

Now, Mr. Speaker, that seems to me about as strong a promise as any hon. gentleman could make to an elector. This telegram was read with the greatest glee by all Liberals from one end of British Columbia to the other, and I may say that it was the means of gaining to the right hon. gentleman and his supporters hundreds of votes. The workmen were like hungry trout with their mouths open for some promise, and this telegram was the worm that dropped into them. I may tell the House that so long a period has elapsed without this promise being fulfilled that they are more hungry now than ever. The right hon. gentleman says that Chinese immigration restriction is not a question in the east. Well, Sir, it is a long time since he made that statement, but I must differ with him. It is only a question of time when it will be as great a question with the people of the east as it is now with the people of the west. I also remember that at a public meeting held at Vancouver in December, 1898, on a question being asked by Mr. G. Bartley as to what prospects there were of an anti-Chinese Bill being pushed through the House at the next session, the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell) stated:

After his first speech in the House, he had felt its pulse on the question, and found that a good deal of lobbying and personal talk with the members was needed; also a good deal of 'drumming' the question into them. Premier Laurier had, when speaking of the subject, privately said: 'If you want it you will have to get it, but it would be best to leave the matter till another session.'

Now, Mr. Speaker, that was in the year 1898. The people of British Columbia have waited one year, two years, three years, four years, for the government to do something, but as yet they have done nothing but disallow the legislation that the provincial government had passed with the view of stopping this influx of yellow men. It is now late in the session of 1900, and I was led to believe by the right hon. gentleman himself, who has twice so stated to the House this session, that the government intend to bring in some legislation. But as I said, it is getting on so near the end of the session, at least we hope so, that I feel it my duty to bring this matter up in the House and to find out whether the government intend to do anything.

I am not going to enter into details to show why this immigration is so detrimental to all classes of labour in British Columbia. I went into it fully last year and the year before, and on several occasions all the members from British Columbia have expounded their reasons why the people of British Columbia are so antagonistic to this immigration; and anybody who wishes to see those reasons and to study the question can find them all in the *Hansard*. I do not think that at this hour of the session I am called upon to go into

the details. These Chinese and Japanese are still coming into British Columbia by the thousands, ship load after ship load. A large number of them pass through into the States, but still a great many of them make their permanent abode in that province. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) some time ago brought down the figures of that immigration, and I think they showed that during the present year something like 9,000 had come into British Columbia. Hon. gentlemen will understand that every Chinaman and every Japanese that comes into the country makes competition with white labour more severe. As every one knows, they are willing to work for a very much less wage than any white man can do. They can live on one-tenth of what a white man, especially if he has a wife and family to support, can do under the most advantageous possible circumstances. I would take this opportunity of warning hon. gentlemen in this House of what will occur if the influx is not stopped. One of the papers in British Columbia, I think, the *Victoria Colonist*, stated that the representatives of British Columbia in parliament could do far more than they have done in training the minds of the people in the east to look upon this question in a proper manner. I contend that they have done everything that possibly could be done, both inside and outside of the House, but, there seems to be a feeling amongst the people in the east that the danger is very small to those who live in the east. I would once again say that every gentleman who has the welfare of Canada at heart ought to study the question, and see whither we are drifting. I saw in a paper the other day that in the city of Montreal over 200 Chinamen, the owners of wash-houses, or the employees of wash-houses, had been summoned for not paying the tax imposed by the municipality. You can see them every day in Ottawa and Toronto in increasing numbers. It is only a question of time when these men, every one of whom is hard-working, frugal and industrious, will drive white men and women out of some employment. I would like to bring to the attention of the House what I consider to be the best object lesson that has occurred in Canada since the first Chinaman landed. That is afforded by the action that has been taken by Mr. Dunsmuir, the large colliery owner of British Columbia, a gentleman who has been employing Chinese and Japanese in his mines. He is a man of great wealth, employing thousands of men, and there has been a keen fight between himself, or his colliery company, and the provincial government as to whether he had the right to employ these men or not. Restrictive legislation has been passed by the provincial legislature, which Mr. Dunsmuir has constantly fought, from the provincial courts to the Privy Council in England. He has won his suit at last. It was declared that the legislation was ultra vires, and he is