

Q. But what is the feeling of that class with respect to competition with Chinese labor in regard to their productions?—A. Well, the feeling, of course, is very strong against the Chinaman—the same as would naturally be the case in connection with any competition. Even among white people similar results would follow, under like circumstances, with regard to manufactures or commerce, or any other line of business. There is no question that white labor cannot compete with Chinese labor in the scale of economy. The white people cannot live as cheap as the Chinese, or work at such a low rate of wages.

Feeling hostile on account of competition.

White labor cannot compete with Chinese labor.

Q. Could you point out any permanent advantage that would result from the retention of Chinese labor in the country?—A. I think that Chinese labor is useful to a certain extent. It is useful in opening manufactures, and in opening any new work; in clearing land for instance. They are as useful as the Indians used to be in former years, before the Chinese came into this country. At that time, we employed Indians in clearing land at a cheap rate of wages, and Chinamen would be useful in the same way. Probably the Chinese could be utilized in starting boot and shoe factories and tailor shops on a large scale, and in the making of shirts and clothing. They could be made useful in many cases of that kind.

Chinese labor useful to the country.

Q. Does not the presence of Chinese labor interfere with the employment of young men and women?—A. Well, in our country we have very few women. That is one of the evils that we have to contend with. If we had the number of women which they have in this part of the country, they would do all that kind of light work, and then, of course, I would be in favor of doing away with Chinese labor altogether.

Few women.

Q. How could you expect young men and young women to go to the Province of British Columbia and to remain there, if they are brought into competition with Chinese labor at such a low rate of wages, as to prevent them earning the means of living?—A. Well, white labor must come down in price. That is a matter at any rate which must be brought about. It is impossible to carry on any kind of work, either in connection with farming or with manufacturing at the present rate of wages, in our Province. The price of white labor must come down, in order to enable us to carry on any works successfully. On the whole, I must say that I am opposed to Chinese immigration, and I would like to see measures adopted which would prevent any more Chinaman coming into our country.

Price of white labor must come down to enable us to carry on any works successfully.

Q. Is there any further statement you would like to make to the committee on this subject?—A. No; I would only say that a certain limited number of Chinamen have been useful to the Province of British Columbia—the presence of a limited number has been really useful, in my opinion; but I would not like to see that number augmented in any way, I would rather see it diminished, in justice to our population of boys and girls who are growing up.

Limited number useful to Province not to be increased.

Q. Mr. Macdonald, you speak of the difference between the price of white labor and of Chinese labor; will you explain to the committee the reason why such a high price is demanded for white labor?—A. In the Province of British Columbia.

Reasons for high price of white labor in British Columbia.

Q. Yes.—A. Well, the people who came to the Province of British Columbia some years ago in the year 1858, brought with them old California