

ister of the Interior will be able to explain, is owing to the fact that they are dealt with under a special Act; therefore they do not come under this Order in Council which was issued under the terms of the Immigration Act. In any case, the number of Chinese arriving in Canada during the last two or three months was very small. I think there were 42 in November and 15 in December, so the matter is not a very serious one. The Government is faced with the difficulty bequeathed to them by the late Government, and they must deal properly with the problem or there will undoubtedly be serious complications later. I shall deal briefly with the Asiatic question from the Chinese standpoint. The hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) held this afternoon that it was desirable to let a number of Chinese in because they make good domestic servants. I take very strong issue with him there. The fact of the Chinese entering into domestic service in the West has made it doubly difficult to get female domestics. While the Chinese do make good domestic servants, there are many sidelights on this question—which I would not care to bring before the House, but which any hon. member can ascertain by a careful study of the question—which make the Chinaman most undesirable as a domestic servant. Further, I hold that it is unwise to encourage a certain class of immigrants simply because they make good menials. The class of immigrants we should encourage are those which will make good citizens, and for that reason alone, we should discourage the immigration of Chinese.

Some have claimed that the Chinamen make good agriculturists. The farmers of the Pacific Coast did use Orientals for some time; but at a recent convention held at New Westminster, I think, a very strong resolution was passed and forwarded to the Government urging that steps be taken to exclude the Chinese and Orientals generally because they were securing control of the agricultural interests of the Pacific Coast. Some may say: If the Chinese are able to underbid the white men in agriculture, why not let them do it?

I will give my opinion why we should not encourage Chinese immigration. In the first place, the Chinese are brought to this country under a system which is nothing

more or less than slavery. A large syndicate of very wealthy Chinamen having offices in Vancouver, Victoria, Shanghai, Canton, Seattle and other places is bringing numbers of Chinese to Canada. The syndicate pays the passage money and the head tax, and the Chinese brought in are the virtual slaves of that syndicate until they are able to pay off to the last dollar not only the principal but a fabulous interest as well. I say without hesitation that in this democratic country we have no right to tolerate that kind of immigration. Our principle in the abstract, and it should be in the concrete and practical, is that the immigrant should be a self-sustaining man who will take his place among the citizens of this country. What is the effect of this system of partial slavery. The syndicate buy or lease large tracts of the most fertile land; the Chinese immigrants are placed on that land; they are paid wages which suit the syndicate, who absolutely control their lives. I know of one case where an old Chinaman had been working for thirty years in British Columbia and had not yet paid off his indemnity. Possibly it was his own fault, because gambling is very prevalent among the Chinese. But the syndicate also control the gambling dens. So you can see how easy it would be for a syndicate such as I have described practically to control the earnings of the people they bring in for many years, and that is the condition that exists. How can we expect self-respecting Canadians to compete against men working under such conditions? I have a letter here from Charles E. Hope, a farmer, one clause of which I will read as it is worthy of the consideration of the Government and members of this House:

The opinion has always been generally held in this province that farmers as a whole were rather in favour of Oriental immigration, as it gave them cheap labour for clearing their bush lands. I am employing personally both Chinese and Hindus at the present time and have employed Chinese for many years back. But there is another side to this question which the farming community is beginning to find out and, personally, I have been of the opinion for some time back, that it would be infinitely better for the farmer to employ white labour, even if he did pay a little more for his land clearing, and to have a fair competition with the various Oriental races in the things which he is producing—instead of the comparatively cheap labour for land clearing and the 'jug-handled' competition which he gets in his farming operations. As a matter of fact, the cost of Oriental labour for land clearing is really very little, if any, less than that of white labour, taking into consideration their relative efficiencies and other indirect matters, and I can say this without any doubt, as I have