

and do hard manual labor. They are not capable of doing anything that requires physical strength. They appeared to come to us with a constitutional scrofulous taint about them. They were always weak in the joints or getting sores, or getting into a nasty and fearful condition. We used to send four or five in a month out of thirty to the hospital over at Callao, and there was no reason for that that I could see, except that they must have been originally of a very poor, degraded class in China.

They do not learn English fast, but they do Spanish. The Chinaman's idea all the time appears to be to get back to China.

The condition of the Chinese here is worse than their condition in Peru, where they are to a certain extent bondsmen. They are made, in a majority of cases, in that country to keep a certain amount of cleanliness, such as making them sweep out their quarters, and turn out their mats and shake them, clean the whole place, disinfect it, and all that kind of thing.

They seem to be quite careless, and have no care and no sympathy for one of their sick, and no respect for their dead.

I have seen three Chinese funerals during the two years and a half I have been here.

The condition of the native classes in Peru and Chili is good. They are industrious; they will do more work than a Chinaman. I allude to the peons and cholos. The cholos do most of the skilled labor. A peon is a term generally applied to a workingman; a cholo signifies a half-breed between an Indian and one of the Spanish, or descendants of the Spanish, people who settle in the country. There is no such thing as a bondsman in Peru with the exception of the Chinese.

The coolies imported to the Spanish forts are taken all over the country—over sugar plantations and works of that kind. There are no Chinese towns there.

The form of government in Peru is republican and every Peruvian is entitled to vote. A peon is a free citizen not a bondsman.

I am an Irishman and have been in Ireland and in numbers of cabins of the peasantry. Every cabin has its pig's sty, but it is not attached by any means—it is a mere traveller's story. I think the true labor problem is not the cheapening of labor, but its distribution; that its solution is to be found, not in the bringing here of a worthless class to overwhelm white labor, but in the taking of the men who have no employment in the east and bringing them here, giving all our own people meat and bread, and enabling every man to bring up his children as good citizens.

SAN FRANCISCO, November 9th, 1876.

GRAY.

GILES H. GRAY, Surveyor of the Port, sworn and examined :

Prostitutes.

The provisions of the Page Law, 1875, prohibits the immigration or landing of prostitutes and convicts from oriental countries, lepers and diseased persons and paupers not being mentioned. Previous to this Act there had arrived upon these steamers 200 to 400 women, frequently, the steamer arriving twice a month. During the quarter from 1st July to the 1st October, 1875, there did not arrive 161 females, and we had no information which would enable us to prohibit the landing of any of them; the next quarter, the last of the year, the number was reduced to forty-four. In the first quarter of the year 1876, it was reduced to fifteen; in the second quarter