

there has been a surplus of labor in British Columbia; in fact, a great deal of white labor has had to leave it within the last six months, owing to the avenues of labor being filled with Chinese. This whole question has to be considered from one point, and that is labor; whether we shall, by the free importation of Chinese labor, convert British Columbia into a Chinese colony, or restrict the importation of Chinese labor and retain that Province for the white population. That is the point which this Bill has to decide. It is my firm conviction, as it is the firm conviction of nine-tenths of my constituents, that unless a restrictive measure is enacted that Province will become a Chinese colony. The small amount of wages for which Chinese labor; the small amount upon which they can subsist, having no family to support, or, if they have, the family reside in China, where they can live very cheaply. They do not settle in the country; they make but few improvements in it; they do not assist to build up the country; they do not spend their earnings in the country, with the exception of the small amount it requires for them to exist upon. The surplus they take with them to their native country, and when one leaves the country, others arrive to fill his place, and they, in their turn, after two or five years' residence, leave, with their \$500, or \$1,000, or \$2,000, for their native country, where they can live for the remainder of their days in comfort and peace. What is the case with the white immigrant? He settles in the country; he sends for his family; they improve the country; they engage in various branches of business and contribute to the general welfare and prosperity of the country. So you will see that, owing to the small requirements of the Chinese, it is quite impossible for white labor to compete with them. Consequently, the very people whom we wish to settle in the country and to assist in building it up will not emigrate to it when they know they have to come in contact with, and to compete with, Chinese labor. Many of the immigrants who went to British Columbia in the last few years have been obliged to leave again, because they saw they could not compete with Chinese labor; that with the labor of their hands they could not realise sufficient to build permanent homes and to make themselves comfortable in that country. Unless a restrictive measure is passed, I feel sure that the business of that country, and the various industries, will all pass into the hands of a few capitalists, with Chinese to perform the labor, and that all individual enterprise will be crushed out. In Australia they passed a restrictive measure, seeing what the result would be of the free importation of Chinese labor. In California they enacted a prohibitive measure, knowing what the result would be. In neither of these countries were the Chinese equal to those in British Columbia. In California, with a population of 1,000,000 whites, they had but 60,000 Chinese, which is only 6 per cent. of the entire population. In Australia the percentage was still less, while in British Columbia we have 15,000 Chinese to a population of 30,000 whites. I shall not refer to their manners or customs, or to the immorality of those people. That is a question which has been thoroughly dealt with by others; neither do I attach that importance to these points which many do. The great question which we have to decide is the labor question. Unrestricted Chinese labor means unrestricted poverty for the white man. It means the conversion of British Columbia into a Chinese colony, from which they can spread and demoralise the whole labor market of the Dominion; and in order to prevent an occurrence of this kind in the future, I would ask every hon. member of this House to give his support to the Bill now before Parliament.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

On resolution 2,

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). I would ask the Minister in charge of this Bill if he would kindly act upon my suggestion, and make it 100 tons, the same as in the Australian Bill.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. As I have stated, the proportion is already very large. A vessel fitted out to carry 3,000 tons could only carry 60 of them. I think my hon. friends should be satisfied. At all events, if it was shown, between now and another Session, or within a year, that it had not the effect, no doubt the Government would see that the regulation would be made more strict than it is now.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). I do not want the hon. gentleman to think me too persistent and importunate in this matter, but it is a matter vitally affecting my constituents, and they have urged me very strongly on this point of the tonnage; and I should fail in my duty if I did not ask the Government to accede to their wishes and to increase the tonnage.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is a very good instalment. You had better take this.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). We have to be, and we are, very thankful for small mercies, but it is a very good principle in life to take all you can get and ask for more.

Resolutions reported and concurred in.

Mr. CHAPLEAU moved that the order for the second reading of Bill (No. 124) to restrict and regulate Chinese immigration into the Dominion of Canada be discharged, and the Bill withdrawn.

Motion agreed to, and Bill withdrawn.

Mr. CHAPLEAU moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 156) to restrict and regulate Chinese immigration into the Dominion of Canada.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CHINESE INTERPRETER.

Mr. CHAPLEAU moved that the House resolve itself into Committee, to consider a certain proposed resolution (see page 2421) respecting the appointment and remuneration of the controller, the interpreter and other persons who may be appointed under the Bill regulating and restricting Chinese immigration into the Dominion of Canada.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

On resolution 1,

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I really think we ought to have some explanation of the supposed necessity for inflicting this additional charge upon us. For aught that I can see, all the duties that are required to be discharged for the purpose of carrying into effect the restrictive measures that the House has consented to might be very easily discharged by the regular Dominion officials at the port of Victoria. I presume there is very little risk of Chinamen in any numbers making their way into Canada, except at one or two ports in British Columbia, where we already have a sufficient number of Dominion officials, and I say that adding \$4,000 or \$5,000 more to the yearly expenditure of the country is very objectionable. However, I shall be glad to hear what the Minister in charge has to say for this, which appears to me to be an unusual and unnecessary expense.