

Standing Comm.

**PROPOSED
ANTI-ORIENTAL
LEGISLATION**



**IS IT FAIR
AMERICAN
CHRISTIAN ?**

We, the Standing Committee of American Workers among Orientals in the United States, representing the various Protestant Boards and Agencies, note with deep regret the present hysterical anti-Japanese agitation, which appears to us to be without sufficient foundation.

We recognize that the program proposed by the Anti-Japanese League and others is far-reaching, and must ultimately include not only Japanese but all other Orientals in this country, and will vitally affect our future relations with them and with the countries from which they come.

As this question concerns not only the Pacific Coast but a large portion of the world, it demands the earnest consideration of all Americans.

The proposed measures to which we take exceptions are as follows:

Cancellation of the Gentlemen's Agreement.

Rigorous exclusion of Japanese as immigrants.

Exclusion of picture brides.

Confirmation and legalization of the policy that Asiatics shall be forever barred from American citizenship.

Amendment to Section 1 of Article 14 of the Federal Constitution providing that no child born in the United States of foreign parents shall be considered an American citizen unless both parents are of a race that is eligible to citizenship.

To provide such labor as may be necessary for the development and prosperity of the country and which can not be had here or secured from desirable immigration, it has also been proposed to bring in Chinese laborers for a fixed term of years, confining their activities to certain localities and certain industries so that they can not offer an economic menace to American labor, and to send them back to China when their term of service has ended.

In the light of the proposed program we maintain that the adverse criticism of the Gentlemen's Agreement between Japan and the United States is without foundation, as official reports of the United States government will show.

There has been no substantial increase in adult Japanese population in continental United States since the Gentlemen's Agreement was entered into in 1907. The figures usually published show arrivals only and neither take account of departures nor of the decrease due to deaths.

We are not in favor of a wide open-door immigration policy, believing strongly that immigration should be restricted by the elevation of the standard of admission, which policy should be universal in its application. We recognize that there are serious economic reasons for regulating immigration on the part of our government, but such laws should be made in all fairness and without racial discrimination.

The question of so-called picture brides needs no discussion, as the Japanese Government has already abolished the practice upon the recommendation of the Japanese on the Pacific Coast. The proposition to confirm and legalize the policy that American citizenship shall be forever denied to Asiatics, and especially providing that no child born in the United States of foreign parents shall be entitled to American citizenship unless both parents are of a race eligible to citizenship, is open to the severest criticism, being un-democratic, un-American, and un-Christian.

Our long experience in connection with the Orientals in the United States convinces us that their children born in America, are intelligent, moral, and liberty-loving, and are in every sense worthy of the privilege of citizenship.

The proposition that Chinese coolies be imported for a term of years and then sent back implies contract labor and a species of slavery abhorrent to American ideals which should not even be considered.

As Americans we protest against a leadership which is actuated by narrow and selfish motives. A question which is so complex and far reaching should be settled only after the most careful consideration and in harmony with Christian principles.

At this time when human liberty is at stake everywhere, and when the civilization of the Twentieth Century itself is threatened, it behooves America not to take a backward step in Democracy, nor permit a small minority of her people to jeopardize the highest interests of the Republic and the World.



Action of the Standing Committee of American Workers among Orientals, representing the Protestant Mission Boards and other Christian Societies on the Pacific Coast.

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Rev. and Mrs. William Acton, Supts. of Oriental Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

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