

RICHARD JONES, examined by the Hon. Mr. Justice GRAY :

Hardly a drop in the bucket, the amount of property tax paid by Chinese.

Difficult task to collect from Chinese.

The Chinese lend their receipts to each other.

Stench.

Work for two bits a day.

I have been in the local government service as assessment tax collector. The Chinese merchants pay property-tax in the city. It is hardly a drop in the bucket, what the Chinese pay, in proportion to the whites. Every Chinaman in the province is supposed to pay \$2 as provincial revenue tax. One thousand and forty have paid this in the districts and this city, *i. e.*, including Esquimalt, etc. The number was less last year than the year before. There ought to be over 3,000 pay. I think there must be between 3,500 and 4,000 Chinamen in the city. It has been my duty to go out to the vegetable gardens, etc., to collect from them. It is one of the most difficult tasks you can undertake to collect from Chinese. When you get them in a tight place you have often to distrain on their property, and after a few days they will come down and pay, but not without. Their clothes appear to be only dirty blankets. [The witness here handed to the Commission a memorandum showing the number of Chinamen who paid provincial revenue tax from January, 1882, also the number of white men who have paid provincial revenue tax, from January, 1884, to July, 31st, 1884.*] I have not the returns of the amount of provincial revenue tax paid in other parts of the province. These statements can be had at the treasury department. The Indians do not pay any tax. I have not had a great difficulty in collecting from white people; sometimes they may ask for a little time. As to the whites who pay we keep a register. The Chinese lend their receipts, handed to them on paying the tax, to each other; and once I put three in the chain-gang for the offence. They are difficult to recognise as they all dress so much alike and are similar in features. I have asked them why so many come out from China, and have been told a benevolent society does this; and when a new cargo arrives they mix up in Chinatown, so that it is impossible to keep track of them. The stench around the vegetable gardens is sufficient to knock any one down, as they keep the urine in big casks which is collected from their neighbors in town and carted out at night. This afterwards is baled out in tins and put on the vegetables. The laboring men work for about two bits a day; coming out here as slaves, and after paying off their indebtedness to the company bringing them out they can then go and do as they please.

Mr. BOOTH was then asked if he had anything to add as president of the society which Mr. Tuckfield represented this morning, and, after a few remarks,

The Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU said he would not have time to hear him at great length, and suggested that he should put his views in writing and send them on to the Commission at Ottawa.

Mr. BOOTH : I shall only think it an honor to do so.

* NOTE. The reporter is mistaken. The witness handed in only the number of Chinamen who paid provincial revenue tax.