

7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

On the 13th of June I received the following communication in reply:

June 13, 1908.

'SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 11th inst., informing me that after having made a careful examination, under Royal Commission, into the losses sustained by the Chinese residents of the city of Vancouver, in consequence of the anti-Asiatic riots of September last year, you have reported to the Governor General of Canada in Council the result of the investigation so far as relates to the total losses sustained, which you have estimated as amounting to \$25,990, with the recommendation that an additional sum of \$1,000 be allowed to the claimants on account of legal expenses, and further informing me that you have received from Ottawa a telegram stating that council has approved of the sum recommended for payment, and that an amount covering the same will be put in the supplementary estimates to be presented to parliament at the present session, and will be paid to the claimants as soon as voted.

'I have the honour to inform you that I will communicate the contents of your note to our Minister at London, and I have no doubt that he will be much pleased at the result.

'In the recent inquiries conducted by you, I beg to state that, although officially, neither my colleagues nor myself could have been anything other than that of a spectator, yet personally we were much gratified by the fairness with which the inquiries were made, and for the many courtesies you have shown us we desire to express to you our high appreciation and sincere thanks.'

'I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) 'TUNG CHENG-LING.'

'To Mr. MACKENZIE KING, C.M.G.,

'Royal Commissioner, &c.,

'Vancouver, B.C.,'

I have made mention of the presence of Mr. Tung Cheng-Ling and other Chinese officials at the sittings of the Commission. Their presence was not only gratifying as an evidence of the appreciation by the Chinese government of the action of the Canadian government in instituting the investigation, but was also salutary as affording to the several claimants an assurance, if any such were needed, that their interests would be fully protected before the commission. I have pleasure in acknowledging their assistance and courtesies wherever opportunity afforded. I desire to make special mention of the important services rendered by Mr. Owyang King in the preparation of the several claims, and of the valuable assistance given the Commission by Mr. McEvoy, the able counsel who appeared on behalf of the several claimants. But for the forethought and good judgment exercised by Mr. Owyang King and Mr. McEvoy at the time of the riots, and in the preparation of the several claims, as well as in their presentation, the duties of the Commission would have been arduous indeed, and the time necessary for investigation considerably prolonged.