

The Yellow Peril

The citizens of British Columbia are protesting against the proposal to allow, on a large scale, the importation of Chinese labor under indenture. They take the stand that there is already a yellow peril in their midst without making it worse by augmentation. Strong protests are also being made by organized labor for the particular reason that with the lower standards of living the Oriental works for long hours at a wage the white man could not start to compete with. The British Columbians have a special right to protest against the importation in their fine province of Chinese or Japanese alien labor for even under the best conditions they are undesirable as citizens, and when it is considered that under the duty of a \$500 head tax against Chinese immigrants, supposed to be prohibitive because of the large amount, but what in reality has become an excuse for working a system of trade in human beings obnoxious to all sense of decency, their protest is more than justified. The usual procedure is for an agency to advance the \$500 head tax, the emigrant in time becoming the slave for a long period of the agency that either uses the man for its own purposes or lets him out at a profit on every hour he works. Long before the tax is repaid with compound interest and profits that Chinese immigrant has acquired the worst traits of western civilization because of his environments and is taught to look upon the better characteristics of the white race as something to be exploited for his own ends.

Such a system of demoralized immigration is bound to have a bad affect on the morals of any immigrant, whatever his race, but on the Chinese immigrant with no moral code of his own and absolutely ignorant, even of his own country the results are disastrous to himself, and when many of him, positively dangerous to the country inflicted with him. British Columbia suffers most because of numbers, but throughout Canada the Chinaman is known, usually in the laundry, and if an investigation was made it would be startling to our sense of decency to find the number of white women living in prostitution in these same laundries—often one woman co-habiting in turn with each of the inmates of a laundry. And this in Christian Canada.

From the report of a private investigation made some time back we find that the conditions under which the Japanese laborers, engaged at the salmon fisheries in British Columbia, live are anything but conducive to health and clean living. What chance then have white workers against such people whose very squalor and filth have been brought about by the nature of their work—the cleaning of the fish—and the miserably poor pay. The Jap at home—in Japan—is of a cleanly nature and it is only by exploitation by white parasites that he has degenerated.

The native of India is by nature and temperament very different to either the Jap or Chinaman. The East Indians in Canada—about 2,000—are Sikhs, who will not be exploited knowingly, and no doubt the agitation against them a few years back was instigated by those who have exploited too well the other Orient races. In their native India these people have, since the mutiny, set a splendid example to the other races in loyalty to the Empire. They are cleanly and industrious in spite of assertions to the contrary, and they cannot understand why they have been discriminated against in a part of the Empire which harbors other colored races. Of one thing we are certain, whatever yellow peril there is or may be in Canada the East Indian will never be part of it.

The difficulty is this: Canada is not a white man's country in the sense that Australia is—where no colored immigration is allowed—and our system of immigration is not conducive to the best form of Canadian citizenship; the principal objective of the alien immigrants being to make money rather than to found homes and become responsible citizens. This in particular applies to the immigrant from the Orient. The consequence is that we have a slum life, which in comparison to that of other countries is out of all proportion to our population. In other words it is the foreign element that has built up our slums. For this state of affairs the local councils are largely to blame for not enforcing more strictly their own by-laws regarding over-crowding and hygiene, and this moral cancer is not confined to our urban centres by any means, for slum life is to be found in our rural communities.

CANADIAN WATER POWER.

(Commission on Conservation Estimate, 1917.)

Province.	Total Possible Developed	
	H.P.	H.P.
Ontario	5,800,000	760,000
Quebec	6,000,000	640,000
Nova Scotia	100,000	26,000
New Brunswick	300,000	15,000
Prince Edward Island	3,000	500
Manitoba	76,000
askatchewan	10
Alberta	3,500,000	33,000
Northwest Territories	Nil
British Columbia	3,000,000	250,000
Yukon	100,000	12,700
Total for Canada	18,803,000	1,813,210

PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES AND GOOD ROADS.

My interest in good roads is not merely an interest in the pleasure of riding in automobiles, it is not merely an interest in the very much more important matter of affording the farmers of this country and the residents in villages the means of ready access to such neighboring markets as they need for economic benefit but it is also the interest in weaving as complicated and elaborate a net of neighborhood and state and national opinions together as it is possible to weave.

I believe that the development of great systems of roads is, psychologically speaking as well as physically speaking, a task of statesmanship. I believe that it is the proper study of the statesman to bind communities together and open their intercourse so that it will flow with absolute freedom and facility.—Woodrow Wilson.