

the duties paid to the Dominion authorities for Customs and internal revenue amount to \$152,300, namely, \$150,000 duties, and \$2,300, Inland revenue. The amount of \$150,000 exceeds that given by the Collector of Customs for the past fiscal year, but would be within the amount for the current fiscal year, taking the first months payment as an average; or closely coinciding with it, taking the quarter. That the trade done by them with China, Japan and the United States amounts to \$500,000, while that with the white merchants in British Columbia alone amounts to \$400,000. That the approximate amount paid for freightage and drayage comes to \$26,000. And for road tolls in the interior of British Columbia to \$13,000. That the value of real estate owned by the Chinese throughout British Columbia is estimated by them at \$100,000. That at the city of Victoria alone the payment of postage and telegraphing is \$3,000, exclusive of such payments elsewhere in the Province. That the sums paid in salaries and expenditures of living by the Chinese merchants amount to \$141,000 yearly.

With reference to the City of Victoria alone, it is stated that the rents paid by the Chinese to the white owners of property amount annually to \$27,000: for rents on 730 acres of cultivated ground and charcoal places in the vicinity to \$6,180, (or a total of \$33,180) for gas, \$1,770; for premiums of insurance on buildings and merchandise, \$2,560; for interest to white people on borrowed cash \$8,400, or a total of \$45,910, for rents, interest, gas, and insurance.

To the City of Victoria in its municipal or corporate capacity.

For trade licenses.....	\$7,560	Municipal taxes.
Assessment on Real Estate.....	500	
To city revenue and taxes.....	1,100	
For water rates.....	4,440	
Or a total of.....	\$13,600	

The value of brick and frame buildings owned by the Chinese in Victoria is estimated at \$81,000, of which \$70,000, has been expended in the last fourteen months.

In this return of the amount paid for city taxes a marked discrepancy will be observed between it and that given at page (7) by Mr. Russell the treasurer for the city of Victoria.

The attention of both parties was immediately called by the commissioners by letter of 26th September to this difference, and an explanation requested. A reply from the secretary of the Chinese merchants, Huan Sic Chen, under date of 14th of October was received on the 24th and is as follows:—

“IMPERIAL CHINESE CONSULATE GENERAL.”

“SAN FRANCISCO, October 14th, 1884.

To N. FLOOD DAVIN, Esq.,  
“Chinese Commission, Ottawa.

“SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 26th, in which you desire me to explain certain discrepancies as between my statement and that of Mr. Russell, collector of taxes at Victoria, B. C.

“In reply, I beg to state that in obtaining the facts set forth in my report to you I visited each firm and compiled the items from the books of the Chinese firms. But, I presume, the difference of the amounts of taxes as given by the collector is this; that during this

Explanation by Chinese Secretary.