

"year, since April and May (1884), there have been ten new firms established in Victoria, and the amounts of taxes paid for their new licenses have been entered in their books as accounts for the year 1884. That my report embraced payments made up to August, 1884, while that of the collector was for the year 1883.

11 opium licenses at \$500 each, 12 spirit licenses at \$50 each, \$6100.

"I beg also to call the attention of the Commission that at the time when I compiled the items, I found that there were issued to the Chinese firms for the year 1884, eleven opium licenses at \$500 each, and twelve spirit licenses at \$50 each, which amounts would give a difference of \$6,100.

"All the items set forth in my report were shown from the books, vouchers, and receipts of the firms. When you will see the returns of the collector for the year 1884, there can be no question that my statements are verified.

"I trust, however, that the discrepancies between my report and that of the collector are owing to the different dates—1883 and 1884."

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HUANG SIC CHEN,

Secretary.

No explanation by City Treasurer of Victoria.

No reply has been received from Mr. Russell.

To this same return are added two other important statements in relation to trade.

Nature and character of importations.

First, of the nature of the goods imported by the Chinese merchants from China, Japan, and the United States.

Second, of the nature of the goods purchased by Chinese merchants in British Columbia and sold to the Chinese in the province.

1st. Rice, tea, oil, liquors, tobacco, dry goods, chinaware, drugs, silk goods, paper ware, books and stationery, matting, clothes, shoes-opium, Joss-paper and sticks.

2nd. Cloth goods, woolen, linen, cloth caps, boots, stockings, furs, kerosine oil, candles, matches, papers, soaps, tobacco, cigars, sugar, flour, rice, sweet meats, salt, pigs, lard, beef, butter, fish, fowls, wines, ducks, nails, tools, plates, horses, carriages, waggons, watches, rope, tennis, lamps, fuels, coal, hard and iron ware, glass and crockery, wooden ware, &c.

Same as ordinary consumption by others.

Thus with one single exception of the Joss-paper and Joss sticks, we find the goods imported by them and bought by them from the British Columbia merchants are the ordinary goods used and consumed by the people of all classes and countries resident in the province without distinction increasing the demand and supply in proportion to their numbers, swelling the ordinary volume of trade without reference to race, or place of manufacture, and contributing so far as an increase of trade goes to the general advancement and business of the country and of the city of Victoria in particular.

As bearing on this point, it is well to note the co-relevant testimony given in San Francisco, by the Chinese consul, Huang Tsun Hsien, page 40.

"Q. What proportion of the food and clothing of the Chinese in this city comes from China?—A. Ninety per cent. of the material (clothing) worn by the Chinese is of American manufacture. No food, except a few of choice eatables are imported. Rice was largely imported last year over 41,000,000 pounds which paid a duty of 2½ cents per pound. It is charged that the Chinese work cheap, because they live upon rice. Let me call your attention to the fact that rice costs by the quantity \$6 per 100 pounds, while flour from wheat is only \$2.50 per 100 pounds."