

may or may not become settlers, dependant upon ulterior circumstances.

This fact must be borne in mind in order to have a thorough comprehension of this phase of the question, because Mr. Robin's testimony shows there is now in this Province ample opportunity for white laborers at remunerative wages, if they choose to avail themselves of it. An absolute monopoly of the labor market, or a power to control and dictate the rate of wages, would be, (as an absolute power in any other of the business relations of life) most injurious to the general welfare.

The extraordinary length, to which the majority of the Local Legislature and some of the inhabitants of British Columbia, have been prepared to go in consequence of this Chinese antipathy, will be seen from an examination of the Local Act, and the circumstances shown in the judgment of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in the case of *Tai Sing vs. McGuire*, delivered September 23rd, 1878. Laying aside all that part of the decision which declared the Local Act to be *ultra vires* as affecting trade and commerce, examine its enactments with reference to the white inhabitants themselves, and observe how, if they employ Chinamen, it substitutes the innocent for the guilty and punishes the farmer, the merchant or the trader, for offences, and violations of the Act to which they are not only no parties, but of which they must be in entire ignorance. Such Legislation would hardly be tolerated anywhere among a free people, nor in any country where fanaticism had not usurped the place of reason. It was that Act which led to the Chinese strike in Victoria, in 1878, and was disallowed by the Dominion Government as soon as attention was by this judgment called to its provisions.

Sound policy, therefore, will regulate the coming of the Chinese, not stop it, any more than a clear headed sensible farmer would dry up a river, because it may sometimes overflow its banks, and perchance create temporary derangement in the lands through which it flows, but which, when properly restrained, its waters irrigate and enrich.

There can be no difficulty in enacting laws based on sound economical and commercial principles, regulating the immigration of Chinese and, indeed, of all other labor coming into the country, without interfering with that inducement to healthy immigration which Canada so essentially wants, but this Commission has to deal with the Chinese only, and even though the danger arising from their coming be imaginary; (if not questionable); it would be satisfactory that there should be a limited restraint; for there still exists, and will always exist the objection, that there is no homogeneity of race between them and ourselves, nor can they comprehend or assimilate themselves to our institutions. The nature and extent of such regulations will be hereafter considered, but we can approach their consideration relieved from the prejudice that would have been created, had the evidence, as to the past and present consequences, of their being in the country, shown that such presence had operated to its disadvantage.

Before, however, the latter measures are discussed, in order to their better understanding, we must consider the question of domestic service.

Without the Chinese in British Columbia, there would have been no domestic service at all. There were no persons, to be servants. The fallacy that has pervaded the whole discussion in British Columbia is the assumption, that manual and bodily labor, digging and delving, is the only labor in the world, and that no persons were to be considered in this matter, save the diggers and the delvers. The man who toils with his brain, to unfold the mysteries of nature, to develop the field of scientific enquiry, to add to the humanities of life and ennoble the daily discharge of duty, is as great a benefactor of his race and as much deserving of consideration

Monopolises
injurious.

Tai Sing vs
McGuire—
(appendix.)

Policy to regulate
not forbid.

Regulating laws.

Domestic service.

Fallacy as to
labor.