

change its fortunes and to seek a home in a British province on the Pacific coast, it finds itself face to face with an influx of ten thousand or eleven thousand Asiatics in sixteen months. The impression will surely go forth that if these contracting companies are allowed the right and the privilege to contract for oriental labour, then there can be no room and no opportunity for European labour in this British country. That is the case I put before the government and before this parliament. I say that the attitude of the government from 1903 to 1906 was successful in preventing the invasion of British Columbia by orientals. I take the responsibility of that opinion as a member of this House; I say it here, I say it everywhere. But I do say, that when looking over the remedies for the present grievances, and remembering the restrictive legislation that has been provided by the United States in spite of the international treaty they have with Japan; it is the duty of this Canadian government to take action immediately—and by that I mean as soon as possible. I do not know what is the result of the negotiations of the Minister of Labour in Japan; I have no opportunity of knowing. I cannot prophesy what we may expect to be the result of these negotiations. What I do expect is that we can continue the successful operation of the commercial understanding which we have with Japan to the commercial advantage of Canada, and yet make such a diplomatic arrangement with that country as shall afford a positive restriction upon the influx of Japanese into Canada which will settle the question for all time.

Mr. R. G. MACPHERSON (Vancouver City). Mr. Speaker, in rising to second the motion moved by my good friend the hon. member for the city of Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith), I wish to compliment him and to congratulate the House upon the very excellent manner in which he has put this question before this parliament and before the people of Canada. I suppose that there has been no question brought up in this House since I have been a member of it that opens a wider door for the demagogue than this anti-oriental question. It is easy for the man on the street to denounce anybody and everybody in connection with oriental immigration, because the man in Canada finds his fellow with a skin not the colour of his own coming into the country, and immediately that which is latent in the mind and heart of every white man, the question of colour, comes up. I do not wish to approach this question in any demagogic spirit, nor do I wish to draw the colour line too clearly while dealing with it. I would rather approach the question from the broad standpoint of Canadian citizenship and the best interests of our country. An attempt has been made to throw into the political cockpit this oriental

Mr. R. SMITH.

question. My good friend the leader of the opposition, in his pilgrimage to the Pacific coast, opening his tour with a meeting in the city of Vancouver, brought this question into the sphere of active politics by an attack upon the government and an attack upon myself. A little later on I will give reasons for my belief that the hon. gentleman's position was not correct, and I am prepared to stand or fall in the estimation of the part of the country I represent as to whether or not my actions have been correct. A few months ago there was brought down to this House by the right hon. leader of the government a Bill for the ratification of the treaty which had been entered into between Great Britain and Japan, and which included Canada. At that time there was not, inside or outside of this House, any question as to whether or not we should enter into that treaty. There was no Japanese question at that time, as nobody could know better than myself, who lives in a hotbed of anti-orientalism in British Columbia. When that treaty was before this House, the hon. member for the city of New Westminster (Mr. Kennedy) brought up the question, whether or not free intercourse would be allowed between Japan and Canada, that is, whether Japanese and Canadians might come and go freely in their respective countries. At that time we had the assurance in writing of the Consul General of Japan, which every hon. member of this House was prepared to accept, which I accepted, that a restricted number only of Japanese would be allowed to come into Canada. Upon that assurance I relied and this House relied, and upon that assurance the right hon. leader of the government put through the treaty, which made Canada a party to it. The hon. leader of the opposition, when in Vancouver, said: Where was the hon. member for Vancouver when this treaty went through? I was in my seat in this House; and if that question can be asked of me as a private member, much more can it be asked of the hon. leader of the opposition: where was he as the leader of a great party when an important question like that was brought before this House? If it is asked why I did not open my mouth, I ask, why did the hon. leader of the opposition sit as dumb as an oyster in its shell when the question was brought before this House? I stated on the platform in Vancouver, and I state here, that I had no reason to raise my voice on the question, because there was at that time no question on which any man was called on to speak in regard to that treaty. I ask the hon. leader of the opposition, where was he when that treaty went through? Why, Sir, he was just as ignorant of the question as he was dumb on the question, and I was exactly in the same position, and so was every other man in Canada, because it was not then known and could not be conceived that so soon would