

Moral effect hard to explain.

Q. This huddling together, what effect has it? What is the moral effect of their huddling together on the community in which they live? A. The moral effect is very hard to explain. I question if the Chinese have any moral standard, and I believe, from my experience with them, that they are governed by a question of policy; that they know nothing of the moral sentiments of right and wrong. The Chinese are actuated simply by the desire to accumulate money.

Large numbers would have a demoralizing effect.

Q. What I mean is this: How do they affect the morals of the community on which they are for the time being engrafted?—A. You can readily understand that an aggregation of these people, who are single men, and who bring their females into their midst to use as prostitutes, would certainly have a very demoralizing effect on any community. The young men of the community are often contaminated by association with Chinese women. As degrading as it may seem, there is little doubt that this influence is the source of many moral and physical wrecks. Aside from that, I do not know the presence of the Chinese has any moral effect here, unless it be that through the introduction of opium-smoking, which is a prevalent and growing habit, this vice becomes common with the lower classes of whites. The Chinese depreciate property in their vicinity, because of the manner in which they live, the manner they treat the buildings which they occupy. Their filthy habits and their manner of living in every way has that effect; but as to the moral sentiment of the community, I do not know that it has very much effect, because there is not association sufficiently intimate to affect that.

Their presence depreciates property.

Q. Then, so far as your observation goes, the question would seem to be a politico-economic one altogether?—A. Almost wholly.

Q. So that if we are to decide on the question whether it would be good or bad statesmanship to keep them out, you have to ask what their effect really is on the industrial development of the country?—A. I think that is the key to the whole question.

Q. You mean that is the key to your position?—A. Yes; to the position taken by the people of this state.

A politico-economic question more than moral.

Q. Your observation leads you to think that is the chief question?—A. Yes; I think it is more a politico-economic question than a moral one.

If Chinese labor had not been available it would have come from other sources.

Q. If you look back in the history of California, to the time when these great public works did not exist, would you not find that the bringing in of Chinamen, for some time anyway, would have been a useful plan?—A. I cannot say that, because I believe if the Chinese labor had not been available, that labor would have been brought here from other sources. I believe our public works would have been carried on as in the eastern states twenty-five years ago. True, it would have been more difficult and work might have been retarded, but future development of the country by them would have been of vast importance to the state, whereas with the Chinese, when the railroads were completed, their mission was ended.

Their mission ended after building the railways.

Q. Have you not had a large amount of swamp land reclaimed?—A. Comparatively little with them. That is a matter of no importance so far as their usefulness is concerned. They have been utilized to a certain extent in that way, but that is not of so much importance as the building of railroads and that sort of work.