

THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DAILY EDITION

Thursday, May 18, 1922.

Fred Stork's Speech in House of Commons Debate on Oriental Immigration

Fred Stork, M.P. for Skeena, delivered a lengthy and effective speech in the House of Commons in support of the McQuarrie resolution for Oriental exclusion according to Hansard in which he is reported as follows:

"This is a question which very vitally affects the province of British Columbia and, as a member for that province, I am very pleased to have the opportunity of rising in support of this resolution. We have in this House 13 members from the province of British Columbia, and it is very pleasing to know that all thirteen are unanimous, so far as I can gather, in their opinion on this resolution.

First Orientals.

"The Oriental first came to the Pacific coast in 1849 at the time of the California gold rush, and the people of California were tremendously pleased with the Orientals because they were of the opinion that the fame of their mines had challenged the attention of the whole world, and that the fact of men coming from China bore tribute to the fact that California was a big mining country. In the first Fourth of July parade ever held in San Francisco, Orientals took part, lending to it an air of novelty and Oriental splendor, which was very pleasing to the people of California. But the joy of the Californians was very soon turned to dismay when they discovered the effect that the Orientals were having on the social and economic life of the state of California. From California the Orientals spread north into the province of British Columbia. The British Columbians had at their disposal the experience of the people of California, and those earlier settlers of the Pacific coast province did not view with a great deal of approval the influx of the Oriental, because they believed that as the number of Orientals increased, the opportunities for the white race decreased, and

so we find that in the first session of the first legislature convened in the province of British Columbia in the year 1872, a resolution was passed calling for a head tax of \$50 on every Chinaman coming into the country. In the same session a resolution was passed prohibiting the employment of Orientals on public works. In 1873 a resolution was introduced calling for a head tax on Orientals. In 1876 there was a resolution asking for a tax of \$10 per head on all males wearing long hair in the shape of a pig-tail or queue. In 1878 a resolution was passed that every Chinese person over twelve years of age should take out a license of \$10 payable every three months in advance. In 1878 the Oriental question was discussed for the first time in the federal parliament. In 1881 the member for Victoria in this House moved a resolution to exclude Orientals altogether from the province of British Columbia—a resolution very similar to the one we are debating today. In 1885 a bill was passed imposing a tax of \$50 per head on Chinese. In 1891 seventy petitions were received from the province of British Columbia by this Parliament praying for the total exclusion of Orientals. In 1892 more petitions were received by this Parliament than had been received in 1891. In 1899 the head tax was increased to \$100, and in 1902 it was again increased to \$500. Last year the province of British Columbia enacted legislation to prohibit Orientals from taking part in any work on government contracts. This legislation, we understand, has since been disallowed. I am not prepared to discuss the disallowance of that act of the British Columbia legislature, any more than to say this, that the very fact of the legislature of British Columbia deeming it wise and expedient to enact such legislation simply goes to prove the absolute and complete necessity of having something done to restrict the progress and the march of the Oriental so far as British Columbia is concerned.

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Prophecies Fulfilled.

"All of these proceedings that I have related were accompanied by much argument, by long speeches and lengthy talks in the various legislatures, and there were very great prophecies as to what would happen if Oriental immigration was not somewhat curtailed. We are today in the presence of prophecies matured, prophecies fulfilled. The seed has been sown, and the harvest is here. We find that these various acts and the different attempts that have been made to deal with this question have to a very large extent merely skirted around the question. There has never yet been a comprehensive dealing with the issue. We find legislation passed against men with long hair; we find that a head tax has been imposed from time to time, but these attempts have been altogether ineffectual to cope with the situation. We are now confronted with a fifty years' growth problem. There is an old saying, and a very true one, that possession is nine points of the law.

Settle It Now.

"I believe that it is good policy to settle this Oriental problem with the Oriental while the white population is still in possession of the province of British Columbia, rather than to defer the settlement of the issue until the time when the Oriental himself is in full and complete possession of that great province. One of the serious handicaps, Sir, that we suffer from, I think, is the handicap of indifference. There was a time when that great stretch of country now known as the states of Oregon and Washington was British territory—the Columbia river was supposed to be the international boundary. 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 today 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 tramline, 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 Skagway, 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. Today 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.

Absorption of Province.
"So we find ourselves today confronted with the silent and 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, 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 willingly 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 union; 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 the 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.

Unequal Contest.

"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 Canada. He is the human torpedo so far as organized labor is concerned because he has created an industrial strata into which the white man cannot descend. If the final occupation and possession of British Columbia is to be determined by such an unequal contest, we from British Columbia decline to enter such a contest. This is our country and we regard this House as the proper tribunal in which to state our case. We ask this House to pass an act for the total and absolute exclusion of all Orientals on the ground of pressing economic necessity. If in the considering of this problem the principle of sacrifice is involved I have no hesitation in saying that I am opposed to the sacrificing of Canadians for the benefit of Orientals, or the inhabitants of any other country. If the powers who settled the terms of peace in the Old Country had decided that British Columbia was to be given over to the Oriental you would find the people of this country on their feet to a man disputing that proposition; you would find them once more pledging the last man and the last dollar in defence of British territory. Let me say that thirty-three years of knowledge of the conditions in British Columbia justifies me in expressing the belief that unless we deal with this matter we are parting with the province of British Columbia just as effectually as if we gave British Columbia away by signing a treaty."

Member is Questioned.

"I did not wish to interrupt the honorable member's argument while he was speaking," said Mr. Carroll, M. P., "but I would like to ask him a question now. Does he argue that we are incapable of contending in commercial life with the Japanese or Chinese? Is that my honorable friend's argument?"

"I would say that they have a standard of living so much lower than ours," said Mr. Stork, in reply, "that they are gradually absorbing the province of British Columbia."

GLENNVILLE COLLINS IS MANAGER OF DRUM LUMMON MINES

The annual general meeting of the Drum Lummon Mines was held last week in Vancouver and Mr. Glennville A. Collins, M. E., was appointed managing-director and chairman of the board of directors. The directors are, Messrs. E. Homer Grasty Jr., William N. Aydelotte and Isaac Strouse Jr., of New York, and John Broatch, Nichol Thompson, A. M. Whiteside, J. F. Mends and William M. Silcocks of Vancouver. Work is being started on a large scale at the mine near Bella Coola and Mr. Collins is leaving on Tuesday with a crew to operate the workings.

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