

*Oriental Aliens*

entirely, nor a national affair entirely; that its scope is largely international; but I for one am convinced that no insuperable difficulties present themselves in that direction. I am fully convinced that if, as was argued by some of the speakers, the matter is put forward in a frank manner with all our cards on the table, and if we explain the situation fully to those people, we shall encounter no difficulty in implementing any legislation which this House may provide along the lines suggested in this resolution.

None of us who has watched history, can have failed to admire the wonderful progress made by Japan during the last fifty years. That little nation has rapidly forged ahead until it has taken a position well in the forefront amongst the great powers of the world, and along with that progress has naturally come a feeling of national pride. Accordingly, and quite rightly, they would maintain a position which would lead them to resent anything approaching an affront passed upon their national pride, and nobody in this House would, for a moment, suggest that a course should be followed that would give them the slightest cause to feel that they were being subjected to any slight or discrimination. But it has been pointed out with

great force, I think, this afternoon how their own legislation affects us if we seek entrance to their country, and it is only a matter of reasonable *quid pro quo* that we should demand the same privileges which they are prepared to give to others, and nothing further. Australia has found a way to settle this difficulty; she has been hampered by no fear of international complications. In spite of the fact that the Japanese alliance with Britain was in effect, Australia, during the last few years, passed legislation which has the effect of absolutely excluding orientals from that island continent. The matter was one of self-preservation with them, and there is an old adage that "self-preservation is the first law of nature." This should apply to nations as well as to individuals, and we are asking this Parliament to place no more power in the hands of the people of this country than that which has been taken, without any objection from any source, by the people of Australia and the people of South Africa.

Mr. CRERAR: Might I ask a question purely for information, because I do not know? Can the hon. member inform the

[Mr. MacKellvie.]

House as to the character of the legislation which Australia has passed and which produces that result?

Mr. MacKELVIE: It is exactly of the nature of that legislation of which I spoke a moment ago, which was passed by British Columbia some years ago, by way of educational tests. That subject and other constitutional points will be dealt with later on in the debate, I understand, by the hon. member for Centre Vancouver (Mr. Stevens), who has made a thorough and exhaustive study of all the constitutional aspects of this question. The speaker who opened the debate this evening (Mr. Ladner), dwelt, in a manner which must have engaged the earnest attention of this House, upon the moral degradation which has followed the introduction of the drug evil largely through oriental influence. I do not intend to dilate on that, nor to enlarge upon the tremendous evil which this has brought to our country. If any person desires to acquaint himself with how degraded human nature may, under certain circumstances become, all he has to do is to visit certain oriental quarters in British Columbia cities, where he will find a condition of filth and vice, vice which must be unmentionable before audiences such as this, which ought to convince him that the fewer of this class of people that any country has within its bounds, the better it will be for its people and for its civilization to progress upon really proper lines. Now, I have spoken very briefly upon the international aspect of this question. I realize that the administration naturally will have to give very serious consideration to it. But fully sensible of the gravity of my words and of the words of those who have preceded me, I venture to assure the Government that in my opinion, and in the opinion of every man in British Columbia who has given the question the attention which it demands, there is no remedy save that of absolute exclusion. We have tried restrictive measures for many years, and you can see where that policy has landed us. Now, we say: Cut right down to the root of this evil, cut right home to the very marrow of this disease, and apply the only effective remedy that will meet the situation—absolute and complete exclusion from this day forward of alien orientals entering this country.

We urge therefore that the commercial treaty between Great Britain and Japan, which expires in July, 1923, unless notice be given a year previously, be denounced with-