

poses \$182 a year that would only leave him \$43 as his net earnings.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. Would the hon. gentleman state how many Chinese there are living in those tenements that pay \$2 a month?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I do not know how much the Chinese are paying for rent, but I said that, taking it for granted that they pay on an average \$2 per month for their lodging, and I do not think that is an extra amount—

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. Fifteen men in one cabin pay \$2 a month.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The estimate expenses that I have given have been published on the Pacific coast, and I do not care about discussing them. I have seen eight or ten men in one tenement, and they were paying as much as \$50 or \$60 a month.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. It is not so in Victoria.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. In Victoria they are better treated. That is the reason why the Chinese of Victoria appear to be a great deal better than in other places where we saw Chinese, but I am sure they do not pay \$2 for lodgings for fifteen men. Putting even a margin of 50 per cent. on that statement, you will see that each man would at least spend in the country a sum of at least \$100 a year. I know that the Chinese in their living obtain nothing but that for which they pay very dearly. I am not pleading for them. They have undoubtedly spent in the country a large amount of money, and I shall show by statistics that the goods coming from China have been in a large measure consumed by the Chinese population in the Province. Let us say that each Chinese laborer spends \$100 a year, this would give a result of \$962,900, taking 9,629 as the exact number of Chinese laborers in British Columbia. Each of them pays to the state in duties, provincial and municipal taxes, over \$25 per head, and the absolute value of the Chinese labor, a value which remains as a capital invested in the country, is not overrated at two dollars a day, making for the 9,629 laborers, at the rate of 230 days a year, a total of \$4,429,280 of net profit for the country. I have indicated the real, fundamental reason why opposition is given to Chinese immigration. I am satisfied that my statement will not be contradicted when I say that prejudice and rivalry are the main sources of opposition to their presence amongst us. But are we for that reason not to take into consideration the social and moral condition of the country where they are living? Are we to ignore feelings and antipathies? Is it not necessary, for a Government dealing with questions on its responsibility, to respect even prejudices? Are we not obliged very often to respect prejudices? Do we not respect them very often in our legislation? I think that this would alone constitute a sufficient reason for any legislation the Government may choose to enact in respect to the Chinese: that they are a stumbling block in the way of the development of the country, in the way of any Government on account of those prejudices that are founded on facts that cannot be ignored. That Chinese labor has taken the place of white labor, which might not so far have come into the country, but which must come in the future, is likely to create a sentiment in the country that the Government cannot ignore. Whatever views we may entertain I do not think hon. members would differ in the conclusion to which we arrived after the investigation I made with my brother commissioner in the United States and in British Columbia. Opinions differ on this question, but no one differs in this, that we would infinitely prefer that white immigrants should occupy the field. We examined witnesses in British Columbia, and Dr. Helmcken stated—though it is not reported in his evidence—the matter in a very clear

manner. He said the whole thing is very simple; "we want you to prevent the influx of Mongolians because we want to be here ourselves, and do not want others to be here. You will not consider it strange if we tell you that as good Englishmen we see no reason why any men except good Englishmen should live in this country." I knew in what sense the witness said that. There was no reason, he thought, for anybody living in a British colony but Englishmen. "We are despotic—you know it; as regards our customs and usages and habits we are despotic in a certain sense; and you know it." And we all know it. But we have to condone that, and to do the best we can among ourselves; but there will always be a certain amount of feeling existing, not to the same extent, perhaps, because differences exist, in regard to the Chinese; and when they come in large numbers they threaten us, not the peace of the country, and not the morals of the country, but they hurt the sentiments of the people. From the whole of the evidence taken—of course there is immorality amongst the Chinese, as there is amongst other nations in like classes—it is evident also that immorality among the Chinese does not prevail to the extent often mentioned; for if immorality was carried on to that extent, the intense feeling which would be aroused against the Chinese would lead to lynching, and no one could prevent summary justice being dealt out in cases when such crimes as have been intimated had been committed by Chinese domestic servants. We know that when similar crimes were committed in the Southern States by a race to which the white race had antipathies, lynching was the order of the day for many years. Everyone knows that no one could prevent the Chinese from being similarly punished if such outrages were committed by them. They are not better than other races, but they have virtues as well as vices. The Government cannot, however, ignore the national or provincial feeling, the feeling that prevails among the white population. A number of the witnesses examined by the commission declared that people could not keep house in British Columbia and would be obliged to leave the country, being unable to obtain efficient servants, except for the Chinese domestics. As to the immense fisheries in British Columbia the yield of which was last year no less than \$1,498,082, they could not have been developed except for the Chinese. The same may be said of the coal mining industry; the export of that product amounted, during the three last years, to 622,897 tons, or \$2,178,353. Market gardening, that great luxury of the rich and the poor, that important factor in the economy of a new country, is entirely a Chinese creation. But in spite of all those facts, the Government cannot ignore that a wave is coming up, and I say it would be a blot on the administration of the Government, not to take action as we have taken it. I may have my own personal opinion of what I have read, and of the intelligence I have been able to obtain on this question, but I agree with my hon. friends who represent British Columbia in this House, that if they were to go back to their Province without legislation of some kind being arrived at in the direction of settling this problem, the peace of the country would be threatened. Such legislation is not new. Great Britain has permitted her colonies to pass such legislation and nobody has complained. I know that some may find fault with this measure, though it is not an arbitrary, a despotic, or a cruel measure; but it will at least have the result of effectually checking Chinese immigration into British Columbia, to a very large extent; in fact I may say that it will probably almost extinguish Chinese immigration, except to a desirable extent and of a desirable kind. I have been rather surprised at some of the criticisms of this Bill. I find that some journals have called it a draconian measure, while others said it was a milk and water measure. I say the measure was necessary; I say that legislation was demanded by men who understood what