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SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1894.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

*"I must have liberty,
Withal as large a charter as the wind—
To blow on whom I please."*

THE daily papers recently contained an advertisement, subscribed to by a half-dozen or so merchant tailors of this city, in which it was announced that the signers did not employ Chinese labor. Naturally this advertisement aroused considerable curiosity, more particularly as it was understood that the tailors of this city had been complaining that the existence of Chinese and Japanese tailors in Victoria was working ruin to the trade. Inquiry as to the cause of the publication of the advertisement revealed a peculiar state of affairs. For some time it has been the custom of certain corporations to bid for tenders for the supply of uniforms for the men in their employ. In accordance with this custom a company advertised for tenders for uniforms for their men. Nearly all the merchant tailors sent in tenders; but the contract was awarded to a firm which had tendered at such a ridiculously low figure as to arouse the suspicions of the other tailors. Investigation revealed the fact that the successful tenderer was having the work done with a Chinese tailoring firm doing business on Store street. As might be expected this line of conduct on the part of one of their own guild brought forth the indignation of the other tailors with the result that they appealed to the public by advertisement in the daily papers.

I am not prepared to state that the

facts of the case are literally the same as outlined above, but they are near enough to afford a text on the prevailing custom of employing Chinese to do work which could be done better and at no greater expense by white men. On the average, every tailor who works at his trade adds to the wealth of the city at least to the extent of \$16 per week. This money—or the greater part of it—finds its way into the hands of grocers, shoemakers, etc., and circulates through all the commercial channels of the city. In fact, it is the medium of exchange throughout the community of interests. But in the case of the Chinese tailor it is the reverse. Very little of the money he receives from the white man ever comes back into circulation again. It goes to China. Political economists may say that this money pays off the balance of trade between Canada and China; but this does not lessen the fact that the money is going out of its local channel of trade, and consequently works untold injury to the local tradesman. It is only a matter of time, if the present iniquitous system is persisted in, when there will not be a white tailor in this city. It is the same in other trades. There are very few lines of production in which John Chinaman has not entered the lists as a competitor. I heard the other day that the heathen was now being employed by the day by some of our leading families to make dresses.

Following this matter out to its logical conclusion, the question may be reasonably asked how long will it be until every white mechanic in this city will have to vacate his position to John Chinaman. And when that time comes, what inducement will there be for a white man to live in Victoria? If mechanics are compelled to leave, does it not look as if the occupation of the remainder of the white population would be gone? Then the Chinaman may have the whole of Vancouver Island and British Columbia to perpetuate his heathenish practices, and the Canadians, Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen will be aliens in their own land. I do not regard the action of the tailor who gave the work to the Chinamen in preference to men of his own nationality as altogether without its bright side. It may rouse our own people to a realization of what must be the result if the present policy

of giving Chinamen the preference over white men is continued.

Minister Reid, of the Colony of Victoria, who left for home by the Warimoo, did considerable talking during his visit to this country on the relations between Canada and Australasia. At a meeting recently held at Ottawa presided over by Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Canadian Commissioner to the Antipodes, Mr. Reid made some important observations in the course of which he said that in 1873 the constitution acts of the Colonies had been amended so as to permit them to make preferential arrangements with each other, and, he continued, it was desirable that this privilege should be so extended as to embrace Canada. He dwelt upon the fact of Canada having become the chief highway of the world by railway and steamships, continuing that for trade reasons and strategical purposes it was important that the Pacific cable should be laid by way of Canada. He further said that he believed that, though it would cost £1,800,000, if the British government guaranteed one-third, the Canadian government one-third and the Australasian governments the remaining third, in the course of a few years the income would be sufficient not only to meet the interest but to make the outlay a paying investment.

Mr. Reid enlarged upon the trade question giving figures to show how large a business could be done, and, adverting to the sentimental as well as substantial view of the case, announced his conviction that the time had arrived when, with all other countries hoisting hostile tariffs against British interests, the people of the empire should see how far they could trade among themselves. THE HOME JOURNAL has never hesitated to declare itself in favor of everything possible being done to encourage and develop commerce with our brethren of the Colonies; but it must be confessed that in view of our experiences of British consideration for Canada in her relations with other countries we are not "patriotic" enough to do all the burden-bearing that some people would like to see us assume. Canadians are quite ready to hear their full share of obligations; but they desire to see something like commensurate advantages. To encourage trade with Australasia, Canada