

have no hesitation at all in deciding to protect these interests. We are always in this House ready to raise a barrier of restriction with the view of placing the commercial interests of Canada in a position of equality with those of any other country. One side of this House may not be quite as ready to give that protection to exactly the same extent as the other side, but the principle of commercial protection to Canada as against the cheap productions of other countries appears to be the well settled policy of this parliament. And why should not that principle apply to the immigration of cheap labour just as it does to the importation of cheap goods?

There are two things which it is very difficult for us to understand, and especially is it difficult for people who live in the east to understand them. One is, that the Asiatic can always under-live and under-sell the white man. We have to make that confession when we come to consider this question. The old argument we used against the Chinaman does not apply here. We used, fifteen years ago, to say in British Columbia that one white man was worth two Chinamen. Well I never said so; I always said that if one white man was equal to two Chinamen there would not be any competition in labour, and therefore there would not be any Chinese question. However, that may be, it is generally recognized that to-day, we have to change the formula, and we have to be prepared to admit that industrially and economically the Japanese comes in and makes it impossible—either in the commercial or industrial world of Canada—makes it impossible for a citizen of this country to compete with him. Some people may consider that a very serious admission, but whatever they may think it is an admission that must be made. Our old conception of the inferiority of the Asiatic race in industry and commerce has to be revised. To-day we do not want the Japanese in, not because he is inferior industrially, but for very different reasons; because industrially and commercially he is evidently in some trades our superior. Let me remind the House of this—when the agitation on the Chinese question was strong in British Columbia you could not get the commercial interests of British Columbia to support that agitation with the same earnestness as the industrial classes did. Why? Because the Chinese was simply a labourer; he did not enter into competition with the commercial interests; the commercial interests of the country on the whole got a benefit out of him, and in some sense and to some degree the commercial interests employed him. That aspect of the question has completely changed. To-day, the commercial men of British Columbia fear the Japanese as the industrial classes ten years ago feared the Chinaman. The Chinese coolie entered into the industrial competition with the man

who had to work with the pick and the shovel, the hewer of wood and the drawer of water; but the Japanese—and this accounts for the extraordinary excitement and position of antagonism against the Oriental in British Columbia at the present time—the Japanese enters into competition with the commercial classes of British Columbia, which fact has extended the problem from the industrial into the commercial world. Every business man in British Columbia to-day is just as ready to sign the petition and is just as enthusiastic on the subject as the industrial classes themselves.

Now, let us see what has been the experience of other countries in which restrictive legislation has been tried. The United States was obliged half a century ago to adopt restrictive legislation against the importation of Chinese; yet, strange to say, there are more Chinese in the United States to-day than in any other single country in the world outside of China itself. The United States has also been placing restrictions upon Japanese immigration, very important and very strong restrictions, and when the people of the United States thought that under the operation of this restrictive legislation the whole question of oriental immigration was settled, there arose, about a year ago, in connection with the regulation of the public schools in San Francisco, an agitation which started a movement from one end of the United States to the other, which has had the effect of bringing to the minds of United States statesmen the absolute necessity of further regulations on this question.

In Natal, where there has been restrictive legislation against Asiatic immigration for many years, the Legislative Assembly at its last session adopted anti-oriental legislation of the most drastic kind. There has been similar legislation in the Australian colonies and in New Zealand. Just a year ago a Chinese ambassador visited the Australian commonwealth, met the members of the Australian government and discussed with them the question of removing the restrictions on Chinese immigration, and what happened? When the parliament of the Australian commonwealth met six months afterwards, instead of diminishing the pressure of the Asiatic exclusion law, they decided by a unanimous vote to carry out to the last possible degree the regulations against oriental immigration.

Take the case of the Transvaal, which shows how far-reaching is the opposition to oriental immigration. There are no Chinese in England or indeed in the British Isles, but suddenly, by a combination of circumstances which placed a large number of Chinese labourers in the Transvaal, there arose the mightiest political force that has existed in England in modern times. The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, in the midst of the great conflict that was raging in South Africa, promised the labouring people