

## UNITED STATES' COMING MENACES CANADA'S WEST

If Influx Continues and the Indifference of Older Provinces and England Remains a New Dominion May Be Formed or West May Want to Go Into U. S.

### OPINION OF MINISTER OF THE CROWN

Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 31.—(Special Staff Correspondence.)—British Columbia has an area of about 400,000 square miles, with a population of barely 200,000, and of these thousands are Indians, Japs and Chiniks (Chinamen). This gives a breathing space of two square miles per head for each human being, be he red, brown, yellow, white or mixed. Roughly speaking, the province is about 700 miles long, and 500 miles across.

Four more or less continuous mountain ranges traverse the country in a northwesterly direction. These range out towards the north, leaving millions of acres of wheat lands await the settler and the plow. One-fourth of the people live in the two cities of Victoria and Vancouver; nearly one-half in what is known as the boundary country, or that belt lying right on the American border, and wherein lie the Sitka, Rossland, Nelson and many other recently developed or mining centres, and the rest of the B.C.'s are scattered up and down these fertile valleys, or somewhere on the hundreds of miles of coast line, or on the main line of the C.P.R.

Three-fourths of the people live within fifty miles of the United States, and this proximity accounts for much of the American influence in the province.

Until the C.P.R. connected Vancouver with Eastern Canada, British Columbia was no more Canadian than Nevada or the Bermudas are to-day. In fact, the province might almost be said to have been an American colony, and the people wanted to revert to pre-Confederation days, and become an independent colony, whilst another section openly declared in favor of union with the United States on the ground that the best interests of the province were wrapped up with the Republic.

Canada started from both ends and grew inwards. It was and is the great national function of the C.P.R. to bring these ends together, and to make the nation possible. Had the building of that railway been delayed another ten years, the influence of Americanism would have been a serious menace to the integrity of the Dominion. Even now, American capital and American labor are doing a great, if not the greater, part of the development work in the boundary country. Many and many a fortune now being spent in Seattle or Spokane was made in British Columbia.

They say out here that this Americanization is not so pronounced at present as it has been, but in all conscience it's strong enough. It's the prominent characteristic of Western Canada. Uncle Sam is a hard neighbor. He wants the earth and makes no bones about it, but he must be something rotten in the state of Denmark in very truth, when the natural wealth of a Canadian province is being so completely exploited and carried out of the country by Yankee capitalists and workmen.

The great Lefebvre mine, the largest gold mine in the Dominion, sends every ton of its thousands raised weekly to Northport, in Washington, to be smelted. Tons of copper and silver-laden ingots go across the border weekly to be refined. You cannot go to any hotel in the province without finding an American drummer. This sort of thing means the pouring into American pockets of immense sums of money in interest, profit and wages that ought naturally to go into Canadian purses.

To put it shortly, the Eastern Canadian and the Englishman have been slow while the shrewd Yankee has walked in with his brains and his bawbees and has walked out with the profits of the province. If Canadians ever hope to

grow into a great and united nation, this Americanization tendency of the Dominion west of Winnipeg is a question that must be faced and fought, and that right quickly.

A distinguished minister of the Crown expressed his opinion on this point in these words: "If the influx of Americans into the west continues, and the indifference of the east and of England also continues, then in twenty-five years one of two things will happen: (1) a new Dominion will be formed, with Port Arthur and New Glasgow as the eastern boundary, or, (2) the great west will petition for admission into the Republic to the south."

The people of the east and of the Motherland simply must have more confidence and more interest in the making west of the Great Lakes, and that nation will have British or American capital that may be invested in the country. If the Motherland and the east won't help the west with money and men, then depend upon it, in this part of the empire in the next generation there will be more Yankee-Doodle than God Save the King.

The most active anti-American factor in the west to-day is the C.P.R. In this respect it is a national institution in the truest sense. It makes every effort to foster and to further strictly Canadian interests in the face of the keenest competition from the big lines south of the border, and often in the face of the selfishness and opposition of a province that forgets this country is a Dominion, and the C.P.R. is a national line. There is no doubt but that the great Jim Hill is making desperate efforts to get the trade of British Columbia, but to get it he must first get the trade of the United States. His lines run to and from the United States, and in that way they tend to drain and not to fill this country.

On top of the Americanization problem in British Columbia come the Chinik and Jap questions. John Chinaman pays \$100 of sound money of the realm for the privilege of landing in this province. That doesn't seem to worry John a bit. Still he comes, and makes a better cook or chambermaid than any Mary Jane. He's clean, honest, sober and works hard and long without a grog, and he's a good business, spends nothing and saves much money. If by chance he gambles, he does so, but he's a good fellow, and he does, or buys anything, his coin goes into the pocket of another Chinik, and is thus kept in the Celestial circle, and John is content. In due course, he makes his pile, and without fuss or warning slips away to China with his belt of Canadian gold around him; and there among the tombs of his ancestors he spends the rest of his life, and the gold he brought to Canada, the land whence it came.

That's the curse of John; he's a gold bloodsucker. He gets the country's gold and runs, and the country that much poorer.

One Happy Fact. Happily there are no Chinese women in the west, and therefore, the country is saved from a probable Anglo-Chinese population. Take it all in all, the Chinik and Chinik question is a negro question.

Until the white man and woman came to the west in larger numbers to meet the demand for labor, this province could not do without the sons of the Flowery Kingdom. The British Columbian may hate him, and wax wrathful about him, but at present he's a necessary evil. Whilst this is quite true, there is a unanimous feeling in the province that the per capita tax on Chinese immigrants should be raised to \$500. As grants

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wouldn't differ much from most Scotchies. In fact, there are many things about the Chinaman that suggest the Scotchman, but want of space and of sudden death prevent the discussion of this interesting topic.

The Gambling Dives. There are Chinese gambling dives galore in Victoria. A dive simply consists of a table with a pile of brasses each about the size of a dime. A man sits at the head of the table with a pointer, another at the side with a spoon, and the whole is fit for the game of fan fan. You pick up a handful of the brasses from the big pile, and put them in from the man with the pointer. You may then wager the bank one to two that if the pointer man picks out the brasses by two there will be at least one to three, or one to four, that it will be even three or four left at last.

There must be dozens of these dives in the city. Why don't the police stop them? Firstly, because none but Chiniks frequent them, and secondly, because they can't. At the approach of a white man, the meagre apparatus disappears and a number of Chiniks disappear. They are found looking for flies on the ceiling, or indulging in some similar or thought not unknown in Toronto.

In an Optium Den. An optium den is a windowless, dirty hole of a room containing as a rule four or five couches. The smoker sprawls out on a couch and helps himself, or is helped to a pipe. This is about two feet long and is made of bamboo with the bowl in the middle. The optium is lighted and the smoker sucks the fumes right down his throat and swallows them. About half a dozen pulls exhaust a pipe. It is the most filthy habit I have ever seen. The smoker sucks it in. One pipe would deaden a beginner, but it is not so with the old hand. He can smoke six or eight to send an old timer to sleep.

The stench of the opium den is sickening. The faces of the old devotees hideously revolting. An old opium den Chinaman is the most hellish sight I have ever seen. It's no longer human; that was years ago. It's a shriveled, shivering carcass without any human features, only waiting for one more suck at the pipe to shudder into eternity. Alcohol is a curse, but opium is a worse one.

Not All Opium Fiends. Don't run away with the idea that all Chinamen are opium fiends, for they are not, nor indeed, any great fraction of them in Victoria at any rate. There is as much drinking among white people in proportion as there is opium smoking among the Chinese. This is a free country, and a Chinese party in any proportion as a Chinaman drunk with opium and it's nobody's business but his own. As we keep on keeping on singing the Doxology, but that's another question, and too personal to be pleasant.

With the Japs. But what of the Japs? This is if anything more serious than the Chinese question. The Japanese is a smarter, higher class man than his yellow neighbor. He meets the white man as an equal, but as an equal in every sense. He pays no tax to land and asks no favors. Further, he has this great advantage over the Chinese, that his country is an ally on equal terms with the British empire, and to-day every Jap quite as much as every Englishman, has a powerful home government and a fleet to see that he is fairly dealt with, and he may pitch his tent or build his shack. The Angel from the Seven Heavens or elsewhere is not taken seriously by foreign powers, so that John Chinaman has become the second-eye of the Chinese coast. But not so with the Jap. His country is prepared to fight for him, and even a Jap who is a Chinaman in front must be treated with.

The Japanese have come to British Columbia to stay. They have brought their wives and their money with them, and in shipping, shipbuilding, fishing and canning they are going strong and doing well. Many of them have become naturalized, and naturally claim the right to vote. The Privy Council is now considering a test case on their new ally, Japan, say if Canadians were permitted to deny the Japs in the Dominion that for which the empire fought in South Africa, namely, the right of a naturalized citizen to vote.

Of course, the Jap will get his vote, and he's just the man to use it. A Japanese party in British Columbia politics is an interesting probability, and a future Japanese premier of that province is by no means an impossibility.

Their Second Coming. By the time this is the second coming of the men of the Mikado to the west. Indeed, the connection between the Japanese and the west is one of the romances of history. Centuries ago the great Pacific current that flows from the Orient to British Columbia carried successive junkies of lost or it may be adventurous Japanese fishermen to the delta of the Fraser, and some came to stay.

perchance these earliest of pioneers came via Behring Strait. This coast is now an established fact. The remains of old-time Asian ships, the perfect physical resemblance of the coast Indian and the Jap, the lingual affinities of their languages and other signs all go to prove that the little men of the east were the ancestors of the coast Indians of to-day. In other words, the Siwash

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