

down the Chinese walls of exclusion and weld divided humanity into one common whole, we should go back to abandoned prejudices and raise again barriers of color, race and creed. If there are intelligent, moral and industrious Chinamen, why in the name of goodness should a wall be raised to exclude them from this country? If we can prove that the Chinese emigrants, as a class, are in preponderating numbers, idle, ignorant or immoral, let us draw the line there and keep them out. But if there is one single man who is honest, industrious and intelligent, let him come into Canada, work as cheaply as he likes, enjoy the fruits of his labor and pass his life here. The United States have given us one of the best testimonies we can possibly have. I have a very little book here, only 1,280 pages, and as I am a rapid reader it will not take me very long to go through with it, and the evidence is in some respects very contradictory. In 1876 the United States appointed a Commission, consisting of three representatives of the Senate and three from the House of Representatives, to investigate this question of Chinese immigration into their country. They went to San Francisco and examined some 138 witnesses of all creeds and classes—men who gave them not simply hearsay statements, but their own opinions and experience and information relative to the Chinese. Their evidence is contained in this book, but I will simply give what I think are the conclusions to be deduced from that evidence. After having given it a very careful perusal, I think this House will consider I am justified in taking up their time for a very short space while I explain those conclusions. The preponderating evidence of those 138 persons is that the Chinese are industrious. There is no doubt about that. They give their employers every ounce of muscle and nerve and value for the wages paid them. There is, therefore, no reason to exclude them on the ground of want of industry. Again, this testimony goes to prove that although a good many are immoral and have not the best characters, yet in a business point of view the Chinese merchants and the Chinese laborers of the better class, are, beyond doubt, honest in their dealings. There is testimony after testimony of those who have had large and varied dealings with these people, to show that they are honest in their dealings. They keep a contract, they give the work which they promise to give satisfactorily, more so it is said than many laborers from other countries, who are in California and work upon the slope. The collected evidence goes to show also that the crowded state in which they live is a great evil that ought to be remedied, but the other fact is just as plain that there is scarcely a nationality which throws its hordes of immigrants in greater or less numbers into any of the American or Canadian cities, of some of whom the same thing cannot be said. There is also the evidence that while in San Francisco and the larger towns they live together in masses, and in filthy abodes, out in the country they are as well separated and as cleanly as any other nationality. The evidence in this book also goes to show that the mass of the farmers in California were in favor of the retention of Chinese labor, while the mass of the artisans in the cities and larger towns were directly opposed to it. It is also shown in this book that the Chinese, by their cheaper labor, by the labor for which they give good value, have been instrumental in building railways which otherwise would not have been built, in reclaiming marsh land which otherwise would not have been reclaimed, in taking up the fag ends of labor which white people would not take up, and thereby contributing to the resources of the States. Now, I think, these are the fair conclusions. They go to show that there is a mass of filth and corruption, mainly in the larger cities, where they congregate, and are driven to congregate, because of the want of community between them and the white people; but that, taken over the country and the smaller places, the Chinese laborers live fairly well, are cleanly, intelligent and industrious. Now, Mr. Speaker,

Mr. FOSTER.

pardon me for a moment, while I draw the conclusion, that as the Chinese as a whole cannot be shown to be idle and ignorant, but that as a large proportion are shown to be good and law-abiding citizens, it is not proper for us to raise this Chinese wail of exclusion, and say to those who are sober and industrious that they shall not come to our country. What can we do? Is there no other way of meeting the evil than by excluding them altogether? Something has been said with reference to crime amongst the Chinese. The unvarying testimony given before this Commission, by the witnesses examined, was that the proportion of crime amongst the Chinese, is infinitely less than that amongst the white people. We must remember that the Chinese in California and British Columbia are nearly all men, that they do not live in families. That is certainly an objection to them. In considering the ratio of crime between Chinese and white people, we must remember that the latter have families; there are children, older boys and girls and women amongst them who are less given to criminality, and when we consider this difference it will be found that the crime amongst white people is comparatively much greater than it is amongst the Chinese. What, then, are we to do? It does seem to me something might be done in this respect. Let the people of British Columbia mitigate this evil by internal methods. If the Chinese crowd together too much in large centres, let a law be passed which will limit the number living in a certain quarter. If they violate the laws of health, do you mean to say that the Province of British Columbia, aided, if necessary, by the resources of this Dominion, cannot compel them to obey sanitary laws? If there are immoral places established by Chinese, do you mean to say the resources of British Columbia, aided, if necessary, by the resources of the Dominion, cannot clear those places away? Let these internal remedies be applied by the Province itself, aided, if necessary, by this Dominion for a few years, and if they do not secure the alleviation of these evils I shall sadly have miscalculated the power of these remedial agents. Then I think something else like this might be done. I am young in this matter, there are older heads here, who know more about the legal intricacies involved; but it does seem to me that if a bad class of people come here amongst these Chinese they might be weeded out. It is said they are slaves. I do not think that would hold from the evidence taken before the Commission. They come out under contract, agreeing to pay their passages when they come to this country, and their passages are the first lien upon the wages they earn here. That is about the kind of slave labor they perform according to the evidence taken before this Commission. Might there not be some supervision exercised over the class of immigrants who come out from China by having immigration inspectors at the ports of embarkation in China, which, I believe, are but few, which inspectors shall make some sort of arrangement with the companies who bring them out, and so exercise a supervision under which only the better class will be allowed to come? Mr. Speaker, I do wish that something might be done to settle this question permanently, and to alleviate what, I believe, is a grievance to the people of British Columbia, and which, in its present form, is weighing somewhat heavily upon the peace and prosperity of that country.

Mr. TUPPER. Since this debate has commenced I have been strongly impressed with the idea that the people of British Columbia are laboring under a grievance. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down has made a very forcible speech, and we all know that when he speaks upon any subject he displays a thorough knowledge of the subject to an extraordinary degree. I am well aware that in speaking upon a subject that has been so well considered by other hon. gentlemen I should be careful in the statements