

guests, and that they should specially treat missionaries with the greatest kindness and respect. That was done in China by Chinamen last year, yet in the face of this we put an excessive tax on Chinese coming into this country. Legislation of this kind has not a shadow of justice or right on its side. Dare we tax Frenchmen or Germans or Russians who have ships of war at their command to send to our shores? We dare not do it. Under the Treaty between England and China, Chinamen have the same privileges on British soil as the most favored nations. When that Treaty was made at the mouth of the cannon, those conditions were given to China, that they should be treated as the most favored nation, yet because they are not strong enough to protect themselves we break through all those solemn agreements and put a heavy tax upon them. This legislation first taxing Chinamen I agreed to against my conscience in deference to the opinions of the representatives from my province and in deference to the wishes of some of the people amongst whom I live. I must however mention the fact that a great change has come over the people of British Columbia within the last year on this subject. A few months ago there was a general election for the local house, at which every man over 20 years of age had a vote. There were four or five labor candidates, anti-Chinese candidates in the field, and I am happy to say that every one of them was beaten, and not only that but in every contract given by the Local Government and in every charter given by the Legislature a clause used to be inserted that no Chinese were to be employed or the charter would be forfeited. Last year they were not able to impose conditions of that kind in any contract or in any charter. A manly sentiment prevailed that I was glad to see, and I told the members of the Legislature that I was proud of it. I am particularly pleased to see the feeling that is exhibited in this House to-night in behalf of a people who are being kicked and abused, and hitherto have had no one to stand up in their defence.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—There

HON. MR. MACDONALD.

is one remarkable incident connected with this Bill which strikes me, that is the strange unanimity which is exhibited here this evening. Every member who has addressed the House since recess has done so in terms pretty nearly identical, and all opposed to the principle of this Bill. Various amendments have been suggested to it, but it strikes me that it is a difficult thing to amend a Bill based upon a wrong principle, and the principle upon which this Bill is based is a bad and cruel one. I remember speaking against the measure last year, and I based my arguments on the fact that it was opposed to all the principles on which the sources of the wealth of the country is derived. We know that no matter what the natural resources of a country may be they cannot be utilized without labor to develop them from their crude state. British Columbia seems to teem with natural resources, and what is chiefly required to develop those riches and disperse them across the Canadian Pacific Railway and over the ocean, to conduce to comfort, convenience and wealth in other regions, is an ample supply of cheap labor. It is true that similar objections have been raised in the United States against Chinese immigration, and it is only lately that the American Government paid a very large sum of money by way of indemnity to Chinese who had been injured and their property destroyed by an outbreak of white laborers. I do not call them United States laborers, because it is quite likely they were recent European immigrants; but it shows how cruelly those people have been treated in the adjoining Republic, when the United States Government, notoriously reluctant at all times to own themselves in the wrong, have found it actually necessary to indemnify those Chinese for the injury done them by American citizens. I think one might search far and wide in the early history of the world for an incident similar to this. The only thing that I know of which approaches to it at all, is the way the Jews have been treated at different times in the early history of European countries. It may be recollected that in our own country, in free England, Jews were cruelly treated in early days, and in