

The Chinese in British Columbia.

By some it is claimed that the Chinese population is an unmitigated nuisance, and a direct loss to the circulating revenue of the district they inhabit; that they are of no benefit, but that on the contrary, by their peculiar mode of life and their heathenish religion they are a direct loss and disgrace to the country. Others, again, while admitting that they are not a desirable element, and that the money paid for their labor is a direct loss to the country, claim that the cheapness at which they work, and the difficulty of obtaining an element that would fill the menial positions now occupied by them, make them a necessary nuisance, whose obnoxiousness is counteracted by their usefulness. And a few are to be found, and these few largely amongst those who have had considerable experience on the subject, who assert that the Chinaman is a very useful accessory, and that he is not only faithful and reliable, but that they prefer him, as a rule, to the average white laborer. Our own idea is that the Chinese element is not a desirable one under any circumstance; and that while it may be so controlled as to be useful in some cases, no encouragement should be offered for any further importations, and that every reasonable effort should be made toward necessitating the return to their own country of those already in our midst. Speaking entirely from a Victorian standpoint, however, it is questionable, were the Chinese population withdrawn, whether we have the element here at present to fill its place. And the question as to whether a white immigration that would do so would be the consequence of the elimination of the Chinese, is one worthy of careful consideration. The Chinaman, as he exists in our midst, is a source from which we derive our laboring and menial element; he is the bearer of burdens, the washerman and the domestic servant. He is engaged as required, works steadily at whatever employment he is put to, and dismissed when his services are no longer necessary, and no further heed is paid to him. No interest as a rule is paid as to how he lives or how he dies, and whether he has work or not, he makes no complaint, and is never a burden to the rate-payers. He lives his life apart from the white population, and the two races are as distinct as though the Pacific rolled between them. Whatever may be said of this from a Christian or humanitarian point of view, the fact remains that such a state of indifference could not continue with a laboring community of white men. But be this as it may, if the cry against the Chinese is a real one; if, as it is urged by some, their residence in this city is a source of loss or damage to any portion of our white laborer or workingman, we would with our whole energy devote ourselves to the effort of eliminating them from amongst us. If the assertion that they are an unmitigated nuisance and a damage to the business interests of the city be a fact, then let the citizens take the necessary steps towards riding themselves of the encumbrance. The remedy appears to us to be in our own hands, and only requires to be put in force to be successful. Let our rich men and merchants cease employing Chinese help; let every man erecting a building, and every contractor undertaking

a contract, make it a part of the agreement that no Chinese labor should be employed; let every mechanic and workman refuse to work on a contract where a Chinaman is engaged; let our citizens refuse to purchase at a store where Chinese local productions are sold; let one and all refuse to use anything upon which Chinese labor has been used; let those who are using Chinamen as servants dismiss them; let our housewives refuse John the washing of the establishment, or to buy his vegetables or fruit; and we venture to assert that a Chinese Exclusion Bill will be unnecessary, and our present Mongolian population would not long trouble us. But, many who are loudest in their cries that "the Chinaman must go," are in fact, the ones to offer inducements for them to remain. We must admit that we do not believe the Chinese to be an element for success or advancement in a community, and would be well pleased to see every pig-tailed head, and felt-soled foot relegated to its own celestial country; but we have no sympathy with the insincere outcries of those who, while loudest in their assertions that they should be banished, are nevertheless the cause of their remaining, and believe the cry is but too frequently raised by interested parties for political or other selfish purposes.—*Victoria Standard*.

British Columbia Fisheries.

Capt. C. D. Grant, of the schooner *Oriel*, has returned to Westminster from a voyage of discovery among the Northern waters. The *Oriel* left Westminster on August 8th and sailed direct to Cape Scott, the extreme northwest point of Vancouver Island. She sailed thence to Hope Island, which lies a short distance off the mainland. Here an excellent harbor was found and Capt. Grant commenced his explorations and was lucky enough to find a good halibut bank, but not being fitted out with the proper gear could not do much fishing. In Hardy Bay near Fort Rupert, silver salmon were found in abundance and took the spoon bait as ferociously as do the pike. Capt. Grant stayed in Hardy Bay for two weeks and in that time caught and salted a dozen barrels of salmon. All the fish were caught with a spoon bait. Bull Harbor was the next point explored and halibut was found in paying numbers. The whole crew of the *Oriel* numbered but two men and a boy, which made the fishing necessarily slow, as with such a small crew only a limited number of trawls could be manned. After leaving Bull Harbor two weeks were spent in prospecting the neighboring waters with varying success. Capt. Grant had been informed that there was no halibut at Nawitta Bar, but the Indians say that fishing is good when the weather is favorable. Salmon are also numerous and can be captured easily with a troll. Close to Hope Island Capt. Grant discovered a magnificent halibut bank in 65 fathoms of water, but not being prepared for such deep fishing and the schooner's hawser only being 45 fathoms long, he was obliged to employ Indians to prospect the ground. The first days work for two canoes, was 25 fine fish running from 25 to 90 pounds in weight each. This convinced Capt. Grant that he had struck fish at last and the prospecting was continued.

The Indians were lazy and would not do anything except on fine days—a light fog or rain being sufficient excuse to refuse duty. After the first day the boats never brought in less than one hundred halibut, averaging between 30 and 40 pounds each. All through these waters salmon were found in plenty. After some further cruising during which several other banks were located, the *Oriel's* head was turned homeward with a sufficient catch on board to pay all expenses and a neat profit besides. Stiff head winds and several dreary calms were met with on the trip home, but the last day out brought a surprise in the way of weather that Capt. Grant will not forget for many a long day. On Tuesday morning a strong nor'wester sprung up which soon changed into a gale, lashing the sea into foam and making it almost impossible to carry enough canvas to steady the vessel. Fortunately Burrard Inlet was close at hand and after much trouble Capt. Grant managed to enter it in safety.

Speaking of the prospects of the fisheries Capt. Grant said that their greatness is inappreciable, but steam vessels will be necessary to make the business profitable. Steam schooners, fitted up with every appliance, are the only class of vessels suitable to the fishing; as the currents and tides are so strong that a sailing vessel is almost useless. The best fishing will be found in deep water and vessels should be provided with hawsers not less than 75 fathoms long. The fishing is profitable and can be engaged in, not as a speculation, but as a solid money making business. Capt. Grant will now endeavor to form a company to build a suitable vessel and, if successful, he will begin operations early next spring.—*Westminster Columbian*.

Canada's Population.

The *Globe* estimates the population of Canada at 4,500,000. This, there is good reason to think is an underestimate. Taking the ratio of growth between 1871 and 1881, 18.97 per cent. and the figures of the census of 1881 (4,324,810) as a basis, the population of the Dominion at the close of 1888 would be in round numbers 4,900,000. But there is reason to think this rate has been exceeded. It has certainly been in Manitoba, probably in British Columbia and surely in Montreal and Toronto, while the municipal census taken by the various cities and towns indicates a steady and satisfactory growth outside the great centres. The popular estimate of five millions is not, it is thought, an excessive one. Of the progress this indicates a goodly population is due to Ontario, which since 1881 has, through the construction of railways, largely increased its possibilities of development. The increase of its cities and large towns would bring its population up to two millions to-day, and it would not be a matter of surprise if the enumeration of 1891 found it with between two and a quarter and two and a half millions inhabitants.—*Montreal Gazette*.

THE receipts from Chinese tax at Vancouver, B. C., last month were \$11,000, as against \$15,694 for the entire Dominion last year. The increase is attributed to the fact that Chinese bound for the United States came into the Dominion.