

Now, I would ask the Government whether they are prepared to introduce any measure this Session, no matter how brief, with a view to repress the immigration of Chinese into British Columbia? There has been a general feeling abroad that in the absence of white labor in that country a certain number of Chinese would be admitted into the country to work on the railway; but even that the people have objected to. But, under the circumstances, I believe the general feeling would be to allow a certain number in for this purpose. If, however, they are to come into the country, by the middle of August, to the number of 24,000, the country will be overrun by Chinese, as it will then have 32,000, who will, as stated in the telegram, outnumber the entire white population. It strikes me that in view of the action of the United States Government, some action ought to be taken by the Canadian Government to repress that immigration; and I put it to the hon. gentleman opposite, in the common interest, as well as in the interest of the country, whether or not something cannot be done to relieve British Columbia from the Chinese difficulty?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is rather inconvenient that this subject should be brought up without notice of any kind; and the hon. gentleman must be satisfied with a very brief and perhaps unsatisfactory answer. No complaints have reached the Government of serious interference with white labor in British Columbia, from the influx of Chinese labor. In fact, there is such a want of white labor in British Columbia, that if you wish to have the railway finished within any reasonable time, there must be no such step against Chinese labor. It is certain that British Columbia suffers very much from the want of a steady flow into it of white immigration; and until the Pacific Railway is finished, I fancy that difficulty will always continue. It is of very great importance, in order to enable British Columbia to get the advantage of the flow of emigration from Europe, that the railway should be finished as early as possible. When Mr. Onderdonk was here in the beginning of the Session, he told me he employed every white man he could get, and that he tried to get every white laborer from Canada that he needed. He asked me, for instance, if I could recommend to him a reliable, a respectable man, a master builder or carpenter, who might get him the carpenters he wanted. I found him such a man, and he took over from Canada fifty or sixty carpenters to help him. Mr. Onderdonk said also that he expected at one time to be able to get sufficient white labor from the United States; but such was the extent to which the construction of new railroads were proceeding in the United States this year, that he could really get no satisfactory labor, but only the culls and refuse, persons who could get no employment at San Francisco, to work on the British Columbia Railway. I presume that this influx of Chinese is greatly caused by the demand for labor for the construction of the railway. Whether the hon. gentleman is correctly informed as to 24,000, or 10,000, or 5,000 Chinese coming into British Columbia, I have no means of knowing. But if they are coming, it is merely to work on the railway, to finish it as soon as possible, and we may well put up with the temporary inconvenience, as I understand it, of the presence of these Chinese. A good many people in Vancouver Island, who keep house, tell me that if they had not Chinese servants, they would have none at all; and I have no doubt things are still worse on the mainland. The Chinese bring no women to British Columbia with them, and are not likely, therefore, to be permanent settlers. Nor do I hear that there is any danger of miscegenation or a mingling of the races. So that after they have finished this particular work they can go back to China again. Whenever a practical difficulty arises, it is quite in the hands of the Legislature to deal with it, in the manner in which it has been dealt with, after a great many years experience, in the United States, and as it has

been dealt with in the Australian Provinces. At present every white man can be employed in British Columbia at good wages. The Government have had no information of an alarming influx of Chinese. This is the first I heard of these 24,000 Chinese immigrants, and I think the report must be mythical. I have seen in the newspapers, however, a statement that several vessels had been chartered to bring over Chinese laborers to work on this railway, to which I think there can be no objection. I share very much the feeling of the people of the United States, and the Australian colonies, against a Mongolian or Chinese population in our country as permanent settlers. I believe they would not be a wholesome element for this country. I believe that it is an alien race in every sense, that would not and could not be expected to assimilate with our Arian population; and, therefore, if the temporary necessity had been overcome, and the railway constructed across the continent, with the means of sending the European settlers and laborers into British Columbia, then it would be quite right to join to a reasonable extent in preventing the permanent settlement in this country of Mongolian, Chinese or Japanese immigrants. At present it is simply a question of alternatives—either you must have this labor or you cannot have the railway. The Government have not had their attention called to this subject of late; but it is a matter of so great importance that it will engage our attention, and that of every public man in this House, to discover how far we can admit Chinese labor without introducing a permanent evil to the country by allowing to come into it, in some respects, an inferior race, and, at all events, a foreign and alien race. Of course, British Columbia, from its geographical position and proximity to the ocean, is that portion of the Dominion that will chiefly suffer from an influx of this description of settlers.

Mr. DECOSMOS. I am glad to hear the hon. leader of the Government express an opinion favorable to repressing Chinese immigration at some time in the future; but I believe it will be found, by the experience of the present year, that that future will not be very distant. The point, however, to which I wish to draw your attention is this: The hon. gentleman has intimated that the Government has had no information bearing on the question of Chinese immigration. I have only to draw his attention to this fact: that at almost every Session of the Legislature of British Columbia since 1871 resolutions or addresses have been passed by the Legislative Assembly and forwarded to the Secretary of State of Canada dealing with this question. The hon. gentleman remarked that Chinese were useful as servants in Victoria. No doubt they are used as servants there, and are appreciated, but the number of servants in Victoria altogether would not probably amount to over 200, which is a very small number in comparison with the 4,000 or 5,000 Chinese in British Columbia, as shown by the Census report, and since that Census 4,000 or 5,000 more have been added to enter into competition with white labor. With regard to the point raised that Chinese labor on railways would be very acceptable in the absence of white labor, I believe that as a choice between evils the Province would accept Chinese labor for the purpose of constructing the railway; but, at the same time, the Legislature and the people are looking anxiously to this Government to take some action to put down Chinese immigration, and such action would be the more easy now since there is a ten years limit put on such immigration in the United States.

Mr. ROCHESTER. I do not know what the difficulty is with regard to Chinese labor in British Columbia, but I do know the people of Canada would be glad if they had Chinese or other labor. Agriculturists in Ontario, find it utterly impossible to procure labor. During the last few days, a few batches of immigrants arrived in Ottawa, and they were only a few hours here when they were carried off to