

VICTORIA, B.C., August 22nd, 1884.

Mr. TUCKFIELD, examined by the Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU :

The Knights of Labor.

Our association (the Knights of Labor) is not registered, but is a secret society, chiefly extended in the United States and Canada. There are 3,200 lodges. One lodge in this city. I do not know how many members here. I think between one and two hundred. It is only a young society here, established about six months ago. I am not president of the association, but am chairman of the committee appointed to wait upon this Commission. Mr. Booth, the president of the association, is present. The reason why the committee was appointed is to give their views of the Chinese question.

Q. You can express your views, but we cannot take them as those of a legal society. — A. I am ready to offer to the committee the resolutions that have been passed amongst ourselves, as representatives of the laboring classes, to the Commission. This resolution I hand to the chairman of the Commission. The resolutions have in view an expression of our opinion concerning the opportunity of pointing the Commission to the evil of the Chinese, and upon the action of the government on the question—one of them asking, or ordering, them to forward copies of the same to the government and to the Commission appointed.

The Chairman said they could not investigate anything concerning the duties of the government and the Commission, but will take into consideration, and accept with pleasure, all information, however irregular it might be, of those that come before the Commission.

Condition of Chinatown filthy.

[Witness handed to the Commissioners a paper purporting to be a report of the committee of the association, said report being generally to the following effect, viz.: That the witness, and some of his associates (Knights of Labor) having visited the Chinese quarters in Victoria, have found the premises occupied by Chinese in a most unhealthy condition; that vice, including prostitution and gambling, is abundant in those quarters. That some white men and women have been found smoking opium and associating with Chinese gamblers and prostitutes; that in one tenement, twelve feet wide by twenty-four feet long, with two stories, forty-three Chinamen were sleeping on the floor, lying side by side, the only window being closed, and the air in the room stifling. Wash-houses have also been visited and are considered as unhealthy and likely to spread diseases. That the Chinese portion of the city stands over a large ravine filled in with filth; and the cess-pools in other places contribute towards disease, which must break out in the city. We have ascertained that about 4,000 Chinese reside in the city. They are a non-assimilating race. Their vices are most disgusting. They turn their sick out to die in the streets, and their lepers to fill our prisons. They control the labor market in this city. As producers and consumers they are no benefit to the country. Their mode of living, a few cents per day, and the absence of families among them, will make the white men powerless to compete against them for labor. Our children must seek employment in other countries to make room for a race of cuckoos, who come to our land to purchase their freedom. In fact, the results of our investigations brings us to the conclusion that the Chinese are a disgrace to a civilized community, and we beg that steps may be taken to stop the influx of Chinese to our shores.]

A non-assimilating race.

White men cannot compete with them