

law as the hon. gentleman has spoken against it. But, I repeat, I do not feel inclined to take up the discussion of the merits of this law in the abstract on my hon. friend's motion. I think I am justified in contenting myself with answering the question which is put to the Government on the subject.

It is a fact that three Chinamen were turned out of the United States, where this law which my hon. friend so strongly condemns prevails amongst sixty millions of people. They were turned out of the United States upon the Niagara bridge. When they arrived at the Canadian end of the bridge it was found that two of them had Canadian certificates, and they were, of course, received at once; but the third man had neither the certificate, nor the means of paying the duty which our law renders necessary before a Chinaman can enter the country. The Custom House Officer therefore very properly turned him back. On reaching the other end of the bridge he was again turned back and *planté là*; and the consequence was there was no saying what would have happened to him, had not our official strained a point in his favor and allowed him to come over into Canada. What has been done since I do not know. We have caused enquiry to be made and hope to hear shortly how it was he was allowed to enter. At all events he was not put to great inconvenience, he only suffered such detention on the bridge as to let him understand that he was in the same position with regard to entering this country as he was with regard to entering the country to the south of us: namely, that he must be either possessed of proper papers to show that he had complied with the law, or pay the duty which the law imposed upon him. I think I should be as pleased as my hon. friend to see this law repealed, and to see this country open its arms to all law abiding people to settle amongst us. We have plenty of space, and our greatest want is population; at the same time, because I think so, and because my hon. friend thinks so, and many other gentlemen who are not affected by the competition of Chinese labor think so, it is not altogether sufficient ground for taking up the matter summarily and disposing of it, if we could dispose of it, which I doubt, contrary to the feelings of the working people of Canada.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I was not in when the question was put to the leader of the House, and therefore had not the opportunity of hearing what was said by the hon. gentleman from Halifax; but I would like to have had an assurance from my hon. friend opposite that this unfortunate Chinaman was not to be kept in bond. The latest despatch that I saw from Niagara was to the effect that he was still in bond in the Custom House. Anything more inhuman, more unjust, or more derogatory to the dignity of two great countries—of two nations who profess to be on the plane of advanced civilization in the world, we have no previous example of. I think when it was discovered that this unfortunate man was in such a position, the Government, under the circumstances, ought to have remitted the fine. It was a peculiar case, a distressing case. I understand that the unfortunate man was kept on the bridge two days and at least one night, and that the only food he had was what was supplied to him through the generosity of the people, but it took some days before he was permitted to come to our side, and then only as an article in bond. He may be, for all I know, in the bonded warehouse—it would be quite in harmony with orders that have gone forth from the Customs Department. I say, anything more degrading to humanity or discreditable to civilization has never before occurred in this country. If an Englishman or a Canadian is travelling in China and the smallest affront is given to him it is reported at once to the Foreign Office, and it is made the subject of official correspondence, and the Chinese are threatened, as they have been threatened before, with shot and shell. I think it is a most disgraceful, piece of legislation to begin with, to have allowed it on our Statute-book at all, and I do not think it is a law that ought to be rigidly enforced. It is one of those laws where the feelings of humanity should be allowed to prevail over the hard and fast rules of the Statute.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend's indignation seems to me to be a little misplaced. The Government have no information that this Chinaman was kept on the bridge several days, or that he was starved on the bridge, or that he is in bond in the Customs warehouse. We believe that the man was detained on the bridge