

no self-respecting people care to have the scum of Chinese life dumped right into their midst. It may be hard for me to tell what influence these Chinese may have upon the moral life of the people. But I ask honorable gentlemen to think of the lowest classes of Chinese being dumped in tens, fifties, hundreds or thousands, into their midst, and doing such things as we know they do and then to say that they will not affect the moral life of the people. For us to imagine that these people have not deleterious effect upon the people among whom they live, would be to imagine something not true to common experience. Our children to-day are becoming familiar with their gambling dens, their opium-smoking and their filth; and I ask you, should not the higher moral concerns of the people take precedence of all monetary considerations? We white people may not be perfect; I agree that we are not; but when you have a stream whose source is filth, and which flows over beds of long accumulated filth, flowing into the moral life of our people, it stands to common sense that their moral life will be come more and more contaminated. It may be true that the Chinese are industrious. I will grant that for the time being. It may be that they perform services which are useful. But I ask you this: Will it pay Canada to fill British Columbia with thousands of men who are

THE OFF-SCOURINGS

of the jails and the lowest life of the Chinese? What will Canada gain, if she accomplishes the lowering of the moral tone of her own citizens? I say we ought to face this question; and if I were not what I am, I would press it home with still more earnestness than I am doing to-day. But I ask you to say, with the people of British Columbia, the moral considerations are of more concern to the people of Canada than a mere question of dollars and cents. There is another aspect of this question, that is, the labor aspect. This is the essence of the whole question. Put in common language, the question of the Chinese is the question of bread and butter. If you feed three Chinamen, you take the bread out of a white man's mouth; you close up a home; most likely you drive a family out of the Province altogether. I have read very carefully the evidence that has been adduced on this subject, and the gist of that evidence is this. British Columbia wants cheap labor; Chinese labor is cheap labor; therefore, the more Chinese cheap labor we have in British Columbia, the better it will be for the development of that Province. Now, there is no more reason why we should have Chinese cheap labor in British Columbia than there is that we should have it in any other part of Canada. Our mines, our forests and our waters are surely rich enough to pay white men white men's wages in British Columbia as well as in any other part of Canada. Some men who are in favor of having the Chinese in British Columbia, talk as if our necessities were exceptional. They are no more so than those of any other part of Canada. You have your public works in different parts of Canada; but who raises the cry that you must have Chinese labor to build those public works? You