

peace and order in the veldt. This question of Asiatic immigration is therefore causing grave concern in the dominions and in the mother country, and Canada is also highly interested in the settlement, one way or another, of that problem. This matter affects our future, and especially the future of British Columbia. Up to November 30, 1912, the number of Oriental immigrants coming into British Columbia was 42,754. Of that number 22,240 were Chinese, 14,364 Japanese and 5,147 Hindus. I do not know whether these figures are correct, but I presume they are approximately so. Speaking about Canada's great task in this matter, Mrs. Donald Shaw, in the last issue of the *National Review*, uses the following language:

Going farther west to British Columbia, we met with the Oriental. Every ninth person in British Columbia is an Oriental; every fifth male in the population of British Columbia is an Oriental. There are the Hindus, the Chinese and the Japanese—all of them racial and antagonistic to the European and the American.

Right here it might be well to recall in a few words the action of the Government previous to the recent decision of Chief Justice Hunter in respect of the Asiatic status in British Columbia.

Mr. GEORGE E. FOSTER: Did I understand my hon. friend to say that 40,000 was the total number of Orientals who had arrived?

Mr. LEMIEUX: Yes.

Mr. FOSTER: Has my hon. friend any definite idea as to how many there are now?

Mr. LEMIEUX: I cannot say; I have taken the figures from the last issue of '5,000 Facts About Canada.' Perhaps some of my friends from British Columbia can give us the latest figures. As I was about to say, what has been the action of the present and last Government on this question of Asiatic immigration? As we all know, it was a very dangerous and thorny problem; and the policy of the late Government, if not properly directed and wisely pursued, might, for all we know, have jeopardized British interests in the far East. On the other hand, every government must bear in mind that the presence of Asiatics in British Columbia, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for Edmonton, seriously affects the labour market. These people are satisfied with low wages; they have a different standard of liv-

[Mr. Lemieux.]

ing and are so radically different from the European type that no assimilation is possible; and it is evident that our great problem is to Canadianize our immigrants. In the article to which I referred a moment ago, reference is made to the crucial problem of the assimilation of the various races which are coming to Canada to participate in our national life. The Chinese were the first Orientals to come to Canada. They came after the discovery of the mines in the Cassiar and Cariboo districts. Later, they were employed in the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway. Though we hear many comments upon the Asiatics, everybody in British Columbia, and even, I think, the people of eastern Canada, will concede that the Chinese are excellent domestics. As domestics are becoming so scarce, and as the Chinese, coming in under such heavy restrictions, are satisfied with a menial occupation, too much objection should not be urged against them. In 1884, if I mistake not, the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald appointed a commission, and from the time of the report of that commission dates the first head-tax of \$50 upon the Chinese. In 1900 that tax was increased to \$100 and finally it was brought to the present amount, \$500. I regret that my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce is not in his seat, as I was just about to remind him that we cannot decently increase that head-tax of \$500, if we are to expect from China a realization of the commercial possibilities which have been predicted by him. Not later than this morning I read in the press that the United States Consul at Hong Kong refers to the mission of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce in China, and warns the United States Government that if great care is not taken of their market for wheat in China, Canadian wheat will become an article of very wide consumption in that country, and with that probability the United States Consul associates the name of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce. So, then, if our wheat is to reach the markets of China, we cannot decently raise the head-tax of \$500 which is now imposed on every Chinaman who comes into Canada.

As regards Japanese immigration, I beg to differ with my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver). I have already stated to the House what admiration I have for the Japanese people. I believe that they are a highly civilized people, that in many respects they could put us to shame. I