

*War Appropriation—Labour*

a member of this house since 1935, and I have heard these pleas and have made them myself since coming here.

In 1938 the hon. member for Comox-Alberni brought in a bill which would have made the Chinese Immigration Act apply to the Japanese. In 1923 the house did pass an act which excluded the Chinese. That is twenty years ago, and in 1938 the hon. member for Comox-Alberni brought in a bill to put the Japanese under that act. It was duly voted down. He also brought in a bill to amend the general immigration act, to provide a Natal act language test. That, too, was voted down in this house. We were met with the excuse: Oh, Japan must not be offended. In other words, it was an appeasement policy toward the Japanese. At the same time the Canadian government was allowing scrapiron to be shipped out to Japan, which is now finding its place in the bodies of the young men of the united nations.

Therefore I repeat, the people of British Columbia have always been pawns in the dealings between Canada and Japan, and now in 1943 there are signs that the government policy, or lack of policy, will make them pawns again. The people of my native province are watching developments with grave concern. They will not agree with the light-hearted optimism of the Minister of Labour when he said the other night, as reported in *Hansard* at page 4015, when he was being questioned about the Doukhobors:

I remember that last year—I wanted to say this on another occasion—

And he said these words with a good deal of boasting in his voice:

—the Department of Labour received a great deal of criticism about the Japanese problem. I think in a large measure we have solved it for the time being.

May I tell him, the House of Commons, and the rest of Canada that actually he has barely scratched the Japanese problem, let alone solving it. In order that the committee may see the situation, I propose to give a few facts.

Practically all the Japanese who came to Canada settled in British Columbia. If they had not done so; if they had scattered out across Canada, there probably would have been no Japanese problem to-day. But they did not. They knew a good place when they saw it, and they settled in British Columbia, practically all of them in the coastal area. Of course there has been uneasiness in that province for many years, and particularly so when Japan became friendly with Germany and Italy. There was a registration of Japanese, and in 1941, as a result of a recommenda-

[Mr. Green.]

tion from a committee which had been appointed by the government, there was a re-registration. Here are the numbers of Japanese then found in the province: I am quoting now from a booklet entitled "Removal of Japanese from Protected Areas." It is a report issued by the British Columbia security commission and distributed among the members this year. I quote from page 3; here are the numbers as found by this Royal Canadian Mounted Police registration:

Canadian born .....	6,727
Naturalized .....	7,011
Nationals (the largest group).....	9,758
United States citizens.....	16
Total.....	23,512

In proportion to population British Columbia had twice as many Japanese as the state of California, which is the state of the union having the largest number of Japanese. Our population in 1941 was approximately 820,000. The state of California had a population of 6,910,000, eight times as large as our own; on the other hand they had 93,717 Japanese, which is only four times the number of Japanese we had. The population of Washington, our neighbour state, numbers 1,740,000, a little over twice our population, but it contains only 14,565 Japanese, about two-thirds as many as we had. The state of Oregon, which is the third Pacific state, contains 1,090,000 people, slightly more than the population of British Columbia, but it has only one-sixth as many Japanese.

The registration disclosed another very interesting fact. I note on page 29 of this booklet that in addition to these 23,512 Japanese, there were 1,500 children in Japan of Japanese families registered in British Columbia under this registration. Most of these young Japanese, I believe, would have been able in due course to return to Canada, because their parents are here. There has been a custom among the Japanese of sending back many of their young people for education in Japan. It has been said that in many cases they went there for military or naval training, and I have no doubt that to-day some of these children of British Columbia Japanese are members of the armed forces of Japan. Others are children left in Japan by their parents; some, no doubt, children left with the mother when the father came to Canada.

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend said that some of these children no doubt are members of armed forces in Japan. Is he speaking of Japan, or does he mean, in the Dominion of Canada?