

the jurisdiction of the courts. In the United States, it has been found absolutely necessary to do exactly the same thing. I maintain that a proper and effective exclusion of undesirable immigrants cannot be carried out unless that authority is vested in the Government.

In the annual report of the Commissioner General of Immigration of the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912, the officer, dealing with the difficulties which have been met in preventing the movement of Chinese across the border from Canada into the United States, says:

Officers of the bureau have long contended that Chinese who might enter the United States in violation of law should be dealt with precisely as were the members of other races charged with the same offence; in other words, that all Chinese charged with surreptitious entry should have their right to be and remain in the United States determined by the department warrant of arrest procedure rather than by the long drawn out and expensive judicial hearing process.

The officer goes on:

In this matter of examining Chinese who smuggle into the United States, it was well worth two years of litigation to reach a point where the departmental officers are no longer called upon to combat smugglers, perjurers and unscrupulous lawyers in order to prove the entry of Chinese to be fraudulent when such is known to be the fact.

The position of the law at present is that, until the officers of the Government, in compliance with the will of Parliament, have decided that an arrival at a national port is a desirable person to be admitted to the privileges of citizenship in Canada, he does not have the advantage of the Habeas Corpus Act. That appears to me a reasonable provision. To hold any other view is, to my mind, not reasonable. To say that any person in all the wide world, let him be of whatever character he pleases, has the right to come into this country of Canada in the face of regulations designed to keep him out, designed for the well-being present and future of the people of Canada, and that he shall have all the protection of all the complicated machinery of law that is found to be necessary in the transactions of citizens of the country, is absurd, is unjust to the country and places a burden upon administration that should not be so placed.

I urge that the Government take such measures as will place beyond question, that, so long as the law empowers them to exclude undesirables at ocean ports, they shall exercise that authority as Parliament intended that they should exercise it; and

if the statute as it now exists is not sufficient or is not efficient, that they offer for the consideration of Parliament such legislation as will be sufficient and efficient, and that that shall be followed by such administration as shall give full effect to the will of Parliament in the interest of the people of Canada.

There is no question that comes before the Government of Canada for its consideration that is as important in regard to the present and the ultimate future well-being of Canada as the subject of immigration. There is no feature of that question that constitutes such a serious menace to the present and future welfare of Canada as the subject of Asiatic immigration. Unless means are taken that will efficiently carry out the will of the people as it has up to the present time been expressed, we are not getting that service from the Government of our country that we are entitled to expect.

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX: We have all listened with interest to the very able address delivered by my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver), and the House must be grateful to him for having brought to its attention this most important question. I may say at once that, whilst I may disagree with him on some features of the problem of Asiatic immigration, yet on the whole I agree with his conclusions. The question, as he himself has said, has far reaching effects, not only in Canada but in the British Empire of which Canada is a component part. We all know that this question of Asiatic immigration is causing at the present moment grave concern in the various over seas dominions, notably in Australia, in New Zealand and in South Africa. In Australia and New Zealand the Asiatic races are considered as the most imminent peril, and it is admitted that the action taken by Australia and New Zealand in matters of naval defence, namely in the establishment of local navies in those commonwealths, was due to the apprehension that some day those dominions might be invaded by the Asiatic races.

As regards South Africa, it was only a few weeks ago that we were the witnesses—distant if you will—of a struggle between the Hindu residents and the Government of the Union.

We know that as a result of the drastic legislation passed by the Union Government passive resistance was offered by the Hindu subjects of South Africa, and the troops had to be called so as to maintain