

done towards improving the character of those people, and leading them to give up their heathen practices, and inducing them to embrace the Christian religion, but they should do something of that kind and show the Chinese that they really desire to benefit them, and if they did return to their own country to send them back under Christian influences, and in a position to benefit their fellow countrymen. I do not think that this is judicious legislation. I know that at the time we levied an immigrant tax of \$2 a head many years ago it was done for a different object; it was to provide a fund out of which to support such of those who landed on our shores as were sick and unable to support themselves. It was not done with a view to keeping them out of the country; we were desirous of seeing them come. Now that the Canadian Pacific Railway is being opened, my impression is that if the Chinese were let alone they would come across the mountains and settle upon the lands of the west, and coming within Christian influences, would probably mix up with our own people and become valuable settlers. From what I understand of their habits they are a very industrious people. At any rate if a Chinaman, with his wife, comes to settle in the country he ought not to be prohibited, whatever you may do with that class that come merely as workmen to make money and carry away their wages.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—The greatest objection that I have heard to the Chinese is that those who come to British Columbia are bound by secret societies, and are engaged to certain companies and are not at liberty; they are, in fact, practically slaves to those companies. On the other side of the question there is no doubt that the Government, in this country, as in other countries, have passed laws to prevent paupers and convicts from coming to our shores. To that extent I think it is perfectly right to prevent those Chinese who are known to be of that character from coming in amongst us; but if a Chinaman is an honest, industrious man, and comes to work here, I do not think we are acting up to the principles of Christianity in refusing to allow him to settle amongst us, or putting such a heavy tax upon him as we are imposing under

the provisions of this Bill. Would it not be better to oblige those people to bring with them certificates from the British Consuls in the Chinese ports as to their character, and when we are assured by such certificates that they do not belong to any secret societies and are freemen, why should we oblige them to pay this heavy tax? I agree entirely with the hon. gentleman from Sarnia that it is not according to the principles of Christianity to treat any people as we are treating the Chinese in this measure, and in the measure respecting the electoral franchise

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—My hon. friend from Sarnia, and my hon. friend who has just sat down, speak as theorists and as philanthropists; but take those who have dealt with Chinese immigration practically in Australia and they will find that the very law that we seek to have passed here has been enacted in that colony. There was a great deal of difficulty about it, and for a time there was a great deal of doubt as to whether it would receive the assent of Her Majesty's Government. It was pressed again and again, and after repeated efforts it finally did receive the assent of Her Majesty's Government.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—That was a tax.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes, it was a tax. Then take the case of the people of British Columbia. My hon. friend opposite tells what the feeling of the people of that province is. There is the position of people who have to deal practically with this subject. We in Ontario and Quebec and in the eastern provinces, generally, have not to deal with the subject practically; with us it is a question of theory. Hon. gentlemen say why should not the Chinese be allowed to come into the country? One reason given by the member for British Columbia is that the population of China is so great that if we open the door and allow them to come in as they please, you will have a Chinese instead of an Anglo-Saxon population in that province. We do not feel that here; we do not feel that there is any danger from it; but supposing there was not a danger from it, suppos-