

in Richmond, in my constituency, over 40 per cent of the pupils attending the schools are Japanese. In the town of Steveston, where there is a fourteen-room school, ten rooms are used exclusively for Japanese, three rooms are mixed and one room only is all white. Some criticism is due to the government for permitting the immigration of orientals at a time when the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) was taking steps to close the doors against immigrants from other countries. Surely if any people were to be debarred from Canada it should have been those who will not assimilate and who are accustomed to a much lower standard of living. Even Russians and their children could become good citizens of this country. Personally I should like to see the government close the gates against orientals, say for a period of ten years or until such time as we in British Columbia would no longer have any fear of domination by the Asiatic, as we do at the present time.

Pursuing its fixed policy of combating all influences inimical to the social and economic welfare of this Dominion, the government decided to prohibit the importation of certain commodities from the Union of Soviet Socialistic republics. I am at a loss to know why Russia should be singled out, unless it is that at a distance it seems to be a country where government is by the people and for the people. This seemed to be repugnant to Sir Herbert Holt, whose opinion was made known to Canada before the order in council was passed. It may have been merely a coincidence; the government may have acted without knowing of that opinion, but it seems to me that if they really desired to help the coal industry a tax should have been put upon fuel oil. That action would have been more beneficial to Canada than the prohibition of trade with Russia.

I should like to invite the attention of the government to another matter affecting Canada generally and British Columbia in particular, namely the poultry industry. At the present time there is no shortage of eggs in Canada, nor has there been for some considerable time, in fact fresh eggs are cheaper and have been offered in greater volume during the past year than at any time for some years past. So great has been the production of eggs during the last five or six months that at times there was a glut and it was impossible to find a market. The climate of British Columbia is admirably adapted to the production of eggs, more especially during the winter months. The British Columbia egg is the best in Canada, if not in the whole

[Mr. Reid.]

world, and last year the constituency which I have the honour to represent produced the world's record white Leghorn, a hen which laid 357 eggs in 365 days. This hen does honour not only to her owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. Whiting of Port Kells, but to Canada as well. During a period of three weeks 70,000 hens were sacrificed in the Fraser valley because eggs were a glut on the market and were selling for as low as 12 cents per dozen, and as a result a number of the poultry owners were forced to get rid of their stock in an endeavour to meet their accounts; in fact many of them were compelled to go out of business.

Considerable help would be afforded to the dairymen and poultrymen of British Columbia if the domestic freight rates were reduced to the export rate. The difference of some \$4.20 per ton would be an average saving to the poultryman in British Columbia of \$100 to \$500 per year, which in many instances would mean the difference between staying on the ranch and leaving it and thus swelling the number of job-seekers in the cities. The great problem facing Canada to-day is to find a market for her surplus products, and how that can be accomplished under the policy of the present government I have yet to learn.

Before closing I should like to make some criticism as to the inquiry conducted by the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) into the price of bread. While the minister seems to have secured a lot of data in the way of prices of wheat and so on, apparently no notice has been taken of a most vital point, namely, the high cost of flour in its relation to the price of wheat. A very casual reading of the minister's report would indicate that he has taken great pains to tell us about the price of labour, distribution, cost of ingredients, overhead and so on, but he has given no information as to any inquiry into the question why flour prices should be as high as they are. Judging from the report, one might think that flour was a mere detail in the making of bread, simply one of the minor ingredients such as salt or sugar. The following appears on page 30 of the report:

In the making of bread, flour costs represent only 36 per cent and that flour is becoming less and less important in the modern loaf.

Page 41 of the report reads:

Our records show that in 1929, the mill-controlled bakeries purchased in all well over one million barrels: Moreover, this million-barrel market was held by only four milling companies and represented an eighth of the entire consumption of flour in Canada in 1929.