

Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU: I do not suppose the impression from such a source would be very deep.

Hon. A. E. B. DAVIE here handed in papers showing the police evidence taken in regard to the Fisguard street murder, remarking: They will show the Commission how difficult it is to obtain the truth from Chinese witnesses.

Hon. Mr. Justice GRAY: There can be no doubt as to the difficulty of obtaining truthful evidence from the Chinese.

JOHN JESSOP, examined by the Hon. Mr. Justice GRAY:

JESSOP.

I am the Dominion agent; and have been seventeen months provincial immigration agent and Dominion Government agent. My duty is to give information to new arrivals. I keep a record of all applicants for lands and work, and answer all correspondence. Previous to that, some seven or eight years, I was superintendent of education. I have had my attention directed to the Chinese in this country, especially at the commencement of this year. In my official capacity I have never had anything to do with them at all. I think that during the three months ending with April there must have been 400 or 500 white immigrants seeking employment exclusively, who were induced by the government hand-book to come here in view of obtaining work, as it set forth the dry-dock would be commenced, and the graving-dock and Island railway also; these men expecting to work as laborers and afterwards to settle on land. My advice was, therefore, after being disappointed, to direct them to the different districts to cut cord-wood, etc.; but they found the Chinese already employed, and could not work at the same rate as paid these people. Many left very angry, and some suggested the province should be called "Chinese Columbia" instead of British Columbia. Last year there was plenty of work, because white labor was not in excess of the demand; the demand on account of the canneries and other industries up the coast was considerable, and the immigration was not so large last year as this. I have no means of ascertaining what the number of white settlers are this year. I can only refer to the Immigrants' Guide as to the number of applicants.

Instance in which Chinese interfered with white men getting work.

Q. Were there no lands to give these immigrants to settle on?—A. Yes; at New Westminster. Many have gone up the east coast since the Island railway lands have been open to preemption by Parliament, I think. I think fifty heads of families have gone to the Cowichan settlement, and four or five to Alberni, and twenty or twenty-five heads of families have settled between Nanaimo and Comox. I do not think fifty heads of families will represent 150 people, as many have not brought the whole of their family out as yet.

Fifty heads of families gone to Cowichan settlement.

Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU: Do you think settlers are coming in a whole some proportion?—A. I think so. I have been receiving communications from market-gardeners as to the chances of their succeeding in that branch of industry. I have told them that the Chinese monopolize that branch here, but that I do not think but what they would succeed if they came. One objection is white girls coming here will not work where Chinamen are kept, as there is a great antipathy to them.

Chinese and market gardening.

White girls will not work where Chinese are employed.