

master; that the white man came and took away his property; that the Chinaman should not vote, but that the Indian should vote; and instead of a short discussion, as we shall have now, we would have been here seven or eight days on that subject. The hon. members opposite cannot be consistent for a single moment. They have taken up the case of the Chinaman. They know he is not a British subject; that he has no affection for any other country than China. They know that Chinamen have no geography but that of China, that they teach their children no heaven but a Chinese heaven, and yet hon. gentlemen would give a Chinaman a right to vote and withhold it from the Indian.

Mr. GILLMOR. I am surprised to hear the hon. gentleman make this tirade against the Chinese. I believe they have just as good a right to wear a pig tail as my hon. friend has to wear a bald head.

Mr. WOODWORTH. I rise to a question of order. If this discussion is allowed, where these kind of personalities are indulged in, we shall be led on to talk of blear, sunken eyes, of a cadaverous countenance, and all that sort of thing, and the House will become a bear garden; all because some hon. gentlemen, as you do, Sir, and many other hon. gentlemen in this House, happen to have a little bald place on the top of their head, showing there is some brains there.

Mr. GILLMOR. If it is no disqualification for citizenship for a man to have a bald head, I do not see why it should be a disqualification for a man to wear a pig tail. I have read a great deal about the Chinese of British Columbia, and I think the Government have done a good thing to this country, whether they get the Chinese vote or not, by sending that Commission and getting information with regard to the habits of those people. I think any man who has looked over that report will come to a different conclusion with regard to the Chinese than my hon. friend from King's, N. S. (Mr. Woodworth), has come to. I do not think myself they are the most desirable class of citizens, but we have them here and they have been a great service to this country. They have been the means of enriching this country. They were welcomed into the United States with open arms, and they have been of great service on the Pacific coast when there was a scarcity of white labor. They used to walk in the Fourth of July procession, but ten years after that, when they came into competition with the workmen, they were no longer allowed to walk in that procession. No doubt, prejudices exist against the Chinese in British Columbia. We have heard hon. members from that Province talk about the degradation of the Chinese. There was one hon. gentleman, Mr. Bunster, who talked in this way, and he was a judge of morals; he was a judge of qualifications that men ought to have to become citizens. I repeat, I do not think they are a desirable class of persons, but I think that, as British subjects, in British colonies, we ought to show them fair play. They have been of great service in the building of the Pacific Railway; they are doing good work now on the Pacific slope, in redeeming waste lands, and doing work white men would not do. They have been the means of enriching the United States on the Pacific coast, and British Columbia, to a very great extent. And now we talk about comparing the Chinese with the Indians. You had better compare their civilisation with your own. They were a civilised race when your ancestors were barbarians. They have one kind of civilisation, one sort of habits, and you have another; but they were a highly civilised people, and they could read and write when your ancestors could neither read nor write, and were barbarians. I am not anxious that they should be encouraged to come here, because it will take a long time to assimilate them. They have had no chance to assimilate. What chance have they had to assimilate with other people when they have been murdered, shot down like dogs, and that in a civilised

and christian country? What an example of our educated civilization have we shown to these Chinese. Look at this report of the Chinese Commission. We have heard much said about their morals. Read the report, and you will see how they stand in proportion to the number of white men sent to gaol and to the penitentiaries. I have lost my notes, but you will see that two white men have been sent to the penitentiary in British Columbia, as against one Chinaman, and Indians have been sent in greater numbers. We have been talking about the Chinese for eleven or twelve years, and yet I am afraid few hon. members have read the report of this Commission—I have not read it thoroughly myself. This is the first time the Chinese have had a chance of having their case made known. I have heard the leader of the Government express his sentiments, not very fully, it is true, but I have heard him say enough to show that he was disposed to give those people fair play. Let hon. members look at the financial aspect of this question. The amount of business done in British Columbia by the Chinese amounts to over \$1,320,000 a year. They pay revenue into the Treasury to the amount of \$162,300. Compare them with the Indians, with whom I also sympathise. Chinese merchants in California and British Columbia, according to this report, stand A 1. Their merchants are capable, honorable men, who are ready to meet their obligations. I think that we, as Britons and lovers of fair play, should look at this question fully. I do not say we should encourage them to come among us, because it would take a long time for them to become assimilated with us, and I do not know that it is desirable. But we find them erecting large buildings in Victoria, investing in real estate, and proving of great advantage to the business of that country. Much is said as to their cheap way of living. If they live on 1 cent a day it is no crime. But the truth is, they live like other people. In order to try to starve them we have heavily taxed their food, which is principally rice; we have put 60 per cent. on that article, 2½ cents on a quantity of rice worth 4 cents. Flour can now be bought at \$2 or \$3 per 100 pounds, and they are now using flour, and are having as good food, perhaps, as some of those who are talking so much about them. And they are able to procure it, because they are industrious and prudent. It is said that they take their money away with them. The report goes to show that the Chinese laborer earns about \$300 a year, and that it costs him from \$250 to \$275 to live; so he could not take more than \$30 or \$40 away. They do not, therefore, take their money out of the country. Then some hon. gentlemen complain because they take their ashes and bones away. Who cares? We do not know the reasons for it. Perhaps, if we understood their religion and their family ideas, we would have a different idea with respect to it. This report says they revere their ancestors, and do not forget them. That is one part of their religion. If we had a little more love of home and relatives we would be all the better, and our civilisation is not quite up to theirs in that respect. It is merely the difference between Eastern and western civilization. Since the Chinese have been in British Columbia they have been more moral and industrious than the white population, which we hear so much about. If the Chinese had had votes we would not have heard the members from British Columbia railing about them during twelve years. If the Commission's report had backed up and confirmed the statements made by those hon. gentlemen, they would have been very ready to have risen in their places and read it. If it would not occupy too much time, I would read the report to the House myself. It shows that the Chinese compare favorably with whites, even in a moral aspect. The Chinese are successful merchants and good laborers. They have benefited the country by giving cheap labor. They have left the product of their labor in the country, and they have taken their money and done what they liked with it. But in reality they have spent