

An increasing amount of wheat goes every year to Japan, and a promising market would be lost to Canada." * * * *

"The argument that the Chinaman earns much and spends little is hardly worth examining. He largely increases the products of the soil and therefore the wealth of Canada." * * *

"British Columbia has been called by a well known American writer 'the brightest jewel in the British crown,' but wages are so high that in this as well as in the other provinces there is some danger for the future, except in the case of miners and those who hold mining property."

Replying to your criticisms in the order in which they are above quoted:

The objections to Chinese which do not apply to Japanese are not the "strongest" objections, they are of secondary importance from a practical standpoint.

Of the hundreds of expert witnesses, including large employers of Chinese and Japanese labor, who gave evidence before the Royal Commission of inquiry at the beginning of the year not more than six or seven expressed the opinion that Mongol immigration was necessary, or desirable, in the interests of the country at large; on the contrary, the volume of testimony was overwhelmingly in favor of total exclusion or a five-fold increase of the present head tax on Chinese.

Should the volume of Coolie labor from Japan, at any time, assume large proportions, rioting and bloodshed would inevitably result here, just as it would in London, or any other place, under like circumstances, among working people whose means of livelihood were threatened. In such an event the damage to Imperial interests would be two-fold and very difficult of repair.

Trade reprisals against Canada on the part of Japan are impossible because Canada is the buyer and not the seller. The imports and exports for 1900 being \$1,751,415 and \$112,308 respectively.

The statements of your correspondent are manifestly absurd; for instance:

"The Chinese are the most industrious and useful of all the laborers. The province of British Columbia could scarcely be 'run' without them."

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Over Hibben's, Government St., Opposite Bank of Montreal.

"The miners do not like them, for they lower the price of labor, and set an example of industry which the white man is not always inclined to follow."

As a matter of fact our mines, timber areas and agricultural lands were all discovered by white men, and white men built the roads and trails to make them accessible. Chinamen do not lower the wages of miners because there is not a solitary Chinese miner in the province, though, in some of the coal mines, they are employed in an inferior capacity as helpers and common laborers.

It is true that they are market gardeners, and this is what the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health has to say of them:

"I found that in nearly all the families in which typhoid infection occurred it was the custom to get vegetables from Chinamen. Now, it is not generally known but it is a fact that vegetables can, and often do, carry infection. Of course, most vegetables are purified by boiling, but many—such as salads and celery—are served raw. This, no doubt, is the cause of more trouble than is generally supposed, and, therefore, I thought it my duty to visit some of the gardens supplying Victoria.

"I only visited 'Chinese' gardens, and am satisfied that should the patrons do the same, they will make a change. In many of them pigs are kept—there is no pretence at keeping the place clean—the pens are simply an abomination—the yards just as bad. In two instances I saw offal lying around, which from its condition must have been there for days. Such are some of the surroundings where market vegetables are kept.

"This is bad, but nothing compared to the filthy habit all these Chinamen have of preserving their urine for the fertilization and whitening of vegetables. Each garden has a barrel always full of urine, which is allowed to decompose so that plenty of ammonia develops: the vegetables are then freely sprinkled with this. (Sprinkled on the vegetables after they are well grown.—Ed.) Outside this disgusting practice, the health aspect is grave, because these vegetables, unless cooked, will carry typhoid or other diseases just as sure as milk or water. I would recommend that this matter be actively dealt with."

They (the Chinese) do not "largely increase the product of the soil and therefore the wealth of Canada," because they raise no grain or other crops for export (unless they assist in a small secondary way as servants of white farmers) but only vegetables, the money obtained from the peddling of which goes to China and not to increase the wealth of Canada.