

previous Act passed in 1883 had been disallowed. The petition ran in these words :

"That we view with great alarm the thousands of Chinese coolies continually arriving in the Province of British Columbia, and while we regard this country as free to every man seeking an opportunity to better his condition in life, we deem it but just and right that those who come to our shores shall not be such as to work injury to the moral and material welfare of the Dominion.

"That the unlimited admission of the race of people known as Chinese coolies does work such injury to our country, for the following reasons :
 "That they do not come to make a home or settle in the country, or to add to the country's wealth ; but to prey upon our natural resources, and take what they earn out of the country.

"That they are leprosy in blood and unclean in habits.
 "That they are destructive of the means by which the white mechanical and laboring classes earn a living wage.

"That there are immoral practices, debasing habits and contagious diseases, peculiar to this people, which they have already introduced to an alarming extent upon this continent, and against which we have a right to defend ourselves and our children

"We therefore humbly pray for the enactment of such laws as will prohibit any further introduction of this undesirable class of people into any part of the Dominion of Canada."

Now, that is the opinion expressed by the representatives of the Province of British Columbia, 26 in number, in the Local House of Parliament. These gentlemen represent, collectively, exactly the same people, precisely the same country, identically the same wants and requirements of those people that we represent in this Federal Parliament ; and they thus stated their objection to the introduction of any more Chinese into that Province. I do not give these utterances altogether as my own, because I do not go quite to the same extent, as regards the leprosy in the blood, or the unclean habits of the Chinese, as I am not familiar with those facts. Personally, I have never seen any Chinaman with leprosy, nor am I as well posted as some gentlemen in this House may think I ought to be, living so much among them, upon the unclean habits of that race. But for as much as this testimony is worth, I have read it, because it emanates from a constitutional authority existing in the Province of British Columbia. Later on during the Session, I notice the following :—

"That we are glad to hear, too, the chief commissioner was also instructed by His Honor to urge upon the Dominion Government the absolute necessity of either recognising the right of the Province to legislate, with a view of checking the increase of Chinese in our midst, or, failing that, to induce the Dominion Government to substitute effective federal legislation calculated to remedy the evil complained of."

Now, in view of these utterances, hon. gentlemen in this House can quite understand why we are so strenuous in our endeavors and so loud in our efforts to secure that legislation which we desire, individually as well as collectively. I notice in the *Debates of the Local House* that they complained somewhat bitterly that after legislation on this subject should have passed, to the effect that the time had arrived that legislation should ensue for restrictive and regulative measures affecting the Chinese, the Dominion Government, in their wisdom, should have seen the necessity of appointing that commission at all. However, I am willing to bow to the greater wisdom of the combined rulers of this confederacy, and to say that they must be in a better position to know why, after the resolution which was passed, it was necessary to send that commission out to make further investigation or glean additional facts. One thing is certain : the result of that commission has been the production of a very nice volume, called a report on Chinese immigration. It is highly interesting, and a good deal that is in it is certainly true. A good deal of it has been collated from such persons as have only taken a one-sided view of the disabilities of which we complain. Later on, on the 9th of February, 1884, I see they again passed a resolution in the Local House, setting forth the reasons why restrictive if not prohibitive legislation with regard to the Chinese should be adopted by this Parliament. Again on the 25th February, 1885, in the latter part of their Votes and Proceedings, I find these expressions :

"The Chinese are alien in sentiment and habits.

"2. They do not become settlers in any sense of that word. They have no intention of permanently settling in the country, but come for the purpose of trading and laboring, in order to return to their native country with the means to pass the remainder of their days in ease. The Chinese population chiefly consists of male adults, and thus—without the responsibility of providing for a family—they come in unfair competition with white labor.

"They are the slaves or coolies of the Chinese race, accustomed to live on the poorest fare and in the meanest manner, and hence their presence tends to the degradation of the white laboring classes.

"Their presence exerts a baneful influence in restricting the immigration of white labor, and especially in the class of house servants, who will not be brought into contact with this race.

"They have a system of secret societies which encourages crime amongst themselves, and which prevents the administration of justice."

This is another matter which I am not prepared to say, of my own knowledge, actually exists ; but in the opinion of a great many in British Columbia, and certainly in Victoria, whenever a Chinaman or a gang of Chinamen are suspected of a theft or a murder, or any other atrocious crime, there is always a difficulty in getting sufficient evidence among them to convict the offender, or even to discover who the principal culprit is.

"The use of opium has extended throughout the Province, to the demoralisation of the native races, and the Chinese encourage the use of this drug amongst others of our own rising population.

"And we urgently request that some restrictive legislation be passed to prevent our Province from being completely overrun by Chinese.

"And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the honorable the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada."

On the 2nd March, 1885, the foregoing expressions were again reiterated in the Chamber of said Assembly and (being a reproduction it is unnecessary to embody them in these remarks) formed the principal feature of the resolution then passed, viz :

"That the following address be forwarded by the Speaker to his Excellency the Governor General in Council :—

"We, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, extremely regret the disallowance of the Act for the prevention of the immigration of Chinese, passed at its last Session.

"The disallowance of the Act, according to the correspondence, did not proceed from a view of its being unconstitutional, but because the Act was regarded as inexpedient.

"We see nothing to change the carefully considered representations and opinions which we have heretofore expressed on the Chinese question, and which from time to time have been communicated to and urged upon the Dominion Government."

Now, although I have not had time to read the whole of the Chinese report which has been presented to this House, I think my residence of twelve years in the Province of British Columbia enables me to speak with some authority on this subject without the labor of reading such a massive volume as that report. But even in that report reference is made to the fact that there exists among the Chinamen the excessive use of opium, which is being disseminated to a great extent among the juniors of the white population. I think these facts speak for themselves, and show that it is highly desirable that a class whose habits are such as are described here should, if possible, be prohibited from coming into a civilised country at all. But that in any case they should be restricted. Some of the evidence in the Chinese report is of a very tentative nature ; some of it is very much in favor of restrictive measures. I notice, particularly at page 183, the evidence given by Mr. King, a merchant of San Francisco, in which he says :

"All Chinese coolies embark at Hong Kong. Have superintended the examination of immigrants to comply with the coolie laws of the United States Government, which law enables the consul to exact large fees from every coolie, which the ships pay, and requires them to charge more charter money. * * * On their arrival they are packed like hogs to such companies, having his contract *vised*, and commences his fees to ensure the care of sick, and return, dead or alive, but not his pay from the contractor, but that he shall fill his part, if able to compel him, the coolies, to do it, or prevent his return until he does. When breaking his contract the companies' spies hound him to prevent his return to China, by arranging with the steamship company, or through Chinese in the steamship company's employ, to prevent his getting a ticket, and if obtained by others for him, he will be forcibly stopped on the day of sailing by a large force of the six companies' highbinders, who can always be seen guarding them. Highbinders are men employed by these companies here to hound and spy upon these