

**THE ASIATIC
DANGER IN
THE COLONIES**

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The Asiatic danger in the colonies by L. E. Neame

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The day will come, and perhaps is not far distant, when the European observer will look round to see the world girdled with a continuous zone of the black and yellow races, no longer too weak for aggression, or under tutelage, but independent, or practically so, in government, monopolizing the trade of their own regions and circumscribing the industry of the Europeans.—*My Charles Pearson in 'National Life and Character.'*

. . . It is difficult to conceive any question at the present moment more momentous than the struggle between East and West for the inheritance of these semi-vacant territories. Promises have been made without knowledge or perception of the consequence involved in their fulfilment.—*Sir Arthur Lawley, Lieut.-Governor of the Transvaal, 1904.*

UNIV. OF
CAMBRIDGE

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To the
Old Folks at Home

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PREFACE

IN the following pages an attempt is made to present a fair and impartial summary of the Asiatic difficulty as it affects the Colonies, and to justify the strong feeling which exists in the great outer areas of the Empire against this class of immigration. The opinions expressed will probably fail to give full satisfaction to either side. In one quarter they may be considered somewhat weak and nerveless ; in another they may be regarded as arguments in favour of a policy of spoliation and injustice. Upon this question it is peculiarly difficult to appreciate one's opponent's case. That colour prejudice which is reflected in the fourth article of the old Boer Grondwet may prevent the Australasian and the Africander taking an absolutely fair view of the Asiatic or British-Indian case. But the recent speeches of Anglo-Indians who accompanied the deputations to Lord Elgin and Mr Morley argue a similar intellectual myopia. Unwittingly I may also be afflicted with one disease or the other. Still the views hereafter expressed are the product of six years spent in

Asia and South Africa, and no one can possess a greater admiration for India and the Indian peoples. A decision against Asiatic immigration in the Colonies is in no way due to a lack of appreciation of Asiatic virtues—it is rather a testimonial to Asiatic capacity for succeeding.

To those who make a special study of Colonial affairs, the information given may contain nothing new. But there are many people who watch keenly the tendencies of the Empire who have not the time to devote to the somewhat laborious pastime of reading blue books and official papers. To these I hope the points emphasized will be helpful in arriving at a clearer appreciation of the Colonial attitude. Many of the facts have appeared from time to time in the columns of the *Empire Review*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Pioneer* (Allahabad) the *Rand Daily Mail*, and other journals, but the information is now re-arranged and amplified. For any shortcomings I must plead the difficulty of obtaining, in this part of the world, several works of reference desired.

Whilst this little record was in the press there arose a widespread anti-Asiatic agitation which supports many of the contentions set out. The storm produced by the Transvaal Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance; the opposition to Indian