

APPENDIX S.

FOREIGN OFFICE, Honolulu, 18th December, 1884.

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN, Esq.,
Secretary, Chinese Commission, Ottawa, Canada.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, in which you ask for certain documents and information concerning the Chinese resident here and their relations with the rest of the population.

In reply I beg to say that the Chinese question occupies a somewhat different position here to what it does in the Dominion or other countries which have adopted restrictive laws against their immigration. In explanation of this I forward a series of replies to some of the printed questions of which you sent me a copy.

There is no "Restriction Act" on our Statute book, but the Government, relying on national rights, which are in the case of this kingdom not interfered with by any treaty, has taken into its hands the control of Chinese immigration. A relation of the circumstances is contained in two of the appendices to my last report to the Legislative Assembly, of which I will forward a copy to your address. (See pages i. to ix., and civ. to cxxvii.) The position taken up by the Government in this matter is strengthened by an Act passed to meet special circumstances in 1878, of which a copy is enclosed herewith. The steps thus taken have been successful, and as a stream of more desirable population is about to be brought in, under control of the Board of Immigration, it is not probable that any change will be made in the regulations now in force, unless some unforeseen emergency should arise. It has not been deemed necessary to propose any new legislation on the subject.

In reply to your enquiry as to the intermarriage of our people with Chinese, I may say that this has taken place somewhat freely so far as the native Hawaiian women are concerned. When the results of a census which is to be taken towards the end of this month are available, I shall be able to give you definite information on the subject.

With high respect, I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WALTER M. GIBSON,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PUT BY THE CANADIAN CHINESE COMMISSIONERS.

(See Minutes of Evidence, page 69.)

1. The immigrant Chinese are chiefly laborers for plantations, but as their terms of service expire large numbers of them take to various trades, particularly carpentering, tailoring, and shoe-making. They also take to peddling and the keeping of retail stores and coffee-shops. Only about half the Chinese here are believed to be actually at work on sugar and rice plantations. The rest are engaged in commerce, rice planting, and various trades, as stated above, market-gardening, and taro and banana culture. Most of our house-servants are Chinamen.

2. Usually [arrive in good health].