

*Oriental Aliens*

When the question of boundaries arose and demanded settlement, tradition has it that one of the officials dealing with that question stated that the country was of no use for the reason that the salmon in the Columbia river would not rise to the fly. I am not prepared to say whether that story is true or not; but I believe that indifference had a great deal to do with the moving of the international boundary up to the forty-ninth parallel. Later on we had the Alaskan boundary award. If you will look at the map you will find that there is a very small, narrow strip of northern coast line of what used to be British Columbia but is now part of Alaska. This piece of coast line is not of any particular benefit to Alaska because they possess no hinterland. But it is a very vital land to the province of British Columbia because the location of the boundary line deprives us of over half of the coast line of our province, and we find ourselves to-day without sufficient ground upon it to erect even a wireless station. Take the Premier mine, the richest in British Columbia—I might even say the richest on the North American continent. That mine is in Canada within half a mile of the international boundary. The product is brought down to tide water by means of a tram line, extending for a distance of thirteen miles, and this tram line travels almost entirely through American territory. In covering the northern part of my constituency I have to travel through Alaska by way of Skaguay, the White pass and Yukon railway. The people of Canada regard this, I suppose, as a matter-of-fact proposition. They say no doubt "Well, that coast line belongs to Alaska" and they are very largely indifferent to it. But to the people who live on the northwest Pacific coast this is a very vital matter. To-day we are having daily reminders of the disabilities under which we suffer, and I may say that in the settlement of that question indifference on our part played a very large part.

So we find ourselves to-day confronted with the silent and the steady absorption of the province of British Columbia by the orientals. A few years ago the Japanese were regarded as a simple, childlike and interesting people; but experience has shown us that they are the very incarnation of commercial aggressiveness. In the year 1920 in the matter of the number of post office money orders sent out of Canada, the United States had the largest number,

[Mr. Stork.]

Great Britain was second, and Japan was third. We find in the same year that the total number of money orders sent to Japan from Canada was 28,807; and the number of money orders arriving in Canada from Japan was 434. These oriental people came to British Columbia willing and anxious to serve; but, Sir, they have no intention of remaining as servants. The Jap who pulled the oar in the fishing boat on the Skeena river is now in full possession of a gasoline launch operating on the Fraser river. He has performed menial tasks in the cannery and incidentally he has mastered the fishing business; and so we find that he is now in the fishing game on his own hook, so to speak. The humble cook who has done the work in the lumber camp has, at the same time, made himself conversant with the lumber industry; and we find throughout the province of British Columbia that a great deal of the lumbering business is carried on there by Japs who first took their post-graduate course through the cookhouse door. The chore boy who has done the chores on the farm is now the man who owns or leases the farm on which he was formerly employed as a servant, and the oncoming hordes which are operating in Canada are glad to do the menial work in connection with that province. So as master and servant we find them working in perfect unison; they are proceeding to roll up the map of western Canada so that one day we shall find that the summit of the Rocky mountains will be the western boundary for the white population of this Dominion. There is no lure on the plains and the prairies of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for the oriental. It requires brain and muscle, intelligence and patience to farm successfully in that vigorous climate, and the oriental prefers the warm sunshine, the mild climate and the fertile valleys of British Columbia,—British Columbia with its wealth of fisheries, of timber, of agriculture; the California of Canada which fronts on the Pacific whose waves wash the coast of Canada as well as the shores of the Orient.

An unequal contest, Mr. Speaker, is going on in the province of British Columbia. The white man is handicapped by the responsibilities of civilization; the oriental is prepared to struggle for his solitary existence. Organized society has erected a fabric and an institution to which the oriental contributes nothing. He is not concerned in municipal, provincial or federal problems; he is filling a field that would solve the unemployment problem in western Can-