

GEORGE D. ROBERT, President of the Tide Land Reclamation Company, a resident since 1850, sworn and examined :

The company proper started in with 120,000 acres of land, and have partially reclaimed 30,000 or 40,000 acres. Tule-lands we call the overflowed lands forming a delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River, and also lands on the margin of the river farther up. Reclaiming these lands means building dykes, gates, and ditches, preventing the overflow. We generally employ Chinese labor by contract. In building the docks we contract by the yard, so much a yard. We go to some of the Chinese merchants or business men, and tell them we want to give a contract for a certain number of miles of levee. They will contract in large and small bodies of land, sometimes for as much as 1,000 yards with one individual. The work is measured after it is done and they receive their pay, the work generally being satisfactorily performed.

As soil laborers we prefer them, for some class of work, to white men, but generally in the higher classes of work we employ white men. The lands could not be reclaimed successfully with white labor at this time ; it is a class of work that white men do not like. The special advantage in Chinese labor in work of that kind is owing to the contract system. They form communities among themselves, forty, fifty or a hundred, and they are jointly interested in the contract.

I do not know anything about the Six Companies hiring out labor. We never hire of them. The contractor is generally paid as the work progresses. We pay from ten to fifteen cents a cubic yard ; and they expect to make about a dollar a day. When we hire by the month we pay \$27, and they find themselves, houses, camps, and everything, their actual days' labor being tallied.

Possibly Chinese labor is detrimental to a certain class of white labor, but to the general prosperity of the country I think they are a great advantage. The wealth that they produce stimulates prosperity to such an extent that it gives white men higher positions. Their presence here does not affect the price of intelligent labor. The aggregate product of the wealth produced by Chinamen in this state is equal to our mines, including Nevada and Dakota—probably sixty, eighty or ninety millions a year in wealth. In fair dealing and honesty they will compare favorably with the lower classes of white men generally. The reclamation of these lands is open to white men. We give them the preference, and sometimes pay a little higher for white labor. If there were no Chinamen here at present we would have to give the business up. In the cultivation of these lands white men are generally employed ; that is, white men are generally the farmers who buy or lease, but as a rule the farmers employ more or less Chinamen. I have leased lands to poor white men who did not have money to buy teams, and we furnished them with teams, seed, a house, and everything necessary to start them. They would have nothing but their labor as capital to start on, but it would be but a very short time until they would have Chinamen doing their work for them and they would be bossing the job.

Chinamen work in gravel mines, and in some instances in quartz-mining, but generally surface-mining. They work in deep-mining as carmen.

They do work that does not require much skill, such as binding and shocking wheat. They are the best field men we have ; better than the Swede, and the Swede is the best worker we have had. They occasionally rent land, paying as much as \$25 and \$30 a year per acre. They raise pretty nearly all the sweet potatoes that are got here. The Chinaman is-

40,000 acres of Tule-lands reclaimed.

Work generally satisfactorily performed.

In higher class of work employ whites.

But white men could not reclaim this land.

Advantage of the contract system.

Possibly detrimental to a certain class of white labor ; but generally an advantage.