

to the admission of clergymen, the member for Rouville asked a simple and appropriate question which the minister was not in a position to answer. I submit that the minister should not bring forward legislation in regard to which he is not able to give clear and direct information, especially in a matter so important as this.

Mr. ROCHE: I understand that all clergymen are admitted under the existing Act.

Mr. OLIVER: The question was asked if the priests of the sect of Confucius would, under this provision, be admitted into Canada without the payment of head tax.

Mr. ROCHE: That particular point has not been brought to my attention. I assume that the word "clergyman" covers all clergymen.

Mr. OLIVER: Then the committee is to understand that priests of the sect of Confucius are entitled to free entry into Canada?

Mr. ROCHE: I have no information to the contrary.

Mr. OLIVER: The minister should not bring forward this Bill unless he is in a position to answer a very obvious question which has an important bearing upon the sufficiency and efficiency of the proposed legislation.

Mr. ROCHE: I am not sure that the matter is of such vital importance, but if the hon. member considers that the passage of the whole Bill depends upon that point, I am quite willing to allow the Bill to stand until we get the information. I can supply the information before the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. KNOWLES: It is not a question as to the passing of the Bill: we are in committee now, and this is the time for the furnishing of such details. A great deal depends on what proportion of the Chinese population comes under the heading of priests. For all we know, half the laundrymen and cooks in China may be priests. It is important that we know, therefore, what is the numerical extent of this class of the Chinese people to whom we are opening our doors without requiring from them the payment of head tax. The words "Confucian clergyman" should be defined before we say that every person of that class should be admitted free.

Mr. ROCHE: Under the existing Act the families of clergymen are admitted and in practice clergymen have been admitted, but owing to the fact, as I have pointed out, that in the exempting clause the word "clergymen" is not used, but only the words "clergyman's family," it has been decided to insert the word "clergyman" so that there will be no danger of any broader meaning being attached to the term than there is in practice under the existing Act. That point, therefore, need not delay the passage of this Bill through the committee stage.

Mr. KNOWLES: So far as we know, Chinese clergymen may indulge in celibacy just as the Roman Catholic priests, and it might be better to have some further information with regard to these gentlemen.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think the minister is wrong in saying that this will not give a wider opportunity of admitting Chinamen. At the present time, if a clergyman comes into Canada, he pays the head tax of \$500, but after he is here, his family can be admitted free. It is now proposed to broaden this provision so as to allow the clergymen to come in free. That is quite a serious departure from the provisions of the present Bill.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Is my hon. friend afraid of being proselytized by these clergymen?

Mr. PUGSLEY: For many years, the Minister of Trade and Commerce has been persistent in the laudable effort of sending missionaries to China. Now I suppose he is anxious to bring Chinese missionaries to Canada. Is that the reason for this change? I think some stronger reason should be given than has yet been given by the minister for making this change as to:

Students coming to Canada for the purpose of securing a higher education in any Canadian college or university or other educational institution approved by the minister.

Is that not going to create a good deal of trouble and dissatisfaction? When do students cease to be exempt? Is it when they attend common schools? Supposing a student absents himself from school or college in order to engage in mercantile work, saying, that when he gets a little older and makes some money he will return to college will he cease to be exempt? Many hardship might arise. Just at the present moment I am not prepared to say whether it is desirable to admit students without the payment of head tax. The present law is good; the payment of the