

in China in defiance of the Alien Labour Act as were the men in this case. So the conditions can be truthfully said to be entirely different. The question arises why were these men brought here? Well, I have here a quotation from a local newspaper, and I do not want to stress this particular man's plea because he was only a victim of circumstances along with other people. His name appears to have been Duncan McDonald. He was a fireman. He joined one of the boats of the British Empire Steel Corporation, desired to serve three years, and obtain a fourth class engineer's ticket.

With this view, I did my best and served from the stoke-hold to the engine room.

And so on. Then he says further:

I was at work in the engine room Saturday afternoon when the second engineer came in. He said: "The Chinamen are coming Monday, so I suppose you had better go out and look for another job." I am now pitching coal in the fires of an old rum-runner, very little bigger than a wash tub.

This man forwards to this paper certified certificates of his character, giving him the highest character for sobriety, intelligence and diligence. He was a young Nova Scotian trying to make his way in the country. That did not happen in Hong Kong, China; it happened right here at the Canadian port of Halifax. Why was this man fired? His superior officers did not want to discharge him, but gave him the highest character. They discharged Duncan McDonald "only because it has been decided to man this department by Chinamen." The paper continues:

We ask in all the seriousness that can attach to the question, could anything be more tragic, could anything be better calculated to kill ambition and usefulness in a bright young son of this province?

The paper further says:

The very flower of the manhood of Nova Scotia has been pouring out of this country at an alarming rate; the exodus has assumed appalling proportions. These young men are leaving this province because they cannot find work in this province, and Duncan McDonald—conspicuous for his integrity of character and his aptitude for his work; perfectly sober and attentive to his duties—must go out and take a job on a rum-runner because someone wants to man "Canadian home trade" ships with Chinamen.

Why was Duncan McDonald discharged? Certainly not because he was a drunkard; certainly not because he was a ruffian and an incompetent. His superiors have set their hands to the statement that he is everything that an honest, sober, and intelligent workman should be. Duncan McDonald was discharged because "the Chinamen were coming." And why were the Chinamen coming? There can be only one answer; because they will work for lower wages than Canadian seamen receive.

It has been stated in answer to a question asked in this House that it is the purpose of

this company to confine the employment of Chinamen to firemen and cooks, and they give as a reason for that that they cannot obtain firemen and cooks to man their boats. There is a large number of employment agencies in Canada, and I have no doubt such agencies exist in the eastern provinces. What record is there of these agencies being applied to to see if they could supply the necessary cooks and firemen for this work, in order that Nova Scotians should not be fired out of the remaining jobs they have, and Chinamen placed in their positions? I think a number of men could have been supplied by the employment agencies throughout Canada if an attempt had been made to get them. But the real reason—and we must not shirk it—that these Chinamen were brought in is that they would work at a cheaper rate than Canadians, and their employers, quite properly from their point of view, chose to employ them; and so long as they kept within the law that was their privilege.

But they have not kept within the law. They have brought the men in, first in defiance of the Alien Labour law, secondly in defiance of the Chinese Immigration Act, and thirdly in defiance of the section which prohibits them from landing at any point in Canada excepting Vancouver and Victoria. They were therefore improperly brought in. The only method by which they obtained entry to Canada appears to be a letter from the deputy minister, for which there is no sanction within the four corners of the legislation of Canada. This permission should be cancelled, the men should be deported, and steps should be taken to prevent anything of this kind happening again. I hope the minister will take the opportunity of replying in this debate; or perhaps when the estimates come up the matter can be discussed, in order to discover what steps can be taken to correct the evil. I am quite willing to assume that this was a casual error, but we do not want it established as a right thing, because it is not according to the law, and it may spread. It may be used to allow any number of aliens of any description whatever to be brought into Canada.

I might say one or two words more upon the suggestion that they are not in Canada. They are in Canada. They could not get into Canada by any other means than by landing. They came out as passengers from England on a boat called the Cedric. That boat landed those men on the wharf at Halifax, and from there I presume they were put on board the company's boats. They were