PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
CANADA

Ottawa, 30th December, 1907.

Dear Sir,-

My attention has just been drawn to an editorial in the Victoria Colonist of December 18th, and a statement made by the Hon. Richard McBride in a speech to the Young Conservatives Club of New Westminster, and reported in the Columbian of the 21st instant, both referring to certain words said to have been uttered by me at a public meeting in Ottawa, on December 3rd.

In discussing the views and sentiments of the people of British Columbia, in regard to Oriental immigration, I am quoted as saying: "You have your views on this question. You are hostile to the immigration of the Oriental races. I do not care for your sentiments, and I believe you are making a mistake".

Had the Editor of the Colonist, and Mr. McBride, gone farther, and quoted the words immediately following: "but these are your sentiments and I am bound to respect them", it would have at once been apparent that I was misquoted, and that the words which were actually used by me were: "I do not share in your sentiments".

I would also refer to my speech in the House of Commons delivered the day immediately preceding (See Revised Hansard, page 61): "The people of British Columbia have certain views upon this question. I would not be honest with myself or with them were I to say I share those views, but whilst

I do not share them I am bound to respect them. We are bound to see that the views of all people in a free country like this are given respect to".

Yours respectfully,

Wilfrid Laurier

The Editor,

The New Westminster News,

New Westminster, B. C.