

legislation, and I am happy to see there is a prospect of getting a little relief in this direction.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). It is a very old saying that every dog has his day, and a cat nine lives. Every Province in this Dominion has had what is called its day; the time has now arrived when British Columbia should have its day. The remarks of the hon. gentleman who introduced this Bill—if he will not feel offended at my criticising those remarks, not in an unfriendly, though in a slightly unfavorable way—one would almost imagine were in opposition to the Bill rather than in favor of it. It would appear to me that nine-tenths of his remarks were leaning towards what he was pleased to term pro-Chinese rather than anti-Chinese. He said that the British Columbia members were not actuated solely by prejudice against the Chinese race. In that he is certainly correct—at least so far as I am concerned. I have unquestionably not the slightest prejudice against the Chinaman as an individual, but I have a dislike to their presence in British Columbia as a collective mass, because I know it is disadvantageous to the Province and distasteful to by far the greater number of those persons who sent me to represent them in this House. I have been accused of not being as strongly anti-Chinese as some of my constituents desire, still I consider that in this matter I have not to consult my own individual feelings, as the Secretary of State has done to-day, but I have to speak for those people whom I represent in this House. The hon. gentleman stated that there were apparently two classes of people who came before the Chinese commission—anti-Chinese advocates and pro-Chinese supporters. Now, the anti-Chinese advocates, I think, are confined, more particularly, to the laboring classes and to the trades' unions, than to the mechanics and the more educated portion of the people; and the pro-Chinese supporters, as he terms them, are confined almost exclusively to those people who are conducting industries in that Province—the shoe factories, the canneries on the Fraser, the coal mines at Nanaimo and similar enterprises. In the evidence taken before the Royal Commission, I think it will be found that those who are in favor of keeping the Chinese in the Province were almost entirely those who have some interest to serve by means of the Chinese presence and their cheap labor. Therefore, it is not surprising that they were willing to give their evidence before the commissioners, knowing that their own pockets would be touched if any steps were taken to drive out the Chinese, or to restrict their immigration. The Secretary of State also says that when the commissioners arrived in Victoria considerable feeling was evinced against them. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think there is good ground for the existence of that feeling. The people then felt and still feel that after having given expression to their wants and requirements in the Local House by a resolution which was carried by 16 to 8, and when their representatives in this House, in the present Parliament, as well as those who preceded us, have argued so strenuously and so long in favor of the restriction of Chinese immigration, I say it was a little distasteful to the people when the Government appointed a commission to go over the whole ground in so short a space of time as two or three weeks, which the representatives of the people had taken several years to explain to this House. Therefore, I think it is pardonable on the part of the people of Victoria and British Columbia if they express themselves as annoyed and surprised at the appointment of that commission. The hon. gentleman also stated that the only Province in this Dominion which had raised its voice against the immigration of Chinese was British Columbia.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I said we had demands from Ontario and other places, and I mentioned the city of Montreal.

Mr. BAKER. In the earlier part of his remarks he did state that so far as he was informed only one Province had raised its voice.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I said that British Columbia was the only Province where the people were suffering from Chinese immigration.

Mr. BAKER. Of course, I accept the hon. gentleman's statement. But as a matter of fact, a number of laboring associations in the older Provinces, in Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec, have raised their protest against the immigration of Chinese into the Dominion. I will read to the House the following resolution which has been sent to me from the city of Hamilton:

"The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the wage-workers of Hamilton, and I was instructed by resolution of Labor Convention to forward the same to you:

"Whereas, the system of importing pauper and Chinese labor to this country by the Government of the Dominion of Canada does not in any way protect the industries of our country or increase the wealth of the producers, but the importation of pauper and coolie labor in an already glutted labor market brings and increases poverty and its attending evils. The enforcement of labor contracts made in foreign countries, detrimental to the interests of wage-earners of Canada, will result in a degrading competition that will break the noble spirit of labor and render our slavery unbearable. We denounce the actions of the Government as criminal in protecting the manufacturer and strangling competition by the many unfair advantages derived from such protection, while the producers are taxed in order to increase their number and cheapen the cost of production.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that the workingmen of Hamilton condemn the policy of the Government in allowing the importation to our shores of pauper immigrants, and call upon them to take measures to return such foreign paupers as are now in our land and to legislate against the arrival of others.

"That we demand the recall of the emigrant agents and lecturers employed by the Government and the application of the money appropriated for their remuneration to some public work upon which some unemployed Canadians can earn their bread. That we especially protest against the introduction of Chinese labor in any part of the Dominion, and call upon the Government to send back all Chinese now in Canada, or enforce such a poll tax as will drive them hence.

"That we demand the repeal of all laws that do not bear equally upon capital and labor, and the substitution thereof of such laws that will protect the laborer's rights from the encroachments of selfish capitalists.

"That the workingmen of Hamilton refrain from giving support to either of the political parties in the future, until such time as they secure by legislation, not promises, their rights.

"The flag of liberty unfurl,
To float throughout our land,
From power traitors hurl
And let the righteous stand."

Now, I do not read this for the sake of condemning the Government for anything they may have done, but simply to prove that there are persons in other parts of the Dominion than that of British Columbia who advocate the restriction and even the prohibition of Chinese laborers, and some even go so far as to ask that we expel those who are already here.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. BAKER. When the House rose at six o'clock, I was endeavoring to follow, with soft and humble tread, the remarks of the Secretary of State. He made reference to the report of the special commission appointed in the United States in 1876-77. I have not the advantage of having perused that document, because, like many other documents, I find it is not in the Library at the present moment; but I am convinced that the general tone of that report was strongly anti-Chinese, so far as the United States were concerned, and led to the legislation which followed in 1880. The hon. gentleman also referred to the pressure which had been brought to bear by the Local Legislature of British Columbia, as embodied in the representations made on 9th May, 1876, and subsequently on 31st July, 1878. Those were also with a view to the enactment of restrictive legislation upon the Chinese question. I think that while we are discussing this subject, which is the most important that can possibly be discussed in this House, so far as British Columbia, an important part of this vast Dominion, is concerned, it is