

The opinion given expression to by Mr. Rochester then, is not, I believe, the opinion of the people of Ontario to-day, if we are to judge by the numerous petitions which have been presented to this House by trades and labour unions and other associations in Ontario, in regard to this Chinese question. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie speaking, in 1878, in regard to the resolution of Mr. Bunker, said :

He hoped the hon. gentleman did not really expect such a resolution to obtain any support in the House. It was one unprecedented in its character, and altogether unprecedented in its spirit, and at variance with those tolerant laws which afforded employment and an asylum to all who came into our country, irrespective of colour, hair or anything else.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to say that we should not afford an asylum to people in distress, but I do say that our first duty is to ourselves and to our children. I do not think we are doing our duty to our own people if we allow the Chinese and Japanese to come in and compete with Canadian labourers. There is no excuse for seeking such cheap labour now, when we have seen recently that good, honest able-bodied Canadians can be got to work for 98 cents a day, as railway trackmen. I do not think any one in Canada should wish for cheaper labour than that. It has been argued also that labouring men cannot be adverse to Chinese as they employ them themselves, but if a man takes a contract and cheap labour is close at hand, and he can get men to work for 75 cents or \$1 a day, it is only human nature that 99 men out of a hundred should avail themselves of that, and, therefore, the only way to do justice to the ordinary labourer is to keep these cheap workers out of the country. I believe that the Chinese are like a malignant cancer eating in the very vitals of the workingmen of Canada, but with this difference : that while up to the present time, no cure is known for cancer in the human frame, there is a cure for this Chinese cancer, and that is by the Government providing a sufficient poll-tax to keep them out of the country. Let me say that it is not only British Columbia that is interested in this matter. The gentlemen sitting in this House from all parts of Canada should take an interest in the question, because as sure as fate the Chinese will spread over the face of this country. We see the advance guard in Toronto, Montreal, and other cities, setting up their wash houses, and as to them not being civilized, why it was only yesterday I saw a Chinaman careening down Rideau Street on a bicycle.

Mr. DAVIS. He must have bought the bicycle.

Mr. PRIOR. He may have stolen it for all I know. I believe that if the Chinese and Japanese are not stopped somehow, they will ultimately swamp the artisans and work-

Mr. PRIOR.

ingmen of Canada. Let me therefore impress upon the Government the urgent necessity that exists for immediate restrictive legislation, and I can tell the Government also that unless they take some action this Chinese question will be brought up in Parliament year after year by all the British Columbia members. There is another class of emigrants coming to Canada at present, which I believe is as great a menace to our well-being and prosperity as are the Chinamen and Japanese. The worst of it is, that these men are not coming in solely of their own accord, but they are coming in with the assistance of the Government of the day. I refer to the Galicians and the Doukhobors.

Mr. DAVIS. He never saw a Doukhobor in his life.

Mr. PRIOR. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) is just a little too previous. I was going to say that I have never been in company with either a Galician or a Doukhobor that I know of, but I have heard a great deal about them from men who live amongst them and from men who have lived with them in Russia, and who can speak their language. It is not my intention to do an injustice to any man be he ever so poor or humble, but I must believe my own senses and the opinions of my friends who know these people intimately. The hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) thought he would make a point by saying that I had never seen a Doukhobor. Well, I believe his colleague the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) has hundreds of them living near him, and I am sure he will endorse everything that I say this afternoon. Some of the information I have obtained is from a gentleman known in the Press Gallery, Capt. Clyde Phillips Wolley, a gentleman who has lived in Russia for many years, who has been amongst the Galicians and Doukhobors, who can speak their language and has written about them many times. Capt. Wolley is a gentleman well known in the literary world, one of the most patriotic writers we have in the British Empire to-day, and we can rely upon what he says of these people. I have information from others on this matter as well as from Capt. Wolley. Now, Sir, I presume that the aim of this Government is, as it ought to be the aim of every man who has the welfare of Canada at heart, to see Canada populated with the best, and the bravest, and the most intelligent people that can be got under the sun. From the very beginning of the colonization of Canada she has been peopled by a brave and intelligent race. The first settlers, the French Canadians, opened up our country under the greatest dangers and the greatest difficulties, and they are still willing to go to the uttermost part of the earth for the sake of the Empire. The French Canadians have shown the greatest loyalty and fealty to the British Crown, and let me ask the Govern-