

head tax is exacted, but after a student has engaged in his studies and has received proper certificates, that head tax is refunded, I suppose, when he is prepared to return to China. The idea is to admit students for the purpose of receiving a higher education; they are not to settle in this country, but are to return to China. I am afraid there would be a good deal of trouble working out paragraph 7 in reference to students.

Mr. ROCHE: In the working out of this legislation, I do not think there will be any more trouble than in working out the existing Act. We are simply allowing the students who come in under the existing Act to come in without paying the head tax. We are not broadening the meaning attached to the word "student." The interpretation placed upon that word will be exactly the interpretation placed upon it in the operation of the existing Act. One reason why I thought it was right to introduce this change was because of the large number of requests I have been receiving for several years past to have students admitted free. Those requests have come from members of the hon. gentleman's party as well as from hon. members on this side; they have come from leagues that have been established in Canada, and I have received requests and petitions from different public bodies in Canada. At the present time I do not remember a single protest from any public body or any private individual that we should not enact such a law, and I think I can call to my aid the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald), who, at an earlier part of the session, strongly urged some action of this nature to be taken, and I assured him that it was my intention to introduce legislation of this character. He instanced the case of a Chinese student who had to pay a head tax, and I told him that in order to correct such instances in the future, it was my intention to bring in legislation at this session. Although this Bill has been on the Order Paper for quite a long time, no protests have been made against it.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Under paragraph 7 when would a student, or a person coming to Canada for the purpose of being a student, be liable to paying the head tax, and under what circumstances? This paragraph does not say that he shall actually continue in seeking an education. It says:

Students coming to Canada for the purpose of securing a higher education.

[Mr. Pugsley.]

A student might come to Canada intending to enter college two or three years after his arrival. There is no provision that he must actually begin his studies within a reasonable time.

Mr. ROCHE: The situation in that respect is exactly as it is at the present time.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The difference is this, that at present he pays his head tax at the start, and after that he must have pursued his studies regularly in order to obtain a refund. Under this legislation, you let him into the country free, and the question is: How are you going to get him out again, or how are you going to make him pay the head tax if he ceases to be a student? You exempt him if he comes into Canada for the purpose of securing a higher education.

Mr. ROCHE: If the hon. gentleman will read section 2, subsection 7 (a), he will see that the person ceasing to belong to one of the exempt classes is liable to the head tax. The subsection reads:

Any person admitted as exempt from the tax and who ceases to belong to one of the exempt classes shall be required to pay into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada the tax of \$500.

Mr. PUGSLEY: A young man would not cease to be exempt as long as he had the intention of becoming a student.

Mr. ROCHE: If he goes into a trade or occupation, a person engaging in which is liable to the imposition of the head tax, then he becomes liable to that head tax, and under subsection 7 (a):

If the person refuses or fails to pay the tax, he shall be deported, at his own expense if able to pay, and if not, at the expense of His Majesty.

Therefore, any of these men coming in under the existing Act for the purpose of attending an educational institution of Canada that is recognized by the department shall not be called upon to pay the head tax. In that respect he is in exactly the same position as he is in under the present Act, with the exception of paying the head tax, and should he cease to be in one of the exempt classes, for instance, should he engage in laundry business, or anything of that nature, he would become liable to the head tax.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is there any machinery for keeping track of these Chinese students?