

this news to them, and that will be one of great disappointment. A few days ago, I brought to the notice of the House, a telegram that was sent to British Columbia in 1896 by the right hon. gentleman, in which he said: 'On this question, the views of the Liberals in the west will prevail with me.' Now, I would ask the right hon. gentleman, with which of the members from British Columbia, who support his government, do these views prevail? I think there is not a single gentleman representing a constituency of British Columbia who will say to-day that he is satisfied that this Chinese tax should be raised to only the small sum of \$100 per head. The right hon. gentleman says that he believes there are no more Chinese in British Columbia to-day, than there were in 1886. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman is a better authority than I am on that question, because he has all the statistics at hand, and perhaps has looked them up; but, I venture to say, there are many more thousands of Chinese in British Columbia to-day than there were in 1886. They are not, perhaps, so easily seen, because in that year the Canadian Pacific Railway had just finished building their road, and the many thousands of Chinamen that they had employed had not then distributed themselves but were concentrated in certain portions of British Columbia. They are now distributed all over the mining districts of British Columbia. In Cariboo you see almost three Chinamen to every white man that is mining and taking gold out of the ground. In regard to the Japanese I must say that I feel as strongly as the First Minister or any of his supporters, that we should do our best to strengthen the bonds between Great Britain and the empire of Japan, but we must look at home first, and, as I said the other day, I firmly believe that it would not have done any harm to these friendly feelings if the Prime Minister had seen fit to bring in the Natal Act. It is in force in other portions of the British Empire, and nothing is said against it. Why should not Canada put it in force as well? The people of British Columbia believe that they have a right to demand that, and I feel perfectly certain that nothing will satisfy them until some stringent measure is put in force to at least lessen the influx of Japanese, as well as of Chinese. This is the first reading of the Bill, so that I do not intend to make any lengthy remarks, but, I must say that I believe there will be an intense feeling of disappointment in British Columbia when they know what the government has seen fit to bring down to-day.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Before the motion is put, I wish to say that I, too, am quite disappointed at the conclusion which the government have arrived at. In my opinion there is not much room for the Chinaman in Canada. He displaces a good Canadian, or, a good British subject.

As has been proved by the commission which was referred to by the right hon. First Minister in his speech, the Chinese come to Canada, live here for a few years, earn a lot of money, and save the largest portion of it. They say that they can live on a pound of rice a day, which costs them a good deal less than five cents a pound, and they leave the country, taking with them the money which they have obtained. The First Minister stated to the House, as I understood it, that there were 5,000 permits to leave the country issued to men who have gone out and who have not come back. That, I presume, is the class that has made some money and then returned to China. These Chinese have simply made use of this country, and have obtained employment which should have gone to good citizens of the country. I think that the increase of the tax from \$50 to \$100 will be totally inadequate. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) could easily tell us what are the figures as to the entrance of Chinamen in the country during the past fourteen years. I think it will be found to be very much larger than these 5,000, of whom we have a record as having gone back to China. If that be the case, one of two things must have occurred. Either the Chinese population of Canada has very much increased, or a number of Chinese have made use of Canada as a kind of underground railway to get into the United States. So far as that is concerned, I suppose we have no particular objection if the Chinese come here, pay the poll tax and go through to the United States. It is a matter of no particular concern to us, and we would have no objection to the Chinese leaving this country no matter whether it be by underground railway or any other means of exit. But, the population is increasing. It has been found now that not only are they monopolizing the laundry business and the growing of vegetables in British Columbia, but they are driving skilled miners out of employment in the coal mines. They are going into the mines as coal miners. There are many reasons for objecting to these men going into the coal mines. For instance, Canadian people have to work in these mines. It is the most perilous of all employments. They should be guarded and protected in every possible way that human ingenuity and civilized usage can devise for the protection of the lives of the people, but it has been found that the Chinese are not paying that attention to the protection of their lives that is necessary and desirable in the coal mines. Therefore, I contend, Mr. Speaker, that these men should be prohibited altogether from working in the coal mines of British Columbia, or anywhere else. It is not safe for the other miner who goes in there because he has to consort and associate with these men, making the risks which are inevitable in a coal mine, infinitely greater. For that reason, among many