

Oriental Aliens

vast chasm exists to-day in thought, in tongue, in physical form and colour. These people can never, or will never, intermingle and intermarry with our people. The descendants of Chinamen and Japanese coming to this country will be Chinamen and Japanese respectively in five hundred years from now; there will be no difference. The money that an oriental earns in this country goes back to his native land, and after his death his very bones are taken back to the sacred soil that gave him birth.

There has been no amalgamation of these people in any shape or form into our national fabric; there can never be any. At the present time, our complaint against them is probably on account of their industry, and that has been borne out here. But whatever attributes they may have that are essential, they are producing in this country at the present time, particularly on the west coast, a condition of affairs in which our people cannot compete at all. They are not, however, going to be limited to the west coast; they are already crossing over the mountains. If you go through any small town in western Canada, you will find those people more abundantly in evidence as the years go by.

Thus, there is the future to be considered. The China of to-day is not the China of twenty years ago. The China of to-day is looking out over the world. Twenty years ago, the Chinese soldier was armed with a quilted coat, a steel pot and a long pole. To-day, Chinese armies are battling around Peking, fully equipped armies, armed with machine guns and aeroplanes. There is no enmity between this country and Japan, or between this country and the oriental; but if these people come here, in years to come, there may be a difficult question to settle; and, just as good friends sometimes, at election times, keep away from visiting each other for fear troubles may come, it would be well that the oriental races and the occidental race represented by Canada should recognize that there may be a difficulty here some day; that it must almost inevitably come on account of the people of the Orient settling in this country. We must settle this question, and I think, if we put it fairly in a diplomatic and reasonable way to the people of the Orient, they will appreciate that the settlement of this question at as early a date as possible may relieve a very dangerous situation in the future, not long distant or long distant, who knows? But

[Mr. McMurray.]

this question is a cause of irritation and a danger to us. Kipling has said:

East is East and West is West,
And never they twain shall meet.

The difficulty is that they may meet some day in the future. Whether they will meet or will not meet, it is certain they will not mix, and I think that is the view that Australia and New Zealand have, that you cannot build up a strong national people unless you build them of homogeneous elements; that your immigrant coming into this country must have one absolute feature, that he can be welded into the national character and woven into the national fabric, politically, socially and in every other way.

At six o'clock, the House took recess.

After Recess

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. L. J. LADNER (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, we have had various aspects of the Asiatic question dealt with in the course of this debate, and before it is concluded other speakers will deal with its economic and political aspects, as well as with certain of its social phases. My particular part in this debate relates to the sociological aspect of Asiatic immigration—the forces which influence and determine the organization and development of the social group.

I submit that perhaps no feature of this question is more important than that of assimilation. In the European countries you will find certain racial differences so far as origin is concerned. For instance, you will find in France that the northerner differs considerably from the southerner; in Switzerland you will find citizens of French, German and Italian origin, each group maintaining their mother tongue, but all capable of assimilation; you will find in Belgium the Walloons and the Flemings, each a distinct type, but all Belgian citizens with a common outlook on national affairs; even in Great Britain you have the English, the Scotch, the Welsh—and, I might still add, you have the Irish, although some people do not agree as to that.

Mr. LAPOINTE: You have the French also.

Mr. LADNER: In Great Britain?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.