

money in the bank, the Chinese are preferable to the white woman servant in the household. To the manufacturer simply trying to make all the profit he can by cheap Chinese labour, the Chinese is of value, but looking at it from the viewpoint of common humanity and justice to the white race, it is not desirable. I have seen thousands of Chinese coming out of the mills in British Columbia and I have thought what a difference it would make to Victoria if these were all white men coming out of these mills. The impetus which would be given to a higher citizenship in these cities would be tremendous and after all self-preservation in the first law of nature, and next to that is the welfare of the people as a whole. I am interested in the welfare of our own people more than that of the Asiatic. I have no quarrel with them. I have a certain amount of sympathy with them, but my first duty is to our own white people.

Hon. Mr. BOLDOC.—Supposing they sent away all these Chinamen is it your opinion that they could find labour enough to replace them?

Mr. WATTERS.—Oh yes, no question in the world about that. That is why I claim the day is long past when the Chinaman is required at all; there are thousands of idle men now. As a matter of fact I believe in Vancouver to-day, in proportion to population, there are a greater number of unemployed than in any city of Canada, while Victoria follows very closely. About two years ago, when I left Victoria and I could make an actual estimate of the number of unemployed, I estimated that there were something like 1,200 idle men every day in Victoria.

Hon. Mr. RILEY.—There were 1,200 men registered for one piece of work in one day.

Mr. WATTERS.—Yes, that is a tremendous proportion of unemployed in Victoria. In British Columbia on the whole there is a greater number of unemployed than in any other Province of the Dominion, and if the Chinamen were got rid of their places would be filled immediately—no trouble at all to fill their places with whites. Now leaving the subject of Asiatic immigration, I want to say that I agree in general terms with what Miss Wileman has said in respect to the establishment of Labour Bureaus. We always make the reservation that the Labour Bureaus will under no circumstances be used as a means to interfere when there is any industrial trouble at all, that they must keep aloof from that, that they cannot be used to bring pressure to bear to break a strike or lock-out. In a general way we are in sympathy with the statement made by Miss Wileman. I want to touch on immigration proper and I have a concrete amendment which we wish to have passed through the two Houses. In general terms we are opposed to the bonusing of any immigration.

Miss WILEMAN.—I am so glad.

Mr. WATTERS.—While we recognise there is a great deal of room for agricultural labour, yet the climatic conditions of Great Britain, and the system of farming is so different to that of Canada that the immigrant from Europe is not well adapted to the particular conditions of agriculture he is confronted with in this country. On the other hand we claim that by bonusing agents it throws the door open for unscrupulous individuals—and I am sorry to say there are only too many such unscrupulous individuals acting in the capacity of agents. It leaves the door open to them to send in all kinds of immigrants. It may be mechanics, unskilled labourers, or anybody or everybody, under the guise of their being either agricultural labourers or domestic servants. It is not the welfare of the immigrants they are concerned with; it is simply to pocket the pound they get from the government. That is the one inducement, and they are not inclined to be too particular about those they get to come to Canada as long as they get the pound for it. We claim that the tendency is to overstock the labour market in Canada with a class of people that are not too creditable to the country. That is the result of the system of bonusing. We claim that the men or the women or the families who come voluntarily to Canada are going to make the very best kind of immigrants. There may be exceptions, but it is not the assisted immigrant