

and arguments I make. But I come from a county that is largely interested in the question of labor, a county, perhaps, boasting of greater resources than British Columbia, and, therefore, I may well say something when the labor question comes before this House. I am confident that any question affecting the interests of British Columbia will always engage the calm and dispassionate consideration of this House. We ought to consider this question altogether aside from sentiment, though I agree with the hon. gentleman who has just spoken that it does seem an extraordinary proposition that we should prohibit any member of the human family from coming into this country. I believe, therefore, that opponents of the resolution to-day occupy a certain vantage ground in this discussion, and at the first blush, members who had not considered every phase of this question carefully would be induced to declare that they would welcome with open arms immigration from any country in the world, no matter what the effect would be, so long as it should reduce the price of labor. But, perhaps, influenced a great deal by considerations that prevail in the county which I have the honor to represent, I look upon labor in a different light altogether; I value the laborers and value their work, and feeling that I consider any competition that is unfair ought to be and should be retarded. I feel, moreover, that if half the members who to-night are opposed to any resolution of this kind could only experience what appears to be the uniform experience of every member who comes from British Columbia, if they could feel in the slightest degree the terrible effect of this, what I might call horrible immigration, the expressions of opinion would be far more pronounced in favor of the resolution than against it. As I listened to much of the discussion to-night, I thought that although the representation of the Province of British Columbia has, to a degree, changed, yet the views of that Province in regard to this question have always remained the same; and I tried to bring the argument home and place the circumstances stated in the county which I represent, and I felt that in such a case there would not only be a strong argument in favor of this resolution, but I believe a reasonable argument, for I believe that the tendency of such an immigration must necessarily be to cheapen and degrade labor, and to lower labor all through the country is entirely a wrong and erroneous principle to prevail in the councils of the nation. I believe that firmly, and believing that firmly, I favor a very careful and calm consideration of the resolution which has been moved by one of the British Columbia representatives. I believe also that there must be a great deal more than is contained in that book, the contents of which remained sealed, even to-night, though the book has been produced, and that the mere production from the desk of the hon. member of that book had an unfair influence on the discussion of the question. We have not considered it if Congress has considered it. If an examination of the question is contained in that book, it does not follow that Congress has exhausted the subject. The circumstances of the countries may be different. Whether they are so or not, the principles adduced as embodied in legislation in the colony of Australia would far outweigh the mere production of a volume. I think the very fact that the hon. gentleman should have facetiously alluded to a book so ponderous as that, as a small volume on the topic under discussion, should prove to the House that the uncontradicted statements of representatives from a region, that alone can understand the influence, and I believe thoroughly, the baneful influence of such an immigration should lead members of this House to give their support, not perhaps to the resolution before the House, but to give a strong influence towards a very careful and dispassionate consideration of the subject, because we know this, that notwithstanding the conclusion which may have been arrived at in other countries, the very fact that every representative

from the only Province which has felt the influence of this immigration has felt it to be his duty to occupy the time of the House in asking that that baneful influence should be retarded and stopped. Feeling great regard for capital and knowing what would be the opinion if the laborers in Pictou had to meet the competition of labor which can be obtained for twenty-five cents a day, I hold that Parliament should forget for the moment that only a few members represent the Pacific Province, and should consider very carefully the principle involved in this discussion. I disagree, therefore, entirely with the hon. member who just preceded me in taking such a strong ground as he has done against this resolution—I admit at once he has done so ably—and I hold that this is a matter which should not be lightly treated, but given great consideration.

Mr. RYKERT moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

The following Report was laid on the Table:—

Report of the Department of the Interior for the year ending 30th June last.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 10 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

FRIDAY, 30th March, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

COURT OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS' BILL.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved:

That 900 copies of the Statements made before the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines of this House, for and against the Bill No. 3 for constituting a Court of Railway Commissioners for Canada, and to amend the Consolidated Railway Act, 1879, for the use of Members, and Rule 94 suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION OF PROCEDURE—CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENTS.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). Mr. Speaker: Yesterday, in some mysterious manner, incomprehensible to the majority of the members of this House, I think Bill No. 6 disappeared from the Order Paper to-day, and is not on the Orders of the Day. Its disappearance, I think, was unknown to a large number of the members who were not in the House yesterday, and I think that the causes of disappearance were not known to a great many members who were in the House; and, in order that it may again appear on the Orders of the Day, and in pursuance of the practice in the Imperial Parliament, and in our own House of Commons, I beg to move:

That the House do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Monday next, to consider further of Bills (No. 6) to provide that persons charged with misdemeanor, shall be competent as witnesses; (No. 2) to amend an Act respecting procedure in Criminal Cases, and other matters relating to Criminal Law; (No. 4) to amend the law of evidence in Criminal Cases, and (No. 30) to amend the Criminal Law, and to declare it a misdemeanor to leave unguarded and exposed holes, cut in the ice on any navigable or frequented water (all consolidated into one Bill) as amended by the Select Committee.