

an uncommon thing to see fifteen or twenty yachts scattering out and fishing in our waters. The question is when they will not allow our people to go over and work whether our people should not have a similar Act. They want this Act as a protection. I do not see any necessity for enforcing this Act, because I think the passing of an Act of this kind will eventually stop the operation of their Act over there. That is my humble opinion.

191. Does this same feeling exist among the other farmers in your district?—I do not know whether it is going to affect the farmers to the west; but we look upon it as a matter of justice. I think there is no laboring man who comes to understand the working and meaning and principle of the American Alien Labor Act, but will see it is only a link of their protective system. It matters not what their general law may be, this Act is passed and the laboring men will assert their rights. I can step out half a mile from my place and can count a wealth of over \$200,000,000. There are there such men as Pullman, Wilbert, and some of the biggest business men in the United States, and I think the Vanderbilts. They come there and reside for two, three or four months in the year. They know whether it is an injury to this country or not to enforce it on their part. They see that it looks hard; but the laboring classes made it a part of their platform at the last Presidential campaign that this Act should apply to Canada. Neither party wishes to amend it, because it was supported by both political parties. I do not think we have any right here to suppose that the Act will be amended in the least. It is a part of the political system of that country. They began with the Chinaman, and ended up on the Canadians. You have had experience in British Columbia with the Chinaman, and you will have to end up on the Yankees. Very few came over from that side to work on this side. A great many farmers would be glad to see this Act passed here, because in the passing of this Act it is only giving them the protection here that labor gets there.

192. Mr. Cook, do you know of any parties who were driven home in your locality last year?—I think we counted about 16 or 17 in the locality right there at Rockport. There was an entirely new construction placed upon the law on the other side of the river. Before that it was supposed to be imperative for the Customs officer when he got notice that he must act as Mr. Thompson told Mr. Ormiston and myself. He said, of course, I must act, but these are a miserable lot of lazy loafers round here who are jealous of the Canadian boys coming over here. Afterwards a commissioner came from Washington, and he gave instructions to the Customs officer at Alexandria Bay that no proceedings would be taken until each matter was sent to Washington and investigated there. That removed it out of the hands of the common people and made the Act more difficult to enforce. In the fall of the year, of course, when the heavy season on the islands was over—because it takes both sides of the river to furnish the labor alone for the park in the summer time—there are a great many houses building. Of course you know that along the shore on the American side every available spot has a building on it. Then, of course, our islands are lying idle there. I am not in favor of the view which the Government takes on that question. I believe it to be best to place these islands on the market, and it will help the farmers along there when these islands are built up.

*By Mr. Earle :*

193. Have you farmers free trade with the islands there?—No, sir. We have to pay every cent of duty. We are well watched, because every farmer on the other side of the river is the best Customs officer you could get.

*By Dr. Wilson :*

194. You said that the sentiment of the farmers there was adverse to and in opposition to the course pursued by the Americans, or if they insist upon that law the farmers there think that there should be similar legislation on this question in this country?—Well, of course, I have heard a number of farmers express themselves in that way.

195. How many farmers do you suppose express themselves that way? What means have you of stating the general views of the farmers through that section?—