

live question. I refer to the legislation which our province has introduced with regard to the employment of white girls in places conducted by Oriental proprietors. Hon. gentlemen of the House are aware that over a year ago the Legislature of Saskatchewan passed legislation providing that white girls should not be employed in places conducted by Oriental proprietors, having especial regard to laundries and restaurants, where it was believed that white girls might be led to no good. The validity of that legislation was questioned, first in the lower court, then in the Supreme Court of the province, and finally in the Appellate Court. Just a few days ago the court of appeal in the province of Saskatchewan decided that the law was good, and that the provincial Government had power to pass such legislation. What position are we in with regard to the Japanese? Because of this new treaty which hon. gentlemen opposite made a year ago, our hands are tied, and we cannot make similar legislation with regard to the Japanese. Article 1 of the adhesion of a year ago says that no restriction of any kind shall be put upon the Japanese with regard to ordinary trade, calling, employment or industry. Instead of the Japanese people being treated more strictly by the present Government now than they were formerly treated, their sphere of operation was virtually been enlarged, and the Government has tied the hands of the provincial legislatures and the Legislature of Saskatchewan—and, no doubt, the Legislature of British Columbia—is not able to pass the legislation it would like to pass. Article 1 of the adhesion of a year ago says distinctly that the most absolute freedom shall be given to the Japanese. Let me read it:

The subjects of each of the high contracting parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel, and reside in the territories of the other, and, conforming themselves to the laws of the country.

They shall have the right, equally with native subjects, to carry on their commerce and manufacture, and to trade in all kinds of merchandise of lawful commerce, either in person or by agents or in partnership with foreigners or native subjects.

They shall in all that relates to the pursuit of their industries, callings, professions, and educational studies be placed in all respects on the same footing as the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation.

By that article our hands are tied, and hon. gentlemen who so long preached what they would do to keep back the tide of Oriental immigration have now given it a

[Mr. Knowles.]

further opportunity to sweep over our lands and have taken a course which prevents the provincial legislatures from acting in this very important matter. The hon. member for Vancouver may throw into this debate just as much partisan feeling as he likes. I should expect that hon. gentlemen opposite would be the very last to mention anything of a partisan nature, because they know that their attitude with regard to the Oriental question constitutes a deception of the people of British Columbia. The hon. member for Vancouver spoke this afternoon just because he feels that he is in a hole, and that a generous distribution within the next few days or weeks of copies of 'Hansard' containing his speech will do something to haul him out of it, and to make the people believe that he is still taking the same attitude in the House of Commons. I can tell him that the people in British Columbia were not born yesterday, and all that flamboyant stuff about fish-hooks and hookworms with which the hon. gentleman treated us will not take away their knowledge of the fact that the Conservative party has played them false; it will not cause them to forget that they voted against the Laurier Government thinking that they would put into power men who would keep back Oriental immigration. But they have been deceived. My hon. friend need not think that by his speech he has redeemed himself, because the people have better memories than he gives them credit for having.

Mr. G. H. BARNARD (Victoria): I am quite content, like my hon. friend the hon. member for Moosejaw (Mr. Knowles), to give every credit to the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) and the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) for the tone of their remarks this afternoon on this very important subject. It is true that so far as they are concerned the debate was conducted upon a high plane, but I cannot help thinking that they know that partisanship would come afterwards.

10 p.m. because they must have known that the hon. member for Moosejaw was to follow. The hon. member for Moosejaw has done me the honour to give me some particular attention. I am sorry he is going out, as I wished to say a few words with regard to his remarks. For the third time he has done me the honour of referring on the floor of this House to a certain telegram for which he apparently still holds me responsible. His remarks are neither very original nor very clever,