

man will withdraw his motion, and allow a direct vote to be taken on the principle of the Resolution before the House.

Mr. BARNARD. I will not occupy the attention of this House more than a few moments. I am pleased with the present appearance of things. Formerly, we could not get a hearing on this subject. Now, fully one-half of the House are satisfied that the question is coming up. It is a question that affects us seriously in British Columbia. It is weighing upon us heavily, a small and poor population, such as we have, to have to support these Chinese. More than that, these Chinese will creep across your borders before you are aware. They will take advantage of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and will cross the mountains into the North-West Territories, and when they come down to this Province of Ontario, you will understand something about Chinamen.

Mr. FAIRBANK. Mr. Speaker, I seconded the amendment before you. It may seem strange that an Ontario member should take any interest in this question, but it occurs to me that, when a matter is brought before the House from Session to Session as repeatedly as this has been, and with almost unanimity on the part of the representatives of that section, and is concurred in by the people of that section, we are entitled to give it fair consideration, and although it is late in the Session, I believe it is a question of sufficient importance to that distant Province to demand a fair, reasonable consideration at our hands, and an expression from us. I believe it is a question of very great importance, perhaps of vital importance to the future of that Province. Surely it is reasonable to suppose that the gentlemen from that Province, who have spent almost their lives there, should be more familiar with the effect of the Chinese immigration than we are. Still, we can bring experience in other matters somewhat to bear on that question. It is not, as I understand it, a question of settling, so far as the Chinese are concerned. They do not become settlers, but they take, I believe, the place of those who would become settlers. It is a principle in settling a country, as well as in nature, that two bodies cannot occupy the same space at the same time; and I believe it to be the fact that, where these Chinese are in great numbers, our people will not go. It has been stated time and time again, and every person who knows anything of it understands that these people do not come into British Columbia or any other portion of America for the purpose of settling. They do not take root. They come there to perform a certain amount of labour, earn a certain amount of wages, and go back to their own land. Much has been said in relation to the habits of these people. I shall not dwell either upon their vices or their virtues. We are informed that the parliamentary vocabulary would hardly be sufficient to describe them. Of virtues they have some, no doubt—one of economy—but I believe they carry that to an extent where it ceases to be a virtue. My reason for urging the consideration of this is based upon the fact that its tendency is to exclude our own people from that Province; I believe it tends to exclude our own settlers. The proposition is not to expel the Chinese who are there, it is not to absolutely prohibit their coming there, but it is to regulate it to that extent which experience shows to be to the advantage of the Province. I believe that the unrestricted influx of Chinese immigration can have no other effect there than the general degradation of labour, and I believe no greater calamity can befall any class of community or any community itself than anything which tends to degrade labour. Among the objections to slavery as it existed in the neighbouring Republic, among the great objections to it, was the degrading influence which it had upon the whites. Many opposed it on account of its injustice

Mr. GORDON.

to the slave; others on account of its degrading influences upon the white. Perhaps, at the time when slavery existed, there was not a more unfortunate class of persons than the poor whites, classed by the slaves themselves as "white trash." The habits of these Chinamen are such that I believe our white labour will not compete against them, and if they prevail to any extent, they can have no other tendency than to degrade labour. If the importation into that Province is to continue as it did during last year, it will soon become a question whether it shall be a Chinese colony or a colony of our own people. I believe, in the settlement of a new country like this, the quality of immigration is a matter of very great importance, of the first importance—what class of people the soil shall be "seeded down with." It would not be well, I think, that the people of British Columbia should feel that they labour under any special disadvantage from having joined this Confederacy. If they had not, they would have been responsible only to the Imperial authorities. Other colonies in the position in which they would have been had they not joined the Dominion, have passed restrictive measures against Chinese immigration which have not been disallowed by the Imperial Government. Hence, if we continue to refuse to give this question proper consideration, they may feel placed at a disadvantage in that respect. British Columbia is being rapidly brought nearer to us. Soon the railway will be completed, and the distance will be materially decreased. When we then extend our hand across the Rocky Mountains, it is our wish to grasp the hand of our own countrymen and not that of a settlement of Chinese. I shall have much pleasure in supporting the Resolution with the proposed amendment.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the vote is taken, I desire to say a word or two. In the first place, I desire to say that I think it is fair to the Province of British Columbia, and to this question as well, that we should express our opinion upon it, and should not adjourn this debate and so shelve the question. I am in favour of having the question voted upon, as a matter due, I think of right, to British Columbia and to the delegation which has so earnestly pressed for a vote upon this question. In the second place, I desire to say, as having spoken on this question last year, and not being in favour of a prohibition of Chinese as Chinese, that I occupy the same position this year, and yet I am going to vote for the amendment, reserving the right to say in what way and to what extent restriction should be applied. I do not believe that Chinese should be prohibited simply because they are Chinese. If a Chinaman is a good, decent, industrious man, he has as good a right here as any other man; but if there are classes that do not come under that category, then I believe that class of them should be restricted, and therefore I intend to vote, if it be allowed to come to a vote, for the amendment.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). I quite agree with the remarks of the last speaker, as to the position of the representatives of British Columbia in this House on this question. When there is such a unanimous opinion on the subject in that Province we can scarcely disregard it. I have heard no sufficient reason advanced by the hon. member who moved the adjournment of the debate, why this question ought not to be voted upon at the present time. We are beginning to hear the question raised by labour councils in different parts of Ontario, and I think the question is assuming that importance that we cannot now reject the principle of the Resolution. I shall support the amendment of the hon. member for North Grey.

Mr. HESSON. I quite sympathize with the efforts of the representatives of British Columbia to regulate in some way the immigration of Chinese into their Province. I am disposed to support the amendment of the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Allen). I think it is desirable to restrict