

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). It is very interesting to hear the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor) enlighten us upon "what is" and "what ought to be" in the Province of British Columbia. I think ordinary courtesy might have prompted him to allow the members from that Province to know best what is going on there, and what is best for the people of that Province. He said, at the close of his remarks, that he would like to be understood on that subject. If the hon. gentleman would like to be thoroughly understood, especially by the members from British Columbia, he had better start afresh and make his speech over again; because I, for one, have not been impressed with his remarks. The members from British Columbia are perfectly satisfied with the right hon. leader of the Government for having introduced into the interpretation clause that the word "person" shall include an Indian and exclude a Chinaman; and in seeing that introduced—I think I can speak for all of our members on this point—having secured, in fact, all that we really wanted, and knowing that silence under these circumstances is golden, we do not say much on the subject. As for the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies), a gentleman whose acquaintance I made many years ago, and for whom I have the very highest regard, I cannot help making this remark. He endeavored to show that because the Province of British Columbia was rather small in population, that, therefore we were not in a position to dictate or suggest to this Dominion what should be in the Franchise Bill. I do not think any member from British Columbia would for one moment seek to dictate to this House what should or what should not be, and certainly the innate modesty of the members from that Province would preclude the possibility of their doing anything of the sort. But the members from British Columbia, although they do not essay the House with long speeches, generally know what they want for their Province, and as a rule know what they are talking about.

Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant). You help to put our Indians in.

Mr. BAKER. I think not. The hon. member for Queen's said that we had a very small population and therefore we were not capable of giving an intelligent vote on this question. Now, I would like the hon. member for Queen's thoroughly to understand that the island of Vancouver alone would hoist the island of Prince Edward "in board" like a jolly boat between the fore and main masts of a line o' battle ship, and perhaps the day will come when we will do it, population and all. Certainly, our white population is not very large, but the hon. gentleman must take into consideration the fact that the area of British Columbia is somewhat extensive, and that territory as well as population must be considered in dealing with a prospective franchise. It is equal to that of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec put together, and that area will some day be filled with a population from every part of the Dominion, as well as from Europe; and I have no doubt a very large number of the inhabitants of the island to which the hon. gentleman belongs will come there, and will be constituents of mine should I happen to be in Parliament at that particular time. The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Weldon) said that we were a little inconsistent in including the Indians and excluding the Chinese. It so happens that the admission of the Indians to the franchise, at present, at least, does not materially affect the Province of British Columbia; but the exclusion of the Chinese is just what we want, and I feel perfectly convinced, without detaining the House by any further remarks, that is what we are going to get, in part, by this Bill.

Mr. CHARLTON. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Baker) informs us, and very truly, that British Columbia is supposed to know what her own wants are, and that we

should not interfere with British Columbia in attaining her wants.

Mr. BAKER. I did not say that. I did not say that they should not interfere, for I fully recognise the right of every member of this House to speak on every subject which comes up here; but I implied that the hon. member for Charlotte had better look after Charlotte and let me look after Victoria, in preference to affording us gratuitous advice upon a subject with which we must necessarily be more conversant than other hon. members.

Mr. CHARLTON. Exactly. He took the hon. member for Charlotte to task for having interfered with what was a British Columbia question. He said British Columbia understood her own wants. Sir, we believe that is the case with British Columbia, and we believe it is the case with Manitoba, with Ontario, with Quebec, with New Brunswick, with Nova Scotia and with Prince Edward Island; we believe each one of these Provinces understands its own wants and should be allowed to arrange its own franchise. We believe that British Columbia should be allowed this privilege, and should be left to say whether the Chinamen should have a vote or not; we believe that this Bill is an infringement on the rights of British Columbia, and of every other Province in this regard; and the remarks of my hon. friend from Kent, N.B. (Mr. Landry), and of every other hon. gentleman who spoke on this subject, serve to point and to enforce the argument, that every Province in the Dominion should be left to exercise its own rights in this matter, and that the Dominion should not interfere with its exercise of those rights.

Mr. LANDRY (Kent). If the hon. gentleman will be kind enough to say what I said leading to that conclusion, I would like to hear it.

Mr. CHARLTON. I understood the hon. member for Kent to say that British Columbia was the best judge as to her wants, with reference to the enfranchisement of the Chinese, and that we should respect the wishes of British Columbia.

Mr. LANDRY. That is not the way I said it.

Mr. CHARLTON. That is what I understood the hon. gentleman to say. If he says that British Columbia should not be the judge of its own wants, I have nothing to say. But I rise to-night, not for the purpose of defending the Chinese franchise. I am sorry to have to disagree with my hon. friend from Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor), my hon. friend from Queen's (Mr. Daves) and my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Weldon). I agree to-night, a thing I seldom do, with the hon. Premier, in reference to this matter. I think it is not wise or desirable that the Mongolian race in America should be enfranchised. I am willing to concede that the Chinese civilisation is a wonderful civilisation. Looking back over history, I realise the fact that 3,000 years ago, when our race was in barbarism, the Chinese civilisation was as far advanced and as thoroughly developed as it is to-day. But for 3,000 years that civilisation has been a stereotyped civilisation, neither advancing nor receding. I realise that the Chinese race is a wonderful race. No other people have the pride of race that they possess. No other people look down on all other races with the supreme contempt with which the Chinese race look down on other races. Considering that their numbers are so great, and taking the fact that they will not assimilate with other populations, it is only a precautionary measure, at this stage of our national existence, to deny to them the privileges of the franchise. It is said that they were first cordially welcomed into California. That is true; they were considered a valuable addition to the population, and the United States, above all nations, have welcomed immigration from foreign nations. But by