

THE PROVINCE

W. C. NICHOL

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RESULT OF THE COMMISSION.

As a result of the evidence secured by the Commission, appointed to inquire into the question of Oriental immigration into British Columbia, it will be admitted, we imagine, that the investigation was expedient and that it ought to be, and likely will be, fruitful of good. The difficulties which the Commissioner encountered, in reaching the facts, were not overestimated by us when, at the beginning of the inquiry, we ventured to doubt if Mr. King would be able to overcome them. That he has surmounted them, at least in part, is the best tribute to his ability and to his resolution fearlessly to discharge the task he undertook; but it is worthy of attention that it was only in the last three days that absolute facts were obtained, that the testimony was not either valueless or unreliable. In view of the evidence given to Mr. Gotoh of the Canadian-Nippon Supply Company, it is a fair presumption that previous Japanese witnesses deceived the court, that they suppressed knowledge which they should have imparted and affected ignorance of conditions of which they were perfectly informed. It would be placing too great a tax on our credulity to ask us to believe that the boarding-house-keepers and other employment agents, who appeared before the Commission and testified, were unaware of the fact that hundreds of their own countrymen who were brought to Vancouver, during the present year, were under contract. They could not help knowing it, and the fact that only one out of all the Japanese witnesses could be induced to tell the truth, is a significant commentary on the veracity of the people.

However, the evidence and documents, supplied by Mr. Gotoh are of themselves worth all the labor and expense to which the Commission has been put. By these it is not only proved that during the past eleven months some four hundred Japanese laborers have been imported into Canada, under contract, but that agreements existed between the Canadian-Nippon Company and great corporations in this province whereby many additional laborers were to be brought here during the next five years. These are extremely important facts; they are not only important in themselves, important as proving the importation of Japanese labor, but as indicating the dimensions which that traffic might have attained had not public attention been directed to it, as a consequence of the disturbances in this city in September last. If a single company such as the Canadian-Nippon could bring in and distribute fourteen hundred laborers, we may rest assured that such a lucrative field would not be left entirely to one business concern. And we have every reason for presuming that other companies were as actively, though perhaps not so extensively engaged, as the Canadian-Nippon Company. The rewards were too great for the traffic to be confined to one company of operators. We are not in a position, therefore, to say, how many Japanese laborers have been brought over during the past year, under arrangement with corporations doing business in British Columbia, but the presumption is not unfair that they have been in excess of two thousand. Nor is it an unfair deduction to draw that had the traffic gone on unchecked it would have

that Mr. Dunsmuir the coal magnate might secure cheap labor. That would be a serious charge, indeed, to make, and one that we do not think is justified. We are of the opinion, and have been so all along, (and it is indeed the fact), that Mr. Dunsmuir, in his capacity as Lieutenant-Governor, acted under instructions from Ottawa, in vetoing the Bowser bill, but there is certainly room for adverse comment in the fact that he should have shown himself so compliant to federal wishes when by being so his own personal interests were so highly served.

That the Canadian Pacific Railway was also a party to a similar contract indicates the necessity for some sort of legislation which will prevent railway corporations from constructing great enterprises, which depend on the public for their success, with utter disregard to public interests. The evidence against the C. P. R. was conclusive, but we do not for a moment believe that the Grand Trunk Pacific has not also been contemplating some similar contract, if indeed it has not already made one. It would be an insult to the intelligence of the public to ask them, to accept such a statement as that the Grand Trunk Pacific was deterred to employ nothing but white labor. As a result of the Commission, it is true, it may now be unable to secure Oriental workmen, but its inability to do so will be the only reason for the preference it may show for white labor.

The result of the Commission's inquiry has been to prove that Japanese cheap labor was being brought into Canada on an extensive scale, and that it was contemplated bringing it in during the next few years on an even more extensive scale—on a scale which would have produced all those evils which are bound to flow from the predominance in a white country of an Oriental population. The commissioner, in his report, we think, will probably consider it his duty to emphasize that fact, a fact that, in itself, is sufficient, beyond question, to call for immediate legislation for the limitation, if not the exclusion of a class of people whose unrestricted entry would threaten our national well-being.

MASTERED BY MASTERFULNESS.

The deplorable incident that occurred the other day at Portsmouth in which two distinguished British navy men, Lord Charles Beresford and Sir Percy Scott were the actors, was very disturbing to the public mind. Absolute confidence in the British Navy is an article of faith in all of us from our cradle. The British Navy is for England; first and only line of defence from invasion. It possesses the most splendid traditions, both in peace and war, of any service in the world. It had been a fond belief that the relations between its members of every degree were, still the same as those which had bound Nelson's captains together as a "band of brothers." The paragraphs in the newspapers administered a shock which was all the more painful because they appeared side by side with the buoyant and optimistic sentences contained in Sir John Fisher's Mansion House speech. Both Admiral Lord Charles Beresford and Rear-Admiral Sir Percy Scott, bear a well deserved reputation for very distinguished services to the State, and a feeling of sincere sorrow that they should be at such serious variance has permeated the whole of the navy, both forward and aft.

Although the two Admirals referred to are the only ones concerned in the recent incident, it is an open secret that there is no love lost between either of them, and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John Fisher, whose ex-

THE RAGBAG

Her Reasons.

The young woman with the firmly modelled chin raised her gray eyes to the chandelier. "I wonder if a girl wouldn't be just as happy single as married," she said, musingly.

"The rather unattractive young man with the convex forehead and the swerving gaze replied that he couldn't say."

"There's a good deal to be said on both sides, I suppose," said the young woman.

"The young man said he supposed there was just as much to be said on either side."

"I don't think so," said the young woman. "I like you in that respect. She likes to have things nice, and so do I, but she doesn't care about having them splendid. She says she will be quite willing to wait for a bachelor until Fred gets very rich. I told her I knew that would be the way I should feel. What do you think about it?"

"I don't see any reason why they shouldn't agree," said the young man.

"Of course, they haven't known each other so very long—not nearly as long as we've known each other. Still, I don't know why it hasn't been quite long enough for them to have a fair idea of each other's tastes and dispositions and look now their own minds. Of do you think they ought to have known each other longer?"

"It's been long enough, probably," said the young man.

"I think marriage is a serious matter and it needs a great deal of consideration," said the young woman. "I suppose a young man were to consider it too long he would be likely to lose the girl he wanted. She might not know that he was considering and get tired of waiting for him to say something definite and so she might marry somebody else. I don't believe I shall ever marry. I think that a bachelor girl has so much more freedom, and then—"

"What else?" asked the young man with forehead.

"Oh, I've some other reasons." "As far as being more independent is concerned, some married women have a great deal more freedom than they even as bachelors," said the young man, nervously.

"It would depend upon the man she married, I suppose," mused the young woman.

"Do you think?" began the young man.

"Do I think what?" asked the young woman when he hesitated.

"That it is going to rain?" "It might. It certainly looks a little threatening. It might be going to snow, though. Will you excuse me a little while?"

The young man coughed. "Tell me why—the other reasons are," he begged. "The reasons why don't think that you will marry."

"There might be many reasons," replied the young woman, "but I'm sure I won't unless somebody I like asks me."

By Richard Le Gallienne.

This English writer has been already represented in this series. He belongs to the profession of letters and is the author of several volumes of prose and verse.

The year grows still again, the surging wake Of full-sailed summer folds its furrows up.

As after passing of an argosy, Old Silence settles back upon the sea, And ocean grows as placid as a cup.

Spring, the young morn, and summer, the strong noon, are done and died for autumn's sake; Autumn that finds net for a loss so dear.

Solace in stack and garner hers too Autumn, the faithful widow of the year.

Autumn, a poet once so full of song, Wise in all rhymes of blossom and of bud, Hath lost the early magic of his tongue, And hath no passion in his falling blood.

Hear ye no sound of sobbing in the air? 'Tis his, low bending in a secret lane, Late blooms of second childhood in his

RALPH