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SPOKE AT CANADIAN CLUB

Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P., Was Very Eloquent in His Address.

Speaking before the Canadian Club in the British American Hotel on Tuesday evening, Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P., Vancouver, made a strong appeal for a policy of restricted immigration. He dealt with the history of immigration into America and Canada, and, applying the lessons to be learned, showed that the future welfare of Canada depended upon the quality rather than upon the quantity of its people. "We want an increase in population," he agreed with those who look for the development of our tremendous resources, but we must shut the bars against all races and types that cannot be assimilated by us. By assimilation I mean marriage. We have found that the best immigrants are those who come from the British Isles and Northern Europe. We can take British who want to go on the land and the Danes, Swedes and Norwegians, all of whom make ideal citizens, but we cannot admit people from central and southern Europe and Asia. Mr. Stevens gave a most interesting account of the Oriental invasion of the Pacific slopes, and showed conclusively that Canada could not withstand a great immigration movement from China, Japan



H. H. STEVENS, M.P.

and India. The white race would eventually become swallowed up if no effective laws were enforced against the Oriental immigrants. These, together with the types from central and southern Europe, never become producers, but seek the centers of population and live upon the industry of the more industrious classes. Dealing with the labor problem he declared that it was never solved by employers who substituted Orientals and other docile labor for white labor. The docile labor ultimately had the situation in its own hands and the employers were worse off than they were before. This was the situation in the fishing and packing industry on the Pacific coast which once offered profitable employment to thousands of Canadians. The same conditions are being brought about in the Okanagan Valley, B.C., where fruit growing is the most important industry.

"We want Canada to remain Canadian," said Mr. Stevens, in conclusion, and we cannot have it so unless we keep out all races and types of people but those that can be assimilated.

Hon. Mr. Stevens' Address. J. M. Farrell, president, occupied the chair and there was a representative gathering. Mr. Stevens has been a member of parliament for many years, and one who has given much study to the subject of immigration. He is peculiarly qualified to speak with a degree of authority because of the economic and social problems facing British Columbia as a consequence of the Chinese and Japanese invasion which has displaced white workers in many lines of industry, and encroaches upon the fertile valleys settled by English people of a very superior class.

"One of the most important problems facing Canada today and one which, for many years to come, will be one of the most serious economic and social problems with us is the control of immigration," said Mr. Stevens in opening his address. "The people cannot allow it to pass from their attention. Some say that we should open up our doors and allow all to come in; that all this country needs is immigration. This country needs men and women. They say that the over-construction of railways demands an increase in population and production to create more traffic for our roads. A country of immense expanse and tremendous resources must have a basis of man-labor.

"I want to lay before you one or two principles. First is the inherent right of any organized state to determine the conditions and terms upon which others will be admitted to that state. The more I study that the more am I convinced that any nation must hold finally to that doctrine. Second, a nation is not made up merely of its material wealth, money, merchandise, etc. These are not the determining factors of a nation, but the human element and the character of its people that go to make up a nation.

"The needs of immigration at this time are not the whole question, although there are those who urge that Canada requires the admission of cheap labor. There are those in the west who would import into Canada tens of thousands of the docile classes of labor, and, if we did, Canadians of more advanced ideas, talents and ability would be able to direct this mass of common labor to the benefit of the country. The aver-

age Canadians do not submit to the duties of common labor and we require a more docile type of labor and should admit these classes. Admit them, as indentured labor, they say, and ensure their return to their own country after a specified number of years. I am opposed to that view point in the argument. Canada needs man-power, but she wants citizens, men who will take their place in the body politic and measure up to the standard of citizenship. It is a fact that indentured labor has never lived up to the standard but has proved to be an unmitigated curse." The speaker cited the riots in Natal where indentured labor from India, admitted for a period of five years after which it was to return to India, remained in the country. While at first docile it later became a keen competing labor and a menace to the white population. A study of the effect of indentured labor shows that it is bad. Indentured labor is a type of slavery and you cannot make a nation of bondmen.

"Canada cannot afford to permit an infusion of lower blood though it may add to the wealth of certain interests; and while we need labor we owe it to this country to see to it that those who are admitted take their place as individual citizens of this country. Care must be taken at this time that we do not throw down the bars. We must sanely and carefully select those we admit to this country, limit to those who will pioneer as the Canadians and British have done for the past few centuries. We have the right to expect new comers to take up some of the hardships and to their own benefit. There is nothing in it to make any man ashamed.

The Menace of Immigration.

"There is a serious menace unless we control our immigration with skill and common sense. Europe is full of social disintegration, industrial collapse and political confusion. I think we are safe in saying that there is such a chaotic condition in Europe that there is an urge toward America. So aroused has the United States become that it has passed a law limiting the number of incoming immigrants to three per cent. of the nationality already represented in the population of the country, and no more. Canadians are admitted who have been one year in Canada. We don't want Canada to be a stepping stone for immigrants from Europe to America with Canada paying all the expense to bring them here in addition to the risk of disease, etc. There is a very strong effort to bring Jews from all over the world to Canada and the United States. This we cannot permit because of industrial conditions—especially of the type of Jews that collect in the large centers and live by trafficking and trading. We should not assume an attitude of hostility to any person, but we owe it to future generations to exercise care as to whom we admit. Conditions in Canada are less difficult for workers than in the United States but we have a very serious problem and cannot add large numbers to the industrial population just now. It may be argued that if we had a large industrial population we would have less trouble but this is not so. The employer is not going to help matters by adding to the number of industrial workers.

British Columbia Conditions.

"In British Columbia twenty-five years ago we had not a single Oriental in the saw-mills about Vancouver. We had white men as common laborers, semi-skilled and skilled. The supply came from common labor. Labor was more or less intolerant and they took on the Japs and Chinese and it was not long before they found it difficult to get skilled labor, and they put on Orientals until today many of our saw-mills are operated entirely by Orientals. The owners are no more happy than they were twenty-five years ago with white labor. Once the Orientals controlled the market they became more difficult than the white ever was. The same condition prevails in the fishing and packing industry. There was a time when I saw 2,000 fishing boats manned entirely by white men. The Orientals were introduced by the owners and in a short time all fleets of fishing boats and packing houses were in the hands of Orientals. The owners regret it because they can't control them.

"You don't solve the problem by introducing docile labor in large numbers. There are other things that must be solved before you can get away from it, and it is not by cheap industrial labor whether from the Orient or from Europe. We should welcome into Canada our brothers from the British Isles who are willing to go on the land and from north Europe. We must be careful and not admit any from central and southern Europe, and central Asia. We can play safe with those from northern Europe and Britain who want to go on the land.

"The Asiatic problem is a vital one with the people of British Columbia, but the people of eastern Canada do not understand it. There are in India, China and Japan 834,000,000 people and if they were allowed to immigrate to Canada the country would be swamped in a very short time with the modern systems of transportation." The speaker awakened his hearers to the seriousness of such a tide of immigration by referring to the records of history when successive tides of immigration left indelible impressions upon the countries visited. It was a condition serious to contemplate. Admit 2,000 or 4,000 Orientals every three weeks or say 10,000, what would the situation be? The Vancouver riots were a protest against the very thing. The people resisted and the government had to act. But despite the tax of \$500 put upon Chinese and Japanese they get in in

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