

*Oriental Aliens*

any European language" were changed to read "in any language", and the change was made in order that there might be no offence to the Japanese. At the same time the government of Australia agreed to admit by passport into that country tourists, merchants, students and other classes, the Minister of External Affairs of the Commonwealth undertaking to control the number of passports that were being issued. Now that was not exclusion; that was effective restriction. The same thing is true of New Zealand and South Africa; and I contend, Mr. Speaker, that this House would make a great mistake if it took a course which, after great care and thought, no other part of the Empire has thus far taken. Let me say that I am in entire sympathy with the motive and the purpose of the mover of this resolution. I think if the resolution is to serve the avowed purpose he has in mind it is all important that it should pass this House as an unanimous resolution. I do not think we will help the cause of effective restriction of oriental immigration if there is any division of opinion in this House as to the resolution which should govern in the matter. If my hon. friend is prepared to substitute the words "effective restriction" for the word "exclusion" in his resolution I will, on behalf of the Government, agree to accept his resolution; but if he is unwilling to do that, I should feel that the reasons I have mentioned are sufficiently grave as to constitute a justification for the Government not accepting the resolution in the form in which it has been moved.

Now I wish to address one word in the nature of an appeal to my right hon. friend who sits opposite. When he was in the place which I now have the privilege of occupying, he spoke to me about the advisability, in these matters of foreign policy and larger questions of international purport, of the House rising above any question of party, and considering such measures when before the House solely from the point of view of the national interest—in other words considering what would best serve the interest of Canada, the interest of the Empire and the international obligations of which we might be seeking to take account. I make that appeal to him to-night. I would like this House to rise above any consideration of party one way or the other. I would like its members to view this question in the light of the responsibility which we have, not only as citizens of our own country,

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

but to all parts of the British Empire, and also our obligations to the other countries of the world. Let us adopt a resolution which this House can agree upon unanimsly, and avoid attempting to pass any motion which is certain to be misunderstood by the other party to the arrangement. There are two methods of dealing with these grave international questions. You can attempt to deal with them by law, by enacting legislation which in all probability will prove ineffective and serve only to antagonize and arouse bitterness and misunderstanding on the part of others; or they can be dealt with by negotiation between the governments of the different countries concerned in a spirit of good will, a spirit of friendly relationship with a great object in view. I contend that we are now dealing with one question which should only be dealt with from the latter point of view. We must seek to-day, above all times, to further good-will and to eliminate anything that is going to make for ill-will as between the nations of the world. There have been conferences for the purpose of establishing a League of Nations; there have been conferences for the purpose of doing away with the possibility of future war; conferences to bring about peaceful relations between the different countries of the world. We have a chance in this House of Commons to-night to help forward that new movement of good-will as between the different nations, or we can set it back and create an entirely new and very serious international problem. Today, as this matter stands, we are in the position of appearing to have a grievance as against the orientals because of their coming in, in too large numbers, into our country. Let us enact an exclusion law, let us pass a resolution which will be understood by the oriental as meaning exclusion, and the grievance immediately becomes one on the part of the Orient as against us. Now I contend, Mr. Speaker, that we shall not help to solve the situation that has arisen in that way, and I plead with hon. gentlemen opposite not to embarrass the Government in its efforts to deal with this great problem, but in a cordial and whole-hearted way to lend their assistance to the administration in its endeavour to elevate this question beyond the plane of party considerations to a realm which will help to further international good-will, friendly relations, and at the same time effectively deal with the problem to which my hon. friend's resolution refers.