

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 74g

occurred here, and which has been responsible for the present investigation. A gratifying feature of the investigation has been that it has brought forth from the city officials a voluntary statement, and a unanimous statement, that in their opinion, the attack which was made upon the Japanese and upon the Asiatics generally, on the night of September 7, was unwarranted and unjustifiable and greatly to be deplored. Moreover, it has brought forth the statement, or better, the assurance that the attack in their opinion, was not directed against the Japanese in particular, but was begotten, rather, of the excitement of the moment and occasioned by a feeling of alarm which has grown in certain quarters, in consequence of the increase—of the sudden and large increase—in the number of persons coming to this part from the Orient. The civic officials have been careful to state that in their opinion there was nothing personal in the incident, that for the character of the Japanese they have, I think I am right in saying, nothing but admiration; that the trouble has been entirely one consequent upon an increase in numbers, and has to do with numbers rather than particular peoples or any characteristics of those peoples.

‘Mr. Duncan has stated that the Japanese people are inclined to regard the feeling as the result of agitation of persons who have not had at heart the maintenance of good feeling between Japan and Canada. If, in that remark, Mr. Duncan had reference to the particular incident which occurred on that night, I think he is quite right. Certainly those who were responsible for that unfortunate occurrence could not have had at heart the interests of this country in the matter of the maintenance of good feeling between Japan and ourselves. On the other hand, if the feeling to which reference has been made relates to the feeling which has been engendered here in consequence of a sudden and great increase in the numbers of persons from the Orient, then I am inclined to think that it would hardly be fair to say that the persons who share that feeling are not necessarily or have not necessarily at heart the interests both of this country and of Japan. A feeling against the sudden influx in large numbers of peoples from other parts of the world is one thing, and is quite compatible with a desire to maintain the friendliest relations between the peoples of those countries and ourselves. An expression of opinion, or rather the giving to that feeling expression in the form of an incident such as we have been forced to consider here, is quite a different thing, and the two should be kept distinctly apart.

‘My commission allows me to consider only such losses as are apparent, or as are capable of definite and certain ascertainment. I think Mr. Duncan has well said, that the loss of property occasioned by this riot, is, in the minds of the Japanese people, a small thing in comparison with the injury which may have been done to the pride of the Japanese people in their race and nationality. If these attacks had been directed against the Japanese, because they were Japanese, there might be reason for a feeling of injured pride. When, however, we consider, and the evidence here has gone to show that we are right in so considering, that this attack was not directed against the Japanese personally, but that it was, as I have already said, a matter