

pushing to completion the public works undertaken, and could always be depended upon as a labor power. They have, moreover, pitched into that kind of work which from its arduous nature and humble character, has deterred the proportion of incoming white men from accepting willingly in a new country where they immediately expected to better their position, or step into a better place than the one they had just left."

"I do not think the gradual influx of Chinese has retarded the incoming of white labor, as I find few of those new white arrivals willing to undertake the work performed by them in other countries, but declined here and given to Chinese laborers."

White immigration not retarded.

"Had it not been for the available Chinese labor the same progress and development in this Province could not have been made, and their presence has therefore stimulated investments of capital in many directions, and made it more remunerative undoubtedly for the reasons given."

Presence of Chinese stimulated in-flow of capital.

"And I may say that, were it not for Chinese labor, the business I am engaged in specially, coal-mining, would be seriously retarded and curtailed, and it would be impossible to sell this product and compete favorably in the market of San Francisco with vessels from other ports which carry coal as ballast. It may be stated in this connection that San Francisco is, in fact, the only important market for coals from the mines of this Province at present."

But for Chinese coal-mining would be seriously retarded.

"They have assisted, so far, by performing labor in coal mines which others refused to perform, at wages that made such mining pay. Without them this department of the mining industry would have had slower and less important development in this province, and the export trade of this product would have been infinitely less, because it would have been impossible but for their labor to compete in this respect in foreign markets."

Extent to which Chinese contributed to development of mining.

As to the future, these two great employers of labor differ, Mr. Robins says :

"Their presence here is far less necessary than it has been in years past, white labor being more abundant since the opening of railways has brought the East and West into closer communication."

Chinese no longer so necessary as formerly.

"If the Chinese were to leave the Province in a body no doubt much inconvenience would be caused to every person employing them ; but, if they were to leave gradually as they have come into the Province, I do not think any inconvenience would be experienced."

No inconvenience would be experienced if Chinese were to leave gradually.

"In my opinion it is not necessary to retain Chinese in the Province, but their removal should not be sudden."

"A free immigration of white people of the laboring class would enable us to do without the Chinese element altogether."

With a free immigration of white labor Chinese could be dispensed with.

"A poll-tax of, say \$50, to be levied on every Chinese immigrant, would be the best solution of the difficulty. A lower tax I do not think, would be effective."

A poll-tax of \$50 on each Chinese immigrant.

"A combined effort on the part of the people of this Province and its legislature to encourage white immigration and discourage the employment of Chinese effectually would furnish a supply of white labor, exclude Chinese immigration and at the same time develop the natural resources of the colony as speedily and safely as they are now being developed."

"I have only one observation to make in addition. I have noticed that where Chinese labor is easily procured white youths from fifteen years of age and upwards do not find such ready employment as elsewhere, and consequently are not so well trained in habits of industry. The manual (unskilled) labor that their fathers followed is looked upon as only fit for an inferior race and there is growing up amongst us a class of idlers who will not conduce to the well-being of the state."

Where Chinese labor easily procured young lads do not find employment.