

any extent. I think my hon. friend the Secretary of State has hit exactly on the objection to the admission of the wives of Chinese immigrants. If that were allowed not a single immigrant would come over without a wife, and the immorality existing to a very great extent along the Pacific coast would be greatly aggravated in Canada. Under the system of Chinese labor as it now exists, the Chinese come over and make a little money and then go back. That is the least objectionable form of Chinese labor; but I do not think it would be to the advantage of Canada or any other country occupied by Aryans for members of the Mongolian race to become permanent inhabitants of the country. I believe it would introduce a conflict between the working classes which would only result in evil. If there could be no other labor obtained than Chinese labor, perhaps the argument of necessity or great expediency might prevail; but now there is not much difficulty in getting white labor in any part of Canada. Under these circumstances, to encourage Chinese labor would be merely to prevent white labor settling in those portions of the Dominion where Chinese labor was settled to any extent. As regards the clause for which this Bill was principally introduced, to allow a Chinese woman married to a British subject, and taking the nationality of her husband, to enter free, that is obviously right. The law worked so absurdly in the case of Mr. Moore, an English gentleman of standing, who married a Chinese lady 20 years ago, that when they arrived at Victoria he was obliged to pay \$50 for his wife and \$50 for each of his children. Of course, in the case of his children, the money was refunded the moment the matter was represented here, on the ground that the children were British subjects, taking the rank and nationality of the father; and there is no doubt they were not Chinese in the meaning of the Act. But there was no means of remitting the fine on the wife, who was a Chinese woman in every respect; in the opinion of the Minister of Justice, there was no remedy but to collect the fine. I think it would be a great relaxation—a reversal, in fact, of the policy which was approved of by Parliament for the restriction of Chinese labor, to adopt the suggestion of hon. gentlemen opposite, to remove the restriction as respects the wives of Chinese men.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I do not intend to allow the hon. gentleman to misrepresent my position.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have no desire to misrepresent it.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Nevertheless, the hon. gentleman's whole line of argument has been in that direction. I said nothing about relaxation of the regulation proposed, or of the policy on which the Government has entered. I said nothing about the desirability of having Chinese in this country in competition with the labor of the ordinary white settler. If there is any ground of complaint on that score the hon. gentleman himself is answerable for it, for I believe the hon. gentleman refused to allow Chinese labor to be excluded from British Columbia, or to confine those engaged on public works, especially in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway, to the employment of white labor. The hon. gentleman has not proposed to exclude the Chinese. He has not proposed to put such a capitation tax on them that would completely exclude them from the country. He permits them to come here under certain restrictions. I do not think that this restriction, except in so far as it acts as a prohibition, is of any advantage to the laboring classes. I apprehend, so far as British Columbia is concerned, that the competition of the white and the Chinese labor there is just as active as it was before the hon. gentleman imposed his restrictions, because there are several thousands of these people within the limits of that Province. If you permit the Chinese to come here at all, you had better permit them to come in as

settlers. What does the hon. gentleman say, and what do all those who object to Chinese immigration, say? They say that the Chinese come to this country, enter into competition with our laborers, spend nothing in the country, acquire no real property, and, as soon as they earn enough money, leave the country. That is the chief reason given for excluding them. It is in the moral interest of the Chinese, and of the community in which there are Chinese settlers, that we should allow Chinese women to come in, that we should allow them to bring in their wives, and that we should not impose a tax on the wife as we do on the husband. By imposing such a tax we legislate against the morals of the community. The hon. gentleman may say no, but it is the fact. It would be better to double the capitation tax on the men than to persist in the policy laid down in the Bill. If the hon. gentleman thinks there are too many Chinese in the country, let him double the capitation tax. I do not object to such a tax as will serve to exclude the Chinese, but I say let the tax be upon the Chinaman and let the Chinaman's wife come in free. You will thus as effectually carry out the policy of excluding the Chinese as at present, and, at the same time, you will protect the morals of the community in which Chinese come as settlers.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The hon. gentleman complains, and I think without reason, that he has been misrepresented. He should remember that, as a question of principle, it is understood Chinese immigration should be restricted; it is upon that principle that all those who represent the country, especially those who represent British Columbia, object to having Chinese in Canada. That is the principle which has induced us to impose restrictions on Chinese immigration amounting nearly to prohibition. If you encourage the increase of Chinese population in this country you go against that principle, and the proposition of the hon. gentleman would have that effect. As a matter of fact, I can tell hon. gentlemen that if we were to allow Chinese wives, as he calls them, to come in, instead of morality we would have greater immorality. This is known by all those who have studied the question. It has had that effect, as has been, unfortunately, too well proved, in the United States. Take away that restriction, and the worst population in China would be brought to our shores. It is bad enough for the people to have the Chinese here at all, but the commercial interest of Canada and England require that there should not be actual prohibition. The necessities of the times demand, also, that there should be Chinese labor in a new country, but it would be not only imprudent but most unfortunate if the barrier was opened to the extent the hon. gentleman proposes.

Bill reported, and read the third time, and passed.

#### SICK AND DISTRESSED MARINERS.

Mr. FOSTER moved second reading of Bill (No. 76) to amend the Act respecting sick and distressed mariners.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. FOSTER. The object of this Bill is to remedy a defect in the Revised Statutes. By Act 45 Vic., chap. 19, all fishing vessels were exempted from paying sick mariners dues. By Act 47 Vic., that exemption was taken away as far as Canadian registered fishing vessels were concerned. Act 45 was repealed when the revision was concluded, and that leaves the law at present in this position, that foreign fishing vessels coming into Canadian ports are subject to the duty, so that the law is altered from what it stood before. This Bill is to replace the law in its former position, so that foreign fishing vessels will not be liable for the dues and will not participate in the benefits.