

Mr. ROCHE: Can my hon. friend tell the House whether the United States has been injured or benefited by the free entry of Chinese students to attend the educational institutions of the United States?

Mr. PUGSLEY: I am not prepared to speak as to that. I do know that along the Pacific coast of the United States there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction by reason of oriental immigration, so much so that the Legislature of California has passed laws which have provoked very great irritation and have caused the greatest possible friction between the Legislature and the people of California and the Government and Congress of the United States. I know that much, but what has caused it I do not know beyond the fact that it has been felt that there has been too much oriental immigration into the western coast states of the United States of America. Just a word with regard to the remark of my hon. friend from Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) as to the criticism which was levelled at the late Government when a rather liberal arrangement, but at the same time a fair arrangement, was made between the Government of Canada and the Imperial Government of Japan. This Government was very bitterly criticised by Conservative members from British Columbia by reason of that arrangement. The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Taylor) speaks of what has happened to-day, that Japanese cruisers have helped to protect the Pacific coast. Well, that shows how foresighted was my right hon. friend who was then the leader of the Government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), because I well remember that in this House, when he was seeking to defend the action of the Government in making this arrangement with the Japanese Government, he said that the time might come when the ships of Japan would be riding side by side with the ships of Canada in defence of the cities and coasts of British Columbia.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: Who said that?

Mr. PUGSLEY: My right hon. friend the present leader of the Opposition and then the leader of the Liberal Government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). He was laughed at by hon. gentlemen opposite when he made that prophecy. That prophecy came true, because there is no doubt that a Japanese cruiser was in the Pacific ocean prepared to co-operate with the ships of Great Britain and the smaller ships of Canada which were available, and this probably prevented an attack being made upon the coast

cities. The important question, after all, is whether we shall broaden and extend the opportunities for oriental immigration into Canada. I do not think we ought to do so, but I think, by this paragraph, the minister is opening a very wide door, which is likely to lead to extreme dissatisfaction in the future.

Mr. BURNHAM: I do not intend to be captious or facetious, but I would like to know if that is protection or free trade?

Mr. PUGSLEY: The hon. gentleman can judge for himself.

Mr. BURNHAM: I judge for myself, but I was not quite sure.

Mr. OLIVER: Would the Minister of the Interior say what the policy of the United States is in regard to Chinese immigration?

Mr. ROCHE: The United States have no head tax, but they prohibit entirely the entry of Chinese labour. In the case of students and others they have an exemption, but it is somewhat wider than our exemption, and those who go to their country for the purpose of getting educational instruction are allowed to enter free of tax. They are not prohibited from entering the country, as the Chinese labourers are. The hon. gentleman has stated that the present Act has been working smoothly and harmoniously, and that there has been no objection to it. It is just because of the numerous objections that I have introduced this legislation. The requests have been quite numerous, and have been coming in for the last few years, and, indeed, had I been able to have done this by Order in Council, I should have felt like doing it a couple of years ago. The universities have asked for it. They point out that the universities in the United States have a great advantage over the universities in Canada because the Chinese students are admitted into the United States free of tax, whereas they are not admitted into Canada, to any extent, on account of the imposition of the head tax. It is a hardship to impose the head tax on students coming into the country. Many young men have not the \$500 to spare and require all the money they have for their educational course. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Pugsley) says it is no hardship at all to impose the head tax, because it will be refunded, but it is a hardship because these immigrants have not the money to spare. Furthermore, the educated class of Chinese rather resent the idea of imposing a head tax on their sons, who come here for educational purposes.