

ences. Although the question of Chinese immigration is a great deal more tempting in that direction than that of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I shall not expose myself to such criticism on this subject. I shall have other considerations to-day to lay before this House. The questions incidental to Chinese immigration, which are numerous, which date from an early period in history—all the different questions which might be raised in connection with that subject have been, I think, fully laid before the House in the report which the commissioners appointed to enquire into the subject of Chinese immigration submitted some time ago. That report contains an elaborate examination of the question. I shall content myself with stating that last session a motion was made by one of the hon. members representing the city of Victoria, British Columbia, to the effect "that in the opinion of this House it is expedient to enact a law prohibiting the entrance of Chinese into that portion of Canada known as British Columbia." I must say that at the time I was rather struck with a feeling of surprise, which I am sure has been shared by many hon. members of this House, that a demand was made for legislation to provide that one of the first principles which have always guided the English people in the enactment of their laws and regulations for the maintenance of the peace and prosperity of the country, should be violated in excluding from the shores of this great country, which is a part of the British Empire, members of the human family. I then remembered having read years and years ago, when England was attacked for giving shelter, not only to suspicious strangers and to political refugees, but to men who had proclaimed the assassination of the rulers of Europe as a maxim, and had tried several times to put their nefarious doctrine into practice, that the English writers and statesmen answered that British soil was open to any member of the human family not committing upon the land any of the offences coming within the province of the laws of the country. That motion was met, after certain discussion in this House, by the declaration of the right hon. the leader of the Government, who promised those who were complaining of the evils of Chinese immigration into British Columbia, and who eloquently and forcibly put before Parliament the grievances of their Province, that the Government of Canada would take the matter into their earnest consideration, and that immediately after the Session, during the recess at least, a commission would be appointed and sent to British Columbia to enquire into the trade relations, the social relations, and those moral considerations which, it was alleged, made Chinese immigration undesirable. Faithful to the sense of duty that they were discharging towards their constituents, the hon. gentlemen from British Columbia, who were disposed to press that measure, yielded to the request of the Government, on the assurance that not later than this Session legislation would be brought in, if the enquiry, which would be made during the recess, would bear out the statements made before the House by those hon. gentlemen and justify the legislation they asked for. The commission was appointed the 4th July, and on the 8th July I proceeded, as one of the commissioners to make the investigation which the Government considered necessary to be made. I proceeded to California, the classical land, I might say, of the struggles between anti-Chinese advocates and pro-Chinese sympathisers. On arriving at San Francisco I commenced the work, with the assistance of the secretary of the commission, whose name is attached to the report which was laid before the House, and whose researches in history, have contributed so largely to the considerable, I might say complete, exposition of the Chinese question. The Government intended that the members of the commission should put themselves in communication with the people and obtain all the information that might be had from those versed in the question. About three weeks were spent in taking such information in San

Francisco, and the information obtained will be found in the report. I proceeded to British Columbia to meet there my colleague, the other commissioner, Mr. Justice Gray, who had been jointly appointed with me, and I met him in Victoria about the 4th or 5th of August. On the 9th we held our first meeting, and after that time, during three weeks, we took all the information and evidence we could reasonably expect to obtain, and the result of that we have inserted in our report. I cannot here avoid mentioning that a certain amount of feeling appeared to exist, on the arrival of the commissioners in Victoria, which found utterance in a kind of protest that was at first presented, and then, I will not say withdrawn, but requested to be withdrawn. The protest says that the Government of the Dominion and the commissioners had not given to the proper authorities in British Columbia the necessary notice to hold that enquiry. It is my duty to state here, as I did at the time, that I thought the fact being public, it having been made known by the hon. members of British Columbia and by the answer given by the Government in this House, that a commission would be held, the complaint or protest was certainly not one that was completely justifiable. More than that, a long time before the commission sat at Victoria, letters had been sent to the Provincial authorities on the 20th July and to the municipal authorities about the same time, so that all those concerned in the question had full opportunity to know that it was their duty to bring before the commissioners all the evidence they could in support of their views. More than that, the members of the Provincial Cabinet, acting upon the advice or rather the command of the House, presented in the month of May, I think, or in the beginning of the year 1884, a detailed petition to the Federal Government, setting forth that legislation had already been passed in the Local Legislature of British Columbia, and that the facts which had come to the knowledge of the authorities of the Provincial Legislature were sufficient to warrant the petitioners in their demands. That petition contained all the grievances which were then and will now be raised with regard to Chinese immigration. And the facts which it gave in support of the demand were presumed to be known at least to those who had signed the petition. However, the question of Chinese immigration is one which interests the whole Dominion, not one single Province, although up to this present moment, only one Province has raised its voice against such increasing immigration, and I dare say for the very good reason that this is the only Province where Chinese immigration has developed to any important figure. After having heard the witnesses who appeared, after having had from the authorities, both municipal and provincial, all the information and official documents that were wanted, the commissioners visited, as much as they could, the principal points of the Province to gather the information which they thought was required. We visited New Westminster. We made the journey as leisurely as we could on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Port Moody as far as the Thompson River, and we collected important information there in relation to the subject of our mission. I would be more tempted, if I were at the beginning of my remarks, to give a description of that most magnificent and picturesque country. Really it would be worth while in the future for tourists to come from all parts of the world to admire the beauties, unequalled in any country, of the canyons of the Fraser River on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I have been a good deal over the world, I have visited more than one country, I have visited in Europe those countries which are most renowned for the grandeur, the picturesqueness, the *inattendu* of their scenery, and I have never seen anything to surpass the beauty of the sight when one arrives at Mount Hope, seeing there, what I saw, like in a dream, an anchor made by the glaring ice on the top of the mountain, as if