

hon. gentleman who should correct his logic, and not the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and myself.

Mr. CASEY. I have listened with great interest to some of the arguments of the right hon. Premier, especially with reference to the evil effects of the introduction of Chinese labor into British Columbia. Perhaps, Sir, it would have been better if he had reached this conclusion some time ago, and had taken measures to prevent the employment of vast hosts of Chinamen on the Onderdonk contract in that country. I am sure it would not have been impossible to obtain white men enough in British Columbia to have built that railroad, or, if so, it would have been possible to get them from elsewhere. But the hon. gentleman has allowed the question of Chinese labor and the question of the Chinese franchise to rest until now, and now he says, in connection with the question of excluding Chinamen from the franchise, that the importation of Chinese labor is injurious to British Columbia. Grant that it is; grant that the men are slaves; grant that it is not merely a question of cheap labor but a question of slave labor in competition with free labor. I say his protest comes too late, and it would have been better to have prevented the employment of those coolies in British Columbia. Perhaps even now, when Onderdonk has nearly ceased to want Chinese, he will gratify the sentiment of that Province, by preventing the continuance of the employment of Chinese labor by one of the Government contractors.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I may be allowed to add one reason to those already given in favor of the amendment. I agree to a large extent in the remarks of the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor); unfortunately, I cannot agree with him in his conclusion with regard to this Bill. If the hon. gentleman is speaking in sympathy with that race, a large portion of whom have found their way to British Columbia, I may tell him that, unless he wishes to make voting compulsory, he does not consult the wishes of the Chinese, in proposing to give them the right to vote. The Chinese in British Columbia, no more than in California, do not ask the right to vote. I had occasion to converse with his Excellency, the Consul General of China, in San Francisco, an exceedingly clever man, highly cultured, and who belongs to a family of diplomats in his own country. I asked him whether his countrymen desired to have the rights of citizenship in those countries where they had emigrated, and he answered me: We do not, and the reason is this: We know very well that foreign powers are aware of the immense population we have in the Chinese empire, some 435,000,000. Our intention in going abroad is to give an opening to the commercial genius of the nation, to the adventurous spirit of the nation. We go abroad to trade and to engage in mercantile pursuits, and in mining and other industries. But we know that if we ask the right to vote we should simply excite the jealousy of foreign Governments, who would fear that on account of our immense population at home, we could furnish so great a number of voters as would constitute in their eyes a danger. We desire to avoid exciting those prejudices, and for that reason we do not desire the right to vote. All we want is the privilege of citizenship, and to be let alone when we obey the laws, not to be treated as pariah, when we conduct ourselves as well as the citizens of other nationalities. So I do not think we need trouble ourselves in this House, in endeavoring to confer the franchise upon people who do not want it, and who would prefer not to have it. As to the desirability of having large numbers of that race in this country, of course I endorse entirely the remarks of several hon. gentlemen, and especially of the leader of the Government—not because they are the dirty, unintelligent and criminal class that they are so often represented to be; I do not believe that; I believe that Chinese immigration is a danger to any new country like our own, not because they are a degraded

Mr. MILLS.

race, but because their immigration might become dangerously large. I think the Chinese have proved themselves to be, not only the equals, but the superiors, of all other races, in the competition for labor; they exercise extreme frugality, and their way of living is one not adapted to our view of civilisation. They, in general, have no families. They do not want to assimilate or remain permanently, and in view of those conditions they are dangerous and should not be encouraged more than to a certain extent. Now, what is that extent? I heard the last speaker say that it would have been better for the Government to have prevented that population from ever invading the shores of this country. I think that the coming of Chinese to British Columbia, as was the advent of Chinese to California at the opening up of that great country, has been a great benefit to that Province. California would have been kept back fifty years in its progress, in the development of its industrial wealth, in the working successfully of its mines, except for the Chinese. I think that up to this point British Columbia has found it to be of great advantage to have that cheap labor. When white immigration could not reach those distant territories, when none except rich men could afford to cross the seas, in order to reach those shores, the Chinese were necessary to develop the resources of those countries. Has Chinese immigration gone far enough? I think so. I take the opinions of those who know British Columbia well, of those who live in the country and have examined its resources, and whatever differences of opinion, and there are large differences of opinion, may exist as to the estimation in which the Chinese are held, there is one point upon which there is no difference, and it is this: That at the present moment it would be a threat to the particular civilisation of America and to our institutions if we allowed that immigration to assume greater proportions than at present. They were of great use in carrying out the great work of building the Canadian Pacific Railway. That railway, no more than the Central and the Southern Pacific and the Atlantic and Pacific in California, could have been carried out rapidly without Chinese labor. No one could deny that a great impetus was given to that new Province, with its immense resources, by that immigration. But now that the first step has been taken towards bringing in white labor, that communication has been established and people can reach that Province by railway—and I hope they will, at moderate rates, as in the United States—I think the people of British Columbia are right in asking, and the conclusions of the commissioners who enquired into the question are right, in saying that this immigration shall be restricted in a large measure, and that above all we shall not give them the right to vote and obtain full citizenship in this country, which, while it would be a threat to our institutions, would be a privilege they do not want to possess and one which they would not exercise, because they do not get naturalised as British subjects.

Mr. COOK. The Secretary of State has stated that the Chinese do not want to be enfranchised. Probably he will tell the House whether the Indians have asked to have the vote or not. He has also stated that no more Chinese are desired in this country. He also mentioned that he thought it was necessary to have had the Chinese for the purpose of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway. But he did not explain to the House the reason why the Government disallowed the Chinese Bill, recently passed by the Local Legislature of British Columbia. Probably he will explain these two points to the committee.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I am not going to give the reasons why the Chinese Bill passed by the Local Legislature of British Columbia was disallowed. The reasons have been given, and the hon. gentleman can read them. It was not a subject pertaining to the Local Legislature, but came within the purview of the Federal Parliament. As regards