

## APPENDIX B.

VICTORIA, B. C., October, 1884

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN, Esq.,  
*Secretary, Chinese Commission.*

DEAR SIR,—Although I did not seek to be examined before the Chinese Commission while in Victoria, and have not officially received the paper of queries issued on the subject, yet I may be permitted to hope that you will lay before the Commissioners the answers as given, which are appended, together with the following remarks upon the subject of enquiry:—

The existence of an uncontrolled immigration under any circumstances is full of dangers. The first duty of a Government is the well-being of the governed; and the application of some restraint upon immigration, and a complete control over it, is a primary duty as curative of present as well as preventive of future evils. No one can complain of cruelty or injustice being inherent in the course of action taken in the United States in the matter of white immigrants, who may import diseases, spread poverty, or become burdensome, turbulent and dangerous to society. And the like course of action may be found imperatively necessary in respect of the Mongolian immigration into this province.

Now, if any one is acquainted with the effects of a system of poor laws, and of the extent to which the working out of this may press upon the springs of industry, and in particular when the cost is superadded to taxation for the administration of justice and the preservation of the peace, the question of immigration assumes an alarming magnitude. In British Columbia, which has at present no poor laws, and is only slightly taxed for internal administration, the question may seem remote or unreal. But if cheap workers, say Mongolians, come in numbers and thereby exclude the white laborers, it may be asked: will this be cheaper in the end and all round, when everything is paid for, and when a Mongolian labor-league may have to be faced? Or again, if these may not prove exclusive absolutely of white labor, then both classes must compete at rates ruinous to the white laborer; and white man and Mongolian alike, after the inevitable depressions and difficulties incidental to every community (nay, even though supposed exempt from them) must go down, sinking into poverty and becoming permanent burdens on capital.

But while, in theory, "demand and supply" are correlative, an application of this principle to Mongolian labor in British Columbia is considerably modified by the force of the two following facts:—First, the enormous over-population of China, aggregated on its eastern frontier and on the seaboard open towards our side, with the efforts towards its relief, together with the profits accruing to shipowners from its exportation; Secondly, the restrictions at present imposed in the United States upon this immigration. Now, surely, if an unlimited number of Mongolians may in future be poured out upon our shores, the consequences may be that—if these should continue to be smuggled into the states from hence—very unhappy and strained relations between us and the states shall ensue. But supposing that these immigrants should stay here, then a congestion of the labor market must arise. And this must either consummate the pauperizing of the white laborer, or else involve his final departure, after he has become a burden on the rates and given abroad a bad name to this colony, as having invited him to come so far and then subjected him to an unlimited and ruinous competition with Mongolian hordes to hand.

And looking over the lists of farmers and residentary owners here, working their own lands, it is a remarkable fact that these are the very men who began as laborers of one sort or another, but have nobly carved out for themselves an independence by their own indomitable industry and hard-handed toil. These then (the very most desirable of