

ill-treatment, as some members on this side of this House and some of the Progressive members say will be its fate, it will not be very long until the undertaker is called in, and should that contingency occur, there are those who apparently believe that there are influences across the House which would rather cheerfully, and with a great deal of alacrity, furnish the hearse and the plumes.

Be that as it may, with that railway situation, as has frequently been said during this debate, is tied up another very great and important question. That is the question of immigration. As has been very truthfully said, we must have immigration; we have to fill up the vacant land and obtain people to give business to the road before there is much hope of placing it on a paying basis. I am free to confess that we are rather up against a very perplexing proposition. We are almost, I think, forced upon the horns of a dilemma. If, in order to get immigration to give business to our railways, we take down the barriers which have restricted immigration into this country, if we permit an influx of people from all portions of the globe, who are only too anxious to flood into this country of opportunity, if we permit, for instance, such countries as the Balkans, Southern Europe and other sections of that distressed land, devastated by war, to pour their population into Canada, our second condition will be worse than our first.

We have in my own constituency an example of what has occurred through loose systems of immigration in the past. I am not going to attach any particular blame to any party for the immigration policy which prevailed in the early years of this century, but I know there are hundreds and thousands of people in my own constituency who wish very ardently that, at least, the colony of Doukhobors had never been allowed to come into Canada, for, without doubt, they cannot be termed anything less than a pest and a nuisance. They will not conform to the laws of the land, nor to our provincial regulations. They will not register their births nor their deaths, or send their children to school, and when any attempt is made to enforce this law, a number of them of the extreme sect, resent it to this extent: both sexes will divest themselves of all clothing, and make a parade, dressed in the suits which Adam and Eve wore before the fig leaves were introduced in the garden of Eden.

We have also in British Columbia another immigration problem which is even more serious, indeed, vastly more serious than that, and to which I would refer. I have not time to develop its consideration to any length tonight, but I will simply say that I think a great deal of education will be necessary before the people in the eastern section of the Dominion will have anything like an adequate conception of what Oriental immigration into British Columbia has meant for our province. One out of every ten or twelve adult males in British Columbia to-day is an oriental. The whole of the industries are under their control. Down the lower Fraser river there is a town called Steveston, a fishing development, where the fishing and canning of salmon is the great industry. That community is now a community almost exclusively of Japanese. I have no dislike for the Japanese nation; I am an admirer, as everybody who has considered their growth and history during the last half century must be, of the many admirable qualities which they possess; but the hon. member for North Winnipeg, in moving the Address, employed in some connection this line from Kipling: "There is no East, no West, border nor breed nor birth". There is a couplet better known which applies more closely in this connection to our land, and that is:

For East is East and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet.

And they cannot meet as regards the assimilation of an oriental population amongst the people of British Columbia. Our schools are to-day crowded with oriental children, and the natural increase of the Japanese already settled in that province, is such as to warrant us in the belief that, even if the bars were put up so rigidly that not a single one of their race could enter Canada for the next decade, their natural increase would be such as to give us more by far in that province than we could ever begin to absorb profitably. There is the situation connected with immigration, and I hope those of us who come from that Pacific province will have the sympathetic assistance of some of the other members who come from further East, in guarding our western portals against any further influx of a class of people who cannot be considered as anything but detrimental and dangerous to our national life. In this connection, at the outset of my remarks I gave some reasons why, behind our leader, stood a