

REPLY BY THE HON. H. H. STEWENS TO A QUESTIONNAIRE FROM
THE JAPANESE ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE, DATED MARCH 17, 1925,
FROM 329 GORE AVE., VANCOUVER, B.C.

Question No.1.

What do you consider the desirable and undesirable
features with regard to the Japanese in Canada?

ANSWER: The objection to Japanese Immigration to Canada has
an economic and sociological feature; it is not a case of
"superiority" or "inferiority"; it is one of "distinction"--
that is, in tradition, history, education, moral concepts,
mental outlook, and social ideas, the Japanese are distinct
and different from Canadians, and fail to assimilate.

Japanese have a proud racial instinct and ambition,
and carefully cultivate the same with the determination to
preserve their own racial type and national ideas. With this
I have no quarrel, except that I cannot support the imposition
of it upon the Canadian national life, as it prevents ready
assimilation. This ambition takes the form of propaganda in
the vernacular Japanese Press of the United States. Innumer-
able examples could be furnished, the following, however, will
suffice:

Editorial appearing in the "Shin Sekai" or "New
World" of San Francisco, in October, 1919.

"We should advance and not recede. To stop is
to retreat. While we push forward boldly the
enemy has no chance to form plans. What can
Phelan do? What can Inman do? WHEN WE OF THE
YAMATO RACE ARISE WITH A MIGHTY RESOLVE. THEIR
OPPOSITION WILL BE AS FUTILE AS AN ATTEMPT TO
SWEEP THE SEA WITH A BROOM.

Even if photograph marriages should be prohibited,
WE cannot be stopped from leaving our descendants
on this "American Continent." Even if not a single
Japanese woman comes it is not possible to prevent
the seed of our great Yamato race from being sown
on the American Continent by marriages with Ameri-
cans, with French, with Indians, and with negros,
especially since there are already 100,000 Japanese
here and 5,000 are born annually.

Supposing that we Japanese were prohibited from
owning or cultivating the land. Even the laws of
California are not forever unchangeable.

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THE REAL STRENGTH OF THE
JAPANESE WILL MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP OF ALL LAWS."

Also an extract from the Congressional records of
1920 being a quotation from a Japanese language
newspaper published on the Pacific Coast: "We
must send for wives, We must raise as many children
in America as possible so that we shall acquire a
stability and strength which no amount of anti-
Japanese agitation can shake. Land can be had by
legal evasion of the spirit of the laws. But with-
out children to inherit what hope for the future of
Yamato-America?

"LAND, BROAD ACRES SETTLED THICK WITH MIKADO'S
SUBJECTS, CHILDREN TO INHERIT THE LAND,
MOTHERS TO BRING FORTH THE CHILDREN."

Question No.2.

Under what conditions and by what means could the irrit-
ation and conflict between the two races ultimately be
removed?

ANSWER: By frank recognition on behalf of both parties to
the right of each to work out its own national destiny within
its present sphere of influence and activity.

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Japan's superiority, as an organizing race, coupled with their tremendous influence and knowledge of Oriental practices and temperament, might well be directed towards bringing about orderly Government and respect for law in Northern Asia, rather than inject into Canada an additional schism and racial problem.

Question No.3.

Is it possible or expedient, from the Canadian viewpoint, to give equal treatment to Japanese residents in Canada, politically, economically and socially?

ANSWER: Japanese residents in Canada enjoy infinitely broader and more generous treatment than do Canadian nationals in Japan. Japanese have untrammelled access to our courts with absolute equality of treatment. On the other hand, Canadians, in common with other foreigners, find it almost hopeless to bring action in the Japanese Courts. This is notorious.

Japanese in Canada secure title to land and other property with equal facility to native born residents. This is hopelessly impossible for Canadian Nationals in Japan. With but very minor exceptions in British Columbia (forced by the extreme necessity of the case) there are no economic handicaps upon the Japanese in Canada. On the other hand, the very conditions of life in Japan, make it utterly impossible for Canadians to enter into competition with Japanese in their country except in a very limited number of cases.

Politically, Japanese enjoy in Canada all the privileges of native born with the exception of one or two Provinces, one being British Columbia where the franchise has been refused. The reason for the refusal of this franchise is to be found in the fear that any expression by Japanese or Chinese nationals in B.C. would be influenced and directed from a racial standpoint rather than from a study of the problem itself. Furthermore, it is realized that a solid bloc of Japanese influence would result in a power far beyond the numerical strength of the Japanese population compared with the white population.

Socially, the Japanese are not militated against in Canada, certainly not more than are Italians, Norwegians, Germans, Frenchmen, or any other foreigner who has not become thoroughly assimilated, nor to any greater degree than is common in all countries in relation to foreigners.

Question No. 4.

What do you think about the trend of Canadian born Japanese? Are they adjusting themselves to Canadian standards and ideals?

ANSWER: Undoubtedly, Japanese are quick to acquire a knowledge and appreciation of the standards and ideals of the countries in which they happen to dwell, but I am convinced that they carry with them at all times a consciousness of their own racial ambitions which is the most distinct bar to their complete assimilation.

Question No.5.

What is your opinion about Japanese language schools which teach the vernacular to Japanese children about one hour daily after the regular Canadian public school classes are over?

ANSWER: I am absolutely opposed to the establishment of public expenses of vernacular schools for any group or classe. As a legacy of a couple of centuries ago, we have the great French-English controversy in Eastern Canada, one of the most delicate and difficult problems to face, and it would be sheer madness to erect machinery by which a similar problem would be precipitated in Western Canada as regards Japanese. No country in the world is more generous in its educational facilities to foreigners than is Canada, and the drain upon Canadian taxpayers (and in British Columbia it is the greatest of all) is beyond reasonable demands, and if anything, there should be a curtailment rather than an extension. I am absolutely opposed to this idea.

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