

at all proper? If these men are addicted to vices of an unpronounceable nature, who is to blame for it? Is not the tax of \$50 a head on Chinese wives at the root of it? Apologizing again for having detained the House with these desultory remarks, I shall make way for other gentlemen who are better able to express themselves on this subject than I am.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—I certainly should not have been the first to speak on this subject, but I have felt, without saying anything about it, from the first time I ever heard of this Chinese tax, (and have not yet seen any reason to change my mind), that it is a disgrace to our Dominion. What is the objection to the Chinese? What would the people on the Pacific coast have done without the Chinese? I have heard myself ladies in San Francisco say that if it had not been for the Chinamen doing their work they would have had to do it all themselves, as it was impossible to get assistance anywhere. I have heard from British Columbia that the Chinese make first-rate servants; that they are more honest than the average of servants, and the only fault that is found with them is that they come into this country and work more cheaply than others. If they do work for less money, they do not do as much work as a white man. But it is of little consequence whether they do more or less; I rose merely to express the conviction that I have felt ever since this tax was imposed on the Chinese, that it is a disgrace to our Dominion, and I hope it will not be very long until it is taken off, and Chinese are allowed to come free into our country.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I am very much pleased at the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Halifax, and I am sure that what he has said must have struck the right chord in the hearts of every member in this House. If this law were confined to British Columbia alone, we in the rest of the provinces would not feel it so badly: but it is a law applying to the whole of Canada and I maintain that it is a blot on our statute books. When I look at British Columbia and see the vast territory they have, teeming

with unbounded wealth which only requires abundance of cheap labor to develop it—when I look at their magnificent forests, and their rich mines, their beautiful fields and their teeming fisheries, and feel that it is only labor that is wanting to make that country rich and prosperous. I contend that there is every objection to restricting Chinese immigration. Where would British Columbia be to-day if it had not been for the cheap labor of the Chinese? We would hardly have had communication opened up with that Province to-day but for the Chinese laborer bringing the construction of the Railway to a speedy termination. I have seen those laborers in their tents on the prairie, quiet and peaceable, without immorality, as far as I could see, simple in their habits, intelligent and honest, performing their labor cheerfully and faithfully and with a degree of cleanliness about their tents and their persons which was not found amongst the other laborers in the same occupation. I say that the comparison is largely in favor of the Chinese. When I arrived in British Columbia I experienced the same thing. I did not see much drunkenness in British Columbia, but I certainly did not see a Chinaman drunk. I saw them in the field, in the fisheries and in the mine, cheerful and happy, and from what I heard of them they were honest and faithful in the performance of their duty. When I went into the chief houses of the place, I found Chinamen waiting on the table, cooking and doing the general work of the house, and the cleanliness and cheerfulness with which they seemed to perform their work struck me as being something uncommon and something which I had not found to that extent in Nova Scotia amongst ordinary servants, and I expressed then, as I do now, regret that we have not more of them in my province. The feature that struck me particularly was their cleanliness. I did not see a dirty Chinaman in British Columbia, and I went through the best and worst of their settlements. When I inquired what was the objection to the Chinese, the only complaint that I could hear was that they interferred with the labor monopoly and were reducing the rate of wages, and as a consequence they were obnoxious to

HON. MR. ALMON.