

views about giving these people the vote immediately after such a policy had been announced. I am not holding them responsible for that, but I do say this, and perhaps for the first time publicly, that the question never entered the arena of politics in British Columbia until that time, because prior to that no one in British Columbia would have got up on a platform to discuss the subject, for the reason that it was taken for granted that everyone in that province was opposed to granting the Japanese the vote.

May I interject one word personally? I have never publicly or at any time in my public career taken the stand I have taken against the Japanese to influence in any way those from whom I sought support. I have refrained from doing that, although I have spoken many times to my own people privately about my stand on the Japanese question. But that stand I have taken from a practical point of view. When they came to the country first in 1911 and 1912, the people of Canada were not aware, nor were we in British Columbia aware, of the move that was being made by Japan at that time to plant her nationals on the Pacific coast, and it is most unfortunate that this country of ours followed Great Britain all through the years. I am gratified to know, however, in conversations with some of the parliamentary delegation from Great Britain, that the eyes of the British people have at last been opened; I would advise those who have not had an opportunity of speaking to some of the delegates to get in touch with them, and they will find out that their views on the Japanese have changed entirely and that they are of one accord now on the point that never again must they trust the Japanese. I say that after having talked with some of the delegates who visited Ottawa.

I say to the minister that the suggestions made to him this evening I should like him to convey to the government and not to accuse us, as sometimes he has done in the past, of not having the milk of human kindness, or of lacking in British fair play. I have taken my stand fearlessly, but without hatred; and coming from the old land, as he does, I do not have to have a lecture about British fair play. It does seem strange, however, that the people who have known the Japanese the longest in Canada, the people of British Columbia and California, are the people who to-day say, "We don't want them back". Surely all the people cannot be wrong in adopting that attitude. It is quite notable that every community in Canada which has taken the Japanese since we have entered the war have been notified by the federal government that they are only being asked to take

[Mr. Reid.]

them temporarily, and that if they later do not want them the government will remove them from those communities after the cessation of hostilities. It is for that reason that we have some misgivings in British Columbia. If Ontario, Quebec and other provinces who have Japanese at the moment are going to say to the dominion after the war, "Take them out of here; we don't want them," I am wondering where the federal government will put them. This question must be faced. It is now an entirely Canadian problem, whereas heretofore British Columbia alone was faced with it.

As I said at the outset, I wanted to speak on this subject on account of its great importance, particularly to the people of British Columbia, and because it is one that must be dealt with. There is no side-stepping it much longer. The foundations for a solution of it should be laid right now. The people of the United States are thinking along the same lines. I will not weary the committee by reading all the communications I have from prominent men in the United States who take exactly the same stand as we do, but let me read one or two paragraphs from a prominent American, Miller Freeman, of the Pacific coast. He says:

By our blindness in the past we have brought upon ourselves and future generations the problem of the presence in this country of a prolific, insoluble Oriental race, already numbering some 300,000 persons.

That is the number estimated to be in the United States.

For the safety of these people, and ourselves as well, we must recognize this problem, and seek its solution. We have currently controlled it; but the future will bring it back again, intensified by the bitter memories of war and perfidy.

Let no one cry: "Persecution." There is no taint of persecution in our doctrine. Rather it is conceived in tolerance, but in realistic recognition of the dangers and brutality of racial hatreds, and of the perils inherent in a national ambition which litters its history with the tattered shreds of its honour and its most solemn obligations.

There are those who differ altogether from my views and who believe that those Japanese who were born in this country are truly Canadian. Well, to those who take that stand I would turn it the other way. How ridiculous it would be to say that if a Japanese were born in Scotland he would be a Highlander or a Scotsman!

Mr. MacNICOL: It would not be fair to the bagpipes, would it?

Mr. REID: I can tell the committee there is something in race after all, because I venture to say, of the race from which I have sprung, that if they had ever received anything like