

it. We find that Queensland, another of the Australian colonies, passed an Act, in 1877, entitled: "An Act to amend the Gold Fields Act, 1874," so far as relates to Asiatic and African aliens, and in other respects. By the title of this Act the framers did not make it apply exclusively to Chinese; nevertheless, it was to prevent the importation of that class particularly also Asiatic and African aliens. The Act goes on to say:

"The sum payable by an Asiatic or African alien for a miner's right shall be £3, and for a business license shall be £10 for each year during which the same is to be in force, instead of 10s. and £4 respectively, as by the said recited Act is provided.

"Any person who shall be found mining, or carrying on business on any gold field, not having in his possession a miner's right or business license lawfully issued to him, shall be subject to the penalties provided.

"In any prosecution or any offence against the provisions of this Act, the averment in the information that any person named therein had not in his possession at the time of the alleged offence a miner's right or business license lawfully issued to him shall be sufficient proof that such person had not such miner's right or business license unless the defendant shall prove the contrary."

That appears to be rather a peculiar clause, and at variance with our ideas of English law; the course of procedure is something like that of a naval court-martial. The accused is held to be guilty, and is called upon to prove his innocence. In this case the unfortunate immigrant has to prove that he has the right to mine under license—the onus of proof resting on him instead of the prosecutor. Coming nearer home, we find an Act for the restriction of the Chinese, passed by the State of California, called the United States Chinese Restriction Act, which was passed in 1882. This Act, I dare say, is more generally known to the House, and I only mention it to show that in California legislation has been enacted to restrict the immigration of that most undesirable class, the heathen Chinese. That Act, although not perfect—very few Acts are—is sufficient to show that the intention of the people of California is to restrict, if not to prohibit, the influx of Chinese into that fair State. This matter having been taken up and represented at Washington, the Act above referred to was passed by the House of Representatives, and is at the present moment the law in the United States. As regards our own Province: We find that the people of British Columbia, through their representatives in the Local House, have passed a series of Acts on this question, some of which have been disallowed. I will not refer to the Act passed in a previous year—the prohibitory Act which has been disallowed for reasons patent to every hon. member; but I will refer to the Acts passed in the last Session of the Local Legislature. These Acts were three in number. One is to prevent the immigration of Chinese. Another is to prevent Chinese acquiring Crown lands. The third, and the one which I think most applicable to our case, and the one which certainly will meet with the approbation of this House, is one to regulate the Chinese population of British Columbia. I doubt whether the first Act, to prevent the immigration of Chinese, will altogether stand the constitutional test when submitted to the Minister of Justice. Nor do I think the Act to prevent the Chinese from acquiring Crown lands should be passed, because I think it would be unfair, after a person is once in the Province, to pass legislation which would touch one and not all. But the Act which covers this case, or rather leads up to its consideration, is the Act to regulate the influx of the Chinese population of British Columbia. In that Act it states:

"The term Chinese in this Act shall mean any native of the Chinese Empire or its dependencies, and shall include any person of the Chinese race."

The Act goes on to say:

"Chinese having lands shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding \$40."

I maintain that there is sufficient matter before the House

to show that in other parts of the British Empire, namely, in the colonies of Victoria and Queensland; and also in the State of California, legislation has been enacted to restrict this undesirable class; and I think we should take up the clauses that are embodied in the Act of our Local Legislature, and give an expression of opinion in regard to them. I have in my hand a pamphlet issued by the Board of Immigration of the Hawaiian Islands. They, strange to say, are anxious to get the Chinese there. They say:

"There are no authentic returns of the Chinese population, but it is estimated at 13,500. The immigrants bring no women with them, as a rule. Statistics recently furnished by planters show that about 5,000 are employed on sugar plantations. A very large number are occupied in cultivating rice, which is a profitable business. Others are engaged in garden vegetable cultivation, and in domestic services. An examination of the Directory for the Kingdom (George Bowers) shows that out of about 692 firms and persons engaged in business in Honolulu, 219 are Chinese, 40 are Hawaiians, and the rest are of other nationalities.

"Lately the cultivation of taro has engaged the attention of the Chinese, while the natives are disposed to cultivate it less. It appears from the returns made by the planters that the Chinese are generally preferred as labourers. The situation of the Chinese in the Kingdom, their disinclination to bring women with them, their intermarriage with native women, or alliances with them; their great thrift, their aptitude for every kind of business, raise a number of social and political questions which cannot be discussed here. If more Chinese labour is needed it can probably be obtained. It is possible that labour contracts may be made with them, by which they can be kept in the country for a period of five years, and then be returned to China, at the option of the Hawaiian Government. This course has been adopted in several countries, where the permanent settlement of a large number of Chinese is feared. Owing to misrepresentations from this Kingdom, the Viceroy of Canton has forbidden the immigration of Chinese from that port. It is hoped that measures will be taken to correct the misunderstanding of the Viceroy, so that if it is deemed best to encourage further Chinese immigration, it may not be obstructed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me, if a Chinese Viceroy can take steps to prevent the Chinese going to the Sandwich Islands, surely, irrespective of this Resolution altogether, if proper steps are taken here, the immigration of the Chinese into British Columbia can be restricted, if not entirely prevented. Again, in the Report of the Attorney-General of Hawaii it is said:

"The large number of Chinese in the Kingdom make it necessary for the Government to inform itself carefully as to the condition and thought of these people. In numbers they are nearly as large as the Hawaiians, while they are distributed throughout the Kingdom, improving the land, cultivating rice, taro and vegetables, and in every direction, and in every place showing themselves to be the most industrious labourers in the Kingdom. In addition to this, they are rapidly acquiring wealth, and with that wealth will come, in some shape, political power. This body of men, so powerful and increasing so fast, is unknown to us. No attempts have been made to study them, or discover their ideas motives or movements. The Law Department is informed from time to time of the organization of secret societies, but what their purpose is, it is difficult to discover, nor is it an easy matter to investigate their social condition. Europeans who speak the Chinese are not readily obtained, and as a rule, they command very high salaries. Excellent Chinese interpreters can be obtained, but there is a disposition to believe that their race prejudices will control their honesty. The difficulty of securing a good and reliable method of knowing more about the Chinese must be met. It is not only impossible to ignore these people, but it is more foolishness to do so."

Now, Sir, if in a place where at one time the immigration of the Chinese into the country was agitated, so as to add to the population, and provide for what was considered at that time to be a necessary addition to the labour market, they now set their faces against the immigration of those Chinese for the reasons I have stated, surely the same rule might be applied to Canada in the interests of one of her Provinces. I find also, according to the immigration statistics, that even as recently as 1882, about 8,000 Chinese flocked into British Columbia. I know that as many as 450 arrived on board one vessel, and that eight vessels arrived in rapid succession within three and a-half months, making a total of a little over 4,000 into that Province in that short space of time, and out of the whole number of Chinese added to our present unfortunately small population, there were not five women. Taking a still more recent time, taking the immigration of last year, according to the statistics furnished by the immigration agents to the Depart-