

such legislation on 5,000,000 people? If a poll could be taken of the people of this country I do not believe you would find outside of British Columbia one person in every thousand in favor of this legislation. It has been forced upon us by the Province of British Columbia. If that province must have it, then let them have it; but I do say that we ought not at the instance of a fragment of the people of Canada, be made to enact laws which are discreditable to the country. We enter solemnly our protest every year against the restriction of Chinese immigration: we say that it is un-Christian, that it is contrary to the spirit of the 19th century, and we know that it must be a cause of very serious embarrassment to the mother country. We know that it has been a standing difficulty with the Imperial authorities in all their diplomatic relations with China. We know that it has been a constant course of embarrassment, and it is for us to say whether we shall be dictated to by a portion of the people of British Columbia in a matter of this kind, when it is so manifestly done from a purely local and selfish point of view. I do think it is discreditable to us, as a people, that all our finer feelings, all our sense of what is right and proper, shall be set at naught in order that the people of British Columbia shall have their way in reference to this Chinese question. The feeling in this Chamber, as expressed last year, is pretty unanimous and the Government are aware of it. When an attempt was made last session to add some obnoxious clauses to the Chinese Immigration Act we threw out the Bill by a large vote. Therefore, I think the only way to look at it is, if the British Columbians want this legislation let us make it a local Act to apply to British Columbia alone. We of the other Provinces do not want it; we all protest against it. There is a universal feeling against it—a feeling that it is discreditable to Canada and the sooner it is wiped off the statute book the better. I give notice that at the third reading of this Bill I will add a rider to it that the law affecting Chinese immigration in Canada shall be held to apply solely to the Province of British Columbia, and I am quite sure that the

sense of this House will sustain that amendment; I am quite sure that the sense of this country will sustain it. I am sure that it is in accord with the view of at least five millions of the people of this country.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I regret exceedingly that we have this Bill before us this session, on account of the feeling against it last session being so marked. I am not one of those who believe that we are far ahead of the Chinese in education or literature: it is an open question. So far as our actions are concerned, with regard to the treatment of the Chinese on this continent, I think we have very little to congratulate ourselves upon. I am not going into the history of this question, as we did last year, but it is a historical fact that the United States sought the Chinese. In 1849 they inaugurated the first emigration to the United States from China. A committee was appointed by the American Congress, the chairman of which was the Hon. Anson Burlingame. He went to China with full powers to arrange for the emigration of Chinese to the western portion of the United States. He submitted statements to the Chinese Government, showing the great field there was for the industry of their people, and also led them to believe that they would be received, not only on the same terms as other nationalities, but with very marked consideration. The Chinese Government listened to those statements, but were not satisfied to accept them as they were made, and very properly sent a delegation composed of seven of the most capable and best educated men that they had to examine into the trade arrangements of the United States and into the every day life of the mechanics and operatives of the United States. These men, while travelling through the United States, were dined and wined from one end of the country to the other. They were praised by the press of the United States, and with the whole country in their favor they returned to their own land and reported to their Government; but it was not until 1853, four years afterwards, that the Chinese, after protracted correspondence between their own Government and that of the