

will tell you that in the work of reclaiming lands they have done great service. I think we have in the report the evidence of Mr. Roberts, if I am not mistaken, the president of a land reclamation company there. In the evidence of that gentleman you will find that that kind of work could not be done by other than Chinese laborers, that white men could not do the work, that it was even dangerous to them; and once again I am called to ask whether their habits and their diet are against good health and the most natural physical requirements of a human being, properly behaving himself. And I say that generally they are not subject, in other countries and in ours, to those diseases which are so frightful in their ravages amongst the white men. It is a well known fact that in China typhoid fever is almost unknown. These people were employed at reclaiming lands in California which the white men could not do. The Chinese have done it to the extent in one year, of between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 acres, representing, when reclaimed, a value of between \$75 and \$100 per acre. Mr. Roberts said that the Chinese in California have been adding to the wealth of the State and to the wealth of the country generally between \$80,000,000 and \$90,000,000 in work which, without their assistance would not have been done, or which it would have taken a great lapse of time to perform. So California owes to Chinese the vine growing, the fruit growing, the land reclaiming, they have also engaged in mining. In the States, as in British Columbia, the Chinese have taken a great deal to gold mining, and strange to say in a great measure in British Columbia, as in California, they have been to a great extent engaged in taking up claims that had been worked and abandoned as worthless, and they have had great difficulties in getting licenses, and owing to those difficulties they preferred working as they have done, taking these abandoned claims and working them with a small profit, but still with a profit. It is true that I was told in British Columbia: That is wrong; it is true that these claims were abandoned, and that nobody was looking at them, but it is wrong to see a Chinaman working there, because it is future wealth for after generations, when the country becomes thickly populated, and that gold might be taken up by white immigrants. That is a very poor argument. If the Chinese were giving nothing, were producing nothing for the country, I could understand that, but in a moment I shall state what is the value of a Chinese immigrant in this country as well as in other countries. I was saying that they have done good work so far in the States and in British Columbia, and I was asking the question: Why is there such an antipathy? That antipathy exists, and the only reason, or the great reason for it, is in the antagonism between the Chinese and the other laborers. It is not to be found really in any other cause than the competition of cheap labor with laborers who want to exact a higher price. Is the object of the white laborer, in trying to force himself into the building of works and the carrying on of industries at higher wages than the cheap labor which is offered by the Chinese—is that a laudable object, and is Parliament going to come to the rescue? That is the question which this measure will decide, I think, in a way acceptable to all. But let me say that there are not differences enough between the two races to prevent them from living together, if the knowledge was not spread now all over the world that the Chinese, with his frugality, with his sobriety, with his contentment with very little, with his assiduity to labor, with his quiet, peaceable conduct when at work, is a superior instrument in the hands of the builder and of the manufacturer, especially for works of great magnitude requiring many hands, and requiring necessarily cheap labor to be brought to a successful issue. During the discussion before Congress, I think the point was made with the greatest eloquence by Senator Jones of Nevada. He used the language of a laborer. Surely few miners

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would have been found to say what Mr. Jones has put in their mouths, but Mr. Jones in his expressions had felt really and rightly the pulse, had given the keynote of the situation in California, in British Columbia, and all over the world:

"While my work is very arduous," says the laborer, "I go to it with a light heart and perform it cheerfully because it enables me to support my wife and my children. I am in a position to bring up my daughters to be good wives, and faithful mothers, and to offer my sons better opportunities in life than I had myself. I cheerfully contribute to support those churches, charitable institutions and other objects that enter into our daily life; but, after I have maintained my family and performed these duties, not much is left of my wages when the week is ended."

"How is it with the Chinaman? The Chinaman can do as much work underground as I can. He has no wife and family. He performs none of these duties. Forty or fifty of his kind can live in a house no larger than mine. He craves no variety of food. He has inherited no taste for comfort or for social enjoyment. Conditions that satisfy him and make him contented would make my life not worth living."

This is the feeling of the workingmen, and I am not prepared to say that it is not excusable or even justifiable. It is no argument to tell the American laborer that if he would live as the Chinaman lives he might subsist on the Chinaman's wages. It has taken the Chinaman centuries to learn to live on so little. "With the lapse of time his necessities have gradually accommodated themselves to his small earnings until now very little suffices to procure him abundance. He has made a prodigious stride toward the ideal ration of a straw per day. Early education and constant habits have so led him to practice the closest economy, that economy has itself become a habit, and no longer involves self-denial. The world around him has graduated itself down to his standard. His butcher, his baker, his candlestick-maker, his manufacturer, his merchant and his common carrier have reduced their prices to suit his measure. The doctor who attends his sick and the priest who buries his dead demand little because he gets little. Labor can afford to be cheap when everything else is cheap. But we cannot expect labor to be cheap when everything else is dear." Now, as I said before, we find a universal repulsion against the Chinese, and a desire to prevent their encroachment upon the white population. We have seen in the reviews and periodicals accounts of the progress that Chinese merchants have made. In the English colony at Hong Kong, Governor Pope Hennessy stated in 1877 that the number of houses belonging to the British and German citizens were decreasing, while the trade beneficial to the general interests of the empire was increasing. Wherever the Chinaman has got a foothold he has succeeded in all the occupations he has undertaken, and has become a most formidable rival, indeed a successful rival, to the white man. It may be asked, how is it that the Government are yielding to the prejudices of race and class in restricting Chinese immigration to Canada? Why do you not allow the Chinaman to remain if he does his duty? He has done it in a certain measure. I have heard it stated, for instance, in California, that Chinamen send home on the average \$300 every year. An examination of the earnings and expenses of a workingman shows that this cannot be correct; the Chinese laborer earns on an average about \$25 a month or \$225 for nine months' work, which is the average per year. But on the other hand he has to spend for his food, clothing and rent; and on this point we obtained information from the assistant consul of San Francisco, Huang Sing Chen, a very intelligent man, who gave a great deal of assistance to the commissioners. If the Chinaman spends \$10 or \$11 a month for food and clothing he does not save even \$100. In San Francisco the Chinese reside in hovels, but they pay a rental of \$15 to \$16 a month. In Victoria perhaps the rental is less, but, even if a Chinese pays only \$2 a month, that would make \$24 a year. Then they expend on tools and travelling expenses \$10; taxes \$5; doctors \$3 and other expenses \$5. He expends for all pur-