

were working on the road. Now, it is certainly very unfair that the Government should be obliged to go to so much more trouble and expense to get their taxes from that class of people than from any other portion of the population. I have no doubt hon. gentlemen will wonder at this; but persons who have not resided among these people, and seen their tactics and their wily ways, cannot possibly understand this question thoroughly. As an evidence of the unanimity of feeling that prevails in British Columbia upon this subject, I may mention that a few days ago a resolution was unanimously passed in the Local Legislature, which is now assembled, urging the Dominion Government to take some steps towards restricting the immigration of Chinese to that Province. Some years ago, during the Walkem Administration, an Order was passed that no Chinese should be employed in any way by the Local Governments, and from that day to the present I do not believe that a solitary Chinaman has drawn one dollar from that Government. In the Municipal Council of the city of Victoria, seven years ago, I think, I introduced a resolution that no Chinese should be employed in corporation works. That resolution was carried, and not one dollar has been paid by the corporation of Victoria to a Chinaman from that day to the present. So that we have done probably all that we can do towards remedying this evil. But there is a step further we want to go, and which it is impossible for the Local Government, but is in the power of this House to take—that is, to place some restriction on the continued immigration of Chinese to our Province. The State of California, as you are aware, has passed a Bill prohibiting Chinese from going in there during the next ten years. We all know the difficulties and heartburnings that the people of that State have had to contend with, owing to the large influx of Chinese, before they finally succeeded in passing the Bill. And now, what is the result? Why, Sir, that British Columbia is to-day the dumping place of the Pacific coast—the place where the Chinese are dumped. Hence the great necessity for taking some step in the direction proposed in this Bill. It will be argued, I know, that it will be time enough to place some restriction on the Chinese when the road will be finished; but that would be like shutting the stable door after the horse is gone. That would be working backwards. I maintain there is no necessity to wait for the completion of the road. There are men coming to-day into that Province, and more will come in, if an effort is not made to prevent a further influx of Chinese. There need not be any hesitation on that point. The Bill I propose to introduce does not propose to interfere with those Chinese who are in the country to-day. We are willing they should remain there; but I think every hon. member will admit that 14,000 Chinese in a Province so limited in population as ours, is quite sufficient for some time to come. The idea that the Chinese are going to leave and will become fewer in number, is a fallacy, because there are large numbers in China only waiting for an opportunity to come over into Canada. Hence these people will not leave, and any that may leave will be replaced. During last summer, close upon 8,000 came into the port of Victoria. Is it not, then, high time some restriction should be placed on their coming. Supposing, what is very likely, that 8,000 more should come in during the coming summer, what are we to do with them? The question is a serious one, one that affects the vital interests of the whole Dominion. This is not a question which I bring before the House just for the sake of doing so, but one in which I feel interested myself; and I think that every man, especially one who has a family growing up, must feel a deep interest in this question as to what is to become of the young people that are growing up in the country. In Australia, three colonies passed measures restricting the immigration of Chinese, and those laws are still in force. Hence I think we cannot be far

wrong in passing a measure similar to that passed in New South Wales, Australia. I will just refer to one or two provisions of that measure for the purpose of showing its nature and extent. One provides that on the arrival of any ship at any port in this colony, the master shall deliver to the collector the names of the passengers, and of the places whence they come. The Bill also provides that no vessel shall bring a greater number of Chinese than in the proportion of one to 100 tons of tonnage. Should the captain fail to report, he is subject to a fine of £10; and a penalty is also attached should he bring a greater number of Chinese than allowed by law. There is also a provision that:

“Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, any Chinese arriving in the colony who produces evidence to the Collector of Customs, or other duly authorized officer, that he is a British subject, shall be wholly exempt from the operation of this Act, and a certificate of the Governor of any British Colony, or of a British Consul, shall be sufficient evidence of the claim of such Chinese to exemption under this section.”

Thus this does not interfere with British subjects. This law also provides:

“The provisions of this Act shall not be applicable to any Chinese duly accredited to this colony by the Government of China, or by or under the authority of the Imperial Government on any special mission.”

It further provides:

“The penalties and restrictions imposed by this Act shall not, nor shall any of them, be held to be applicable in respect of any Chinese being one of the crew of any vessel arriving in any port in New South Wales, and who shall not be discharged therefrom, or land, except in the performance of his duties in connection with such vessel.”

I maintain that we have a duty to perform in this matter, and which we owe to our country and our families, that is to place some restriction to those people coming in. After the assurance of the hon. First Minister a few days ago, I feel that this question will be favorably received by this House, and I am sure by the country at large. Not only in British Columbia, but in Ontario and Quebec, I find that the people are in favor of a restrictive measure; and hence I feel such a measure would be in the interest of the whole of this vast Dominion of which we are so proud. I think we should take a step this night towards wiping out this incubus upon our Province, and thus keep within our borders a class of people who are calculated to sympathize with us in our trial through life, who will help to build up our country, who will contribute to our public institutions and to our churches; whilst the Asiatics never contribute a solitary dollar to those purposes—with a few exceptions. How are we to prosper, how are we to succeed, if these people are to come in and take our places? For these reasons I would ask this honorable House to adopt this resolution, and vote in favor of restrictive measures upon these people.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria, B.C.) In rising to second this resolution, I do so with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret—pleasure at having the opportunity of seconding a resolution of this nature, which I know is in the interest of the whole of British Columbia, and with regret that this subject has not been successfully approached in this House before. I would have been very much better pleased if all the seats in this House had been filled on this occasion, so that all the hon. members might have heard the elaborate argument of my hon. colleague from Victoria. He has the advantage of a closer acquaintance with the Chinese than I possess. At the same time, I must say that I do not entirely agree with my hon. friend in his statement about the Chinese being sold like so many slaves in the market to the highest bidder, or that the women of that class are sold in Victoria for, as he expresses it, base purposes. However, as I said before, he knows more about the habits of these people than I do. But, as regards Chinese labor, I can safely assert that the greater number of my constituents are