

praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House, a full return of all Chinese entering and leaving Canadian ports; the number entering and leaving each port, and for each month since the passage of the Chinese Immigration Restriction Act in July, 1885, up to the 1st January, 1887; also, the amount of revenue derived from Chinese immigration, and the cost of enforcing the Act between the aforesaid dates; also, all documentary evidence of fraud by Chinamen passing their certificates of Entry to others who have not entered.

He said:—I think I explained sufficiently the object I had in view when I moved for the adoption of this Address yesterday, consequently I do not think it is necessary to make any additional explanations now, but simply state that I hope the Government will allow the Address to pass, and bring down the information I ask for at as early a date as possible.

HON. MR. POWER—I think the hon. gentleman can hardly expect the House to pass the Address without giving some reason why we should do so. The hon. gentleman will remember that the session is to be a short one: that the officers of Parliament will be pretty busy, and by this Address he gives employment to clerks for some considerable time. I think he ought at least to give the House some reason why the information is desirable before we vote on it.

HON. MR. MCINNES—I may say in reply to the hon. gentleman that he could not have been in the Chamber yesterday when I gave what I think good and sufficient reasons why the House should consent to the passage of the motion I have just made. I stated among other things that while not expressing my approval or disapproval of the Chinese Amendment Restriction Bill now before the Commons—that although the Act has only been two years in operation—yet this is the second amendment the author of the Act (Hon. Mr. Chapleau) has introduced and carried in the Commons. It will be remembered that the amendment to the Chinese Bill of last session contained so many important changes that this House would not agree to them and as a consequence, the Bill was thrown out. Now

my object for moving for this return is to place every hon. gentleman in this House in the best possible position to be able not only to form a correct judgment but to discuss a subject on which I respectfully submit a great majority of gentlemen in this House are not well informed, and cannot reasonably be expected to be as well informed as we who come from the Pacific coast, where the great bulk of the Chinese live. My object in asking that the addition be made to the motion I gave notice of yesterday, namely, the cost of those coming into the country and the cost of the operation of the act between the dates I have mentioned, July 1885 and January 1887, is that the House should be in possession of that evidence, and for the same reason I asked for the addition that my hon. colleague from Victoria moved respecting the documentary evidence of fraud in passing the admission certificates from one Chinamen to another, so that by paying for one certificate it might serve for several Celestials and thereby defraud the Government. It has been alleged that a great number of those Chinese smuggle their certificates, and one certificate does for perhaps half a dozen Chinamen. I heard of a case a short time ago of a Chinaman in San Francisco, who sent a loaf of bread to a brother Celestial on board ship, who had just arrived from the flowery land. He was ready to land but had no certificate, and in the centre of this loaf of bread was found the necessary certificate. The truth of this I am not prepared to vouch for, but I know one of the principal reasons alleged for introducing the bill is that the Government have been defrauded out of a large amount of revenue through this alleged traffic in certificates.

HON. MR. MILLER—I think the objection to the motion is that the hon. gentleman bases it altogether on the assumption that the information he asked for would be before the House when the Bill relating to the Chinese Restriction Act comes up for consideration. I think it must be a complete answer to the hon. gentleman's motion that it would be impossible for the Government to bring down the Return in time to be of any use to this House in assisting it