

tried it very carefully over a considerable number of years. The chief advantage of the Oriental labour is that it is a little steadier and more reliable, particularly as regards the Chinamen.

That is, the Chinaman will work longer hours and for less wages and with probably less kicking. That is possibly not a very dignified term, but it is what most Britishers claim as their right.

I want to say a word or two as to the effect of Chinese labour on the labour market of the province. There are two elements in this country in favour of the immigration of Chinese or Orientals. They are in favour of that immigration on mercenary grounds. The first element is the transportation companies, who receive a large revenue for bringing these people in; the second element consists of a few individuals who imagine they can get cheap labour. I will examine very briefly the effect that Oriental labour has had on labour conditions in British Columbia. When I went to British Columbia twenty years ago most of the sawmills were in the hands of white men. You know, Mr. Speaker, and every member from this section of the country knows, that the men working in the sawmills of eastern Canada make thoroughly good citizens. Our sawmills were in the hands of white labour, but a few sawmill men, finding difficulty at times in getting labour, as will always happen in a new country, conceived the idea of using Oriental labour. They employed Chinamen for the lowest class of work they had, such as piling lumber, taking away refuse and so on. In a very short time they found that the supply of labour for the more skilled parts of their work was becoming scarce, which was a natural consequence because the young fellows who are employed to take the material away from the planers, the sticking machines, and other machines in sawmills, were usually drafted from the families of the men doing the more arduous tasks around the mill. When you cut that off, you cut the white man off from that class of labour. It was not long before they found that there was a scarcity of sawyers, the shingle-weavers also became scarce, which was the direct result of introducing Oriental labour into the lower grades.

The same thing took place in the fisheries. Fifteen years ago, as my colleagues can testify, we had from 8,000 to 10,000 white fishermen on the Pacific coast. True, the coast was new; our country was raw and

[Mr. Stevens.]

undeveloped. The roughness of the country away from the cities, the lack of communication, and other disadvantages, made it difficult to establish villages. But I have already said that in a new country these conditions must obtain. There was at times scarcity of labour for the fisheries. The white fishermen would have been there to-day if they had been allowed to do the work. But on one occasion, as the result of a strike on the Fraser river I believe—I speak subject to correction on that point—some of the cannery men got the idea of securing Japanese fishermen, with the result that the fisheries to-day are practically in the hands of the Japanese up and down the coast. I remember that fifteen years ago on the Skeena river there was not a single Japanese; to-day the fisheries are entirely in their hands. Fifteen years ago, when white men were doing the fishing, they got 25 cents apiece for the fish; for the last two or three years the cannery men have been paying only 10 cents and 12½ cents for their fish.

Mr. BRADBURY: What is the weight of a fish?

Mr. STEVENS: I do not know exactly.

Mr. HAZEN: The sockeye weight there is 8 lbs., I think.

Mr. STEVENS: In the case of spring salmon, a certain allowance is made. But there was an ample supply of white labour in those days, and had the policy continued of keeping the fisheries in the hands of white men, we should have had by this time a splendid population of white fishermen along the Pacific coast. The introduction of Asiatics into the lumber business, into the fisheries and into the logging camps has had the effect of driving away white men from these lines. Take the case of the logging business. I leave it to the judgment of hon. members of this House: if there are seventy or eighty Chinese or Japanese in a logging camp, is it not true the average Canadian will not stay in that camp any longer than he has to? So white men get out of the camps where the Asiatics predominate, and so they have earned the reputation of being rather careless and indifferent as to their time of employment. But it is the direct result of the introduction of this labour. Members of the House from Ontario know that you cannot get the average Canadian to work in association with a gang of Dagos or pure foreigners; they will not do it. It is