

Mr. NEILL: Instead of "officer" in this section I think it should be "police officer". It is no use in the wilds of British Columbia to send two hundred miles to get a Chinese immigration officer; a police constable should be allowed to act under this section. The definition of officer in the interpretation clause is simply an immigration officer and such an officer would be found only in Vancouver, Victoria and possibly Nelson.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Does my hon. friend mean that any police officer might demand the production of a certificate from a Chinese in Canada?

Mr. STEVENS: My hon. friend will have to pardon me for referring to our experiences so often, but we learn by experience. Only a few years ago quite a number of Chinese or Japanese, I forgot which, landed on the west coast near my hon. friend's home. They did not touch a port of entry at all; they landed off the west coast of Vancouver Island, or Queen Charlotte Islands. There are constantly vessels running back and forth on the fishing grounds between different points, and as we are by this act restricting the ports of entry to Vancouver and Victoria, the only possible way of apprehending such people would be for a local officer to have some definite powers. If he were in the Queen Charlotte Islands it would take him in winter from two to three weeks to communicate with Vancouver.

Mr. NEILL: Or Prince Rupert.

Mr. STEVENS: There would be no Chinese immigration agent there. It would be hopeless for any person to apprehend immigrants or control immigration of that kind under this clause.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Would provincial police officers be satisfactory?

Mr. STEVENS: I think so.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I see a difficulty in keeping up a force of immigration officers.

Mr. STEVENS: Either provincial, municipal or Dominion police officers would do. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he keep an immigration officer at Prince Rupert.

Mr. NEILL: This section would not give the policeman any drastic power because he can only arrest. Further down it is provided that the officer may detain an arrested person in custody and bring him before the nearest controller for examination. So that the man's rights are absolutely protected, and if a

police constable cannot be trusted to do this much he is not fit for the position.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am not taking exception to the suggestion. I see the impossibility of patrolling a large area like British Columbia with immigration officials whose duty it would be to arrest people who obtain illegal entry.

Mr. STEVENS: I would suggest the words "police officer."

Section stands.

On section 27—Arrest and deportation of Chinese who ceases to belong to exempt or admissible classes:

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Some exception has been taken to this section, and I do think that it is somewhat drastic.

Any person admitted as exempt from the tax under the provisions of the Chinese Immigration Act or any amendment thereto or under this act,—

It embodies the whole of it.

—and who at any time after admission ceases to belong to any of the exempt classes as defined by the Chinese Immigration Act or any amendment thereof or by this act,—

It seems to me this goes so far that if a Chinese merchant after being here for twenty years failed in his business and was obliged to become a labourer he would be subject to deportation.

Mr. STEVENS: That would be a very good thing.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I hardly think that is just.

Mr. STEVENS: There are thousands who have been admitted by the officers of this government as merchants, who have deliberately abandoned that calling and are to-day labourers and never intend to be anything else. So there would be no hardship; my hon. friend need not waste any sympathy on them whatever.

Mr. NEILL: I would also point out, Mr. Chairman, that this is the section the hon. minister referred me to early in the afternoon when I asked him what means he had of checking up those who were admitted as students, he said section 27.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): This will apply to the person who enters as a student.

Mr. NEILL: It will not apply if you alter it.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I was not thinking of altering it as applying to those