

If "The argument that the Chinaman earns much and spends little is hardly worthy examining," then, the feature of industry and finance is worth examining.

Your correspondent says: "If they (the Japanese) were excluded, the famous Manitoba No. 1 wheat might be kept out of Japan, as well as other Canadian products," and: "An increasing amount of wheat goes every year to Japan and a promising market would be lost to Canada."

A reply to this may be found in Trade and Navigation Returns of Canada for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1900 (the latest available) in which it is stated that Japan imported from Canada, in the year named, the very modest quantity of four bushels of wheat of the value of two dollars.

In view of what Canadians have done without Mongolian assistance in other parts of the Dominion, where conditions of soil and climate are so much inferior, the imputation that Anglo-Saxons are not capable of "running" British Columbia refutes itself.

The fear of your correspondent that British Columbia may be injured by the maintenance of high wages is an imaginary one, because, in no part of the world have high wages proved otherwise than beneficial, morally, socially and industrially.

In proof of what would appear absurd—that in the mining industry high wages bring about cheap production, the following paragraphs, from the Mining Reporter, of Denver, Colorado, may be quoted:—

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"From these figures it would look as if cheap labor, like cheap everything else, did not pay in mining at least. And if one makes a comparison of the various mineral regions of the world it is not difficult to show that net profits under slave or semi-slave labor are nowhere anything like as large as they are under high-priced and free labor, even though gross production may increase and become very large."

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"In fact, few of the wise 'sayings' that have come down to us from the past are truer than the one which insists that 'the laborer is worthy of his hire.' Any system which disregards this fundamental policy will probably have to pay directly or indirectly for

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the disregard of human rights. The Rhodesian and Transvaal ores average from \$8 to \$12 per ton in gold values, and the industry seems in danger of collapse because operators have difficulty in obtaining labor at 50 cents per day. Transport these regions and their deposits to the Western United States and they could be made to pay handsomely with \$3 wages. At the Homestake mine in the Black Hills, and the Treadwell in Alaska (where, it is true, the ore body is vastly larger), magnificent profits are resulting from \$2 to \$4 ore, under \$3.50 wages, and there are hundreds of deposits in the West no wider and just as difficult of access or extraction as those of India and Africa, where full wages (\$3) are paid, and handsome dividends continually accrue. What is the reason?"

The great want of Canada is, no doubt "a large and industrious population": but not a population of unassimilable aliens without wives or families who swarm together in crowded tenements, live on ten or fifteen cents a day and send their earnings out of the country.

The anomalous state of the labor market here is undoubtedly due to the presence of the Chinese and Japanese who are keeping out the strong, healthy white labor of the Eastern Provinces; otherwise how can it be that men will go on working in Ontario and Quebec for \$1.50 per day when Chinamen are being paid as high as \$2.25 in British Columbia?

The question of Mongolian immigration is of the gravest moment and it should receive immediate attention, if serious colonial disorders and complications are to be avoided.

Japan should be cheerfully willing to enter into an agreement to stop the exodus of her coolies into British colonies. Her offer of reciprocity in immigration is hollow, because it will never be possible for large numbers of British working men to go to that country and enter into industrial competition with the natives.

So far as travellers, scientists and the refined classes are concerned, reciprocity may be quite fair; but it can never be fair with regard to the British working classes, because it is impossible for them to take advantage of it.

It will be well to remember that should information regarding Mongolian immigration be needed, at



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