

that class of immigrants, from the fact that our friends from the Pacific coast complain so bitterly of the evils resulting from it. There must be something wrong in it when they so unitedly and so repeatedly express their disapprobation of that immigration, and I think it is but fair that there should be an honest expression of opinion by the members of this House upon that question; therefore, I do not think it desirable to adjourn the debate. We observe that in the United States restrictive, and in some instances prohibitive, laws have been passed against Chinese immigration, and I think it is time for us to move in the same direction.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I hope the hon. gentleman will withdraw his motion to adjourn the debate. As I have already stated upon several occasions, I consider there is a great deal in the objection that is taken to the unrestricted immigration into British Columbia, and especially to the Pacific Coast, of Chinese. They are not of our people, they are not of our race, they do not kindly mix with us, and they do not even become settlers. They come over and work a little while and after making a little money they take it away home with them, though leaving the results of their labour. Then there are moral reasons which we need not discuss, which, perhaps, render a contact between the whites and the Mongolians inadvisable and unpropitious. But there are some considerations we must not lose sight of. In the first place, I do not know, at this moment, what the Treaties are between England and China on the subject of intercourse, commercial and otherwise. I presume, however, that England would not interfere with any legislation of ours, as she has permitted legislation in the Australian colonies. There is another point that should be very carefully considered. We are just finishing the Pacific Railway, and one of the objects of that enterprise is to enable Canada to compete with the United States for the Chinese and Japanese trade. I am glad to learn that our great Canadian steamship companies have it seriously in contemplation, as soon as the Canadian Pacific Railway is finished to Port Moody, to establish a line of first-class steamers running from Victoria, or some other point in British Columbia, to Hong Kong and on to the Sandwich Islands. Now, this steamship company will have to make arrangements in Hong Kong and other Chinese ports, and I suppose they would like to go on to Canton, but I don't know about that. They will have to make arrangements to get a trade, and it might seriously impede the success of that line if we legislated in a manner to offend the Chinese Government. The Chinese Government is well informed on everything that goes on in the outer world; they are not the Chinese of fifty years ago. Like their neighbours in Japan, they are now embraced within the number of civilized nations, in every way civilized—I mean in modern ideas, as they have an ancient civilization of their own. But they have the same commercial ideas as the European nations and the nations of North America. Now, it might greatly impede the initiation of any trade between Canada and China if the Chinese Government found that when we approached them to make commercial arrangements we had shut down the gate and said: "We want to trade with you, but we won't allow any of you to come to us." This is a matter for grave consideration. Then, Mr. Speaker, there are certain contracts connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway which are to be finished, I suppose, next year; and I do not think the Government could have made such satisfactory contracts if it had been supposed that they could not get Chinese labour. The Government, however, are fully alive to the importance of the question. I believe that when our Pacific Railway is finished and trade begins to flow into British Columbia, not only by San Francisco and by Panama but across the continent by the Canadian Pacific Railway, there will be a flow into that Province of our own race, of people from England, Ireland and Scotland, and Europe

generally; and then there will be no difficulty in supplying the wants of the labour market. Therefore, I would suggest that the hon. gentleman who has this motion in hand do not press it just now. Government will pledge themselves to issue a Commission to look into the whole subject during the present summer, to consider its trade relations, its social relations, and all those moral considerations which make Chinese immigration inadvisable; and we will be prepared to come down with the conclusions thus arrived at, at the next Session. I hope my hon. friend will accept that suggestion. We will issue the Commission and have it sit this summer. It will examine the whole question exhaustively, and will submit the whole case to Parliament at its next Session, and the results of that report will be laid before Parliament. I hope and believe, I am certain, that then we will be in a better position to deal with the subject, and I am satisfied, also, that the legislation which will be the result of such Commission will be in the nature of a restrictive regulation of Chinese immigrants. Under these circumstances, I hope the hon. gentleman will either be satisfied with my statement or allow it to stand over until he considers my proposition. I am sincerely anxious that the question should be dealt with; but we should not deal with it on this discussion, but when the whole subject, as well as the evidence submitted in Australia, California and Washington, has been condensed, collated and submitted to the Canadian Parliament, so that we may be able to have before us the same full information which those bodies had, before we take any action. That is my suggestion. I hope the hon. gentleman will either accept my suggestion at once and withdraw his motion, or allow the motion to prevail that the debate be adjourned for a day or two; and if he does so, I will give him an opportunity to bring it up again.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. I am sure it is very gratifying to the members from British Columbia to hear the very favourable expressions from the leader of the Government. With respect to the Treaty between China and England, I do not think there is any difficulty about it. The Australian colonies took hold of this question some years ago. They passed restrictive measures, and the Home Government have allowed them, and they are in force in those colonies at the present time. We are on the same footing with the Home Government as the Australian colonies are; hence, what they are in a position to do, we are equally in a position to do in that regard. So, there is no difficulty on that score. With respect to the steamer between China and British Columbia, if it is a condition that we are to have a Chinese population in British Columbia for the sake of the steamer running between those countries, I say the people of British Columbia do not want any steamer. That is the voice of the people there. What we want is to get rid of, or to prevent any further immigration of Chinese to the Province. There are steamers running between San Francisco and ports of China; yet the Americans have a measure prohibiting Chinese immigration. That restriction does not prevent the steamers doing trade between the two countries, and they are doing a large trade, too. I do not anticipate for a moment that any restrictive measure which might be passed by this Parliament would prevent a Treaty or business relations between the Dominion of Canada and China—not the slightest. If there is any money in it, they are on hand all the time. With respect to the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway: I presume it is well known to every hon. member that not one Chinaman has been employed on the road this side of the Rocky Mountains, and the Chinese question only affects the road on the western side of the Mountains. We have had a large portion of that work completed, I am sorry to say, by Chinamen. Before I left British Columbia to attend to my parliamentary duties this