

the laboring classes. We do not desire any monopoly of the labor market in this country. If the Caucasian cannot compete with the labor of the Chinamen, it will be to me a matter of surprise. But when we look upon this question from a humanitarian point of view; when we consider that we have gone into China and have broken down the wall of exclusion there, where they lived amongst themselves a law-abiding, industrious, happy people, and compelled them to open their ports and allow us to trade with them freely and unrestrictedly, are we not acting most inconsistently when we tell them we shall not allow them to come to our country and enjoy the blessing of civilization and religious instruction? England has everywhere progressed through her colonies, by forcing herself amongst other nations in all parts of the world, and though we look upon the Chinese as an inferior race, if we allow them to come amongst us and see our mode of living, we in that way shall do more to christianize and civilize them than by any effort that can be made by missionary societies.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I have no desire to protract this debate, but I cannot refrain from expressing my fullest sympathy with many of the sentiments expressed by the gentlemen who have spoken upon this question since I came here this evening. Ever since we passed the first legislation to restrict Chinese immigration, I have felt that it was legislating in the wrong direction, and it has always seemed to me a strange anomaly that the Government of this country who have been spending nearly half a million dollars a year for the purpose of assisting immigration into this country on one hand should be absolutely going to a great expense on the other hand to prevent immigrants from coming to our western shores. Anyone who reads carefully the history of that ancient and interesting country, China, will discover amongst the Chinese a great many things which are highly commendable and which will compare very favorably with the most Christianized countries. One thing which is noticeable is the general education of the people, the freedom with which education can be

secured in that country, and the rewards which invariably attend assiduous attention to literature. They have undoubtedly many peculiarities: they have been a walled in nation, a nation without relations, almost, you may say, excluded from the rest of the world, with no freedom of intercourse with other nations. It is astonishing, when one comes to read closely the history of China, how many things there are that commend themselves to our favor and approval, and considering that Great Britain, to whom we are so proud to belong, has at the cannon's mouth almost broken down the walls of that country and forced them to engage in traffic in a drug of a most pernicious nature—it does seem a strange thing that one of the colonies of England shall be the first to exclude them from landing on its shores. It is very true that, so far as British Columbia is concerned, those who go there from China hardly come up to the average of the Chinese people. Naturally this will be the case when they are met with obstructive laws and the oppressive system of legislation which they find in this British colony. It would be surprising if it were otherwise. I was very much struck with an observation made by the junior member from Halifax with regard to that and with regard to the immigration which comes to us from China. There is one thing which would remedy this evil—if instead of meeting them with these restrictions, and refusing to recognise them as capable of exercising the franchise, we were, on their landing on our shores, to give them the franchise as we do other people we would hear them spoken of in a tone very different from that adopted in another place. Instead of being stigmatized, as they often are, I believe we would hear more of their good points and they would be spoken of favorably oftener. I am very glad to express my views perfectly in accord with those of the hon. member from Halifax. I trust before long this sort of legislation will be, at all events, very much modified from that which now exists on the statute books of Canada. In fact I see evidence already that leading Chinese statesmen are beginning to take hold of this matter of the treatment of their countrymen in