

Failing to get more than 800 white men tried the Chinese and found they worked well.

Chinese equal to the heaviest work; reliable.

Without their labor industries would be thrown back.

Has an elevating influence on white labor.

Perfectly sober.

Had seen them under the influence of opium.

One strike among Chinese.

A faction cry against Chinese.

white labor, and offered large prices, but failed to get more than 800 men. We tried the Chinese, and we found that they worked well; and as our forces spread out, and we began to occupy more ground and felt more in a hurry, we put them into the softer cuts, and finally into the rock cuts. Wherever we put them we found them good, and they worked themselves into our favor to such an extent, that if we found we were in a hurry for a job it was better to put Chinese on at once. Previous to that we had always put on white men; and today if I had a big job of work that I wanted to get through with quickly, and had a limited time to do it in, I should take Chinese labor to do it with, because of its greater reliability and steadiness, and their aptitude and capacity for hard work. Their powers of endurance are equal to the best white men. This was tested in a tunnel of the hardest granite, where they worked on one side and Cornish miners on the other. The Chinese cut more rock in a week than the Cornish miners. In using the hammer and the drill they proved themselves equal to the best Cornish miners in that work. They are very trusty and intelligent and live up to their contracts.

The presence of Chinese as laborers among us goes very far toward the material interest of the country; without their labor we would be thrown back in all branches of industry. I believe that the effect of Chinese labor upon white labor has an elevating instead of a degrading tendency. When we began employing Chinese labor, instead of our white force decreasing it increased from 800 to 2,500 and 3,000, and instead of these white men being engaged shovelling dirt, or with a pick and shovel, they were teamsters, mechanics, foremen, and men in an elevated grade of labor, receiving wages far above what they would have done if we had had the same number throwing up the dirt and digging the rock. I know of several who used to be foremen and who never expected to be anything but shovellers of dirt, hewers of wood, and drawers of water, who are now respectable farmers, owning farms. They got a start by controlling Chinese labor.

The Chinese that we employed were all temperate. Out of the 10,000 on the work I have never seen a drunken Chinaman. I have no recollection of ever having seen a drunken Chinaman, I have seen them under the effect of opium by going into their rooms where they smoke opium.

They are peaceful in their habits while at work in gangs. In one or two instances I have known of fights among them—clannish fights. We had one strike with the Chinese—a strike for higher wages; but I think they were incited to this by emissaries from the other side, who wished to keep us in the mountains while they were building the road over the plains. The strike lasted one week, and they all returned peaceably to work.

There is labor for all, and there is no conflict between the interest of the white and the Chinese laborer. If the white laborer understood and realized his true interest he would be in favor of the present proportion of Chinese labor in this state. There might be an increase of the immigration to such an extent that it would be injurious, but the present equilibrium is not too much. One in ten of the entire population is about the number. The law of supply and demand will regulate itself if they are left alone. I recognize a Chinaman as more than an ordinarily intelligent man, and they will not come here unless they can get profitable employment.

I believe if this question was argued calmly and deliberately before the people, without any of this hue and cry, eight-tenths of the people would vote for the amount of Chinese labor there is here now, and against this