

tensive immigration of orientals is also a menace to the health of the community ;

That there is probability of a great disturbance to the economic conditions in the province and of grave injury being caused to the working classes by the large influx of labourers from China, as the standard of living of the masses of the people in that country differs so widely from the standard prevailing in the province, thus enabling them to work for a much less wage ;

That it is in the interests of the empire that the Pacific province of the Dominion should be occupied by a large and thoroughly British population rather than by one in which the number of aliens would form a large proportion ;

We find that these representations are substantially true and urgently call for a remedy.

We also find that the increase of the capitation tax from \$50 to \$100 is ineffective and inadequate.

Your commissioners are of opinion that the further immigration of Chinese labourers into Canada ought to be prohibited ;

That the most desirable and effective means of attaining this end is by treaty supported by suitable legislation ;

That in the meantime and until this can be obtained the capitation tax should be raised to \$500.

The only point upon which your commissioners could not agree is the date when the capitation tax of \$500 ought to come into effect. The chairman and commissioner Foley are of opinion that the capitation tax should be raised to \$500 at once, while commissioner Munn is of opinion that \$300 should be imposed for two years, and if a prohibitive treaty be not obtained within that period, that it be then raised to \$500.

I may say that I entertain no hope in the present condition of China of having such a treaty as is here indicated ; therefore, we have taken the course of asking parliament to increase at once the capitation tax from \$100 to \$500 as here recommended. Now, with regard to Japanese immigration, the same prejudice, I am sorry to say, exists in British Columbia concerning the Japanese as the Chinese. I say I am sorry for it, because for my part I make a distinction between Japan and China. Japan is one of the rising nations of the present day. It has shown itself to be very progressive, it does not seem to me at all doubtful that within a short period Japan will have placed itself in the fore front among the civilized nations of the earth. But whatever may be my feelings in this matter, it is a matter of record for there can be no dispute that in British Columbia the feeling towards the Japanese is exactly the same as towards the Chinese. The Japanese is not looked upon as a desirable immigrant. But as I said a moment ago, though I am prejudiced in favour of the Japanese, I must confess that there is little probability that it will be possible to assimilate the Japanese immigrant to the standard of Canadian civilization. The ethnical differences are also of such a character as to make it very doubtful whether assimilation of the two races could ever take

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place. But the problem has been solved so far as British Columbia is concerned by the Japanese government themselves, who have undertaken not only to restrict but absolutely to prohibit Japanese immigration from that country to Canada. The report of the commissioners upon this point is also very pertinent. Some two or three years ago the Japanese government issued an order, I cannot say whether it was legislative or executive, but at all events a legal order, absolutely to prohibit within certain limits, immigration from Japan into Canada. The report of the commissioners upon this point is to be found at page 399 :

Your commissioners fully appreciate the action taken by the government of Japan on August 2, 1900, whereby the governors of the prefectures of Japan were instructed to prohibit entirely for the time being the emigration of Japanese labourers for the Dominion of Canada. It is stated in a pamphlet purporting to be published by the Japanese consul at Vancouver : ' the principal reason for the measure thus taken was to avoid any friction that might occur by allowing them to come into British Columbia where their immigration was not desired by a certain element of that province,' and that ' the government of Japan wholly stopped the issuance of passports to any intending emigrants for Canada since the 1st of August last (1900), and still continues to do so, under a provision of the Immigration Protection Law. (Law No. 70, 1896).

The course adopted by the Japanese government, if we may without presumption be permitted to say so, is most opportune, eliminating all cause of friction and irritation between Canada and Japan, and so favouring a freer trade and intercourse between the countries than could otherwise obtain.

Nothing further is needed to settle this most difficult question upon a firm basis than some assurance that the action already taken by the government of Japan will not be revoked.

Your commissioners desire to express their earnest hope that in the continuance of this friendly policy, legislation on this subject by the Canadian government may be rendered unnecessary. Should, however, a change of policy be adopted in this regard by the Japanese government whereby Japanese labourers may again be permitted to emigrate to Canada, the welfare of the province of British Columbia imperatively demands that effective measures be adopted to take the place of the inhibition now imposed by the Japanese government.

Your commissioners recommend that, in that event, an Act be passed by the Dominion government on the lines of what is known as the Natal Act, made sufficiently stringent and effective to accomplish the desired result.

There is no necessity to go back to that, because the action of the imperial Japanese government is sufficient of itself to cover the ground. Under the action just taken by the Japanese government, three classes of persons only are allowed to leave the shores of Japan for Canada. First, those who hold both a passport and a certificate of the Japanese consul at Vancouver certifying that they are resident in Canada, and are only returning to this country ; second, those families of Japanese resident