

that money in the country, and they are carrying on a large business. The report of the Commission is here to confirm what I say. The Chinese merchants alone in Victoria import annually \$500,000 worth of goods from China, Japan and the United States, and they do a home trade of \$400,000 or \$500,000, making more than \$1,000,000 of direct trade for the Chinese houses. Is not all this business of great advantage, in providing freight and increasing the general flow of commerce? Is not \$1,000,000 worth of business done by Chinese equally as advantageous to this Dominion as if that amount were done by any other men? They are successful merchants, I repeat, and they are doing a great deal of good to the country, financially. Another word as to the moral question, because I have been astonished, after all I have heard, to see how favorable they stand in that regard; that, in fact, they are superior to the whites, if we are to judge by the police returns in Victoria. And these poor people have been oppressed in every possible way. They have been taxed for everything; and the Government proposes by the Bill now before the House to compel them to pay a tax of \$10 per head. I do not object to that tax, because in British Columbia they have probably enough white labor and could get on without them. After building the Pacific Railway and doing all kinds of house work that other men would not do, the people want to drive them away. I think, however, it is better to keep them out than let them come in, and not give them the same liberties which other men enjoy. According to the Commission's report they pay \$2,700 rental for the small rooms in which they sleep. They pay \$6,150 for ground on which they burn charcoal for the use of the whites. They pay, as interest to money lenders, \$8,400 annually. This shows that the money lenders have confidence in them. They pay for road toils \$13,000, that is for liberty to walk out into the country; and they own \$100,000 worth of real estate there; and yet when they earn that money and invest it, and cannot take it away, they are not to be allowed to vote—although they have become citizens and have become naturalized. From what I know of the right hon. gentleman, from what I have seen of the benevolence of his heart, I do not think he likes to do this thing; I do not believe he does it with a good grace. I agree that they are not a desirable race of people in every way, but I have seen a disposition on the part of this Chinese Commission to show them fair play, and if the Chinese never vote, that report is worth all it cost the country. I say that when you read that report, though I have not read it thoroughly, you will come to the conclusion that in California and British Columbia these people are treated in a spirit of injustice that no Briton should tolerate. Now, it is a difficult question to decide, but I think this House ought to give them a vote, when they come to this country and prove themselves such good citizens, in many respects, educated as they are, and well behaved as most of them are. No doubt many of their customs are peculiar, but I believe our customs would look as odd to them as theirs do to us, and that is quite natural. But I believe they have been proved to be a docile people, and as appears by this report, though they are penurious, though they are careful in making contracts, and close to a degree, after making them, they are faithful to the performance. They claim what is due, and they pay what they owe, which is no fault, certainly. With regard to their education, I believe the majority of them can read and write in their own language. It appears that their promotions in their own country are altogether based on intellectual qualifications; they are promoted for intelligence alone. They are not an uncivilised, an ignorant, a cruel or a vicious race. Of course, like others, there are some bad and others good, but the good have been lost sight of and the bad have been exaggerated. Is it fair to treat these people as you propose? For my part, I believe in a unity of the human race; I believe that of one blood God

Mr. GILLMOE.

made all the nations of the earth, and I should be sorry to see any man, of whatever race, receiving anything but fair play in a British colony. I find that, by the redemption of swamp lands alone, on the Pacific coast, they have increased the wealth of California \$400,000,000 or \$500,000,000, and those are the people who have been so much despised and maltreated and abused. I repeat, that I do not want to see such a thing happen in a British colony, in this Dominion; and at any rate, let us talk about the matter in a reasonable and rational way. Let us expose their vices, but when you contrast them in that report, which I believe to be true, I tell you they compare favorably with those Christian people, the whites of British Columbia. I find, from this report, that those high-toned gentlemen in British Columbia think it a terrible crime to use opium, and yet they license eleven Chinese in Victoria to sell it, and they charge them \$500 apiece for the license. They take the \$500, and they license them, and they stand up and condemn them as a race that eat and smoke opium. They allow them to sell rum, too, and for that they pay a license of \$50. If these people wanted to set a good example, they should tell them to keep their money, that they did not want it. But in this high state of civilisation, in this Christian land, they take \$500 and give them a license, so that as many as choose may indulge in that degrading custom. Away with such hypocrisy! They talk about their mode of living, but as a rule they are a people of cleanly habits. I have talked with those who employ them as laundry men and house servants, and they say they are clean, confiding and gentle, and I think they are nearly as honest as the white people, according to the records—more so, in proportion to the population, for there have not been more than one in the gaols and penitentiaries of British Columbia to three white people or Indians. As to the Indians, I would give them a vote if they became free men. But supposing the Indians had paid \$150,000 into the revenue this year, that they stood high as merchants, and in other respects that they were good citizens, would we think of refusing them the franchise? Certainly not; and I do not think we should refuse it to the Chinese, who are, many of them established there as merchants, who will soon own their buildings, who pay taxes and are subject to the laws. The trouble is that the white people could not compete with them in a fair field and no favor, as merchants or laborers, and they must come to Parliament to legislate against them, though they prove the best laborers they could get on the railway. I see by one report that they had some hard work on the rocks, which it was supposed the Chinese could not do like white men, and they got some Cornish miners to do the work, but it turned out that the Chinese, man for man, did more work than they did. I would like to be understood with regard to this question on Chinamen. Notwithstanding all I have said, I do not think we should encourage them as citizens, because I do not think that would be desirable. But as they have come here and invested their money, and while you consider how many of them have become residents, who have become merchants, who are rich, who are subject to taxation, who are a benefit, so far as commerce is concerned, I think they ought to be allowed to vote. I do not think they ought to come in competition with white labor, but I think the country would be benefited if we had some such men to do certain kinds of labor, which they can do better than white men, and which white men will not do. Nobody who reads that report will feel that that Commission were determined, notwithstanding the prejudices which exist against that race, to give the truth on this whole matter, and I regret, for that reason, that the leader of the Government will not consent to give those a vote who are really established there, who own property and do business there, and who have become British subjects.