

If the Government intend carrying out the provisions of the law, it can only be done by appointing a proper person to fill the position of controller, and pay him a decent salary so as to induce him to take a pleasure in his work. Mr. Hamley takes no interest in it at all, in fact he says it is impossible for him to attend to it.

The Government can well afford to pay an officer; the receipts already under this Act at this port are nearly four thousand dollars within six weeks.

I hope you will do your best to have the necessary machinery set to work at once for the proper enforcement of the Act.

I remain, yours obediently,

N. SHAKESPEARE, M.P.

To the Hon. the Minister of Customs, Ottawa.

OTTAWA, 22nd October, 1885.

MY DEAR SHAKESPEARE,—I have your favor of the 13th inst., in *re* Chinese Act. That there may be a little friction in the beginning, I am not at all surprised, but every step has been taken that can be to enforce the Act, and as difficulties arise they will be provided for.

You may rest assured that it is not only the desire but the intention of the Government to enforce the Act.

The collector has been instructed to employ a man to assist him in carrying out the provisions, and I am satisfied it will be done better in this way than by multiplying officials, and if Mr. Hamley does not attend to it he will be called to account.

I note you say that "the Customs officials if they had time" to do the work necessary in connection with the enforcement of the Act "have not been notified that they were to receive any extra pay."

I take it for granted that men in the employment of the Government should be treated in precisely the same way as if employed by any business man, that it is their duty to attend to any duties allotted to them during their working hours, without asking additional remuneration, but it seems to be a general opinion that when one is employed by the Government, he must only do a certain thing, and beyond that receive extra payment.

That is not the principle on which I have endeavored to conduct the Department. Customs officers must do such work as is relegated to them, during the proper hours, without extra pay.

If Mr. Hamley knows of personation by any Chinaman, he is culpable for not punishing, and will be so informed.

It is not for the collector to say whether he approves of the Act or not. His duty is to enforce its provisions, and we will see that he does so.

I shall be very glad, at any time, to receive anything from you pointing out any defects in the working of the Act, or dereliction of duty on the part of the officers.

Trusting you are enjoying good health, and that we shall see you here as vigorous as ever in a few months.

I am, yours truly,

M. BOWELL.

N. SHAKESPEARE, Esq., M.P., Victoria, B.C.