

(March 8, 1909.)

British Columbia.

By Mr. MARTIN BURRELL, M.P.

ADDRESSING the Canadian Club on the Province of "British Columbia" Mr. Martin Burrell, M.P. for Yale, Caribou, said:

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Canadian Club of Toronto,—I need hardly tell you how sincerely I appreciate the privilege and responsibility that is mine in thus addressing the Canadian Club. It is a responsibility to be here in the commercial heart of Canada speaking upon the great subject that is mine to-day. One must weigh his words to give them their just and true balance.

"Personally I dislike verbiage. I prefer facts. I like to get to the heart of things. Mine is a big task for a short time, and, if I am to touch even fleetingly upon many of the things I would speak of I must be up and doing without further preliminaries.

"There is a good, healthy progress being made in the mining industry in British Columbia. The production of copper in British Columbia in 1907 totalled \$8,166,544 or 71 per cent of the total output of Canada. Of coke and coal there was produced a total of \$7,637,000, or half the production of all Canada.

"One company in the Boundary country last year smelted 1,247,000 tons of ore and in the years 1903 to 1908 they paid in dividends \$3,508,630.

"We have hardly, after all, more than touched the fringe and with energy, intelligence and money there will be a marvellous growth in the mining industry of British Columbia.

"Now as to fruit growing. The first fruit tree planted in British territory west of the Rockies was in 1858 by Mr. James Douglas, Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Company, and later Governor of the then Crown Colony. The difficulty in the early days was in getting the trees into the interior. They were carried for 400 or 500 miles on horseback and their introduction was therefore slow.

"In 1900 there were only 700 acres in orchard in British Columbia, but it was just at that time that the people began

to realize the marvellous possibilities for fruit growing that lay in the splendid climate and the rich soil of the Coast Province.

"Tree planting went on very rapidly and there are now 75,000 acres in orchard.

"The first shipment to outside parts was made in 1897, while last year the total production was \$1,000,000.

"It is said that British Columbia fruit has no quality. Now, I have lived 15 years in the Niagara fruit district and 10 years out there and I want to dispel that illusion.

"It is not only the finest appearing fruit but also shows some of the best quality.

"For six years in succession British Columbia has captured the gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain.

"At the recent fruit exhibition in Vancouver in which fruit growers from Washington, Oregon, Utah and British Columbia took part the \$100 gold medal for the best 5 boxes of apples was captured by a fruit grower from near Grand Forkes in British Columbia.

"Also at the fruit exhibition at Spokane our fruit men won \$5,500 in prizes besides the silver cup for the best individual exhibit of apples.

"There are about a million acres of land in Southern British Columbia that could be used for fruit growing. Parts of it needs irrigation and about a million dollars is being spent on irrigation projects in the Okanagan Valley alone.

"As in mining there is also a certain amount of wild-cattling in regard to fruit growing on the part of real estate men who want to unload tracts of rock as orchard land. But there is much real solid progress going on.

"No one who has ever lived in British Columbia can fail to desire that British Columbia should be conserved for Canadians and for their children and their children's children.

"Now as to the Japanese question. It is only when you have lived there that you can grasp the true significance of it. If the industrial development and financial status is a matter of importance to you in the East, it is much more vitally important to the character of our social structure.

"Don't regard the attitude on the matter in British Columbia as local or transitory, nor as pushed forward by the labor unions. You have to look deeper for the reason for our attitude. The problem is probably one of the greatest which the Imperial statesmen of Greater Britain have to face to-day.

"Some of our people have spoken in too crude a manner on the subject, and have thus alienated, perhaps, the sympathy of the East.

"I agree with Secretary Root, of the United States, that Japan is a nation worthy of the homage and honor of mankind, and also that insults and bad treatment are the chief causes of war to-day.

"But there is justification for the position that we take. We must rest our case on fair, strong, convincing grounds, and I think that such grounds can be advanced.

"It is an impossibility for our people to compete with a race whose entire standard of living is lower than ours. The remuneration paid them for their labor at home is infinitesimal as compared to the wages paid to the white man.

"Then their people are as the sand on the sea shore.

"They have a lofty and stern patriotism, great courage and frugality of living.

"One of the Japanese Ministers said the other day, after reviewing the whole question of Japanese emigration to various countries, that they would stop the emigration altogether, but that is impossible. They have 49,267,000 people living on 161,000 square miles, and the annual increase in population is 620,000. Expansion and emigration must come because of this congestion. The tendency of that expansion will be where the financial rewards are the greatest.

"A fusion of our people with the Japanese is impossible, and it is our duty to try to direct the expansion eastward and not westward.

"Some say we should tolerate the present conditions because of the trade advantages with Japan.

"On the Pacific Ocean, however, the sea-borne traffic will eventually be borne in Japanese bottoms. They have an extensive system of bonusing which aids ship-building, navigation and also certain individual lines. The total amount of the bonuses is \$6,595,000. Their vessels are manned cheaper, too.

"Every day shows that, as far as their merchant marine goes, they will be well able to look after themselves.

"There are 3,000,000 Japanese in their own fishing industries from whom they can draw. In British Columbia there are 3,000 Japanese fishermen, so that Canada could not draw from these in case of need.

"The annual exports from Canada to Japan total \$334,661, and the imports \$1,377,303, or about four times the

amount of the exports. This proportion will always continue, for they recognize that final supremacy must come only from supreme power.

"Marquis Ito stated recently that all the engineering works in Japan were entirely in the hands of Japanese.

"The average wages in the silk industry are 10 cents a day, while in the iron works the wages are 10 cents and up, the foreman getting only \$1.00.

"The cry of Japan for the Japanese means not only that they will supply their own needs, but will enter into Western markets and probably prove keen competitors in time.

"If, as Lord Roberts said, the 60,000 Germans in England might become a menace in case of trouble, then a large number of Japanese in Canada would be a menace here in the same way.

"The tendency is to exaggerate the trouble that would result from exclusion. Japan has herself excluded Chinese workmen.

"The educational test and such half-way measures as are adopted in California cannot be a final method of dealing with the situation.

"We in British Columbia have a right to expect at least a close study of these questions, and we have, I think, also the right to present the case clearly and dispassionately."

"I thank you heartily."