

## Student Activity Sheet 1-6: A White Canada

Frank Oliver was Canada's Minister of the Interior when he visited Vancouver in 1907. The following quotation is an extract of an article that appeared in *The Vancouver Province* on August 19, 1907, under the headline "I Stand In Favour of a White Canada". Read the article carefully, and then answer the questions that follow it. (The word "epigrammatic" in paragraph two means "expressed as a brief, bright, and witty phrase".)

"Let me assure the people of British Columbia that I have come with an open mind. So far as I am personally concerned I am unreservedly in favour of a white and British Canada. As Minister of the Interior, and in charge of the department especially entrusted with immigration affairs, my policy has been, as it will be in future, to attract desirable settlers, and to exclude all undesirables."

This was the epigrammatic way in which Hon. Frank Oliver in an interview with a *Province* reporter stated his views respecting the Oriental problem. Mr. Oliver arrived from the east this morning and is at the Hotel Vancouver...

"I am very glad you are here, for British Columbia, unless the bars are raised against Orientals, will soon be no longer a white man's country," was the comment of Mr. R. G. Macpherson, M.P., who was present and who went on to outline the conditions leading to the displacement of white men by Asiatic competitors.

Mr. Oliver will be given an opportunity to study conditions at first hand, as he will make a tour of Chinatown and the various sawmills this afternoon in company with Mr. Macpherson. Later an appointment with the Anti-Asiatic League will be arranged, but the hour has not yet been fixed. It is likely that Mr. Oliver will also visit Steveston to see by personal observation how the Japanese have captured the salmon-fishing operations.

### Questions

1. (a) Do you think Oliver has really come with an "open mind"?

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(b) Quote the words in the article that support your answer.

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2. (a) Who did Oliver think were "desirable" settlers in 1907?

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(b) Who did he think were undesirable?

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3. What would Macpherson suggest as a solution to the "Oriental problem"?

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4. Why is it significant that Oliver intends to visit the Anti-Asiatic League?

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5. (a) Why do you think the writer used the word "captured" when referring to the Japanese and the fishing industry?

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(b) Suggest a word (or words) to replace "captured".

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(c) How does your word change the probable effect of the line?

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