

Brunswick, a case having occurred there where a great failure of justice took place in consequence of delay. The Bill has been submitted to the Minister of Justice for his approval.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I cordially agree with the hon. gentleman that this is a very good Bill. It will prevent a failure of justice in many cases, and will prevent vexatious delay in proceedings by corporations who do not choose to resist, perhaps, well-founded claims.

Bill read the second time, considered in Committee, and reported.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE moved that the House resolve itself into Committee to consider the following resolution:—

That in the opinion of this House it is expedient to enact a law similar in principle to the law now in force in Australia, and entitled the 'Influx of Chinese Restriction Act, 1881.'

He said: This subject which has been before the House on several occasions, and to many hon. members it is not new, and hence I think it will be useless for me to speak at any length, feeling, at the same time, confident that a question of this kind will be favorably received by members of this House. In rising to move this resolution, I do so with a feeling of great responsibility. I regret very much that the circumstances and conditions existing in British Columbia, render it necessary to enact a law making provision for the protection of our people against the encroachment of Chinese; but, Sir, the necessity for immediate legislation is both pressing and imperative. In my humble endeavor to place a few facts before the House, I ask the favorable indulgence of hon. members. The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, recognizing the evil consequences resulting from the continued immigration of Chinese, has repeatedly pressed on the Government of Canada to take some steps to mitigate the intolerable mischief which the Chinese have done, and are doing, to the people and Province of British Columbia. Public meetings have been held for this purpose, and the people there are as one man in their desire to prevent any more Chinese entering the Province. So united are they upon the question that no candidate, either for this House or the Local House, would have any chance of success if he expressed dissent from that desire. I have no doubt that some hon. members will ask, "Why are you British Columbians opposed to the Chinese coming into your midst?" I might be permitted to state that we are opposed to those people coming there, in the first place, because they come there as slaves, and are treated as such while there. The Chinese are brought there and sold in droves like sheep, and it is really amusing, and at the same time appalling to notice the manoeuvres of the Chinese bosses when these immigrants arrive at our shores. When a ship reaches the port of Victoria, for instance, with 500, 600 or 800 Chinese on board, as was the case during last summer, and when they are landed on the wharf, they are led away in groups by the different Chinese firms to whom they are consigned, and are taken to the Chinese Department, in Chinatown, there, and the name of every man is enrolled on the books of those establishments. They are taken care of by the different Chinese firms, and afterwards are sold to the highest bidder. That is done in this way: white men, employers of labor, knowing that a large number of Chinese have arrived, proceed to those establishments to ascertain for what amount they can obtain 50, 100 or 150 Chinese. "How much will you give," asks John. The white man will offer so much. The Chinese firm say they can get so-and-so; and so the bargaining goes on, the man offering the highest price securing the men. To make the matter worse, Chinese women are

brought there and sold for base purposes. And this is all done in British Columbia, under the British flag. Slavery of the most direful character is being carried on there to-day, surrounded by a Christian community and Christian institutions, and this slavery is demoralizing and contaminating the youth of our land. We are opposed to the Chinese because we find it impossible to compete with them. It has been found to be impracticable in all departments of labor and industry involving manual labor for a white man to compete with a Chinaman, especially in those light situations which have hitherto been filled by women and young people. Why, Sir, we have only to cast our eyes over to the State of California, and we know, from what we have heard—and possibly some of us know it from personal observation—that thousands of white men have had to leave that State, many of them with their families; and they were compelled to leave it because they found it impossible to compete with the Chinese. What did Mr. Sergeant say in a speech which he delivered before the Senate of the United States in 1878:

"A Chinaman will live on wages that will not support a white man and his family, being well provided himself on a handful of rice, and a little refuse pork, and desiccated fish, costing only a few cents a day: He becomes rich accordingly, to his own standard, on wages which would beggar a white man's family."

Now, Sir, that statement is perfectly correct. In British Columbia, to-day, a Chinaman can live like a prince on twenty-five cents a day; and a white man cannot live for less than one dollar a day. A Chinaman has only himself to support, but a white man has himself and his wife, and very often children. The grand object and move of the Chinaman is always to offer his services at a lower rate than white men are getting, in order to drive the latter from the field; but directly he succeeds in this, he immediately demands a higher rate of wages. We have had a little experience, Mr. Speaker, in British Columbia, with regard to competition between white men and the Chinese. I know of instances myself, where white men were engaged in certain callings, previous to such a large influx of Chinese, who were doing well, and making comfortable livings; but after so many Chinese arrived, and went into the same kind of businesses, these men found it impossible to produce the same article which the Chinamen were producing, for one-half of what they were willing to accept. The result was that these white men were obliged to abandon their callings, and leave the country. We have also had experience, Mr. Speaker, as to what these people will do when they are masters of the situation. Only a few years ago, a difficulty arose between the Chinese and their employers; and on the sound of the gong in Chinatown, every Chinaman who heard that sound, and who was at work, dropped his tools and ceased labor. Messengers were sent throughout the city to the hotels, private houses, and boot factories, to state that the Chinese were wanted in Chinatown; and every man employed in these places, as well as in the barber shops, restaurants, &c., had to go at a moment's notice, at the risk of his life, if he delayed doing so. The result, Mr. Speaker, was that our boot factories were closed, and those who employed these people in their private houses had to do the work themselves, for which I was not sorry. The hotels, &c., were treated in the same way; and the Chinese did not return to their situations until the matter was settled in their favor. This shows what these people will do, when they are masters of the situation; and to encourage any number of them, Mr. Speaker, to come into any community is simply to impoverish and demoralize it. Only a short time before I left for this city a ship left the port of Victoria for China with 500 Chinese on board; and I ascertained on the best authority that they carried away with them \$500,000. This has been carried on to such an extent that we find that fully one-half of the total earnings