

*Oriental Aliens*

should fill. Another young woman said "I am supposed to be good, I have got 75 cents left, I am two weeks behind in my rent. The landlady says I must pay the rent or she will take my clothes. I have to earn the money some way". And yet the Chinamen are taking the jobs that those women ought to have and want to fill. Is it not time to wake up to the situation, and stop sidetracking it, as has been done in the past? Is it not time that we realized our responsibility to the people of Canada, that this House took some action in the matter and stopped once and for all the immigration of orientals coming into our country?

Mr. J. A. MacKELVIE (Yale): There never has been a time, I think, during the somewhat extended period of 35 years during which I have been a resident of British Columbia, in which this subject of oriental immigration has not in some degree loomed up before the people of that province. I have seen it growing to very alarming proportions. I have seen it when it might be compared to a small cloud the size of a man's hand on the horizon, and have seen it develop into a menace that practically overshadowed the sky. I do not believe a question has ever been debated in this House to which more wholehearted support has been given by those who thoroughly understand it than this resolution. I believe that every member in this House who comes from British Columbia has time after time discussed this matter in his home constituency, and it is altogether probable that, either by way of pledges given in the campaign in response to questions, or by promises given of his own volition, he has announced in some way his intention of pursuing this subject on every opportunity which presented itself in this House. I do not believe that any member from the westernmost province of this Dominion who casts a vote in favour of the resolution will ever vote with more sincerity or cheerfulness on any resolution or motion which comes before the Parliament of Canada. Something was said by the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Dickie) this afternoon which indicates the measure of affection with which the people privileged to live in British Columbia regard that province, and he did not depict in one whit too glowing terms the natural beauties and great endowments which have been lavished upon that country by a munificent nature. And is it not, Sir, a heritage worthy

[Mr. McBride.]

of preservation for ourselves and for succeeding generations of Canadians that may come after us? Is it not our duty to preserve intact, as far as possible, that magnificent heritage to the people of this country, and yet it is slowly but surely slipping away from us?

Various aspects of the question have been, I think, very well dealt with by the speakers who have preceded me in this debate. I purpose to speak very briefly on the aspect which relates to the occupation of lands by orientals. Coming, as I do, from one of the farming sections of British Columbia, the Okanagan valley, known pretty well throughout Canada and other parts of the continent as one of the great fruit-producing sections of the West, I can give testimony to the fact that a very grave danger indeed confronts the residents of that section. I am not speaking so particularly in regard to the fruit culture as in relation to the general business of farming in that country. The member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Munro), who, I think, intends to speak in this debate, will, no doubt, be able to inform the House how, on the lower Fraser, vast areas of land producing small fruits, strawberries, raspberries, loganberries and other fruit of that description have passed absolutely under the control of the orientals during the last few years.

To a smaller degree this obtains in the Okanagan, where they were employed rather extensively in orcharding work, during the war period, and I believe that if statistics could be furnished it would be shown that perhaps no section of this entire Dominion possesses such a magnificent war record as that Okanagan country. I believe it could be shown that about 22 per cent of the entire population voluntarily took up arms in support of the Empire when war was declared or shortly afterwards. Naturally, under those circumstances, a very sparse population was left to cultivate the land, and the Chinamen immediately took advantage of the situation which thus presented itself, and during the war, and in the years which have since intervened, I think it would be a conservative estimate to say that 80 per cent of the vegetables produced in that country were produced by the Chinese residents.

Can you imagine, Sir, with what feelings the returned soldiers viewed this state of affairs when they came back to the land which they had left, sought to resume their occupation on the farm, and found that