

blows of circumstance he now "can shape the whisper of a Throne and would a mighty State's decrees." I heard from his lips not long ago the statement; that self preservation was the law that we are bound to observe. I assent to that doctrine. It is only through self preservation that any one of us can attempt to feel the impulse of what is called altruism or the higher life. We must protect our own people. The land is theirs—I do not think that is a strange doctrine to preach on the floor of this House—the mines are theirs, the fisheries are theirs, the opportunities are theirs, and I do not think it is a wise policy, yea, I think it is a narrow-minded policy to fill the land with semi-barbarians and to drive out our own people who ought to possess these things, and who, if they possessed these things, would make both themselves and Canada the pride of the whole earth. Now, I want to state briefly what has been done in regard to this Chinese question. This House of Commons is exceptional because of the greatness of the number of new members, and I therefore wish to remind honorable gentlemen that this is not the first time that the question has been brought before this honorable House. As far back as 1884 a commission was appointed by the then Government. That commission was composed of the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, the Hon. Mr. Gray, Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and the Secretary of the commission was the distinguished and poetical member of West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). Previous to that a motion had been made in the House to the following effect:

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient to enact a law prohibiting the incoming of Chinese to that portion of Canada known as British Columbia.

That motion was withdrawn on a promise being given by the Right Hon. Sir John A Macdonald, on behalf of the Government that a commission should be issued to enquire into and report upon

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of Chinese immigration. It may not be amiss to state that one of these things which brought this question to the crucial point, was the unfortunate compact that was made by the then Government with Mr. Onderdonk who built what was called the Onderdonk section of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He represented that it was absolutely necessary to import Chinese in order to construct that portion of the railway. It was likewise a part of the contract that after the railway had been constructed, these Chinese should be sent back again to China, but unfortunately the promises both of the Government and of the contractor were not carried out, and instead of being sent back to China as they ought to have been, they were let loose upon British Columbia, and to that we may trace a great deal of the trouble that has arisen in our Province in regard to this Chinese question. At the opening of the commission to which I refer, the Hon. Mr. Chapleau (the Chairman) said :

British Columbia has repeatedly, by her Local Legislature and by her representatives in Parliament, solicited the Executive of Parliament of