

Mr. CALDER: I have not looked into the matter at all, but I shall be very much interested to know the course they are following. My own impression is that outside of persons belonging to the diplomatic corps and other similar classes, the question whether Chinese immigrants shall enter the United States is determined by their officers, which is the way we are proposing here. Our difficulty at present is that the Justice Department has advised us that as our law entitles these people to enter Canada when they produce these certificates, we could not keep them out, no matter if we were certain they were misrepresenting their status. If the law were operating properly, I should very much like to see the provision stand as in the, but we have had so much difficulty in the last two years that it seems the only course open to us is to change the law.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think it is desirable—

Mr. CURRIE: Carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend wishes the Bill to be carried he will have to behave a little better than he is behaving at the moment. I think it is desirable in every way that Chinese immigration should be restricted, and that fraud should be prevented as far as possible, but any one who knows the Chinese will realize that they are very sensitive and very quick to appreciate courtesy. The American Government have been at great pains to avoid offending China in any way, and I think we should be equally careful. While I am most anxious that proper restrictions should be imposed, I should be sorry to see our Government placed in a position where any of these oriental people may feel that we are acting towards them more arbitrarily than our neighbours to the south. If the minister can give us an assurance that his action is not liable to be misconstrued, I think his measure is a perfectly safe and sound one.

Mr. CALDER: I will not take the Bill out of committee. I shall inquire how the American law is so we may know exactly what others are doing in this regard.

Section agreed to.

On section 3—definition of prohibited persons in Immigration Act made applicable to Chinese:

Mr. CALDER: There is a difference in the two sections. We are simply making them the same.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—refund of tax on return within two years:

Mr. CALDER: I should like to have the views of members, especially of those from British Columbia, in reference to this section. Under the present law if a Chinaman goes back to China, and wishes to return to this country, he must obtain a certificate before leaving and if he returns within one year that certificate gives him the right to re-enter without again paying the head tax. It is proposed to extend that term to two years.

Mr. PARENT: Does the minister mean that if a Chinaman goes back home he will get a refund of the head tax of \$500?

Mr. CALDER: No. Under the law as it stands when he leaves Canada he gets a certificate from our department, which entitles him at any time within one year to return to Canada without again paying the head tax. Now it is proposed to extend that time from one year to two years.

Mr. LEMIEUX: A large number of Chinese persons who come to Canada return to China for the accomplishment of certain rites in their native country. China is passing through a revolutionary period and that condition may continue for some years. As the Chinese who return to their own country may be detained on this account, or for family or other reasons, it seems to me that this extension of time is Christian in its character and I stand by it.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—power to arrest prohibited persons:

Mr. DENIS: What change is made by this clause?

Mr. CALDER: The first change is to make this law conform with the general Immigration Act in respect to the definition of prohibited persons. Under the law as it stands, if a person belongs to a prohibited class he may be either imprisoned or deported. We have cut out the imprisonment and made the person liable only to deportation. Then there is a provision that the question whether a person is liable to deportation shall be determined by the controller.

Section agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Steele): Shall I report the Bill?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the minister will give any required information