

and ourselves. The extent to, which the Chinese students have studied in American universities is vitally affecting the relations between the United States and China to-day. They go back to China educated men, the men who control the press of their country, who find their way into parliament, who become the diplomats of their country. They are the ones who are in the position to control, in a very large way, the whole question of trade relations between the countries. I think we have already suffered a great deal in this country through not having given a like encouragement.

Mr. STEVENS: If I may be allowed to interrupt, I wish to say that we admitted students, but where the hon. gentleman is in error both in regard to students and merchants is this: We are not objecting to the bona fide student as described here, in a Canadian institute of higher education at all, but the Chinese themselves deliberately evaded the regulations and brought in hundreds, indeed thousands, of Chinese who never went to any institute of learning. They were admitted on that understanding; but while they, perhaps, attend one of our public schools for a few days or a short time, they are afterwards found here and there in ordinary labour.

The evasion in the case of merchants is of a similar character, and the difficulty is this: The Chinese put an altogether different interpretation on the profession of merchant from what we do. For instance, a dozen Chinamen will form a little company to run a store, and every one of them individually is a merchant. We would say that there was one merchant there and eleven clerks. They say that there are a dozen merchants, and in this way they evade and have evaded the regulations. I pointed out a moment ago that we used to have only two or three merchants coming in a month, whereas the number suddenly leaped to 400 a month, showing that there was a deliberate conspiracy to evade the regulation. Therefore, if the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) will catch our complaint, it is not against merchants or students, if we can pin down the correct interpretation. In this regard I think students are correctly defined, but merchants are not. That is the point that I tried to raise a moment ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am absolutely at one with the hon. member in what he says about preventing evasions and the like. I would not countenance for a moment any evasion of the law by either student or merchant. I am pointing out to him that

this legislation differs from anything in the nature of regulations we have heretofore had, in that under its provisions we contemplate placing in China an officer of our own government who will himself have to visé every passport. He will be under the direction of the minister, and, if so desired he can be in communication with the minister, by cable day by day. If he finds that merchants are making application to him in too large numbers, he can take his time to find out the standing of the men who are coming, and if the minister's regulations are not broad enough to cover what we all understand and what we want to have understood as coming within the provisions of the law, the minister will have an opportunity of amending his regulations accordingly. What I am asking the committee to consider at the moment is the international aspect of the language we use in the statutes. These enactments are read in China as well as in this country. If we can by regulation meet effectively the object that we in Canada are all aiming at, and avoid what is invidious and what makes for international illwill, surely it is to the interest of all classes in this country that we do so. I cannot think of anyone who will take exception to that point of view. The government has adopted an effective method of restriction by undertaking to see that passports are viséd in China before the persons to whom the passports are given leave that country. If we can agree upon the status of the man, for example, who is to be included within the merchant class, we ought to treat him in a generous way, and we ought also to take a broad and liberal attitude as regards students.

When I was interrupted, I was about to say that I know General Sir Arthur Currie of McGill and Sir Robert Falconer of Toronto both feel very strongly on this subject. They have represented to the government that they would be glad to see Chinese students coming to their respective universities. We must go this much further. If we are to expect students to attend our universities, we must give them the privilege of attending some preparatory college for a short time before they are admitted to the universities. All of that need be only a matter of regulation; it need not lend itself to evasion unless a government wished to lend itself to that, and I do not think any government would do so. The point I wish to make at the moment is the wisdom of recognizing the dual aspect of the legislation we are discussing, the economic and the international aspects, the care that must be taken in discussing international questions, while dealing with matters