

aimed at restricting immigration. He let it be clearly understood, however, that the Chinese would still desire to have the just respect of other countries, or of the peoples of other countries, and would not want to be subjected to the indignity which exclusion from another country would involve. I do not think it is possible to talk of excluding the peoples of any country, of excluding all of the people—regardless altogether of what their standing or standards may be—and not offend the entire nation concerned; I do not think it is in the interest of Canada, or of any part of the British Empire, that any Dominion of the Empire should knowingly pass an act, which is certain to be regarded as an act of offence to an entire nation.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What about the United States?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am speaking of British freedom at the moment. I am speaking of the conception of British freedom as I understand it; I have never known a time when the British flag has stood for inflicting anything in the nature of an indignity upon the people of any country in the world.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What about Australia and New Zealand?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think my hon. friend can point to an act of exclusion of all Chinese from Australia or New Zealand.

Mr. McQUARRIE: No, but that is the effect of the legislation in those countries at the present time, is it not?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not saying what the effect of this legislation may be when it is passed. What I am saying is that no country that I know of, under the British flag, has ever attempted, or in the name of British justice and fair play, and fair dealings with the peoples of other parts of the world would attempt, to enact an exclusion law against another nation, regardless altogether of the status or standing of the classes that may be affected.

So far as labour, so far as the question of economic competition is concerned, the Chinese themselves have stated that they do not object, and will not feel that they are being subjected to any indignity by this parliament taking whatever action it thinks best in the matter of restricting immigration; and we are taking by this bill, a step which will mean the effective restriction of all Chinese immigration, indeed of all classes of

Chinese, coming to this country other than such as it is admitted, come to this country in our interest as much as in the interest of the Chinese themselves.

We hope to have trading relations with the Orient. We hope in some way to make our contribution to their civilization along with what other countries may be doing in that regard. We have no desire to exclude from Canada the scholars of China. We have no desire to exclude the young men and the young women of China who may wish to come to our universities and study here with a view to gaining some of the enlightenment of which we boast so much, to carry that enlightenment back to their own country. If in the matter of world competition we are going to hold our own with the Orient eventually, it will be by the standards in the Orient being raised, rather than by any other means, that that great end will be achieved. To the degree that we help the Orient in this particular we will be benefiting ourselves. In the legislation being brought forward, we have made provision that certain of the classes whom it is in our interest as well as in the interest of the Chinese to have come to Canada, may be permitted to come, but permitted to come within such limits as the government at all times thinks wise—and not beyond that. The head tax is repealed by this law. In its place the bill provides that only certain persons are to be allowed to come to Canada. It makes no mention whatever in that connection of the labour class. To that extent the law is a complete exclusion of all labour coming from China. It is as regards Chinese labour in effect an exclusion law. On the other hand it does mention two or three classes which we think should be permitted to come. In regard to those classes, it leaves the control of the situation in the hands of the minister administering the Department of Immigration and the officers of that department. It is proposed to send to the Orient an officer under the control of the Minister of Immigration who will have to visé every passport before it will be accepted on this side. The minister has it in his power and will continue to have it in his power to make regulations under this act, with respect to any particular class that may be permitted to come in. Take the class to which my hon. friend has just referred, that of merchant. I agree with him absolutely that the list he has gone over is a list no government could ever countenance for one moment under the head of "merchants". I do think it is desirable, if we hope to trade with the Orient, that men who are in a position to carry on export and import trade to an