

One instance I may give of this: A good, sturdy Scotch girl, directed by me for employment in a white family as domestic servant, tried it, and, although she was willing to do almost anything, she left the situation because she would not work with a Chinaman employed in the house. I think the English gardeners would succeed in business if they turned their attention to it. I am not aware that the Italians have driven the Chinese out of the market from San Francisco, as mentioned before the House of Commons in Canada.

But for antipathy to Chinese the whites would be ready to work with them at the same rates.

Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU: Chinese work only for good wages.—A. The wages paid to Chinese the white servants would be quite willing to accept, were it not for the antipathy to them. I think that such as cutting cord-wood at Chinese rates white men would undertake, but I think they would like to do it only temporary. It is a fact that white labor has succeeded in the manufacture of cigars in spite of Chinese labor. The Chinese are an industrious and quiet population in the locality, not knowing anything to the contrary.

ROBSON.

Hon. JOHN ROBSON, Provincial Secretary, examined:

I have been resident in this province since June, 1859, and a member of the government here since January last, twelve months.

Agitation politically dates from 1872.

Q. At what date began the agitation which now exists against Chinese immigration to this province?—A. I think it commenced as a political question in 1872. The population of Chinese then was not large, but it was beginning to be made felt. They came from California. I do not think there was a direct cargo brought from China till after the railway works commenced.

Chinese, before the railway works, came from California.

Thinks about 6,000 Chinese employed on railway works.

Q. What means have you of ascertaining the number of them in the province?—A. It has been lately nothing more than guess work; no census has been taken of the Chinese population. I am speaking of the provincial efforts. There was, however, some loose attempts made last year to see how many were employed on the railway works. I think it was estimated at 6,000. As far as I am aware there has been no systematic attempt to ascertain the population of Chinese in this city. I think it is estimated at about 3,000 or 4,000.

Difficulty in ascertaining number of Chinese in the city.

Q. What means have you used in ascertaining the number employed in this city?—There has been no means beyond the tax-collector's returns. I had a return made yesterday, which number was 750. This would, or ought to, include all merchants, employees, servants, etc. The great bulk of them cannot be ascertained as they go out like bees and packed as it were in a box like sardines, so that it is impossible to get proper returns, and a great number are supported by their own countrymen. They go out in the morning in every direction, and it is impossible to know where they go. We have only a money return of 750 out of the total number of Chinese in Victoria. It is a fact, and it seems extremely unsatisfactory, that out of this estimated population of 3,000 to 4,000 only a return of 750 is made as having paid taxes. I wish to repeat no actual effort has been made to obtain the real number of Chinese either in the city or throughout the province.

Unsatisfactory tax-paying result

Q. Have you any system of poor relief in the province?—A. No.