

Chinese Immigration

to a large number of Chinese to return again to Canada within one or two years. That permission was extended by P.C. 697. If I recall the situation correctly, P.C. 697 has virtually expired but by this clause we are permitting return to Canada for the further period of a year from the coming into force of this legislation. I really do not think that should be done, and I will tell the minister once again why. What I have said before very largely applies to this. I doubt whether many who have not yet returned will return but substitutes will come who never were in the country before. I want to assure the minister that we are not overstating the case in constantly referring to this ability on the part of the Chinese to substitute one for another in these various matters. I am certain that this will mean the entry into Canada of a considerable number of Chinese. A man will make a competency and go back without any intention of returning, but he will return in the person of another Chinaman; or he may go back and die, and there is always someone else to fill the gap. These are the things we are so bitterly opposed to. I see no reason whatever for this added permission and I would ask the minister, if it were not inconsistent with the legislation, and I do not think it is, to strike out subsection 3.

Mr. STEWART: Subsection 3 provides for the return of Chinese who registered out between April first, 1914, and March 31st, 1919, and who, under the provisions of an order in council, P.C., 697, passed under the authority of the War Measures Act, were accorded the privilege of prolonging their return to Canada until one year after a proclamation had been published in the *Canada Gazette* declaring that a state of war no longer existed. No such proclamation has yet appeared in the *Canada Gazette* and it is possible it may never appear. There were at Vancouver registrations covering 572 Chinese who left during the period I have stated and who are still absent from Canada. The present section is to provide that they shall return within one year from the date of the coming into force of this act. They have under the order in council the extended time of one year after the publication in the *Canada Gazette* that a state of war no longer exists, but in view of the fact that such a declaration may not be published we are limiting the time of return to one year after the passing of this act.

Mr. STEVENS: What form did the termination of the war take? Our signing of the Peace Treaty ended the war, but I sup-

[Mr. Stevens.]

pose that when this terminology was used in the order in council it was prior to the conclusion of the war. I take it therefore that it was assumed that the publication of a declaration in the *Canada Gazette* would be the method of declaring the war at an end. Undoubtedly the intention of the order was to end the privilege with the termination of the war. What we are really doing by this legislation is extending the period for another year, and I think we ought to cancel now absolutely the privilege to any that have not returned to Canada because certainly they know perfectly well that they should have returned before now, and they are only taking advantage of a very strained interpretation of the order in council.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We will let this stand so that I may make further inquiry. Section stands.

On section 25—Chinese sailors on Canadian vessels:

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does this section admit Chinese as sailors?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, it provides for the outward registration of Chinese sailors employed on Canadian vessels operating between Canada and the United States. The Canadian Pacific Railway in British Columbia have ships operating between Vancouver and Seattle, making a round trip daily, and under the present act a Chinese sailor employed on such a ship must register daily. The cost of registration being a dollar it is proposed to change this and provide for the issuance of a certificate for a period of two years at a fee of \$2.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would that apply to Chinese immigrants?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, merely to men sailing between ports.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Could not a Chinese immigrant come in and instead of landing on shore land in a boat and become a sailor and thereby become entitled to registration under this section?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): It would not be possible for him to do that because he would of necessity first need to be in possession of a passport before he could make application for the certificate.

Section agreed to.

On section 26—Arrest and deportation of any Chinese who has illegally entered or remained in Canada: