

EVIDENCE TAKEN AT THE SITTINGS AT VICTORIA, B.C.

VICTORIA, B. C., August 12th, 1884.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (the Secretary) read the Commission.

Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU : Any statements in the shape of arguments or facts bearing on the question in writing addressed to the Commission will be received.

Hon. Mr. Justice GRAY : I addressed a letter to the mayor asking for information that would be desirable to have, and also for detailed statements. I observe the mayor of the city is present, and I would ask if anything has been prepared for the consideration of the Commission?

CAREY.

Reasons why information asked for not forthcoming.

The MAYOR : We received a communication from Mr. Justice Gray and may say we are desirous to furnish every information possible to the Commission ; but I have been sick for some days past, and as it has been the summer vacation of some of the city officials, statements, which otherwise would have been prepared, are not in readiness. There are only two officers employed by the corporation, that is the treasurer and municipal clerk, who could procure such evidence. Neither of these persons had the time at their disposal, having been fully occupied in important business at present before the council in respect to the raising of a \$100,000 loan for the city, and have therefore instructed the sergeant of police to go through the records of criminals in regard to Chinese, and, as soon as possible, will place all the information asked before the Commission.

Hon. Mr. Justice GRAY : I suggest for the past five years.

The MAYOR : As to the other official returns asked for, Mr. Russell, the city treasurer, is present, and you ask him; as he can speak for himself.

Mr. RUSSELL : The information sought for is in course of preparation and will be ready to-morrow.

The Secretary here read the following letter :—

SMITHE.

LANDS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT,

VICTORIA, B. C., August 12th, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication of August 11th from Mr. Davin, conveying to this Government the first official intimation that they have received of the intended sitting of a Commission on the Chinese question in this Province.

This Government have had no communication from the Dominion Government of the intended appointment of such a Commission or of its final appointment, and no intimation as to the time such a Commission would be likely to reach our Province. The consequence is that the information which this Government would have been able to collect of great and vital importance to the clear comprehension of the bearing which the unrestricted immigration of Chinese into our Province has upon the interests of the white settlers cannot be forthcoming. The statistics requisite will require a long time to collect, as it is not Victoria alone whose interests are affected, but from one end of the mainland to the other the question is brought prominently before the Government.

The Government, owing to the circumstances above alluded to, regret that they will not be in a position to furnish to the Commissioners more than a bare abstract of the questions and interests involved, and they will not even be able to do this without some further intimation of the course the Commissioners