

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. member who has just taken his seat has made a reference which might be misinterpreted and misconstrued and do a great deal of harm if it were not corrected. During the course of his remarks he has referred to the treatment given by Canada to British subjects from other parts of the empire. He referred to the *Komagato Maru* which arrived off the coast of British Columbia in 1914 with a large number of the subjects of India aboard and which was sent back to India without its passengers being permitted to land. It was sent back to India without these persons being permitted to land.

My hon. friend has left the impression that Canada was not treating honourably and properly subjects from another part of the British empire. May I say to him that I used to know a good deal about matters of the kind because at one time I investigated under royal commission in the province of British Columbia the whole question of immigration from the orient, and subsequently I was sent by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to see Lord Morley in London when he was Secretary of State for India to seek to arrange with him a plan that would avoid anything that could look like discrimination so far as these British subjects of India are concerned. Later I went to India and dealt with this matter with the government of India, and the government of India took the position that Indians under their own law should not be permitted to be taken under indenture to other parts of the British empire—the question came up first in relation to South Africa—and there be exploited by contractors who were responsible for bringing them to other parts of the empire.

In order to keep persons from coming here who were going to become public charges, our law required that anyone who had not a contract of employment or someone responsible for him should have in his possession the sum of at least two hundred dollars, I think it was. None of these men aboard that ship would have been eligible to enter Canada under our Immigration Act, and to the extent they were under indenture, they would be coming to Canada in violation of the laws of India. Far from there being any effort on Canada's part to discriminate against people from another part of the British empire there was an effort on Canada's part to see that the laws both of Canada and of India were observed in a manner which would avoid conflicts of that kind.

May I say that the arrangements made at that time, as long ago as 1908 or 1909 have

stood from that day to this, and have helped to lessen what otherwise might have raised a very serious difficulty in our relations with the great empire of India.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): Was as much publicity given to the solution of that difficulty at that particular time as has been given to this?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say that if my hon. friend had been following matters as closely at that time as he is to-day he would have seen that full publicity was given to it. May I say that I made a report for the government of the day on the whole question of immigration from India. The report exists and is on the files of the Department of Labour and will be found in the sessional papers in the library of parliament. If my hon. friend looks at it he will find that the report covers the very points mentioned to-night. The report was tabled in this House of Commons at that time, and received much publicity at the time.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Mr. Chairman, I make no apology for holding up the committee at this stage on a matter of fundamental importance to democracy. I want to be absolutely clear in my own mind that I am right before I proceed. The matter has been explained to me, and I think I grasped the gist of it, and I am going to speak on it now. I have no argument against P.C. 7355 or against P.C. 7357; my argument is against P.C. 7356. I do not know why it was brought down so late in the session. The Prime Minister and the committee know that the matter of Japanese Canadians has been exciting interest all over this country, and to bring it down on almost the last day of the session is not fair to this parliament. As I understand it, every Canadian citizen of Japanese descent who did not apply for cancellation of his repatriation request before the 2nd of September of this year is going to be deported. It that right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am glad that my hon. friend has brought the matter up anew. May I make the situation perfectly clear?

There were certain naturalized Japanese who, when Japan was doing its utmost to destroy the British empire asked to be returned to Japan. When we were fighting Japan these naturalized Japanese wanted to go back to the enemy country. What the government said was that any man who in time of war wished to go back to the enemy must have believed pretty strongly at the time that the enemy was going to win and wanted to be with