

HON. MR. POWER—We have not yet heard any good reasons for excluding the Chinese. It is true that, as a general thing, the Chinese do not become naturalized; but take the exceptional Chinamen who do become subjects of Her Majesty, and have the qualification under the election law; there is no reason why they should not vote. It is said that British Columbia does not wish the Chinaman to vote. It is pretty hard to say what British Columbia does desire in that respect, as there seems to be a difference of opinion on it amongst the representatives of that province. If British Columbia does not wish a certain class to vote there, it is one reason for thinking that we should not undertake to deal with the franchise at all—that we should leave it with the provinces. I venture to say that if the opinion of the Province of Ontario was taken on the Indian vote there would be just as strong a condemnation of the proposition to enfranchise the Indians as there would be in the Province of British Columbia against the Chinese.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Hear, hear. I want to emphasize the hon. gentleman's statements.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think the Parliament of Canada should make any distinction of race at all; that the Chinese, Negroes, Indians and Whites should be on the same footing; that no exceptions should be made in favor of one or against another race. This Bill provides that an Indian shall vote, although he does not own property and cannot make a bargain; and at the same time it provides that the Chinaman shall not vote although he does own property and is in a position to make contracts. I do not propose to take up the time of the Committee, but I feel that it is my duty to enter a protest against the injustice and inequality of the proposition. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what reason there is, considering that this Bill is proposed chiefly for the purpose of creating uniformity, that the cities of Hull and St. Hyacinthe in the province of Quebec are made towns for the purposes of this Bill?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It is because those two places having a large population, if a city qualification were required there it would make the electing body much smaller than if we make them towns for the purpose of this Act.

HON. MR. SCOTT—My hon. friend will recollect that there are several towns in Ontario which are now cities, where the population is about the same as that of Hull. Take Belleville, St. Catherines and Stratford, for instance, which have recently been made cities, and have about the same population as Hull: they should be treated in the same way. I think also that my hon. friend ought to consider whether it is not possible to modify the Chinese clause. It is very repugnant to myself; but my principal reason is that we are discriminating against Chinamen in the face of the world. When we look at the policy of the Empire, it seems to me to be extremely incongruous on our part to take this action. We all know that for the last century every effort has been made to get entrance into China. We tried to induce them to believe that they ought to trade with the outside world, and that they ought to become more cosmopolitan, and after bombarding their beautiful capital, Pekin, they did see the propriety of fraternizing with civilized nations. They no sooner begin to do so than they find we set up a Chinese wall on our side; we say it is all right that our people should trade in China and acquire property and civil rights there, but Chinese should not be allowed similar privileges in our country. To my view it is entirely contrary to the principles of the Empire. We should educate the Mongolians to mingle with the rest of the world. I think it is a mistake to say they will confine themselves to British Columbia. We are asked why do they go to British Columbia; the reason is clear, it is because they could not get any further, but it is notorious that of late years they are working east, and when the railroad is finished they will come further east. I think it is wholly inconsistent with our system of legislation that we should seek to discriminate against the Chinese. Take that instance referred to by the hon. member for New Westminster, (Mr. McInnes) of the Chinaman who settled in