

THE HONEST INJUN.

Delate Wa-Wa Tolo.

VOL. 1.

VICTORIA, B.C., NOVEMBER 6, 1897.

No. 2.

THE HONEST INJUN

PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY.

DAVID FALCONER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Annual Subscription, Canada and the United States, \$1.00.

Great Britain and Foreign, \$1.50.

23 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

EDITORIAL.

In politics the HONEST INJUN is neither Conservative nor Liberal. He is strictly British Columbian. And he will cheerfully help to revile any administration that refuses to admit quartz mining machinery free of duty.

In April last a press despatch arrived, stating in the most definite terms that mining machinery of all kinds had been placed on the "free list" (loud and continued applause). But at the end of May another press despatch arrived, announcing that: "Late this afternoon Mr. Fielding brought down the amended tariff changes, involving fifty amendments to the resolutions of a month ago. The most important affecting British Columbia is that respecting mining machinery; 25 per cent. is imposed on the following: Steam engines, boilers, ore crushers, steam mills, cornish rolls, rock drills, air compressors, cranes, derricks, pumps, horse powers," * * * * which just about "settled it" for the quartz miner. But Mr. Fielding, who hails from a coal and iron province, was graciously pleased to place the following on the "free list":

"Pressure exhaust fans, rotary blowers, coal cutting machines, coal heading machines, coal augers, rotary coal drills, core drills, miners' lamps, coal washing machinery, coke making machinery, ore driving machinery, ore roasting machinery, electric or magnetic machinery for separating or concentrating iron ores, blast furnaces, water jackets," and about all the necessary ma-

chines and appliances for concentrators and smelters. Also monitors and elevators for hydraulic mining.

Mr. Fielding's "way of doing things" is very simple. He evidently considers it the first duty of a finance minister to fix the tariff to suit his own province. If each province had the right, in turn, of electing the finance minister, Mr. Fielding's plan would be above criticism; but British Columbia, though probably rich enough in minerals to buy up any two of the eastern provinces, is insignificant in voting power, and, therefore, her chances of electing a finance minister are remote. She has no "influence."

It is true she contributes far more in proportion to the general revenue and gets less out of it than any of the others, but even-handed justice is the last thing to be expected from any government, Liberal or Conservative, unless you have lots of votes to exchange for it.

Though "the heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone" in his own country, he is remarkably wide awake here in British Columbia. He is slowly but surely invading every avenue of industry, and may reasonably look forward to a seat in the Legislature. From cooking, washing clothes, peddling vegetables, and like menial occupations, he is now rising, not only as a manufacturer of ready made clothing, but as a regular custom tailor and bootmaker. And the amazing feature of the business is that his customers are not the financially straightened, "whose poverty but not their will consents" to their leaving white tailors and patronizing the mongolian to save money, but our most prominent and wealthy citizens.

And John is reaping the reward of his old-time reputation for cheapness. The wealthy citizens aforesaid are frequently paying the same

and in so many instances higher prices for China-made suits than good city tailors would charge. As regards fit we cannot pronounce an opinion, as we have not yet worn "celestial garments."

Arguments *ad infinitum* have been advanced on "the Chinese Question"; but the opinions of the arguers have depended, as opinions concerning every subject depend, on "whose ox is gored." But in the case of the Chinaman, everybody's ox is gored, if the good Lord would only give us enlightenment enough to see it, and every dollar paid into Chinatown is a dead loss to the province, and to the country. This the Chinaman, with far keener and broader intelligence than we can boast of, sees clearly—he takes all and gives up nothing. But in our own enthusiasm for the public weal we had forgotten for the moment that the HONEST INJUN contains the advertisements of three or four Chinese firms, so perhaps it will be as well to leave the discussion of this important question to abler and more influential journals that have no Chinese ads. running.

LATER—Now that we come to think of it, we got those ads. on purpose to get back some of the money paid into Chinatown by our wealthy citizens, and when we get it you bet it will go into immediate circulation. We knew that in getting those contracts from the Chinamen we had the public interest at heart, but it slipped our memory just for the time being.

Wilfred (looking over advertising page): "Mother, why do all these boarding-houses object to children?"

Fond Mother: "I'm sure I don't know. Go and see what baby is crying out, and tell Johnny to stop throwing things at people in the street, and make George and Kate stop fighting, and tell Dick if he doesn't stop blowing that tin trumpet at once I'll certainly take it away from him."

HARDRESS CLARKE,

TELEPHONE 50.

REST GOODS
QUICK DELIVERY
LOWEST PRICES

Corner YATES and
DOUGLAS Streets

Grocer and Provision Merchant