

REPORT
OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON
CHINESE AND JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

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**THE ASIAN EXPERIENCE
IN NORTH AMERICA**

Chinese and Japanese

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REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON

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62.-



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SESSION 1902

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PREFACE.

The Commissioners desired to examine separately the questions of Chinese and Japanese immigration, and this method was pursued as far as practicable. In many industries, however, both Chinese and Japanese are employed, and in most cases the witnesses treated them alike; so that while Part I has relation chiefly to Chinese immigration, much that is said there applies with equal force to the Japanese in Part II. There are certain questions, however, and certain industries peculiarly affected by Japanese labour that require special treatment. This applies especially to the fisheries and to the lumber industry.

province of British Columbia, Esquire, to be Our Commissioners for the purpose of investigating the said statements and representations so made as indicated in the Order of Our Governor General in Council hereunto annexed.

And We do hereby, under the authority of the Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter 114, intituled: "An Act respecting Inquiries Concerning Public Matters," confer upon you, Our said Commissioners, the power of summoning before you any witnesses and of requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing or on solemn affirmation, if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things as you, Our said Commissioners, shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which you are hereby appointed to examine, inquire into and investigate. To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto you, the said Roger Conger Clute, you the said Ralph Smith and you the said Daniel James Munn, together with the rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of and by law appertaining during pleasure.

And We do hereby require and direct you to report to Our Secretary of State the result of your investigation, together with the evidence taken before you and any opinion you may see fit to express thereon.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

Witness, the Honourable Henri Elzéar Taschereau, Deputy of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin The Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada.

At Our Government House, in our City of Ottawa, this Twenty-first day of September, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred, and in the sixty-fourth year of Our Reign.

By Command.

JOSEPH POPE,

Under Secretary of State.

EXTRACT from a report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on September 21, 1900.

On a memorandum dated September 3, 1900, from the Secretary of State, submitting that he has had under consideration the many representations made by the legislature and people of British Columbia on the subject of Chinese and Japanese immigration into that province to some of which he desires to call particular attention.

The minister observes that at a recent sitting of the Legislative Assembly of the province, a resolution was adopted declaring that the Chinese Immigration Act passed at the last session of the parliament of Canada, increasing the capitation tax from \$50 to \$100 is ineffective and inadequate to prevent Chinese immigration into Canada, and expressing the opinion that the only effective mode of dealing with the question of restricting Mongolian immigration into Canada would be by either increasing the amount of per capita tax to the sum of \$500, or by the passing of an Act based on the lines of the Natal Act, known as the 'Immigration Restriction Act of 1897.'

That in the month of May last (1900) two numerous signed petitions from the residents of British Columbia, to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, were received, representing that between January 1 and April 1 of the present year (1900) 4,669 Japanese landed in Victoria and Vancouver, and that during the same period 1,325 Chinese landed in Victoria, making a total of nearly 6,000 within the short space of four months, and alleging that the result is 'that the province is

flooded with an undesirable class of people non-assimilative and most detrimental to the wage-earning classes of the people of the province, and that this extensive immigration of orientals is also a menace to the health of the community.'

That the petitioners assert that they are not unmindful of Imperial interests, and while expressing feelings of the greatest loyalty to those interests, they respectfully call attention to what they term a serious inroad upon the welfare of the people of the province and they ask that an Act may be passed inhibiting the immigration of the above mentioned classes of people to Canada.

That it has also been alleged in other communications on the subject that there was probability of a great disturbance to the economic conditions existing in the province and of grave injury being caused to the working classes by the large influx of labourers from China and Japan, as the standards of living of the masses of the people in those countries differ so widely from the standards prevailing in the province, thus enabling them to work for a much less wage.

That it is also urged that it is in the interest of the Empire that the Pacific Province of the Dominion should be occupied by a large and thoroughly British population rather than by one in which the number of aliens would form a large proportion.

The Minister also desires to call attention to the many acts passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Province declaring that Chinese or Japanese persons shall not be allowed to find employment on works, the construction of which has been authorized or made possible of accomplishment by certain privileges or franchises granted by the Legislature, which Acts have been disallowed by reason of the discrimination including Japanese.

The Minister submits that owing to these representations made by the Legislature and people of British Columbia, the Right Honourable the Premier during the last session of the Parliament of Canada, when introducing the Bill authorizing the increase in the capitation tax on Chinese coming into the Dominion from \$50 to \$100, announced that the government had come to the conclusion that it would be wise at the present time to follow the course adopted by the Government of Canada in the year 1884, and have the complaints and statements referred to, investigated, the inquiry to include the question as to whether the Japanese should be treated as the Chinese were, and whether or not they present the same objectionable characteristics as were alleged against the Chinese and that a royal commission would be appointed to investigate and examine into the whole question, making a full report so that the views of the people of British Columbia might be placed before the Imperial authorities.

The Minister therefore recommends that a thorough and full investigation be made, under a Royal Commission, into the foregoing statements and representations, and that Roger C. Clute, of Toronto, Ralph Smith, of Vancouver, and Daniel J. Munn, of New Westminster, be appointed Commissioners for the purpose of such investigation, and that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 114, Revised Statutes of Canada, entitled "An act respecting inquiries concerning public matters," they as such Commissioners be given the full power of summoning witnesses and requiring them to give evidence on oath or on solemn affirmation, and to produce such documents and papers as they may deem requisite.

The Minister further recommends that reasonable advance be made to the Commissioners to cover living and travelling expenses, that F. J. Dean, of Kamloops, be appointed secretary to the Commission, and that for the purpose of taking such evidence they be authorized to employ a stenographer to take down the evidence, whose remuneration shall be fixed by the Commissioners.

The committee submit the foregoing for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council

MINTO.

CANADA.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
 QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern.

-GREETING :

Whereas it appears from a report from Our Secretary of State that representations and statements have been made by the legislature and people of the Province of British Columbia on the subject of Chinese and Japanese immigration into that province, as more fully set out in the Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council bearing date the twenty-first day of September, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred, a copy of which is hereunto annexed ;

And whereas We deem it expedient that inquiry under oath should be made with respect to the said statements and representations referred to in the said Order in Council hereunto annexed ; And whereas for the purpose of such inquiry, We duly appointed by Letters Patent under the Great Seal dated September 21, A.D., 1900, Roger Conger Clute, Ralph Smith and Daniel James Munn, to be our Commissioners, and the said Ralph Smith has since resigned his said office as such Commissioner, and it is expedient to appoint another Commissioner in his place ;

Now know ye that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint Christopher Foley, of Rossland, in the Province of British Columbia, Esquire, to be One of Our Commissioners for the purpose of investigating the said statements and representations so made, as indicated in the Order of Our Governor General in Council hereunto annexed, in the room, place and stead of Ralph Smith, Esquire, who hath resigned the said office ;

And We do hereby, under the authority of The Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter 114, intituled 'An Act respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters,' confer upon you, Our said Commissioner, the power of summoning before you any witnesses, and of requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation, if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things as you, Our said Commissioner, shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which you are hereby appointed to examine, inquire into and investigate. To have, hold exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto you the said Christopher Foley, together with the rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of right and by law appertaining during pleasure ;

And We do hereby require and direct you to report to Our Secretary of State the result of your investigation, together with the evidence taken before you and any opinion you may see fit to express thereon.

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed :

WITNESS ; Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin The Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom ; Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain ; Baron of Nova Scotia ; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada.

At Our Government House, in the City of Ottawa, this Eighth day of January, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one, and in the Sixty-fourth year of Our Reign.

By Command.

JOSEPH POPE.

Under-Secretary of State.

PART I.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION

PART I.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION

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PART II

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

PART II.—CONTENTS.

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TORONTO, February 18, 1902.

The Honourable RICHARD W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the question of Chinese and Japanese Immigration, in so far as it relates to the immigration of Chinese.

Every interest and industry has been considered, and with each chapter is quoted so much of the evidence relating thereto as was considered necessary to convey the purport of the whole.

In the head note and summary of each chapter will be found a concise statement of the facts and findings relating to each subject matter dealt with.

The evidence of course had to be all reviewed before reaching a decision in each case, and it was thought conducive to a full exposition of each subject matter, that a condensed statement of the evidence upon which the findings were based should be quoted.

In the last chapters will be found a resumé of the whole and the conclusion at which the Commissioners have arrived. The head note and summary of each chapter and the concluding chapter fully set forth the views of the Commissioners. In quoting the evidence especial care was taken to give the views of all parties who employ Chinese labour, or whose interests might possibly be affected by its exclusion.

I am pleased to say that the Commissioners were unanimous in the conclusion arrived at, as to the necessity of excluding further immigration of Chinese labourers.

That portion of the report relating to Japanese Immigration is well advanced, and will be completed at an early date.

R. C. CLUTE,
Chairman.

COMMISSIONS.

N. E. TASCHEREAU,
Deputy Governor General,
Canada.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern.

GREETING :

Whereas it appears from a report from Our Secretary of State that representations and statements have been made by the legislature and people of the province of British Columbia on the subject of Chinese and Japanese immigration into that province, as more fully set out in the Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, bearing date the twenty-first day of September, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred, a copy of which is hereunto annexed ;

And whereas We deem it expedient that inquiry under oath should be made with respect to the said statements and representations referred to in the said Order in Council hereunto annexed.

Now know ye that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint Roger Conger Clute, of the city of Toronto, in the province of Ontario, one of our counsel learned in the law for the province of Ontario, Ralph Smith, of the city of Vancouver, in the province of British Columbia, Esquire, and Daniel James Munn, of the city of New Westminster, in said

REPORT
[54]
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO INQUIRE
INTO THE
SUBJECT OF CHINESE AND JAPANESE IMMIGRATION
INTO THE
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To the Honourable RICHARD W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

We, the undersigned, having been duly appointed by a Royal Commission dated the twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, and by a further Royal Commission dated the eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one (appointing the undersigned Christopher Foley as commissioner in the place and stead of Ralph Smith, resigned) to inquire into the subject of Chinese and Japanese immigration, have the honour to report as follows:—

CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTORY.

REPRESENTATIONS BY BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Your commissioners are directed to investigate the statements and representations indicated in the Order of Council annexed to the Commission. It will be therefore necessary to shortly inquire precisely what representations and statements the people and Legislature of British Columbia have made on the subject of Chinese and Japanese immigration into that province.

In 1891 over 70 petitions were presented to the Dominion Parliament, representing nearly every trade and calling in British Columbia and from nearly every labour organization from Vancouver to Halifax, declaring that in the opinion of the petitioners 'the importation into Canada of Chinese labour is not in the best interests of the country and should be prohibited, and praying for such legislation as will have the effect of totally prohibiting the importation of Chinese labour into the Dominion.'

In 1892 a still larger number of petitions were presented, stating that the Chinese Immigration Act had been very beneficial, but not sufficiently restrictive, and declaring

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that 'it would be in the interests of the people of Canada if Chinese immigration be prohibited by law, but if that cannot at present be accomplished, that the entrance duties on persons of Chinese origin entering Canada should be increased from \$50 to \$500 per head.'

Petitions of like purport have since been presented from time to time to parliament with increased urgency.

During the session of the Dominion Parliament of 1897 a petition signed by 1,034 electors of Vancouver District, and another signed by 600 citizens of Nanaimo, and another signed by 2,700 residents of British Columbia, and other petitions numerously signed from Port Haney and from the municipal council of the district of Burnaby, the municipal council of the city of Kaslo and the citizens of Vernon, and from other places, were presented, declaring that the tax of \$50 has proven wholly inadequate to effect the purpose for which said tax was imposed; that the large influx of Chinese into Canada is a serious menace to the prosperity and general welfare of this country and British Columbia in particular, for the following amongst other reasons: 'that these Chinese are non-assimilative and have no intention of settled citizenship, are in moral, social and sanitary status below the most inferior standard of Western life, and being usually single (the most of them being imported as coolies by labour-contracting organizations) accept less than the lowest living wage of white labour, yet expend but little of their scanty earnings in the land of their temporary adoption.'

The petition further recites that the Government of the United States, recognizing the great harm wrought to the citizens of the United States by competition of cheap Chinese labour, enacted legislation to totally prohibit the immigration of Chinese labourers in the interests and for the welfare of the said United States of America, and that in other parts of the British Empire the same evil has existed, and that the imposition of a tax of \$500 by the Australian colonies has been effectual in checking such Chinese immigration, and that the petitioners believe that the imposition of a per capita tax of \$500 would be efficacious in restricting the said immigration of Chinese, and the petitioners pray parliament to grant relief for the existing evils.

Subsequent petitions of like purport were presented to parliament, and in the month of May, 1900, two numerously signed petitions from the residents of British Columbia to His Excellency the Governor General in Council were presented, representing that between the first day of January and the last day of April, 4,669 Japanese landed in Victoria and Vancouver, and that during the same period 1,325 Chinese landed in Victoria, making a total of nearly 6,000 within the short space of four months, and alleging that the result is 'that the province is flooded with an undesirable class of people, non-assimilative and most detrimental to the wage-earning people of the province, and that this extensive class of Chinese labourers is also a menace to the health of the community.'

The petitioners assert that they are not unmindful of Imperial interests, and while expressing feelings of the greatest loyalty to those interests, they respectfully call attention to what they call a serious inroad to the people of that province, and they ask that an Act may be passed prohibiting the immigration of the above-mentioned people to Canada. That it has also been alleged in other communications on the subject that there was a probability of great disturbance to the economic conditions existing in the province and of grave injury being caused to the working class by the large influx of labourers from China and Japan, as the standard of living of the masses of the people in those countries differs so widely from the standard prevailing in the province, thus enabling them to work for a much less wage. That it is also urged that it is in the interest of the Empire that the Pacific province of the Dominion should be occupied by a large and thoroughly British population rather than by one in which the number of aliens would form a larger proportion.

ACTION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT.

Since 1891 the Government of British Columbia have from time to time urged that the 'Chinese Immigration Act of Canada' be made more restrictive by increasing the

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capitation tax and decreasing the number each vessel is permitted to carry, or that 'their importation be prohibited.'

These representations were made from year to year with increasing force, both by the Executive Council of the province and by resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

In a report of the Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council of March 2, 1899, it is pointed out that 'during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, as shown by the customs returns, no less a number than 2,263 Chinese immigrants paid the tax and entered Canada through the ports of this province alone, the average for the past three years being over 2,100 per annum, and declaring that this enormous influx, together with the present Chinese population of the province, has already driven workingmen of British race and blood out of many of the fields of labour, and threatens before long, if not stopped, to leave very little occupation remaining for the white labourer, and recommends that the capitation tax should be increased to at least \$500.'

On August 14, 1900, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia approved of a minute to the Privy Council submitting certain resolutions of the Legislative Assembly, declaring 'that in the opinion of this House the said Act is ineffective and inadequate to prevent Chinese immigration into Canada, and respectfully urging upon the Dominion Government that the effective mode of dealing with the question of restriction of Mongolian immigration into Canada would be by either increasing the amount of the per capita tax to the sum of \$500, or by the passing of an Act based on the lines of the Natal Act known as the 'Immigration Restriction Act, 1897.'

Attention is also called to the many Acts passed by the Legislative Assembly of the province declaring that Chinese or Japanese persons shall not be allowed to find employment on works, the construction of which has been authorized or made possible of accomplishment by certain privileges and franchises granted by the legislature, which Acts have been disallowed by reason of the discrimination, including Japanese.

These are the statements and representations constituting the subject of inquiry by your commissioners.

VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

Desiring to obtain the fullest information upon which had been based the legislation and treaty rights regulating the question of Chinese immigration and exclusion from the United States, Mr. Clute, accompanied by Mr. Simpson, the stenographer of the Commission, left Toronto on October 11 for Washington, where they met Mr. Munn, and by the courtesy of various officials of the United States Government obtained copies of all state papers constituting the history of the Chinese immigration question in the United States, including the evidence taken and the reports made under the various commissions, and the subsequent negotiations, treaties and Acts of Congress affecting the same, and the report of the commissioner sent to Japan to inquire into Japanese immigration.

VISIT TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Owing to the resignation of Commissioner Smith your commissioners were not able to proceed at that time further with the work of the Commission. Mr. Christopher Foley having been appointed in the place of Mr. Ralph Smith, your commissioners met at Vancouver on March 6, 1901, where interviews were held with various persons representing the different interests affected, and the nature of the evidence to be brought before the Commission was fully considered. Your commissioners then proceeded to Victoria where they arrived on March 9.

Due notice was given in the newspapers of the sittings of the Commission, and an invitation was extended to all who desired to give evidence to do so. The sittings of the Commission at Victoria and elsewhere were held in the court-house by the courtesy of the Honourable Mr. Eberts, Attorney General for the province, and the public and the press were admitted.

Your commissioners were attended from the first by counsel: Mr. Charles Wilson, K.C., representing the Province of British Columbia; Mr. J. M. Bradburn representing the Chinese, and Mr. R. Cassidy, K.C., representing the Japanese.

Counsel representing the different interests were consulted from time to time with respect to the witnesses to be summoned, and were requested to suggest the names of any witnesses whom they might think capable of giving important evidence from their standpoint, and in every instance the attendance of witnesses so suggested was procured.

In order to solicit the fullest information and to indicate to witnesses the line of inquiry, the following announcement was made by publication in the newspapers and free distribution:—

The commissioners appointed to inquire into Chinese and Japanese immigration desire information upon the following points:—

It will be necessary to treat the various questions affecting Chinese and Japanese immigration separately.

The object of the commissioners in suggesting the following subjects, is to enable you to give them consideration before giving evidence touching such of them as may be within your knowledge.

The commissioners will greatly appreciate any information you may be able to give bearing upon the subject.

1. The number of Chinese and Japanese in British Columbia.
2. What has been the annual immigration since 1884?
3. From what class in China and Japan are they principally drawn, and what was their condition before coming here?
4. What is their character for honesty, obedience, diligence, thrift, sobriety and morality, and keeping of contracts?
5. How many are engaged in:—

- (a.) The fisheries.
- (b.) The mines.
- (c.) The lumber business.
- (d.) Manufactures.
- (e.) Farming and market gardening.
- (f.) Domestic service.
- (g.) Other callings.

6. What is the difference in wages paid to Chinese and Japanese, and to the wages of white men in the same trade or calling?

7. Has any industry been called into existence by reason of their presence; and, if so, what industry, and how?

8. Is there any industry dependent upon their labour for its continuance; and, if so, what industry, and why?

9. How do they come, and under what terms?

10. What proportion bring their wives, or marry here, or attend school or churches or become Christians?

11. What is their standard of living, compared with that of the white population, clothing, food, rent, &c.?

12. What is their moral and physical condition, their habits of cleanliness, and attention to sanitary regulations?

13. Do they live in different parts of the city or in aggregations?

14. What effect has their residence in any place on the price of property in that locality?

15. What proportion live in separate houses and have families?

16. How many Chinese and Japanese women are there in this province; and for what purpose and under what terms were they brought here?

17. Are men and women brought here under servile or other contracts? What is their form and effect?

18. How many Chinese companies or other associations are there; what is their object? How do they affect immigration? Have the 'six companies' branches in British Columbia?

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19. Do Chinese or Japanese immigrants take any interest in our laws and institutions? What proportion build up homes and become permanent citizens or residents?

20. Do they learn our language, customs, habits of living, and show signs that they will eventually assimilate and become an integral part of our race and nation, as Europeans do?

21. How have workmen been affected by Chinese and Japanese immigrants respectively?

22. How has Chinese and Japanese immigration affected white immigration?

23. What proportion of Chinese and Japanese return to their own country, and what proportion of their earnings do they take with them? Do they enrich or impoverish this country?

24. Are the Chinese and Japanese 'a menace to health'? And, if so, in what way?

25. Has trade and commerce between Canada and China and Japan been affected by Chinese and Japanese immigration? And how would restrictive or prohibitive measures affect it?

26. The effect of unlimited Chinese and Japanese immigration upon the country?

27. As to the sufficiency of white labour to supply the demands of the country?

28. The criminal class amongst Chinese and Japanese as compared with the white population; the nature of the offences; the number of convictions, &c.?

29. The relative amount of taxes paid compared with their earning power?

30. With whom do the Chinese and Japanese trade; and to what extent does the country benefit thereby? What proportion of their earnings do they send or take out of this country?

31. What proportion speak English and read and write English?

32. Do you make any distinction between Chinese and Japanese immigrants?

33. Do you favour restriction or prohibition of this class of immigrants?

34. How do you propose to prohibit with the existing treaties in force?

AT VICTORIA.

The first sitting for the reception of evidence was held on Wednesday, March 13, at 10 a.m. The secretary read the commissions, and the chairman briefly reviewed the circumstances leading up to the appointment of the Commission. He referred to the Commission of 1884 and the Act of 1885 and the amendments thereto, the last of which increased the tax from \$50 to \$100. Repeated requests for an increase in the tax had been made both by petition from the Legislature of British Columbia, and by residents and labour unions in the province. These requests had been made since 1890, and finally in 1900 an Act was passed increasing the tax from \$50 to \$100; at the same time the Premier declared the intention of the Government to be to appoint a commission of inquiry into all matters affecting the subject of Oriental immigration. This, then, was the origin of the Commission, which was now convened, and the chairman stated that it was the desire of the government and of the commissioners that the fullest and freest inquiry should be made. The Commission expected the cordial assistance, not only of the provincial government, which had been in a manner responsible for the institution of the inquiry, but of all parties who could in any way facilitate them in their labours. It was the intention to treat the evidence as to the Chinese and Japanese separately, so as to give an opportunity, not only to present facts regarding each, but to give each nationality a separate hearing. To assist in the inquiry the Commission had prepared a number of questions indicating the scope of the inquiry, which would not, however, be thereby limited.

After reading the above announcement the chairman said anyone, whether an individual or representing particular interests, would be given the utmost liberty to submit evidence. Further, it was the desire of the commissioners to meet the convenience of those desiring to attend and give evidence, so that they would hold night sessions if necessary for those who were unable to attend in the daytime. He emphasized the necessity of eliminating hearsay evidence and said it was not opinions so much that

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the commissioners desired to hear, but facts, on which the report of the Commission could be based.

The commissioners decided to sit from 10 to 12:30 and from 2:30 to 5:30, but these hours were almost invariably extended to 1 o'clock and 6 o'clock respectively.

At Victoria 114 witnesses were examined. The Legislature being in session, many prominent men were in attendance from various parts of the province and occasion was taken to obtain their evidence. More witnesses were offered than whose evidence could possibly be taken without unduly lengthening the sittings, and selection was made after consulting counsel representing the different interests. Owing to the efficient services rendered by the secretary, the commissioners were not delayed at any time for lack of witnesses.

The evidence having been completed at Victoria on the evening of the 9th, four commissioners left for Nanaimo the following morning, where were examined 32 witnesses, and concluded there on Tuesday, April 16. Here the Commission were attended by the same counsel with the addition of Mr. James H. Simpson, representing the Chinese.

We left Nanaimo the next morning, arriving at Union in the afternoon and opened the Commission at 4:45 o'clock, attended by counsel as before. Examined 14 witnesses and left for Vancouver Friday the 19th.

Arrived at Vancouver Saturday, April 20, attended by the following counsel: Mr. Charles Wilson, K.C., for the Province; Mr. J. G. Macdonell, representing the trades unions; Mr. R. Cassidy, K.C., representing the Japanese, and Mr. A. D. Taylor, representing the Chinese Board of Trade. At Vancouver 77 witnesses were examined.

We left Vancouver on May 13 for New Westminster, and were attended by counsel representing the province, the Chinese and Japanese, as before. Here 37 witnesses were examined.

On Monday, May 20, we visited some of the canneries on the Fraser River and examined two witnesses, returning the same evening to New Westminster. We sat for the further taking of evidence at New Westminster until 12 noon of May 21, leaving at 2 p.m. for Kamloops. Nineteen witnesses were examined at Kamloops on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Leaving Kamloops on the morning of the 24th, we visited Vernon the same day, examined 4 witnesses and arrived at Revelstoke on Saturday the 25th; examined 10 witnesses and left for Rossland on the morning of May 26; examined 11 witnesses at Rossland and left for Nelson on May 29; examined 7 witnesses at Nelson and left for Sandon *via* Kaslo on May 30, where we examined 4 witnesses on the 31st and returned to Kaslo by afternoon train. Examined 5 witnesses at Kaslo and closed the evidence at 10 p.m. of May 31. This concluded the taking of evidence in British Columbia.

From Kaslo we proceeded to Seattle on June 1, where we arrived on the 2nd (Sunday), and on the 3rd held interviews with the president and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; visited three lumber mills and interviewed the managers; and also the secretary of the city labour bureau, and the secretary of the trades and labour council, and left the following morning for Fairhaven, where we arrived Tuesday, June 4. Here and at Whatcom we were engaged all day in visiting canneries and mills and taking the statements of the managers.

We left Fairhaven on Wednesday, June 5, and arrived at Vancouver on the same day, and on the following day, by request, heard argument of counsel representing the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Province of British Columbia. Our inquiry was continued at Portland and San Francisco, these two cities being the chief centres of Chinese population on the coast.

At San Francisco much valuable information was obtained in regard to the canneries on the Sound and in Alaska, and to what extent Chinese labour was there employed. The mayor of the city, the labour commissioner, and the Chinese immigration commissioner gave very full information bearing upon the different phases of the Chinese question. This concluded the taking of evidence on the coast.

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THE COMMISSION OF 1884.

A reference may be had to the report of the Commission of 1884 for a more extensive review of such questions as the worship of ancestors, system of education, sale of offices, &c., in China.

It has been the aim of the present Commission to gather all the facts obtainable as to the number of Chinese and Japanese in the country, the quality of the immigrant, the class to which he belongs, his habits and standard of living in his own country, the object he has in emigrating to this country, his manner of life here, how far, if at all, he is a menace to health, and his social and moral condition as a factor in the well-being of the commonwealth, to what extent he has taken part in and is essential to the development of the great natural resources of the province, the clearing and cultivation of the land, the fisheries, the mines and the lumber industries, and to other trades and callings in which he finds employment, and the nature and extent of such employment; and to consider the question having relation to these facts, and from a national standpoint.

It was thought expedient as far as possible to treat the questions of Chinese and Japanese immigration separately. The commissioners will, therefore, deal in the first place with the question of Chinese immigration.

CHAPTER II.—THE CHINESE IMMIGRANT.

EARLY IMMIGRATION.

The first immigration in any considerable numbers of Chinese into British Columbia occurred in the early sixties, at the time of the gold excitement in Cariboo, when many of them engaged in the placer mines in that district, and a few have continued there ever since.

By the census of 1880-81 the total population of Chinese in Canada is given as 4,383, of which 4,350 are credited to British Columbia, 22 to Ontario, 7 to Quebec and 4 to Manitoba.

THEIR INCREASE.

During the period from 1881 to 1884 the Canadian Pacific Railway was in course of construction and large numbers of Chinese were brought over by contract to work on the Onderdonk section of the railway. According to a Chinese compilation made in 1884 there were in the province of British Columbia 9,629 Chinese labourers: of these 3,510 were engaged on railway construction. Victoria is credited with 1,767, New Westminster 1,680, and Nanaimo 168.

The census of 1891 gives the total number of Chinese in Canada as 9,129: of these 8,910 were in British Columbia, 97 in Ontario, Quebec 36, Manitoba 31, New Brunswick 8, Nova Scotia 5, Prince Edward Island 1, and the Territories 41.

It will be seen from the above that the large influx of Chinese into British Columbia during the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway was pretty well absorbed: nearly all apparently remaining in the country, or others coming in to take their place.

In 1901 the total number of Chinese in Canada is given by the census as 16,792, distributed as follows:—

British Columbia	*14,376
Ontario	712
Quebec	1,044
Manitoba	206

* Incomplete.

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New Brunswick	59
Nova Scotia	104
Prince Edward Island	4
The Territories	287

Of the above in British Columbia 2,715 reside at Victoria, 2,011 at Vancouver, 604 at Nanaimo, 505 at Union, 738 at New Westminster, 241 at Rossland, and 391 at Nelson.

NOTE.—These figures from the census do not agree with the figures obtained earlier from the Chinese Boards of Trade, and which have been used elsewhere in this report.

The relative increase in the population of British Columbia will be seen from the following table:—

	Whites and Indians.	Chinese.	Japanese.
1881	49,459	4,350
1891	89,263	8,910
1901	157,815	†14,376	4,578

WHERE THEY COME FROM.

Nearly all come from the six or eight counties in the province of Kwang-tung in the vicinity of Canton. This province contains an area variously estimated at from eighty to ninety thousand square miles, and a population of over twenty millions. Those who come to Canada are mostly of the coolie class, or farm labourers. The farms are small, usually from a half to ten acres.

COST OF LIVING IN CHINA.

According to the witness Mr. McLean, who had lived many years in China (and who assisted counsel for the Chinese and was present throughout the investigation, and entirely favourable to them), the houses are described as costing in our money from \$5 to \$15; the whole furniture would not exceed \$5, and a man supports a family on \$2 or \$3 a month. 'Lots of these coolies, 40 or 50, live together, and are boarded for so much a month. Rice is the staple diet.'

Gordon W. Thomas, superintendent of mines for seven and a-half years, now gardener and rancher, and caretaker of the cemetery, who, though engaged at present in what might be called a humble employment, is a man of large experience and travel, and spoke from personal knowledge of the Chinese, such as come here, in China, and from a personal experience of 20 years in British Columbia, says: As far as my observations go I think they are a very undesirable race to be brought into this country. From my personal knowledge we get the largest majority from the lowest order of coolie labour from China, and I say that because I have been in China myself. I have seen them there and I have seen them here. I say from my personal knowledge that they come from the coolie class. There may be some from the small farmer class. I mean the lowest order of society or people in China from the cities. There is a class of farm labourers also, and those are the people who take hold of that class of work here. They live here just as they live there.

Lee Mon Kow, Chinese interpreter for the Dominion Government, and who has resided for 18 years in British Columbia, says: I figure there are about 14,000 or 15,000 Chinese in Canada; in British Columbia about 13,000. There are no Chinese brought out under contract now. There have been no slave girls brought out since 10 years ago when the Home was started (that is the Methodist Home for Chinese and Japanese girls). There were two or three cases of slave girls, but the Chinese don't call it slave. The woman agrees to come out. The man pays her, or perhaps pays her debt, and she sells herself until the debt is paid.

† Incomplete, estimated at 16,000.

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WAGES IN CHINA.

Bearing upon the question of wages, the following quotation from 'The Real Chinaman' by Chester Holcombe, for many years interpreter, Secretary of Legation and Acting Minister of the United States at Peking, will throw light upon this important question. 'The word 'poverty' does not convey at all the same idea in the two countries. In America a man is called poor who has a family to support upon earnings of perhaps of \$2 a day. In China such a man would be looked upon as living in the very lap of luxury. Here when the labouring man cannot afford meat twice daily he and those dependent upon him are supposed to be upon the verge of hardship and destitution. Meat is cheaper there than here. A labourer there receiving what he considers good wages cannot afford to eat a pound in a month. Poverty here means a narrow and limited supply of luxury. There it means actual hunger and nakedness, if not starvation within sight.'

SKILLED LABOURERS.

'Skilled labourers in China earn from 10 to 30 cents in silver each day, the average coming below 20. Unskilled labourers or men who, in the expressive language of the country, sell their strength, earn from 5 to 10 cents each day, the average not rising above 7. This meagre sum in a country where bachelors and old maids are unknown, must furnish the entire support of the man himself and from one to four or five other persons. I have often hired a special messenger to travel a distance of 30 miles for 8 cents. Boatmen are regularly hired to track a native boat, pulling it against the stream from Tientsin to Tungeho, a distance of 125 miles, for 50 cents and their food one way. They make the return journey on foot, that is, they travel a greater distance than that separating Boston and New York for 50 cents in silver, and one-half of their food. To an immense number of the people failure of work for one day carries with it as an inevitable sequence failure of any sort of food for the same period. From the prices paid for labour, as given above, it is not a difficult matter to estimate the extremely narrow limits within which the daily expenditures of a majority of the four hundred millions of Chinese must be kept. The difficulty lies in discovering how they live at all.

THEIR FOOD.

'Their daily food consists of rice steamed, cabbage boiled in an unnecessarily large quantity of water, and for a relish a few bits of raw turnip pickled in a strong brine. When disposed to be very extravagant and reckless of expense they buy a cash worth of dried watermelon seeds and munch them as a dessert. In summer they eat raw cucumbers, skin, prickles and all, raw carrots or turnips, or perhaps a melon, not wasting the rind. In certain parts of the empire wheat, flour, oat or cornmeal take the place of rice. With this variation the description answers with entire accuracy for the food consumption of the great masses of the Chinese people, not for the beggars or the very poor, but for the common classes of industrious workmen and their families, whether in the great cities, or in the rural districts.'

Rev. A. H. Smith, 21 years a missionary of the American Board in China, in 'Chinese Characteristics,' says: 'One of the first things which impress the traveller in China is the extremely simple diet of the people. The vast bulk of the population seems to depend upon a few articles, such as rice, beans in various preparations, millet, garden vegetables, and fish. These, with a few other things, form the staple of countless millions, supplemented it may be on the feast days, or other special occasions, with a bit of meat.'

'Now that so much attention is given in Western lands to the contrivance of ways in which to furnish nourishing food to the very poor, at a minimum cost, it is not without interest to learn the undoubted fact that, in ordinary years, it is in China quite possible to furnish wholesome food in abundant quantity at a cost for each adult of not more than two cents a day.'

'In the northern parts of China the horse, the mule, the ox, and the donkey are in universal use, and in large districts the camel is made to do full duty. Doubtless it will appear to some of our readers that economy is carried too far, when we mention that it is the general practice to eat all these animals as soon as they expire, no matter whether the cause of death be an accident, old age, or disease. This is done as a matter of course, and occasions no remark whatever, nor is the habit given up because the animal may chance to have died of some epidemic malady, such as the pleuro-pneumonia in cattle. Such meat is not considered so wholesome as that of animals which have died of other diseases, and this truth is recognized in the lower scale of prices asked for it, but it is all sold, and is all eaten. Certain disturbances of the human organizations into which such diseased meat has entered are well recognized by the people, but it is doubtless considered more economical to eat the meat at the reduced rates, and run the risk of the consequences, which, it should be said, are by no means constant. Dead dogs and cats are subject to the same processes of absorption as dead horses, mules and donkeys. We have been personally cognizant of several cases in which villagers cooked and ate dogs which had been purposely poisoned by strychnine to get rid of them. On one of these occasions some one was thoughtful enough to consult a foreign physician as to the probable results, but as the animal was 'already in the pot,' the survivors could not make up their minds to forego the luxury of a feast, and no harm appeared to come of their indulgence.

'The Chinese constantly carry their economy to the point of depriving themselves of food of which they are really in need. They see nothing irrational in this, but do it as a matter of course. A good example is given in Dr. B. C. Henry's 'The Cross and the Dragon.' He was carried by three coolies for five hours a distance of twenty-three miles, his bearers then returning to Canton to get the breakfast which was furnished them. Forty-six miles before breakfast, with a heavy load half the way, to save five cents.

'In another case two chair coolies had gone with a chair thirty-five miles, and were returning by boat, having had nothing to eat since 6 a.m., rather than pay three cents for two large bowls of rice. The boat ran aground, and did not reach Canton till 2 p.m. next day. Yet these men, having gone twenty-seven hours without food, carrying a load thirty-five miles, offered to take Dr. Henry fifteen miles more to Canton, and but for his baggage would have done so.'

So important is the question of how these people live in China, what in short it costs to produce a competitor of white labour here, and what he can live upon in this country, that a few quotations from the evidence may not be out of place:—

Ewen W. MacLean, born in Japan, lived ten years in China, Chinese interpreter, says: The Chinese labourers come from eight districts in the province of Kwang-tung, similar to what we call counties here. It is one of the most thickly-settled provinces in China, a good agricultural district. The principal product is rice. These counties are all adjacent to each other. There are different dialects in these eight counties. A farm would be from four to six or ten acres. That would supply two or three generations, grandfather and his sons and their sons and their wives and children, in a collection of houses under one control. The oldest male member is in control and the grandmother if the grandfather dies, and this would apply to the father and mother. The house is a one-storey brick structure, usually made of brick out of bluish clay, a durable brick of bluish colour, a little larger than our brick. The roof is brick tiles, and floor, &c., brick or clay, according to their ability to have it. I have never visited any of these eight counties. I don't know what the buildings there are like. They have no heating apparatus, no stoves. Their cooking is done in an outer building in small terra cotta stoves. There is no way of heating the houses. The furniture consists of tables, if a small place one table, if larger, two; stools without back, ancestral tablet and altar. This room would be 10 by 12 feet; sitting room and dining room: two or three sleeping apartments. The rooms are not large, four by eight or five by eight feet. That room would be occupied by farmer and his wife and small children. Board bed made out of planks and matting over it, like the matting you put on floors. The covering is a quilt made out of cotton batting. Generally a little window, a wardrobe like a cupboard

with door, planed, would cost \$1 or \$2, bed, \$2, table, \$2 or \$3, stools, 30 or 40 cents apiece, washstand, 30 cents. That would fairly describe the house of the farmer class from whom these Chinese are drawn. These prices would represent Mexican money. I can't tell the kind of buildings occupied by those who come here. The common labourer gets \$6 a month silver, that is \$3 of our money. Wages here are enormously higher than there. You would live there for about \$4 a month and live well. He would live with a number of men. Lots of these coolies, 40 or 50, live together, and are boarded for so much a month. Rice is the staple diet.

Alfred Dyer, an Englishman by birth, a journalist by profession, says: I have been a resident in China and pretty well all over the Orient and in Japan, from 1881 to 1895. I know how the people are engaged over there to come here, at Hong Kong and Singapore. There are certain houses that are known as barracoon houses. They are emigration agencies in a sense. There has been full legislation applicable to them. The keeper of the house is usually a servant of a Chinese Company. He from time to time procures by means of sub-agents sent into villages or cities where labour is congested, to get emigrants. These places are principally Swatow, Amoy, Fou Chow, Macao, Canton and Hainan. These are the exporting places. These cities are in the south of China, along the Coast and the Delta land, very highly cultivated and very densely populated. There would be a surplus there naturally under such conditions. The men having been recruited are brought down to these houses and are locked up in them, and money is paid covering the expenses of recruiting, the head tax, if any, plus an advance to his family, which the emigrant invariably demands. It is more than doubtful if the emigrant really knows where he is going. He gets in the barracoon house and that is the end. All this is fully set forth in blue books on the subject by the Colonial Government. The Hong Kong books will show you, or the Straits Settlements. The English official called the protector of Chinese would give the information. Well, then, it is a matter which country wants them. Wherever they are wanted they go. Take the tobacco plantations in Sumatra. The coolie enters into a written contract for two years that he shall serve at a certain rate of wages; and that the advance of his employer, which in that case amounts to \$40 or \$50, shall be deducted. He is then free, if he is clear of debt, to enter into a fresh agreement. I know of no such contract with those coming into British Columbia, but when I was in Hong Kong, of their coming here in that way, I never heard it disputed. Moreover, the coolie has not got the money. The Emigrant Company get what they can. It is a mere matter of bargain. The man who completes the contract pays the company who has them. Say I want 100 coolies, I go to an agent and ask what he wants, expecting to pay anywhere between \$4,000 and \$5,000, and he in turn makes his bargain with the owner of the barracoon house. When I get the coolies I deduct his commission out of their earnings.

The compulsion is the urgency of his need. It was about 1895 the last I saw of it. It is impossible for the Chinese to pay his own passage. He could not do it. He comes because of the demand. I don't believe they or their fathers or brothers pay their way. I don't give it credit in the least. The term 'coolie' is used and applied to these various emigrants. It is not necessarily a term of reproach. The question of barracoon houses grew so large that they held a commission on them. To my certain knowledge the Emperor's decree is disregarded. I lived in the Chinese quarters in Swatow and Canton. The people who come here if they can get work home, their earnings would not be over \$4 a month, Mexican, that is \$2 of our money. The domestic servant is of a class above the average of the Chinese. A carpenter would get from 15 to 30 cents Mexican silver a day, that is from 7½ to 15 cents. Houses are all small, one story, and are built of varying material, mud, cement and oyster shells. Inside either an earthen floor or tiles most usually or boarded. There are always three rooms. First, one general room, one women's room, and a guest room for men. The furniture is the same as in Chinatown. You find adobe and half burnt brick. Such a house would cost \$20 or \$30 in Mexican silver. This room (the court room, about 30 by 50) would make four houses. The allowance in Canton jail to the jailer per head was 50 cash, equal to 3 cents a day Mexican silver, that is 1½ cents a day for each inmate. He does live upon 3 cents a day Mexican silver. The idea is communal. One sees a whole lot of planta-

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tions and a village is communal. Living in the house would be the father and the sons and their wives. The custom and laws permit more than one wife when no son is born. The average holdings is from a half acre up, almost wholly rice lands. The rice would not be for their own consumption. They grow a better rice than other places. Their clothing is homespun and home-dyed, very very cheap indeed. A man and his wife and two children could live on four Mexican silver dollars, that is two dollars a month.

Gordon W. Thomas, above quoted, says: I have resided in British Columbia twenty years. From my personal knowledge we get the largest majority of Chinese from the lowest order of coolie labour, and I say that because I have been in China myself; have seen them there and have seen them here. This coolie labour coming from China,—there is a company sending them here. They pay their passage and head money coming into the country; then they have to serve them till this money is refunded. I know by what I was informed in Canton by Chinese merchants. That was in 1874. I only know what took place then; not now. I say from my personal knowledge of them that they come from the coolie class. There may be some from the small farmers' class. I mean the lowest order of society or people in China from the cities. There is a class of farm labourers also and those are the people who take hold of that class of work here. Their home life is just like it is here. They are the filthiest, dirtiest race I ever saw. They have little huts and some look like mud huts. I was never in a house outside the city.

The Rev. Lewis W. Hall, Chinese missionary at Union Mines, says: I can speak the Chinese language. I learned it in Canada. I was in China two years. I know from the district they come from. The coolie class border along Hong Kong. I asked them where they came from. I never was in a farmer's house in China.

At 2½ cents per day the cost of living for 365 days would be \$9.12½. The labourer's income at 5 cents per day for 300 days would be \$15; from which deduct the cost of living for 365 days at 2½ cents per day, or \$9.12½, and we find that the labourer receives as a result of his yearly earnings \$5.88. Is it advisable that the labourer of this country shall be brought into competition with such conditions?

Having seen the class from which the Chinese immigrant is chiefly drawn and his condition in China, let us examine his mode of life and occupations after he arrives in this country.

OCCUPATIONS.

The following statement was compiled by the Chinese Board of Trade of Victoria at the request of the commissioners:—

	No. of Chinese.
Merchants	288
Wives of merchants and labourers	92
Male native-born children	63
Female native-born children	82
Domestic cooks and servants employed by whites	530
Market gardeners	198
Sewing machine operators and tailors	84
Saw-mill hands	48
Cannery men	886
Laundrymen (employed in 49 wash houses)	197
Miscellaneous labourers employed	638
do do unemployed	173
Females, no occupation whatever	4
Total	3,263

ON CHINESE AND JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

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Chinese householders of different classes in the city of Victoria, B.C.:—

Merchants' families	45
Labourers' families	28
Ministers' families	1
Interpreters' families	2
Total	76

The above households include:

Merchants' wives	61
Labourers' "	28
Ministers' "	1
Interpreters' "	2
Children, native born, males	63
Children, native born, females	82
Total	237

FEW FEMALES.

It thus appears that out of a population of 3,273 there are 3,132 adult males; of these 92 have wives in Canada, and of the 92, 61 are merchants, 1 a minister, 28 labourers and 2 interpreters. The disproportion of males to females is even greater in other places than in Victoria.

In Vancouver there are 2,053 males and 27 females, of whom 16 are wives of merchants, 8 of labourers, 1 of a minister, and 2 of interpreters.

In many towns and villages there are no Chinese women in a population of several hundred Chinamen. Of a total population of 16,000 (estimated) Chinese in British Columbia, there are 122 Chinese children attending the public schools, distributed as follows:—

CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

City or District.	Chinese population as given by Chinese	Chinese Children attending Public School.
Victoria		
Vancouver	3,283	29
New Westminster	2,053	26
Nanaimo and District	748	6
New Westminster District	1,169	5
Comox		32
Yale		2
Cariboo	Estimated at	9
Lillooett	8,700	5
East Kootenay		3
West Kootenay		3
Total	15,942	122

The total population of British Columbia, exclusive of Chinese, is 161,272; of these 54,500 are adult males, and 30,000 adult females, and 23,615 attend Public School. (Vote—These figures are estimated from partial census returns and statements obtained from Chinese.)