

A PLAN TO MAKE CHINESE CANADIANS

IT WOULD BE AN INJUSTICE to permit Orientals to enter Canada, especially into British Columbia, we are told, an injustice not so much to the people of that Province but to the Orientals, for as long as there is so much prejudice against them fair treatment is not possible. But concerning the Orientals already living and working in British Columbia, it is maintained by a contributor to *The Canadian Forum* (Toronto) that their presence emphasizes "pernicious conditions" that should be attributed not to Oriental competition but to the "haphazard system of control" that characterizes certain industries, such as lumbering, mining, and railroad construction. Social legislation is needed rather than coercive measures, argues this informant, A. S. Whiteley, who adds:

"The story of Chinese immigration reveals the fact that the early efforts to reduce the number of these immigrants resulted in the imposition of a head-tax. The amount of this tax was increased from year to year until at last it reached \$500. The total revenue derived from this source amounted to \$22,523,921. It is my contention that in accepting this payment Canada entered into a tacit agreement with the Chinese, the nature of the agreement being that these people should be given the full rights and privileges of Canadian citizenship. The claim of the Oriental is moral rather than legal—a claim in equity. The responsibility of carrying out this contract has never been accepted by any government, and yet it is implicit in our admittance of these immigrants. I suggest that the millions of dollars we have taken from the Chinese should be used to create an Oriental fund. At an interest rate of 4 per cent. this fund would secure a revenue of approximately a million dollars annually. This amount should be devoted to the Canadianization of the Oriental peoples within our borders. A good field of endeavor would be the solving of the problem of the Oriental in agriculture.

"The mere fact that more producers have entered an industry does not constitute a menace to the Canadian standard. It is the competition of people with the lower standard of life that our farmers fear. The Oriental Fund would provide the means whereby this unfair competition could be removed. Agricultural instructors, preferably of the same race, could be provided. These men would aid the Orientals to enter the various farmers' associations and show them the necessity of accepting the marketing policies that cooperative organizations sponsor."