

Canada. I have no doubt that in autocratic Russia, where the lash is applied to the bare backs of women, the instrument of Russian cruelty will pause and delay his stroke while he reads a full account of the barbarity practised here on a poor Chinaman. I shall be very happy if the leader of the House can tell us that this disgraceful thing did not take place, but I am afraid that he cannot. What I would ask him to do is this; you belong to a Government that has determined that the United States shall not make our fiscal laws? You have determined not to put a tax on British manufactures, while you admit American goods free. What did we place a tax on the Chinese for, was it not in order to please the very worst part of the American nation? I hope if the leader of the House cannot tell me that this incident has not happened that he will be able to say that the Government has reconsidered that matter and determined in altering the tariff, to take the tax off the Chinese. I am more proud than ever of being a Nova Scotian, I am sure that that Bill to impose a tax on the Chinese, would never have passed in the Province from which I come. Nova Scotia has the proud boast that it was the first place in the British Dominion, except the Province of Quebec, where Catholics were allowed to sit in a Legislature. It was not the Imperial Legislature, but the Local Legislature that did that. Take the case of slavery; long before it was abolished elsewhere, it was done away with in Nova Scotia, not by legislative action, but by public opinion. When actions were brought to recover slaves, the judges refused to charge and the juries to find for the slave owner, and thus slavery was done away with. I say to the Government, take away the disgrace you have inflicted on Nova Scotia by this anti-Chinese legislation. I am personally free from the guilt of having assisted in putting such legislation on the Statute-book. The Bill passed this House by a very small majority and if the question of its repeal were to come before us now, I am sure that nine tenths of the members of the Senate would vote to remove the obnoxious law from our Statute books. You think you are pleasing the inhabitants of British Columbia by maintaining this tax. You are not; You are pleasing only a portion of them; very many people on the Pacific coast are

opposed to this Chinese tax. Three years ago, when I was in Victoria, a gentleman called on me to thank me for the stand I had taken with regard to that odious tax, which he said was a greater disgrace to Victoria than to any other part of Canada, and he further said that every member from British Columbia who keeps servants employs Chinese. I must apologize to the House for the time I have occupied in dealing with this question, though possibly no apology is called for where such a grievous injustice is under discussion. I have stated the case for the Chinese with what little ability I possess. I know that others, with better brains and a better command of language, could say it in more eloquent terms than I have used, but none with a better heart.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not feel disposed to go into a discussion of the Chinese question in the abstract on this notice of my hon. friend opposite. I hardly think that the House, or the public, are prepared for considering and dealing with this Chinese law. My hon. friend knows as well as any other man, and better than most, I dare say, that our Government is largely a government of compromise, and he knows that there are hundreds of thousands of people in the Dominion who would speak just as strongly in the opposite sense to the sense in which he has just addressed the House with regard to this Chinese tax. If I, myself, were capable of dealing with this matter, probably I should not be very far in my opinions from those of my hon. friend, but there are more considerations than the opinions of individuals to be thought of and dealt with in dealing with a Bill of this kind. My hon. friend knows very well that a large section of the population entertain the very strongest antipathy to the free immigration of the Chinese. It is not that these men are guilty of any crime: it is the conflict between them and the ordinary laborers of the country. They can and do live for a great deal less money than the working people of this country can exist upon, and they constitute a ruinous competition wherever they congregate in any numbers to our own laboring population. That is the reason why I say there are hundreds of thousands of people in the country who will speak just as strongly in favor of this Chinese