

HON. MR. POWER—The same as a Chinaman is.

HON. MR. NELSON—In British Columbia the lowest savage is able to make the amount of money that the franchise requires ; he can earn from \$200 to \$400 a year.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—It seems to me that this is a question on which this House ought to express its opinion freely, because it is not only an important question to-day, but it is likely to become more so in the future. We are not bound by what the feeling of British Columbia is on that point, because political questions enter so largely into the matter there. The progress of that Province, and the progress of the North-West generally, may be greatly retarded if the means of obtaining cheap labor is kept out of the country. I would myself willingly adopt any measure that might be thought necessary to keep a disreputable Chinese out of the Province ; but if I am rightly informed one of the great complaints against Chinese laborers is, that a very low class of Chinese are kidnapped and put on board ships and brought out to this country by persons who have contracts to fill to supply labor in British Columbia. If the Bill that has been brought down this session becomes law, it seems to me that this objection to undesirable Chinese will be overcome, because they will not be brought into the country ; but it appears to me that refusing the franchise to the respectable Chinaman who fulfils all the duties of a good citizen ; who supports his family respectably, educates his children, and pays his taxes, is committing an act which tends rather to the injury of British Columbia than its advancement. If you wish to get respectable Chinese labor there, you ought to hold out every inducement to them to come ; but if you tell the Chinaman that no matter how reputable he may be in British Columbia he will have no vote at all, it will deter them from coming to the country.

HON. MR. NELSON—That is what we want.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—Until those arguments are refuted by some-

thing stronger than I have heard, I shall continue to believe in them ; and I shall continue to believe that this absolute refusal to allow Chinese laborers to vote is an error.

HON. MR. PLUMB—The Chinese question has been discussed at considerable length in the other House and elsewhere for some time past. It has been discussed in the United States, and it has been decided in that country that the Chinese should not be admitted to the franchise, even on the broad basis that exists there of universal suffrage. My hon. friend says that we get a low class of the Chinese in this country. I do not know any way in which we can get a different class than those who are brought out under contract, which they make themselves with the companies who furnish Chinese laborers. Each Chinaman has an agreement by which he is to remain in the employ of the company a certain time. He is to be guaranteed a certain payment by his employers, and also his passage back to China—to Shanghai, or to any place he wishes—and in case of his death his body is sent back to China—he even grudges us his bones for manure. In his habits he is not for a moment to be compared with the Negro or the Indian who live amongst us ; he comes as a member of an alien race, with superstitions, with ideas, and with habits which are entirely distinct from our own ; with sympathies which are distinct, and he cannot mingle, and will not mingle with other races.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Supposing he was a Christian Chinaman ?

HON. MR. PLUMB—It is so wild a supposition that I will not make it. The Jesuit missionaries have been laboring in China for over 100 years, and they have made no appreciable impression on them.

HON. MR. POWER—Yes, they have made some progress in some parts of China.

HON. MR. PLUMB—If my hon. friend will take up the history of China a work written by Hook, Crabbe and others who have devoted themselves to the work of