

that it would be wise to adopt such a policy in view of the scarcity of labour.

Mr. KNOWLES: Will the minister tell us the provisions of the present legislation, and what changes are made by this measure? I understood students were admitted free heretofore?

Mr. ROCHE: No. I explained the matter when the Bill was read the first time. At present students are admitted into Canada by paying a head tax of \$500, but upon producing proof of having attended an educational institute recognized in Canada, they are refunded the head tax when leaving the country.

Considerable objection to the payment of the head tax has been made on behalf of Chinese students entering Canada. Chinese students are allowed free entry into the United States for the purpose of attending educational institutions. Many of these students, having had the benefit of the educational institutions of the United States, become missionaries for that country in the commercial world. At the earnest request made by quite a number of persons in Canada during the last few years, we have decided to include Chinese students in the class exempted from the head tax. In the existing Act, clergymen are not specifically included in the class exempted; this, I believe, was an oversight, because clergymen's families have been admitted free of head tax. We are now, therefore, specifically mentioning clergymen, as well as students, as exempt. Our practice in the past has been to collect a head tax upon the entry of Chinese students into Canada, the amount of the tax being refunded upon the production of satisfactory evidence of attendance at Canadian educational institutions.

Mr. KNOWLES: Does the department now admit the sons of resident Chinese without the payment of head tax?

Mr. ROCHE: Yes.

Mr. KNOWLES: I understand that sons of Chinese restaurant keepers have to pay the head tax, while sons of Chinese merchants are admitted free.

Mr. ROCHE: If they come in for any purpose other than that of attending educational institutions, the head tax is imposed.

Mr. KNOWLES: I believe that a distinction is drawn between the sons of restaurant keepers and the sons of merchants.

Mr. ROCHE: The Act provides:

[Mr. Roche.]

Every person of Chinese origin, irrespective of allegiance, shall pay into the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, on entering Canada, at the port or place of entry, a tax of five hundred dollars, except the following persons, who shall be exempt from such payment, that is to say:

(a) The members of the diplomatic corps, or other government representatives, their suites and their servants, and consuls and consular agents;

(b) The children born in Canada of parents of Chinese origin and who have left Canada for educational or other purposes, on substantiating their identity to the satisfaction of the controller at the port or place where they seek to enter on their return;

(c) Merchants, their wives and children, the wives and children of clergymen—

It will be observed that the Act does not mention clergymen, and that is why I am making provision for that in the present Act. The section continues:

—tourists, men of science and students, who shall substantiate their status to the satisfaction of the controller, subject to the approval of the minister, or who are bearers of certificates of identity, or other similar documents issued by the Government or by a recognized official or representative of the Government whose subjects they are, specifying their occupation and their object in coming into Canada.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Would the provisions relating to clergymen include those Chinese clergymen who teach the religion of Confucius?

Mr. ROCHE: I am not confident as to that. I should think that it includes all recognized clergymen.

Mr. OLIVER: The purpose of the existing Act is to keep out of Canada people of Chinese origin. I have not heard the minister give any good reason why the proposed amendment with regard to Chinese students should be made. Such a suggestion was made when the original Bill was before the House, but it was then considered, in view of the difficulty which would probably arise in enforcing the Act according to its intent, that it was better not to leave such a loophole. Accordingly it was provided that Chinese persons who desired to avail themselves of the advantages of education in Canada should comply with the law respecting the admission of Chinese, and that, upon satisfactory proof of their having availed themselves of those advantages, their money would be returned. While under present circumstances this question is not as pressing as it was when the original Act was passed, I submit that this is not the time to make alterations in the letter, spirit or principle of the Act without good and sufficient cause, which, I submit, in this case has not been shown. As