REPORT.

The Select Committee on Chinese labor and immigration beg leave to make their

FIRST REPORT.

1. That they examined several witnesses whose evidence appears in the Appendix to this Report.

2. That if more evidence be deemed necessary on Chinese labor and immigration, it will be desirable to take it in British Columbia.

3. That the Reports of the Joint Committee of the Congress of the United States, and of the Senate Committee of the State of California, on Chinese labor and immigration, contain much evidence showing the undesirability of encouraging Chinese labor and immigration.

4. That, from the evidence taken before the Select Committee, they believe that Chinese immigration ought not be encouraged.

5. That, from the evidence produced before the Select Committee, they are of opinion that Chinese labor ought not be employed on Dominion Public Works.

6. That, in the opinion of the Select Committee, it is desirable that this Report and the evidence in the Appendix, be printed.

Respectfully submitted.

A. DEGOSMOS,
Chairman.

House of Commons, Ottawa, 14th May, 1879.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mr. Bunn, M.P., appeared before the Committee on Chinese labor and immigration, and was examined as follows:

By the Chairman:

Q. Where do you reside?—I live at Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia.

Q. How long have you resided in the Province of British Columbia?—I have lived there for 20 years.

Q. Have you any approximate notion as to the number of Chinese, who live in British Columbia at the present time?—Well, last year, I was told that there were about 3,000 Chinese in the Province; and this year, when I was coming away, I was
told that their number in the Province had increased to about 6,000; and I have every reason to believe, that if the Government go on with the public works, there will be a complete swarm of them, which will still further increase.

Q. A swarm of them would come into the Province under those circumstances?

—Yes.

By Mr. True:

Q. Where would this swarm of Chinese come from?—They would come from China and all along the Pacific coast of the United States—from Oregon, from Washington Territory, and from the State of California.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think, that the Chinese ought to be prohibited from obtaining employment on our public works?—I do hold that opinion.

By Mr. True:

Q. Are you aware whether the Government of the Province of British Columbia has prohibited them from being employed in connection with contracts which have been given out by this Government?—Yes; that is the case. The Provincial Government have issued an Order in Council stating that they shall not be employed on any of the contracts which are given out by the Government. The incorporation of the City of Victoria has also taken the same course; well knowing how injurious Chinese immigration has been to the City of Victoria, the City Council has issued a similar order, and no Chinaman is employed in the construction of public works in the Province at the present time, so far as I am aware.

Q. Do you then think that it is desirable to encourage Chinese to come to the country?—No; I hold to the contrary opinion, and particularly with regard to the interests of the farmers who have settled in the Province of British Columbia. I consider that the presence of the Chinese in the country is one of the greatest evils with which they have to contend. Their presence has had also a very bad effect on the moral character of the white children. It was the greatest curse which a father or a mother of a family had to contend with in the bringing up of their children, as that pernicious influence was very prejudicial, whether these were employed in the families as servants, or whether the influence in question was exerted through observations made by them to the children on the streets.

Q. The tendency of the presence of the Chinese in the Province is to exclude girls and young boys from the opportunity of obtaining employment—is it not?—The tendency of the presence of the Chinese in the country is to exclude servant girls from employment; and the great cause of this exclusion lies in the fact that the whole people that manufacture, and the people who are trying to build up the country, and the merchants and others, aside from what I call the snob aristocracy. These people are all against the Chinese, with that exception. There are a few who are aristocrats who like to put on frills, and they are fond of having Chinese servant girls. They think that it is something grand, and something away up. They do not care about employing a Squaw, though these, who are Indians, are equally as good servants as the Chinese. In my opinion more, and if this was done, we would not have Chinamen amongst us in such numbers. Chinamen will come in and do some things about a house, chores, etc., which a white man is not supposed to do. For instance, the lady of the house wants to take a bath, and they will go in and scrubbing the woman of the house in a bath tub—as I have been told.

By Mr. True:

Q. They are not male but female servants who do this?—No; I mean Chinese males.

Q. Does the mistress like it?—Well, you wouldn't think so, if you saw Joe Murphy on the stage.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are you aware, whether any Chinamen are employed in the coal mines?—How many of them are so engaged?—Well, I was told that near Nanaimo somewhere about three hundred Chinamen were employed around or about the mines. This is the case, as near as I can judge.

Q. These men are employed at the three mines?—Yes; they are employed at three mines. There are five mines at Nanaimo.

By Mr. True:

Q. What is paid them for mining coal?—The Chinese do not go down underneath the ground. They are afraid to go down below the surface of the earth, and they work altogether on the top. They screen coal and do such like work, and they shift cars about. I do not think that it would be safe to employ them down under ground. They do not know enough about the work of mining, or of putting up the props, which are required in order to keep the earth up. The white miners would not consider it safe to work underneath the ground with them.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are the farmers in the Province of British Columbia, so far as you are aware, favorable to the presence of the Chinese in the country?—The farmers are not favorable to the Chinese. They are considered down on these people. They say that the Chinese interfere with them a great deal in the way of getting groceries before they get their crops in. Formerly, the white farmers were able to bring a few vegetables to market, and to take home in exchange some groceries, which were very acceptable to their families, but, now the Chinese have done away with all that kind of business, and they go about with wagons and sell some with them with packs on their backs; they sell them all back-doors and dispose of their vegetables, and all the buying, if anything is lying around which they can steal, they seize the opportunity to do so.

By Mr. True:

Q. Would it be a good policy on the part of the Government in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway to prohibit the employment of Chinese labor upon it?—It would be the best kind of policy that the Government could pursue in regard to this work, and for this reason: if it degrades them, and for this reason: if it degrades them, if it, makes them an outcast among the people, and docs not give them the recognition of the white laborers, the hire of men. The Chinese is a great man, he is a man of honor, and he does not look upon these figures as the basis of the calculation, making allowance for the advantage given to the white man in point of laboring power, you can easily discover what the extra cost that would be entailed by this policy would be.

By the Chairman:

Q. Mr. Bunter, do you think that three Chinamen are equal to two white men?—No; I do not believe that they are; I do not think that three Chinamen are equal to two white men, in point of laboring power.

Q. But put the case; say that the labor of three Chinamen is equal to that of two white men; the question then is, would the aggregate cost of the labor be greater? Would the aggregate cost of the labor be greater if Chinamen were employed instead of 2
white men. The labor of the Chinese may cost less individually, but they only do
any two-thirds of what a white man does. Now a white man gets one-third more
wages than they receive, and if the ordinary estimate be correct—that two white
men are equal to three Chinamen, then the white man does one-half more labor
that the Chinaman.

Is the way to look at this question?—Yes; that is the way to look at it, and that is the way in which the cost is generally calculated.

Then the Federal Government, if they employed white labor in the construction of the Pacific Railway, would lose nothing in the state?—No.

Q. Could sufficient white labor be obtained for the purpose of building this road in the Province of British Columbia?—Yes; any quantity of white labor, if the road was built, would swarm into the Province from the State of California, and from Europe. At the present time, there are not sufficient works going on on the Pacific coast to employ all the available white labor. At the present time there is no inducement for a white man to go out there and take his family out, or to go out there and take others out.

Q. Suppose that the Government advertised for tenders for the construction of one hundred miles of that line of railway, and if in the covenant of the contract the contractor were compelled not to employ Chinese labor, what would you suppose would be the difference in the tender. Would this qualification make any difference, in your opinion?—I do not believe that this circumstance would make a difference of one dollar.

I think that contractors have found that white labor is preferable to Chinese labor. I have heard contractors who used white labor in Southern California say that it proved cheaper than Chinese labor. There is only one thing which a contractor has got to fear in connection with the employment of white labor on the Pacific Coast; if there is a mining excitement started up at a distance of 10 or 12, or 100 or 200 miles from the place where the works were employed, the white men would in the aggregate dump their work and put for the mining excitement. Then the contractor will have to procure other white labor, whereas in the case of the Chinese, they will steal off gradually, while the white men will stampede—in case a mining excitement breaks out. That is what contractors have told me.

By the Chairman:—

Q. That is an event of the past. Is there not now such a large surplus of white labor on the Pacific Coast, and are not mining discoveries at the present time so rare, that probably in the future there will be less of that trouble? I have not heard of any mining excitements in the Province of the whole Columbia for years now; and at the present time, besides, there is a large surplus of white labor on the Pacific coast. A great many improvements have been made in the machinery which is used on farms, and there are so many young farmers growing up, that this really gives us a surplus of white labor on the Pacific Coast, in certain parts. There would be no difficulty whatever experienced in procuring a sufficiency of white labor; as I said before, I am satisfied, that it would make no difference whatever in the cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway if the Dominion Government advertised for tenders for the construction of 100 miles of the Pacific Railroad, and stipulated in the contract that no Chinaman should be employed in building the road.

Do you think the Chinese a desirable class of immigrants for this country or not?—Well, this is so much the case—to such a degree do I think that the Chinese are undesirable classes of immigrants to allow to enter the Province of British Columbia, that I have known, that they were going to swarm into British Columbia, or come into the country, as is at present the case, I never would have gone there. I say that as one who has been a resident of the Province of British Columbia for the period of 20 years, and as a father of a family, and I say it sincerely and honestly, and if their coming into the country is not checked, I sometimes seriously think of emigrating from British Columbia on account of their presence. Indeed, I have brought my boy to Canada, and I hate him, in consequence of the Chinese being in our country, and fearing that during my absence he might get astray with the Chinese. It has been remarked, that what are
Q. You are a Member of Parliament?—Yes.
Q. How long have you resided in the Province of British Columbia?—I have lived there for nearly 21 years.
Q. How long have you resided on the Pacific coast?—I have lived on that coast for the past 20 years.
Q. During that period, have you been familiar with the Chinese?—During this time, I have seen a great deal of them.
Q. Do you regard them as a class who ought to be encouraged to come into a country and to settle in it?—I do not, by any means.
Q. Why do you hold that opinion?—I think so because I consider that they are an evil to any country in which they come to settle—that is if they come in very large numbers.

By Mr. True:

Q. In what respect are their presence in any country an injury to it?—This is the case because they are a separate race from the whites. They do not amalgamate with the whites, nor do they adopt our customs. They live among themselves. They have their own religion and also they have secret societies, by means of which to a very great extent, they are governed. They contrive very little to the wealth of the country, and to a certain extent, they impoverish it by competing with white men who, if they settled permanently in the country, would improve it.

Q. Are these all the objections which you have against the presence of the Chinese in the country? Does your objection to them exist because they do not mingle with the rest of the community; you might say so much for Mononites as a reason why they should not be permitted to come to the country; and yet the Mononites are a good class of people?—I have heard a gentleman state in the House of Commons that the Mononites would not fight.

Mr. True:

Unless you pulled their noses, I do not suppose that they would.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think that the Chinese are calculated to make good citizens, and to take part in the affairs of the country?—I have never known any of them to do so, so far. I do not believe that in any part of the Pacific coast the Chinese population take any interest in politics; in fact, they are excluded from any part in political matters by law.

By Mr. True:

Q. They are debarred from taking any part in it?—Yes.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think that there would be a greater number of whites in the Province of British Columbia if the Chinese were excluded from it?—In what way do you mean; if they were expelled or driven out of the Province?—Yes, if they were expelled?—Well, I have no doubt that such would be the case to some extent; but I think that it would be scarcely politic so expel the Chinese who are now in the Province.

By Mr. True:

Q. You think that you have a sufficient number of Chinese now in the Province and you do not want any addition to it in numbers; we have too much of them as it is, I believe.

Q. Well, in the mining district, do they take up claims that have been abandoned, or do they take up claims from the Government, or other citizens, and work them?—They take up claims in the ordinary way; they take up claims that have been abandoned; they buy claims from other miners, and they work at the mines for wages.

Q. In what way are they objectionable?—Well, they reduce the rate of wages to a certain extent; and they very often prevent white people from getting employment.
I think that there is a great scarcity of female white labor in the Province.

Q. Is it easier to get a wife than it is to get a servant in that part of the Dominion?

Yes.

The Chairman.

I would state to the Committee that the total number of Chinese domestic servants at present in the Province of British Columbia, as estimated by those who prepared the report which I have read from, is 300.

By Mr. Brooks.

Q. The number is not more than that?

The Chairman.

In the Province of British Columbia—No. The following, it is stated in this report, are the number of Chinese in the Province of British Columbia, and the manner in which they are employed: Domestic servants, 300; shoemakers, 150; laundrymen, 300; tailors, 100; general laborers, 700; gold miners, 1,800; peddlers, 50; gardeners and farm hands, 1,800, and employed in the fisheries, 1,100.

Mr. Brooks:

That gives a very different impression regarding this matter than the evidence which has been given before the Committee by different gentlemen. Is not that your opinion, Mr. True?

Mr. True:

Yes; certainly. What is the total number of Chinese in the Province of British Columbia?

The Chairman.

Their number is about 6,000. The notion that the Chinese were chiefly employed in the Province of British Columbia as domestic servants is a mistake. It is only in places like the City of Victoria where the Chinese are largely employed as domestic servants.

Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):

In the interior of the Province, there are not many Chinamen employed as domestic servants, except as cooks.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. What is your idea, Mr. Thompson, as to the effect which the exclusion of Chinese labor on public work would have upon the Province of British Columbia?

Well, I think that it would be more beneficial to the country to employ white labor, even at a higher rate of wages.

Q. Would the price of white labor be higher than Chinese labor? Would the percentage be higher?—The price of white labor would be a little higher than the Chinese labor at the present time, because if large contracts on Public Works were given out, the Chinese Companies would supply laborers at a rather lower rate of wages.

Q. One of the gentlemen who has appeared before the Committee said that, in his opinion, there would only be a very small difference between the rates of wages which would be demanded for white and for Chinese labor; and he thought that there would not be a large gain effected, if Chinese labor were employed in the construction of Public Works—He is wrong there. If a single Chinaman went to look for work, he might not take much less than what a white man would require for wages, but where you want to employ perhaps 5,000 men, you can make a contract with these Chinese Companies to supply such a number of men at a very low rate of wages. The Chinese Companies would feed these men on rice and on very cheap articles of food, by which their board would cost very little. I imagine that they would board the men for a rate varying from ten to twenty cents a day.

Q. What is your idea as to the cost of white labor on Public Works, in comparison with the figure at which Chinese labor could be obtained for this purpose?

I think that white labor would probably cost twice as much as Chinese labor per man.

Q. It would then cost the Government twice as much to construct Public Works with white labor as it would with the aid of Chinese labor?—That would be the case if as many whites were required.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the general proportion between their respective labor? What is generally considered to be the difference between the laboring power of a Chinaman, and the laboring power of a white man—what is the usual rule?—It is generally considered that three Chinamen are equal to two white men; I think that is about the average.

Q. This is about the proportion?—I think so. When I was coming from Victoria to San Francisco a gentleman, who was a passenger on the steamer, and who has been a large contractor on the Southern Pacific Railway in California, told me that he had employed several hundred Chinamen. A number of Irishmen applied to him for employment afterwards, and they wanted one third or one half more than what he was paying the Chinamen, I forget which. He called the Chinamen up, and weighed them, and then he called up the Irishmen and weighed them, and he found that the Irishmen weighed so much more that he considered that it would be best to employ them; and he informed me that he found that his experience justified him in arriving at this conclusion.

Q. It would depend on whether their weight was made up of muscle or of mere fat?—Certainly; I may say that, as laborers, the Chinese with the pick and shovel, are generally considered to be very good hands, though this would not do as well for white men. I think that placing the proportion at three Chinamen to two white men would be correct.

Q. Are they expert and quick in their movements?—They are not quick, but they are steady.

Q. They are not very good in performing very heavy work, such as ballasting, or in rolling very heavy rocks, and in doing such things?—I do not think that as to such labor they are anything like equal to white men.

By Mr. True:

Q. Is there any prospect of the Chinese becoming permanent settlers—of their settling upon land and of making their homes permanent in this country?—I do not think that they would do so. They would probably settle for a short time in the country, until they could make some money, and then return with their gains to China from whence they came.

Q. Their sole object in coming to this country is to make money, and then to leave the country with it?—Yes; then they sell out and leave the country.
By Mr. Brooks:
Q. Their residence in this country is merely temporary?—Yes; that is certainly the case.

By the Chairman:
Q. The residence of individual Chinamen in this country is merely temporary, but Chinese come in and become the successors of those who have left the country; do they not?—Those who leave are always succeeded by others.

Q. Thus the total number of Chinese in the Province of British Columbia, is not reduced, is it the case?—The total number of these in the country is reduced as long as there is employment for them. They will always keep coming into the country in each others wake.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. How do the Chinamen stand the cold; the cold at times in the mountains of British Columbia is without doubt very great?—Oh, they can stand the cold perfectly well. They muffle themselves up. I have seen them out walking in the snow when the temperature was 20 degrees below zero, and they stood it as well as any white man would have done. They drink more brandy up in the mountains than is the case in other places, and they also probably live a little better.

Q. Senator Cornwall says the Chinese do not like liquor?—I know that in the mines, where a number of Chinamen are working together on their own account, when they make any sort of decent wages they usually have a regular supply of brandy.

By the Chairman:
Q. Do they buy French or Chinese brandy?—They get French brandy if they can procure it. I have seen them going to a store frequently with their pass-book and obtain a gallon, or two gallons of brandy, and take it away to their claims; but, at the same time, I do not think they are in the habit of drinking to excess, except on the occasion of the celebration of the new year, when they generally have a little spree.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. You do not see many of them in a state of intoxication?—No; not often. I have seen some of them a little the worse of liquor, however.

Q. There are quite a number of them that live in your locality, Mr. Thompson?—Yes; there are a large number of them in my neighborhood.

Q. Are the Chinese cleanly in their habits?—By no means; though I rather think that as a general thing they are cleanly in their persons. They wash a good deal, and, I believe, change their clothes frequently, but their houses are by no means cleanly. In some cases, their rooms themselves may be clean, but their appartenance are filthy. I have known them to keep hogs in their own houses.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. They have baths in China—enormous baths; the price varies according to the hour of the day. The water is not chenged at all; for the first comers in the morning, it is clean, but at night a tolerably clean bath can be obtained.

Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):

They generally keep themselves pretty clean. They have barber shops there to shave the men, and those places they have where the queue commences—but they have no idea of cleanliness around their houses. Even if their houses are cleanly in the inside, outside they are filthy. The smell, which is too perceptible when one walks in what is called Chinatown, is abominable. We have tried to mend matters in Cariboo. The Grand Jury, every year, has been obliged to send a Committee round to examine the Chinese premises, and to warn them to abate nuisances in the way of keeping hogs and filth about their houses.

By Mr. True:
Q. That is among the poorer classes, I suppose; is that state of things confined to the poorer classes?—It is not the poorer classes that keep hogs, as a general thing. Hogs are worth money.

By Mr. True:
Q. Are they fond of gambling?—The Chinese are inveterate gamblers.

By the Chairman:
Q. What do they use principally in order to gratify their taste for gambling?—They use for this purpose, principally, what are called Chinese copper cash—this is a small copper coin which has a hole in it.

Q. Do they run much risk?—They bet upon this. They cover the coin up with a China bowl; and the banker who keeps the game, draws down with a sharp stick four of these one after another, until there are four or a less number of the cash left.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. What do they play with?—They bet money on the number of the cash that will be left; whether there will be one or two, or three or four—Whether the number that is left will be odd or even. They draw down four at a time until there are only four left or a less number.

By Mr. True:
Q. Are they often reduced by this propensity to a state of penury, and under such circumstances, are their friends or their neighbors obliged to support them?—I do not know how they manage in this particular.

Q. Are any of the Chinese paupers to your knowledge; are any of them troublesome to the neighborhood in which they live?—They are not troublesome, except in the way of dealing.

By the Chairman:
Q. That is to white folks?—Yes; I know that there are several Chinamen who keep gambling houses, and who apparently make a living by that way, and by no other means.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. They go home to China in a better financial condition than others of their countrymen?—I presume they do, but in the event of their returning home, some other person generally takes their place.

By Mr. True:
Q. Are there many of these Chinamen in your section of the country from China?—Yes.

Q. Are they men of means?—You can never tell of what means they are possessed.

Q. Do they not bank; do they not deposit money in your banks?—Well, they do very little in that way.

Q. What place of safety have they for depositing their means in?—They deposit the money which they accumulate mostly with their head storekeepers, who do their
business through the banks, and of course, you cannot tell whose money it is that they deposit.

Q. You cannot tell?—No.

Q. Do these men make large deposits sometimes?—Oh, they do a large trading business, and of course, they are all the time buying up a considerable quantity of goods and paying for them, but it is impossible to say how much they do not suppose that they ever keep their money lying on deposit in the bank; they are too smart to do that; they can make better use of it in the way of trade, and in buying mining claims.

By Mr. Connell:

Q. Do the Chinese spend all the money which they make in the country, or do they send some away?—They spend very little of what they make in the country.

Q. They send what they can make out of the country?—They either send it away, or else wait until they can get enough together and then take it away with them out of the country. In the mining district, they probably spend a little more than they do in any place else,—that is, in the way of buying luxuries, such as brandy or canned meats, and such things.

By Mr. True:

Q. Will other people borrow from them, or will the Chinese lend money to other classes in the community?—I have never known them to lend money to other classes, but I have known them to borrow, though, from others.

Q. And do they pay back what they borrow from others?—I have known of some cases where they did not pay such money back, and the security was not good enough.

By Mr. Connell:

Q. Are they honorable in their dealings with the white people?—As a general thing in the way of trade they are. The Chinese storekeepers are generally very straight forward, at least, when you do business with them, you can depend on getting what you agree for.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. Do the Chinese ever make application before the courts of the country in order to force those who owe them to pay their debts?—Do you mean among themselves?

Q. Yes?—They do so in some cases.

By the Chairman:

Q. But in this way?—It is very hard for the court to give any decision in such cases, because they will swear to such falsehoods.

Q. I was coming to that point; as witnesses, are they reliable?—No; they are not just the contrary.

Q. Have they any proper idea of the sanctity of an oath, as we understand it, when it is taken before our Courts?—They profess to have a proper idea of it, but I do not believe, for my part, that they have much regard for it.

Q. And what form of oath is it that the Chinese take before our courts?—They write their name on a piece of paper, and burn it.

By Mr. True:

Q. They burn the piece of paper?—Yes; they burn their signature.

Q. And what consequences are supposed to follow, if under such circumstances, they do not tell the truth?—It is supposed that if they then speak falsely, their souls will be burned in the way that the piece of paper in question was consumed.

Q. And there is another way of taking an oath—they break a plate; and there is another mode—in this form they cut off a fowl's head.

Q. They do not often follow the form of breaking a plate?—I have never seen them take an oath, save in the ordinary way of burning a piece of paper; I have seen one Chinaman break such a piece of paper, and then swear that he lent money to another; and then I have seen the other man come forward, and under the same circumstances swear that he did not know this other man, and that he had never

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...seen him before in his life, and that he did not know where the complainant's house was, and had never got a cent from him.

Q. Were both the parties to the suit Chinese?—Yes; that was the case.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. I have known white men do that.

By Mr. True:

Q. Yes; that is done by white people?—I will give you an instance in point: A year ago last summer, four Chinese prisoners were tried for burglary in the Cariboo, and one of the numbers had previously confessed his guilt before the Police Magistrate, and in doing so, they also implicated other two Chinamen in the crime. But when the case came up for trial at the assizes, they—who had so confessed—had made it right with those two of their countrymen in some way, and as a consequence, they were found guilty, and the other two were acquitted. The Chief Justice at once ordered these two men who had made the confession, to be committed for perjury. They were tried for this offence the next day and found guilty, and he then sentenced them each to two years extra imprisonment besides what they got for the burglary, and also fined them each in the sum of $200, this being, he observed, about the amount which he thought that the two prisoners had each received for perjuring themselves. A great deal has been said about their honesty, but so far as I have seen in the mining districts of Cariboo, the greater portion of the prisoners who have been sent from there to the penitentiary during the last four or five years have been Chinese.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. That is in Cariboo?—Yes.

Q. These men were found guilty of more serious offences than pilfering?—If you call burglary and breaking into a house, and carrying away a safe, petty offences, they are not guilty of serious crimes, but if you do otherwise, they are certainly guilty of serious offences against the law.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. Some witnesses have told the Committee that their offences were confined to petty larcenies?—Yes; I am aware of that. I know of a case which occurred a few years ago, in which four or five Chinamen were sent to the penitentiary for an attempt to murder one of their countrymen, and I know of another case which happened, I think, four years ago, where one of these people managed to escape from justice, and was in hiding for a good while. He was a porter, and was employed in cleaning out a bank. A clerk of the bank by accident neglected to lock up some two or three thousand dollars worth of gold dust. In the morning the Chinaman came to the bank as usual to clean it out, but when the clerk looked for the dust it was gone. But the Chinaman, of course, had not seen it.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. It was not discovered till afterwards?—It was discovered after the Chinaman had left the country; it then leaked out that the Chinaman had got off with the money, and it was told where the money had been kept in hiding all this time.

Q. Are the Chinese often guilty of acts of violence towards the white people?—No; they are not.

Q. What are the facts?—Are they the reverse in this relation—are the whites often guilty of acts of violence towards the Chlnamen?—I have known very few cases where white people committed acts of violence against them.

By Mr. True:

Q. Are the Chinese not afraid of the white people; are not the Chinese cowardly and cunning?—Oh, yes; that is the case.

By the Chairman:

Q. Is it common for any portion of the white population of the Province of British Columbia to prosecute and mistreat or illtreat the Chlnamen?—That is not the case, as far as I am aware, in British Columbia; such is not my experience, though, I believe, that in California the Chinese are roughly handled by the hoodlums.
By Mr. Connell:—

Q. Are there any Chinese females in the Province of British Columbia, in proportion to the number of males?—There are not many Chinese women in the Province in proportion to the males.

Q. What is the general character of the Chinese women who do live in the Province?—Well, they are nearly all of the lowest class of prostitutes, though some of the Chinese traders have their wives with them. There is a trader in my district who, I believe, has three wives. He is a rich trader. I know that when this proposed tax of $10 a head was spoken of, he said it would come pretty hard on him as he would have to pay for his three wives.

By Mr.Troop:—

Q. Were the females to be taxed, too, under this law?—Yes.

Q. Is polygamy tolerated by your law?—Do they allow a man to have three or four wives?—It is pretty hard to prove whether these women are wives or concubines.

Q. Do you think, Mr. Thompson, that such measures should be taken to check Chinese immigration from the Province of British Columbia do you think it would be advisable to pass legislation here—in the Parliament of the Dominion—in order to prevent the continuance of this class of immigration?—I think it would be advisable to check the immigration of Chinese to the Province of British Columbia, if that is possible.

Q. Would this legislation be advisable in the event of public works being constructed in the Province?—Yes; that is my opinion, because I have no doubt that if the Chinese are allowed to come into the Province in unlimited numbers, they would over-run the land like grasshoppers.

By the Chairman:—

Q. If they are allowed to come in will they eat up the green leaves, and leave nothing?—Yes; this question has been brought under discussion a good deal; that is, supposed it would be better for the Government of Canada to pay white men higher wages, or to employ Chinese in the building of public works at a less rate of wages. My opinion is, that it would be better to pay white men at least 50 per cent. more than Chinese, even if they had to employ the white labor at a higher rate; this would be advisable, because the amount that would be contributed to the revenue of the country by white men would be as much larger than the sum which would be so contributed by Chinese.

Q. In what respect would the white men contribute more to the public revenue—How would they do so?—White men who are employed on public works would consume a great deal more in the way of dutiable articles than Chinamen would. White men wear better clothing than the Chinese do, and consume more provisions of all sorts.

Q. And of luxuries as well?—Yes; white men would consume more provisions that is needful, and luxuries, than Chinese would. Do the Chinese use as much tobacco as white men do?—The Chinese use a good deal of tobacco.

By the Chairman:—

Q. Do they consume much tea?—Yes; they do.

Q. Do the Chinese use much tea?—Yes; they consume a great deal of this article.

Q. Do they use as large quantities as white people do?—They keep drinking it all the time. If you go into a Chinese house, you will find that they have the teapot always in readiness.

Q. If they use a considerable quantity of tea and tobacco, they must contribute to the revenue?—I do not think that they use as much tobacco per head as the white people do, but they use as much spirits as the white people do.

Q. That is a much better state of things than if they did use as great a deal of spirit; is it not?—It is not a better state of things, as far as the revenue is concerned.

By Mr. Troop:—

Q. Do the Chinese keep hotels?—They keep boarding houses for their own people, and occasionally for white people.

Q. Have you no license law in the Province of British Columbia?—Yes, we have such a law.

Q. How then do the Chinese sell liquor if they have no license law?—They pay for their licenses like other people, and sell liquor, but those who peddle liquor to Indians have no licenses.

There is one thing which I may mention to the Committee; there has been a great deal said about the superiority of the Chinese over the whites as market gardeners. I believe, however, that they are very industrious indeed, but when I was last in the City of San Francisco, I was told that the Italians were then driving the Chinese out of the business of market gardening.

By Mr. Connell:—

Q. Was this result being brought about by the superiority of the Chinese over the Italians in this respect, or by combination?—It was brought about by their hard work, by the attention which they give to this same branch of agriculture, which has been pursued by the Chinese. Such was the case to a great extent about the City of San Francisco.

By Mr. Troop:—

Q. What advantage would a Chinaman have over a practical English market gardener who understood his business professionally and thoroughly? Would not the English gardener under such circumstances do as well as the Chinaman?—A Chinaman will work over ground which another man—a white man—would hardly think of touching. The Chinamen work so patiently and hard, they labor from early in the morning until late at night, and are content with such small returns, that white men do not like to compete with them in this particular.

Q. They sell the products of their labor at a cheaper rate than white men will?—Yes; they sell their vegetables cheaper, of course; as I was saying, in San Francisco, the Italians have there gone into the market gardening business, and are driving the Chinese out. Of course, the people prefer to purchase their vegetables from the Italians, when they can get those things at a reasonable rate.

By Mr. Connell:—

Q. Do you know of many Chinamen in your locality who own farming land?—There are a few who own farms.

Q. Do they work these farms?—They do work them.

Q. What sort of improvements do the Chinese use in their farming operations? Do they make use of the same which white farmers employ?—I do not know about that; I have never been on their farms, which are all situated, I believe, on the other side of the Fraser River. I have, however, seen the Chinese farmers coming in with their produce.

Q. What class of the population of the Province of British Columbia is the most peaceable—the Chinese or the Indians?—Which is the most peaceable?—Yes?—Both those classes of the population are very peaceable.

Q. Do you know of many Chinamen on their farms, which are all situated, I believe, on the other side of the Fraser River. I have, however, seen the Chinese farmers coming in with their produce.

Q. One of these classes, then, has no preference over the other in this respect—There is no difference between them in this particular?—There is not, so far as it appears there is no question of peaceable behaviour. The Indians are very peaceable, except when they have imbibed a little liquor, and you can lay the blame of the greater part of the liquor which the Indians procure, because they are supplied by the latter to a great extent. But it is pretty hard to catch a Chinaman in this business, because if you ask an Indian where he got his liquor, he will answer that a Chinaman gave it to him, and if you ask what Chinaman, he will say he does not know.

Q. Are the Chinamen, generally speaking, a sober people?—They are generally sober. They do drink liquor, as I say, but it is very rarely that you see them intoxicated. If they do get intoxicated, they have sense enough to stay in the house.

By Mr. Troop:—

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By Mr. Connell:—

Q. Have the Chinamen many churches in your part of the Province of British Columbia?—They have none whatever. I have known one Chinaman who went to the Methodist Church, but do not think that he was any better than his neighbors.

Da. McInnis was called and examined as follows:—

By the Chairman:—

Q. You reside in British Columbia?—I do.

Q. How many years have you been there?—Five years.

By Mr. Trow:—

Q. What part of the Province do you reside in?—I reside in the City of New Westminster, on the mainland of British Columbia. We have here, I suppose, about 300 permanent Chinese settlers, and during the salmon fishing season we have from 1,200 to 1,500. They are used here largely in making fish cans, and in various ways in connection with the salmon canneries.

Q. But 1,200 or 1,500 come in in the fishing season?—No; perhaps 1,000 or 1,200.

Q. Where do they come from?—From various parts; from Oregon, Washington Territory and California. I believe some come from Victoria, too.

Q. How long do they remain with you in your fishing season?—They generally remain two or three months. We have, besides, always from 200 to 300 permanent Chinese settlers in the city.

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. By permanent settlers, do you mean those who remain a lifetime?—No; I mean those who make it their permanent home for a number of years.

Q. How long do they remain?—They generally remain from five to ten years. Whenever they save from $500 to $1,000, which they consider enough to enable them to go back to China and live like princes to the end of their days. I have been told that they can live on from one to two cents a day in China, so that when they accumulate that amount, they can go back to China and buy half a dozen wives.

By the Chairman:—

Q. Please state your views on the subject of Chinese labor, and the desirability of encouraging Chinese immigration?—I think there was a time in British Columbia, when Chinese labor was really a necessity, but certainly that time has gone by, and we have now more white labor in British Columbia than can find profitable employment.

Q. So long as the Chinese remain there?—So long as the Chinese remain there. We pay Chinamen, in the canneries, from $25 to $35 a month. They are all bondmen.

By Mr. Trow:—

Q. What do you pay white labor at the same time?—From about $30 to $40 a month.

By Mr. Charter:—

Q. What do you mean by bondmen?—I have been informed by Chinamen themselves that they give bonds, before leaving China, to Chinese Companies, to work for them for a term of from five to ten years, and all that the company have to do in order to carry out their part of the contract, is to furnish them with the bare necessities of life and their clothing, and the company have all their earnings. After they serve their time, of course they go then and work for themselves and make as much money as they possibly can, and go back to China as quickly as possible.

By Mr. Bunneman:—

Q. So that it is merely the same system as the Coolie labor of Australia?—Precisely.

By the Chairman:—

Q. Do you consider Chinese as a high or a low class of immigrants?—I consider them a low class—certainly much lower than any white class of people I have ever come in contact with.
Q. Are any matters of that kind brought up before the Courts?—No; I do not mean to say that their immorality is from seduction; but, they are all diseased.

There is scarcely a Chinaman who comes to British Columbia, but brings with him the most prevalent form of syphilis. That syphilis is communicable to the Indian and the white population, and the consequence is that, I believe, in a quarter of a century, out of our present population of 30,000 or 40,000 Indians, there will not be 5,000 of them alive. It is killing them off by hundreds every year.

By Mr. Tye:

Q. Does that contamination spread from the Chinese?—Yes; principally from the Chinese. They appear to have a more virulent form of it than any people I know of.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. Is it not a fact that this disease has been carrying off the Indian tribes for the last 50 years, and that since they came in contact with the white people on the Pacific coast?—To a more or less extent, I believe that is quite correct, but not in the same proportion that it has since the Chinese have gone to the Pacific coast.

Q. You think it is much more prevalent now than formerly among the Indians?

—Yes.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. Do the Indians and Chinese mix very much?—Not a great deal.

Q. Have you any idea of the proportion of Chinese employed in the construction of the Central Pacific Railway from California?—No; I have no knowledge of that.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think it would be desirable to allow Chinese to take up fishing stations?—No; I would regret very much to see that.

By Mr. Williams:

Q. Or lease?—No; neither to purchase nor lease.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think it would be desirable to allow Chinese to take up fishing stations?—No; I would regret very much to see that.

By the last mail I received a petition from the canning proprietors in my district, and they complain now that they have to compete with the Japanese in the salmon canning business, and I have no doubt that the Chinese will be into it in a very short time, and they are afraid it will be impossible for them to compete with the Chinese.

Q. Do you think there could be an introduction of white immigrants who would settle along the banks of the Fraser river and utilize the land, and at the same time employ themselves in the fisheries during the fishing season?—Yes; the Chinese are very apt and handy, and the canning proprietors out there prefer them to any other class for making tins and for any light work. But for heavy manual labor, for instance, as farming hands, they are not employed in my district but to very limited extent. If employers can get white labor, they employ it in preference to the Chinese, labor, although they can get Chinese labor considerably cheaper.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. If you had white population they would have two sources of employment?

Two sources of employment.

Q. One agricultural and the other fishery?—Yes; and lumbering also. I might state that the Chinese have been the means of forcing more white women on the Pacific coast into prostitution than all other means combined.

By Mr. Chairman:

Q. The consequence of taking their places?—The consequence of taking their places?

We were told by Senator Macdonald that white women employed as domestic servants would not remain in their situations, but either married or went to the bed?—As I said before, that in the past it has largely been the case. I am speaking of my own district, and we can now get females for domestic services at from $10. to $15 per month.

Q. And what wages do the Chinese receive?—From $15 up to $30 or $35 a month. A good Chinese cook gets from $10 to $20 a month in a boarding house or hotel, but I think the average in my district for domestic service would be about $20 a month.

By Mr. Chairman:

Q. Have you any Chinese engaged in cultivating gardens?—We have quite a number.

Q. Will you state the effect of their competition with white settlers?—Well, nearly all the white gardeners have given up their occupation altogether.

Q. They furnish vegetables much cheaper than white gardeners?—Yes; much cheaper.

By the Chairman:

Q. They have driven the white gardeners out of the business?—Yes.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. What is the general feeling of the population?—The general feeling is to drive them out of the country.

Q. If you were to poll the white vote of British Columbia, that would be the feeling of the majority?—I am not in a position to speak from personal knowledge of the whole of the main land, but I am speaking of my district, and I do not believe there would be one vote in fifty that would not be for the Chinese to go.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. A suppose, among the laboring classes the vote would be for exclusion?—Yes; and the employers of labor, except a few of the canning proprietors.

By Mr. True:

Q. Do they make good mechanics?—Yes; I believe they make pretty fair mechanics.
Q. Very ingenious.—Not so ingenious as imitative.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you know any blacksmiths or carpenters among them?—Yes; we have some carpenters.
Q. Of what rudest form?—Yes; but we have no blacksmiths yet.
Q. Some shop-keepers, I presume?—Yes; we have a number engaged in the mercantile business.
Q. Tailors?—I believe there are a few who started in that business a short time ago.
Q. Any laundrymen?—Oh, yes; any quantity of them.

By Mr. Connell:

Q. What is the average duration of their life?—I cannot tell. Very few attain to an old age; in fact, I don't think I have seen any over 60 or 60 years of age.

DR. T. R. McINNES, M.P.

Committee Room, 24th April, 1879.

Senator Macdonald appeared before the Committee, and was examined as follows:

By the Chairman:

Q. Mr. Macdonald, you reside in Victoria?—Yes; I do.
Q. Could you give the Committee any idea of the number of Chinamen living in the Province of British Columbia?—I could not give the exact number.
Q. Could you give the number approximately?—I have heard the number put down as 6,000. I suppose there are something like 2,000 on the Island of Vancouver.
Q. Did you think it desirable to encourage Chinese immigration into the Province of British Columbia?—No; certainly not. I do not think that this immigration should be encouraged on a large scale; but quite the reverse.
Q. For what reason do you entertain this opinion?—My chief reason for saying so is, that they do not take root in the country; on the contrary, it is their custom to carry all their earnings out of the country, and thereby to impoverish it.
Q. Have you any other reason for holding this opinion?—Yes; besides, they are not so desirable a class to have in the country as are Europeans. They are of very irregular habits, and their mode of living is altogether different from ours. They are not a desirable class on that account. They do not mix up and affiliate with our people, and it is not desirable that they should do so.
Q. Do they bring their wires with them to this country?—I believe that the better classes do bring their wives with them. I refer to the men who are able to buy one or two wives.
Q. Will you state to the Committee your opinion as to the moral character of the Chinese who come to the Province of British Columbia?—From personal experience, I cannot say anything on that subject, but judging from the police reports, I do not think that they are more immoral than is the general class of laboring people in any country.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. You do not think that they are more immoral than are the laboring classes of other countries?—No; they are not more immoral than the people in London, England, as far as my evidence goes.

By the Chairman:

Q. On moral grounds, then, you would not be in favor of prohibiting the immigration of these people into this country?—I do not think that I would. I would, however, prohibit all immorality. I do not think that they are worse than the laboring classes of other nationalities in other countries. They gamble, and have women of ill-fame, and all that sort of thing, the same as white people have.

Q. What is the price of the Chinese labor in the Province of British Columbia?—The price of a day's labor is $1.25. That would be the universal price. Chinamen would not work for less than that.
Q. But what is the price of white labor in the Province?—White labor, I fancy, can be got for $2.25 a day. I know that I have offered white men, for their labor, $1.50 a day, and they have declined it; and, consequently I have thus been forced to employ Chinamen at a low rate of wages, because they do not care much about work; instead of employing white men at $2.25 a day, I have employed Chinamen at $1.25 a day.
Q. What does it cost the Chinese, on the average, to live, per day?—The average cost; I believe that the Chinese live very economically on foods which they raise in their own country. They live on dried fish, rice and fruit; but I could not say what the cost of their living would be.
Q. You could not give the cost of their living approximately?—They raise pork to a very great extent. They live largely on pork in Victoria. They kill their pork and cut the flesh in small pieces, and string these pieces on strings, and preserve the meat in that way. They do not salt this meat.
Q. What does it cost a white man to live in the Province of British Columbia?—It costs them about 50 cents a day.
Q. Do you think that it costs a Chinese laborer 5 cents a day to live?—No; I do not think that it would cost them so much. I think that to live would cost them about half that sum per day; I fancy that this would be the case. I could not state positively the cost, but I think that a Chinaman could live on half of that sum per day.
Q. Are you aware what amount Chinamen earn annually?—No; I could not say; Chinamen work in houses. They perform domestic services, and for doing that sort of work they get from $20 to $30 and $35 a month in wages.

By Mr. Baeneman:

Q. And their board?—Yes; these men, I suppose, save nearly all their pay, and they make about three hundred dollars a year—more or less.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think that it is desirable to encourage Chinese labor as it exists at the present time in the Province of British Columbia; do you think that it is desirable to encourage Chinese immigration into British Columbia?—I think that it would be injurious to see large numbers of Chinamen coming into the country to work on public works in the Province.
Q. Would you recommend the employment of Chinese labor in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and of other public works in the Province?—No; I would be sorry to see anything of the kind done. We look for immigration of white people, who we expect will come into the Province and settle down and make money.
We expect this white population to take up pieces of land along the line of the road.
Q. Do you think that it is desirable to ask the Government to insert a clause in the public works contracts for employing Chinese labor on any public work?—I would favor that being done, if it is possible. If it is constitutional, I think that it ought to be done.
Q. What is the probability of the Chinese population taking any part in the political affairs of the Dominion?—I think that they are likely to qualify themselves as to take part in our political affairs—I think that they have no anxiety at all in that direction. I believe they want to keep entirely to themselves. At one time, they were allowed to vote in municipal matters, and it was a source of great annoyance to them, because the different candidates used to get hold of them in order to induce them to vote in their behalf. One candidate would leave his ticket, and the other coming in would tear up this ticket and leave his own instead; this puzzled them very much and they did not know what to do. They were locked up in rooms,
Q. Could you point out any permanent advantage that would result from the retention of Chinese labor in the country?—I think that Chinese labor is useful to a certain extent. It is useful in opening manufactures, and in opening new work; in the opening of mines for instance. They are as useful as the Indians used to be in former years, before the Chinese came into this country. At that time, we employed Indians in clearing land at a cheap rate of wages, and Chinamen would be useful in the same way. Probably the Chinese could be utilized in starting boot and shoe factories, and tailor shops on a large scale, and in the making of shirts and clothing. They could be made useful in many cases of that kind.

Q. Do you not think that the presence of Chinese labor interferes with the employment of young men and young women?—Well, in our country we have very few women. That is one of the evils that we have to contend with. If we had the number of women which they have in this part of the country, they would do all that kind of light work, and then, of course, I would be in favor of doing away with Chinese labor altogether.

Q. How could you expect young women and young men to go the Province of British Columbia and remain there, if they are brought into competition with Chinese labor at such a low rate of wages, as to prevent them earning the means of living?—Well, white labor must come down in price. That is a matter at any rate which must be brought about. It is impossible to carry on any kind of work, either in connection with farming or with manufacturing at the present rate of wages, in our Province. The price of white labor must come down, in order to enable us carry on any work successfully. On the whole, I must say that I am opposed to Chinese immigration, and I would like to see measures adopted which will prevent any more Chinamen from coming into our country.

Q. Is there any further statement you would like to make to the Committee on this subject?—No; I would only say that a certain limited number of Chinamen have been useful to the Province of British Columbia—the presence of a limited number has been really useful, in my opinion; but I would not like to see that number increased in any way. I would rather see it diminished, in justice to our population of girls and girls who are growing up.

By Mr. Brooks:—

Q. Mr. MacDonald, you speak of the difference between the price of white labor and Chinese labor; will you explain to the Committee the reason why such a high price is demanded for white labor?—In the Province of British Columbia.

Q. Yes.—Well, the people who came to the Province of British Columbia some years ago, brought with them old California ideas to a great extent; nearly everybody came then. They came from California when money was plentiful and labor was scarce, and they have stuck to these ideas up to the present time to a great extent. They have stuck to the old California ideas, and labor is scarce in our country.

Q. Is there any permanent industry in the Province which keeps up the price of labor; what keeps the price up?—No; they prefer to be idle, unless they are starving. They have not taken less than the sum of $200 a day.

Q. Have the gold mines of British Columbia anything to do with this high price of labor in the Province?—Oh, yes; a good deal. They have brought in laborers to do work in those mines for 3 or 4 months in the year, and they may make more in this way than by ordinary labor; they may thus make more than a year's wages in a few months.

Q. Is there a demand for labor at this high price which you mention for white labor a day?—Of course there are idle men in the Province and men who cannot get work.

Q. I speak of employers. Do employers of labor require $2 a day for white labor. Do the employers want to give as much as $2 a day for white labor?—No; they want to obtain labor for less, and that is the reason they have to get Chinese labor.

Q. You speak of 2,000 or 6,000 as being the number of Chinese in the Province of British Columbia. About what time did these Chinese come into the Province of British Columbia?
vise; when did they commence to come in there? I suppose that they began to come into the Province about the year 1849, and that they keep going out and coming in and out of the Province continually.

Q. What I want to get at is this: Has there been recently any large immigration of Chinese into the Province or any larger in proportion than was the case years ago? No; I do not think that such has been the case.

Q. Has there been in the last ten years been any increase in the immigration of Chinese into the Province? I think not; last year or two or three hundred Chinese came to the Province direct from China, and some went to build railways on the American side, and some of them remained in our Province.

Q. Did these Chinese come to you from the State of California, or did they come to the Province direct from China?—They came direct from China.

By the Chairman:

Q. These Chinamen came direct from China?—Yes.

Q. But what is the ordinary channel through which they come to the Province of British Columbia?—Well, they come to us ordinarily from the City of San Francisco, and from Puget’s Sound. There does not come a great many at a time; probably the number that comes at a time varies from 10 to 20, some weeks, and during some weeks none at all come.

Q. Their coming to the Province direct from Hong Kong, the exception rather than the rule, is it not?—Yes, I do not suppose that they come direct from Hong Kong more than once or twice a year.

By Mr. Connell:

Q. Are the Chinese in the Province on friendly terms with the laboring class of whites—Are they on friendly terms?—Yes.

By Mr. Baulemann.

Q. Is it not generally considered that the day’s labor of one white man is worth more than the day’s labor of one Chinaman. Is it not generally considered that a white man is able to do as much in one day as two Chinamen?—You will find the same thing current among the Chinamen as among the white men—some are good laborers and some are not.

Q. But as a rule, what is the case?—If you take unskilled hands, the advantage might be in favor of the white man.

Q. I mean as common laborers,—with the shorel, or the pick, or any thing in that way?—I do not think that that is the case. I do not think that one white man is equal to two Chinamen.

Q. But what is the fact, on the average?—I think not; but of course the labor of white men is worth more on the average than the labor of Chinamen.

Q. But how much more is it worth?—The advantage in favor of the white man is about 50 per cent, on the average.

Q. Well now of all the women who come to the Province of British Columbia, how many lead a moral life. Of all who come to British Columbia and to the State of California, how many lead a moral life?—I believe that some of them are thoroughly moral.

Q. I believe that also, but what is the case with the majority of these women?—I could not say what the number of Chinese women in the Province is; but some women have of late been brought there for the purposes of prostitution.

Q. How many Chinese women are there in the Province of British Columbia?—I do not know how many there are. But they are very few in number, I do not know, however, that there are many of them; I could not say; I think that there are more than 200 Chinese women in the whole Province of British Columbia.

Q. How many of that number have been brought to the Province for the purpose of prostitution, and how many of them are supposed to be moral?—I could not say; I could not answer that question.

Q. It would be a low state for our society if our laboring classes were on a par as to their moral condition with that of the average women that come to America from China?—Yes; but you see that the men who go to China for these women, go there to bring them out this country for a special purpose.

Q. And that is a reason why we should object to the importation of these women into this country; because they are brought here for that special purpose?—Yes; certainly.

Q. And they are brought here for no other purpose?—Yes, certainly, they are not; I fully agree with you there. The importation of these women for the purposes of prostitution ought to be stopped, if possible.

Q. I believe that they traffic in these women the same as we do in regard to any article of merchandize? They buy women in the same way as we buy a horse, or a cow, or a sheep, or anything else?—I believe that they pay money for their wives. They buy women when they go back to China and take with them their earnings.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. Their coming to the Province direct from Hong Kong, the exception rather than the rule, is it not?—Yes, I do not suppose that they come direct from Hong Kong more than once or twice a year.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are these women that come direct from China?—No, I could not say.

By Mr. Connell:

Q. These Chinese came direct from China?—Yes.

Q. But what is the ordinary channel through which they come to the Province of British Columbia?—Yes; but you see that the men who go to China for these women, go there to bring them out this country for a special purpose.
By Mr. Williams:—
Q. I suppose that the number of Chinese in the Province would increase if a great amount of mining was expanded on the public works, and if they were employed on these works?—I have no doubt about that, or if the gold mines were very prosperous their number would increase in the same way.

Q. Do you think, Mr. Macdonald, that the presence of Chinese in the Province has a contaminating influence on the morals of the white population of British Columbia?—I have heard of it in connection with young lads; I have heard of the women enticing young lads into their houses. These women are said to be easy of access, and the boys take advantage of it; I have heard that the Chinese women have contaminated some of those lads.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. Is it any worse there than it is anywhere else in that respect?—It is much worse.

Q. Do the employers of labor show a preference to employing the Chinese instead of whites, and when they are employed do they work well?—I notice that laboring men who become small contractors are the very first people to employ Chinese labor. They employ Chinese to mix mortar, and to carry brick and stone, and in the erection of buildings, masons and small contractors employ them. The whole Chinese labor question is a very conflicting one and very difficult to decide; where labor is cheap, advantage will be taken of the circumstances, no matter by whom it is furnished, whether by blacks or by whites—no matter what the color of the employees may be.

By Mr. Charlton:—
Q. Does the chief objection to the presence of Chinese in the Province arise from the fact that they will labor for a smaller sum than white laborers are willing to work for?—Yes; that is one objection to their presence in the Province.
Q. The objection to their presence is not on account of their morals, or of anything of that kind?—Of course, their morals are not much worse than the morals of other classes.

By Mr. Williams:—
Q. Are there no other objections to their presence in the country?—There are many objections to their living amongst us. They carry their earnings out of the country, and they do not become permanent citizens.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. What is the general objection of the people of British Columbia on this point as to the desirability, if possible, of preventing Chinese immigration into the Province?—Among the laboring class, the feeling is very strong against them; but amongst those who employ Chinese domestic servants, it is not so strong. The Chinese are very useful, and employers cannot replace them as things are now with other labor.

By the Chairman:—
Q. If employers could replace them with white labor, male or female, or both, at a reasonable rate, do you think that they would do so?—Yes; and I suppose that in time the Chinese could be replaced, but it would be very difficult at the present time to keep females in British Columbia. The moment that they arrive in the Province they get married, leave the Province or do something else, and they are not available for domestic service.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. How do the wages paid to whites compare with those which are paid to Chinese?—Employers are willing to pay domestic white labor the same price that they pay to Chinese.

By Mr. Charlton:—
Q. What do servant girls get?—I paid a servant maid $20 a month, but she did not stay long, and I had to fall back on Chinamen again.

Q. Do you find that Chinamen are more docile and tractable than are white servants?—Yes; and they will do more work than white women will do; they will cut fire-wood and do other work which white women will only one branch. Some years ago we employed a number of English servants who came out to us from England. The people in the Province contributed towards their passage money and paid so much down. The girls came out, but not one remained one year in employment; some got married and some went to the dogs. But that will all be cured as we get more immigration into the country, and a larger population of women. There are a great many men in the Province who would like to get married.

By the Chairman:—
Q. If the Chinese male population were replaced by white male population do you think that there would be any increase in the number of females and children in the country?—I think that there would be a great natural increase in the population, and a great increase in the wealth of the country.

Q. And by returning the Chinese in the country it is calculated to keep white population out of it; is it not?—No doubt, that would be the effect of such a policy. A glut of labor of any kind, even of white labor, would keep other white labor from coming into the country.

By Mr. Baurnsman:—
Q. What is the general character of the male population?—They do their work, and become market gardeners. They make all they can in the country and then leave it?—Yes; anybody would do that if they could.

W. I mean that they make all they can and then leave for their own country?—This is not always the case; of course, they want to get good land. They will work a piece of land for a certain number of years, and if they can obtain a better piece they are anxious and willing to leave the old one and better their agricultural position.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. Are they engaged to any extent in agriculture?—Not very extensively.

Q. What is the general character of the male population?—They are industrious an example to any laboring classes in the world. They are very frugal and industrious.

Q. Are their females more debauched than those of the rest of the community? Are they more debauched than other classes, as a rule?—I think white women are just as bad as Chinese women.

By the Chairman:—
Q. If you take the average of white women and the average of Chinese women, among whom would you find the greater proportion of immorality?—I could not say; but I should fancy that the Chinese are more lax in their ideas of morality; I have that impression; I don’t know that I am correct.

By Mr. Charlton:—
Q. Perhaps it would be fair to consider that a large proportion of the Chinese women of British Columbia are brought for a special purpose, and they would not be time to keep females in British Columbia. The moment that they arrive in the Province they get married, leave the Province or do something else, and they are not available for domestic service.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. How do the wages paid to whites compare with those which are paid to Chinese?—Employers are willing to pay domestic white labor the same price that they pay to Chinese.

Q. What do servant girls get?—I paid a servant maid $20 a month, but she did not stay long, and I had to fall back on Chinamen again.

Q. You say many Chinamen work in chain gangs?—Yes; a good many. That is for selling whiskey to the Indians and making thefts of beer.
By Mr. Brooks:—

Q. Are any serious crimes committed among them?—They have stabbing affrays among themselves, gambling quarrels, and very often use the knife.

Q. Is the use of that common to them?—No; I think they got that from the Americans. I do not know their natural weapon of defence. They take a bottle occasionally and break it across a fellow's head.

By Mr. Rasmussen:—

Q. In giving evidence in courts of law are they reliable witnesses?—I cannot tell you what their ideas are. They take a sort of oath over a piece of lighted paper, or other substance. I would not trust much to their oath.

By Mr. Charlton:—

Q. What is the most solemn oath they can take?—Over a piece of burning paper.

To sum up, I would tell you that there can be no question of the preference being given to European white labor. There cannot be any two opinions about that, but to a certain extent, a limited number of Chinamen have been useful. But, on the whole, their immigration ought to be discontinued, and especially a restriction should be placed upon their employment on public works.

By Mr. Charlton:—

Q. Do you think with that restriction, you could confine them within reasonable limits?—I think so. If they were taxed, and not able to get work, it must restrict them.

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. How could you prevent them from coming in?—That is a question of law and equity; I don't say anything against that. I do not think we have power to keep them out.

By Mr. Bannerman:—

Q. There is one way—cut their hair off; would that do it?—You can't do that. There is no country, and a man can wear his hair as long as he likes.

Mr. Charlton:—That is an outrage; you might as well require a man to go naked.

The Witness:—In the common gaols they cut the hair off all prisoners, Chinamen as well as whites; but we have no other right.

By Mr. Brooks:—

Q. What is the effect of cutting off their hair?—They think there is no other means by which they can be pulled up to heaven.

Q. What is the effect as a deterrent from crime?—None at all, I think.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):—

Q. I understand that it is only recently that this has been done?—I think, all along.

Q. Within the last six months, I think?—It has been more heard of within the last six months.

By Mr. Brooks:—

Q. I have been told that the effect upon the prisoners of cutting off their hair has been that when they were told to labor they refused?—Yes; I believe they did once refuse to go to work in Victoria, but the water hose was turned on them and they were in that way compelled to go out.

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. Did you say the Chinese made permanent settlers in the country with their families?—No; I don't think they do. They send everything back to China, even their home goods. They bury their dead for a number of years, and when the flesh is off their bones they take them up, pack them in boxes, label them and pack them off to China. This is done by their friends.

Q. Their savings, to?—I don't know about the savings of the deal; probably they are sent to their friends.

W. F. Macdoald.
see the men until they are sent on by the company to proceed to work. A foreman is sent with them, and to this foreman you have to apply in case any difficulty arises. If you notice any Chinaman who is not doing his duty you go at once to the foreman and he arranges the matter; the individual has nothing to do with it. The result of this class of labor is this,—If this thing is permitted to continue in the country, the Chinese will completely, as laborers, displace this country. They are making more than they think ought to make, they will raise the price of wages; they have entire control. If, on the other hand, they find that you are likely to stop the work on which you are engaged, because the margin of profit on the merchandise is too small, they will drop the price of the wages a little and go on with the work. On the other hand, if you resist and refuse to employ the men at the price demanded, the men will haul off to one side. A gang of Chinamen can be fed at a minimum of from eight to ten cents a day, when they are off work. I will leave it to any gentle man on this Committee, whether any organization in existence among white people in the world can have as thorough control of the labor market as an organization of that kind. They can feed their people at such a low rate per head; trade unions are nothing to this combination. A man who joins a trades union has generally a family to support, and when he goes off on a strike it is only a question of a short time before he comes to his senses. What the effect would be of rich companies owning thousands of men in different parts of the world,—men whom they could feed for the sum of from eight to ten cents a day per head,—it would be impossible to tell; but if this thing is permitted to go on, I take it that one day the Chinese will control the labor market everywhere in the world.

By Mr. Brooks:—

Q. How do these companies control the men after the latter reach the Province of British Columbia and are on British soil?—It is a little difficult to ascertain how they do it; they have a faculty of keeping things to themselves.

By Mr. Smith:—

Q. How long have you resided in the Province of British Columbia?—I have lived there for 20 years.

Q. I understood one of the witnesses the other day to say, that the wages which Chinamen received were $25 a month. Does that upon the nature of the employment on which the Chinamen are engaged. Household servants receive board; their wages are from $15 to $30 and $35 per month. And the wages of men, who are employed on ordinary labor, in making bridges and trails, in any work of that kind, are from $25 a month.

Q. Do these men find themselves?—Yes; they do. In the canneries, the Chinaman receive as wages from $25 to $35 a month, and find themselves as hotel cooks in the interior. In the Northwest of British Columbia, I am more acquainted with that portion of the country than with the range of the prices on the other side; some get from $60 to $100 a month, and board.

By Mr. Thompson, (Clyde):—

Q. They make good cooks; do they not?—Yes.

By Mr. Connell:—

Q. In what respect do you consider the presence of the Chinese in the Province of British Columbia a nuisance, Mr. Barnard?—They are a class of people with whom we cannot associate; we cannot amalgamate with that class of people; that have no interest in common with us, and while they earn your money

and are supported by your enterprise and industry, they take no part whatever in your political advancement, or in your social or moral condition. They are aside altogether from the human being.

Q. But, do they render a fair equivalent for the wages which they receive from their employers, in the labor that they perform?—Yes; they do.

Q. Are they to control the labor market?—They are sober and industrious, and cleanly in their habits.

Q. How is it with them regard to drinking, and breaches of the peace?—The Chinese are a sober class of people.

Q. They seldom commit breaches of the peace?—They are considerably addicted to petty larceny.

By Mr. Tread:—

Q. Are they addicted to petty larceny among themselves?—Oh, yes; and also, with respect to others.

By Mr. Charlton:—

Q. You spoke a little while ago of the introduction of machinery into China, and of the consequences which might flow from this introduction, in goods being furnished very cheaply. What connection do you think that this subject has with Chinese labor in the Province of British Columbia?—I did not catch the question.

Q. You spoke of the introduction or machinery into China, and of the consequences which might flow from the Chinese offering goods very cheaply, and you said that we might require still greater protection against them than against the Americans. What connection do you think that this has with the Chinese immigration into British Columbia?—The question is that they are going to control the labor market wherever they settle down, and if this sort of thing is allowed to go on, they will eventually control the labor market of the world.

Q. Do you imagine that there is imminent danger of that?—Do you think that there is imminent danger of their supplanting the white man, and if so, how?—I cannot very easily understand how, if Chinamen can live for two cents a day, as they can at home, under such circumstances, any other result can follow. If in China, they are going to produce, say cotton for instance, at a much lower price than where other labor is employed and where a much higher rate of wages is paid—as must be paid to enable Europeans to live—it is plain that they will have an immense advantage over us.

By Mr. Tread:—

Q. I understood that when the Chinese have made a few hundred dollars, they leave for their own country?—The Chinese who come to British Columbia are a big class; they are here to-day and away to-morrow. The statement that they remain in any part of the country for any particular length of time is not strictly correct. While they are under the control of these agents, they move about as occasion may require. As soon as the fishing season comes in, you find them moving over to our Province in large bodies, and as soon as this season is over they go back again to Oregon, and so they continue on the move between California to Oregon and the Province of British Columbia. They are constantly moving about, and they fill up every opening which may occur for Labor. The presence of the Chinese is another disadvantage to us in this way,—If we have a white population, moving backwards to opportunities for labor, the carrying trade of the country would be benefited. But the Chinese move about in bodies at the lowest possible rate at which they can be transported. The steamer never charges the same rate for a Chinaman that they charge for the passage of a white man. They are able to use their transport facilities and thither through the agents of the companies, and so they are of little value to the carrying trade. The Chinese make a saving by travelling in bodies in this way, but with white men the case is different. The saving is too valuable. They cannot endure delays; they have got to move around.
Q. You spoke of their not being good mining prospectors and of their occupying abandoned diggings. They do not enter into much competition with the white miners by this mode of conducting operations. No; they do not.

Q. Wherein lies the benefit which arises from the Chinese working poor diggings—item, the profit from this principal Province of British Columbia?—They spend a very small proportion of the money which they make.

Q. What proportion of their earnings do the Chinese spend?—It is impossible to tell what they earn in the mines. They may strike a good spot a few times, and they may spend months before they find it. It is impossible to give a good idea of what they take out of the mines. I have known them to work some diggings over and over again. They simply put in at the time where the diggings can be worked until they can be drifted off to some better paying occupation.

Q. Would it be advisable to prevent the Chinese from working in the gold mines of British Columbia, and to keep those mines until white labor was supplied from the lower Provinces—until white men came in from the other Provinces, took up the mines and worked them?—I am not in favor of adopting any such measures while the Chinese are amongst us. Once they are amongst us they should be entitled to enjoy the same rights and privileges which all other settlers should have. I do not believe in passing laws which would prohibit them from doing anything which any other person in the Province of British Columbia can do, though I should like to see them prevented from coming into the Province altogether.

Q. Do you know of Chinamen taking up land and working it in the Province?—Yes; there are a few of them that have done so. A few of them have done so in almost every district.

Q. Have they any benefit from the low or provinces—until white men came—while the Chinese are amongst the miners by this mode of conducting operations?—No; they do not pay what certain companies, as I understand the matter. The companies over the Chinese, to whom they have certain arrangements which have been agreed to in China, and as every Chinaman expects to go back to China, these arrangements are binding on them. It is a point of honor with them to keep their agreements.—I think that the agents of these companies have a stronger hold over the Chinese whom they bring out than that.

Q. Do any Chinese bring any amount of money into the Province of British Columbia?—We never hear of them coming into the country by their usual efforts. They are sent by the companies, as I understand the matter. The money is advanced by the companies; they are sent from China, and this money has to be repaid to them with a very heavy rate of interest in the bargain.

Q. Do the agents make the collections, or do the Chinese make themselves?—Those who are engaged in raising vegetables, etc., fancy, are men who have been long enough on the coast to redeem themselves, as it were, from bondage, because we have to act direct with these Chinamen.

Q. Suppose that an enterprising Chinaman sent over to this country 50 or 100 Chinamen, what means have they of making collections from the different individuals?—As I understand it, they have a stronger law among themselves for the collection of debts than we have. It is very seldom that a Chinaman brings one of his countrymen into the courts of the country for debt. They have a means of otherwise collecting debts which are due them.

Q. Do the Chinese escape from the bondage which you speak of; are they at liberty to go into the Province of British Columbia, to go to gold mining, as they like; are they not, if they can find employment?—Yes; they can do so after their term of bondage has expired, the same as would have been the case if they had been in prison.

Q. But, cannot they do so before their term expires; what control have the agents of the companies over the Chinese, to keep them in that state; what control have they over the Chinamen?—They have certain arrangements which have been agreed to in China, and as every Chinaman expects to go back to China, these arrangements are binding on them.

Q. Is it a point of honor with them to keep their agreements?—I think that the agents of these companies have a stronger hold over the Chinese whom they bring out than that.

Q. Have they not Chinese laws which they enforce, aside altogether from our laws?—That is what I have been given to understand. They have certain means of collecting their debts. They have a means of otherwise collecting debts which are due them.

Q. Do the Chinese understand agricultural pursuits?—On a small scale they do, but they do not pursue agriculture on a large scale. They have modes of gardening which a white man would not resort to, and they use all kinds of filth imaginable in order to force vegetables forward.

Q. Do you know anything about the state of agriculture in China?—I believe that the Chinese have carried agriculture to greater perfection than is the case in any other part of the country. I do not know anything about what is to be found in China, save from what I have heard and read.

Q. Your ledge is so productive that it does not require any such dressing as that to which you have referred?—The Chinamen always use it in their agricultural operations. They all follow this practice, as nearly as I can make out.

Q. They cultivate small patches of ground; do they not?—They take up patches of ground, which a white man would not think of touching for the purpose of taking a crop off from it, and take crops from them.

Q. Do they interfere with the operations of ordinary market gardeners (white) in forcing down prices?—They do so when they are in the vicinity of cities.

Q. Do the Chinamen, who are engaged in tilling the soil, are discouraged from continuing their operations?—Quite so; that is the case.

Q. What is the effect of this state of things on the consumers who live in the towns and cities in question?—I do not think that the Chinese materially reduce prices.
of the Chinamen did live at a given hour of the day their employment without any previous notice whatever of their intention to do so.

Q. Did all of them quit work at the same time?—Yes; every one of them did so; it was the most complete thing out; they stopped work all at once.

By Mr. Brooks.—

Q. The Chinese then have a general organization amongst themselves?—Yes; they have a general organization and understanding amongst themselves.

Q. This organization is not confined to any one company?—It is not confined to any one company, as I understand the matter; the agents of these six companies who were doing out the Chinese, controlled them; and these six men do all that is done in connection with the operations of the Chinese.

By Mr. Charlton.—

Q. They act in concert?—Yes; they act in concert. A question was put to me as to whether they had any laws of their own which they put in force in this country, aside from our laws, and I may say an instance of that occurred in Victoria. It came about in this way: Two Chinamen had a quarrel over one woman. It was, in fact, a matter of purchase and sale. The case came before the court, and there this woman was informed that under the British law whatever arrangement had been made with respect to her was in no way binding upon her at all, and that she was at perfect liberty to leave these men if she chose to do so. One of the men said that he would kill the woman if she did not live with him, and the other had said that he would kill her if she did so, and there was trouble. She was told that she could apply to the courts for protection, but she declined to take this course. The reason which was stated in the court for her refusal to take advantage of this protection was, that they had an arrangement of their own with respect to this woman, and they had to abide by it, and although she was informed that she was entitled to the protection of the British law, she did not claim this protection.

By Mr. Thompson (Cartoon).—

Q. Is it not a well known fact that they leave all their relations, their fathers and mothers and uncles and aunts in China, as security for the due performance of their contracts; and do these relatives not go into slavery if they do not comply with their obligation?—I am not aware that such is the case.

Mr. Thompson.—That is stated to be the fact. It is said that they leave their relatives in China as security.

By the Chairman.—

Q. With regard to the Chinese companies of which you have spoken, are not certain companies mentioned in the report of the State Senate on the Chinese question belonging to the Chinese companies are mentioned in the report.

Q. Are you aware of the name of the Chinese companies which carry on operations in the Province of British Columbia?—No; I do not recognize their names. The signs of the companies which are established in the Province of British Columbia differ from the signs which are used to indicate the companies in any other place, though they are likely to be the same companies. They have one sign in the city of San Francisco, and a different sign in Oregon, although they may be the same concerns.

Q. These are branches of the companies?—Though still the same concern, they go in different places under different signs; nevertheless they are recognized as these same concerns.

By Mr. True.—

Q. In the event of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and of the Chinese being at liberty to work upon the road, and of coming into the country, as is the case at the present time, would you expect under such circumstances a large influx of Chinese into this country from China?—As soon as the Government had declared that it was their intention to commence so large a work on the Pacific coast as the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, all the surplus labor, all the available Chinese labor, which is on the Pacific coast would centre in Victoria, and if the number of Chinese available for this purpose in this country was not then sufficiently large, the companies would immediately send to China and bring Chinese out by sea direct to the Province, that would be the result, as I take it, and as I understand the question.

Q. Would you not be more in dread of the Chinese coming into the Province of British Columbia, where no public works are going on at the present time?—They would not draft too many Chinese from the City of San Francisco for that purpose. They keep enough men on hand to fill all the avenues of this way, which may open up from time to time. The draft on San Francisco would, however, be pretty large just now, I think.

By Mr. Brooks.—

Q. What effect would this state of things have on the cost of that portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway?—If you leave the matter to the Chinese—If the Chinese Companies have control of the question—they will make the cost of the building of the road mount up to every cent which the contractor can obtain.

Q. But suppose that the contract for the building of the road was let at once, and within a reasonable time, what would be the result?—Then I will go further: If the contract for the construction of this road was given out today, the Chinese would understand how soon it was to be got through. They would find out first what the chances are in the supply of white labor were, and they would bring to the Province such a number of Chinamen as were required for the purpose; that is, the Chinamen would control the rate of wages that was to be paid in the building of the road. They will not cut down the rate of wages except where competition is feared.

By Mr. Charlton.—

Q. Is it not a fact, that the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad was secured at a very much cheaper rate with the utilization of Chinese labor than would have been the case without the aid of the Chinese?—The Central Pacific Railway was built as a sort of race between it and the Union Pacific Railway. Whatever road covered the most ground obtained the largest share of the public lands, and as a consequence, the rate which they could possibly obtain was forced on the road.

Q. Was not the price of Chinese labor which was used on that road very much lower than the rate of wages that was paid to white men who were employed in the construction of the road?—I doubt it. I doubt whether the rate of wages which was paid to Chinese was lower than the rates that were paid to the white men.

By Mr. True.—

Q. You say that the rate of wages for Chinese labor is almost equal to that for white labor. One witness said that the Chinese were paid about $1.25 a day, and white labor $2 a day. Why is there such a difference between the wages, and why don't the Chinese receive the price of their labor?

The Chairman.—I would put the question this way:—What is the rate per month for Chinamen, and what for ordinary white laboring men,—in the mills, for
instance?—The labor differs very much. There are very few of what are called here ordinary laboring men—that is, men who will go at any job they can get. To get a correct idea of the value of labor, you have to set down the different kinds of work. For instance, at the lumbering camps, except as cooks, there are no Chinamen employed. There are no Chinamen who are any good with the axe, and they do not interfere with the white labor in that respect, so that the white man gets better wages there.

Q. What rate do they get?—A first-class chopper receives $75 a month—from $60 to $75 a month. Loggers receive from $40 to $50 a month.

Q. And board themselves?—No; the loggers board themselves.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. And choppers the same?—Choppers the same.

By the Chairman:

Q. Man around the mill—what do they get?—They get about $40 a month.

Q. And Indians—what do they get?—Indians always can command $35 a month.

Q. Good Indians?—Yes, I know Indians—good, intelligent Indians—can always command $35 a month.

By Mr. Trow:

Q. Do they use the axe?—Very well.

Q. Better than the Chinamen?—Better than the Chinamen; but they are better around the sawmill than the Chinamen. The labor that a Chinaman is best adapted for is that with the pick and shovel. I believe he can very nearly equal the white man with the pick and shovel.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are there not a great many Chinamen engaged in making boots and shoes in Victoria?—I believe there are two factories in Victoria.

Q. Are you aware of the number employed in making boots and shoes?—No; I am not.

Q. Approximately?—No.

Q. Are there any engaged as tailors on their own account?—Yes; they do most of the tailoring business.

Q. Are there any peddlers?—Yes.

Q. Any shop-keepers?—Yes.

Q. Hotel-keepers and restaurant keepers?—For themselves, but not for whites.

Q. Are there some in Victoria for whites?—I did not know that.

Q. Is there any probability of the Chinese being naturalized as ordinary citizens who will take part in the social and political duties of the state?—I think the chances are very, very slight. You might occasionally pick up a Chinaman willing to be naturalized and take part in the affairs of the country.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. Are there any instances in your knowledge in which they have made themselves acquainted with public affairs?—I do not know of one instance of the kind. Part of the business of the agents of these companies is to make themselves thoroughly posted in these matters; they know everything that transpires perfectly well, but the ordinary Chinaman pays no attention to that at all.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think it would be desirable to allow Chinese to take up public lands? As I said before, if you admit them to the country admit them to all the privileges of the country.

By Mr. Trow:

Q. Is it desirable that they should be permanent settlers?—I do not know why they should not have all the privileges of citizenship once they are here, but as permanent settlers, we do not need them; we want a better class of people than they are.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the character of the Chinese women in British Columbia?—Very low.
By Mr. Trow:—
Q. Do you think it is owing to that, or is it not attributable to the remoteness of that Province, and the expense of getting there compared with going to eligible positions in Manitoba?—The expense of getting there is of course against us, but that objection would be very easily overcome, if people were satisfied that the country was worth going to. Fifty or sixty dollars would take a laboring man there—ten dollars steerage from San Francisco to Victoria, and $40 or $50 to San Francisco.

By Mr. Connell:—
Q. Then he has to pay for his living besides?—Well, it is very cheap; he could take a basket of provisions with him.

By Mr. Trow:—
Q. I thought the lowest rate you could get there was $70?—No; as I said before, these 8,000 Chinamen in British Columbia take the place of 2,000 or 3,000 families, and if they were not there we should have these 2,000 or 3,000 families.
Q. While you are paying white laborers high wages;—$60 or $70 a month, I think?—Understand that mostly for skilled axemen who are used to felling large trees; they get $70 a month. The wages of good farm-hands—and this would be a pretty fair criterion—are about $45 a month.
Q. That is over a hundred per cent. of what we give here for the best men?—Yes.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):—
Q. You have had some experience in the interior during the time of cutting the crops?—Yes.
Q. A great portion of that labor is done by the Indians in the principal portion of the country?—Yes; at the harvest times labor is generally scarce, and they employ Indians or Chinamen, or any one who comes along for a short time during that season.
Q. Are Indians not preferred for harvesting to Chinamen?—Yes.

By Mr. Charlton:—
Q. Why, Mr. Barnard?—I think they can do a harder days work in the sun than Chinamen. They are better fed.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):—
Q. They are more active than Chinamen?—More active; yes; Indians generally make very good hands.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. What is the class who are generally known as the white laboring class in British Columbia; if not the point quite explained?—The idea is: the class of men who go to settle up gold countries are generally more intelligent than ordinary laborers, as we understand laborers in Canada. They are generally a more intelligent and pushing class who come out there. The white laboring class now in Victoria, for instance, is composed of those men who have come to the mines, who have been mining for a number of years and have been unsuccessful, and then they have to fall back into the ranks of the laborers. These men very often are high strung, and they would rather starve than go to work along side of a Chinaman. It is the very lowest "put" for a man to go and work alongside of a Chinaman.
Q. Do these men intend to remain as laborers, or do they resort to those occupations only temporarily?—It is a temporary thing. If they strike new diggings and can get along better in them, they propose to do so. I don't think we have any of the ordinary white laborers; the men who will work anywhere and everywhere and on any work you put them at. The laboring classes of Victoria are composed of men who are laborers of necessity.

By Mr. Charlton:—
Q. Do you think the Chinese be indispensable, in case of great public works?—No; it is not our mistake in British Columbia?—Just as soon as it is announced that public works are to be commenced in British Columbia we will have all the white labor we require, and we should have a larger proportion than we have if we knew that the Chinese were not to be employed on the works.
Q. They would have to be employed, of course?—There is abundance of white labor in San Francisco, and all through California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington Territory.

By the Chairman:—
Q. Old countrymen?—Yes; old countrymen who could be obtained.

By Mr. Charlton:—
Q. People would be likely to settle in British Columbia?—I do not know whether they would or not; I could hardly tell. But there are a number of men there from the east seeking work to-day; at least, this was the case last year, a large number of very reliable men were looking for work.
Q. The fact is that they are in California now ready to float off anywhere else, is presumptive evidence that they would not settle in the country?—I think if they found a country suitable to their taste many of them would gladly settle.

By Mr. Connell:—
Q. Are there different classes among the Chinese?—Are they all bad, or is only a certain percentage of them bad?—I have not said anything bad about the Chinamen; I know comparatively little about their morals. The only reference I made was to the immorality of the women. I say a large portion of the women are caught by British Columbia for the purpose of prostitution, and are necessarily prostitutes.

By Mr. Trow:—
Q. It is confined to themselves?—No; they are charged in the public papers with enticing youths and boys, and in that respect they are worse than ordinary prostitutes.

By Mr. Connell:—
Q. On the public streets?—Yes; I have seen them “coaching” the boys myself.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):—
Q. You run the mail stage from Yale to Cariboo?—Yes.
Q. Do you bring Chinamen down as prisoners with irons on?—Yes; we have brought Chinese down prisoners down, and some with irons on.
Q. Did you bring more with irons than without them?—No; I don’t think that. The Chinamen who come down with irons on, had they not irons, I think would walk. I think we bring more of other Chinese passengers than those.
Q. Still you bring a larger number of these?—Yes.
Q. You bring more Chinamen in charge of officers going to the penitentiary than any other class?—I rather think we do. There are not many who go down on business.
Q. Ten or a dozen a year?—Yes; about that number altogether.

By the Chairman:—
Q. How do the Chinamen go to the mines; on foot?—The cheapest way they can. The fact is, gentlemen, the Chinese are too smart for us. They will beat us wherever they get a foothold.

By Mr. Connell:—
Q. That is the greatest objection to them on the part of the white population?—I think it is.

By Mr. Brooks:—
Q. They are superior to the white laborer in point of intelligence?—No; don’t think they are—not the laborers, but those who direct them.
Q. How do they compare with the ordinary laborer—not your white laborer in British Columbia, for you say they are a superior class?—I don’t say they are a superior class.
Q. But you say they are more intelligent?—They are more intelligent, for they are better educated in the arts than the ordinary laborers.

Q. How does the ordinary Chinese laborer compare in point of intelligence with the ordinary white laborer of this country?—Well, I think he is a grade lower.

You think that this labor is a little lower?—I think that it is a good deal lower. You cannot get any class of white labor that I know of—that will for the sake of economy, pack themselves to the extent, say of 20 persons in a room, 10 by 12, and sleeping there is a bed, there being three tiers of beds one on top of the other, and all the household furniture in the house whereby twenty laborers live not being worth more than the sum of $2.50.

By Mr. True:—

Q. What is the general health of these people, under such circumstances as you have mentioned?—There is no health for the reason that they are very cleanly. They wash themselves very regularly. The children cannot keep themselves as clean as they do, in the houses in which they dwell, were it otherwise. That would be out of the question.

By Mr. Charlton:—

Q. Do they ventilate their houses properly; do they let in the fresh air?—The impression on a white person, on going into one of the houses which they occupy, is at first against them; but that is the peculiar odorous result of the stuff which they eat; it does not arise from uncleanly habits or from effluvia coming from their bodies, but the odor which is perceived, arises from the stuff that they eat. This odor is besides mixed with the smell of tobacco, and their tobacco is saturated with a little opium; and the smell of opium and tobacco and of food all together, gives rise to the unfavorable impression to which I allude. There is another disadvantage to such their presence in our country gives rise to. Say that you are a property holder, and have a house to let; if we had 6,000 white laborers in the country you would derive a certain amount of money from your property which in the aggregate would make it something worth while, but it is not so in case of Chinaman; they will rent a house standing on a piece of land, and they are no sooner in possession of the dwelling, than they put upon it the same sort of housing and uncleanliness which in the aggregate would make it something worth while, but it is not so in case of Chinaman. They will rent a house standing on a piece of land, and they are no sooner in possession of the dwelling, than they put upon it the same sort of housing and uncleanliness. They have not the same care for the cleanliness in the house that we have, and that is why it is said of the Chinese that their houses are like their dogs, and that is the reason why they do not keep their dogs in the house. I never saw them keep their dogs in the house. Q. They keep their chickens in the house, however; do they not?—They put the chickens in the house in case a cold night comes on, but not their hogs. I rather think they are a cleanly people, on the whole. There seems to be much more cleanliness than the ordinary white labor classes would be under similar circumstances.

By Mr. Oowall:—

Q. Have the Chinese any organization in the cities? have they a leader there?—I believe that they are governed by the agents of these six companies. That is their organization, as I understand it.

By Mr. True:—

Q. Have they places of worship and schools?—They have one Joss-house in Victoria, and that is the only one I know of in the Province.

Q. Have they schools?—I know of no schools, that they have.

By Mr. Charlton:—

Q. They have not many children to send to school I suppose?—They have very few children in this country. I believe.

By Mr. Brooks:—

Q. Have the Chinese in the Province of British Columbia any education?—A great many of them have some education; a very large portion of them can read, I think.
Q. I know a great many of them who do not do so?—Do not allow them to sleep out of the house.

Q. In making the bargain with them they make arrangements for a certain hour at which they leave the house, and for a certain hour at which they arrive in the morning?—Yes.

Q. And by a judge among their followers, in some of these well-packed houses.

The same thing is true with regard to the City of San Francisco. The objectionable feature in that respect is simply this: when they come from these dens where they are accustomed to lodge, in the morning, into respectable families, and engage in cooking and washing about the house, it is considered an objectionable feature in the system?—We have always made it a rule to require the Chinese who are employed about the house to remain in the house during sleeping hours. I have had a Chinese servant in my employ for three years. This is the second Chinaman whom I have had for a similar period, and I have never had more satisfaction out of, a domestic servant in my life than I have had out of these men.

By Mr. Brooks:

Q. The Chinese are cleanly?—The room of this man is a picture of neatness, and he changes his socks every day; as far as he is personally concerned, he is extremely clean.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. He is a good cook?—Yes.

Q. The Chinese do washing and laundering work?—Yes; in order to give you a good idea of the organization which exists among them, with regard to the employments that they follow, I will relate a circumstance that has come under my notice: A gentleman who has been unfortunate in obtaining white household servants, applied for a Chinaman to serve him in that capacity. The Chinaman in charge, to whom he made his application, immediately turned over his books, and said to the gentleman: "Your name is —?—Yes And you live at such and such a place?—Yes. I have been in the Donjon, to encourage to come you every Sunday; you give a big dinner every Sunday?—Yes.... Mrs. has three children?—Yes." In fact, the gentleman found this Chinaman had in his books a complete register of the whole of his family affairs, and at the end of the register, was set down the price which he was required to pay in order to secure the services of a Chinaman. He also found that he could not get a Chinaman for anything less, and on making enquiries he discovered that they had a correct record, not of the standing of the servant who was to be employed, but of the standing of the masters who were to employ these men as servants.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. That is information which servants would pass around amongst each other with regard to the place at which they had served?—But the point is this: all this information was found recorded in their books.

Q. In fact, the servant is made aware of the condition of things at the house in which he has been, or that he is going to go, he finds out at once after wards, in any event, if he did not learn it before?—No doubt.

F. J. BARNARD.

Mr. Dewdney appeared before the Select Committee appointed to consider the question of Chinese labor and immigration, and gave evidence as follows:

By the Chairman:

Q. Did you receive a summons to attend and give evidence before the Committee?—Yes.

Q. Are you ready to give testimony on the subject into which the Committee was appointed to examine?—Yes.

Q. Where do you reside, Mr. Dewdney?—I live at Hope, in the Province of British Columbia.

Q. You are Member of Parliament for Yale?—Yes; I am.
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By Mr. Row—

Q. The Chinamen are going and coming independent of outside control?—A good many Chinamen are independent of these companies, but information as to the bulk of Chinese immigration, and the Chinese population of the Province could be secured in the way I think, which Mr. DeCosmo suggests. It could be got from the large Chinese merchants.

Q. Do you think that the Chinese are a desirable class of people to have around you?—I do not know that they are a desirable class to have amongst us, but they are very useful. I think that it would be a very bad thing for us if we were without them at the present time in the Province of British Columbia.

By Mr. Connell—

Q. If the Chinese charged the same rate for their labor as the whites do, would they get work in the Province?—Well, some of them would get work, I think, under such circumstances. I believe that a great many people would prefer them for certain employments. For instance, they would prefer to have Chinese servants instead of white servants, but I do not think they would prefer to employ Chinese, over whites, as ordinary laborers.

By Mr. Row—

Q. The Chinese are more adapted for domestic purposes and for house work than for other employments?—Some of them who are trained to that particular employment are so; they make very good servants; but a great number of them are not fitted for house work at all; they are very good laborers; they work very well on roads and on public works.

Q. Suppose that some means were taken by the Government—suppose that some means were adopted by the Home Government to stop or check Chinese immigration into your country—what effect would such a step have upon your Province? Would it be the means of bringing white people into your Province to a greater degree than at present the case?—I suppose that under such circumstances more Indians would be employed than is at present the case; a good many Indians would in that event be employed to do work which the Chinese do now.

Q. Are the Indians a better class than the Chinese?—The Indians are.

Q. Are the Indians a better class than the Chinese?—I do not think that they are better, though very good servants are very often obtained from among the Indians.

Q. Are the Indians equal to the Chinese?—They are not equal to the Chinese as domestic servants, but for some kinds of work they are better than Chinamen.

By Mr. Bannerman—

Q. It all depends on the kind of work that the Chinese are put at?—Yes.

Q. The Indians are better at some kinds of occupation than the Chinese?—Yes; that is the case.

By Mr. Connell—

Q. Has their increase been rapid since they first made their appearance in the Province of British Columbia?—Do you refer to the Chinamen?

Q. Yes?—I doubt very much whether there is a greater number of Chinese in the Province than there was the same three or four years ago, though I would not be positive on that point; I do not think that they have been coming into our Province lately very rapidly.

By the Chairman—

Q. Has not the new industry in British Columbia—I refer to the canning industry—created a great number of Chinamen to come into the Province?—A great many of them came into the Province owing to the opening up of that industry, but a great many also went out again. I think that pretty nearly the whole of them that came into the Province, in connection with the prosecution of this industry, went out again, as far as I can learn, I know that they were very useful in this relation. That industry could not have been carried on without them.
in the City of San Francisco; several Chinamen there have their wives, who are very respectable women.

Q. Do the Chinese become interested like other classes of the community in the development of the resources of the country; do they become interested in our public institutions—in our educational system for instance—or in anything of that nature?—I do not know whether any Chinese children come to our schools or not; but I know that young Chinese are sent to the schools in the State of California; I also know that the Chinese are very anxious to learn to read and write, and all they can do.

Q. Do you think that the Chinese in this country are solely destitute of making a few hundreds, and of leaving the country with it ultimately; is that their main object?—I do not think that such is the main object of the whole of them; I think that large bodies of them, who come to our country, are satisfied if they can make a living; they have a pretty hard time of it where they come from, and they do not expect to make enough to go back on; I know Chinamen who have worked in this country for three or four years who have wives and children in China, and they are very glad of the opportunity of going back to their homes with a little money.

By Mr. Connell:—

Q. Do you think that the immigration of the Chinese into this country is a desirable thing to encourage?—I do not think that it would be desirable to encourage this class of immigrants, because, under such circumstances, they would rush into our country in so many hundreds and thousands that their presence in the country would be objectionable.

By Mr. Bannerman:—

Q. As long as Chinese immigrants are of the class which your evidence leads us to believe they are, I think that they are just the class of people which we want in this country?—I think that this kind of immigration might be done.

Q. You cannot overdo a good thing like that in a country where so much wild land appears to be settled upon and cultivated, and since this will be the case there for the next half century?—Yes; you can.

By Mr. Trusc:—

Q. None of the Chinese go to farm to any extent?—No; not to any very large extent. I know some Chinese who own pretty large farms on the Fraser River.

Q. Do they raise cattle?—They raise cattle and grain. They raise a good deal of grain, and they have large market gardens.

By the Chairman:—

Q. What is the general feeling in British Columbia with respect to the presence of the Chinese in the country?—I think that the general feeling among the people who live in the Province is adverse to see them driven out of the country.

Q. You think that the white people who reside there would not like to see them driven out of the country?—Yes; I think so. That is the case in my opinion.

Q. What is the feeling among the laboring population in British Columbia with respect to the Chinese in the Province?—I think that it is very likely that the feeling among the laboring men is against Chinamen. I think that this would be very natural, and probably it is the case.

Q. The feeling there is against them?—Yes; so also is the feeling of some politicians.

Q. Do you know any politicians in British Columbia who are favorable to the immigration of the Chinese into the country?—Well, I do not know about that.

Q. Are any politicians in the Province favorable to Chinese immigration?—I do not know that they are favorable to Chinese immigration on a large scale; but I do not think that they would object to seeing the same proportion of Chinamen in the country at any time to the white population that exists in the Province of British Columbia at the present time. I do not think that they would object to the continuation of the present state of things in this respect.

Q. What proportion do you think that is?—I told you that I do not know what proportion of the population the Chinese form. I do not think that you know this proportion; I do not think that any one is acquainted with it.

Q. When you speak of the same proportion, this implies that you have some notion of the actual numbers of the whites and Chinese in the Province, which would authorize you in expressing such an opinion?—Yes; I make that statement from the numbers of Chinamen whom I meet in my travels through the country, and from the number of white men whom I meet.

Q. Do you suppose the proportion of the respective populations to be one-half Chinese and one-half white?—No; I do not think that is the proportion. It is nothing like that.

Q. Is the proportion of the Chinese one-quarter of the proportion of the Provinces?—No; it is not one quarter.

By Mr. Trusc:—

Q. Can you procure the services of Chinamen at a cheaper rate than you can white labor?—I do not know that you can; but I have known Chinamen get the sum of five hundred dollars a year in wages, when they were engaged by the year.

Q. How much?—$500 a year when, they were engaged by the year.

Q. And board?—Yes.

Q. That a large scale of wages that is paid to the Chinese laborer in the Province of British Columbia per month?—Well, to what class of labor do you refer?—I mean the laborer, the mechanics and the trader, but the white laborer, I suppose, is not expected to be a skilled mechanic,—the laborer who uses the pick and shovel?—I paid the sum of from thirty to forty dollars a month to Chinese working on the roads.

Q. Was that latter?—No; it was ten years ago.

Q. What is the rate which is now paid to Chinamen?—I do not know at what rate you would engage a body of Chinamen for at the present time; it depends on the site of the work. If you wanted to engage a large number of men, I should say that you could get them for the rate of from $15 to $30 a month.

Q. Do you know any politicians in British Columbia who are favorable to the immigration of the Chinese into the country?—Well, I do not know about that.

Q. Are any politicians in the Province favorable to Chinese immigration?—I do not know that they are favorable to Chinese immigration on a large scale; but I do not think that they would object to seeing the same proportion of Chinamen in the country at any time to the white population that exists in the Province of British Columbia at the present time. I do not think that they would object to the continuation of the present state of things in this respect.
Q. Do they use the same articles in their daily food as whites?—That is, articles liable to be purchased at the same price?—Oh, yes; a great number of them.

Q. Tea?—Yes; tea, sugar, rice, boots, clothing, &c.

Q. And if they are doing well, I understand, they live well?—They live very well——particularly if they can get pigs and chickens.

Q. In the event of large public works being carried on here in a year or two, and a large number of men being required, do you suppose it would be an advantage to the Chinese immigration to come in?—I do not think that they would be benefited in the same way that the other classes of laborers would be. I think it would be an inducement, and unless Chinese immigration were restricted, contractors would look for that kind of labor, because on the western coast it is a desirable class of labor. In a country where there are mining operations starting up in every direction, you cannot depend on the white labor; they run off to the mines and leave the employer in the lurch, and the only labor they can depend upon is the Chinese labor. Three or four years ago, when I was on the Union Pacific Railway, I found Chinamen employed in the machine shops, cleaning engines, &c, I asked if they used that kind of labor there; I was told, "yes." I asked, "Do they understand the work?" "Yes; they do it as well as white men. Three of them can do as much as two white men; they cost less money, and you can depend on them. If you put a body of white men on, with the first mining excitement that starts up, the white men rush off and leave us in the lurch." That is the answer I got from the foreman.

By Hr. Bannerman:

Q. Do the Chinese rush off?—No.

By Mr. Williams:

Q. Would the employment of this labor be prejudicial to the settlement of the country? —I don't think it would; I think if public works were going on to an extent to employ two or three thousand Chinamen at work of such a character that white men are not better qualified to do, there would still be a sufficient amount of work for all the white labor that might be wanted.

By Hr. Bannerman:

Q. Suppose these two or three thousand Chinamen were not employed, but English, Scotch and Americans, instead, don't you think a larger portion of the white population would settle in the country and make permanent homes, and that they would make better settlers than Chinese?—I don't think the employment of two or three thousand Chinamen on the railway would prevent the country being settled by these two or three thousand Chinamen. I think it would be an attraction to English, Scotch and Americans to settle in the country, and there would be a larger proportion of these settle in the country and become permanent inhabitants of the country.

Q. That is not an answer to the question at all.—What was your question?

Q. The question is this: Do you consider, if there were two or three thousand English, Irish, Scotch and Americans employed in constructing a portion of the Pacific Railway in place of these two or three thousand Chinamen, that there would be a larger proportion of these settle in the country and become permanent inhabitants of the country?—I think so, certainly, because Chinamen—the bulk of them—are not desirable settlers. They do not think of settling. I think it would be very detrimental to a large public work not to employ Chinamen. It must increase the cost of it.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):

Q. Would the amount of revenue contributed by these Chinamen not be larger than by Chinamen—the amount of Customs duties on the articles they consume?—I think the Chinamen are far as well on public works as the white men.

Q. Would the white men not spend a greater portion of their earnings in whiskey and other luxuries than the Chinamen?—I suppose they would spend more. They would get higher wages.

By Mr. Connell:

Q. How many Chinamen do you suppose there are in British Columbia at present?—I really have no idea. There does not seem to be very much poverty among them. They seem to be doing very well.
things as wages to that. We have been in any of their dwellings?—I don't think they have.

I think it is; most of it is like the miners' furniture, home made. They make stools, boxes, bunks, &c., do for furniture.

By Mr. Buller:—

Q. Do you employ Chinese as servants?—Yes.

Q. Judges, also?—Yes; almost all the respectable people in Victoria employ Chinese servants.

By the Chairman:—

Q. What is the reason they employ the Chinese?—Because they find they make better servants than the white people.

Q. Is it not because of an absence of female and male white domestics?—Well, I think not, to a certain extent. Once, at the time that the Arbitrary Act was passed by the Local Government, which was disallowed by Judge Grey, all the Chinese servants struck in Victoria. There was not one who did not leave his employment, and a sufficient cause for the servants who employed them to send to California for other servants; and the report of this complication, on reaching San Francisco, induced a lot of people to come up there and offer themselves, but they were not engaged, and as soon as the case was decided by Judge Grey, they all returned to their employment, and there were very few who did not take them back again.

Q. Did the employers of the Chinese as household servants treat them well?—I think they treated them very well.

Q. Were the Chinamen well pleased with their wages and treatment?—I think so.

Q. You say the Local Government passed an Act levying a labor tax on the Chinese?—Yes; they levied a kind of tax.

Q. Will you state to the Committee whether you think the Chinese showed gratitude or ingratitude towards their employers on leaving so suddenly and without notice?—Well, I think that they certainly showed that they believed they were being imposed on.

Q. Do you think that an Act of a Legislature imposing a high tax on Chinamen as a tax on all Chinese domestic servants by a British subject when in England.

Q. If the Provincial Government imposed a tax that was considered too high upon the white population, do you think the white population would leave their employment simply because the Government imposed such a tax?—It depends on how high it was made, in the same proportion as the tax on the Chinamen, I think they would leave very quickly.

Q. You think they would leave good employment?—I think they would if the tax was as heavy as that one was. I have seen men strike for much less cause than that.

Q. Simply because they do not get higher wages. You would say, I presume, that they struck for higher wages?—Yes.

Q. Or against lower wages?—Yes.

Q. But when there was no reduction in wages, have you ever known white men to strike; when they were pleased with their wages?—They have struck for other things than wages; they have struck sometimes against bad food.

By Mr. Buller:—

Q. Do you know of an Act having been passed relating to men who quit a service?—I do not recollect.

By Mr. True:—

Q. Do you know if there is any organized system among the Chinamen themselves that there are certain rules and regulations to remove them amenable to certain head men?—No; I do not know anything about that at all. I have heard a rumor that such was the case, but I know nothing about it definitely.

Q. They are not independent enough to employ themselves?—Some of them were, I know.

Q. Are some of them in a state of bondage?—So they say. They say they are brought out from China by merchants.

Q. These merchants hire them, or do they hire themselves out?—If you want a large number of Chinamen, you go to a head man who will get them for you.

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. I suppose they always remain a foreign element—they never take the oath of allegiance and become British subjects?—Some of them do. I do not know how many Hong Kong Chinamen we have; every Hong Kong Chinaman we have is a British subject.

By the Chairman:—

Q. Are you sure of that?—I think so; Hong Kong is a British Colony.

By Mr. True:—

Q. Do you know the English language?

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. Do the Chinese learn the English language?

By Mr. True:—

Q. Do you know the Arbitr ary Act having been passed relating to men who quit a service?—I do not recollect.

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Q. These merchants hire them, or do they hire themselves out?—If you want a large number of Chinamen, you go to a head man who will get them for you.

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. I suppose they always remain a foreign element—they never take the oath of allegiance and become British subjects?—Some of them do. I do not know how many Hong Kong Chinamen we have; every Hong Kong Chinaman we have is a British subject.

By the Chairman:—

Q. Are you sure of that?—I think so; Hong Kong is a British Colony.

The Chairman.—Yes; but it is a place of export. I may state to the Committee that Hong Kong is a British Colony near Canton, and the Chinese immigrants come to Hong Kong to take ship. About 12,000 of them every year pass through Hong Kong, but that they are British subjects, I am not aware of that.

By Mr. True:—They are British subjects if they are from there.

The Chairman.—If they were born in Hong Kong they might be recognized as British subjects, but being a British subject in Hong Kong does not make a man a British subject here. A foreigner naturalized in England is not a British subject in Canton, or in any other place.

Mr. Williams.—The population of Hong Kong is not very large?

The Chairman.—The permanent white population of Hong Kong is 1,400 or 1,500.

By Mr. True:—

Q. Do the Chinese learn the English language?

The Witness.—Oh yes; many of them do.

Q. Principally that may be the reason you have to go to the bond men to make bargains?—It has always been more convenient. My idea is that they bring Chinamen out after collecting a number of them, and pay their passage to America. In that way the Chinamen are always debt to these men, and they have to work until they get out of their debt. I don't know that they are regular slaves—I don't think they are.

Q. Is there employment for white labor to any extent now in British Columbia?

By Mr. Williams:—

Q. Do white people leave in case they cannot find employment?—Yes; there are some leaving every year.

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Q. For that reason?—Yes, they leave for that reason.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):—
Q. Could they not get employment generally if they tried—if they looked for it?—I think it would be hard for any amount of people to get it.

By Mr. Bannerman:
Q. If these 6,000 Chinamen were not there, they would be able to get it?—These 6,000 Chinamen are not working as laborers; over three-fourths of them are mining on their own account at places where white people would not work.

By the Chairman:
Q. When you speak of mines do you mean gold mines or coal mines?—Gold mines; there is some working in coal mines.

By Mr. Bannerman:
Q. There would be, then, about 3,000 Chinamen working in the gold mines?—I cannot speak as to numbers.

By the Chairman:
Q. Can you form any approximate estimate as to the number of Chinese women in British Columbia?—No; I could not.

Q. From what you have learned, are they, generally speaking, regarded as women of ill-fame or are they otherwise?—I think the bulk of them are prostitutes.

Q. But then there are not many altogether?—I don’t know how many there are; I haven’t seen a dozen Chinese women in British Columbia that I recollect.

By the Chairman:
Q. If they are brought out for that purpose, they are not a fair indication of the condition of the Chinese women at home?—I think not; I think the reason respectable women do not emigrate more is that they are afraid of persecution.

By Mr. True:
Q. Do you know anything about the character or moral standing of the Chinese in San Francisco?—No; I do not; their morals are reported bad, but I do not know anything about them.

By Mr. Charlton:
Q. I suppose you have given your opinion as to whether they are efficient laborers or not?—I think some of them are efficient laborers; some of them are very poor.

By the Chairman:
Q. You stated that in some machine shops that you had visited, Chinamen were employed?—Yes.
Q. And that three Chinamen were considered equal to two white men?—Yes.
Q. Is that considered the usual proportion?—Taking the average Chinese workingman, I think that would be the proportion.

Q. Are the Chinese in British Columbia chiefly males?—Yes; they are chiefly males.

Q. If the same number of white men were engaged in British Columbia as laborers, in the departments of industry in which the Chinese are employed, do you think there would be more white women and children in the country?—Yes; I think there would be a few more, although no doubt the white population of the country is very small, compared with the male population in British Columbia.

By Mr. Charlton:
Q. About what proportion do you estimate between females and males?—It would be hard to estimate that, but it is very small; I could not say.

By the Chairman:
Q. The tendency of the Chinese population is to prevent the increase of homes in British Columbia; is it not. What I mean by homes is married people raising families?—Well, I suppose it does to a certain extent.
Q. Do you say they command nearly as high a rate of wages as white men?—Very nearly as high.
Q. If that is the case, would it be preferable for British Columbia to have this class of people as laborers, or to introduce white labor?—I suppose, as a general rule, white labor would be preferable.
Q. As I understand from some gentlemen who made statements here that there was a remarkable difference between the rate of wages paid to the Chinamen and that paid to the whites, and that was one reason for employing them?—I have heard that; (and as far as my experience goes) that is not the case.
Q. You reside how far from Victoria?—About 300 miles.
Q. In the interior?—Yes.
Q. Do you employ Chinese laborers?—I do not.
Q. Do you employ Indian labor in connection with white labor?—Yes; a good deal.
Q. Why don't you employ Chinese labor?—Because I find I can get white men for ordinary labor at the same rate of wages as Chinamen, and I would rather have white men.
Q. And when you cannot get white men you employ Indians?—Yes; that is the case. Indians are always on the spot, and you can always have them when necessary. They are there in the neighborhood and I can get the services of either one or a dozen, if I may want them, at any time.
Q. Then, in the interior it would be as expensive for you to get Chinese labor as white labor?—Yes; I think so.
Q. Their wages are not so high in the larger towns?—Not quite so high. They certainly work for a little less than the white men.
Q. As a rule, are they residents or only what may be called denizens of the towns, living their temporarily?—As a rule, they live there temporarily.
Q. Is that not their idea—that they go there for a time?—It may be—just the same as the idea of all visitors to a new country.
By Mr. Brooks:
Q. Are they a migrating class of people, moving from one part of the Province to another?—They move a good deal from one portion of the Province to another.
Q. Why?—in search of employment.
Q. In the fishing season they go to the fishing districts?—I know nothing of my own knowledge with respect to that. But I have admitted that on the Fraser River, where the salmon fishing is carried on, they work in large numbers. They generally come from the United States territory.
Q. So there is none of that class who are permanent?—A certain proportion of them are permanent, but I think the greater number come from the United States, so I have understood.
By Mr. Brooks:
Q. Do they vote—do they take any part in public matters?—Not now; they are not allowed to vote.
Q. That is because they are not naturalized?—Some of them are naturalized.
Q. Do they not vote?—No; they are specially forbidden to vote in the same way as are Indians.
By Mr. Connell:
Q. How many Chinese do you suppose there are in British Columbia?—I cannot say exactly.
Q. Are they as clannish in that way, and do they give their patronage to their own friends?—Yes; I should think they were. They are very much the same as other people in that respect.

By Mr. Connell—

Q. Are they industrious?—Yes; they are always at their work.

Q. Are they peaceable citizens?—Very.

By the Chairman—

Q. Are you aware whether the Chinese contribute to the ordinary charities of the country?—No; I am not aware.

Q. Do they contribute to the support of the churches voluntarily?—I think not, beyond their own church, if they have any, I think in all these particulars they are very much like other classes of the population.

Q. Have they churches in the different towns and cities?—I think I have heard that there is one Joss House in Victoria. I am not quite sure whether there is or not.

By Mr. True—

Q. They have schools, have they not?—That I don't know. They are almost all adults.

Q. There are not many children?—No; not many.

Q. Are they not polite, or do they not unite in marriage?—I think I said before that there are very few females.

Q. What is the character of the females there?—I don't know anything about them.

Q. Have you heard anything about them?—I have heard rumors of all sorts.

Q. What are the rumors?—They were that the women were a low, immoral class.

Q. Prostitutes?—So it is said.

By the Chairman—

Q. Is not that their general reputation?—It is their general reputation. I may say that I have often seen, what, from appearance, are very respectable Chinese women; women with children. They looked decent enough, at all events.

By Mr. Brooks—

Q. How do these people compare physically with the white race?—They are, as a rule, more diminutive; some of them are muscular.

Q. Are they strong and able to work?—Yes, but I don't think they are as strong as white people.

Q. If public works, the Pacific Railway for instance, were constructed in British Columbia, what would be the effect upon the cost if Chinese labor were to be employed?—On provincial works?

No, the Pacific Railway for instance?—I should look at the question this way: In the interest of the Province I should think it would be better for white people to be employed; in the interest of the Dominion, it would be better to employ Chinese, if they could be got cheaper than white people.

Q. Your idea is that it would not be much cheaper to build the Pacific Railway by means of Chinese labor?—My idea is that it would not be much cheaper.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo)—

Q. Don't you think they could go to California any time and get 5,000 Chinese at one-fourth of the cost of white labor?—No; I don't think so.

By Mr. True—

Q. Suppose three or four million dollars were to be expended on public works, and there were an advertisement for three or four thousand laborers, what proportion of Chinese do you suppose would be employed; do you suppose they would be more likely than other classes to rush into the country to obtain this labor?—I do not think so.

Q. Is there any fear of a very large proportion of them coming here in the event of public works being projected?—I suppose if they were sure of getting per-
always have good watches, and all that sort of thing. In those respects, they compare most favorably with the ordinary class of white people.

By the Chairman:-
Q. Do we understand you, then, to say that you do not think they would make good citizens?—I would not say that.
Q. Such as would take part in the political affairs of the country?—But not without a long probation.
Q. You believe it would not be in the interest of the Province to have them employed on Federal public works?—No; as I said before, I think it would be in the interest of the Province to have other classes employed.
Q. White men?—Yes.
Q. And you do not think it desirable to encourage Chinese immigration?—Oh, no; I think it is quite unnecessary.

By Mr. Brooks:-
Q. Has the Legislature of British Columbia taken any steps to prohibit them from coming into the country?—Yes; there were some very stringent steps taken about a year ago.

By Mr. Tree
Q. In what shape?—In the way of imposing a very heavy special yearly tax upon Chinese.
Q. A discriminating tax?—Yes.
Q. Was that constitutional?—It was found by the Supreme Court of British Columbia that it was not constitutional.

By Mr. Bunster:
Q. Not by the Supreme Court, but by one of the judges of that Court?—The judge of the Supreme Court is the Supreme Court.

By Mr. Tree:
Q. Was it a heavy tax?—Forty dollars a year.
Q. Was it imposed on each adult?—Yes.
Q. In addition to other taxes?—No.

The Chairman.—The difficulty of compelling the Chinese to pay equal rates to those paid by other classes of the community induced the local Government to bring in a Bill to impose a special tax upon the Chinese. Before that the Chinese paid a poll tax for school purposes in common with everybody else; they were subject to a tax on personal property, to a tax on realty, to a tax for licenses for doing business, and all that sort of thing; but all these taxes were repealed and a single tax was imposed on Chinese of $40 per head per annum, to be paid quarterly. The Chinese companies combined against the tax and took a case to the Supreme Court, and it was declared by the Court to be ultra vires of the Provincial Legislature, and the local Government did not appeal to the Dominion Supreme Court, to have it determined whether the judge's decision was constitutional or not.

Mr. Brooks.—So, it is not in force now?

The Chairman.—It remains on the statute book. Whether the Bill will be disallowed or not, I don't know.

The Witness.—It was calculated that with the number of Chinese that were in the country, the tax of $40 per head would be levied, it would relieve everybody else in the Province from paying any tax at all, while we should receive a larger revenue than we do at present.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. It would give $529,000 a year, according to the estimated Chinese population in the Province?—Yes.

By Mr. Tree:
Q. The tax was imposed, not merely to procure that amount of money, but to deter other Chinese from coming there?

By the Chairman:
Q. And to get rid of some who were there?—I decline altogether to say why I think it was imposed.
But what I have said just now is really the case, that until Chinamen took up that sort of work in Victoria, there were hardly any vegetables in the markets.

By Mr. Trow:
Q. And they were, therefore, an acquisition?—Quite an acquisition.

By the Chairman:
Q. That is news to me, and I have been there twenty-one years?—I have been there seventeen years, and I am sure that before the Chinamen came there, there were no vegetables to be got to speak of.

By Mr. Trow:
Q. Have you visited the jail in Victoria?—No.
Q. Have you visited the penitentiary?—Yes.
Q. Have you seen a larger portion of the prisoners to have been Chinamen than white people?—No.
Q. Are they more subject to larney or other crimes than the white population?—No; not so far as my knowledge goes.
Q. Are they as much?—No; I think the Chinese are exemplary in that respect.
It is very seldom that there is a charge made against a Chinaman. They seem to me to be a law-abiding class.

By Mr. Thompson (Cariboo):
Q. You have never had any knowledge of the burglaries and robberies that have been committed there by Chinamen?—No. I know this, that if an unfortunate Chinaman commits anything of that sort he is hounded down, not by the Chinese but by the white men. If a Chinaman was supposed to have committed a crime of any sort he would be followed by white men of a certain class, who would make a point of running him down if they possibly could; but if one of their own fellows was guilty of a like offence, the whites I speak of would seldom think of acting in the same way towards him.

By Mr. Brooks:
Q. What is the general feeling in British Columbia as to the desirability of discouraging Chinese immigration?—I should think the feeling against the Chinese is widely spread. The employers of labor and the better classes in British Columbia recognize the advantage of having the Chinese there; but the working classes, sided by politicians, have raised this cry against them.

By the Chairman:
Q. Would you have the kindness, Mr. Cornwall, to state whether you know that the farming class, as a body, on Vancouver Island, are in favor of Chinese labor or not?—I do not know whether they are or not.
Q. Do you regard the farming class as being composed of ordinary laborers?—No.
Q. Then do you not know the feeling of that class?—No; not in regard on Vancouver Island.
Q. Do you know whether the machine shops of Victoria prefer Chinese labor to white labor?—I do not know what particular shops.
Q. Such works as Spratt’s foundry and others?—That is one shop I know; I do not know whether they employ Chinese or whites; I think as a mechanic for such work, a white man would be much preferable to a Chinaman.
Q. But there is always a certain amount of ordinary labor about a large iron establishment?—I should think, as a mechanic, the white man would be the one to employ.
Q. Do you know if the Chinamen are employed in any of the sash and door factories?—I don’t know.
Q. Are they employed on any of the mills on Vancouver Island?—I don’t know.
Q. Are they employed largely by merchants in preference to whites?—As laborers and workmen, I think whites are employed. I have seen more whites employed in that way than Chinamen.

Q. Are you aware of Chinamen being employed in boot and shoe factories?—Yes; I have heard that they are employed in them. That, I should think, is a sort of work they are very capable of doing.
Q. Then, it appears that the only people who employ Chinese labor on Vancouver Island, as far as you are aware, belonging to the upper classes of society, are the proprietors of boot and shoe factories?—Well, those are the only people you have asked me about.
Q. Well, are there any others who prefer the Chinese, and have no feelings of hostility towards them?—I do not think they are employed largely on Vancouver Island in any way except as Chinese servants.
Q. Are you aware if the Chinese are employed in the coal mines at Nanaimo?—I have heard that they were.
Q. Does it not appear strange that the farmers on Vancouver Island who want hands should not employ Chinese?—I don’t think so at all. The reason is just exactly what I said before. Where there is no much difference in the rate of wages you have to give, anybody would naturally rather employ white labor. The whole of the facts respecting this question go to show that there is really no ground of complaint on the part of workmen, and that wherever they can, employers of labor employ white men in preference to Chinamen.
Q. Do you know the rate of wages paid by farmers for farm hands on Vancouver Island?—Not exactly; I suppose a good farm hand would get $23 a month.
Q. And what would a Chinaman get?—Something less; perhaps $20 a month.
Q. Do you know the number of Chinese engaged as miners?—No; I cannot give you even an approximate idea. They are settled all over the Province. A great number are employed as miners.
Q. I observe in a paper of April 12th, that the New Westminster Herald states:—”It appears from the report of the Minister of Mines, that there is a total of 1,685 Chinese in British Columbia, of whom, 1,658 are Chinese.” Would you not infer from that statement that there were more than 2,000 Chinese in British Columbia?—I said I really could not say what the number of Chinese was; it is impossible to say.
Q. You made the remark a while ago that politicians were opposed to the Chinese?—Yes.
Q. Do you know any politicians who are in their favor, from Federal Senators down?—To a certain extent I am a politician, and I am in favor of the employment of any person except myself.

By Mr. Trow:
Q. You have never heard them express an opinion?—I do not know that I can tell what other people think about the matter.

By the Chairman:
Q. The reason I asked you this question was that you said that the politicians were against the Chinese, like the ordinary laboring classes. If that statement goes abroad to the public, it might be thought that the better classes of society were against them?—What I said, I said quite simply, and I cannot help the construction that may be placed upon it. I should not place what I call politicians among the better classes.
Q. I would like you, Mr. Cornwall, to show what politicians are in favor of Chinese immigration, and what politicians are in favor of their remaining in the country?—What I said, and what I say, is that this question of the employment of Chinese labor was made use of in a political way, as a handle, to obtain votes from a certain class in British Columbia. That is simply my meaning.
Q. Do you know that as a fact, or is it simply your impression?—I cannot know it as a fact; it is simply my impression.
Q. Then, as a matter of fact, we are to take it as an impression?—Yes.
Mr. Trow:—You have not knowledge of the signatures?

The Chairman:—Quite a number of them I know.

Mr. Trow:—Have you any reason to know that a great portion of the persons whose names are on this petition cannot be permanent settlers, but just casual travellers?

The Chairman:—I dare say there are more or less white men among the floating population, but not a very large number.

The Witness:—I should suppose that they are working men—most of them belonging to the floating population.

By Mr. Bunster:—

Q. Do you know of any Chinese having erected factories in British Columbia?

Mr. Trow:—No; I do not remember.

The Chinese there are simply laborers, &c., and their coming and going is regulated by supply of and demand for labor.

Q. You spoke about the Chinese supplying the market in British Columbia, &c.;—you have heard that a great many people of Victoria who have heard how they manure their vegetables refuse to eat them?

No; I never heard that. Ignorance will lead to extreme results on any subject.

Mr. Trow:—Does that affect the vegetables?

Mr. Bunster:—Yes; it does.

The Witness:—I should say that the Chinese are a law-abiding class. They are perhaps the most law-abiding class I have come in contact with. It is rare that there is any serious crime laid to their charge; we have often heard rumors that they are very immoral in a way that is unmentionable. But that is merely a rumor, as I understand; nobody knows anything about it.

By Mr. Bunster:—

Q. Will you give us an idea of the habits of the Chinese; have you been in their houses?

No; I have not been in any of their houses in the towns, which, I understand, are inhabited closely. The Chinese rooms that I have been in have always been as clean and nice as possible.

Q. You have never lived in a part of the country where there was a large section of Chinese population settled?

No; one of the charges more frequently made against the Chinamen is that of aggravated assault. They are perhaps oftencharged with that than any other offence; that is society in their imprisonment. They will seize whatever comes nearest to their hands and strike their opponent with it; in that way they often get into trouble. I have never known a case of that kind maliciously premeditated. The offence of a Chinaman is seldom overlooked.

Q. Nor would it be overlooked in the case of a white man, if a white man were subject to the same charge?—The class who have signed the petition would not overlook the case of a Chinaman charged in that way, while they continually do so whereas their own names are never suffered.

By the Chairman:—

Q. That is the class on which society is built?

No; this is a copy.

CLEMENT P. CORNWALL, Senator.