

throughout the country. However, I brought the matter to the attention of the Minister of Finance, and have no desire to say more at present. I am not going to move an amendment, because I have not considered the matter sufficiently myself. But I think it a matter that the government might well take into consideration.

Hon. Mr. COSTIGAN. How would this affect the case of clerks who entered the service as temporary clerks but were afterwards appointed to the permanent service? On their retirement, would they be entitled to have the retiring allowance based upon their whole time, including the time of temporary service? The Act of 1871, I think, provided for temporary service, but it did not provide that a temporary clerk should contribute to the superannuation fund. In 1884, I think, an Order in Council—not an Act—was passed providing that a temporary clerk would have to contribute the same amount that he would have had to contribute had he been from the first a permanent clerk to entitle him to superannuation on his whole time. I would simply like to know how such cases would be affected by this measure.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I would say to my hon. friend from Victoria, N.B. (Hon. Mr. Costigan) that this measure does not touch that point at all.

Resolutions reported and agreed to.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 49) to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

House went into Committee on the following resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the 32nd chapter 63-64 Vic., 'An Act respecting and restricting Chinese immigration,' by providing:

1st. That a tax of \$500 shall be imposed on every person of Chinese origin entering Canada.

2nd. That the person in command of, or in charge of, any vessel or vehicle, bringing Chinese immigrants into Canada shall be personally liable to His Majesty, for the payment of the said tax, with respect to any such immigrant carried by such vessel or vehicle.—The Prime Minister.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Chairman, the House is aware that in the province of British Columbia there exists a very strong feeling against Asiatic immigration. This feeling is confined exclusively, in Canada to the province of British Columbia, and, as we are told, does not extend to other provinces of the Dominion, for the reason that there is no Asiatic immigration which is settled outside the province of British Columbia. As far back as twenty-five or thirty years

ago this feeling which exists in British Columbia commenced to manifest itself. In this regard, the province of British Columbia is not at all isolated from other portions of the world in which Asiatic or Mongolian immigration has settled. In California, in Australia, in fact wherever the two races, Caucasian and Mongolian have come into contact, the same feeling has manifested itself. After giving it full consideration, every one who has looked into the matter must come to the conclusion that this antagonism is based upon ethnical considerations, the difference between the two races. It seems impossible to reconcile them, and the conclusion of all who have considered the matter seems to be that the amalgamation of the two is neither possible nor desirable. There are so many differences of character that it is supposed to be impossible to overcome them. At all events, in the province of British Columbia this feeling is very strong. In 1885, the government of Sir John Macdonald introduced a measure to impose a capitation tax of \$50 on Chinese immigration coming into the Dominion. It was supposed that this tax would be sufficient to prevent, for the time being, the increase of this immigration; and for some years, it had that effect. But, of late years, the immigration has increased very rapidly, and a new agitation arose in the province, and representations were made to the government that there should be an increase in the capitation tax. In 1900, we doubled the capitation tax, making it \$100. It was represented to us at that time by the members of British Columbia, whether they sat on this side of the House or the other, that the resolution then introduced would be inadequate to effect the purpose in view which was to check the immigration of Asiatic labourers into the country. We were aware that there was a good deal to be said in favour of the contention which was urged upon us. At all events we proceeded with our legislation and we then organized a commission to investigate the subject and report. The commission made its report. That report has been in the hands of hon. members of this House for eighteen months, and I presume that by this time it has become familiar to all of us. The commissioners who seem to have done their work very thoroughly, came to the conclusion that this kind of immigration ought to be prohibited, and that, if it was not absolutely prohibited the tax should be increased to such a figure as to restrict the immigration to very narrow limits. I would call the attention of the House to the conclusion of the commissioners which is found at page 279 of the report, as follows:

4. In reference to the representations made by the people and legislature of British Columbia, wherein it is alleged:

That the province is flooded with an undesirable class of people, non-assimilative and most detrimental to the wage-earning classes of the people of the province, and that this ex-