

Session, I made it my business to see Mr. Onderdonk. I put to him this question: Is it necessary to induce any more white people to come to British Columbia to work on your contract? He said: No; I have all the men I want, with the exception of first-class mechanics. I can give employment to quite a number of first-class mechanics, but as to other labour, I have all I want. I say we have enough labour in British Columbia to build all the railways we shall require for the next twenty years. Moreover, as I stated in the House the other day, I received a letter only a few days ago from one of the largest employers of labour in the Province, and he said this: I am sorry to say there are a large number of men walking about without being able to find employment. That is a very sad state of affairs; and yet we are told that it is necessary to allow those Chinese to come into the country—those slaves who are bought in China and consigned to Chinese companies in British Columbia, just the same as you consign a piece of merchandise, and after they arrive in the Province they are sold to the highest bidder. We are told that it is absolutely necessary still to allow those slaves to come into British Columbia, and shut out the white men, who have their wives and children to feed, and clothe, and educate, and public and religious institutions to support. These slaves have no wives, they have no children and no churches to support. Every dollar they make, with the exception of a few cents required to maintain their miserable existence, they take back with them to China; and it is only a matter of a short time before they accumulate a certain sum of money; they then leave British Columbia, and in their place comes another batch of slaves to do the same thing. It is no wonder that the Executive Council of the Provincial Government have constantly passed Orders in Council requesting the Dominion Government to pass some restrictive measure to relieve the people of that Province from the monstrous evils to which they are subjected. In view of these facts, it is a serious question, and one which cannot any longer be overlooked, and I sincerely trust that every hon. member will look at the question fairly and honestly and deal with it apart from all party politics, and vote on it on its merits, just as though the question affected their own Province and their own constituency. Let every hon. member consider how he would act if the Chinese were taking the positions which should be filled by their boys and girls, their sons and daughters, being meanwhile compelled to walk about unable to secure employment in order to enable them to sustain life. This, I repeat, is a very serious question. With respect to the flow of immigration, I am happy to say there are large numbers of people going to that Province at the present time and we do not require ships to come from China bringing 300, 400 or 600 Chinamen at a time to British Columbia, as was done two years ago. Just imagine, in one summer bringing 8,000 Chinamen into that Province where there is such a small population of white people, and last summer 3,000 more came. For aught we know next summer we will have 3,000 more, or possibly 6,000, especially in view of another railway being commenced there, when no doubt an effort will be made to bring in a much larger number of this class of people. Hence the greater necessity, I may say, for this Parliament to pass a restrictive measure, or at all events to affirm the principle, so that at an early day we may pass a measure to prevent these people coming in. Now, with regard to appointing a Commission, I would say that that has already been done, for in 1879 this House appointed a Committee which met and took evidence, which is now on record, and is a matter of history. It was proven that that Committee that to allow those people to continue to go into that Province was very injurious and undesirable. Now, Sir, in addition to the Committee which was appointed in 1879, we have the experience of three colonies in Australia; we have the experience in the United States, which have passed a prohibi-

Mr. SHAKESPEARE.

tory measure, and we have also the local Acts which have been passed by our Province, and which have been disallowed. I think at the present time there are two Acts which were passed by our Provincial Parliament during last Session. Whether the Government will allow them or not, of course I cannot say, but I should hope that they would allow one of them; and at all events it seems to me that there is sufficient evidence to enable every member of this House to vote intelligently upon a question of this magnitude. Surely it is a Provincial question, and if the Province has unitedly, without a dissenting voice, in the Provincial Parliament passed and voted in favour of some restrictive measure, surely they are the best judges of the situation, and the requirements of that Province. I maintain, Sir, that some respect should be shown to such an expression of opinion given in that Parliament. In addition to that, we have the representatives of British Columbia in this House, who I believe are unitedly in favour of a restrictive measure, and I think in view of all these facts some positive action should be taken. What does this motion to adjourn the debate mean? It means to burke the question; and I think the hon. gentleman when he made it—well, I was going to say that it was an ungrateful act, but I will not say that. Now, Mr. Speaker, I really am in favour of having a vote on this question. I think it would be far better to do that, and have the question settle than to adjourn the debate and leave it hanging fire, not knowing what we are going to do upon a question of this kind. For my own part, I would sooner have it voted down, if hon. gentlemen do not feel like voting in its favour, than that it should be left hanging, as though we did not care about it. I am in earnest about this matter; the people in my Province are in earnest about it, and are desirous of having some measure passed. Besides we had a petition sent to this Parliament, and presented yesterday, from Toronto, and another to-day, signed by so three hundred persons, asking that some prohibitory or restrictive measure should be passed by this Parliament. In view of these facts, in view of the evidence we have before us, I think if we were not to vote on a question of this kind we would be neglecting our duty, we would not be true to the interests of the people who have sent us here.

Mr. GORDON. As the seconder of the Resolution, I think it is right and proper that I should also state that I should object to the withdrawal of this Resolution. I am sure my right hon. friend, the Leader of the Government, would not wish to see supporters of his, coming from the Pacific Province, going back to their constituents and being charged with bringing forward buncombe Resolutions, or that after putting them forward earnestly, we agree to withdraw them simply because we are told to wait a little longer. That would be placing us in a false position. I am certain that the railway works do not now demand that this class of labour should be employed. There are thousands to-day lying idle; hundreds of men are applying to me, asking on what conditions they could get employment in British Columbia, and I always tell them, that until the Chinese are restricted from going there, I would not advise them to go into British Columbia and place themselves in the low, degraded level on which these people stand. I think, therefore, without prejudice to the Government, we should deal with the question before the House, and if the Resolutions are adopted, the Government will be able to take such steps as may seem right and proper to them, having in view the interests of Canada as a whole, and the interests of British Columbia—I say that knowing the opinion of the House on the question whether they should be restricted or prohibited from entering into Canada. No harm at least can come from voting on the Resolution. I hope, therefore, the right hon. gentleman will allow the motion to pass, and that he will not consider