

we are concerned, any legislation must be for the whole Dominion.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I concur in the sentiments expressed by the junior member from Halifax. I think it is entirely inconsistent with the very fundamental principles of the British constitution that legislation of this kind should find a place on the statute book. I was surprised when I first learned that the Imperial Government had sanctioned the introduction of such legislation in Australia. I cannot understand on what principle it has been approved of. It appears to me a kind of confession on the part of the Anglo-Saxon race, that they are afraid of the competition of the Mongolian race. I do not share this fear. My belief is if they came among us, we, with our superior civilization and our earnest desire to teach them the truth of the gospel, would have a powerful influence on those men. We know they are capable of being instructed in our civilization. We know by the actual result of religious missions established in China, that in many places they have been very successful. The only one that I have any special acquaintance with is the mission under the charge of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, and I know that that mission has been and is in the highest degree successful, that with very little assistance, indeed, from the white people the missionary there has, with the voluntary aid of his own converts, been able to build a large number of chapels and a college, and the work has been so successful that thousands have been brought from their pagan superstitions to embrace the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, why men who in the language of my hon. friend from Toronto are, as far as our own personal experience goes, quiet, law-abiding and peaceable citizens, should be placed under an embargo is what I cannot conceive. I do not at all agree to the principle, that because one particular province has taken a prejudice against these people or supposes itself to be injured by them, that all the other provinces should be required to sanction a law so utterly inconsistent with the well understood rights which every human being has when he steps on British soil. I cannot understand why such a distinction should be made, and why it should

be levelled against an inoffensive and industrious people. I think it is a great pity that it has been thought desirable to place such a law on the Statute book. I am entirely opposed to such legislation, fruitless, as I presume, such opposition will be in the present case.

HON. MR. POWER—I am sorry to say that on the present occasion I cannot agree with my learned colleague. As British Columbia is the only province into which the Chinese have, so far, emigrated in any number, we are not in a position over here to judge as well as the people there, as to whether or not the Chinese are a desirable class of immigrants. Now, there seems to be almost an entire unanimity of sentiment amongst the people of British Columbia as to the undesirability of largely increasing the number of Chinese in that province. They have done good service in laying the foundation of what I hope will be the future greatness of a province, where the feeling of the people at large seems to be that it is not desirable the Chinese should come there in any greater numbers. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down said that he did not see any reason why the Chinese should be excluded. One of the reasons—I do not know whether it is a very cogent one—is that the Chinese when they come to British Columbia do not come, as white immigrants do, to make permanent homes there, and to become assimilated with the remainder of the population. As a rule, they come there for the purpose of making money, and after they have made a competence, returning to their own country. I do not think that that is a very serious drawback to Chinese immigration; and as long as we do not turn the Chinese who are in British Columbia out of the province, and do not impose any special penalties on them while they are there, but treat them as other inhabitants of the province, I do not see that they have very much reason to complain, if we restrict Chinese immigration. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down has spoken of the probability that large numbers of Chinese might be converted to Christianity in British Columbia. It is true, as that hon. gentleman has said, that there are a great many Christians in China. The Chinese mem