

people. They first invaded the washing interests, and gradually ousted the women who did this work; then they absorbed the market-garden work, and are now the sole suppliers of garden produce; and in all the various industries which require light work they have driven all competitors from the field. The effect of this is that white people will not come to compete with the Chinese, and one consequence is that all persons requiring house-work done are driven to employ Chinese at extravagant wages. \$25 to \$30 a month is the ordinary rate of wages, and they are so well organised that if any attempt is made to reduce the wages it is impossible to obtain a servant. They will not compete against each other, and the ordinary law governing demand and supply is entirely evaded by a higher law of compulsion. If any one attempts to act for himself in this direction, the general body have means at their disposal to compel obedience to their rules. False charges are trumped up against the offender, or his fears are worked upon so that they dare not disobey their secret rulers."

They have organisations amongst themselves and ignore the laws of the land entirely.

"I have had a very large experience in Chinese cases, especially in criminal cases, and I find that where Chinese alone are concerned, a conviction is hardly ever obtained."

We often hear the remark: Look at your court statistics; they show conclusively there is not as much crime among the Chinese as some people make out. But the reason is they are seldom discovered.

"The calendar of convictions gives no criterion of the number of offences. Several murders have been committed and no clue to the perpetrators. The administration of justice obtains no assistance whatever from the Chinese themselves; if, however, the question is one between Chinese and white persons, the Chinese strain every nerve to obtain a conviction, and are utterly indifferent whether the charge is brought against the real criminal or some other white person.

"The Chinese are utterly unacquainted with truth, and it is a universal comment on their evidence that you cannot believe anything they say. They shelter themselves under their ignorance of the English language so that no cross-examination can reach them, and it is generally believed that the interpreters guide the evidence. In one case that came before me, a charge of murder was preferred against a Chinese, and he was arrested. The murder was committed at Seattle, and the presence of the prisoner distinctly sworn to. I was, however, in a position to prove that the prisoner was on his way from San Francisco to Victoria at the time of the alleged offence, and after producing that evidence the prosecutors, who were applying for extradition, abandoned further proceedings, but compelled the prisoner's friends to pay \$250 for expenses, stating if they did not do so they would have him arrested on some other charge. The reason, I after discovered, was that the prisoner had refused to pay a sum to a secret society which exists among them. They are governed by laws of their own, entirely uncontrolled by the laws of the country where they reside."

This is the class of people we are asked to legislate against here to-day.

"Prostitution of the most flagrant character is carried on wherever a few men are collected. The women are slaves and sold by their importers at prices varying from \$300 to \$600. Cases connected with the system have frequently been brought before the court, and in no case have, I think, the true facts ever been elicited. The complaint of inveighing boys into these dens of infamy, and the diseases which are there caught, are numerous and painful."

These are facts which have been referred to in this House on previous occasions, but they have been doubted, and insinuations have been made that they were not true.

"The Chinese are not settlers in any sense of the word; they are no benefit to the country as settlers; they tend to exclude a more valuable population, and even where they are engaged in numbers the employers would prefer white people but cannot get them. The numbers that are in the Province it is very difficult to estimate, as the leading merchants do not wish the numbers to be known, but there can be very few short of 18,000. It is not expected that those present should be driven away, but it is hoped that such restrictive legislation will be passed as to prevent their influx. There are sufficient numbers here to fulfil all the requirements of labor for years to come, and if restriction is granted we shall find that white labor will become more plentiful at once."

That corresponds exactly with statements made in this House on previous occasions. Now, I desire to give the evidence which has been referred to this afternoon in regard to the railways. I will give the evidence of one man, Nelson Bennett, formerly of Toronto, contractor for the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific Railway.

"Q. Do you employ many Chinese?—A. Not as many as white laborers. We employ Chinese because we are at present showing things, just because we need them. I prefer white labor if I can get it. I am partial to Scandinavian labor if that can be got. Two Chinamen are worth about one white man.

"Q. How much do you pay the Chinamen?—A. Eighty cents a day, and they furnish themselves with board and tents."

Mr. SHAKESPEARE.

Is it possible that any hon. gentleman in this House or in this country will think for one moment that it is possible for a white man to live and support a family on such wages?

"Q. And how much do you pay the white laborer?—A. Two dollars a day, and I furnish tents and they pay their own board.

"Q. Then you get the Chinaman for less than half?—A. Yes; but we get no trade from them. They furnish themselves through their own officers and stores, whereas the white men buy their provisions and clothing from us. We make a profit on that, and the difference between \$2 a day for the white man and eighty cents for the Chinaman is compensated by the profits on that trade and the greater amount of work done by the white man. Half the number of white men is cheaper for a contractor than double the amount of Chinamen. They have not much endurance. Men that do not eat, they cannot endure.

"Q. What is your system of employing them? Do you deal individually with them?—A. No; we hire them in companies or gangs. When you hire them in gangs you cannot individualize them, and consequently if you have a trouble with one Chinaman it is a trouble with the whole gang. On the other hand, if you have trouble with one white man you can discharge him alone.

They are so united, and so complete are their organisations, that, if you offend one man, they will all put down their tools and quit work, until you settle with the man who has been the cause of it.

"Q. We have been told that if a Chinaman was not satisfactory he was pointed out and at once removed?—A. Yes; and the next moment he is in another gang.

"Q. Is there anything else which occurs to you as likely to prove useful to the Commission in its enquiry?—A. The Chinaman is of no earthly account in a country. If you employ white laborers one out of ten settles in the country. We find this in Montana where we employ white laborers altogether; but on this coast where Chinamen are employed you will find 500 miles at a stretch without settlement excepting railroad employes."

I think that is an answer to the many quotations that have been made by the hon. the Secretary of State. Those people are still coming into our Province. I received a letter two days ago from one of our merchants in the city of Victoria. He says:

"Two shiploads of Chinamen arrived yesterday, numbering 803. The same day a steamship arrived from San Francisco with 97."

So that within 24 hours the population of that Province increased about 900. He says:

"It is impossible to populate the country with whites when so many Chinamen are coming in. Now that the railway is near completion, we are beginning to feel the effects, and next year will be still worse."

The idea is that when the railway is complete, these men will have no work to do, and they will be a greater curse to the people of that Province than they are even at the present time. We are told that there is no leprosy amongst the Chinese. Why, there can be any amount of evidence obtained in British Columbia on that question, and one reason why it was not given was that persons who had the information were opposed to the commission, and deemed it unnecessary, and hence they failed to appear. We are told that these Chinese in California built large works. Admitting all that, admitting that they build these large works, is it to be granted that we are to allow this element to come into our Province and monopolise all the labor there is, to the exclusion of the white men? What is the fact? There is not a year that passes by but hundreds of men go to British Columbia and have to return because they cannot get employment, and yet there is abundance of employment in that Province to-day which is monopolised by these people. Yet we are told they are such a beautiful class of people, they are so intelligent, so nice, so accommodating, so gentle, so obliging, that we should favor them and allow them to come in as they please. The people of that Province are united upon this question, as former petitions have shown, and I am happy to say that the people of the Dominion of Canada are waking up to this question, as is shown by the fact that petitions have been sent to this Parliament this Session from different parts of Canada asking the Government to legislate upon this question to prevent any further immigration of these people to this country. That shows that the people of this Dominion are unanimous in favor of