

Will Canada Go Yellow?

The Story of Steveston

Here in little more than a quarter of a century the whole salmon industry — on what was once the most famous of all salmon rivers, the Fraser — has passed absolutely under Oriental control.

Inside the great canneries, before the advent of the labor-saving machinery with which they are not equipped, squaws (called k'ootcheen in the vernacular of the coast) and Chinks gutted, decapitated, and cleaned the millions of fish that the boats brought in. Outside where the river mingled its turbid waters with the blue brine of the Gulf, a great fleet of fishing smacks manned by hardy white or red fishermen harvested their profitable crop from the sea. The yellow man came. Older residents of Steveston will tell the visitor of how awkward the new-comers were, how inefficient in comparison with sturdy fisher folk whom they sought to displace. Then they taught their wives, and the smiling little brown women soon became expert as assistants to their husbands. Labor stormed and protested that licenses should go only to Canadian citizens.

School for Japs Only

As you alight from the car a near-by school discharges with its noisy horde upon the green. The ear is at first cheered by the grateful laughter and shouts of happy children. Investigation however, shows that the school is one for Japanese and Japanese only. It is a three-roomed school with three Japanese and one English teacher. The walls of the principal's room are hung with Japanese scenes, and pictures of Japanese heroes. The curriculum is Japanese, geography taught in Japanese terms, and Japanese history taught with a Japanese angle to world events. There is no instruction in British or Canadian history. The English teachers instructs in primary English only.

There is a fine English school nearby which some of the foreign attend and more would, had they the opportunity. The white tax-payers are rather set against the mixed education involved. Offers of a per capita grant from the Japanese organization to the school are refused.

Excerpts from "Will Canada Go Yellow," *Maclean's*, 15 October 1921.