

their places had been filled with orientals? Indeed, I have frequently thought, in spite of the very bitter complaints made at their meetings, that the Great War Veterans and kindred associations maintained a very great degree of restraint indeed, when they did not proceed to further measures than those which they have taken in this connection.

I wish to draw attention to a very specific instance which will give some idea of the feeling entertained by the people of that locality regarding the Japanese invasion* of the land. Possibly some of you know that situated close to Vernon, where I live, lies a prosperous fruit-growing district known as the Coldstream municipality, and very close to it the Coldstream ranch, established as a fruit-growing property by a former Governor General of this country. It contains, in one block of 800 acres, the largest commercial orchard in Canada. You can imagine the consternation which obtained in that district when it became known, a few years ago, that negotiations were being pursued by the Old Country owners to dispose of that property to a Japanese syndicate. The municipality of Coldstream is settled by a very superior class of people, largely, if not entirely, by people coming from the Old Country, cultured people, men of means, many of them retired army and navy officers, who have spent a great deal of money in providing themselves with fine homes in surroundings that, perhaps, cannot be equalled in this country. You can surmise with what feelings they heard that the great Coldstream ranch, round which were clustered their holdings, was to be passed into the possession of a Japanese syndicate. It can also be easily conceived that the people of the town of Vernon, contiguous to that municipality, were not slow to realise that, if the deal were put through, very soon their town would be degraded into the position of a little, mean village, and all the advantages of which they are so proud now would speedily be taken away from them. Under the circumstances it was not surprising that a very strenuous effort was made to block that deal. Deputations were sent to the provincial legislature and to Ottawa, and, in both cases, without much success. They were informed that difficulties stood in the way of preventing any sale of land to any person in this country who desired to acquire it. Finally, to make a long story short, the deal was stopped, because a measure of

influence was brought to bear upon the owners of the property in the Old Country who withdrew the ranch from the market. This is a concrete instance of what might happen to any part of Canada under existing conditions. As I said a moment ago, those conditions already have been brought about to a very alarming degree on the lower Fraser where the small fruit lands of that section have passed under the domination of orientals.

As was outlined by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Stork) this afternoon, legislation has been attempted on various occasions in our provincial legislature, and inevitably it has met with a check when it has come down to this House. Some years ago we passed and re-passed what was known in British Columbia as the Natal Act, called by that name because it pursued a course similar to that adopted by South Africa in the determination of the people of that country to keep out orientals. Briefly stated, that act provided that when an oriental or any immigrant of an undesirable class presented himself for entrance to this country, educational tests should be put to him; he should be asked by the immigration officer to read and write a certain number of sentences in any European language. Under those circumstances it was easy to shut out any oriental or other immigrant whose exclusion was desired. But that legislation was checked at Ottawa for reasons connected with the various treaties then existing between Great Britain and Japan. One of those treaties, known as the Anglo-Japanese Alliance has now been scrapped. Instead of it, we have the Four-Power Treaty which was recently consummated at Washington, and which, I have no hesitation in saying, should work out very much more satisfactorily than the previous agreement. Another treaty was mentioned this afternoon by the mover of this resolution, and I am free to confess that, in the four corners of that commercial treaty which he read, there appears to exist some difficulty which confronts such legislation as we are now seeking. It must be remembered that provision is also made in the treaty which apparently gives to the Parliament of Canada absolute jurisdiction regarding its own immigration law.

I do not think any speaker approaches this subject to-day without a clear conception of the responsibility which rests upon him in debating it. He must be seized with the idea that this is not a provincial affair