

a problem that is affected in the way this one is by international complications and by its imperial aspect. However, I hold very strongly to the view that immigration into any country is a privilege extended by that country to those who choose to come to it. I hold that it is the right and privilege of this Dominion to specify the terms and conditions under which immigrants shall enter this country. I shall not enlarge upon that phase of the question, because I think it is realized by all who have given the subject consideration.

I would like to refer briefly to the different aspects of the Asiatic question, exemplified in the three races which are most prominent—the Japanese, the Chinese and the Hindus. In so far as the Japanese are concerned, we have, as has been stated, an amicable arrangement with that country, a very sensible arrangement, which is working fairly satisfactorily. I would, however, draw the attention of the Government to the fact that possibly there is a slight increase in the number of immigrants from Japan over and above that which is generally understood to be the number to which it is limited. I think if the present Government were to draw the attention of the Government of Japan to this matter it would be at once rectified. In any case, the excess is so small that it is not a matter of serious moment. Thus, in so far as the Japanese are concerned, we have a very satisfactory solution of the problem. In so far as the Chinese are concerned, I would suggest to the Government that it would be an extremely wise thing to ascertain if it is not possible to enter into an agreement or treaty with the Chinese Government similar to that which we have with Japan. Some citizens of Canada, especially in eastern Canada, hold that the people of British Columbia tolerate the Chinese immigration because of the revenue which is derived therefrom. This is not the case, except possibly in a very few instances of which I am not aware. We are quite willing and extremely anxious to forego the revenue from the \$500 head tax if we can restrict still further the influx of Chinese into Canada, and I would further urge upon the Government very strongly the advisability of entering into some such arrangement with China as we have with Japan.

I note with satisfaction the remarks of the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) in regard to the increase of trade with the Orient. We are anxious to increase trade with the Orient. We realize that a large

[Mr. Stevens.]

trade can be built up with those countries. At the same time, I believe that we can come to an understanding with these two peoples, at least in regard to restriction of immigration without violating the pride of race or the rights of nations. The hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) this afternoon, while he expressed many sentiments which I welcomed, while he gave expression to many things which we who come from the province of British Columbia were pleased to hear fall from his lips as a representative member of the Opposition, spent a great deal of time on some more or less trivial technical points relating to the Orders in Council. I would have liked to have heard the hon. member enlarge along the lines of the desirability and the effect of Asiatic immigration from his standpoint, because as late Minister of the Interior he must have in his possession a great deal of information along that line. In so far as the Orders in Council referred to are concerned, I must give expression to an opinion which I have expressed before on the public platform in regard to Chief Justice Hunter's decision. I consider that the two chief points in his decision were more or less—I was called to order for using the word quibble, but I must apply some such term. For instance, Chief Justice Hunter drew a very fine distinction when he said that the words 'Asiatic origin' would have the effect of keeping out of Canada children born in Asia of British parents. I submit to you that the word 'origin' used in connection with a class or race of people in any country is usually applied from the standpoints of the parents of the person under consideration; for instance if I should go into the foreign section of this city and ask the origin of a child who was born in Canada, I would be answered in the terms of parenthood that the child was a Bulgarian or an Austrian or whatever it might be. So I think that the argument of the Chief Justice in this case was a very frail one and very thin. Possibly the Chief Justice was a little in sympathy with the Asiatic side of that question when he handed down that decision. It is rather an amazing thing that the Order in Council has been in existence since 1910, that there have been several cases before the courts, and yet it was only a few weeks ago that this very serious matter was considered. However, that has been rectified.

Reference was made this afternoon to the Chinese being exempted from the special Order in Council passed in December last. The exemption of the Chinese, as the Min-