

Q. Have there been many Chinamen left to private citizens or public charity for support?—A. There have been instances, but not many. I know that many of the destitute Chinese have to be supported in a miserable way by their friends. There is not a large contingent of Chinese in our hospitals—lighter in proportion than the whites. The Chinese do not believe in treatment by the whites. I do not know of any contagious diseases amongst them; but the Chinese quarters are looked upon with fear and trembling when any contagious disease comes round. The death-rate, answering at random, is, I should say, not larger or smaller than the whites—there is no special custodian of such records, except under the municipality. When a Chinaman dies he is buried in the public cemetery, buried by themselves, with their own rites. I suppose the grave-digger keeps a record of their burials, but that is all; and, as I have said before, he is employed by the municipality. The Chinese, I have heard, are clean in their persons; but I differ with it, as I consider their habits are as filthy as their morals, in both eating, drinking, and sleeping. I do not think a Chinaman is to be compared at all with the habits of white people. They sleep in beds not fit for dogs and live in dirty hovels, so how can they be clean at all? I do not think it is the general opinion that they are at all clean. Domestic servants are obliged to keep themselves in cleanliness or they would be turned out. It is contended on one side that the Chinese are a necessity in British Columbia, as we have not the white people. I contend it is confounding, as the Chinese prevent white persons and laborers from coming into the country, as the whites look upon it as slave-labor. I am speaking of general evidence and opinion. The greater portion of these poorer classes are brought into the country by private companies, who pay the greater portion of their earnings to these people and engage for a term of years to work for them. I believe I am correct in saying when several thousands of these Chinamen were thrown out of employment, they went into camp without any means of subsistence, and quite a panic was caused amongst the whites as it was thought they would steal and plunder, and I believe these companies gave them just sufficient to keep them alive. Hundreds gathered in what is termed "sick-salmon," that is salmon that has died, and which is altogether unfit for human food. The difficulty was, however, met by these companies, though quite a panic was created, and instances where protection was asked from the government. I understand that the wages of those Chinamen belonging to these companies are paid over to the companies, and the proportion due to these men who are brought out is paid over to them. This information I have from the principals of the railway offices. I wish to say that with such a class of labor as this in the country we cannot expect white labor to come in, and I contend that white labor would have come here the same as in other countries had it not been for the Chinese. Mr. Onderdonk has told me he has been obliged to take Chinese labor as there was no white labor here. You cannot get white men and white women to come here and compete with Chinese labor in both the kitchen and the field. I do contend that if the Chinese had been prevented coming in here, the whites would have sought British Columbia as a field of industry. I will admit that there is certain classes of Chinese labor which can be procured at cheaper rates than white labor, but we must remember Chinese labor means impoverishing the country, as all their savings go back to China, and they do not contribute in any way to the building up of a country. The extravagant wages asked for by white labor is because there is no white labor here.

Many destitute supported by their friends.

Death-rate not greater than among the whites.

Habits and morals filthy.

Chinese prevent white labor from coming in.

Wages paid over to companies.

In some fields of labor Chinese cheaper; but by sending the money out of the country they impoverished it.