

NAINAIMO, B. C., October 1st, 1884.

SAMUEL M. ROBINS, Superintendent of the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company (limited), answered as follows:—

Chinese who go to Nanaimo laborers; a few traders; a few mechanics; no mechanics.

1. The Chinese emigrants that come here are chiefly laborers, and a few traders, who supply their own countrymen with food and clothing, but no mechanics.

Arrive in good health.

2. When they arrive here they are usually in good health and fit for work.

Rarely burden public charities.

3. We have no system of public poor relief, and hitherto the Chinese have rarely become a burden upon the private charity of white citizens.

Industrious, sober, law-abiding.

4. They are industrious, sober, and law-abiding, and so far as I can ascertain economical.

Respect their engagements.

5. They respect their engagements and carry out their contracts.

Interfere with whites in labor market generally and in farm and garden produce more particularly.

6. The only interference with the prospects of the white population that I have observed here, beyond the competition which they offer in the labor market has been in the cultivation of farm and garden produce, in which they are very successful, and which they sell to the white population as well as to their own countrymen.

When Chinese first came they supplied a want and were welcomed, but the labor population always against them. Witness's company used them to head off a strike of white laborers. With a little trouble might have obtained Indians to answer their purpose just as well.

7. When the Chinese first came to this province they no doubt supplied a want then felt, and their coming was encouraged and welcomed, especially I may add by the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company (limited) which I represent; but the laboring population were always strongly averse to their introduction. At the time of their coming here my company had been suffering from a strike of the white laborers, and we accepted the Chinese as a weapon with which to settle the dispute. With a little more trouble we might, I think, have obtained Indians to answer our purpose equally well.

Encouraged by employers up to the present. Feeling against them ever growing stronger.

8. The encouragement given to the Chinese by employers of labor has not been withdrawn up to the present time, whilst the anti-Chinese feeling seems to have grown stronger every year.

Agitation commenced two years ago chiefly by white traders and white laborers.

9. I believe what is called the agitation against the Chinese began about two years ago, and that it has been chiefly fostered by the white trading classes who have seen large sums paid away in wages to a class who never enter their stores. The white laborers also, who often find it difficult to secure employment for a relative (whom they may have induced to come to the province by descriptions of their own prosperity), whilst they see the Chinese fully occupied are eager to do all they can to bring about legislation for the regulation of Chinese immigration.

Nothing in habits or mode of living injurious to public peace or health. Over-crowding might affect this last. Public peace might suffer when white and Chinese employed on the same works.

10. I am not aware of anything in their habits or mode of living injurious to the public peace or to the public health, excepting it may be their over-crowding. The public peace might be endangered where large numbers of white laborers and Chinese are employed in the same works, as they are in our coal mines; and in some instances we have found it difficult to protect the Chinese from ill-usage.