

Canada to enact a law prohibiting the incoming of Chinese to British Columbia.

Now, I want to say that the Hon. Mr. Chapleau in making that statement said the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. That is still the opinion of a large majority of the people of British Columbia. But what I want to say is this: That commission brought in a report. I have read that report and it is to my mind one of the most outrageous reports that ever was presented to this honorable House. Our Local Legislature and the Federal members from British Columbia, had represented what the people wanted, and yet this commission—on the strength of what evidence, I cannot possibly make out—bring in a report almost to the effect that the Chinese were a blessing to British Columbia and that the more they had of them the better it would be. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that that report in no way voices the sentiment of British Columbia. While there is a great deal of evidence in that report the greater portion of it is simply the evidence of men who are interested in having the Chinese there, and so far as the mass of the people were concerned, they were not represented on the commission as they ought to have been. If they had been properly represented, the evidence would have been so overwhelming that the commission would have reported in favor of what had been demanded by the representatives of British Columbia. Now, I just want very briefly to state some of the arguments with regard to the Chinese. There is what is called the moral argument. I do not want to bring this question up in the House in this public way, nor would I pretend to say that the whites are altogether clean and pure. I know that we have our vices as well as the Chinese, but there is this difference: That while our vices, so to speak, are controlled, and moulded, and influenced to some extent by the higher forces of civilisation, not to mention Christianity; the vices of the Chinese are dominate, and influenced by the lower forces of barbarism. I need not tell this House that the Chinese are universally addicted to opium; that they are inveterate gamblers; that they are grossly immoral. These things are so well known and authenticated that I do not wish to dwell upon them in the Chamber. I might mention also, that according to the evidence which has been produced in several countries, the Chinese are mostly members of secret societies, and that the law of these societies is the law which they are compelled to obey. We have leprosy out on the Coast in connection with the Chinese. How it came we do not know; but at considerable cost to this country we have had to transport them to an island, and at the present moment, I understand, they are being supported by the Dominion Government. From these Chinese we are in constant dread of a return of what may be called the small-pox scare. A few years ago, the small-pox cost the City of Vancouver, the City of Victoria and the Provincial Government each thousands of dollars, and paralysed the whole trade of the country as long as it lasted. It may be true that the Chinese are not as bad as they are represented to be; but