

That it has frequently been baffled was naturally to be expected. But notwithstanding these unavoidable evasions, the practical operations of the Act has been by no means unsatisfactory.

Returns obtained from the Custom House show that from the 4th August, 1882, to the 15th January, 1884, a period of nearly sixteen months, there have arrived in this port 3,415 Chinese persons. During the same period there have departed no less than 17,088.

It thus appears that not only has the flood of Chinese immigration, with which we were menaced, been stayed, but a process of depletion has been going on which could not be considerably increased without serious disturbance to the established industries of the state. It is stated that the wages of Chinese laborers have advanced from \$1 to \$1.75 per diem—a fact of much significance if true.

It is much to be regretted that the notion that the law has through its own defects, or the fault of the Courts, proved practically inoperative, has been so widely and persistently disseminated. Such a misapprehension cannot have failed to be injurious to the state, by preventing the immigration of white persons from the east to replace the Chinese who are departing.

Another circumstance, which though not contemplated by the law, has incidentally attended its enforcement, may be mentioned. The costs, the attorney's fees, and the inconvenience and expense of attending upon the Courts until their cases can be heard, must in effect have imposed upon the Chinese arriving here charges nearly or quite equal to the capitation tax which in Australia has been found, it is said, sufficient to secure their practical exclusion. On this point I have no accurate information. But the liability to the charges I have mentioned cannot fail to exercise a strong deterring influence upon the lower classes of Chinese laborers.

In the case at bar, the proofs establish beyond a rational doubt that the petitioner was in the United States at the date of the Treaty, and that he left the United States before the passage of the law which enabled or required Chinese laborers to procure Custom House certificates.

He is, therefore, in my judgment, entitled to be discharged.

## APPENDIX R.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., December 5th, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, instructing me to forward immigration returns since last report up to date.

I herewith enclose returns, showing number, occupation, sex, etc., of immigrants recorded at the Provincial Immigration Office, New Westminster, during the above period, and their ultimate destination.

Of Chinese we keep no record, but I am safe in estimating that not less than 1,500 have passed by the port of New Westminster, and are making great inroads on all the industries of the country. We have Chinese as farmers, lumbermen, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoe-makers, tailors, merchants, stage proprietors, hack-drivers—in fact, we find them in all and every kind of business, and to the great detriment of white immigrants who are flocking in large numbers to settle up this province.

The Provincial Government forbids them any employment on provincial works, directly or indirectly.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROSS,

*Immigration Agent.*

To N. F. DAVIN, Esq.,  
*Chinese Commission, Ottawa.*