

in favor of restricted measures being adopted in this House. I am perfectly well aware of the fact that two years ago the Local Government did introduce a measure for imposing a tax of, I think, \$50 a head upon every Chinaman landed in British Columbia. This measure was disallowed by the Dominion Government for reasons which we are all well aware of; and I know very well that it is difficult to introduce a measure which will pass this House in the first place, and which will then receive the sanction of the Imperial Government, as such a measure might affect, directly or indirectly, matters connected with an Imperial Treaty. My hon. colleague mentioned the fact that at the sound of the gong the Chinamen all stopped work and rallied round their chop-sticks. That is quite true. I happen to have labored under the disadvantage, according to his view, of having had one or two of these individuals in my house, and I must say I should have found it difficult to get along without them. I find them very useful in certain positions, and we need some class of labor of that sort in British Columbia, as it is somewhat disagreeable to have to get up early in the morning and light the fire and black one's own boots. We are led to believe that during the present Session of Parliament a large sum of money—large in the opinion of persons in this part of the country, but not considered large in the gold mining country from where I come—will be voted for the purpose of promoting immigration to our shores; and I hope the Government will be successful in securing, not only agriculturists and mechanics, but respectable young women, who will give themselves to house work. In the meantime, I must say that I would like to see restriction upon Chinese immigration limited so as to admit a certain number for domestic purposes. The law which my hon. friend quotes as in force in Australia certainly is one which would admit of a sufficient number being imported from year to year for domestic purposes. According to the Australian law, a vessel of a 1,000 tons would be entitled to bring ten Chinese passengers, and ten Chinese passengers would be quite sufficient to come out at one time. But in British Columbia, last April and May, in the course of six weeks, nine vessels arrived, averaging from 450 to 750 Chinamen passengers, making a total of 7,772 for those two months, besides individual arrivals on the mail steamers. Of course, these largely go on to the railway. We are told that all efforts to secure to white labor a reasonable compensation have failed, but I think that is hardly correct. I think any number of men can be obtained at reasonable figures if proper means were taken—if a proper and comprehensive scheme of immigration was devised to get European immigrants to go there. My hon. colleague has adverted to the subject of the immorality of the Chinese. I may say that I know very little about that; what I do know is from hearsay, and I trust my hon. friend has been speaking from hearsay on that particular subject. There is no doubt that their morals are very loose. That may be inferred from the fact that out of 450 Chinamen who arrived there at one time, there were only two or three females with them. I would leave the House to draw their own conclusions as to the consequence of so great a disparity between the sexes. On the whole, I agree with my hon. friend in his demand for restrictive measures upon the influx of Chinese into British Columbia. Of course, in the eastern Provinces you do not find the disability under which we labor in that respect. It is also a well-known fact that a Chinaman in the eastern Provinces of the Dominion is looked upon as a curiosity. In our Province, more particularly in the district which I have the honor to represent, there are as many Chinese as there are Indians, and the two together exceed the number of whites. The Chinese are increasing rapidly, and there is a necessity for the enactment of a measure such as we are now hoping this House will favorably consider. My colleague has almost exhausted the subject, so that there is very

Mr. BAKER.

little left for me to say, except to state that I thoroughly endorse the major part of his speech, and think a restrictive Bill should be introduced, which will not only lessen the number of Chinese coming into Victoria, but prevent their coming into any part of British Columbia.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. I wish to make an explanation. My colleague seems to throw some doubt on the remark I made in respect to men being sold. That is perfectly true. My colleague may not know it, but I know it. I know that when large numbers of these people come to British Columbia, they are taken in hand by Chinese firms, their names enrolled in the books, and provision made for them in every particular; and when white men, who are employers of labor, go to these firms and ask for a certain number of Chinese, the employers who offer the largest amount of money secure the men.

Mr. BAKER. They get their services, not the men.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. They get the men; they are sold at a certain figure. I am now speaking of what I have seen with my own eyes, because I had more to do with Chinese in that country than any other man. I acted as Chinese tax collector in that Province, and it was my business to go into every nook and corner where those people were to be found; and the hon. Premier of the British Columbia Government gave me credit, on the floor of that House, for having been the best collector that could possibly be found. With respect to these men who were bought: they are sold to men who employ them in tanneries and other establishments, and when pay-day comes round the Chinaman who sold the person goes to the establishment and collects the wages. I have been there to collect the tax when a member of a Chinese firm was there to collect the Chinaman's wages; and it takes about fifty times more trouble to collect from Chinamen than from white men, for they always keep you waiting. With respect to women, I do not want to say much about them. Women are sold for base purposes; and if a woman does not grant intimate terms to her master, she is very soon slighted. That is a fact, and I say such a state of things should not exist in any Christian community.

Mr. GILLMOR. I have listened very attentively to the speech of the hon. mover of the motion, and, from his standpoint, being in favor of Protection and, being in favor of the proverb that "Canada should be for the Canadians," I think the hon. gentleman is quite consistent. Besides, he is not in favor of free goods. Being neither in favor of free goods nor of free labor, he is, I say, consistent in seeking to shut out the Chinese. I think the real reason why they do not want the Chinese in British Columbia is, because they interfere with the labor market and afford cheap labor. The hon. mover of the resolution has stated that no candidate need present himself in a constituency in British Columbia who was not opposed to the free importation of Chinese. But I think there are other parts of this Dominion that are interested in this matter as well as British Columbia. We have commenced to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. I remember the arguments adduced in favor of that work being undertaken; it was going to open the door to China, it was going to bring Canada 2,000 miles nearer to China than at present, and commerce was going to bridge the northern Pacific and open the door to China. That is the reason why we are spending one hundred millions of dollars. And in order to get the road built we have been under the necessity of importing Chinese to do the work; and, notwithstanding all the boasted superiority of Canadians and British Columbians, if there are any dangerous places in the canons of the Fraser, or any mud-holes, you will find the Chinese in those dangerous and uncomfortable positions. They are trying to build the railway which we are undertaking to construct under the compact made with British Columbia, and which will cost Canada more than a hundred millions