

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN DOMINION HALL, VANCOUVER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1914.

Mayor T. S. Baxter in the Chair.

Meeting called to order at 8 P. M.

MAYOR BAXTER spoke as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen if you will come to order now - we have an immense audience here. The evening is long - we have some business to transact which we will try to get through as speedily as possible. This meeting has been called, as you all know, for the purpose of protesting against any further immigration. I hope it will be conducted in the most orderly and decorous manner, because without that we weaken our cause. If we citizens of Vancouver cannot meet together and talk over a serious question in a serious and level-headed manner we weaken our cause in the eyes of those not here and not near to the heart of the matter. Therefore I am going to appeal to everybody in the audience, speakers and listeners, that this meeting be of the most orderly, and that the speeches be not of a character to touch our hearts to the extent of making us go too high into the air. The question before us this evening, as you know, is brought about by the fact that there lies in the harbor a ship loaded with people from India who are wanting to come into our country.

Now as Mayor of the City of Vancouver I want to speak plainly even though I may be criticised for so doing. There are men enough in the City of Vancouver today for all the work that is offering today (applause) and to spare, and I say that we don't want any more workmen from anywhere at the present. Yielding to representations along that line some

months ago, the Dominion Government passed an Order-in-Council forbidding any artisans to come in from anywhere. Now that Order is still in force, is still being enforced, so that when people try to make out that we are hitting against one nationality under that Order it is not the case. We are hitting against every nationality, and for the reasons I have just stated. We all know there are more men in the city than there are jobs for, and as Mayor I am continually called upon in regard to this. The city is doing more work today than we would be doing except that we wish to give as much work as is possible at this time. Now what are we going to do if we are struggling now to keep those employed who are here, hundreds more are dumped in. We ~~xxx~~ wish to face the matter fairly, and we don't want them, and we want to say that just as hard as we can say it. We have called this meeting for the purpose of you as citizens backing up the authorities, because I believe that you believe as I do that the authorities on our Pacific Coast and our Member in Parliament and our citizens are united on that one question -- that we don't want this immigration in the Province of British Columbia (hear, hear). Now I am not going to take up any more of your time, but I am going to call upon Mr. Stevens to say a few words.

MR. H. H. STEVENS:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, it is not altogether a pleasant or congenial task that faces me or that faces you tonight, because I take it that the subject which we have under our consideration is one in which every citizen of British Columbia, and as I always state, every citizen of Canada, is vitally interested. I could approach this question from numerous standpoints, but I shall try in the briefest possible manner to get before you some of the facts in connection with this troublesome problem. In the first place with your permission I will touch upon the problem

as I see it and as I find it, and then will deal with the local situation as it exists in the city at the present time. I wish, however, first to thank the Mayor for calling this meeting together. I think he has done a very wise thing and especially in that this meeting is gathered together today without any political significance, in so far as party politics is concerned this is a non-political question (applause) a non-party question. I am not before you as a member of any political party. I am before you as ~~xxxxxxx~~ the representative in the Dominion House of the people of this city and as a Canadian citizen (hear, hear) and Mr. Mayor I feel that we must get away entirely from making this question a party political question, because I know this, that of the men in British Columbia, practically all are a unit on this problem, no matter what their opinions are (applause). There may be a few exceptions, but these exceptions simply demonstrate the wisdom of the attitude of the majority of the people of this Province.

Very briefly, what we face in British Columbia and in Canada today is this - whether or no the civilization which finds its highest exemplification in Anglo-Saxon British rule shall or shall not prevail in the Dominion of Canada. That is very briefly, the question. Because in so far as immigration from Asia is concerned I hold, after the most careful study - I am absolutely convinced after the most searching inquiry, that we cannot allow indiscriminate immigration from the Orient and hope to build up a Nation in Canada on the foundations upon which we have commenced our national life (applause). In laying down that principle I cast no aspersions upon the civilization of Asia, but I impress upon you this solemn fact, that these two civilizations are absolutely and entirely distinct in every important feature (applause). It is not a question whether in theory or from an academic standpoint, or from the standpoint of scholarly study Oriental civilization is interesting or not interesting -- that is not the question. It is interesting, and no man who has indulged in a perusal

of the subject can say otherwise. The question is will that civilization or will those brought up through centuries under that civilization assimilate in a satisfactory manner with the people of this country. That is the great problem facing us today, and I hold that no immigration is or can be successful where it is impossible to assimilate and readily assimilate the immigrant (prolonged applause). This is the absolutely fundamental principle of all systems of immigration, and must necessarily be so. Let me repeat that, that no class of immigration can be considered successful unless it is capable of being assimilated and absorbed by the people of the country to which it comes and without any detriment to that country. Now there are many ways in which we can look at this question, the racial, the social, and the economic side, and I hold that in every one of these phases it would be detrimental to the civilization we hold so dear to allow any large influx of Orientals into this country (applause).

In the next place let me point out to you another very significant fact (Just give me your attention - there is a large number that could not get into the Hall and they are holding an overflow meeting on the street outside). There is this other very significant fact, that we must remember in Canada. We have in the neighborhood of 7 1/2 millions of people. We have undertaken a gigantic problem in Canada, the problem of building up a people which will do credit to the highest principles of the civilization from which we come. The problem of developing her natural resources - the problem of having a country with the high ideals that I have mentioned permeating every phase of society. There is no doubt about it we blunder in many regards, but it is our aim to be high and noble. In order to carry that out it is very important that the immigration coming to our shores shall contribute to it rather than hinder it. (Applause).

In the next place we have I say a limited population of

about 7 1/2 millions. In the Orient - at our doors - there are 800 millions of Asiatics -- and mark you I care not how high a value you place upon their civilization - it is distinct in all its features (hear hear) from that which we hold so dear. Eight hundred millions - the very least tremor from that source would unquestionably swamp us by weight of numbers. Some answer me in regard to that question in Eastern Canada and in other parts where I have spoken of it by saying that we are a virile race - that if we are unable to assimilate these people then we have no right to claim a position among the nations of the world. Why there is no people in existence that can absorb one, two, three, four, five times their number, and I ask you this - what would have happened if immigration from Asia had been allowed through all these years to come through the Western portals into British Columbia? Canada today would have been swamped with Orientals and there would be left today practically not a vestige of the civilization of which we are so proud (prolonged applause).

It is not so much a question of settling up this country irrespective of the type of people we have -- it is not so much a question of doing the common labor of the country, which some people so wrongfully advance as a reason for the admission of the Orientals. It is a question of what type of people we are going to have here in the next generation or in future generations. It is a question whether or no we are prepared as Canadian citizens to sacrifice the immediate advantage of material wealth for the peopling of this country. I heartily agree with you that unfortunately we have in our midst today men anxious to forego the privileges of building up our civilization here and a strong virile national life, for the sake of increasing their wealth by engaging men at a stipend which makes it impossible for the average working man to live upon and be decent and respectable (prolonged applause). Un-

fortunately I say there are amongst us men who are willing to sacrifice their country - men who are willing to degrade our national life - men who are careless as to how their workers live - simply for the sake of increasing their own dividends, but I do not call them patriots -- many of them do it unfortunately, but if there is a man within the hearing of my voice who indulges in the practice of degrading the labor conditions of Canada for the sake of increasing his own wealth - enhancing his own wealth - let him take thought of what the future holds for the children of the people of Canada as a whole (hear, hear).

Our forefathers came in here and others came in here and willingly and cheerfully suffered the privations of a rigorous climate in Eastern Canada. The history of early Canadian life is replete through years, and I might say through centuries, with stories of the hardships suffered by the emigrants from the Old Country who came here and lived and died without seeing comfort, with the hopes that they would develop a country in which their children could live in perfect liberty and freedom. What do we find - the immigrants from Asia almost without exception seek to come into Canada and establish themselves in the large and flourishing centres - picking the plums of civilization. I hold Mr. Chairman and gentlemen that in no single instance have the immigrants from Asia ever demonstrated that they were willing to enter into the frontier life of this country. (Applause). And so I say Mr. Chairman that this question is not only a question of whether we like or dislike men - that is a mere surface issue - it is a question of life and death for the national life of Canada. (.Cheers). And let me say further the threat has been made, if you refuse to allow immigrants to come in here from India, they [India] will bar their doors to you. I ask any intelligent man in this audience when have we ever asked the people of India to open their doors to Canadian labor -- never (hear hear) and further we are quite willing and satisfied that the Oriental people

shall shut the door to our labor. We are not asking for that right, that privilege, and we give you the right to close your doors if you so desire against Canadian labor and no one will question your right to do so.

There are many phases I say to this question. One of the chief difficulties that I have experienced in defending exclusion of Oriental emigrants, is that in the eight other Provinces of Canada there seems to be a general sentiment that the people of British Columbia are actuated by selfish motives. (Cries of "never"). They seem to imagine this is a small question and that we are narrow-minded. I have met this sentiment in all parts of Canada, but I also find this, that when the plain facts are presented to the Canadian people - whether in Ontario, Quebec or any other Province, that invariably the good clear judgment of the people of the Eastern Provinces swings around in support of the people of British Columbia. That sentiment, I say, is changing - the old sentiment is changing, and a new one is taking its place, and while it has been impossible up to the present time to get any active measures through the Dominion House which would satisfactorily deal with this question, it has been simply because of the lack of appreciation of its importance by the people of Eastern Canada. It has not been a political issue. It has been a question upon which both parties in the House of Commons have been very loath to take any action, and I say up to this present moment it has been impossible to secure any satisfactory or adequate legislation for that one reason.

Another reason is - and it is often advanced and advocated - the question of Imperial and international relations. It has been pointed out that it is not desirable to exclude people coming from a nation friendly to us in the Orient, like China or Japan, or to exclude people coming from India, which is a country under British rule. The international and the Imperial aspect is continually being referred to as a reason why we should not pass any restrictive legislation. I have

consistently and continuously pointed to this fact, that while that might be true, nevertheless it was impossible to properly deal with this question without passing some legislation which might be temporarily at least offensive in any degree to these people, and if it is a question of choice whether our doors are to be opened or whether we are to give offence, without intending to do so, if it is to be a choice of these two evils (so-called) then I for one am prepared to take the choice and the position of exclusion, in spite of what the results might be. (Laughter and applause). I have always stood, and I stand today just as firmly as I ever did, on that point.

Now I wish to refer, not in any party sense at all, but to a report which has come through - I presume from Press correspondents at Ottawa - regarding a telegram which it is alleged I sent to Ottawa. Now I will not go into it in its entirety, but I want to correct one or two false impressions. It is stated here that I sent a telegram to Ottawa in which I asked for militia to be sent to Vancouver to protect us. I never made any such reference whatever (laughter) never made anything approaching that. It is a rumor made entirely out of whole cloth. I am sorry it is made - it has a tendency to show that there is a difference of opinion amongst us when as a matter of fact there is no difference. (Applause). And then it says that I suggested that the Komagata Maru should be towed out of Vancouver Harbor. This is absurd - I never made any such suggestion at all, and I will fully show you before I get through the situation in that regard. I want to say that this so called despatch from Ottawa is absolutely erroneous. I do not think intentionally so by the local papers, but it has been taken up by them.

Now let me deal briefly with the local situation. We have in the Immigration Act, which I have in my hand, a clause (Section 38) and I will read it to you because I think it is very desirable that the people generally should be accurately

informed on this point:

"The Governor in Council may, by proclamation or order whenever he deems it necessary or expedient -

(a) prohibit the landing in Canada or at any specified port of entry in Canada of any immigrant who has come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which he is a native or naturalized citizen, and upon a through ticket purchased in that country, or prepaid in Canada;

(b) prohibit the landing in Canada of passengers brought to Canada by any transportation company which refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this Act;

(c) prohibit for a stated period, or permanently, the landing in Canada, or the landing at any specified port of entry in Canada, of immigrants belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character."

That is simply a proviso giving to the Governor-General the right to pass an Order-in-Council. Last fall through the influence of the British Columbia members an Order-in-Council was passed prohibiting all classes of immigrants of the artisan or labor class from coming into British Columbia, no matter whether they came from England, the United States or the Orient, and in every sense and in connection with every country that Order-in-Council has been enforced. Our Hindu friends left the other side of the ocean with the deliberate intention of testing the validity of that Order-in-Council. Now they are the only people who ~~was~~ have come to Canada and claimed right of entry in the face of that Order-in-Council. Just to illustrate my point, while I was in Ottawa I had frequent applications from employers of labor to let in certain classes of labor, - carpenters, or masons, or smelter men - urging me to ask the Government to make an exception of this or that, from the United States and from other countries. The Government have refused and I urged them to refuse in every single instance to comply with such a request, holding this - that if we gave way on some of these special requests then the value of the whole Order-in-Council would be ruined. So then we have enforced this Order-in-Council, irrespective - against all emigrants - irrespective of race or creed or color. On March

31st this Order-in-Council expired, and the Government, again at the instigation of the British Columbia Members, renewed that Order for the express purpose of meeting contingencies which we thought might arise. In order to make my own position perfectly clear I wish to say this, that I do not agree with the mere passing of this Order-in-Council. I hold, and I think I hold it in common with every member from British Columbia, that the Government of Canada - the Parliament of Canada - should pass legislation of a distinct and definite type, excluding Orientals. (Applause). Now we have held to that view, but let me point out to you this - that there are seven members from British Columbia and 214 or 15 from the rest of Canada, and the difficulty we have been faced with is to try and educate the people of Eastern Canada and the Members of Parliament to get our point of view, and I wish to say this, that I believe I can see a marked change in the feeling of the Members of Parliament from the other parts of the Dominion, and from the people of Eastern Canada towards this question, and I am also convinced of this - I feel almost convinced that next year we shall be able to get through the House of Commons a measure which will satisfactorily meet the views of the people of Canada. (Hear hear). In order to test the views of the people and give an opportunity to work this matter up before next session, I introduced a bill into the House of Commons this year. It is true it was introduced late in the session and I had little hope of it passing. I am not going to say that I had hope that it would pass. I tell you frankly I thought it would not, but I thought the people of Canada should know that we in British Columbia were going to stand pat on this question and they could expect that next session we would make a definite demand on the House of Commons in the form of a bill toward the exclusion of the people coming from Asia. (Applause). Now my bill provided for this and I wish to explain it. It provided for

the exclusion of all immigrants coming from Asia South of the 50th parallel of latitude. I am not married to the phraseology of the bill - if anyone can suggest a better - but I have canvassed the ground from every conceivable angle and that bill was drafted with a view of getting it through the House and not with a view of making a failure because it was unreasonable or gave offence. There was a proviso in that bill to the effect that it should not apply to any people or nation the Government of which had an agreement with the Government of Canada to voluntarily restrict its own immigration, but if they did not restrict their own immigration automatically the bill would apply. The reason for the introduction of that passage in the bill was to meet this widespread sentiment and statements constantly made regarding giving offence to the national pride of these people. We said we are not desirous of having your immigration. If you will voluntarily restrict it then this bill does not apply to you, but on the other hand if you insist upon violating the feelings of the people of Canada by disregarding this opportunity of restricting your own immigration, then automatically this bill will apply to you, and I hold Mr. Chairman that that bill would have successfully and absolutely met the situation. I want to say further that if any committee of citizens - if any person in British Columbia chooses to make suggestions of a solution of this problem, no man will be more pleased to receive it than I, and I can say this, that the Government of Canada today will be delighted to receive suggestions that will adequately meet the case. But it is an easy matter to say close the doors - the question is how are you going to do so and carry it successfully, carry it in the face of the ignorance of the people of Eastern Canada and the Mother Land. (Applause). I think I have made that point clear.

These people came from the Orient in direct contravention of two Orders-in-Council - the first is P.C. 23, which provides that no immigrant coming from any country - keep that in mind -

shall enter Canada who does not come direct from the land of his nativity -- you can go down to White Rock and any day you will find the Immigration Officer there turn back Swedes, Germans, Frenchmen who have not come direct to this country. Go to any part of entry along the boundary and you will find the same thing every day of the year, and I want you to grasp this question thoroughly, that it is not an Order-in-Council which is against any specific people, but against all. That was one - the next provides that no immigrant shall enter Canada during the six months between the middle of April and the middle of September or the end of September, and that applies to all nationalities. In spite of these two Orders-in-Council on our statute books, and as we believe according to law, this ship left India and came to our harbor and it has been proclaimed by our friends from India that they did it deliberately to test the validity of that law - not the validity in law but the validity in sentiment - they felt that it was possible by coming into this remote district that the sentiment of the rest of the Empire would be so overwhelmingly against us that we would be compelled to allow them to come in. Ever since the vessel arrived the Dominion Government instructed, and today the instructions are standing with the full concurrence of the Government, to Mr. Malcolm Reid the Immigration Agent, that the law is to be enforced. Now then the law has been enforced and is being enforced as far as it is possible to do so. These immigrants have been rejected. It might be said by some of our legal fraternity technically that they have not been officially rejected - that might be said, but it is well known that in principle they have been rejected. (Hear hear). The minute, however, that an order is issued formally rejecting them it is the intention of their Solicitor Mr. Bird to make a habeas corpus application and to force this thing into the courts, with what result? The sole object is to drag it on from court to court if necessary, drag it on through endless litigation, and the result will be that the immigration authorities would be compelled to suspend the

deportation or the rejection of these immigrants until the case has been settled in court. Now then there is a certain clause in the Immigration Law which is appealed to by many people and on which they claim that we have the right to reject immigrants irrespective of the courts. That is Clause 23 of the Immigration Act. I hold, and I think I am perfectly correct, that this clause when drafted was intended to prevent the courts from interfering in any sense with immigration matters. Unfortunately it does not accomplish that. If you will bear with me I will read this clause to you so that you will see the point:

"No court or judge or officer thereof shall have jurisdiction to review, quash, reverse, restrain or otherwise interfere with any proceedings, decision or order of the Minister or of any Board of Enquiry or officer in charge."

Now if it stopped there it would be all right -

"had, made or given under the authority and in accordance with the provisions of this Act".....

and so on, - in other words our clever legal fraternity - the members of it - claim that the court has a right to review the action of the immigration officers and to decide whether or not the action has been in accordance with the Act. They cannot reverse a decision in accordance with the Act, but they can say arbitrarily - your decision is not in accordance with the Act, we therefore reverse it so that - and here I speak with some hesitancy -- we have on the Bench in British Columbia today men who are willing to give a decision contrary to the general public opinion and contrary to what is the clear meaning of that Act. (Great applause). Some people say - why don't you go to the courts with your case. We are prepared to go to the courts if we can get a fair court to go to. (Applause). It is not a nice thing sometimes to cast a reflection of this kind, but there is too much at stake - every man knows who is backing up the claims of the people who are seeing to invalidate

this Act- every one of them knows what the intention of the Act is- they all know just as clearly as I know the intention of the Act- the intention of the Orders-in-Council is to restrict the immigration, and they know it. But there may be some technical loophole through which they can squeeze and it is that they are seeking to take advantage of.

Now then if that advantage is taken and permitted what will be the result. The result would be not only that these immigrants would land, but we are told on absolute authority and it is current in the press that the same influences back of this present agitation to enter have another vessel loaded and to come here with exactly the same intention in view. I contend Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that the procedure under which the immigrants are seeking admission to Canada today is unfair and unreasonable (hear hear). There is not a member among these immigrants but what knows perfectly well, as I have already said, the intention of the Act, and with no other people do we have a similar trouble. If we intimate to people of Europe-Northern or any other part- that a certain class of immigrants are not allowed to come into the country for a specified period they do not come, and if rejected they go back without saying a word. During the last few years we have rejected upwards of 5,000- deported and rejected- from the British Isles, and I do not know of a single case appealed to the courts. They realized that they were coming in in contravention of the Act and much as they might feel the hardship they went back without- as I say any appeal to the courts in this matter. Now it has been stated by some- why do you not just send this vessel back. Let me give you the exact position of this vessel, which is well known to those who are in the case. This vessel, which is under Japanese register, comes into our harbour. In so far as the vessel itself is concerned, and the crew, they are quite within the law. They come in our harbor and anchor there and pay their harbor dues and comply with the marine laws of the country, and

we have no right to eject them. Had these immigrants come upon a regular Steamship Line which had its scheduled sailings they knew that long since they would have been on their way back. Every day every boat going out takes back a very small percentage of the immigrants, and any rejected immigrant is sent back on the line of transportation on which they arrived. But in this case this is a chartered vessel and for the time being the treasurer of the vessel is in control of its movements and as long as they say this vessel shall remain in this harbor we are powerless to send it out. That is the situation our friends know that the Dominion Government in Ottawa have rejected this immigration they know that the people of British Columbia have rejected the immigration, they know that according to law they have no right to enter British Columbia, but they hope by a specious attack upon the technical interpretation of the law to get a stay in proceedings for three, six or twelve months until the case can be carried to the Privy Council. In this way they will inconvenience the Government of the country, put us to trouble and expense and put us to unnecessary alarm, but in the meantime they hope to get entry into the country and they will if this is done be scattered throughout the country pending a final settlement of the case.

Let me say in conclusion that I have absolutely no ill feelings against people coming from Asia personally, but I reaffirm that the national life of Canada will not permit of any large degree of immigration from Asia - that it is impossible for us to maintain high standards of living if we allow to come in immigrants of an entirely distinct type of civilization. It is not a case of racial pride. It is a case of actual social and economic conditions which it is impossible to maintain with two systems of living in our country which cannot be successfully assimilated, and as far as I am concerned I intend to stand absolutely on all occasions on this one great principle of a white country and a white British Columbia. (Great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER:

Before I call on the next speaker I have a letter here from Jonathan Rogers, President of the Board of Trade of this city, which I am going to read;

"Dear Mr. Mayor:

Owing to a previous engagement I am unfortunately not able to be present at the meeting tonight in regard to the Hindu question. I am, however, in hearty support of any steps taken to prevent the landing of Hindus in Canada."

Now I am going to ask Alderman Woodside to address the meeting.

ALDERMAN WOODSIDE:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, this should have been given to a man of ability to-night- I realize this when I see the anxious faces here before me. Sincerity is in every man's face. I do not feel equal to the occasion of addressing the audience upon the vital question before us but I have a resolution which I wish to move and it will be seconded by my old friend Mr. Ralph Smith-

"That whereas the Steamer Komagata Maru has been lying in the Port of Vancouver from the 23rd day of May until the present date with a shipload of undesirable immigrants demanding admission into the Dominion of Canada;

And whereas it is the united opinion of all citizens residing on the Pacific Coast of the Dominion of Canada that the influx of Asiatics is detrimental and hurtful to the best interests of the Dominion from the standpoint of citizenship, labor and moral conditions;

Be it therefore resolved that this meeting strongly urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of supporting the efforts of the Immigration authorities towards the rejection of the immigrants aboard the Komagata Maru and their immediate deportation, and that stringent legislation be enacted whereby such immigration in the future may be entirely restricted from admission to the Dominion."

Now ladies and gentlemen I won't take up a great deal of your time. Our friend Mr. Stevens has covered the ground thoroughly, outlined the policy of the Government and outlined the disposition of these people in our harbor. Today we have anchored in the harbor of Vancouver a shipload of 350 men who have come to this country in defiance of our Canadian laws- we know that. As Mr. Stevens has said they had the knowledge before they left home in regard to the laws of Canada. We have here a country which we must protect, and I feel that this resolution presented tonight before such an audience as this is a very good omen of the intention of the people of British Columbia in particular to protect our Province and protect the Dominion of Canada.

This question of Asiatic or Oriental immigration is not entirely a new one with some of us. For the last twenty years in the Province of British Columbia it has been a fight- it started here with the labor men some years ago and was carried out without very much success. We saw fifteen years ago our white men driven off the Fraser River and the Skeena River, we saw our sawmills in all parts of British Columbia taken possession of by the Orientals. We saw our logging camps- shingle-bolt camps-taken possession of. We as Canadians have been backing off and backing off the map for the last fifteen years. Now we have before us people that are determined to back us still further. I feel that it is time that the matter be taken up to protect the people of this country (hear hear). Speaking as a representative of the City of Vancouver I want to say that last winter the City of Vancouver- to show the condition of the labor market- the City of Vancouver took care of 2,000 men and the majority of them were British subjects. At the present time we have in the employ of the city 600 men more than is really necessary to carry on the work of the various departments, but it must be done in order to relieve the conditions that prevail here today.

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We have women and children absolutely destitute here because their husbands and fathers cannot get work. We have 400 applications at the City Hall of married men, British subjects in the City of Vancouver coming there ~~take~~ day after day and pleading to get a day's work. Here we are with people coming into this country that have no interest- that have not brought in a dollar, that have done nothing but cut wages and hoard up money to be sent to India to carry on an education among the people over there of the conditions here, to bring them over- to pay lawyers of this country, who I am sorry to say I am ashamed of (prolonged applause). The Mayor has called my attention to it and I will say one lawyer (hear hear),- a man here in this country that will undertake to defeat the objects for which the laws of this country were passed and in defiance of the pleadings of the working class of this country whom he pretends by the way to be a friend of- to encourage those people to come in to make further starvation, further than what I have already said.

Now then gentlemen we talk about the conditions we have here- and we have brought to our attention Imperial reasons. Now this is quite a question for me to handle, but I must say this that I have talked in the Old Country and invariably the people there said it was up to the Dominion to protect the immigration. Now there is another question. In the Old Country I found that the people had a knowledge of conditions in British Columbia, and in several cities that I visited the very same thing came up. When I talked about British Columbia they said we go to British Columbia and your industries are full of Orientals- there is no chance for a white man to go there. The very same thing applies to women in the Old Country. They told me they did not want to send young women out here as they had to compete against Asiatics--the reputation of our country is rapidly going down.

Now gentlemen I am not going to take up much more of your time. We have 4,000 Hindus in the Province of British Columbia today and we have 350 more here at our door. They are not knocking as has been said- they came over here and said we are

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coming in without knocking. It was given out on good authority that there was another body on the way. We know that thousands of dollars of good British Columbia money are behind this great big scheme. We know they have the mill industry within their power. We have conditions before us today and I think it is up to us as Canadians with the greatest country in the world whole world, to protect ourselves and say they will not come in (applause).

Now Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen Mr. Ralph Smith a good friend of mine will second this motion showing that it is not a political question. I thank you ladies and gentlemen for your attention.

MR. RALPH SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, there are some questions connected with this case that are larger than the best interests of all parties. Party Government has done a great deal for reform- a great deal to strengthen the force of representative government of every description. I do not think that the time has arrived when we can do without party government. It is the best machinery we have, but there are issues that arise, national in their character, intensely acute as they affect the human race, that work for the obliteration at any rate temporarily, of party consideration.

Now I always profess whether I really do or not, to respect the opinions of my opponents. Of course I respect them best when they come closest to my own. I would be foolish for me to say that I have common opinions with the good Member for Ottawa in this city on general principles, but I want to say to this large audience I came here to-night unsolicited and uninvited by any plan except the request of the Mayor when I arrived. I was so suspicious that there might be interwoven some little political partyism that I thought I would come and take a look to see what was going

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to happen. I am here, ladies and gentlemen in favor of Mr. Stevens the member of this city, that no word has been uttered by him tonight that could be construed as having any suspicion of political partyism whatever (applause) and I heartily second the resolution that has been presented to this audience. One thing pleases me, however, very much tonight. I was eleven years in Parliament myself- I knew the difficulties of impressing Eastern men without a Western experience, with just exactly what these questions meant to the Pacific Coast. Year after year I fought the battles in the House and out of it in favor of the greatest possible restriction against every class of Oriental immigration. My good old friend dead and gone, Mr. George Maxwell, for many years did the same thing. For 20 years this Province has been trying to educate the people of the East on the importance of this question as it stands associated with the great interests of the people of the West (hear hear) and I am pleased tonight to hear my good friend Mr. Stevens say that after all it is a matter of education- that they do not see things as we see them- that it is utterly impossible to get them to take our viewpoint. One of the methods of educating these gentlemen is to have unanimity on this question in British Columbia (hear hear). One of the methods of getting the Eastern people to know that we are in earnest is to obliterate for the time being on this particular question issues that we consider important so far as petty ~~political~~ politics are concerned (hear hear). Another thing I am reminded of in the speech of Mr. Stevens is that the law against Orientals today is good. I was a member of the House when the regulation that Mr. Stevens has referred to in the Immigration Act was passed. It was placed there for the very specific purpose that certain important conditions might arise which have arisen in the city and harbor of Vancouver, whereby it was important for the Government of this country by an Order-in-Council to act supremely without the authority of any court in this country (hear hear). I am glad to know that my friend Mr. Stevens was generous enough

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to admit the interpretation that the Liberals intended to be put on that Section. The law, Mr. Chairman, is absolutely clear on the two points. These provisions were placed there years ago, placed there to some extent by my own influence as a representative of this Province. Two things are clear--that circumstances in regard to this class of immigration, or any other immigration, may arise in this country that makes it imperative that the ruling of the Governor by an Order-in-Council could stand against any judicial consideration (hear hear) and I think you will agree with me that that particular occasion has arisen (hear hear), and if it has arisen and the Section of the Act is clear it is the duty of the Government this resolution calls upon to put into operation the laws already existing (applause) The second part of the law is especially applicable to the Hindus. It was put there to exactly meet their case, that no one could be admitted into this country that did not come direct from the place of their birth. That resolution has been there for years--that resolution has been successful for years-- that resolution has been known to the authorities in India for years. The men who have used their influence to bring about this immigration at the present time have known as much as you and I know at the present time, ladies and gentlemen of Canada, about the laws of this country, and ought not these laws to be honored by all classes of people without regard to personal interest (hear hear)? Is it not important in this country that when a Government and Parliament has declared that certain things ought to be, whatever may be the selfish personal interests of a few people that ought to be the rule and law in this country (hear hear) and if we are good British subjects we will respect the law, when a representative government in a British country says that things ought to be and declare it in statute every good citizen will be willing and anxious to conform to that deliberation (hear hear). I want to say to you ladies and gentlemen there is a species of anarchy

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in this proposition which would instantly be subdued by the people of this country if we had white people perpetrating the same thing. The law of this country says certain things must not be. The law of this country is being defied and the man who advises it- even at his own personal interest- is an anarchist in spirit (applause).

I think the voice of this meeting will strengthen the hands of our friend Mr. Stevens. We are all alike when it comes to the interests of the people of this country (hear hear). We are all alike when we want the white races to have sufficient opportunity to live (hear hear). We are all alike when we positively refuse to allow any species of competition to enter into the labors of white men that will bring about conditions that will degrade them down to the level of an Oriental (applause). We are all alike when it comes to maintaining the standard of British education and British civilization, and there is no such thing gentlemen as expecting any of these great results if the white men of this country have to be brought into serious competition with Orientals. As a man with public responsibilities I am sober-minded enough to remember the difficulties in the way of the Imperial Government who have to assume the intricacies, the delicate situation of controlling the people whom they do control, but I want to say this in answer to that and I say it feeling the responsibility of every public position in this country--Canada has no responsibility with regard to the management of business in India,--that is entirely an Imperial question (hear hear). No real British subject will go out of his way to make unnecessary complications but corresponding with the exclusive right of Britain to manage the affairs of India- corresponding with that right is the exclusive authority of Canada to pass her own laws (great applause). Let me say to you, ladies and gentlemen, the strength of real British

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loyalty to the British Crown and flag consists in the fact that Englishmen, Irishmen, Welshmen and Scotsmen and every other countryman from Europe that comes into this great country realizes that in this great Dominion is authorized by Parliament of Britain to conduct his own business in the best interests of the country. Now sir just what we are asking for- we think it is a serious danger to this part of the Dominion that we should not be permitted to enforce our own regulations, and the object of this great assembly is to back up that intelligent resolution which is asking the only authority in a question of jurisdiction between Parliaments that could be decided by lawyers. The thing is absolutely plain and clear that if these people are to be kept out they must be kept out by the Dominion authorities. The Dominion authority has put the machinery in motion and tonight we get in behind the Member of this city and we say- "Use your influence and we are with you to get the authority at Ottawa to carry it out." (great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER: Ladies and gentlemen as there was considerable noise when this resolution was read in the first place I will read it again (reads) As there are many standing I am going to ask for a show of hands (Carried)

(Meeting concluded)

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN DOMINION HALL, VANCOUVER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1914.

Mayor T. S. Baxter in the Chair.

Meeting called to order at 8 P. M.

MAYOR BAXTER spoke as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen if you will come to order now - we have an immense audience here. The evening is long - we have some business to transact which we will try to get through as speedily as possible. This meeting has been called, as you all know, for the purpose of protesting against any further immigration. I hope it will be conducted in the most orderly and decorous manner, because without that we weaken our cause. If we citizens of Vancouver cannot meet together and talk over a serious question in a serious and level-headed manner we weaken our cause in the eyes of those not here and not near to the heart of the matter. Therefore I am going to appeal to everybody in the audience, speakers and listeners, that this meeting be of the most orderly, and that the speeches be not of a character to touch our hearts to the extent of making us go too high into the air. The question before us this evening, as you know, is brought about by the fact that there lies in the harbor a ship loaded with people from India who are wanting to come into our country.

Now as Mayor of the City of Vancouver I want to speak plainly even though I may be criticised for so doing. There are men enough in the City of Vancouver today for all the work that is offering today (applause) and to spare, and I say that we don't want any more workmen from anywhere at the present. Yielding to representations along that line some

months ago, the Dominion Government passed an Order-in-Council forbidding any artisans to come in from anywhere. Now that Order is still in force, is still being enforced, so that when people try to make out that we are hitting against one nationality under that Order it is not the case. We are hitting against every nationality, and for the reasons I have just stated. We all know there are more men in the city than there are jobs for, and as Mayor I am continually called upon in regard to this. The city is doing more work today than we would be doing except that we wish to give as much work as is possible at this time. Now what are we going to do if we are struggling now to keep those employed who are here, hundreds more are dumped in. We ~~six~~ wish to face the matter fairly, and we don't want them, and we want to say that just as hard as we can say it. We have called this meeting for the purpose of you as citizens backing up the authorities, because I believe that you believe as I do that the authorities on our Pacific Coast and our Member in Parliament and our citizens are united on that one question -- that we don't want this immigration in the Province of British Columbia (hear, hear). Now I am not going to take up any more of your time, but I am going to call upon Mr. Stevens to say a few words.

MR. H. H. STEVENS:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, it is not altogether a pleasant or congenial task that faces me or that faces you tonight, because I take it that the subject which we have under our consideration is one in which every citizen of British Columbia, and as I always state, every citizen of Canada, is vitally interested. I could approach this question from numerous standpoints, but I shall try in the briefest possible manner to get before you some of the facts in connection with this troublesome problem. In the first place, with your permission, I will touch upon the problem

as I see it and as I find it, and then will deal with the local situation as it exists in the city at the present time. I wish, however, first to thank the Mayor for calling this meeting together. I think he has done a very wise thing and especially in that this meeting is gathered together today without any political significance, in so far as party politics is concerned this is a non-political question (applause) a non-party question. I am not before you as a member of any political party. I am before you as ~~xxxxxxx~~ the representative in the Dominion House of the people of this city and as a Canadian citizen (hear, hear) and Mr. Mayor I feel that we must get away entirely from making this question a party political question, because I know this, that of the men in British Columbia, practically all are a unit on this problem, no matter what their opinions are (applause). There may be a few exceptions, but these exceptions simply demonstrate the wisdom of the attitude of the majority of the people of this Province.

Very briefly, what we face in British Columbia and in Canada today is this - whether or no the civilization which finds its highest exemplification in Anglo-Saxon British rule shall or shall not prevail in the Dominion of Canada. That is very briefly, the question. Because in so far as immigration from Asia is concerned I hold, after the most careful study - I am absolutely convinced after the most searching inquiry, that we cannot allow indiscriminate immigration from the Orient and hope to build up a Nation in Canada on the foundations upon which we have commenced our national life (applause). In laying down that principle I cast no aspersions upon the civilization of Asia, but I impress upon you this solemn fact, that these two civilizations are absolutely and entirely distinct in every important feature (applause). It is not a question whether in theory or from an academic standpoint, or from the standpoint of scholarly study Oriental civilization is interesting or not interesting -- that is not the question. It is interesting, and no man who has indulged in a perusal

of the subject can say otherwise. The question is will that civilization or will those brought up through centuries under that civilization assimilate in a satisfactory manner with the people of this country. That is the great problem facing us today, and I hold that no immigration is or can be successful where it is impossible to assimilate and readily assimilate the immigrant (prolonged applause). This is the absolutely fundamental principle of all systems of immigration, and must necessarily be so. Let me repeat that, that no class of immigration can be considered successful unless it is capable of being assimilated and absorbed by the people of the country to which it comes and without any detriment to that country. Now there are many ways in which we can look at this question, the racial, the social, and the economic side, and I hold that in every one of these phases it would be detrimental to the civilization we hold so dear to allow any large influx of Orientals into this country (applause).

In the next place let me point out to you another very significant fact (Just give me your attention - there is a large number that could not get into the Hall and they are holding an overflow meeting on the street outside). There is this other very significant fact, that we must remember in Canada. We have in the neighborhood of 7 1/2 millions of people. We have undertaken a gigantic problem in Canada, the problem of building up a people which will do credit to the highest principles of the civilization from which we come. The problem of developing her natural resources - the problem of having a country with the high ideals that I have mentioned permeating every phase of society. There is no doubt about it we blunder in many regards, but it is our aim to be high and noble. In order to carry that out it is very important that the immigration coming to our shores shall contribute to it rather than hinder it. (Applause).

In the next place we have I say a limited population of

about 7 1/2 millions. In the Orient - at our doors - there are 800 millions of Asiatics -- and mark you I care not how high a value you place upon their civilization - it is distinct in all its features (hear hear) from that which we hold so dear. Eight hundred millions - the very least tremor from that source would unquestionably swamp us by weight of numbers. Some answer me in regard to that question in Eastern Canada and in other parts where I have spoken of it by saying that we are a virile race - that if we are unable to assimilate these people then we have no right to claim a position among the nations of the world. Why there is no people in existence that can absorb one, two, three, four, five times their number, and I ask you this - what would have happened if immigration from Asia had been allowed through all these years to come through the Western portals into British Columbia? Canada today would have been swamped with Orientals and there would be left today practically not a vestige of the civilization of which we are so proud (prolonged applause).

It is not so much a question of settling up this country irrespective of the type of people we have -- it is not so much a question of doing the common labor of the country, which some people so wrongfully advance as a reason for the admission of the Orientals. It is a question of what type of people we are going to have here in the next generation or in future generations. It is a question whether or no we are prepared as Canadian citizens to sacrifice the immediate advantage of material wealth for the peopling of this country. I heartily agree with you that unfortunately we have in our midst today men anxious to forego the privileges of building up our civilization here and a strong virile national life, for the sake of increasing their wealth by engaging men at a stipend which makes it impossible for the average working man to live upon and be decent and respectable (prolonged applause). Un-

fortunately I say there are amongst us men who are willing to sacrifice their country - men who are willing to degrade our national life - men who are careless as to how their workers live - simply for the sake of increasing their own dividends, but I do not call them patriots -- many of them do it unfortunately, but if there is a man within the hearing of my voice who indulges in the practice of degrading the labor conditions of Canada for the sake of increasing his own wealth - enhancing his own wealth - let him take thought of what the future holds for the children of the people of Canada as a whole (hear, hear).

Our forefathers came in here and others came in here and willingly and cheerfully suffered the privations of a rigorous climate in Eastern Canada. The history of early Canadian life is replete through years, and I might say through centuries, with stories of the hardships suffered by the emigrants from the Old Country who came here and lived and died without seeing comfort, with the hopes that they would develop a country in which their children could live in perfect liberty and freedom. What do we find - the immigrants from Asia almost without exception seek to come into Canada and establish themselves in the large and flourishing centres - picking the plums of civilization. I hold Mr. Chairman and gentlemen that in no single instance have the immigrants from Asia ever demonstrated that they were willing to enter into the frontier life of this country. (Applause). And so I say Mr. Chairman that this question is not only a question of whether we like or dislike men - that is a mere surface issue - it is a question of life and death for the national life of Canada. (.Cheers). And let me say further the threat has been made, if you refuse to allow immigrants to come in here from India, they [India] will bar their doors to you. I ask any intelligent man in this audience when have we ever asked the people of India to open their doors to Canadian labor -- never (hear hear) and further we are quite willing and satisfied that the Oriental people

shall shut the door to our labor. We are not asking for that right, that privilege, and we give you the right to close your doors if you so desire against Canadian labor and no one will question your right to do so.

There are many phases I say to this question. One of the chief difficulties that I have experienced in defending exclusion of Oriental emigrants, is that in the eight other Provinces of Canada there seems to be a general sentiment that the people of British Columbia are actuated by selfish motives. (Cries of "never"). They seem to imagine this is a small question and that we are narrow-minded. I have met this sentiment in all parts of Canada, but I also find this, that when the plain facts are presented to the Canadian people - whether in Ontario, Quebec or any other Province, that invariably the good clear judgment of the people of the Eastern Provinces swings around in support of the people of British Columbia. That sentiment, I say, is changing - the old sentiment is changing, and a new one is taking its place, and while it has been impossible up to the present time to get any active measures through the Dominion House which would satisfactorily deal with this question, it has been simply because of the lack of appreciation of its importance by the people of Eastern Canada. It has not been a political issue. It has been a question upon which both parties in the House of Commons have been very loath to take any action, and I say up to this present moment it has been impossible to secure any satisfactory or adequate legislation for that one reason.

Another reason is - and it is often advanced and advocated - the question of Imperial and international relations. It has been pointed out that it is not desirable to exclude people coming from a nation friendly to us in the Orient, like China or Japan, or to exclude people coming from India, which is a country under British rule. The international and the Imperial aspect is continually being referred to as a reason why we should not pass any restrictive legislation. I have

consistently and continuously pointed to this fact, that while that might be true, nevertheless it was impossible to properly deal with this question without passing some legislation which might be temporarily at least offensive in any degree to these people, and if it is a question of choice whether our doors are to be opened or whether we are to give offence, without intending to do so, if it is to be a choice of these two evils (so-called) then I for one am prepared to take the choice and the position of exclusion, in spite of what the results might be. (Laughter and applause). I have always stood, and I stand today just as firmly as I ever did, on that point.

Now I wish to refer, not in any party sense at all, but to a report which has come through - I presume from Press correspondents at Ottawa - regarding a telegram which it is alleged I sent to Ottawa. Now I will not go into it in its entirety, but I want to correct one or two false impressions. It is stated here that I sent a telegram to Ottawa in which I asked for militia to be sent to Vancouver to protect us. I never made any such reference whatever (laughter) never made anything approaching that. It is a rumor made entirely out of whole cloth. I am sorry it is made - it has a tendency to show that there is a difference of opinion amongst us when as a matter of fact there is no difference. (Applause). And then it says that I suggested that the Komagata Maru should be towed out of Vancouver Harbor. This is absurd - I never made any such suggestion at all, and I will fully show you before I get through the situation in that regard. I want to say that this so called despatch from Ottawa is absolutely erroneous. I do not think intentionally so by the local papers, but it has been taken up by them.

Now let me deal briefly with the local situation. We have in the Immigration Act, which I have in my hand, a clause (Section 38) and I will read it to you because I think it is very desirable that the people generally should be accurately

informed on this point:

"The Governor in Council may, by proclamation or order whenever he deems it necessary or expedient -

(a) prohibit the landing in Canada or at any specified port of entry in Canada of any immigrant who has come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which he is a native or naturalized citizen, and upon a through ticket purchased in that country, or prepaid in Canada;

(b) prohibit the landing in Canada of passengers brought to Canada by any transportation company which refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this Act;

(c) prohibit for a stated period, or permanently, the landing in Canada, or the landing at any specified port of entry in Canada, of immigrants belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character."

That is simply a proviso giving to the Governor-General the right to pass an Order-in-Council. Last fall through the influence of the British Columbia members an Order-in-Council was passed prohibiting all classes of immigrants of the artisan or labor class from coming into British Columbia, no matter whether they came from England, the United States or the Orient, and in every sense and in connection with every country that Order-in-Council has been enforced. Our Hindu friends left the other side of the ocean with the deliberate intention of testing the validity of that Order-in-Council. Now they are the only people who ~~xxx~~ have come to Canada and claimed right of entry in the face of that Order-in-Council. Just to illustrate my point, while I was in Ottawa I had frequent applications from employers of labor to let in certain classes of labor, - carpenters, or masons, or smelter men - urging me to ask the Government to make an exception of this or that, from the United States and from other countries. The Government have refused and I urged them to refuse in every single instance to comply with such a request, holding this - that if we gave way on some of these special requests then the value of the whole Order-in-Council would be ruined. So then we have enforced this Order-in-Council, irrespective - against all emigrants - irrespective of race or creed or color. On March

31st this Order-in-Council expired, and the Government, again at the instigation of the British Columbia Members, renewed that Order for the express purpose of meeting contingencies which we thought might arise. In order to make my own position perfectly clear I wish to say this, that I do not agree with the mere passing of this Order-in-Council. I hold, and I think I hold it in common with every member from British Columbia, that the Government of Canada - the Parliament of Canada - should pass legislation of a distinct and definite type, excluding Orientals. (Applause). Now we have held to that view, but let me point out to you this - that there are seven members from British Columbia and 214 or 15 from the rest of Canada, and the difficulty we have been faced with is to try and educate the people of Eastern Canada and the Members of Parliament to get our point of view, and I wish to say this, that I believe I can see a marked change in the feeling of the Members of Parliament from the other parts of the Dominion, and from the people of Eastern Canada towards this question, and I am also convinced of this - I feel almost convinced that next year we shall be able to get through the House of Commons a measure which will satisfactorily meet the views of the people of Canada. (Hear hear). In order to test the views of the people and give an opportunity to work this matter up before next session, I introduced a bill into the House of Commons this year. It is true it was introduced late in the session and I had little hope of it passing. I am not going to say that I had hope that it would pass. I tell you frankly I thought it would not, but I thought the people of Canada should know that we in British Columbia were going to stand pat on this question and they could expect that next session we would make a definite demand on the House of Commons in the form of a bill toward the exclusion of the people coming from Asia. (Applause). Now my bill provided for this and I wish to explain it. It provided for

the exclusion of all immigrants coming from Asia South of the 50th parallel of latitude. I am not married to the phraseology of the bill - if anyone can suggest a better - but I have canvassed the ground from every conceivable angle and that bill was drafted with a view of getting it through the House and not with a view of making a failure because it was unreasonable or gave offence. There was a proviso in that bill to the effect that it should not apply to any people or nation the Government of which had an agreement with the Government of Canada to voluntarily restrict its own immigration, but if they did not restrict their own immigration automatically the bill would apply. The reason for the introduction of that passage in the bill was to meet this widespread sentiment and statements constantly made regarding giving offence to the national pride of these people. We said we are not desirous of having your immigration. If you will voluntarily restrict it then this bill does not apply to you, but on the other hand if you insist upon violating the feelings of the people of Canada by disregarding this opportunity of restricting your own immigration, then automatically this bill will apply to you, and I hold Mr. Chairman that that bill would have successfully and absolutely met the situation. I want to say further that if any committee of citizens - if any person in British Columbia chooses to make suggestions of a solution of this problem, no man will be more pleased to receive it than I, and I can say this, that the Government of Canada today will be delighted to receive suggestions that will adequately meet the case. But it is an easy matter to say close the doors - the question is how are you going to do so and carry it successfully, carry it in the face of the ignorance of the people of Eastern Canada and the Mother Land. (Applause). I think I have made that point clear.

These people came from the Orient in direct contravention of two Orders-in-Council - the first is P.C. 23, which provides that no immigrant coming from any country - keep that in mind -

shall enter Canada who does not come direct from the land of his nativity -- you can go down to White Rock and any day you will find the Immigration Officer there turn back Swedes, Germans, Frenchmen who have not come direct to this country. Go to any part of entry along the boundary and you will find the same thing every day of the year, and I want you to grasp this question thoroughly, that it is not an Order-in-Council which is against any specific people, but against all. That was one - the next provides that no immigrant shall enter Canada during the six months between the middle of April and the middle of September or the end of September, and that applies to all nationalities. In spite of these two Orders-in-Council on our statute books, and as we believe according to law, this ship left India and came to our harbor and it has been proclaimed by our friends from India that they did it deliberately to test the validity of that law - not the validity in law but the validity in sentiment - they felt that it was possible by coming into this remote district that the sentiment of the rest of the Empire would be so overwhelmingly against us that we would be compelled to allow them to come in. Ever since the vessel arrived the Dominion Government instructed, and today the instructions are standing with the full concurrence of the Government, to Mr. Malcolm Reid the Immigration Agent, that the law is to be enforced. Now then the law has been enforced and is being enforced as far as it is possible to do so. These immigrants have been rejected. It might be said by some of our legal fraternity technically that they have not been officially rejected - that might be said, but it is well known that in principle they have been rejected. (Hear hear). The minute, however, that an order is issued formally rejecting them it is the intention of their Solicitor Mr. Bird to make a habeas corpus application and to force this thing into the courts, with what result? The sole object is to drag it on from court to court if necessary, drag it on through endless litigation, and the result will be that the immigration authorities would be compelled to suspend the

deportation or the rejection of these immigrants until the case has been settled in court. Now then there is a certain clause in the Immigration Law which is appealed to by many people and on which they claim that we have the right to reject immigrants irrespective of the courts. That is Clause 23 of the Immigration Act. I hold, and I think I am perfectly correct, that this clause when drafted was intended to prevent the courts from interfering in any sense with immigration matters. Unfortunately it does not accomplish that. If you will bear with me I will read this clause to you so that you will see the point:

"No court or judge or officer thereof shall have jurisdiction to review, quash, reverse, restrain or otherwise interfere with any proceedings, decision or order of the Minister or of any Board of Enquiry or officer in charge."

Now if it stopped there it would be all right -

"had, made or given under the authority and in accordance with the provisions of this Act".....

and so on, - in other words our clever legal fraternity - the members of it - claim that the court has a right to review the action of the immigration officers and to decide whether or not the action has been in accordance with the Act. They cannot reverse a decision in accordance with the Act, but they can say arbitrarily - your decision is not in accordance with the Act, we therefore reverse it so that - and here I speak with some hesitancy -- we have on the Bench in British Columbia today men who are willing to give a decision contrary to the general public opinion and contrary to what is the clear meaning of that Act. (Great applause). Some people say - why don't you go to the courts with your case. We are prepared to go to the courts if we can get a fair court to go to. (Applause). It is not a nice thing sometimes to cast a reflection of this kind, but there is too much at stake - every man knows who is backing up the claims of the people who are seeing to invalidate

this Act- every one of them knows what the intention of the Act is- they all know just as clearly as I know the intention of the Act- the intention of the Orders-in-Council is to restrict the immigration, and they know it. But there may be some technical loophole through which they can squeeze and it is that they are seeking to take advantage of.

Now then if that advantage is taken and permitted what will be the result. The result would be not only that these immigrants would land, but we are told on absolute authority and it is current in the press that the same influences back of this present agitation to enter have another vessel loaded and to come here with exactly the same intention in view. I contend Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that the procedure under which the immigrants are seeking admission to Canada today is unfair and unreasonable (hear hear). There is not a member among these immigrants but what knows perfectly well, as I have already said, the intention of the Act, and with no other people do we have a similar trouble. If we intimate to people of Europe-Northern or any other part- that a certain class of immigrants are not allowed to come into the country for a specified period they do not come, and if rejected they go back without saying a word. During the last few years we have rejected upwards of 5,000- deported and rejected- from the British Isles, and I do not know of a single case appealed to the courts. They realized that they were coming in in contravention of the Act and much as they might feel the hardship they went back without- as I say any appeal to the courts in this matter. Now it has been stated by some- why do you not just send this vessel back. Let me give you the exact position of this vessel, which is well known to those who are in the case. This vessel, which is under Japanese register, comes into our harbour. In so far as the vessel itself is concerned, and the crew, they are quite within the law. They come in our harbor and anchor there and pay their harbor dues and comply with the marine laws of the country, and

we have no right to eject them. Had these immigrants come upon a regular Steamship Line which had its scheduled sailings they knew that long since they would have been on their way back. Every day every boat going out takes back a very small percentage of the immigrants, and any rejected immigrant is sent back on the line of transportation on which they arrived. But in this case this is a chartered vessel and for the time being the treasurer of the vessel is in control of its movements and as long as they say this vessel shall remain in this harbor we are powerless to send it out. That is the situation our friends know that the Dominion Government in Ottawa have rejected this immigration they know that the people of British Columbia have rejected the immigration, they know that according to law they have no right to enter British Columbia, but they hope by a specious attack upon the technical interpretation of the law to get a stay in proceedings for three, six or twelve months until the case can be carried to the Privy Council. In this way they will inconvenience the Government of the country, put us to trouble and expense and put us to unnecessary alarm, but in the meantime they hope to get entry into the country and they will if this is done be scattered throughout the country pending a final settlement of the case.

Let me say in conclusion that I have absolutely no ill feelings against people coming from Asia personally, but I reaffirm that the national life of Canada will not permit of any large degree of immigration from Asia - that it is impossible for us to maintain high standards of living if we allow to come in immigrants of an entirely distinct type of civilization. It is not a case of racial pride. It is a case of actual social and economic conditions which it is impossible to maintain with two systems of living in our country which cannot be successfully assimilated, and as far as I am concerned I intend to stand absolutely on all occasions on this one great principle of a white country and a white British Columbia. (Great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER:

Before I call on the next speaker I have a letter here from Jonathan Rogers, President of the Board of Trade of this city, which I am going to read:

"Dear Mr. Mayor:

Owing to a previous engagement I am unfortunately not able to be present at the meeting tonight in regard to the Hindu question. I am, however, in hearty support of any steps taken to prevent the landing of Hindus in Canada."

Now I am going to ask Alderman Woodside to address the meeting.

ALDERMAN WOODSIDE:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, this should have been given to a man of ability to-night- I realize this when I see the anxious faces here before me. Sincerity is in every man's face. I do not feel equal to the occasion of addressing the audience upon the vital question before us but I have a resolution which I wish to move and it will be seconded by my old friend Mr. Ralph Smith-

"That whereas the Steamer Komagata Maru has been lying in the Port of Vancouver from the 23rd day of May until the present date with a shipload of undesirable immigrants demanding admission into the Dominion of Canada;

And whereas it is the united opinion of all citizens residing on the Pacific Coast of the Dominion of Canada that the influx of Asiatics is detrimental and hurtful to the best interests of the Dominion from the standpoint of citizenship, labor and moral conditions;

Be it therefore resolved that this meeting strongly urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of supporting the efforts of the Immigration authorities towards the rejection of the immigrants aboard the Komagata Maru and their immediate deportation, and that stringent legislation be enacted whereby such immigration in the future may be entirely restricted from admission to the Dominion."

Now ladies and gentlemen I won't take up a great deal of your time. Our friend Mr. Stevens has covered the ground thoroughly, outlined the policy of the Government and outlined the disposition of these people in our harbor. Today we have anchored in the harbor of Vancouver a shipload of 350 men who have come to this country in defiance of our Canadian laws-- we know that. As Mr. Stevens has said they had the knowledge before they left home in regard to the laws of Canada. We have here a country which we must protect, and I feel that this resolution presented tonight before such an audience as this is a very good omen of the intention of the people of British Columbia in particular to protect our Province and protect the Dominion of Canada.

This question of Asiatic or Oriental immigration is not entirely a new one with some of us. For the last twenty years in the Province of British Columbia it has been a fight-- it started here with the labor men some years ago and was carried out without very much success. We saw fifteen years ago our white men driven off the Fraser River and the Skeena River, we saw our sawmills in all parts of British Columbia taken possession of by the Orientals. We saw our logging camps-- shingle-bolt camps--taken possession of. We as Canadians have been backing off and backing off the map for the last fifteen years. Now we have before us people that are determined to back us still further. I feel that it is time that the matter be taken up to protect the people of this country (hear hear). Speaking as a representative of the City of Vancouver I want to say that last winter the City of Vancouver-- to show the condition of the labor market-- the City of Vancouver took care of 2,000 men and the majority of them were British subjects. At the present time we have in the employ of the city 600 men more than is really necessary to carry on the work of the various departments, but it must be done in order to relieve the conditions that prevail here today.

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We have women and children absolutely destitute here because their husbands and fathers cannot get work. We have 400 applications at the City Hall of married men, British subjects in the City of Vancouver coming there ~~taxayx~~ day after day and pleading to get a day's work. Here we are with people coming into this country that have no interest- that have not brought in a dollar, that have done nothing but cut wages and hoard up money to be sent to India to carry on an education among the people over there of the conditions here, to bring them over- to pay lawyers of this country, who I am sorry to say I am ashamed of (prolonged applause). The Mayor has called my attention to it and I will say one lawyer (hear hear),- a man here in this country that will undertake to defeat the objects for which the laws of this country were passed and in defiance of the pleadings of the working class of this country whom he pretends by the way to be a friend of- to encourage those people to come in to make further starvation, further than what I have already said.

Now then gentlemen we talk about the conditions we have here- and we have brought to our attention Imperial reasons. Now this is quite a question for me to handle, but I must say this that I have talked in the Old Country and invariably the people there said it was up to the Dominion to protect the immigration. Now there is another question. In the Old Country I found that the people had a knowledge of conditions in British Columbia, and in several cities that I visited the very same thing came up. When I talked about British Columbia they said we go to British Columbia and your industries are full of Orientals- there is no chance for a white man to go there. The very same thing applies to women in the Old Country. They told me they did not want to send young women out here as they had to compete against Asiatics--the reputation of our country is rapidly going down.

Now gentlemen I am not going to take up much more of your time. We have 4,000 Hindus in the Province of British Columbia today and we have 350 more here at our door. They are not knocking as has been said- they came over here and said we are

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coming in without knocking. It was given out on good authority that there was another body on the way. We know that thousands of dollars of good British Columbia money are behind this great big scheme. We know they have the mill industry within their power. We have conditions before us today and I think it is up to us as Canadians with the greatest country in the world whole world, to protect ourselves and say they will not come in (applause).

Now Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen Mr. Ralph Smith a good friend of mine will second this motion showing that it is not a political question. I thank you ladies and gentlemen for your attention.

MR. RALPH SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, there are some questions connected with this case that are larger than the best interests of all parties. Party Government has done a great deal for reform- a great deal to strengthen the force of representative government of every description. I do not think that the time has arrived when we can do without party government. It is the best machinery we have, but there are issues that arise, national in their character, intensely acute as they affect the human race, that work for the obliteration at any rate temporarily, of party consideration.

Now I always profess whether I really do or not, to respect the opinions of my opponents. Of course I respect them best when they come closest to my own. I would be foolish for me to say that I have common opinions with the good Member for Ottawa in this city on general principles, but I want to say to this large audience I came here to-night unsolicited and uninvited by any plan except the request of the Mayor when I arrived. I was so suspicious that there might be interwoven some little political partyism that I thought I would come and take a look to see what was going

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to happen. I am here, ladies and gentlemen in favor of Mr. Stevens the member of this city, that no word has been uttered by him tonight that could be construed as having any suspicion of political partyism whatever (applause) and I heartily second the resolution that has been presented to this audience. One thing pleases me, however, very much tonight. I was eleven years in Parliament myself- I knew the difficulties of impressing Eastern men without a Western experience, with just exactly what these questions meant to the Pacific Coast. Year after year I fought the battles in the House and out of it in favor of the greatest possible restriction against every class of Oriental immigration. My good old friend dead and gone, Mr. George Maxwell, for many years did the same thing. For 20 years this Province has been trying to educate the people of the East on the importance of this question as it stands associated with the great interests of the people of the West (hear hear) and I am pleased tonight to hear my good friend Mr. Stevens say that after all it is a matter of education- that they do not see things as we see them- that it is utterly impossible to get them to take our viewpoint. One of the methods of educating these gentlemen is to have unanimity on this question in British Columbia (hear hear). One of the methods of getting the Eastern people to know that we are in earnest is to obliterate for the time being on this particular question issues that we consider important so far as petty ~~political~~ politics are concerned (hear hear). Another thing I am reminded of in the speech of Mr. Stevens is that the law against Orientals today is good. I was a member of the House when the regulation that Mr. Stevens has referred to in the Immigration Act was passed. It was placed there for the very specific purpose that certain important conditions might arise which have arisen in the city and harbor of Vancouver, whereby it was important for the Government of this country by an Order-in-Council to act supremely without the authority of any court in this country (hear hear). I am glad to know that my friend Mr. Stevens was generous enough

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to admit the interpretation that the Liberals intended to be put on that Section. The law, Mr. Chairman, is absolutely clear on the two points. These provisions were placed there years ago, placed there to some extent by my own influence as a representative of this Province. Two things are clear--that circumstances in regard to this class of immigration, or any other immigration, may arise in this country that makes it imperative that the ruling of the Governor by an Order-in-Council could stand against any judicial consideration (hear hear) and I think you will agree with me that that particular occasion has arisen (hear hear), and if it has arisen and the Section of the Act is clear it is the duty of the Government this resolution calls upon to put into operation the laws already existing (applause) The second part of the law is especially applicable to the Hindus. It was put there to exactly meet their case, that no one could be admitted into this country that did not come direct from the place of their birth. That resolution has been there for years--that resolution has been successful for years-- that resolution has been known to the authorities in India for years. The men who have used their influence to bring about this immigration at the present time have known as much as you and I know at the present time, ladies and gentlemen of Canada, about the laws of this country, and ought not these laws to be honored by all classes of people without regard to personal interest (hear hear)? Is it not important in this country that when a Government and Parliament has declared that certain things ought to be, whatever may be the selfish personal interests of a few people that ought to be the rule and law in this country (hear hear) and if we are good British subjects we will respect the law, when a representative government in a British country says that things ought to be and declare it in statute every good citizen will be willing and anxious to conform to that deliberation (hear hear). I want to say to you ladies and gentlemen there is a species of anarchy

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in this proposition which would instantly be subdued by the people of this country if we had white people perpetrating the same thing. The law of this country says certain things must not be. The law of this country is being defied and the man who advises it- even at his own personal interest- is an anarchist in spirit (applause).

I think the voice of this meeting will strengthen the hands of our friend Mr. Stevens. We are all alike when it comes to the interests of the people of this country (hear hear). We are all alike when we want the white races to have sufficient opportunity to live (hear hear). We are all alike when we positively refuse to allow any species of competition to enter into the labors of white men that will bring about conditions that will degrade them down to the level of an Oriental (applause). We are all alike when it comes to maintaining the standard of British education and British civilization, and there is no such thing gentlemen as expecting any of these great results if the white men of this country have to be brought into serious competition with Orientals. As a man with public responsibilities I am sober-minded enough to remember the difficulties in the way of the Imperial Government who have to assume the intricacies, the delicate situation of controlling the people whom they do control, but I want to say this in answer to that and I say it feeling the responsibility of every public position in this country--Canada has no responsibility with regard to the management of business in India,--that is entirely an Imperial question (hear hear). No real British subject will go out of his way to make unnecessary complications but corresponding with the exclusive right of Britain to manage the affairs of India- corresponding with that right is the exclusive authority of Canada to pass her own laws (great applause). Let me say to you, ladies and gentlemen, the strength of real British

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loyalty to the British Crown and flag consists in the fact that Englishmen, Irishmen, Welshmen and Scotsmen and every other countryman from Europe that comes into this great country realizes that in this great Dominion is authorized by Parliament of Britain to conduct his own business in the best interests of the country. Now sir just what we are asking for- we think it is a serious danger to this part of the Dominion that we should not be permitted to enforce our own regulations, and the object of this great assembly is to back up that intelligent resolution which is asking the only authority in a question of jurisdiction between Parliaments that could be decided by lawyers. The thing is absolutely plain and clear that if these people are to be kept out they must be kept out by the Dominion authorities. The Dominion authority has put the machinery in motion and tonight we get in behind the Member of this city and we say- "Use your influence and we are with you to get the authority at Ottawa to carry it out." (great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER: Ladies and gentlemen as there was considerable noise when this resolution was read in the first place I will read it again (reads) As there are many standing I am going to ask for a show of hands (Carried)

(Meeting concluded)

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN DOMINION HALL, VANCOUVER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1914.

Mayor T. S. Baxter in the Chair.

Meeting called to order at 8 P. M.

MAYOR BAXTER spoke as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen if you will come to order now - we have an immense audience here. The evening is long - we have some business to transact which we will try to get through as speedily as possible. This meeting has been called, as you all know, for the purpose of protesting against any further immigration. I hope it will be conducted in the most orderly and decorous manner, because without that we weaken our cause. If we citizens of Vancouver cannot meet together and talk over a serious question in a serious and level-headed manner we weaken our cause in the eyes of those not here and not near to the heart of the matter. Therefore I am going to appeal to everybody in the audience, speakers and listeners, that this meeting be of the most orderly, and that the speeches be not of a character to touch our hearts to the extent of making us go too high into the air. The question before us this evening, as you know, is brought about by the fact that there lies in the harbor a ship loaded with people from India who are wanting to come into our country.

Now as Mayor of the City of Vancouver I want to speak plainly even though I may be criticised for so doing. There are men enough in the City of Vancouver today for all the work that is offering today (applause) and to spare, and I say that we don't want any more workmen from anywhere at the present. Yielding to representations along that line some

months ago, the Dominion Government passed an Order-in-Council forbidding any artisans to come in from anywhere. Now that Order is still in force, is still being enforced, so that when people try to make out that we are hitting against one nationality under that Order it is not the case. We are hitting against every nationality, and for the reasons I have just stated. We all know there are more men in the city than there are jobs for, and as Mayor I am continually called upon in regard to this. The city is doing more work today than we would be doing except that we wish to give as much work as is possible at this time. Now what are we going to do if we are struggling now to keep those employed who are here, hundreds more are dumped in. We ~~wish~~ wish to face the matter fairly, and we don't want them, and we want to say that just as hard as we can say it. We have called this meeting for the purpose of you as citizens backing up the authorities, because I believe that you believe as I do that the authorities on our Pacific Coast and our Member in Parliament and our citizens are united on that one question -- that we don't want this immigration in the Province of British Columbia (hear, hear). Now I am not going to take up any more of your time, but I am going to call upon Mr. Stevens to say a few words.

MR. H. H. STEVENS:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, it is not altogether a pleasant or congenial task that faces me or that faces you tonight, because I take it that the subject which we have under our consideration is one in which every citizen of British Columbia, and as I always state, every citizen of Canada, is vitally interested. I could approach this question from numerous standpoints, but I shall try in the briefest possible manner to get before you some of the facts in connection with this troublesome problem. In the first place, with your permission. I will touch upon the problem

as I see it and as I find it, and then will deal with the local situation as it exists in the city at the present time. I wish, however, first to thank the Mayor for calling this meeting together. I think he has done a very wise thing and especially in that this meeting is gathered together today without any political significance, in so far as party politics is concerned this is a non-political question (applause) a non-party question. I am not before you as a member of any political party. I am before you as ~~xxxxxx~~ the representative in the Dominion House of the people of this city and as a Canadian citizen (hear, hear) and Mr. Mayor I feel that we must get away entirely from making this question a party political question, because I know this, that of the men in British Columbia, practically all are a unit on this problem, no matter what their opinions are (applause). There may be a few exceptions, but these exceptions simply demonstrate the wisdom of the attitude of the majority of the people of this Province.

Very briefly, what we face in British Columbia and in Canada today is this - whether or no the civilization which finds its highest exemplification in Angle-Saxon British rule shall or shall not prevail in the Dominion of Canada. That is very briefly, the question. Because in so far as immigration from Asia is concerned I hold, after the most careful study - I am absolutely convinced after the most searching inquiry, that we cannot allow indiscriminate immigration from the Orient and hope to build up a Nation in Canada on the foundations upon which we have commenced our national life (applause). In laying down that principle I cast no aspersions upon the civilization of Asia, but I impress upon you this solemn fact, that these two civilizations are absolutely and entirely distinct in every important feature (applause). It is not a question whether in theory or from an academic standpoint, or from the standpoint of scholarly study Oriental civilization is interesting or not interesting -- that is not the question. It is interesting, and no man who has indulged in a perusal

of the subject can say otherwise. The question is will that civilization or will those brought up through centuries under that civilization assimilate in a satisfactory manner with the people of this country. That is the great problem facing us today, and I hold that no immigration is or can be successful where it is impossible to assimilate and readily assimilate the immigrant (prolonged applause). This is the absolutely fundamental principle of all systems of immigration, and must necessarily be so. Let me repeat that, that no class of immigration can be considered successful unless it is capable of being assimilated and absorbed by the people of the country to which it comes and without any detriment to that country. Now there are many ways in which we can look at this question, the racial, the social, and the economic side, and I hold that in every one of these phases it would be detrimental to the civilization we hold so dear to allow any large influx of Orientals into this country (applause).

In the next place let me point out to you another very significant fact (Just give me your attention - there is a large number that could not get into the Hall and they are holding an overflow meeting on the street outside). There is this other very significant fact, that we must remember in Canada. We have in the neighborhood of 7 1/2 millions of people. We have undertaken a gigantic problem in Canada, the problem of building up a people which will do credit to the highest principles of the civilization from which we come. The problem of developing her natural resources - the problem of having a country with the high ideals that I have mentioned permeating every phase of society. There is no doubt about it we blunder in many regards, but it is our aim to be high and noble. In order to carry that out it is very important that the immigration coming to our shores shall contribute to it rather than hinder it. (Applause).

In the next place we have I say a limited population of

about 7 1/2 millions. In the Orient - at our doors - there are 800 millions of Asiatics -- and mark you I care not how high a value you place upon their civilization - it is distinct in all its features (hear hear) from that which we hold so dear. Eight hundred millions - the very least tremor from that source would unquestionably swamp us by weight of numbers. Some answer me in regard to that question in Eastern Canada and in other parts where I have spoken of it by saying that we are a virile race - that if we are unable to assimilate these people then we have no right to claim a position among the nations of the world. Why there is no people in existence that can absorb one, two, three, four, five times their number, and I ask you this - what would have happened if immigration from Asia had been allowed through all these years to come through the Western portals into British Columbia? Canada today would have been swamped with Orientals and there would be left today practically not a vestige of the civilization of which we are so proud (prolonged applause).

It is not so much a question of settling up this country irrespective of the type of people we have -- it is not so much a question of doing the common labor of the country, which some people so wrongfully advance as a reason for the admission of the Orientals. It is a question of what type of people we are going to have here in the next generation or in future generations. It is a question whether or no we are prepared as Canadian citizens to sacrifice the immediate advantage of material wealth for the peopling of this country. I heartily agree with you that unfortunately we have in our midst today men anxious to forego the privileges of building up our civilization here and a strong virile national life, for the sake of increasing their wealth by engaging men at a stipend which makes it impossible for the average working man to live upon and be decent and respectable (prolonged applause). Un-

fortunately I say there are amongst us men who are willing to sacrifice their country - men who are willing to degrade our national life - men who are careless as to how their workers live - simply for the sake of increasing their own dividends, but I do not call them patriots -- many of them do it unfortunately, but if there is a man within the hearing of my voice who indulges in the practice of degrading the labor conditions of Canada for the sake of increasing his own wealth - enhancing his own wealth - let him take thought of what the future holds for the children of the people of Canada as a whole (hear, hear).

Our forefathers came in here and others came in here and willingly and cheerfully suffered the privations of a rigorous climate in Eastern Canada. The history of early Canadian life is replete through years, and I might say through centuries, with stories of the hardships suffered by the emigrants from the Old Country who came here and lived and died without seeing comfort, with the hopes that they would develop a country in which their children could live in perfect liberty and freedom. What do we find - the immigrants from Asia almost without exception seek to come into Canada and establish themselves in the large and flourishing centres - picking the plums of civilization. I hold Mr. Chairman and gentlemen that in no single instance have the immigrants from Asia ever demonstrated that they were willing to enter into the frontier life of this country. (Applause). And so I say Mr. Chairman that this question is not only a question of whether we like or dislike men - that is a mere surface issue - it is a question of life and death for the national life of Canada. (.Cheers). And let me say further the threat has been made, if you refuse to allow immigrants to come in here from India, they [India] will bar their doors to you. I ask any intelligent man in this audience when have we ever asked the people of India to open their doors to Canadian labor -- never (hear hear) and further we are quite willing and satisfied that the Oriental people

shall shut the door to our labor. We are not asking for that right, that privilege, and we give you the right to close your doors if you so desire against Canadian labor and no one will question your right to do so.

There are many phases I say to this question. One of the chief difficulties that I have experienced in defending exclusion of Oriental emigrants, is that in the eight other Provinces of Canada there seems to be a general sentiment that the people of British Columbia are actuated by selfish motives. (Cries of "never"). They seem to imagine this is a small question and that we are narrow-minded. I have met this sentiment in all parts of Canada, but I also find this, that when the plain facts are presented to the Canadian people - whether in Ontario, Quebec or any other Province, that invariably the good clear judgment of the people of the Eastern Provinces swings around in support of the people of British Columbia. That sentiment, I say, is changing - the old sentiment is changing, and a new one is taking its place, and while it has been impossible up to the present time to get any active measures through the Dominion House which would satisfactorily deal with this question, it has been simply because of the lack of appreciation of its importance by the people of Eastern Canada. It has not been a political issue. It has been a question upon which both parties in the House of Commons have been very loath to take any action, and I say up to this present moment it has been impossible to secure any satisfactory or adequate legislation for that one reason.

Another reason is - and it is often advanced and advocated - the question of Imperial and international relations. It has been pointed out that it is not desirable to exclude people coming from a nation friendly to us in the Orient, like China or Japan, or to exclude people coming from India, which is a country under British rule. The international and the Imperial aspect is continually being referred to as a reason why we should not pass any restrictive legislation. I have

consistently and continuously pointed to this fact, that while that might be true, nevertheless it was impossible to properly deal with this question without passing some legislation which might be temporarily at least offensive in any degree to these people, and if it is a question of choice whether our doors are to be opened or whether we are to give offence, without intending to do so, if it is to be a choice of these two evils (so-called) then I for one am prepared to take the choice and the position of exclusion, in spite of what the results might be. (Laughter and applause). I have always stood, and I stand today just as firmly as I ever did, on that point.

Now I wish to refer, not in any party sense at all, but to a report which has come through - I presume from Press correspondents at Ottawa - regarding a telegram which it is alleged I sent to Ottawa. Now I will not go into it in its entirety, but I want to correct one or two false impressions. It is stated here that I sent a telegram to Ottawa in which I asked for militia to be sent to Vancouver to protect us. I never made any such reference whatever (laughter) never made anything approaching that. It is a rumor made entirely out of whole cloth. I am sorry it is made - it has a tendency to show that there is a difference of opinion amongst us when as a matter of fact there is no difference. (Applause). And then it says that I suggested that the Komagata Maru should be towed out of Vancouver Harbor. This is absurd - I never made any such suggestion at all, and I will fully show you before I get through the situation in that regard. I want to say that this so called despatch from Ottawa is absolutely erroneous. I do not think intentionally so by the local papers, but it has been taken up by them.

Now let me deal briefly with the local situation. We have in the Immigration Act, which I have in my hand, a clause (Section 38) and I will read it to you because I think it is very desirable that the people generally should be accurately

informed on this point:

"The Governor in Council may, by proclamation or order whenever he deems it necessary or expedient -

(a) prohibit the landing in Canada or at any specified port of entry in Canada of any immigrant who has come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which he is a native or naturalized citizen, and upon a through ticket purchased in that country, or prepaid in Canada;

(b) prohibit the landing in Canada of passengers brought to Canada by any transportation company which refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this Act;

(c) prohibit for a stated period, or permanently, the landing in Canada, or the landing at any specified port of entry in Canada, of immigrants belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character."

That is simply a proviso giving to the Governor-General the right to pass an Order-in-Council. Last fall through the influence of the British Columbia members an Order-in-Council was passed prohibiting all classes of immigrants of the artisan or labor class from coming into British Columbia, no matter whether they came from England, the United States or the Orient, and in every sense and in connection with every country that Order-in-Council has been enforced. Our Hindu friends left the other side of the ocean with the deliberate intention of testing the validity of that Order-in-Council. Now they are the only people who ~~was~~ have come to Canada and claimed right of entry in the face of that Order-in-Council. Just to illustrate my point, while I was in Ottawa I had frequent applications from employers of labor to let in certain classes of labor, - carpenters, or masons, or smelter men - urging me to ask the Government to make an exception of this or that, from the United States and from other countries. The Government have refused and I urged them to refuse in every single instance to comply with such a request, holding this - that if we gave way on some of these special requests then the value of the whole Order-in-Council would be ruined. So then we have enforced this Order-in-Council, irrespective - against all emigrants - irrespective of race or creed or color. On March

31st this Order-in-Council expired, and the Government, again at the instigation of the British Columbia Members, renewed that Order for the express purpose of meeting contingencies which we thought might arise. In order to make my own position perfectly clear I wish to say this, that I do not agree with the mere passing of this Order-in-Council. I hold, and I think I hold it in common with every member from British Columbia, that the Government of Canada - the Parliament of Canada - should pass legislation of a distinct and definite type, excluding Orientals. (Applause). Now we have held to that view, but let me point out to you this - that there are seven members from British Columbia and 214 or 15 from the rest of Canada, and the difficulty we have been faced with is to try and educate the people of Eastern Canada and the Members of Parliament to get our point of view, and I wish to say this, that I believe I can see a marked change in the feeling of the Members of Parliament from the other parts of the Dominion, and from the people of Eastern Canada towards this question, and I am also convinced of this - I feel almost convinced that next year we shall be able to get through the House of Commons a measure which will satisfactorily meet the views of the people of Canada. (Hear hear). In order to test the views of the people and give an opportunity to work this matter up before next session, I introduced a bill into the House of Commons this year. It is true it was introduced late in the session and I had little hope of it passing. I am not going to say that I had hope that it would pass. I tell you frankly I thought it would not, but I thought the people of Canada should know that we in British Columbia were going to stand pat on this question and they could expect that next session we would make a definite demand on the House of Commons in the form of a bill toward the exclusion of the people coming from Asia. (Applause). Now my bill provided for this and I wish to explain it. It provided for

the exclusion of all immigrants coming from Asia South of the 50th parallel of latitude. I am not married to the phraseology of the bill - if anyone can suggest a better - but I have canvassed the ground from every conceivable angle and that bill was drafted with a view of getting it through the House and not with a view of making a failure because it was unreasonable or gave offence. There was a proviso in that bill to the effect that it should not apply to any people or nation the Government of which had an agreement with the Government of Canada to voluntarily restrict its own immigration, but if they did not restrict their own immigration automatically the bill would apply. The reason for the introduction of that passage in the bill was to meet this widespread sentiment and statements constantly made regarding giving offence to the national pride of these people. We said we are not desirous of having your immigration. If you will voluntarily restrict it then this bill does not apply to you, but on the other hand if you insist upon violating the feelings of the people of Canada by disregarding this opportunity of restricting your own immigration, then automatically this bill will apply to you, and I hold Mr. Chairman that that bill would have successfully and absolutely met the situation. I want to say further that if any committee of citizens - if any person in British Columbia chooses to make suggestions of a solution of this problem, no man will be more pleased to receive it than I, and I can say this, that the Government of Canada today will be delighted to receive suggestions that will adequately meet the case. But it is an easy matter to say close the doors - the question is how are you going to do so and carry it successfully, carry it in the face of the ignorance of the people of Eastern Canada and the Mother Land. (Applause). I think I have made that point clear.

These people came from the Orient in direct contravention of two Orders-in-Council - the first is P.C. 23, which provides that no immigrant coming from any country - keep that in mind -

shall enter Canada who does not come direct from the land of his nativity -- you can go down to White Rock and any day you will find the Immigration Officer there turn back Swedes, Germans, Frenchmen who have not come direct to this country. Go to any port of entry along the boundary and you will find the same thing every day of the year, and I want you to grasp this question thoroughly, that it is not an Order-in-Council which is against any specific people, but against all. That was one - the next provides that no immigrant shall enter Canada during the six months between the middle of April and the middle of September or the end of September, and that applies to all nationalities. In spite of these two Orders-in-Council on our statute books, and as we believe according to law, this ship left India and came to our harbor and it has been proclaimed by our friends from India that they did it deliberately to test the validity of that law - not the validity in law but the validity in sentiment - they felt that it was possible by coming into this remote district that the sentiment of the rest of the Empire would be so overwhelmingly against us that we would be compelled to allow them to come in. Ever since the vessel arrived the Dominion Government instructed, and today the instructions are standing with the full concurrence of the Government, to Mr. Malcolm Reid the Immigration Agent, that the law is to be enforced. Now then the law has been enforced and is being enforced as far as it is possible to do so. These immigrants have been rejected. It might be said by some of our legal fraternity technically that they have not been officially rejected - that might be said, but it is well known that in principle they have been rejected. (Hear hear). The minute, however, that an order is issued formally rejecting them it is the intention of their Solicitor Mr. Bird to make a habeas corpus application and to force this thing into the courts, with what result? The sole object is to drag it on from court to court if necessary, drag it on through endless litigation, and the result will be that the immigration authorities would be compelled to suspend the

deportation or the rejection of these immigrants until the case has been settled in court. Now then there is a certain clause in the Immigration Law which is appealed to by many people and on which they claim that we have the right to reject immigrants irrespective of the courts. That is Clause 23 of the Immigration Act. I hold, and I think I am perfectly correct, that this clause when drafted was intended to prevent the courts from interfering in any sense with immigration matters. Unfortunately it does not accomplish that. If you will bear with me I will read this clause to you so that you will see the point:

"No court or judge or officer thereof shall have jurisdiction to review, quash, reverse, restrain or otherwise interfere with any proceedings, decision or order of the Minister or of any Board of Enquiry or officer in charge."

Now if it stopped there it would be all right -

"had, made or given under the authority and in accordance with the provisions of this Act".....

and so on, - in other words our clever legal fraternity - the members of it - claim that the court has a right to review the action of the immigration officers and to decide whether or not the action has been in accordance with the Act. They cannot reverse a decision in accordance with the Act, but they can say arbitrarily - your decision is not in accordance with the Act, we therefore reverse it so that - and here I speak with some hesitancy -- we have on the Bench in British Columbia today men who are willing to give a decision contrary to the general public opinion and contrary to what is the clear meaning of that Act. (Great applause). Some people say - why don't you go to the courts with your case. We are prepared to go to the courts if we can get a fair court to go to. (Applause). It is not a nice thing sometimes to cast a reflection of this kind, but there is too much at stake - every man knows who is backing up the claims of the people who are seeing to invalidate

this Act- every one of them knows what the intention of the Act is- they all know just as clearly as I know the intention of the Act- the intention of the Orders-in-Council is to restrict the immigration, and they know it. But there may be some technical loophole through which they can squeeze and it is that they are seeking to take advantage of.

Now then if that advantage is taken and permitted what will be the result. The result would be not only that these immigrants would land, but we are told on absolute authority and it is current in the press that the same influences back of this present agitation to enter have another vessel loaded and to come here with exactly the same intention in view. I contend Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that the procedure under which the immigrants are seeking admission to Canada today is unfair and unreasonable (hear hear). There is not a member among these immigrants but what knows perfectly well, as I have already said, the intention of the Act, and with no other people do we have a similar trouble. If we intimate to people of Europe-Northern or any other part- that a certain class of immigrants are not allowed to come into the country for a specified period they do not come, and if rejected they go back without saying a word. During the last few years we have rejected upwards of 5,000- deported and rejected- from the British Isles, and I do not know of a single case appealed to the courts. They realized that they were coming in in contravention of the Act and much as they might feel the hardship they went back without- as I say any appeal to the courts in this matter. Now it has been stated by some- why do you not just send this vessel back. Let me give you the exact position of this vessel, which is well known to those who are in the case. This vessel, which is under Japanese register, comes into our harbour. In so far as the vessel itself is concerned, and the crew, they are quite within the law. They come in our harbor and anchor there and pay their harbor dues and comply with the marine laws of the country, and

we have no right to eject them. Had these immigrants come upon a regular Steamship Line which had its scheduled sailings they knew that long since they would have been on their way back. Every day every boat going out takes back a very small percentage of the immigrants, and any rejected immigrant is sent back on the line of transportation off which they arrived. But in this case this is a chartered vessel and for the time being the treasurer of the vessel is in control of its movements and as long as they say this vessel shall remain in this harbor we are powerless to send it out. That is the situation our friends know that the Dominion Government in Ottawa have rejected this immigration they know that the people of British Columbia have rejected the immigration, they know that according to law they have no right to enter British Columbia, but they hope by a specious attack upon the technical interpretation of the law to get a stay in proceedings for three, six or twelve months until the case can be carried to the Privy Council. In this way they will inconvenience the Government of the country, put us to trouble and expense and put us to unnecessary alarm, but in the meantime they hope to get entry into the country and they will if this is done be scattered throughout the country pending a final settlement of the case.

Let me say in conclusion that I have absolutely no ill feelings against people coming from Asia personally, but I reaffirm that the national life of Canada will not permit of any large degree of immigration from Asia - that it is impossible for us to maintain high standards of living if we allow to come in immigrants of an entirely distinct type of civilization. It is not a case of racial pride. It is a case of actual social and economic conditions which it is impossible to maintain with two systems of living in our country which cannot be successfully assimilated, and as far as I am concerned I intend to stand absolutely on all occasions on this one great principle of a white country and a white British Columbia. (Great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER:

Before I call on the next speaker I have a letter here from Jonathan Rogers, President of the Board of Trade of this city, which I am going to read:

"Dear Mr. Mayor:

Owing to a previous engagement I am unfortunately not able to be present at the meeting tonight in regard to the Hindu question. I am, however, in hearty support of any steps taken to prevent the landing of Hindus in Canada."

Now I am going to ask Alderman Woodside to address the meeting.

ALDERMAN WOODSIDE:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, this should have been given to a man of ability to-night- I realize this when I see the anxious faces here before me. Sincerity is in every man's face. I do not feel equal to the occasion of addressing the audience upon the vital question before us but I have a resolution which I wish to move and it will be seconded by my old friend Mr. Ralph Smith-

"That whereas the Steamer Komagata Maru has been lying in the Port of Vancouver from the 23rd day of May until the present date with a shipload of undesirable immigrants demanding admission into the Dominion of Canada;

And whereas it is the united opinion of all citizens residing on the Pacific Coast of the Dominion of Canada that the influx of Asiatics is detrimental and hurtful to the best interests of the Dominion from the standpoint of citizenship, labor and moral conditions;

Be it therefore resolved that this meeting strongly urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of supporting the efforts of the Immigration authorities towards the rejection of the immigrants aboard the Komagata Maru and their immediate deportation, and that stringent legislation be enacted whereby such immigration in the future may be entirely restricted from admission to the Dominion."

Now ladies and gentlemen I won't take up a great deal of your time. Our friend Mr. Stevens has covered the ground thoroughly, outlined the policy of the Government and outlined the disposition of these people in our harbor. Today we have anchored in the harbor of Vancouver a shipload of 350 men who have come to this country in defiance of our Canadian laws- we know that. As Mr. Stevens has said they had the knowledge before they left home in regard to the laws of Canada. We have here a country which we must protect, and I feel that this resolution presented tonight before such an audience as this is a very good omen of the intention of the people of British Columbia in particular to protect our Province and protect the Dominion of Canada.

This question of Asiatic or Oriental immigration is not entirely a new one with some of us. For the last twenty years in the Province of British Columbia it has been a fight- it started here with the labor men some years ago and was carried out without very much success. We saw fifteen years ago our white men driven off the Fraser River and the Skeena River, we saw our sawmills in all parts of British Columbia taken possession of by the Orientals. We saw our logging camps- shingle-bolt camps-taken possession of. We as Canadians have been backing off and backing off the map for the last fifteen years. Now we have before us people that are determined to back us still further. I feel that it is time that the matter be taken up to protect the people of this country (hear hear). Speaking as a representative of the City of Vancouver I want to say that last winter the City of Vancouver- to show the condition of the labor market- the City of Vancouver took care of 2,000 men and the majority of them were British subjects. At the present time we have in the employ of the city 600 men more than is really necessary to carry on the work of the various departments, but it must be done in order to relieve the conditions that prevail here today.

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We have women and children absolutely destitute here because their husbands and fathers cannot get work. We have 400 applications at the City Hall of married men, British subjects in the City of Vancouver coming there todayx day after day and pleading to get a day's work. Here we are with people coming into this country that have no interest- that have not brought in a dollar, that have done nothing but cut wages and hoarded up money to be sent to India to carry on an education among the people over there of the conditions here, to bring them over- to pay lawyers of this country, who I am sorry to say I am ashamed of (prolonged applause). The Mayor has called my attention to it and I will say one lawyer (hear hear),- a man here in this country that will undertake to defeat the objects for which the laws of this country were passed and in defiance of the pleadings of the working class of this country whom he pretends by the way to be a friend of- to encourage those people to come in to make further starvation, farther than what I have already said.

Now then gentlemen we talk about the conditions we have here- and we have brought to our attention Imperial reasons. Now this is quite a question for me to handle, but I must say this that I have talked in the Old Country and invariably the people there said it was up to the Dominion to protect the i-migration. Now there is another question. In the Old Country I found that the people had a knowledge of conditions in British Columbia, and in several cities that I visited the very same thing came up. When I talked about British Columbia they said we go to British Columbia and your industries are full of Orientals- there is no chance for a white man to go there. The very same thing applies to women in the Old Country. They told me they did not want to send young women out here as they had to compete against Asiatics--the reputation of our country is rapidly going down.

Now gentlemen I am not going to take up much more of your time. We have 4,000 Hindus in the Province of British Columbia today and we have 350 more here at our door. They are not knocking as has been said- they came over here and said we are

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coming in without knocking. It was given out on good authority that there was another body on the way. We know that thousands of dollars of good British Columbia money are behind this great big scheme. We know they have the mill industry within their power. We have conditions before us today and I think it is up to us as Canadians with the greatest country in the world, to protect ourselves and say they will not come in (applause).

Now Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen Mr. Ralph Smith a good friend of mine will second this motion showing that it is not a political question. I thank you ladies and gentlemen for your attention.

MR. RALPH SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, there are some questions connected with this case that are larger than the best interests of all parties. Party Government has done a great deal for reform— a great deal to strengthen the force of representative government of every description. I do not think that the time has arrived when we can do without party government. It is the best machinery we have, but there are issues that arise, national in their character, intensely acute as they affect the human race, that work for the obliteration at any rate temporarily, of party consideration.

Now I always profess whether I really do or not, to respect the opinions of my opponents. Of course I respect them best when they come closest to my own. I would be foolish for me to say that I have common opinions with the good Member for Ottawa in this city on general principles, but I want to say to this large audience I came here to-night unsolicited and uninvited by any plan except the request of the Mayor when I arrived. I was so suspicious that there might be interwoven some little political partyism that I thought I would come and take a look to see what was going

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to happen. I am here, ladies and gentlemen in favor of Mr. Stevens the member of this city, that no word has been uttered by him tonight that could be construed as having any suspicion of political partyism whatever (applause) and I heartily second the resolution that has been presented to this audience. One thing pleases me, however, very much tonight. I was eleven years in Parliament myself- I knew the difficulties of impressing Eastern men without a Western experience, with just exactly what these questions meant to the Pacific Coast. Year after year I fought the battles in the House and out of it in favor of the greatest possible restriction against every class of Oriental immigration. My good old friend dead and gone, Mr. George Maxwell, for many years did the same thing. For 20 years this Province has been trying to educate the people of the East on the importance of this question as it stands associated with the great interests of the people of the West (hear hear) and I am pleased tonight to hear my good friend Mr. Stevens say that after all it is a matter of education- that they do not see things as we see them- that it is utterly impossible to get them to take our viewpoint. One of the methods of educating these gentlemen is to have unanimity on this question in British Columbia (hear hear). One of the methods of getting the Eastern people to know that we are in earnest is to obliterate for the time being on this particular question issues that we consider important so far as petty partisan politics are concerned (hear hear). Another thing I am reminded of in the speech of Mr. Stevens is that the law against Orientals today is good. I was a member of the House when the regulation that Mr. Stevens has referred to in the Immigration Act was passed. It was placed there for the very specific purpose that certain important conditions might arise which have arisen in the city and harbor of Vancouver, whereby it was important for the Government of this country by an Order-in-Council to act supremely without the authority of any court in this country (hear hear). I am glad to know that my friend Mr. Stevens --

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN DOMINION HALL, VANCOUVER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1914.

Mayor T. S. Baxter in the Chair.

Meeting called to order at 8 P. M.

MAYOR BAXTER spoke as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen if you will come to order now - we have an immense audience here. The evening is long - we have some business to transact which we will try to get through as speedily as possible. This meeting has been called, as you all know, for the purpose of protesting against any further immigration. I hope it will be conducted in the most orderly and decorous manner, because without that we weaken our cause. If we citizens of Vancouver cannot meet together and talk over a serious question in a serious and level-headed manner we weaken our cause in the eyes of those not here and not near to the heart of the matter. Therefore I am going to appeal to everybody in the audience, speakers and listeners, that this meeting be of the most orderly, and that the speeches be not of a character to touch our hearts to the extent of making us go too high into the air. The question before us this evening, as you know, is brought about by the fact that there lies in the harbor a ship loaded with people from India who are wanting to come into our country.

Now as Mayor of the City of Vancouver I want to speak plainly even though I may be criticised for so doing. There are men enough in the City of Vancouver today for all the work that is offering today (applause) and to spare, and I say that we don't want any more workmen from anywhere at the present. Yielding to representations along that line some

months ago, the Dominion Government passed an Order-in-Council forbidding any artisans to come in from anywhere. Now that Order is still in force, is still being enforced, so that when people try to make out that we are hitting against one nationality under that Order it is not the case. We are hitting against every nationality, and for the reasons I have just stated. We all know there are more men in the city than there are jobs for, and as Mayor I am continually called upon in regard to this. The city is doing more work today than we would be doing except that we wish to give as much work as is possible at this time. Now what are we going to do if we are struggling now to keep those employed who are here, hundreds more are dumped in. We ~~are~~ wish to face the matter fairly, and we don't want them, and we want to say that just as hard as we can say it. We have called this meeting for the purpose of you as citizens backing up the authorities, because I believe that you believe as I do that the authorities on our Pacific Coast and our Member in Parliament and our citizens are united on that one question -- that we don't want this immigration in the Province of British Columbia (hear, hear). Now I am not going to take up any more of your time, but I am going to call upon Mr. Stevens to say a few words.

MR. H. H. STEVENS:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, it is not altogether a pleasant or congenial task that faces me or that faces you tonight, because I take it that the subject which we have under our consideration is one in which every citizen of British Columbia, and as I always state, every citizen of Canada, is vitally interested. I could approach this question from numerous standpoints, but I shall try in the briefest possible manner to get before you some of the facts in connection with this troublesome problem. In the first place, with your permission, I will touch upon the problem

as I see it and as I find it, and then will deal with the local situation as it exists in the city at the present time. I wish, however, first to thank the Mayor for calling this meeting together. I think he has done a very wise thing and especially in that this meeting is gathered together today without any political significance, in so far as party politics is concerned this is a non-political question (applause) a non-party question. I am not before you as a member of any political party. I am before you as ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the representative in the Dominion House of the people of this city and as a Canadian citizen (hear, hear) and Mr. Mayor I feel that we must get away entirely from making this question a party political question, because I know this, that of the men in British Columbia, practically all are a unit on this problem, no matter what their opinions are (applause). There may be a few exceptions, but these exceptions simply demonstrate the wisdom of the attitude of the majority of the people of this Province.

Very briefly, what we face in British Columbia and in Canada today is this - whether or no the civilization which finds its highest exemplification in Anglo-Saxon British rule shall or shall not prevail in the Dominion of Canada. That is very briefly, the question. Because in so far as immigration from Asia is concerned I hold, after the most careful study - I am absolutely convinced after the most searching inquiry, that we cannot allow indiscriminate immigration from the Orient and hope to build up a Nation in Canada on the foundations upon which we have commenced our national life (applause). In laying down that principle I cast no aspersions upon the civilization of Asia, but I impress upon you this solemn fact, that these two civilizations are absolutely and entirely distinct in every important feature (applause). It is not a question whether in theory or from an academic standpoint, or from the standpoint of scholarly study Oriental civilization is interesting or not interesting -- that is not the question. It is interesting, and no man who has indulged in a perusal

of the subject can say otherwise. The question is will that civilization or will those brought up through centuries under that civilization assimilate in a satisfactory manner with the people of this country. That is the great problem facing us today, and I hold that no immigration is or can be successful where it is impossible to assimilate and readily assimilate the immigrant (prolonged applause). This is the absolutely fundamental principle of all systems of immigration, and must necessarily be so. Let me repeat that, that no class of immigration can be considered successful unless it is capable of being assimilated and absorbed by the people of the country to which it comes and without any detriment to that country. Now there are many ways in which we can look at this question, the racial, the social, and the economic side, and I hold that in every one of these phases it would be detrimental to the civilization we hold so dear to allow any large influx of Orientals into this country (applause).

In the next place let me point out to you another very significant fact (Just give me your attention - there is a large number that could not get into the Hall and they are holding an overflow meeting on the street outside). There is this other very significant fact, that we must remember in Canada. We have in the neighborhood of 7 1/2 millions of people. We have undertaken a gigantic problem in Canada, the problem of building up a people which will do credit to the highest principles of the civilization from which we come. The problem of developing her natural resources - the problem of having a country with the high ideals that I have mentioned permeating every phase of society. There is no doubt about it we blunder in many regards, but it is our aim to be high and noble. In order to carry that out it is very important that the immigration coming to our shores shall contribute to it rather than hinder it. (Applause).

In the next place we have I say a limited population of

about 7 1/2 millions. In the Orient - at our doors - there are 800 millions of Asiatics -- and mark you I care not how high a value you place upon their civilization - it is distinct in all its features (hear hear) from that which we hold so dear. Eight hundred millions - the very least tremor from that source would unquestionably swamp us by weight of numbers. Some answer me in regard to that question in Eastern Canada and in other parts where I have spoken of it by saying that we are a virile race - that if we are unable to assimilate these people then we have no right to claim a position among the nations of the world. Why there is no people in existence that can absorb one, two, three, four, five times their number, and I ask you this - what would have happened if immigration from Asia had been allowed through all these years to come through the Western portals into British Columbia? Canada today would have been swamped with Orientals and there would be left today practically not a vestige of the civilization of which we are so proud (prolonged applause).

It is not so much a question of settling up this country irrespective of the type of people we have -- it is not so much a question of doing the common labor of the country, which some people so wrongfully advance as a reason for the admission of the Orientals. It is a question of what type of people we are going to have here in the next generation or in future generations. It is a question whether or no we are prepared as Canadian citizens to sacrifice the immediate advantage of material wealth for the peopling of this country. I heartily agree with you that unfortunately we have in our midst today men anxious to forego the privileges of building up our civilization here and a strong virile national life, for the sake of increasing their wealth by engaging men at a stipend which makes it impossible for the average working man to live upon and be decent and respectable (prolonged applause). Un-

fortunately I say there are amongst us men who are willing to sacrifice their country - men who are willing to degrade our national life - men who are careless as to how their workers live - simply for the sake of increasing their own dividends, but I do not call them patriots -- many of them do it unfortunately, but if there is a man within the hearing of my voice who indulges in the practice of degrading the labor conditions of Canada for the sake of increasing his own wealth - enhancing his own wealth - let him take thought of what the future holds for the children of the people of Canada as a whole (hear, hear).

Our forefathers came in here and others came in here and willingly and cheerfully suffered the privations of a rigorous climate in Eastern Canada. The history of early Canadian life is replete through years, and I might say through centuries, with stories of the hardships suffered by the emigrants from the Old Country who came here and lived and died without seeing comfort, with the hopes that they would develop a country in which their children could live in perfect liberty and freedom. What do we find - the immigrants from Asia almost without exception seek to come into Canada and establish themselves in the large and flourishing centres - picking the plums of civilization. I hold Mr. Chairman and gentlemen that in no single instance have the immigrants from Asia ever demonstrated that they were willing to enter into the frontier life of this country. (Applause). And so I say Mr. Chairman that this question is not only a question of whether we like or dislike men - that is a mere surface issue - it is a question of life and death for the national life of Canada. (.Cheers). And let me say further the threat has been made, if you refuse to allow immigrants to come in here from India, they [India] will bar their doors to you. I ask any intelligent man in this audience when have we ever asked the people of India to open their doors to Canadian labor -- never (hear hear) and further we are quite willing and satisfied that the Oriental people

shall shut the door to our labor. We are not asking for that right, that privilege, and we give you the right to close your doors if you so desire against Canadian labor and no one will question your right to do so.

There are many phases I say to this question. One of the chief difficulties that I have experienced in defending exclusion of Oriental emigrants, is that in the eight other Provinces of Canada there seems to be a general sentiment that the people of British Columbia are actuated by selfish motives. (Cries of "never"). They seem to imagine this is a small question and that we are narrow-minded. I have met this sentiment in all parts of Canada, but I also find this, that when the plain facts are presented to the Canadian people - whether in Ontario, Quebec or any other Province, that invariably the good clear judgment of the people of the Eastern Provinces swings around in support of the people of British Columbia. That sentiment, I say, is changing - the old sentiment is changing, and a new one is taking its place, and while it has been impossible up to the present time to get any active measures through the Dominion House which would satisfactorily deal with this question, it has been simply because of the lack of appreciation of its importance by the people of Eastern Canada. It has not been a political issue. It has been a question upon which both parties in the House of Commons have been very loath to take any action, and I say up to this present moment it has been impossible to secure any satisfactory or adequate legislation for that one reason.

Another reason is - and it is often advanced and advocated - the question of Imperial and international relations. It has been pointed out that it is not desirable to exclude people coming from a nation friendly to us in the Orient, like China or Japan, or to exclude people coming from India, which is a country under British rule. The international and the Imperial aspect is continually being referred to as a reason why we should not pass any restrictive legislation. I have

consistently and continuously pointed to this fact, that while that might be true, nevertheless it was impossible to properly deal with this question without passing some legislation which might be temporarily at least offensive in any degree to these people, and if it is a question of choice whether our doors are to be opened or whether we are to give offence, without intending to do so, if it is to be a choice of these two evils (so-called) then I for one am prepared to take the choice and the position of exclusion, in spite of what the results might be. (Laughter and applause). I have always stood, and I stand today just as firmly as I ever did, on that point.

Now I wish to refer, not in any party sense at all, but to a report which has come through - I presume from Press correspondents at Ottawa - regarding a telegram which it is alleged I sent to Ottawa. Now I will not go into it in its entirety, but I want to correct one or two false impressions. It is stated here that I sent a telegram to Ottawa in which I asked for militia to be sent to Vancouver to protect us. I never made any such reference whatever (laughter) never made anything approaching that. It is a rumor made entirely out of whole cloth. I am sorry it is made - it has a tendency to show that there is a difference of opinion amongst us when as a matter of fact there is no difference. (Applause). And then it says that I suggested that the Komagata Maru should be towed out of Vancouver Harbor. This is absurd - I never made any such suggestion at all, and I will fully show you before I get through the situation in that regard. I want to say that this so called despatch from Ottawa is absolutely erroneous. I do not think intentionally so by the local papers, but it has been taken up by them.

Now let me deal briefly with the local situation. We have in the Immigration Act, which I have in my hand, a clause (Section 38) and I will read it to you because I think it is very desirable that the people generally should be accurately

informed on this point:

"The Governor in Council may, by proclamation or order whenever he deems it necessary or expedient -

(a) prohibit the landing in Canada or at any specified port of entry in Canada of any immigrant who has come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which he is a native or naturalized citizen, and upon a through ticket purchased in that country, or prepaid in Canada;

(b) prohibit the landing in Canada of passengers brought to Canada by any transportation company which refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this Act;

(c) prohibit for a stated period, or permanently, the landing in Canada, or the landing at any specified port of entry in Canada, of immigrants belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character."

That is simply a proviso giving to the Governor-General the right to pass an Order-in-Council. Last fall through the influence of the British Columbia members an Order-in-Council was passed prohibiting all classes of immigrants of the artisan or labor class from coming into British Columbia, no matter whether they came from England, the United States or the Orient, and in every sense and in connection with every country that Order-in-Council has been enforced. Our Hindu friends left the other side of the ocean with the deliberate intention of testing the validity of that Order-in-Council. Now they are the only people who ~~who~~ have come to Canada and claimed right of entry in the face of that Order-in-Council. Just to illustrate my point, while I was in Ottawa I had frequent applications from employers of labor to let in certain classes of labor, - carpenters, or masons, or smelter men - urging me to ask the Government to make an exception of this or that, from the United States and from other countries. The Government have refused and I urged them to refuse in every single instance to comply with such a request, holding this - that if we gave way on some of these special requests then the value of the whole Order-in-Council would be ruined. So then we have enforced this Order-in-Council, irrespective - against all emigrants - irrespective of race or creed or color. On March

31st this Order-in-Council expired, and the Government, again at the instigation of the British Columbia Members, renewed that Order for the express purpose of meeting contingencies which we thought might arise. In order to make my own position perfectly clear I wish to say this, that I do not agree with the mere passing of this Order-in-Council. I hold, and I think I hold it in common with every member from British Columbia, that the Government of Canada - the Parliament of Canada - should pass legislation of a distinct and definite type, excluding Orientals. (Applause). Now we have held to that view, but let me point out to you this - that there are seven members from British Columbia and 214 or 15 from the rest of Canada, and the difficulty we have been faced with is to try and educate the people of Eastern Canada and the Members of Parliament to get our point of view, and I wish to say this, that I believe I can see a marked change in the feeling of the Members of Parliament from the other parts of the Dominion, and from the people of Eastern Canada towards this question, and I am also convinced of this - I feel almost convinced that next year we shall be able to get through the House of Commons a measure which will satisfactorily meet the views of the people of Canada. (Hear hear). In order to test the views of the people and give an opportunity to work this matter up before next session, I introduced a bill into the House of Commons this year. It is true it was introduced late in the session and I had little hope of it passing. I am not going to say that I had hope that it would pass. I tell you frankly I thought it would not, but I thought the people of Canada should know that we in British Columbia were going to stand pat on this question and they could expect that next session we would make a definite demand on the House of Commons in the form of a bill toward the exclusion of the people coming from Asia. (Applause). Now my bill provided for this and I wish to explain it. It provided for

the exclusion of all immigrants coming from Asia South of the 50th parallel of latitude. I am not married to the phraseology of the bill - if anyone can suggest a better - but I have canvassed the ground from every conceivable angle and that bill was drafted with a view of getting it through the House and not with a view of making a failure because it was unreasonable or gave offence. There was a proviso in that bill to the effect that it should not apply to any people or nation the Government of which had an agreement with the Government of Canada to voluntarily restrict its own immigration, but if they did not restrict their own immigration automatically the bill would apply. The reason for the introduction of that passage in the bill was to meet this widespread sentiment and statements constantly made regarding giving offence to the national pride of these people. We said we are not desirous of having your immigration. If you will voluntarily restrict it then this bill does not apply to you, but on the other hand if you insist upon violating the feelings of the people of Canada by disregarding this opportunity of restricting your own immigration, then automatically this bill will apply to you, and I hold Mr. Chairman that that bill would have successfully and absolutely met the situation. I want to say further that if any committee of citizens - if any person in British Columbia chooses to make suggestions of a solution of this problem, no man will be more pleased to receive it than I, and I can say this, that the Government of Canada today will be delighted to receive suggestions that will adequately meet the case. But it is an easy matter to say close the doors - the question is how are you going to do so and carry it successfully, carry it in the face of the ignorance of the people of Eastern Canada and the Mother Land. (Applause). I think I have made that point clear.

These people came from the Orient in direct contravention of two Orders-in-Council - the first is P.C. 23, which provides that no immigrant coming from any country - keep that in mind -

shall enter Canada who does not come direct from the land of his nativity -- you can go down to White Rock and any day you will find the Immigration Officer there turn back Swedes, Germans, Frenchmen who have not come direct to this country. Go to any port of entry along the boundary and you will find the same thing every day of the year, and I want you to grasp this question thoroughly, that it is not an Order-in-Council which is against any specific people, but against all. That was one - the next provides that no immigrant shall enter Canada during the six months between the middle of April and the middle of September or the end of September, and that applies to all nationalities. In spite of these two Orders-in-Council on our statute books, and as we believe according to law, this ship left India and came to our harbor and it has been proclaimed by our friends from India that they did it deliberately to test the validity of that law - not the validity in law but the validity in sentiment - they felt that it was possible by coming into this remote district that the sentiment of the rest of the Empire would be so overwhelmingly against us that we would be compelled to allow them to come in. Ever since the vessel arrived the Dominion Government instructed, and today the instructions are standing with the full concurrence of the Government, to Mr. Malcolm Reid the Immigration Agent, that the law is to be enforced. Now then the law has been enforced and is being enforced as far as it is possible to do so. These immigrants have been rejected. It might be said by some of our legal fraternity technically that they have not been officially rejected - that might be said, but it is well known that in principle they have been rejected. (Hear hear). The minute, however, that an order is issued formally rejecting them it is the intention of their Solicitor Mr. Bird to make a habeas corpus application and to force this thing into the courts, with what result? The sole object is to drag it on from court to court if necessary, drag it on through endless litigation, and the result will be that the immigration authorities would be compelled to suspend the

deportation or the rejection of these immigrants until the case has been settled in court. Now then there is a certain clause in the Immigration Law which is appealed to by many people and on which they claim that we have the right to reject immigrants irrespective of the courts. That is Clause 23 of the Immigration Act. I hold, and I think I am perfectly correct, that this clause when drafted was intended to prevent the courts from interfering in any sense with immigration matters. Unfortunately it does not accomplish that. If you will bear with me I will read this clause to you so that you will see the point:

"No court or judge or officer thereof shall have jurisdiction to review, quash, reverse, restrain or otherwise interfere with any proceedings, decision or order of the Minister or of any Board of Enquiry or officer in charge."

Now if it stopped there it would be all right -

"had, made or given under the authority and in accordance with the provisions of this Act".....

and so on, - in other words our clever legal fraternity - the members of it - claim that the court has a right to review the action of the immigration officers and to decide whether or not the action has been in accordance with the Act. They cannot reverse a decision in accordance with the Act, but they can say arbitrarily - your decision is not in accordance with the Act, we therefore reverse it so that - and here I speak with some hesitancy -- we have on the Bench in British Columbia today men who are willing to give a decision contrary to the general public opinion and contrary to what is the clear meaning of that Act. (Great applause). Some people say - why don't you go to the courts with your case. We are prepared to go to the courts if we can get a fair court to go to. (Applause). It is not a nice thing sometimes to cast a reflection of this kind, but there is too much at stake - every man knows who is backing up the claims of the people who are seeing to invalidate

this Act- every one of them knows what the intention of the Act is- they all know just as clearly as I know the intention of the Act- the intention of the Orders-in-Council is to restrict the immigration, and they know it. But there may be some technical loophole through which they can squeeze and it is that they are seeking to take advantage of.

Now then if that advantage is taken and permitted what will be the result. The result would be not only that these immigrants would land, but we are told on absolute authority and it is current in the press that the same influences back of this present agitation to enter have another vessel loaded and to come here with exactly the same intention in view. I contend Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that the procedure under which the immigrants are seeking admission to Canada today is unfair and unreasonable (hear hear). There is not a member among these immigrants but what knows perfectly well, as I have already said, the intention of the Act, and with no other people do we have a similar trouble. If we intimate to people of Europe-Northern or any other part- that a certain class of immigrants are not allowed to come into the country for a specified period they do not come, and if rejected they go back without saying a word. During the last few years we have rejected upwards of 5,000- deported and rejected- from the British Isles, and I do not know of a single case appealed to the courts. They realized that they were coming in in contravention of the Act and much as they might feel the hardship they went back without- as I say any appeal to the courts in this matter. Now it has been stated by some- why do you not just send this vessel back. Let me give you the exact position of this vessel, which is well known to those who are in the case. This vessel, which is under Japanese register, comes into our harbour. In so far as the vessel itself is concerned, and the crew, they are quite within the law. They come in our harbor and anchor there and pay their harbor dues and comply with the marine laws of the country, and

we have no right to eject them. Had these immigrants come upon a regular Steamship Line which had its scheduled sailings they knew that long since they would have been on their way back. Every day every boat going out takes back a very small percentage of the immigrants, and any rejected immigrant is sent back on the line of transportation of which they arrived. But in this case this is a chartered vessel and for the time being the treasurer of the vessel is in control of its movements and as long as they say this vessel shall remain in this harbor we are powerless to send it out. That is the situation our friends know that the Dominion Government in Ottawa have rejected this immigration they know that the people of British Columbia have rejected the immigration, they know that according to law they have no right to enter British Columbia, but they hope by a specious attack upon the technical interpretation of the law to get a stay in proceedings for three, six or twelve months until the case can be carried to the Privy Council. In this way they will inconvenience the Government of the country, put us to trouble and expense and put us to unnecessary alarm, but in the meantime they hope to get entry into the country and they will if this is done be scattered throughout the country pending a final settlement of the case.

Let me say in conclusion that I have absolutely no ill feelings against people coming from Asia personally, but I reaffirm that the national life of Canada will not permit of any large degree of immigration from Asia - that it is impossible for us to maintain high standards of living if we allow to come in immigrants of an entirely distinct type of civilization. It is not a case of racial pride. It is a case of actual social and economic conditions which it is impossible to maintain with two systems of living in our country which cannot be successfully assimilated, and as far as I am concerned I intend to stand absolutely on all occasions on this one great principle of a white country and a white British Columbia. (Great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER:

Before I call on the next speaker I have a letter here from Jonathan Rogers, President of the Board of Trade of this city, which I am going to read:

"Dear Mr. Mayor:

Owing to a previous engagement I am unfortunately not able to be present at the meeting tonight in regard to the Hindu question. I am, however, in hearty support of any steps taken to prevent the landing of Hindus in Canada."

Now I am going to ask Alderman Woodside to address the meeting.

ALDERMAN WOODSIDE:

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, this should have been given to a man of ability to-night- I realize this when I see the anxious faces here before me. Sincerity is in every man's face. I do not feel equal to the occasion of addressing the audience upon the vital question before us but I have a resolution which I wish to move and it will be seconded by my old friend Mr. Ralph Smith-

"That whereas the Steamer Komagata Maru has been lying in the Port of Vancouver from the 23rd day of May until the present date with a shipload of undesirable immigrants demanding admission into the Dominion of Canada;

And whereas it is the united opinion of all citizens residing on the Pacific Coast of the Dominion of Canada that the influx of Asiatics is detrimental and hurtful to the best interests of the Dominion from the standpoint of citizenship, labor and moral conditions;

Be it therefore resolved that this meeting strongly urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of supporting the efforts of the Immigration authorities towards the rejection of the immigrants aboard the Komagata Maru and their immediate deportation, and that stringent legislation be enacted whereby such immigration in the future may be entirely restricted from admission to the Dominion."

Now ladies and gentlemen I won't take up a great deal of your time. Our friend Mr. Stevens has covered the ground thoroughly, outlined the policy of the Government and outlined the disposition of these people in our harbor. Today we have anchored in the harbor of Vancouver a shipload of 350 men who have come to this country in defiance of our Canadian laws- we know that. As Mr. Stevens has said they had the knowledge before they left home in regard to the laws of Canada. We have here a country which we must protect, and I feel that this resolution presented tonight before such an audience as this is a very good omen of the intention of the people of British Columbia in particular to protect our Province and protect the Dominion of Canada.

This question of Asiatic or Oriental immigration is not entirely a new one with some of us. For the last twenty years in the Province of British Columbia it has been a fight- it started here with the labor men some years ago and was carried out without very much success. We saw fifteen years ago our white men driven off the Fraser River and the Skeena River, we saw our sawmills in all parts of British Columbia taken possession of by the Orientals. We saw our logging camps- shingle-bolt camps-taken possession of. We as Canadians have been backing off and backing off the map for the last fifteen years. Now we have before us people that are determined to back us still further. I feel that it is time that the matter be taken up to protect the people of this country (hear hear). Speaking as a representative of the City of Vancouver I want to say that last winter the City of Vancouver- to show the condition of the labor market- the City of Vancouver took care of 2,000 men and the majority of them were British subjects. At the present time we have in the employ of the city 600 men more than is really necessary to carry on the work of the various departments, but it must be done in order to relieve the conditions that prevail here today.

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We have women and children absolutely destitute here because their husbands and fathers cannot get work. We have 400 applications at the City Hall of married men, British subjects in the City of Vancouver coming there ~~xxxxx~~ day after day and pleading to get a day's work. Here we are with people coming into this country that have no interest- that have not brought in a dollar, that have done nothing but cut wages and hoard up money to be sent to India to carry on an education among the people over there of the conditions here, to bring them over- to pay lawyers of this country, who I am sorry to say I am ashamed of (prolonged applause). The Mayor has called my attention to it and I will say one lawyer (hear hear),- a man here in this country that will undertake to defeat the objects for which the laws of this country were passed and in defiance of the pleadings of the working class of this country whom he pretends by the way to be a friend of- to encourage those people to come in to make further starvation, further than what I have already said.

Now then gentlemen we talk about the conditions we have here- and we have brought to our attention Imperial reasons. Now this is quite a question for me to handle, but I must say this that I have talked in the Old Country and invariably the people there said it was up to the Dominion to protect the immigration. Now there is another question. In the Old Country I found that the people had a knowledge of conditions in British Columbia, and in several cities that I visited the very same thing came up. When I talked about British Columbia they said we go to British Columbia and your industries are full of Orientals- there is no chance for a white man to go there. The very same thing applies to women in the Old Country. They told me they did not want to send young women out here as they had to compete against Asiatics--the reputation of our country is rapidly going down.

Now gentlemen I am not going to take up much more of your time. We have 4,000 Hindus in the Province of British Columbia today and we have 350 more here at our door. They are not knocking as has been said- they came over here and said we are

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coming in without knocking. It was given out on good authority that there was another body on the way. We know that thousands of dollars of good British Columbia money are behind this great big scheme. We know they have the mill industry within their power. We have conditions before us today and I think it is up to us as Canadians with the greatest country in the ~~maxia~~ whole world, to protect ourselves and say they will not come in (applause).

Now Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen Mr. Ralph Smith a good friend of mine will second this motion showing that it is not a political question. I thank you ladies and gentlemen for your attention.

MR. RALPH SMITH:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, there are some questions connected with this case that are larger than the best interests of all parties. Party Government has done a great deal for reform- a great deal to strengthen the force of representative government of every description. I do not think that the time has arrived when we can do without party government. It is the best machinery we have, but there are issues that arise, national in their character, intensely acute as they affect the human race, that work for the obliteration at any rate temporarily, of party consideration.

Now I always profess whether I really do or not, to respect the opinions of my opponents. Of course I respect them best when they come closest to my own. I would be foolish for me to say that I have common opinions with the good Member for Ottawa in this city on general principles, but I want to say to this large audience I came here to-night unsolicited and uninvited by any plan except the request of the Mayor when I arrived. I was so suspicious that there might be interwoven some little political partyism that I thought I would come and take a look to see what was going

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to happen. I am here, ladies and gentlemen in favor of Mr. Stevens the member of this city, that no word has been uttered by him tonight that could be construed as having any suspicion of political partyism whatever (applause) and I heartily second the resolution that has been presented to this audience. One thing pleases me, however, very much tonight. I was eleven years in Parliament myself- I knew the difficulties of impressing Eastern men without a Western experience, with just exactly what these questions meant to the Pacific Coast. Year after year I fought the battles in the House and out of it in favor of the greatest possible restriction against every class of Oriental immigration. My good old friend dead and gone, Mr. George Maxwell, for many years did the same thing. For 20 years this Province has been trying to educate the people of the East on the importance of this question as it stands associated with the great interests of the people of the West (hear hear) and I am pleased tonight to hear my good friend Mr. Stevens say that after all it is a matter of education- that they do not see things as we see them- that it is utterly impossible to get them to take our viewpoint. One of the methods of educating these gentlemen is to have unanimity on this question in British Columbia (hear hear). One of the methods of getting the Eastern people to know that we are in earnest is to obliterate for the time being on this particular~~x~~ question issues that we consider important so far as petty ~~maximize~~ politics are concerned (hear hear). Another thing I am reminded of in the speech of Mr. Stevens is that the law against Orientals today is good. I was a member of the House when the regulation that Mr. Stevens has referred to in the Immigration Act was passed. It was placed there for the very specific purpose that certain important conditions might arise which have arisen in the city and harbor of Vancouver, whereby it was important for the Government of this country by an Order-in-Council to act supremely without the authority of any court in this country (hear hear). I am glad to know that my friend Mr. Stevens was generous enough

to admit the interpretation that the Liberals intended to be put on that Section. The law, Mr. Chairman, is absolutely clear on the two points. These provisions were placed there years ago, placed there to some extent by my own influence as a representative of this Province. Two things are clear--that circumstances in regard to this class of immigration, or any other immigration, may arise in this country that makes it imperative that the ruling of the Governor by an Order-in-Council could stand against any judicial consideration (hear hear) and I think you will agree with me that that particular occasion has arisen (hear hear), and if it has arisen and the Section of the Act is clear it is the duty of the Government this resolution calls upon to put into operation the laws already existing (applause) The second part of the law is especially applicable to the Hindus. It was put there to exactly meet their case, that no one could be admitted into this country that did not come direct from the place of their birth. That resolution has been there for years--that resolution has been successful for years-- that resolution has been known to the authorities in India for years. The men who have used their influence to bring about this immigration at the present time have known as much as you and I know at the present time, ladies and gentlemen of Canada, about the laws of this country, and ought not these laws to be honored by all classes of people without regard to personal interest (hear hear)? Is it not important in this country that when a Government and Parliament has declared that certain things ought to be, whatever may be the selfish personal interests of a few people that ought to be the rule and law in this country (hear hear) and if we are good British subjects we will respect the law, when a representative government in a British country says that things ought to be and declare it in statute every good citizen will be willing and anxious to conform to that deliberation (hear hear). I want to say to you ladies and gentlemen there is a species of anarchy

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in this proposition which would instantly be subdued by the people of this country if we had white people perpetrating the same thing. The law of this country says certain things must not be. The law of this country is being defied and the man who advises it-- even at his own personal interest-- is an anarchist in spirit (applause).

I think the voice of this meeting will strengthen the hands of our friend Mr. Stevens. We are all alike when it comes to the interests of the people of this country (hear hear). We are all alike when we want the white races to have sufficient opportunity to live (hear hear). We are all alike when we positively refuse to allow any species of competition to enter into the labors of white men that will bring about conditions that will degrade them down to the level of an Oriental (applause). We are all alike when it comes to maintaining the standard of British education and British civilization, and there is no such thing gentlemen as expecting any of these great results if the white men of this country have to be brought into serious competition with Orientals. As a man with public responsibilities I am sober-minded enough to remember the difficulties in the way of the Imperial Government who have to assume the intricacies, the delicate situation of controlling the people whom they do control, but I want to say this in answer to that and I say it feeling the responsibility of every public position in this country--Canada has no responsibility with regard to the management of business in India,--that is entirely an Imperial question (hear hear). No real British subject will go out of his way to make unnecessary complications but corresponding with the exclusive right of Britain to manage the affairs of India-- corresponding with that right is the exclusive authority of Canada to pass her own laws (great applause). Let me say to you, ladies and gentlemen, the strength of real British

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loyalty to the British Crown and flag consists in the fact that Englishmen, Irishmen, Welshmen and Scotsmen and every other countryman from Europe that comes into this great country realizes that in this great Dominion is authorized by Parliament of Britain to conduct his own business in the best interests of the country. Now sir just what we are asking for- we think it is a serious danger to this part of the Dominion that we should not be permitted to enforce our own regulations, and the object of this great assembly is to back up that intelligent resolution which is asking the only authority in a question of jurisdiction between Parliaments that could be decided by lawyers. The thing is absolutely plain and clear that if these people are to be kept out they must be kept out by the Dominion authorities. The Dominion authority has put the machinery in motion and tonight we get in behind the Member of this city and we say- "Use your influence and we are with you to get the authority at Ottawa to carry it out." (great applause).

MAYOR BAXTER: Ladies and gentlemen as there was considerable noise when this resolution was read in the first place I will read it again (reads) As there are many standing I am going to ask for a show of hands (Carried)

(Meeting concluded)