

CONCLUSION

Little do the people of British Columbia know of the stupendous prejudices and difficulties which confront them in their efforts to protect themselves against an inundation of Orientalism. Nor do they realize that a thoughtless flick of a pen by a cabinet minister at Ottawa, in a moment of carelessness, would immediately produce a condition in the social and industrial life of the province which would cause them to stagger. Slight, indeed, is the comprehension of the people of Eastern Canada of the significance of the "yellow and brown peril," so slight that there are thousands who, with the utmost complacency, would open the flood gates of the Pacific coast province and magnanimously welcome "our brethren of Asia."

Vague and meagre is the knowledge of the Parliament of Canada relative to this great problem, and how small and insignificant it is in the eyes of the Government itself; this is largely so because its effect is seen in concrete form, only in that province three thousand miles away, which to many, who have never seen it, is so wild and undeveloped as to be of slight importance as an object of ministerial solicitation.

All this is quite natural, but none the less regrettable. It is a psychological attitude peculiar to the human mind. It is an expression of the sentiment which attaches great importance to that which is close at hand and imminent, and which minimizes the importance of that which is distant and, more or less, remote. It is quite true that this mental attitude is that which prevents the whole race from going mad with worry, but pursued to an extreme will bring the directly opposite result, the decline of the race, because of indifference and lethargy.

Not for one moment would we suggest that irreparable catastrophe is knocking at the door in the form of "Orientalism," but we unhesitatingly assert that, if Canada permits the continued