

THOMAS H. HYATT, engaged in farming, at one time Consul at Amoy, China, sworn and examined :

Witness read a letter of his own which appeared in the *Daily Evening Bulletin* of April 14, 1876, entitled "The Chinese question honestly, philosophically, commercially, politically, civilly, impartially and independently considered."

Sources of the Chinese emigration.

The Chinese who come here are usually of the lower class, many of them from up about Canton and Amoy. A good many of them are idle, and a good many of them are sons of farmers from the adjoining country. They come here to better their condition. Those about the town are generally rather a rough, hard, loose set, but back in the country among the agricultural population of China, you find very respectable, reputable, and decent Chinamen.

80,000 Chinamen living on the waters of Canton.

At the time I was residing there it was considered that there were 80,000 Chinamen living on the waters of Canton, in their boats. They were born, brought up, married and died there in their boats, and only taken on shore to be buried. Then up and down the coast every little inlet is filled with what are called Chinese pirates.

Shipping coolies.

The departures of coolies from Amoy and other parts along the coast, either went directly to San Francisco or to other ports. They did not go to Hong Kong. Sometimes a vessel goes to Hong Kong to fill up the cargo or something of that sort, but those who go as coolies generally go direct from Amoy. I know that very many coolies were taken on the ships that were sailing from Hong Kong to San Francisco but the great bulk of them were engaged all along up the coast. A great many of the immigrants from China come from the piratical class, which is an immigration we could do without very well, and had better be discouraged by any proper legislation restricting them from coming here. If we must have that population, if we had not laborers enough, let us send and get a better class—the rural laborers in the interior; or, better still, send and get the better class of people from New England and the eastern states. Almost all my farming business is done directly or indirectly with white labor, and I prefer to do it in that way; but in the busy season it is very difficult to get enough white laborers. I would favor any judicious legislation that would encourage eastern and foreign immigration instead of Chinese or Asiatic. There is no difficulty of white laborers in our region of the country getting employment; but there have been times when it was impossible to get any other than Chinese help. While Chinese labor would be very embarrassing to laborers here, it would be less so in the country.

Piratical immigrants.

Would favor any legislation which would encourage immigration other than Asiatic.

Chinese labor in rural districts less embarrassing than white labor.

Coolies going to Peru went for \$5 a month and their board. The contract seemed fair enough.

The contractor in China has a powerful hold over the

The ship I came over in in 1861 brought 500 coolies from Hong Kong direct to San Francisco. A coolie is an employed laborer who lives on his labor. The contracts and obligations are different for those coming to California than those going to the Peruvian Islands. I class laborers on canals, farms and ditches as coolies, not slaves that I know of—not peons. Coolies going to Peru were taken for ten years. I think at \$5 a month and their living. The contract appeared fair enough upon the face. I do not know of any coming to California under such contracts. I had supposed there were a great many, but I never knew. I have no knowledge of any kidnapped men being brought to California. When they were constructing the Panama Railroad, they sent over agents to engage Chinamen to come on and do that work, and they furnished the coolies with means. Every coolie has some tie that binds him back to China, and he does not go and violate that contract, because in China they take