

As to the future, Mr. Dunsmuir says:

"I consider the agitation against the Chinese as largely political, for I have heard no argument against them as yet which convinces me that they are a drawback to this Province or to this part of the Dominion. I consider their presence as beneficial to the progress and development of the country, as an important factor in the labor market; and I am satisfied, so far as my personal experience goes, that the Province generally is not unfavorably influenced by Chinese labor, race prejudices to the contrary notwithstanding. I do not believe that any class of our people assisting to develop this Province are suffering from the competition of these people. White men decline to do the work given to the Chinese, and could not live in this country at the present prices of products on the wages paid the Chinamen. Some of the trades, such as shoemakers, tailors, cigar-makers, etc., are affected by Chinese labor and are compelled to manufacture goods at a low figure, the ordinary workingman, agriculturist, etc., is, however, benefited by the competition. If the mine-owners were compelled to pay the wages now asked and obtained by white laborers, (supposing they would consent to do the manual labor for which the Chinese receive much smaller pay,) they, the mine-owners, could not compete in the markets now open to them, especially San Francisco, the principal market for British Columbia coal, where, other foreign coal-product is carried as ballast.

"I believe the exclusion of Chinese would retard the construction of public works and increase the cost of them very materially both as regards those under way and those contemplated.

"In regard to legislation I do not think any measures of a prohibitive nature are required at this early day, nor do I believe that legislation should take place either to restrict or regulate the incoming of Chinese, for the simple reason that they will not arrive in larger numbers than the requirements of the labor market demand.

"I may state that it is my belief that the grand plan of opening up and controlling the Asiatic trade by a Canadian railway from Ocean to Ocean would be seriously affected, if not actually defeated, by legislating the Chinese out of the country at this time. In addition to jeopardizing provincial enterprises, now in successful operation, other portions of our Dominion, expecting benefits and profits from transcontinental traffic over the Canadian Pacific Railway; tapping Oriental trade, would of course share in any evil effects resulting from injudicious or preventive legislation.

"If it were possible for Parliament to bring a bill in speedily to give the Chinaman the franchise there would be less anti-Chinese agitation; and, I think legislation excluding the Chinese would kill the prospect of an Asiatic trade with Canada."

The views of these two gentlemen on the other points of this enquiry are equally valuable, but do not immediately bear on the subject of this chapter.

Bearing on the past development, as to these three sources of industry the Salmon Canneries, railroad construction, and coal mining, accumulating and distributing wealth, and advancing the country in all its material aspects, aggregating collectively an addition of many millions of the trade of the Province, the testimony is clear and indisputable, that they would not have succeeded without the aid of Chinese labor. If, with reference to domestic service, we examine the statements of those who are not employers of labor on a large scale, but simply contributors to the general welfare by expenditures and industries in the ordinary avocations

Agitation against Chinese political.

Exclusion of Chinese would retard public works.

No legislative measures necessary.

Excluding Chinese imperils our chances of controlling the Asiatic trade as well as jeopardizes Provincial enterprises.

If Chinaman had votes the agitation would cease. Exclusion would kill the Asiatic trade

Observations.