

MATTHEW BLAIR, hay and grain dealer, and a resident of San Francisco for fifteen years, sworn and examined :

This witness, from the location of his place of business, being in the neighborhood where several industries are carried on by Chinese labor, has been in a position to observe the effect of that labor upon the white population of the city. Among the industries is the Mission Woolen Mills, mostly carried on by Chinese labor. When the factories first started, there were some hundreds who came from Lynn, Mass., Cincinnati, and other eastern places. They have returned because their places were filled by this class of labor, and because they could not obtain employment. Then, again, there is the candle factory, a spring mattress factory, chemical works, a soap establishment, three or four tanneries, an oakum factory, and a trunk and box factory, the labor in all these trades being done by Chinese. If these Chinamen were not employed their position might be filled by white labor from the east. The effect of their presence is degrading to our laborers.

Chinese kept out
the whites.

Degrading to
labor.

Take the money
out of the country.

Chinese so easily
trained no chance
to train steady
young whites.

Employers, on being asked why they do not employ white people, say they cannot work the two together. That is one of the great difficulties ; the consequence is the Chinese absorb all the labor and send the circulating medium out of the country. There are no persons on the face of the earth under our civilization that can compete with them. The Chinese are so industrious, so quiet, and so easily trained, that our people cannot train our own children. If we take an apprentice, or anything of that kind, they are so much more troublesome that it creates a feeling against our people and we discriminate against them and call them hoodlums, and have no respect for them.

DURKEE.

JOHN L. DURKEE, fire marshal, sworn and examined :

Witness read a report from the fire wardens which was submitted to the board of supervisors April 20th, 1876, showing the carelessness of the Chinese in that regard, and recommending that an ordinance be passed prohibiting them from making certain additions to the roofs of the buildings occupied by them.

Liability to fire
in consequence
of their carelessness.

The liability of the city to conflagration is greater from their carelessness than from any other one cause.

Within the last two or three years there have been several cases of incendiary fires ; and fires are of frequent occurrence in the Chinese quarter. As a general thing they are not destructive. Mostly all the property in Chinatown is insured. The merchants insure.

ESTEE.

MORRIS M. ESTEE, practising lawyer and owner of farming property, and an old resident in California, sworn and examined :

Injurious.

Because being so
industrious and
economical drive
out white labor.

The Chinese population here, and those who will come, are injurious to the best interests of the state and the nation. They do not assimilate with our people ; in any line of labor that they follow they necessarily drive out intelligent white labor, and they do that for the reason that the Chinese as a class are industrious and economical. Their habits of life

SAN FRANCISCO, November 18th, 1876.