

recent months we have refused admission of Chinese immigrants under a general regulation. Now we are by this bill naming the individuals who may come to Canada.

Mr. CLARK: The effect of the regulation and the bill is the same?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend does not see that the general regulation can be used the other way at any moment. At the present time the general regulation is taken advantage of to exclude labourers. The government has taken that step within the last three months; but another government might take an entirely opposite line under that general regulation. The purpose of this bill is to do away with the possibility of letting in any number of Chinese labourers regardless of regulations.

Mr. CLARK: This particular section is objectionable in that it gives full power to the minister or a representative of the department to say what class of merchants are to be admitted. The minister has given us a regulation which he proposes to bring into force. It does seem to me that there should be no doubt in the minds of anyone here as to the meaning of the term "Chinese merchant." I think that should be clearly defined. I am not sure whether the minister's definition goes far enough or not, but I think we should define what a Chinese merchant is, and if the definition does not work in practice next year we can amend it. But it will have this result, we will all know what the effect of this measure is. If the minister is allowed to make regulations he may change them from time to time, or another government might disapprove of the spirit of this bill and by changing the regulations change the whole law. It really comes down to order in council government. It savours of autocracy—the very thing my hon. friend has taken exception to in the past.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I listened with much interest to the remarks of the Prime Minister and particularly what he said respecting students. I feel that we are all agreed on the advisability of allowing students to come into this country under proper safeguards, providing they are bona fide students who are attending our universities. Even in the resolution which I had the honour to move last session asking for the exclusion of orientals

it was distinctly stipulated, if not in the resolution itself, in the discussion which took place upon it, that we were not at all opposed to the entry of students. But we all know that there has been a great deal of illegal entry under this head in years past, and I am afraid that the same kind of thing has kept up. I have in my hand a telegram from the secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association of New Westminster dated March 24th of this year, reading as follows:

On Thursday March 22nd Chinese employees at Rainbow Shingle Mills Port Coquitlam struck work owing to a white man having got a job on a saw cutting twenty-four inch shingles, which saw one of their nationality was removed from and put to another machine to cut shingles of smaller size. Mills meantime closed down but expected to resume Monday with white crew working. At United Shingle Mills here as packer Chinese boy who entered country as a student one month ago. Association desire you be acquainted of these facts in view of present bill before parliament.

What does that show? It shows that a Chinese boy admitted as a student was found one month later working in a shingle mill at Port Coquitlam, and not only was he working there, but he was the cause of a strike in that mill because of the fact that his employer had the hardihood to change him from a saw at which orientals had been previously employed and put a white man in his place. That shows that we must be very careful in admitting students. I am sure the minister realizes that to the full and that the proper precautions will be taken. I took occasion to draw this telegram to his attention, and he has I think made some investigation. He has asked me to get him further particulars, for which I have sent, and, I am sure that when this Chinese is located the minister will take steps to have him deported.

As has already been stated, we have a large number of Chinese merchants in British Columbia. The hon. member for Vancouver Centre has told us about conditions in the city of Vancouver. I might add that since the figures which he quoted were compiled it appears that the orientals have been invading still further the business life of Vancouver, and at the present time there are something like two thousand trade licenses issued to orientals in that city alone. The same condition applies to other cities and towns in British Columbia, except, of course, that the other places being smaller have fewer oriental merchants, but the proportion keeps up. I know that in the city of New Westminster we have a great many oriental merchants. They are engaged in various lines of business and in almost every trade, and seem to be acquiring a very strong foothold.