

Getting at the imperialistic strain now.

It is not confined to British Columbia. We in the East, who have been watching the trend of events, are as thoroughly alive to the danger as our compatriots in the West. Although we are not in as close contact with that influx of Orientals, at present, as to realize what it means, still we are in sympathy with the people of British Columbia in their desire to make that province a white man's country. The first opportunity I had, after the trouble in Vancouver, of making a public address, I expressed my conviction that this country must, in the near future, restrict the immigration from Japan to a very small number, or actually prohibit it, even should we have to abrogate the treaty.

My hon. friend from Brantford was very clear about it then. He told us that in the near future we would have to exclude the Asiatics from our shores, even to the extent of abrogating the treaty. Have we heard him for the last two years and several months, speaking along this line? There is nothing about abrogating the treaty now; he would not make trouble; he would not rock the boat in which he is riding so nicely and safely with his protectionist sails, and he has forgotten all about the immense interest he took in that question of the British Columbia people, and he is leaving my lonely friend from Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) to fight it out for himself. Then we have the words of Mr. Cowan, the former member for Vancouver, in the 'Hansard' of 1909, page 60. Here is what he said:

I am standing on the floor of the House of Commons to-day at a great sacrifice to myself—not because I am a hidebound partisan, but because I believe that British Columbian interests and Canadian interests—yes, and imperial interests—demand that the blunder of January, 1907, shall be remedied and removed from the treaty laws of Canada.

That is why he was here; he came 4,000 miles because he wanted to get that blunder removed. A year ago the present Government had the opportunity of their lives to remove that blunder, if blunder it was. The whole thing was opened up again; they could take it in hand de novo; they could handle it as if they never had been before committed to any policy, because they had a new treaty to deal with. And they did not remedy that blunder, but if blunder it was, they made it a greater blunder and gave further concessions to Japan. The remarks of the gentleman, who is now Minister of Agriculture, will be found in 'Hansard' of 1909, page 75, where he said: He is in sympathy with the exclusion of the Asiatics. Mr. Goodeve, now a member of the Railway Board, at page 113 said the same thing. In 'Hansard' of 1909, page 2044, you find a motion made by the pre-

[Mr. Knowles.]

sent Prime Minister, along the very same lines, where he found fault with the condition by which the Government of Japan were entrusted to keep back an undue number of immigrants. He said that was wrong; we must ourselves, he said, settle the matter and we must not allow the thing to be in the hands of the Japanese at all. I find that the hon. gentleman, then leader of the Opposition, moved this amendment:

That this House, while expressing its profound appreciation of the friendly attentions and courteous assurances of the Japanese Government, and while declaring its sincere desire for the most cordial relations with the Japanese people, desires nevertheless to record a strong protest against the policy under which our wage-earning population cannot be protected from destructive invading competition except by entreating the forbearance and aid of a foreign government.

Very strong language. My right hon. friend has now been in power for two and a half years and has deliberately continued and perpetuated that very condition of affairs by which our wage-earning people are only protected by the aid and forbearance of a foreign Government. Is that not a sign that while in Opposition the right hon. gentleman was talking for the mere purpose of catching votes in British Columbia, and that he was preaching something that he was not prepared to carry into effect when he came into power? These are his remarks at page 2043 on the same subject:

It is a subject which may be of transcendent importance as far as Oriental immigration is concerned, it is a question of vital importance not only to British Columbia but to the whole of the Dominion and it is fraught with the gravest consequences not only to us at the present day, not only to the great wage-earning population of the country but to all the people of Canada and to those who will succeed us in the future in developing the country.

Taking that into consideration, how can we reconcile this perfecting and perpetuating condition of affairs which he then so firmly denounced?

In the 1908 'Hansard' I have two references by my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, both of them expressed in extremely beautiful language. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce says:

When that four hundred millions of people wake to life, their own country will not contain them; their populating, emigrating hordes will spread out somewhere, and whither will they spread? Will they crawl over those immense table lands which divide them from Europe, and attempt the conquest of European countries, or will they glide easily across the waters on which float navies which will com-