

the other side will not spend much time arguing about the privileges extended to the 50,000 or 60,000 Chinese here. One of our principal troubles in the past has been I think the inability of the people east of the Rocky mountains to grasp the Asiatic situation in its full significance. Many persons in the professions have contended that we should allow more Chinese to come into the country. I can quite understand that, because there are no Chinamen in this country engaged in these professions; and the professional people have taken good care to preclude Chinese competition against themselves, having fenced their professions around with various regulations to render such competition impossible. But the farmers, the labourers, the laundry people, the restaurant people, the tailors, and now even the merchants of the country are feeling this competition. In British Columbia we have passed year after year certain legislation asking the federal government to put into effect a proper exclusion of Asiatics. This matter has been urged principally by the business organizations who have passed resolutions and forwarded them to Ottawa. The business people have fallen into line behind these resolutions but with no definite results, for we find to-day that the Chinese are still coming in across the Pacific and locating in our country in large numbers, in spite of such regulations as have been enforced; which proves that our laws have been inadequate in the past to meet this situation. The Chinese question has now assumed very serious proportions, so that we have to-day a difficult oriental problem to solve. I think that the people of Canada must wake up to the danger from this Asiatic invasion from across the Pacific. If we hope to preserve this country to the white man, our legislators and the members of this House should realize the great responsibility that rests on their shoulders not only for the protection of those people who are now in this country, but in the interests of the generations to come. I must oppose the bill in its present form and hope the minister will have a suitable amendment to offer.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think it goes without saying that the experience of the past has taught us that regulations and even statutes do not always accomplish what they are intended to do; and in discussing this matter with the law officers who drafted the bill I thought it would be preferable that the definition of the word "merchant" be left to regulation rather than embodied in the statute. I take it that the object to be attained is not to interfere with trade but as

far as possible to restrict the permanent immigration of Chinese nationals into Canada. There can be no objection to the student body, nor do I hear anyone voicing any such objection. Rather, there is a feeling that we should encourage Chinese students to come to Canada to take advantage of our educational institutions in order that they might go back and be emissaries to assist in the development of trade. But I can hardly agree with some of the views expressed opposite that if we go practically to the point of total exclusion there will not be a falling off of trade between Canada and China, which is beginning to be an important factor. However, I am not stressing that point; I merely say that we are agreed about one class at all events, namely, the students who will go into the universities. It has been pointed out to us since the bill was drafted that the qualification of the young men or young women passing out of the high schools of China is not sufficiently high to permit the immediate entry of Chinese students into our universities, and we shall have in some way to provide for their attendance at a school for a period of six months or more to qualify them for the university. This is necessary; but I wish to assure the committee that care will be taken that no students coming to Canada to enter the university shall be allowed, as the hon. member (Mr. Tolmie) pointed out, to alter their purpose as they have done in the past and enter some occupation after five or six months. It is the intention of the department to follow up by registration each national of China resident in Canada. Whether he is a British subject or not, the Chinese resident in Canada will have to register. I have been endeavouring to keep in mind the objection raised, particularly in British Columbia, and indeed it applies to other parts of Canada, that the Chinese are entering into active competition with the citizens of this country in practically every mercantile pursuit. Having that in mind I thought it fair to the committee that I should intimate the kind of regulation which would be forwarded to the official in China whose duty it will be to visé passports before Chinese may be allowed to come to Canada. This regulation is to define as nearly as possible the sort of person we propose to allow to enter this country. The following gives an idea of what we intend to provide in this respect:

It is contemplated making an agreement with China to limit the number per annum of Chinese merchants to be admitted to Canada, and in such an event the government of China would be asked to issue passports to none but bona fide merchants who devote their undivided attention to mercantile pursuits, who have