germany?" Statements such as these just quoted and as put forward on behalf of the Japanese ought not to be given much credence and should not be recognized as having any bearing whatsoever in any appeal for enfranchisement of Orientals at Dominion elections in any province in Canada.

RIGHTS OF DOMINION TO LEGISLATE

A considerable number of pages of the Japanese Brief, notably pages 25 to 42, are devoted to somewhat lengthy arguments, legal and otherwise, which are advanced disputing the rights of the Dominion Parliament under the British North America Act to legislate in regard to who shall or who shall not vote at elections. Surely no importance can be attached to those arguments. The fact that this matter was taken before our Courts by the Japanese themselves, even going as far as appealing to the Privy Council in 1905, at which time the decision was against them, is proof enough of our legal rights to legislate and settles the question without any shadow of doubt. It is the right of every country, including Canada, to say, if they deem desirable so to do, who shall and

[Mr. Thomas Reid, M.P.]