

be made. How has China met that? They have met it very fairly. In China, the article is grown to a very large extent. China has acted upon the same principle. They say, if there is 100,000 acres of land growing the article out of which the opium is made, ten per cent of that land shall cease to be grown every year. In this way the whole production and sale must cease, and the importation of the article into China must also cease. When one looks at it, one must come to the conclusion that it is a principle which recognizes the vested rights which the landowner and grower and manufacturer of this article have. We are not acting upon that principle, although my hon. friend has given notice of an amendment recognizing it to a certain extent—that is six months is to be given within which to get the opium out of the country.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—Who is going to take it out?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not know who is going to take it out, more particularly as the United States, which used to be the great consumer of this article, resents its importation altogether. Where they will take it to, I cannot say. They may take it to Great Britain, because that is a free trade country and all kinds of poisons may be taken there, and that is one of the advantages of the system. That is really the position of the opium trade to-day so far as we know. The difference is this. England recognizes vested rights. When the slave trade was abolished they appropriated some twenty million pounds sterling to compensate, to a certain extent, the owners of slaves. It may be answered that they did not do that in the United States. It is very true they did not, but the abolition of slavery in the United States was under circumstances altogether different from that of England. The southerners, who owned the slaves, were in a state of rebellion, and treason brings with it the rope or the gallows upon many occasions, particularly in former times, and they were punished, instead of being hanged, by their property being taken from them in the persons of the slaves, and there was a good

reason for the policy which was adopted. The United States never would have abolished slavery without compensation had the slave owners not been in a state of rebellion, nor would they have abolished slavery at the time they did had the southerners consented to lay down arms and remain without further fighting or further rebellion, within the union. Every one who has any knowledge of the history of that event knows that President Lincoln, although a great abolitionist, made the proposition that if the rebels laid down their arms they would not interfere with slavery, but when the southerners would not do that, he said: 'We must take the extreme view, and issue a proclamation abolishing slavery'; and under these circumstances no one blamed him. I draw the distinction between the action of the English government and the action of the United States in order to point out the difference of the circumstances which induced the one to compensate and the other not to compensate. While I am fully in accord with the sentiments uttered by the Hon. Secretary of State as to the necessity for putting a stop to the use of opium, particularly in the manner in which it is used, those who have been in British Columbia or San Francisco and have visited the opium dens will recognize the force of the representations made by Mr. King and would render aid to any extent almost in stopping the whole trade. But I come back to the main question again, is it fair and honest to prevent these people continuing their business without compensation? If the Hon. Secretary of State would impress upon his colleagues the views he has expressed here to-night, I think they would see some reason in it. The government should at least refund the money which they have taken from them. The loss on those engaged in the trade will be sufficiently severe by destroying their business and to a great extent the refineries which have been erected to carry on the business. There are at the present moment five refineries in British Columbia, two large refineries and three small ones. I have been informed that the Chinamen are making all sorts of propositions to take over the smaller ones. I am not advocat-