

The Chinamen sends every cent he makes and saves to China. Anything that he spends in British Columbia is for Chinese goods imported by Chinese merchants. I clipped from a paper, a few days ago, a little interview with the inspector of the Merchants' Bank, of Halifax, who had been out on the coast. It says:

#### CHINESE BUSINESS.

The inspector here displayed a fly-sheet covered with Chinese characters, indicating the steps that the Vancouver banks take to secure the business of the industrious Celestial. Every sailing day of the "Empresses," streams of Chinese are seen going from bank to bank to get the best rates for a draft on Hong Kong. Many of these people have good deposits; but as soon as their savings amount to \$1,000 or upwards they get a draft, and off goes the hard-earned Canadian money to China.

Perhaps some hon. gentlemen say: If these Chinamen are hardworking and industrious people you ought to allow them to come into the country. Men who make money in the country and do not spend one cent of it here are a detriment to the country. They never assimilate with the white people. A woman has to descend very low before she would think of marrying a Chinaman. Not only this, but the Chinese despise us. Although we think that they are a lower class of human beings they think themselves that they belong to a higher civilization; they despise us and they are becoming more and more disposed to break our laws. I do not think that anything can be done to keep these people out of the country unless it is by legislation passed by Parliament. It is the belief of nearly everybody in British Columbia that the only way to keep them out is to pass some strict legislation which would prevent them from coming across. I believe that the best way to do is to materially raise the head tax that is now placed upon them. I would urge on the Government, as I believe it has been urged by other British Columbia members, and will still be urged if it is not done, that they increase very materially the head tax as has been done in Australia.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). The expression of opinion which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) is giving, I presume, refers only to the Chinese?

Mr. **PRIOR**. That is what I intended to refer to.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR**. Speaking of the capitation tax?

Mr. **PRIOR**. Yes, to the Chinese. I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether he cannot, before many days are over, tell us what the policy of the Government is in regard to this? I understood the right hon. gentleman to say, if I am not very much mistaken, that in a little time he would tell us what is his policy

in regard to this question, and if there is still time I would like to urge upon him that, if the Government have decided not to raise it, to reconsider the decision and raise the tax which is the only way to keep these Chinese out. The point that employers of labour cannot get cheap labour enough to compete is, I think, not well taken because there are now enough Chinamen in British Columbia to do all the work, that only they themselves can do. I think that these men who are in British Columbia should be properly treated, but there are enough there now and others should be stopped from coming. I find by looking at "Hansard" of the session of 1882, what the late Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald thought about these people. He said, when the matter of Chinese immigration was brought up by Mr. DeCosmos:

The Chinese bring no women to British Columbia with them, and are not likely, therefore, to be permanent settlers.

We know they do not bring in women. Still, the Chinese are there, and they are taking the place of white people, and this just shows that a very clever gentleman, such as that hon. gentleman (Sir John Macdonald) was, is not always right in his prophecies. He said:

Whenever a practical difficulty arises, it is quite in the hands of the legislature to deal with it in the manner in which it has been dealt with, after a great many years' experience, in the United States, and as it has been dealt with in the Australian provinces. At present every white man can be employed in British Columbia at good wages.

That is what has been done. The local legislature has seen fit to insert a number of anti-Chinese and anti-Japanese clauses in several Acts, but as we know, these have been disallowed. The right hon. gentleman, Sir John A. Macdonald, further on in the same speech, in order to show that he did not believe in Chinese labour, except to build a railway and then get rid of them, said:

If the temporary necessity had been overcome, and the railway constructed across the continent, with the means of sending the European settlers of labourers in British Columbia, then it would be quite right to join to a reasonable extent in preventing the permanent settlement in this country of Mongolian, Chinese or Japanese immigrants.

Although Sir John Macdonald wanted to allow them to be employed on the railway because they were not able to get enough white people in British Columbia to build the road, he held that as soon as that was done they should not have any permanent occupation in the country, and should be got rid of. Mr. Rochester, another gentleman, spoke on the question, and he said:

I do not know what the difficulty is with regard to Chinese labour in British Columbia, but I do know the people of Ontario would be glad if they had Chinese or other labour.