

ture in every session for the last eight or ten years has passed and repassed an Act which practically prohibited orientals coming into the country. I accept that as a fact. It has been passed, but there are few men in the British Columbia legislature who are manly enough to get up and say that they were merely embalming laws on the statute-books, because that was an act entirely beyond the purview of the local legislature, and for that reason was of no effect. The British Columbia legislature can pass Natal Acts, which are only educational tests, until the crack of doom; they will never stop one Oriental from coming in to the country. To carry that question to its logical conclusion, they may watch the border line of our country and our seaports, but they must not forget that British Columbia borders on the province of Alberta, and they cannot prevent orientals from coming into the province from another province. I do not think it requires the training of a constitutional lawyer to recognize the fact that the province of British Columbia was entirely outside its jurisdiction when it passed the Natal Act; the only authority that can handle this question is the Federal government at Ottawa, and to the Federal government at Ottawa we look for the solution of this problem.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at six o'clock I was endeavouring to show the attitude, the false attitude, I think, of the British Columbia government in passing what is called the Natal Act. The reason why I call their position a false one is this, that the British Columbia government in passing the Natal Act arrogated to itself a power entirely outside their sphere, that is, the regulation of immigration into the province. Now, Sir, the passing of the Natal Act has become a hardy annual in the province of British Columbia. There have been very few members in that province who would care to get up and declare they were wasting their time and going outside their prerogative in passing such an Act, for the reason, apparently, that they were afraid their action might be misconstrued when it came to the point of facing their electors at a re-election. However, I maintain that the Natal Act, so far as British Columbia is concerned, is just so much waste paper. The only authority who can satisfy us on this question is the federal government at Ottawa.

The reason why the people of British Columbia are so strongly opposed to oriental immigration is not far to seek. I remember very well when I first went to British Columbia twenty years ago that the fisheries were entirely in the hands of

Mr. MACPHERSON.

white men and Indians; there were very few orientals engaged in that industry. Mining was also in the hands of white men, and the lumber industry was entirely in the hands of white men. These are the three principal industries of our province, and we have endeavoured, so far as we possibly could, to keep them in the hands of men who would help to build up a white Canada. The fisheries upon the Fraser river, that one time employed five or six thousand white men and Indians, are to-day entirely in the hands of the Japanese; you will see three or four thousand Japanese engaged in that industry and very few white men. The canneries are entirely in the hands of orientals; so far as the fisheries of British Columbia are concerned, they are to-day entirely at the mercy of orientals. If these people were to take it into their heads at any time to stop work, there would be no fish caught and no fish canned in Canada. That is a rather serious phase of the question, that one of the biggest industries we have in our province is entirely in the hands of orientals, when it might just as well be entirely in the hands of white men who would build up the country. It is the same way in the lumbering industry. A few years ago it was a rare thing to see a Japanese or a Chinese in the lumber woods, but to-day it is becoming a rare thing to see a white man there.

Yet the people in the rest of Canada tell us that we must have cheap labour, we must have oriental labour or we cannot carry on the industries of the country. Now if that is so, why is it that no other part of this great Canada has been obliged to bring in orientals to develop their industries? Why does not the province of Alberta require them? Why does not the province of Saskatchewan require them, or the province of Manitoba, or the old province of Ontario? None of these provinces ever attempted to bring in orientals to build up any other part of Canada. I think the cry that you must have cheap labour by orientals to work in the different industries in the province of British Columbia, is the curse of our country to-day. I maintain that we have as much right to say to the rest of Canada that they shall have orientals as the rest of Canada has to say that British Columbia shall have them.

Another reason why we object to orientals is that we are the buffer province of Canada. It seems when we go east to the Rocky Mountains that we find a different view point prevailing, every thing is viewed from a different standpoint west of the Rocky Mountains. They appear to be the dividing line. During the troubles we had in British Columbia this summer we found little or no sympathy, either from public men or from the press, east of the Rocky Mountains. The sympathy that we found was entirely along the Pacific coast. We found a lot of sympathy down on the Ame-