

four or five years ago. The results will be just what they always are when you mistake a mongrel for a thoroughbred.

"All the same, dismiss the idea from your mind that labor is behind the opposition to Chinese immigration! Five years ago, when Oriental labor came tumbling into B. C. at the rate of 12,000 in a single year—when the Chinese alone had come to number 15 or 16,000 in B. C.,—labor was alarmed; but a twofold change has taken place since that time. First, labor has found that it can better control the Chinaman by letting him enter Canada, than by keeping him in China and letting the product of cheap labor come in. Second, the Chinaman has demonstrated his solidarity as a unit in the labor war. If he comes, he will not foregather with capital. That is certain! He will affiliate with the unions for higher wages.

"If the Chinaman comes in here lowering the price of goods and the price of labor," said the agitator a few years ago, "we'll put a poll tax of \$500 on, and make him pay for his profit." The poll tax of \$500 was put on every Chinaman coming into Canada; and, presto, do you think John Chinaman pays it? Guess again! It is a way that unjust laws have of coming back as a boomerang. The Chinaman doesn't pay it! You pay it, Mr. Canadian Householder; for no sooner was the poll tax imposed than up went wages for household servant and laundryman and gardener, from \$10 and \$15 a month to \$40 and \$45 and \$50 a month. The Italian boss system came in vogue, when the rich Chinaman who paid the entrance tax for his "slaves" farmed out the labor at a profit to himself. The system was really one of indentured slavery till the immigration authorities went after it. Then, Chinese Benevolent Associations were formed. Up went wages automatically. The cook would no longer do the work of the gardener. When the boy you hired at \$25 had learned his job, he suddenly disappeared one morning. His substitute explains he has had to go away, he is sick, any excuse; with delightful lapses of English when you ask questions. You find out that your John has taken a job at \$40 a month, and you are breaking in a new green hand for the Chinese Benevolent Association to send up to a higher job. If you kick against the trick, you may kick! There are more jobs than men. That's the way you pay the \$500 poll tax; funny isn't it; or it would be funny if the average white householder did not find it \$500 more than the average income of \$500 can spare? So the labor leaders chuckle at this subterfuge, as they chuckle at the "*continuous*" passage law.

"For a time, the indentured slavery system worked almost criminally; for if the newcomer, ignorant of the law and the language got wise to the fact that his boss was doing what was illegal under Canadian law, and attempted to jump his serfdom, he was liable—as one of them expressed it—"to be found missing." It would be reported that he had suicided. Among people who did not speak English, naturally, no details would be given. It seems almost unbelievable, that in a country wrestling with the whole Asiatic problem the fact has to be set down that the government has no interpreter among the Chinese, who is not a China-