

Provincial Statute, thereby removing the present sections in the Dominion Act, it would certainly be the thin end of the wedge in the drive by the Japanese to overcome the views held and expressed by the people of British Columbia. In that event it could very well be argued, and it certainly would be in British Columbia by the Japanese resident therein, "We are allowed to vote at Dominion elections in your Province, so why should we be debarred from voting in Provincial elections?" When that day comes, if it ever comes, we might as well pull up our stakes and seek pastures new, for they will then, by reason of numbers to a great extent be able to control affairs in the Province of British Columbia, political as well as economic. This point cannot be too strongly emphasized. The appeal now being made by the Japanese to Ottawa is to say the least of it, rather an astute move on their part. Knowing the strong sentiment which exists in the Province of British Columbia against the granting of the franchise to Orientals, they have ignored that province and come some three thousand miles to the Capital City of Ottawa in the hope that by appealing to a Committee comprising a majority of members from other provinces, who why by reason of distance etc. from the province are not quite aware of the serious influx into British Columbia of Orientals and the actual serious conditions existing there, they might possibly be influenced by sentimental appeal into giving some attention to the request now made on behalf of the Japanese.

The Japanese are ever prone, in this country at least, to speak frequently about British justice but they, it would seem, in regard to similar matters affecting nationals other than Japanese, in Japan act in accordance with Japanese standards of justice which according to the British or Canadian standpoint might be something entirely different.

The statement is made on Page 16 of the Brief that as the result of their being denied the right to be elected to public office, such as the Provincial legislature, Municipal Council, School Board, etc., the Japanese in British Columbia find it difficult to obtain employment with Canadian people. This is not only a gross exaggeration but is entirely misleading and untrue. One has only to visit British Columbia to see for himself the inroads made by Orientals in industry to realize just how untrue such a statement really is. Wherever one goes Japanese of all ages and both sexes will be seen at work either in pulp mills, logging operations, fish canneries, etc., and on the coastal steamers Japanese have been employed for many years past. A complete survey of the Oriental labour situation in British Columbia was instituted by the Provincial Government and according to the figures issued, in 1931 there was a total in the Province of 31,760 Orientals gainfully employed, and of which 23,192 were Chinese and 8,568 were Japanese. These Orientals are employed in practically all pursuits from labouring and farming to the professional and commercial occupations.

A very interesting statement is also shown in the Provincial official report mentioned. One of the tables submitted shows that British Columbia may expect in the years 1938 to 1940 inclusive a slight decrease of some 452 Chinese on the labour market, but an increase of some 3,504 males and 370 females of Japanese birth on the labour market, or a total increase of Japanese in the labour market of 3,874 in these years.

Further, with regard to the inroads which have been made by the Japanese in the economic life of British Columbia, consider for a moment the encroachments made by them and the hold they now have on our Canadian fishing grounds. Out of a total of some 12,325 licences issued by the Department of Fisheries in 1935, 2,023 of these were issued to those of Japanese birth or origin as against 2,971 to Indians and 7,331 to Whites. In other words the Japanese are getting 18 per cent or more of all fishing licences issued and which, according to numbers, is equal to a total of 7 per cent of the number of Japanese resident in that Province. The percentage of Whites and Indians combined is only approximately 1½ per cent of the total population, and yet never an opportunity is lost by the Japanese to plead for more and yet more commercial fishing licences for those of their own race.

[Mr. Thomas Reid, M.P.]