

would not do otherwise. I may say that, from that point of view, I am, to a large extent, in sympathy with my hon. friend who introduced this measure; and it may be that we may be forced, simply as a measure of self-defence, and to protect our own labourers, to resort to a measure similar to the one which is now advocated. Everybody must also admit that in the town of Windsor, for instance, or in any border town, when a Canadian labourer goes to the other side of the river and is forced back simply because, as a Canadian, he has been engaged by an American contractor, it is certainly galling to him if an American labourer is brought back and finds work in Windsor. Therefore, I am disposed to view with some favour the Bill of my hon. friend. But I will claim the privilege of asking him not to proceed further at the present time. The hon. gentleman has stated, what I was not aware of, that correspondence has taken place between the American authorities and the Canadian authorities upon this subject; and, before the hon. gentleman proceeds further with this Bill, I think it would be advisable for the Government to look into this correspondence and see whether it is not possible to avoid such unfriendly legislation. But if, after having taken cognizance of this correspondence, we find there is no way of escaping the conclusion to which my hon. friend has arrived, I will give him every opportunity at the next sitting of the House to press his Bill, if he thinks proper. Therefore, I will move the adjournment of the debate.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I quite agree with the hon. leader of the Government as to what he calls the great relative importance of this measure. There can be no doubt at all that, situated as Canada is, with some five millions of people along side a great population of seventy millions or thereabouts, all the advantages of reciprocal intercourse across the border are eminently on the side of the larger population, and the hardship is very much greater when the smaller population are denied in the adjoining country the advantages which are freely offered to the citizens of the United States in Canada. I am sure no person who is at all aware of the circumstances which have been brought under the notice of my hon. friend the mover of this Bill (Mr. Taylor), can fail to be impressed with the very great temptation that is presented to the Canadian Parliament to adopt legislation which shall, so far as possible, protect the people of Canada from the injury that is inflicted upon them by the free entrance of American citizens into Canada for the purpose of performing labour of every description without let or hindrance, while the Canadian, on the other hand, when he crosses the border, is met with exclusion. I must say that that is legislation of an intolerable character, and is calculated to inspire a very strong feeling of retaliation. The hon. the First Minister says, and says truly, that the

existence of this legislation is a great blot upon the statutes of that country. I quite agree with that sentiment, and I feel that it is legislation that is unworthy of so great a country as the United States; but I do not quite agree with my hon. friend that it would be an equally serious blot upon the legislation of Canada, if we passed a similar measure in order to protect ourselves from the great injustice to which Canada is now subjected. It is one thing for a country to initiate and enact legislation of that kind, and a very different thing for the parties who suffer under that legislation to enact similar legislation in order to protect themselves. But I feel very strongly that all retaliatory measures ought to be avoided, and that it is perhaps not the wisest way of obtaining that which we all desire, namely, friendly and cordial relations with the great people alongside of us. Under the circumstances, while I feel legislation of this kind would be quite justifiable on the part of Canada, I agree with the suggestion of the First Minister, that every means for the removal of this difficulty by diplomatic intercourse should first be exhausted. I am quite certain that my hon. friend and the Government will address themselves to that task in the most earnest manner, and I hope with success, and that the Parliament of Canada will not feel itself impelled to adopt a course that seems absolutely indispensable in the protection of the interests of our people. I trust, therefore, that my hon. friend the mover of the Bill will accept the suggestion of the First Minister, that the Government shall be allowed full opportunity for using their utmost exertions to remove this difficulty that is attempted to be met by this measure before it is necessary to proceed with it further.

Mr. TAYLOR. I may just say that I propose to offer a suggestion to the First Minister, and if it is not accepted by him, I will accept his suggestion. My idea was this, that the Bill might be referred to a special committee, which might look into the legislation, and not necessarily proceed with the Bill, while at the same time the Government would be conducting their inquiries and looking over the correspondence which has taken place. I also propose to modify the Bill and limit it to one section, which would read something like this: All foreigners or aliens before they perform labour in Canada for any person or persons for salary or other remuneration shall be a bona fide resident of Canada, and shall be domiciled and have residence here during the time of his or her employment. I think a simple Bill embodying that proposition would cover the whole ground. I will suggest a committee of two members from each province to be appointed to look into American legislation, with instructions to frame a Bill on this line or some other, and to report to the House at a later session, as the First Minister stated he thought it in-