

tioned this honourable House on one occasion, but so far their prayers have been fruitless. Various reasons might be given why such a law should be enacted. One is because the Chinese labour is brought into competition with the labour of the white man. The Chinese work for wages that will not support a white labourer's family. They bring with them none of the responsibilities of our civilization. They have no wives or children to support, and hence they come stripped, as it were, to do battle with white labour. The white man has his family to feed, to clothe, to educate, churches and other public institutions to maintain; and in a thousand other ways he is called upon to contribute. The Chinaman, his rival in the labour market, has none of these responsibilities. He has only himself to provide for, and hence he is prepared for the combat; and, however much the Chinaman may desire to get for his labour, he will work for what he can just get. He will not be put on one side on account of the price. The white man, handicapped with the responsibilities of his civilization, the Chinaman prepared to struggle for his solitary existence—the result is inevitable; free white labour gives place to the slaves of the companies, who are prepared to work at a rate for which the white man cannot subsist, with their cheap and dirty mode of living and their capacity for living in swarms, in wretched dens where a white man would drop, if he did not suffocate. The experience on this phase of the question in California and Australia is very significant. It matters not how low a white man may offer his services, a Chinaman is always prepared to offer his at a lower rate; consequently, thousands of white families have been compelled to leave the State of California, because they found it impossible to compete with Chinese labour. In the Province of British Columbia, white men have had to leave on account of the Chinese monopolizing the labour market. It is impossible for white labour to compete with men who work sixteen hours a day, who sleep on shelves in the shop, and who live on a little rice, flavoured with a chunk of pork. Wherever a Chinaman gets a foothold he never lets go, and in whatever branch of labour he comes into competition with the white man, the latter goes to the wall every time. Is it right, then, that we should allow these people to swarm in upon us by thousands and to deprive our people of the labour which this country affords? Certainly not. We require all the labour of this country for our own people. We must remember, also, that China is the great slave market from whence labourers are being drawn to this country. Myriads of them are waiting, myriads of the lowest type of humanity, to come to this country to labour at a rate of wage upon which a white man would starve. We have in that Province at the present time, upwards of 18,000 Chinese. Just imagine for one moment that number of slaves in a Province so thinly populated as British Columbia is at the present time. I know it is argued by some hon. gentlemen that they are a necessity, that their labour is required to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Speaker, I differ entirely from that view. They are not a necessity. I received a letter to-day, the contents of which I was very sorry to learn; it is from one of the largest employers of labour in that Province, and he says that there are a great many men there who cannot get employment. Now, that is a very serious fact, and yet we are told, from year to year, that it is necessary to allow these people to swarm in upon us by thousands while our own people there cannot get employment. It is quite time that some action on the part of this House should be taken to prevent such large numbers of Chinese coming into that Province, thus depriving our own people of the employment which they are entitled to in their own country. It is no new thing that we are asking. What we are asking for has been adopted by Australia, in three of the colonies, which have passed restrictive measures. The State of California has passed a restrictive or a prohibitory measure. Our own

Province, during the last year, passed two restrictive measures, and, in addition, we memorialized this Government, asking that this Parliament also should pass some restrictive measure respecting Chinese immigration; but, so far, no action has been taken on the part of this Government or this House. These people, while they offer their services at a low rate, only wait for the opportunity to demand from their employers as high a rate of wages as the white man gets. We have had experience of their doings in this respect in the Province of British Columbia, where, on one occasion, the whole Chinese population of the city of Victoria struck for a higher rate of wage, and they never went to work until their request was granted. Large numbers of these people in any civilized community invariably demoralize and impoverish that community. They do not come amongst us, as other people do, to settle and make for themselves decent homes. Whilst they are amongst us, they live as meanly as it is possible for human beings to live, and after making a certain amount of money they return to China and their places are filled by another batch of slaves from the Flowery Kingdom. And this has been carried on to such an extent that we have found that fully one half of the total earnings on the railway, in the mines, and in some other branches of labour, has been carried out of the Province by these people, never to be brought back. Hence, they are coming and going and drawing the very life blood out of that Province, and at the same time are depriving our people of their just rights. It is no wonder that the people of that Province have raised their voices against such a monstrous imposition. I am satisfied that if such a state of things existed in the Province of Ontario, or in the Province of Quebec, there would be such a rallying of the forces demanding and insisting upon a remedy, as would be irresistible. I am certain that the hon. members of this House would not allow such a state of things in their midst to exist for forty-eight hours; and those of us who come from that Province, who feel the evils of the influx of these people by thousands, come here and ask the assistance of the members of this House from the other Provinces, so that we may get rid of the imposition to which we are now subjected. Sir, we object to these people also, on account of their slavery. They come to us as slaves, and they are treated as such while they are here. I desire to read a statement made by Mr. Consul Bailey, of Hong Kong, on this point:

"The emigration from China to all parts of the world is an organized business, in which men with large capital engage, in which men are bought and sold at so much per head, precisely as a piece of merchandise is handled at its market value. The Coolie of China is bought by the rich trader to serve his purchaser at a low rate of wages for a series of years in a foreign country, under a contract for the full performance of which, in many instances, he gives a mortgage on his wife and children."

Sir, I can vouch for the truth of that statement. They do come here and are treated as slaves. They come to our Province consigned as so much merchandise to the Chinese companies, and afterwards they are sold to the highest bidder. And yet we are told that white men should be in a position to compete with those individuals. Such a statement is an insult to the workingmen and the white people of this country. Let us hear what one of the papers of the Province of British Columbia said, in a leading article, with respect to this question:

"In this Province, in this very city, Chinese slaves, male and female, are constantly arriving; in some cases obtaining their freedom after years of labour; in other cases—those of females, especially—never. Cargoes of Chinese are shipped here at a nominal cost to the Chinese merchant or combination of merchants, and the individuals comprising the living freight become part and parcel of their importers, until enough has been retained from their earnings to enable them to purchase their liberty, which generally requires four or five years' servitude. And so widespread and complete is this system, and so powerful the organizations, that the slaves become, perforce, voluntary ones, in a country where everyone is nominally free, simply because they dare not assert their freedom, knowing full well that should they do so,