

force, to knock that man down. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that imperialism as understood by the Conservative party and the men who have helped to build up the British Empire, is not such imperialism as he chooses to signify. The imperialism to which he refers is the imperialism of ancient Rome, where Rome was the centre of her empire and solved all her questions herself. This new British Empire is something that historians agree is like nothing that has ever existed before; it requires careful handling, and requires, above all things, a national and truly patriotic spirit. It is upon the sufferance and upon the affections of the people of the British Empire that it is founded and must continue. I would not for one moment vote in favour of a central parliament. I do not know anybody else in Canada who would. That is not the point. The point is: Are the different parts of the empire prepared at all times to help each other in the storm and stress of empire? Are they or are they not? That is the question, because if they are not, but must meet and deliberate before they will decide upon the question, then they are not of the empire. That is the point that concerns Conservatives so strongly, that is where we differ. We say that we are at all times ready to do what we are asked, and what we ask the others to do for us, or pray what use on earth it is to talk of making laws for the government of our immigration if we had not Great Britain and the other dominions behind us to back us up in these laws? Japan and Hindustan and China would wipe us out in an hour. We presume that the British Empire is behind us, and surely, if we are at all above the ordinary greedy spirit of a child, we will agree that we will reciprocate and say, whatever they may do, we will always stand behind them. That is the spirit of empire, and the only spirit we dwell upon. We reject the idea of imperialism as talked about frequently for the purpose, I fancy it may be, of irritating Quebec. Quebec has nothing to fear from the imperialism which we preach. We are desirous of preserving the empire as it is. You cannot preserve the empire as it is if you say you are not of the empire all the time, but only a portion of the time and when you may see fit—and I know something of the French-Canadians.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Is India in the empire?
[Mr. Burnham.]

Mr. BURNHAM: It may be or may not be; I cannot tell, for the simple reason that India is not part of the empire as we are. I would answer the question in that way. I do not presume to answer it any other way. It is not necessary to go into the history of India to show that it is not on the same basis in the empire as we are. It is not necessary to interject foreign matters into the debate. Let us stick closely to the question. We are talking about Canada, and we have all we can handle in Canada at the present time. Let me say that we in Canada are desirous of being counted part and parcel of the empire, and not, as set down in a certain Naval Service Act, only when we see fit to adjudicate upon the question. That kind of empire is not our kind of empire at all; and, for my part, I would not belong to a country that would presume on the support of the rest of the empire and would not be man enough to say it would participate in its support at all times. That is neither imperialism nor Canadianism, and I am sure it does not belong to the true spirit of Canadian manhood. Speaking of Oriental immigration—it seems to me inadvisable to refer to this as Hindu, Chinese or Japanese immigration, let us refer to it as foreign cheap labour and then no difficulty will arise. I have no concern about the morals of it, we can settle it on a different basis. The objection to foreign cheap labour coming into the West has been clearly set out as owing to the fact that they depress the rate of wages, and therefore upset the whole stable equilibrium of the industrial world in the West, and therefore in Canada; and I hope that my friend the Labour member for Montreal (Mr. Verville) will back me up when I say that he recognizes, as the hon. member for Rouville will recognize, that you cannot keep out foreign cheap labour and admit foreign cheap labour's goods.

That is a manifest absurdity. When China develops, when the men who are paid from 18 to 20 cents a day and who are capable of all sorts of skilful culture, turn their energies to producing steel and other manufactured goods, we shall be swept off the decks if we admit them into Canada. Our rate of wages must come down then. That will be the case with all manufactured goods and natural products of every kind. To keep out the people and yet allow their goods to come in, is simply solving half the problem. We must be prepared to maintain