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Should not be enfranchised.

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building houses. Chinese labor is more desirable than white labor from this point of view: the factories here can exist and make money by paying for labor a dollar a day, the Chinamen finding themselves, and they can compete with the East, while if you brought white labor here and gave two dollars a day the labor would disappear. Chinamen come here with the intention of returning to their own country, and I think it better that the country should be peopled with whites, but cheap labor in a new country is absolutely necessary, and we should have the cheapest labor we can get. A hundred years hence, when our descendants are living in California they will, marking what Chinese labor has done for this country, smile in derision at their ancestors' views on this question. We shall then, or earlier, be one hundred and fifty millions. There will probably be one or two million Chinese. I would not give them votes. I see no objection to having a non-voting population within a free commonwealth. The Chinese do not want to meddle with our politics; they are the most quiet, industrious and best people I ever saw. They are the most valuable laborers I ever saw in my life. Up at Clear Lake silver mines, in which I am largely interested, we employ a considerable number of Chinamen, and it would be impossible to get along without them. They bathe every night and are very clean, and are all educated, compulsory education being a Chinese institution. They are a bright, clever, intelligent people. I am not speaking of the very lowest, such as we have in California. Those here pay their debts ten times more promptly than white people. The business men are shrewd, smart, intelligent, bright men. They are capable of managing large undertakings.

In conclusion, it may briefly be stated that in British Columbia there are three phases of opinion on this subject:

1st. Of a well meaning, but strongly prejudiced minority, whom nothing but absolute exclusion will satisfy.

2nd. An intelligent minority, who conceive that no legislation whatever is necessary—that, as in all business transactions, the rule of supply and demand will apply and the matter regulate itself in the ordinary course of events.

3rd. Of a large majority, who think there should be a moderate restriction, based upon police, financial and sanitary principles, sustained and enforced by stringent local regulations for cleanliness and the preservation of health.

Concurring in this last named view, the undersigned Commissioner has in Chapter 9, thrown out some suggestions to that end, should Parliament at the present time deem legislation necessary.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Ottawa, February 1st, 1885.

JOHN HAMILTON GRAY.

Commissioner.