

See Brook's Ev. in San Francisco, p. 31 and 32.

for probity and accuracy in all business transactions, and the dealings of their mercantile firms are carried on with strict honor and integrity. In San Francisco, where all payments by and at the banks are made in gold, they are found to be most reliable.

Contracts.

Among the laboring or working classes, while they will haggle on the terms of a contract, yet when a contract is closed, it is always carried out strictly according to the terms agreed upon, and payment on performance exacted to the uttermost farthing. At the same time all payments demanded from the Chinese to which they have not previously given their assent, whether in the shape of taxation provincial, municipal or otherwise, or contributions for any purpose, will be resisted by every means, artifice and device, whether truthful or untruthful, which their ingenuity can suggest, or which in their belief or expectation will enable them to avoid the payment of such demand. The ruling idea of their transactions, seems to be faith in an agreement only, or in a voluntary contribution.

Taxation or non-voluntary payment.

Ruling idea.

Numbers and occupations of Chinese in the Province.

This report gives the total numbers of Chinese in the Province at the time of its transmission, (September 1884) including men, women and children 10,550. The Collector of customs assumed the number to be about 13,000, while the general opinion as expressed places it at 15,000. It will be remembered that by the Returns of the Collector of Customs, the incoming numbers during the eight years were about 18,000, fluctuating from small numbers during the first five years, to large numbers during the last three years, but from no authority, either Dominion, Provincial or municipal in British Columbia, has any return been attainable of the outgoing numbers or the death rate during these eight years. The outgoing numbers during the first five years previous to the active commencement of the railway works, and during the last three with the death rate, may perhaps approximately account for the difference between the Chinese return, the estimate of the collector, and the general public estimate of the numbers at present in the Province.

The Report so presented on behalf of the Chinese merchants gives the numbers and occupations in detail, at all the cities, towns, and centres of business in the Province, commencing with Victoria and going on through New-Westminster, Nanaimo, the coal and mining districts, the farming and canning districts, and wherever so far as known the Chinese are to be found.

Chinese registration system.

It evinces a system of registration among themselves and a facility for obtaining information much to be commended.

Laborers.

An analysis of these figures shows the total adult male population, to be about 9,870, and of this number about 7,200 to be engaged, as railroad, milling, mining, farming, and canning laborers throughout the Province, in no way except in one instance where in the City of Victoria 130 are employed as boot-makers, interfering with skilled labor, the employment of mechanics, or special industrial pursuits.

Non-interference with skilled labor.

How far these several industries, milling, mining, canning, and railroad-construction could have been carried on without this source of labor supply, will hereafter be considered. The remaining 2,670, are classified as finding employment as cooks, servants, washing men, merchants, store employees &c., and also in other personal avocations, among their own country-men, barbers, doctors, butchers, &c.

Other employments.

A still more important element in this Report is the financial statement of their position.

Financial statement.

From this it appears that the total amount of business done by the Chinese merchants in British Columbia annually is about \$1,320,000, and

Trade.