

and, by getting certain papers, return to it; no limit of time was fixed for the period of their stay outside the country. It has been found that they can stay away so long that their identity is lost, and frauds are possible under the Act. It is proposed by this clause to reduce the time to three months, but on consideration I have thought it better to ask the House to extend the time to six months. Three months is not long enough to enable a person to travel to China, except by the very fastest vessels, and remain there for any time and return within the limit of time. The last clause repeals the 15th Section of the Act which provides that all duties, pecuniary penalties and revenue under the Act go into the consolidated revenue of Canada, except one-fourth of the entire amount which is paid to the province. It is proposed to make that amount which is payable to the province one-fourth of the net proceeds of all entry dues paid by Chinese immigrants, because there is some expense connected with the collection of those dues, and it is but proper that the amount of it should be deducted from the gross revenue before giving the Province its share.

HON. MR. MCINNES—I would ask the hon. leader of the Government if he has brought down the balance of those returns ordered by the House some time ago?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—For the purpose of saving time and giving the hon. member the information he wished, I brought down a copy of a report made to the House of Commons on a part of the same subject as that involved in his own motion; but he points out to me that there are one or two particulars in which this return does not conform to the Address which he obtained. I have made inquiry about that, and I have to inform my hon. friend that in order to obtain this report we must get it from the proper officers. They were communicated with at once, but it will be quite impossible to get those returns within the next week or ten days. I should, therefore, like to go on with this Bill now, particularly as I do not see that the matters referred to in my hon.

friend's Address have reference to this Bill.

HON. MR. MCINNES—I am surprised at the statement of the hon. gentleman, because the Chinese Immigration Act provides for those returns, as can be seen by referring to sections 13 and 15. The return that was laid on the table of the House a few days is one made in response to an address moved by Mr. Gordon, one of the British Columbia members of the House of Commons, and does not extend to the period mentioned in the address that I moved. It gives only a limited amount of the information I desire. I am sorry that it is not before the House. I hope that the hon. Leader of the Government will not insist upon carrying the Bill in its present form. I hope that he will expunge entirely the third section, which limits the time of return to three months.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It is proposed to extend it to six months.

HON. MR. MCINNES—It would be better to put no limit at all. The Act is working very well. According to a newspaper which has always been very much opposed to Chinese immigration, over 50,000 Chinese have left the Pacific Coast within the last few years, and there are some 40,000 less Chinese there to-day than there were five years ago. I know from reports published from time to time in the British Columbia newspapers that large numbers of Chinese are leaving there constantly—that there are two or three leaving for every one that comes into the country—and therefore I think it would be better to expunge the clause altogether.

HON. MR. ALMON—I was very much in hopes that the leader of the Government would have brought forward this measure at an earlier period of the session, so that we might have had a long discussion on the subject and tried to wipe off this disgraceful Act from our Statutes. We are near the last decade of the nineteenth century: the beginning of the century did away with the slave trade; England abolished slavery in her colonies at an expense of £20,000,000.

HON. MR. ABBOTT.