

hon. friend made one practical suggestion, namely, that when a man goes to buy a ticket he should be asked to show his registration card. I will pass that on to the committee and they can consider the suggestion that every Japanese who goes to buy a ticket shall be asked to show his card. That can be done, if necessary. There are many ways in which registration can be established.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I do not want the committee to labour under the impression that the hon. member for Vancouver East represents in any respect the views of the people of British Columbia so far as the Japanese situation is concerned.

Mr. MacINNIS: So much the worse for them.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: He voted to give them the franchise, putting them on an equality with any white man. No one in my riding is in favour of that. I am as friendly to them as he is, and I may say as a matter of fact that when I came to this house the first time the Japanese gave me a wedding present. But no man can rise in his place here and say that he represents the opinion of British Columbia on the Japanese situation when he is in favour of giving them the vote even though it be used against Canada's participation in the war. That is nonsense. This problem can be solved. I am not worried about the exclusion of the Japanese or anyone else, but we can solve the problem in a very simple manner so far as British Columbia is concerned: Ship them all to Toronto.

Mr. NEILL: The Prime Minister was quite right when he said that he had been instrumental in cutting down immigration to 150 including men, women and children in any one year, and I give him credit for that. I know the number was reduced from something as high as 1,700. There was a thing called a gentleman's agreement that stank to high heaven, which was in force previously, and the Prime Minister was the means of reducing it to sensible and interpretable proportions. Before that, a Jap would come along and tell the agent that he was under the gentleman's agreement and the immigration man would say, "Go on." When I asked why no check had been made the answer I got was, "I never saw the gentleman's agreement."

The Prime Minister reduced the whole thing to terms of law, written agreement, which was put under the Immigration Act. I know that the number is much below 150 owing to conditions in Japan, and I believe that since the question has been made the subject of law, in that act, immigration is less than what

it used to be. It used to be an open door and I admit that there are not very many coming in now. But as one member from Vancouver said, if we had stopped them from coming in at all, it would have done a great deal to soothe the popular ill feeling against them. We have enough to contend against now in their birth rate, which is thirty-eight per thousand as against eighteen or nineteen per thousand in the white races.

As the hon. member for Vancouver East says, all they want is to be left alone and they will take care of themselves. Yes, they will, as they did in Hawaii where they dominate the legislature, because there they have votes. The principles which the hon. member for Vancouver East entertains, and those of the party to which he belongs, are the very reason why there is only one representative of that party in this house to-day from British Columbia. It is simply because they let it be known that they were in favour of giving votes to the orientals, and they would vote to let more Japs in and take the quota off fishing, et cetera.

I think the hon. member for New Westminster mentioned that there was a committee of this house, called the industrial and foreign relations committee, that met here some years ago, and we received a delegation from the Japanese in British Columbia. It consisted of one lady and three men, highly educated college people, far better educated than I am or ever can possibly be, and they made a very fine impression. They were picked of course. They explained how terribly they felt; they said their heart felt bad, and they put their hand on their belly, they said it grieved them so much to feel that they could not vote. At that very time we were contemplating passing a law to compel the white people to vote because they were not voting in sufficient numbers. These Japanese talked along those lines and made a good showing. They had it all prepared of course; the brief was prepared by a clever white lawyer in Vancouver—more shame to him—and it was full of holes. But they went over big.

Then we had the privilege of asking them some questions. There is a peculiarity about a Jap when he is pulling off a gag like that; while he sticks to his text and what he is coached to say, he gets along fine, but there is a sort of innate naiveté about them, and when you ask a Jap a straight question, he is very likely to tell the truth. One man was a college professor from some place in the United States, and we asked him about a question which is known to everyone in British Columbia, the system of having two schools. They come out of our white schools at about three