

DO NOT WANT CHEAP LABOR

Ald. Gibbons States His Opposition to the Asiatic Labor Proposition.

"It is in no spirit of intolerance that labor men are opposed to the entrance of Asiatics into Canada, but rather with the idea of helping Canada to fulfill its destiny," said Ald. Joseph Gibbons, business agent of the Street Railwaymen's Union, in discussing the Chinese labor question to The Star.

"Canada is practically the last country in which immigration can come to any great extent. We can, therefore, afford to do a little picking and choosing of our immigration. We have the opportunity of getting good people from the United States and the allied countries of Europe to settle here. They are suited to this country, can stand its climate and are not cheap workers.

"The Asiatics, by everything essential, are not suited to the country. They are cheap workers. I only wish that the manufacturers could see the question of cheap labor as we do. The best market they have is the home market, and it is to their advantage to have a well-to-do workingman to purchase their products. If a workingman gets only \$1.50 per day through Asiatic labor competition, he can only buy the bare necessities of life—food and cheap clothing. Give him \$3 a day and he keeps the piano people busy, the carpet manufacturer and furniture man; he takes out insurance policies. The workingman who draws a good salary is the best spender and leaves behind him a good race. That is why we must have our immigration from the United States and the allied countries of Europe."

Discussing the question of Chinese labor on the farm, he said: "Chinese imported into Canada for farm work are useless. In the first place they know nothing of Canadian farming or the handling of machinery and because they cannot speak the English language they cannot take orders."