

The Weekly Colonist

Tuesday May 23, 1866

OUR CHINESE IMMIGRATION

The motion of Mr. Dennis to tax all Chinamen entering the Colony comes up for discussion to-day. However much the House of Assembly may feel in want of ways and means, we do not anticipate that many members will be found willing to support a capitation tax of ten dollars on our celestial immigrants. Independent of the unpopularity of such a measure, there is something very impolitic in the step at the present time. We are not so deluged with a European or an American immigration that we are obliged to shut ourselves out by a prohibitory tax on Asiatics. On the contrary, our immigration is characterized more by the crab-like progression which is usually denoted "advancing backwards," and there is no immediate prospect of a contrary current. Under such circumstances, it would naturally impinge that an influx of any kind would be acceptable rather than otherwise—that an addition to our population, even if the increased demand were confined only to opium and opium would be hailed with joy. Mr. Dennis, however, is not satisfied with this way of viewing matters, but studiously maintains by his propositions that if we cannot get a European or American population we must have none at all—or to reverse the homely proverb, "we must have no bread" in preference to "half a loaf."

The motion of the member for Salt Spring is not likely to attract very seriously the attention of the House, and if the Chinese question came up in no other dangerous shape, we should feel that these things were rather an odious prominence; but there appears to be among a considerable portion of our population a feeling with regard to the Chinese that is as unjust to the celestials as it is injurious to the country. There are numbers in our midst who wish to see the Chinaman taxed in every conceivable way, because, forsooth, he can live cheaper than a white man, and is contented with less remuneration. Well, we confess we would like to see John wear a stove-pipe and eat and drink at other men's; but since his work is an end of it, and we must put up with his clothing peculiarities and his gastronomic obstinacy. We know he has an ineradicable antipathy to the country, and that the very seldom a miner invests what he takes out of the ground on the top of it; we know also that he is a gregarious animal, living in hives and herds, and that he dislikes going outside his own community to transact the most ordinary business. He is in fact, the personification of that class to which we have applied the term "immigrant."

He may cross the seas, and change his domicile, as often as he pleases, and sailing vessels will enable him to do this with ease, and in a country beyond his own, he would be as much at home as in his own. He is a least desirable of colonial immigrants, and if we were receiving our thousands of civilized races every week, we could well spare the live freight from Hong Kong; but we are not so fortunate, and we must content ourselves with another great policy is therefore not to diminish any portion of our consumers, nor to unfavourably they might compare with others, but to turn them to the greatest profitable account. When the Chinaman arrives in the country and proceeds to the Island mines, let him be treated exactly as the white man let him pay his license and other fees, and be protected in the same manner. It is the non-collection of license which has created so violent an antipathy against him in the neighbouring colony. The mining bill at present before the House of Assembly makes, however, the taking out of mining license compulsory on every person under a penalty of \$50, and it only requires a little vigilance on the part of the Gold Commissioner to have every Chinaman at Sooke an acceptable contributor to the Crown Revenue. Any remissions by which the Chinese are allowed to work without paying their share to the Government will, while injuring the Crown receipts, create a great deal of hostile feeling against them by the other miners. This should by all possible means be avoided.

We have given what we conceive to be the principal objections against the celestials; but there is the other side of the picture. Of all classes of our population the Chinese are the most orderly and the most sober. They cost the country less in the police and judicial departments. When they buy from the white population they put the money down on the counter, and what is probably the best appreciated of all their characteristics by their lighter colored brethren—they never "skedaddle." Summing up the advantages and disadvantages of a Chinese population at the present time, we should say that every three hundred Chinamen are equal in a business point of view, to about one hundred whites—a proportion we certainly at the present moment cannot afford to de-

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 17th May.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present: Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Dickson, Dennis.

The Speaker read the following communication from His Excellency the Governor: "I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Mining Act, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee on the subject."

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The Invalid's Friend



HOLLOWAY'S PILLS. What is more fearful than a breaking down of the nervous system? To be excitable or nervous in a small degree is most distressing, for whereas a remedy is found, there is one in the mind, which is the cause of the trouble. It is the mind that is the cause of the trouble, and it is the mind that is the cause of the trouble. It is the mind that is the cause of the trouble, and it is the mind that is the cause of the trouble.

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