

Mr. LANDRY (Kent). The hon. member for Queen's, P. E. I. (Mr. Davies), was kind enough, this afternoon, to devote some attention to me, to which I did not reply at once, because I thought the discussion on that matter had been prolonged quite enough. He made it his business to interpret in his own way what I said, but I think, if he reads the *Hansard*, he will find that I did not say exactly what he put in my mouth. It astonishes me beyond measure, however, to hear what the hon. gentleman has to say in reference to the Chinese. If I heard him correctly, he said: I decline to acknowledge the right of 18,000 or even 30,000 people to dictate to the whole Dominion as to what the franchise shall be in any Province of this Dominion.

Mr. DAVIES. The hon. gentleman clearly misunderstood me. I said I declined to allow 6,000 heads of families, in British Columbia, to dictate as to what people in other Provinces of the Dominion should exercise the rights of franchise.

Mr. LANDRY. I did not hear him use the words 6,000. If I understood him correctly—and it is the same number which is taken out from the census, 18,000—his words, and I took them down, were that he declined to acknowledge the right of these 18,000, who would represent 6,000 families, to say who should be entitled to the franchise. If I understood the hon. gentleman in his arguments some time before, he contended that each Province should have the right to say what should be the franchise for that Province.

Mr. DAVIES. Hear, hear.

Mr. LANDRY. And yet he is not willing that the hon. gentlemen from British Columbia should be heard as to what franchise should prevail in their own Province.

Mr. DAVIES. Yes.

Mr. LANDRY. And the hon. gentleman from the city and county of St. John (Mr. Weldon) endorses those sentiments directly. They are not willing, if the hon. gentlemen from British Columbia unanimously agree, that the Chinese in that Province should not have the right of franchise, to accede to that view.

Mr. DAVIES. I freely acknowledge the right of British Columbia to decide as to who shall exercise the franchise in British Columbia. I decline to acknowledge the right of British Columbia to dictate to the Maritime Provinces of this Dominion who shall exercise the franchise in those Provinces.

Mr. LANDRY. I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman's explanation.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). That is what he said.

Mr. LANDRY. Perhaps his friends understood him in that way. It may be what he meant to have said.

Mr. CHARLTON. It is what he did say.

Mr. LANDRY. For myself, feeling that these gentlemen from British Columbia know, better than I should judge any of us do, what suits them, that they, not the local representatives in the Local Legislature, but the members in the Dominion Parliament, can, by fair and honest argument, here, convince this House that a certain class of people within their borders should not exercise the franchise, I think it is right for this Parliament to hear their arguments and act in accordance with their sentiments.

Mr. DAVIES. We have not heard the arguments yet.

Mr. LANDRY. Yes; we have heard from one of them that there were some 15,000 Chinamen in that Province and 30,000 whites, and that those whites do not think the Chinamen should have the right to vote, and he gave the reasons. From those reasons, and from what I have heard outside and have read about the Chinamen there, and from the fact that it is necessary to submit to this Parliament

Mr. MILLS.

special legislation in respect to the Chinese there, which shows that they occupy a special position—and it is the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite that those who occupy a special position, different from the other people of this Dominion, should be treated in view of that special position—I am willing to agree that, as far as that Province is concerned, the Chinamen shall not be allowed to vote, although theoretically it would be more in keeping with my own views that a Chinaman should have a vote, if he can place himself on the same footing as a white man. I do not hesitate to say that that is my view in regard to a Chinaman or any other man, I do not care of what country or nationality. I am not, however, willing to carry that feeling to the extent of going against hon. gentlemen who know the condition of their Province better than I do. That is the position I wish to define clearly before the House and the country, that if I give a vote on this subject it is in deference to the people of British Columbia, because I think they understand the position and situation of their Province better than we do.

Mr. WELDON. That is the best argument I have heard yet in favor of the provincial franchise. It is perfectly right that British Columbia should have the power to exclude the Chinese from the franchise, but why should that Province have the right to compel New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to exclude Chinamen from the franchise, who have become naturalised British subjects, and have become possessed of property? What right has British Columbia to dictate to the other Provinces as to who shall have a right to vote?

Mr. EDGAR. In this matter we ought to pay a good deal of respect to the experience of British Columbia; and when we find members from that Province unanimously pronouncing against giving the franchise to Chinamen, and when we are aware that that is the only Province in the Dominion where the people have had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with that race, I think we should take their experience for a good deal. I think that when Chinamen appreciate the advantages of our civilisation, when they ask for the rights of citizenship and become naturalised, it will be time enough for us to give them the franchise.

Mr. WOODWORTH. I do not think the hon. member for Kent, N.B. (Mr. Landry) was so illogical when he stated that he was going to vote in deference to the opinions of the members from British Columbia. The members from British Columbia are united on this question; but are not the members for any other Province in the majority in favor of giving the Indian a vote, and in favor of giving a vote to women? If he was illogical, then the different Provinces here would have to be in a minority on this question, instead of being in a majority, as they are; and he will bow to the will of that majority, therefore he is not illogical. I am very glad that this has been eliminated from the Bill. If it had not been eliminated we would have had stacks of books brought in here upon the Chinese pig-tail; we would have had copious tears from the hon. gentleman from Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. Davies), and other members, over the injustice of the Chinese being denied the right to vote; and they would have argued in favor of giving votes to a dirty, greasy man, a man with a long pig-tail hanging down his back, unfit for human society, with a forbidding countenance, with a flat head, with pinched toes. We would have been told—that not only did they not send their money that they earn across the water, that they lived not on a penny a day, that they sent not their bones away to China, that they would even be buried in the soil of Canada—that they were British subjects. We would have been told that the Indian was once master of the forest and the stream; that he was the white man's