

cooks, and a general assortment of household and farm servants from Europe. From the eulogistic letters in my possession from some employers of these immigrants, and from the position some of them have attained through their own labor, they are undoubtedly good classes of citizens. Fifty thousand eligible immigrants could be procured from different sections of Europe, both male and female, and would be preferable to those brought from Asia, and would be invaluable.

HENRY DEGROOT, miner, sworn and examined :

DEGROOT.

The Chinese as miners.

They displace white labor.

Effect of Chinese towns in western cities.

Effect on girl-labor.

Chinese live too cheaply.

Effect on white immigration.

The effect of the presence of the Chinese here has been very detrimental to the labor interests, and to the mining industry also. They were hired first in placer-mining, and then in drift-digging to some extent, and finally in hydraulic-mining to very great advantage, except for moving stones and working in the pit ; and as they became educated to the business they greatly displaced white labor, and now we have them employed in every kind of mining as laborers at good wages. This operation is constantly going on and displacing white men. In former days we would not allow them to come in ; but that is a long time ago. For fifteen years they have not been molested any more than whites. There is not a single mining town in California but what has a Chinese quarter planted in the centre of it, as here. The women are very undesirable, and many of the men are gamblers. The presence of these is corrupting the youth of the inland towns at a fearful rate. They are not only coming to California, but the vessels that go from Oregon to China bring back cargoes of Chinese who go silently up the Columbia River and drop into the mining regions adjacent to Oregon, as well as into Idaho and Montana. I never met a laboring man or a miner, who did not employ labor, but what was dead opposed to the Chinese. On the other hand, there is a class in the mines in favor of their presence here—men who are aggregating small claims into large mining estates and employing Chinese to run them, just as farmers and manufacturers do here. The merchants in the mining regions are averse to them generally.

The Chinese pick all the berries to the exclusion of girls, and they are hiring land and raising berries, and pretty soon will monopolize the whole business. The same with the cigar trade. One firm advertised for girls to learn the business ; they did so, and after seeking employment in other firms they were told that they would not be taken on if a handsome sum accompanied them ; Chinese could be employed cheaper. The same with sewing-machines. I can take you to a cellar where there are thirty Chinamen running sewing-machines, who eat and sleep in that cellar, and whose living does not cost them forty cents a month apiece ; not thirty cents, perhaps, so cheaply do they live. It is utterly impossible for us to compete with them and live.

If there had been no Chinese here the white population would have been much greater than it is at present. I have seen whole car-loads of emigrants going east within the last year, discouraged from remaining here in consequence of the presence of the Chinese. While a few men would not have been so rich, the great mass of the white people would have been a great deal better off in the absence of the Chinese. Morally, we can hardly estimate the injury that they have inflicted upon us by degrading labor, by injury to the juvenile population, more especially in the inland mining towns.

In their absence probably some branches of industry would not have