

REPORT  
OF THE  
ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON  
CHINESE IMMIGRATION

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## APPENDIX A.

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE taken before a Joint Committee composed of a committee of the Senate and a committee of the House of Representatives of the United States, which commenced its sittings at San Francisco, October 18th, 1876.

On the 6th of July, 1876, the Senate of the United States appointed a committee of three to investigate the character, extent and effect of Chinese immigration to the United States.

On the 17th of the same month the House of Representatives appointed three of its members for the same purpose.

Subsequently the two special committees were authorized to act as a joint special committee.

This Joint Committee visited the Pacific coast in October, 1876, and examined one hundred and thirty witnesses. The plan adopted was first to examine persons "opposed to the unlimited introduction of Chinese;" then to hear those favorable to "such introduction," and then to "afford time for witnesses in rebuttal."

130 witness  
examined.

Hon. FRANK McCOPPIN, representing the Senate of the State of California, McCOPPIN, in the course of an argument against Chinese immigration, made the following statements:—

China, brought so near to America by steam, contained a population of 400,000,000 souls. If encouraged, the Chinese will become the most migratory on the face of the globe. They do not assimilate. They threaten to overrun the Pacific coast; but they are determined to return to China. They have no desire to acquire real property in America. The assessed value of all the real property in California was \$600,000,000; but the Chinese, though numerically one-sixth of the population, do not own to exceed \$1,500,000 of this amount, and therefore pay less than one four hundredth part of the revenue required to support the government of the state. Chinese population of California is 116,000, of which 30,000 is domiciled in San Francisco. Of these only five or six hundred are women, mostly occupants of forty or fifty houses of prostitution. These women are sold into this degrading slavery. Fifty or sixty gambling houses constantly open in the Chinese quarter. A pretty large proportion of the class called criminal found among these people. Inhabitants of Chinatown governed by the Six Companies rather than by the municipality. Frugal and requiring little the Chinaman can undersell the European laborer. A portion of a shelf fifteen to thirty inches wide serves him for a bed and a little rice suffices for his food.

Chinese pay less  
than 1-400th part  
of the revenue  
required for the  
state government.

Prostitutes.

Large proportion  
of criminals.

Undersell the  
European  
laborer.

FRANK M. PIXLEY, representing the Municipality of San Francisco, in PIXLEY, an argument against Chinese immigration, stated:

The Chinese in the state number from 150,000 to 175,000. The Chinese when through with any work undertaken outside the city return to Chinatown, and in the winter not less than 75,000 Chinese residents in San Francisco; in the summer, 30,000. The Chinese are atheists and

Mr Pixley contends that Chinese in the state number from 150,000 to 175,000.



Polygamy.  
Prostitution.  
Testimony  
worthless.

All intend to go  
back to China.

Dangerous to  
white population  
because they  
labor so well.

Rate of wages.

Chinese laborer  
without wife or  
family.

Chinamen capable  
of living in an  
overcrowded  
state.

If 60,000 white  
laborers took the  
place of 60,000 Chi-  
nese, San Fran-  
cisco would have  
300,000 white  
people to extend  
its bounds and its  
business.

Chinese prevent  
immigration of  
white laborers.

Sanitary con-  
dition.

Small-pox.

Number of women  
in California and  
in San Francisco.

Six Companies.

No Chinaman  
until he is free on  
the books of the  
company to  
which he belongs  
can leave Cali-  
fornia.

heathens. They believe in Confucius without following his moral precepts. Polygamy and prostitution prevail. Their testimony is worthless, and the Chinese prostitutes corrupt and infect the young white boys. The men come voluntarily to California but most of the women, i.e., the prostitutes are enslaved. All contemplate returning to China. They have no knowledge of American institutions. They are expert in all kinds of light labor. Many of them are most excellent laborers.

One of the things which make them dangerous to the white laboring population is that they labor so well. They learn trades and become manufacturers and drive the white man out of the trade he established. Skilled Chinese labor receives from 50c. to \$1 per day; railroad and tute laborers, from 60c. to \$1 a day; farm hands, \$1 a day; fruit-pickers, \$1.10; all boarding themselves. Chinese labor drives the white laborer to starvation. The white laborer requires meat and bread; the Chinaman only rice, tea, dried fish and desiccated vegetables. The food of the one can in San Francisco be purchased for ten cents a day; that of the other will cost several times that amount. The white laborer, as a rule, has a wife and family; the Chinaman is an adult male who has no wife, no family, no child. The white married laborer requires at the least two rooms, and if he has grown-up children another room at least for them, and if the children are of different sexes, each must have a separate room. Chinamen would throw a partition through a large room build bunks on the side, and lie down on the floor, and would cook in a brazier not bigger than a spittoon. One hundred of them would live in this room, while the poorest Christian family of five in the state would think themselves cramped in double the space. Sixty thousand people live in six or seven blocks of this city. If sixty thousand white laborers took their place, San Francisco, instead of 60,000 Chinamen, would have 300,000 white people to extend the city and stimulate business. The Chinese have no duties to the state. They do not act as jurymen; they cannot be called out to quell a riot; in case of war they would supply no soldiers; they buy but little property; pay but a small amount of taxes; and so live that they pay but little rent.

The Chinese prevent the immigration of white labor to the Pacific coast both from the eastern states and from Europe.

Independent testimony of the highest authority proved that in China and in California the Chinese are not a cleanly people. Their sanitary condition is bad; they introduced the small pox into San Francisco; and only for the climate it would drive the whites into the sea. Vaccination they do not believe in; but they inoculate; inoculation is compulsory in China.

They come mainly from Canton, the port of which is the English sailing port of Hong Kong.

He believed he could show there was not in the entire state a Chinese family as Americans understood the sacred relation.

About 4,000 Chinese women in the state and in San Francisco; from 1,200 to 2,000 made up of prostitutes, or concubines, or second wives. The prostitutes are held in bondage, and are of the most debased and abandoned kind.

The Six Companies are voluntary institutions without any recognition under American law. They keep immigrants, taking large interest for advances; they arbitrate and settle difficulties; they have secret tribunals exercising a criminal and civil jurisdiction. When a Chinaman is a creditor for money or obligation he cannot leave the state of California, except by consent of the company to which he belongs, an arrangement

existing between the Six Companies and the Steam Navigation Company, that no Chinaman is to be passed without a certificate that he is free on the books of the companies.

Mr. Pixley having dwelt on the religious character of the Chinese stated that he would show the balance of trade as between China and America was against America.

He admitted that Chinese labor had contributed to the more speedy development of our material resources; their convenience as domestic servants; nor would he represent the Chinese as wanting in many of the essentials of good citizens.

"The burden of our accusation against them is that they come in conflict with our labor interests; that they can never assimilate with us \*\*\* that their civilization is demoralizing and degrading to our people; that they degrade and dishonor labor" \*\*\* and are "an element both demoralizing and dangerous to the community within which it exists."

Mr. CAMERON H. KING, addressed to the joint committee an argument on behalf of the anti-coolie clubs of San Francisco. He briefly went over the same grounds as the two previous speakers.

F. A. BEE, as attorney for the Six Companies, then put the other side of BEE. the question:

Legislation in the state and city had been one sided. The Chinamen who sold vegetables paid a tax of \$10, while the white man who drove his waggon only paid \$2. The China laundryman who carried the clothes to his patrons paid \$15 (unless he was right in supposing this had been declared illegal) while the white man who drove the laundry waggon only paid \$2.50.

At the time the Burlingame Treaty was negotiated, England controlled ninety per cent. of the commerce of the Orient. The American merchant bought the bulk of his teas in the English market. But all this was being changed. The Pacific Railroad had been built; the Orient and the Occident had been brought nearer; and were they now going to close their ports to trade and commerce with the Orient?

The government of the United States had forced the present relations (1876) upon the Chinese Government. Under the treaty the Chinese immigrant came, and the riches of China were opened up to the American merchant marine. Were they willing to forego these advantages, because 150,000 honest toilers had come to California?

He had seen the Chinese immigrants stoned from the time they left their ships until they reached Chinatown. He had seen them leaning over the sides of the waggon with their scalps cut open. No police interfered. In portions of San Francisco no Chinaman dare be seen. The Chinese had no privileges.

First the capitation tax of \$20 existed for two years. Next the Chinese were each taxed \$5 a month for mining. The tax of \$5 a month levied on all foreign miners was, as a rule, collected only from the Chinese. They have been taxed for landing \$10 and taxed for shipping to their homes the bones of their dead.

Mr. Bee read an address of the Six Companies to the American public, dated April 5th, 1876.

Without the Chinese the crops could not be gathered in.

With Chinese cheap labor California can compete with the granaries of the world.

1,000,000 acres of tule lands reclaimed by Chinese.

Five Points in New-York worse than any Chinatown.

American trade with China.

Chinese labor paid as high as white labor in the East.

Up to 1866, \$40,000,000 a year sent east to buy goods.

Those who denounced them employ them. Do not drink and are law-abiding.

Address of Six Companies to mayor respecting rumor that the Chinese quarter would be attacked by a mob.

Significance of the queue.

The queue ordinance.

The Chinese servant held the balance of power against Bridget and the trades-unions.

Cubic-air law.

A blessing to Chinamen to be sent away unless they were protected.

Chinese labor had added \$289,700,000 to the wealth of California.

Mr. Bee went on: Without the Chinese, sufficient labor could not be had to gather in the crops. It costs fifteen cents for white labor to sack a sack of potatoes. A Chinaman does this, sews them up and puts the sacks in a pile for ten cents. The poor man buys his potatoes five cents a sack cheaper in consequence. By Chinese cheap labor Californians can compete with the granaries of the world. A million acres and more of swamp and tule lands had been reclaimed by Chinamen standing up to their waists in soft tule-marsh, and this land produces seventy-five bushels of wheat to the acre. The white man could not be found to go into that ditch. The white boss has to veil his face for the mosquitoes.

The Five Points in New York was more of a cess-pool of disease and filth than six Chinatowns like that in San Francisco. The frugality and thrift of the Chinamen were made points against him.

400,000 tons (American) engaged in Chinese trade. For the first nine months of 1876 there was sent to China from San Francisco other than treasure exports to the value of \$2,211,798.

The Chinese laborer insisted on as much as was paid in the western states to a laborer, good servants, ingenious, necessary to manufacturing enterprise in California. Ten years before 1876, \$40,000,000 was sent East to buy commodities; now (1876) owing to the development of manufactures by Chinese cheap labor only \$20,000,000 sent east. A large number of those who denounce Chinese labor employ Chinese in their houses. No Chinamen come under contract of servile labor. The Chinese are hardy, industrious laborers. They have but few vices and do not drink. They respect American usages and laws.

Mr. Bee then read an appeal from the Chinese published in April, 1876, asking for the protection of the police. In this appeal, as in the address to the American people referred to above, a willingness is expressed to see the treaty repealed or modified.

Mr. Bee also read an address, dated April 5th, 1876, from the Six Companies to the mayor of San Francisco, calling his attention to a report that the Chinese quarter would be attacked by a mob; asking for protection, and saying that failing this, should the attack take place, they had not the power, even if they had the disposition, to prevent their countrymen selling their lives as dearly as possible.

The queue designated a Chinaman as having certain religious and social claims, and to lose it was an eternal disgrace. Mr. Bee denounced the "queue ordinance," which brought a Chinaman arrested for the most trivial offence "under the scissors." The law, Mr. Bee admitted, was general—namely, that the hair be cut two inches from the head. But then the white man had no queue. The law was aimed at the Chinese.

The Chinese servant did the domestic drudgery of 75,000 of the population of San Francisco. He holds the balance of power against Bridget, as he does against trades-unions.

Under the cubic-air ordinance men were arrested, forty at a time, for being in a room which had less than 500 feet of cubic air, and put in gaol where they had not 200 feet. In the letter of the 5th of April, 1876, the Chinese declared their willingness to see Chinese immigration stopped. It would be a blessing to have those here sent away, unless they received the protection of the laws. The strong feeling against the Chinese was confined to a small portion of the people.

Mr. Brooks (on the same side as Mr. Bee) addressed the Committee, and necessarily touched on some points already dealt with. Chinese labor, in building railroads and in reclaiming tule lands, had added

\$289,700,000 to the wealth of the state. The Chinese went all over the land and made it habitable; whereas an Irish Catholic servant girl would not go beyond the sound of the bells. They were indispensable to the farmers. The anti-Chinese sentiment was entirely confined to the Irish. Domestic servants.

Mr. Brooks dwelt further on the need of the Chinaman to develop California, and replied to the charge that they supplied a considerable proportion of the criminal class. He denounced the cubic-air law as partially administered and oppressive. What was the use of making them pay \$10 a piece for sleeping in a place where they chose to sleep, a thing which hurt nobody? Irish sentiment against Chinese. Cubic-air law.

Mr. PIXLEY pointed out that the friends of the Chinese had widened the issue. He and his friends had not asked, nor had public opinion, to exclude the Chinese then in California from all the rights which they had under the treaty. Public opinion had not even gone so far as to exclude Chinese from coming. What they aimed at was that Chinese immigration should be regulated and restrained. The feeling against the Chinese so far from being confined to the Irish, was universal. To say that the Chinese had been stoned and bruised was a gross exaggeration. Not desired to exclude Chinamen from the rights they had under the treaty. Chinese immigration should be regulated and restricted.

Mr. BEE produced four books, known as the Four Books, the Chinese classics, and which stood in their schools as the first, second, third and fourth readers did in American schools.

## WITNESSES.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 23rd, 1876.

FREDERICK F. Low, formerly a member of Congress from California, LOW. Collector at San Francisco, subsequently Governor, and later Minister to China, where he resided for three years and a half, after which he returned to San Francisco in the autumn of 1873, sworn and examined.

Was of opinion that the immigration of any people who cannot assimilate, amalgamate and become part and parcel of the government and its people is a disadvantage. To prevent such immigration was only possible by special legislation and analogous to that by which the number of passengers in a vessel coming from Europe was limited. The immigrants come principally from the province of Kwang Tung of which Canton is the capital, embarking from the free port of Hong Kong ceded to Great Britain, which established a colony on the Island (namely, Victoria). The class of people who emigrate from this port are chiefly laborers: a few merchants being the exception. A "coolie" in China, is simply a "laborer" of the lowest grade, and as applied to immigration is a synonym for contract labor. The wages of this class in Kwang Tung ranges from \$3 to \$5 per month. Non-assimilation of Chinese. "Coolie" defined.

Respecting female immigrants he knows nothing, except from public report. There may be some wives of merchants who come, but from inference the larger portion, nine-tenths or nineteen-twentieths, are prostitutes, brought over for the purpose of prostitution. Prostitution in China is regarded with more aversion and disgust by respectable Chinese than it is, if possible, by Americans or Europeans; but with the common class of laborers who emigrate there is a looser opinion regarding it. A graduate after passing his examination, and before he can fill any official position, Prostitution.



has to prove that none of his family, for so many removes, has ever been guilty of being a public prostitute.

#### Marriage.

The custom of marriage in China is that parents betroth their children as advantageously as possible, the children taking no part in the matter. On arriving at a proper age they are married. After a man is married he is allowed to take other wives, perhaps through long custom, but it is more in the nature of purchase than betrothal. A married man who takes a fancy to a daughter of a poor man, who has several daughters, purchases her by giving so many taels, and she becomes the second, third or fourth wife, but subordinate to the first, on his simply announcing the fact, the children of all being legitimate. The taking of a second or third wife does not affect the standing of a man in society. Male children are more desired than female, it being considered an imperative duty to have a son to perpetuate the name and raise a family. In thickly populated districts, that is around cities, and where the morals of a certain class are low, there is very little hesitation in destroying female children at early birth, it having a sort of semi-official sanction, although there is a law against it.

#### Filicide.

#### Religion.

The religion of the Chinese is the teachings of Confucius, which might be regarded as a code of morals. On this has been engrafted the Buddhist faith and the Tauist.

#### An industrious people.

The Chinese at home are a most industrious people, all kinds of labor being respectable, the only idle class being the officials. They emigrate for the purpose of making money, with no idea of remaining, there being but few isolated cases of any permanently settling in a foreign country. The government of China does not expatriate its idle or venal class, and on the subject of emigration is indifferent.

#### Government of China indifferent on subject of emigration.

If Chinese immigration was limited or cut off entirely the natural outcome would be that the Chinese Government would improve its opportunity to try and limit Americans in China to a similar degree.

In a way Americans in China have more rights than Chinese in America. They are not subject to the Chinese Criminal Code or laws, but to American. If an American commits a civil or criminal offence he is arrested by the Chinese authorities and handed over to the consul at the nearest port, who tries him and sentences him under American laws. This is one reason why China cannot be opened up to foreigners as this country is opened up to the Chinese.

#### Comparison between the position of Chinese in the United States and citizens of the republic in China.

In discussing the subject with the government, witness said: "Why do you not open up your country and let foreigners come here and go and trade and do what they choose? What is the use of keeping these lines of demarcation drawn? The Chinese and all other people come to our country; they go where they choose, and they trade and traffic and perform labor, and there is no harm comes of it; the government is just as well off; it does not affect us." The prince replied: "When the Chinese go to your country they put themselves under your laws, and if they offend against your laws, or your customs, you punish them. When you come here you bring your law book under your arms, and when you commit an offence against the Chinese you say: 'we do not know you.' We cannot touch you, we can only go to your consuls and ask redress. If your people will come here and put yourselves under our laws, you may come here and go where you choose, and do what you choose."

#### Travel in China.

Americans have no right to engage in permanent business anywhere except at treaty ports; but they have a right to travel for purposes of pleasure or business anywhere inland on obtaining a passport from their

consul or minister, and are safe in so doing, except in some of the extreme western provinces.

The extritoriality clause of the treaty is a festering sore and must always continue to be.

No American could trust himself in the empire subject to Chinese laws, the punishments being most cruel and barbarous.

Chinese cannot become citizens of the United States under the present naturalization laws.

They do not assimilate with the people, being of a different civilization. Non-assimilation. Their costume is of a mongrel kind, consisting of civilian boots and pants, with soft hat and coat of their own.

A large proportion of their clothing is manufactured in the state; a few of the better class may import coats and shoes from China, but the laboring class soon drop into wearing part of our costume. They consume a good deal of rice.

Unlimited immigration ought to be discouraged, although up to this time (1876) Chinese labor has been of material advantage to the state.

In consequence of its insolation, the laboring classes of the eastern states and Europe have not been able to come, on account of inconvenience and expense; but with the completion of the railroad from this time forward there would probably be sufficient labor to replace the Chinese who return home.

The state would not suffer in its material interest if Chinese immigration should practically cease.

Unlimited importation of Chinese and settling them in colonies, as they do here, by raising competition with free labor does harm, but that harm has been much exaggerated.

The Chinese at present in the state are necessary. The crop this year could not be harvested were it not for their labor, but on economical, ethnological, and political grounds I am in favor of adopting some feasible and proper means for limiting the number.

Chinese immigration fluctuated in different years, with the demand for labor, from 2,000 to 20,000, and in 1868 the emigration from here was a third of the amount of the arrivals, and in 1871 and 1872 more than half.

In 1852 there were 20,000 arrivals; 1853, 4,000; 1854, 16,000; 1855, 3,000; 1856, 4,000; 1857, 5,000; 1858, 5,000; 1859, 3,000; 1860, 7,000; 1861, 8,000; 1862, 8,000; 1863, 6,000; 1864, 2,000; 1865, 3,000; 1866, 2,000; 1867, 4,000; 1868, 11,000; 1869, 14,000; 1870, 10,000; 1871, 5,000; 1872, 9,000; 1873, 17,000; 1874, 16,000; 1875, 18,000.

Demands for labor in the State caused the increase. During 1873, 1874, and 1875 laborers were imported to work on different railroads. If the demand should diminish it would have the effect of diminishing Chinese immigration.

Chinese were imported during the Koopmanschap year to work in the south to supplant the negroes on the plantations, and some experiments tried with ill results. The Chinamen not being paid, left.

If 10,000 white laborers had been imported to work on the Central Pacific Railway, instead of the 10,000 Chinese that were introduced, a majority of them, with the profit of their labor would have remained, whereas the bulk of the Chinamen with the profit of their labor went back to China. Four-fifths of the grading on the Central Pacific Railway was performed by Chinese labor. In making levees and digging ditches, much

Much of their clothing manufactured in the state.

Up to 1876 Chinese labor an advantage.

The state would not suffer in its material interest if Chinese immigration ceased.

Harm much exaggerated.

Crops could not be harvested without Chinese.

Immigration from 1852 to 1875.

A percentage of the white laborers become settlers.

Four-fifths of grading on Central Pacific done by Chinese labor.

the larger proportion is performed by Chinese, because it is useful labor and can be commanded in any quantity. In reclaiming tule lands it is useful: first, the labor is cheaper; secondly, it is unhealthy work, and they are not affected by malaria as Anglo-Saxons are. If they had been shut up to white labor it would have taken a much longer time to build these works. They could not have got the labor, and it would have increased the expense very much.

White labor would have been slower and more expensive for these works.

Witness was one of the Commissioners when the Pacific Railway was in course of construction on this side of the Sierra, and had occasion to go upon the road to report. Was on the road when Chinese labor was introduced; started with white labor and came to a stand still. Objection was taken by the foreman, a sharp pushing Irishman, to Chinese labor. The foreman finally consented to put on enough Chinamen to fill dump carts, and a Chinaman to hold a drill, while white men drove the horses and struck the drills. Strobridge, the foreman, saw the progress made by the employment of Chinese, and in less than six months they had Chinese doing everything. They did 80 per cent. as much work as the whites, and were paid \$31 a month and boarded themselves. White labor was paid \$45 a month and board which was equal to \$2 a day.

White labor and Chinese labor.

Union Pacific constructed by white labor.

The Union Pacific Railway was constructed by white labor, no Chinese being employed. The labor market was inexhaustible, if inducement in the way of wages was offered. The employment of Chinese on the Central Pacific Railroad was a question of economy, and getting them in sufficient quantities, and steady. White labor could have been brought from the east by Panama, if sufficient inducement in the way of wages had been offered. Not twenty per cent. difference between Chinese labor and white labor by the day, after they had been at work four months. In many instances Chinese labor is worth more than white, but in hard, strong labor, which requires bone and sinew, white is better than Chinese. The whites are stronger men, but in many farming operations the Chinese can do as much because they are quick and agile. After they learn a thing they will do it over again with greater accuracy and precision than whites, being imitative but not inventive. Hop-picking, strawberry picking and work of that kind now done by Chinese might open an avenue for boys unemployed. There may be unemployed youthful labor, but it comes as much from the false teaching of our people as anything else. When parents raise a boy, they think he must be a lawyer, or a doctor, or some profession that does not require manual labor. The tendency of servile labor is to prevent white competition and render labor dishonorable. This is the tendency of Chinese labor. Boys will not work with Chinese; they consider it degrades them.

Whites stronger men, but Chinese quick and agile.

On being cross-examined, witness said: Chinese labor had not a tendency to degrade the dignity of labor. When a man employs Chinese labor here he employs it as free labor. No similarity between Chinese labor and slave labor.

The Chinese immigration must be assisted.

As to the manner by which the Chinese arrive here, from witness's knowledge of them, and of the poverty of the laboring class, he does not think it possible that they get here by their own means; they must come here by somebody advancing them the means to pay their passage, they working it out after they get here. They cannot return without the permission of the Six Companies, nor can they purchase a ticket from a steamship company unless they bring a certificate from the head of the Six Companies that they are free from debt.

The Six Companies.

The contract entered into by them is not a written one, but merely a verbal understanding; in other words, they say that it is proper

for a Chinaman to pay his debts before he leaves the country, and they want to see his debts paid. Chinamen get \$1 a day here and find themselves and their lodgings. No doubt it would be pretty hard work for a white man to sustain himself, and find himself, and board himself and family, in this city, on that amount. Where simple muscle is all that is required the Chinaman can beat the white man, considering the different standard of comfort, but where brains and muscles come in the white man beats the Chinaman. In 1867 the cigar industry was just being developed, and the manufacture of boots and shoes had commenced, and very likely this had something to do with bringing here, in 1868, 1870, 1874 and in 1875, 11,000, 10,000, 16,000, 18,000 Chinese, respectively. In a way the introduction of Chinese labor has the same effect upon the labor market as the introduction of machinery.

Where it is a question of mere muscle, the Chinaman beats the white laborer.

The laws of the United States against the importation of servile labor govern the importation of immigrants on board of American vessels, but they cannot operate in Hong-Kong. There, however, it would be impossible for a ship to take on board a cargo of coolies for California, such as are sent to Peru.

Chinese labor in this country is not cheap in comparison with the labor of the eastern states. No Chinese employed on public buildings, upon the streets, building sewers, or any municipal works of the city. Saw only one drunken Chinaman in his life, and that one was in China. A very large percentage read and write a little. In early days whites had come to the country under contract.

Chinese labor in California not cheap as compared with white labor in the east.

Chinese do their banking business by draft or cheque, and export a great deal of merchandise; buy silver and ship it themselves; borrow money and keep accounts at the banks. But for them it is doubtful if any manufacturing industry would have been here; it certainly would have been small as compared with the present. The very fact of their being here and their labor held at a moderate rate, has induced the opening of manufactures, and perhaps now, or shortly, as they can get apprentices at work, Chinese labor can be dispensed with. This result is gradually coming about, quite a percentage of the manufacturing factories working with white laborers. The Chinese are engaged in shoe-making, tailoring, making cigars, making cigar boxes, overalls, and miners' clothing, besides acting amongst the more moderate-living class, who cannot afford white labor, in different household capacities.

Very little manufactures but for the Chinese.

It is possible that their presence here has a tendency to prevent white immigration from the east.

Chinese possibly prevent white labor coming.

In the year 1800 the import of opium into China from India was 4,000 chests of 133 pounds each; in 1869, 85,000 chests were imported. This includes 32,000 chests smuggled from Hong-Kong into China, and 53,000 chests actually imported. In the year 1800 the domestic production of opium was nothing; in 1869 the estimated production was 75,000 chests, making a total consumption for 1869 of 160,000 chests, 21,000,000 lbs., or 10,500 tons. The value of the opium imported was \$68,000,000, equal to 75 per cent. of all the tea and silk exported.

Opium.



SAN FRANCISCO, October, 23rd, 1876.

THOMAS H. KING, merchant of San Francisco, ten years a resident of China, active man in Consul's Office at Hong Kong, assisted and aided in placing Chinese on board, and a traveller through that portion of China from whence these immigrants come, sworn and examined:

The laws of the United States and the Consul's dealings with coolies.

Nearly all California emigrants appear to be under contract.

Contracts.

Mostly laborers of the lowest class.

Highbinders.

All Chinese coolies embark at Hong Kong. Have superintended the examination of immigrants to comply with the coolie laws of the United States Government, which law enables the Consul to exact large fees from every coolie, which the ships pay, and requires them to charge more charter, money. The Consul also, having the option, can make obstacles and compel the Chinese to pay large fees to remove. The consuls also require many conditions from ships in the shape of large unofficial fees, or indirect revenue, which makes the coolie-trade to California a very remunerative one for consuls, consequently it is their interest to continue it; and especially is this true of the women. Nearly all, with the exception of a few boys, or those who had been to California before, appeared to be under contract, seldom knowing the purport more than that they were going for three or five years, for as many dollars per month, to labor as directed, often knowing that they were to be cared for if sick and sent back at the expiration of their contract, or their bodies if dead, but otherwise ignorant as to be easily scared if any one intimated they were being deceived. Sometimes they refused to go on board at Hong Kong, as was the case with a few cargoes a few years ago going to New Orleans, when they nearly all jumped overboard some drowning in the harbor. They often abscond from their contractors bringing them to Hong Kong. Have often seen their contracts, and had them translated. They often bear the seal of some petty Chinese official of the interior, and state that their relatives or friends pledge for their security, and that the contract will be kept by the coolie; contractor advancing money to be repaid out of small earnings with interest often as high as five per cent. per month, and that pay as due shall be given or remitted to China. Nearly all who come to California are from two districts near the city of Canton—Sinong and Sinwai. They are always at variance and often fight. There are few artisans among them, they being mostly ignorant agricultural or other laborers of the very lowest classes. Most of those who are brought here come to supply the coolie-broker or contractor who hires them out. They send their agents to China to pick them up, with credits to disburse their expenses and advance money on contracts. Others are largely those who, earning a few hundred or thousand dollars, return to China, and bring in proportion to their means bands of coolies under contracts, and these are often sub-let to Chinese as well as Americans here. "On their arrival they are packed like hogs to such companies, having his contract viséd, and commences his fees to insure his care of sick, and return, dead or alive, but not his pay from the contractor, but that he shall fill his part, if able to compel him, the coolies to do it, or prevent his return until he does. When breaking his contract the companies spies hound him to prevent his return to China, by arranging with the steamship company, or through Chinese in the steamship company's employ, to prevent his getting a ticket, and if obtained by others for him he will be forcibly stopped on the day of sailing by the large force of the Six Companies' highbinders, who can always be seen guarding them. Highbinders are men employed by these companies here to hound and spy upon these Chinese, and pursue them if they do not comply with

"their contract, as they see fit to judge it." According to newspaper reports these men have been known to assassinate. There is no distinguishing mark upon them only they are rather better dressed than coolies. All sailing vessels to China have conditions in their charters to take no Chinese but those supplied by the companies. All coolies returning to China complain of the extortions, deception, and arbitrary conduct of the companies here. Of late the companies have made a reputation by modifying the contracts, so that a coolie when successful can earn higher wages, but this only stimulates him to greater dissipation, so that he is still kept in debt to the contractor or in his bondage. No force is used in bringing them to this country, but a part of them come very unwillingly, being inveigled here by these Chinese contractors, taking the objectionable employment of a voyage as a means to get rid of debt or to support their friends—to better their condition in China. Pamphlets containing all sorts of stories are circulated by contractors in the districts where the coolies are obtained, about golden times and chances offering, which are read to most of the coolies who cannot read. From observation and investigation during a number of years I am satisfied that it is a system of bondage labor, which is attested by the mortality among them by dissipation and misery. Although the condition of the coolies, generally speaking, is improved over that in their own country, it is nevertheless a competition which is fatal to the American or European laborer, and but few contractors and companies, and those only who supply them with necessities and luxuries, derive any further benefit from them. Of the women but very few, rarely any, come of their own will, but they are bought in China, generally from brothels, to be sold here on arrival, or held by importers in brothels here. In a few rare instances there are some who send to China direct for mistresses, rather than rely on the limited market here. The coolie women, or bawds, make a business travelling to and from China conducting this trade, and notwithstanding the recent outcry against it, the stream continues from China nevertheless, *via* Portland, Oregon. The white prostitutes are brought here from the east under much the same circumstances, but they are more or less free; but these are so many chattels. Many are kept in slavish life and they often pass from one to the other, men or women, by purchase, kept in debt by advances, and when free often sell themselves for long periods. They are all inveterate gamblers. As passengers on board ship they are dirty in their habits; very few before embarking but have lice in both hair and clothes, and a large part of them have the itch. Frequently they offer to embark with the small-pox and venereal diseases. The practice on ship-board of sodomy and pollution is common. They seldom use alcoholic drinks, but all use tobacco; few use opium. Those who have been here before use opium and alcoholic drinks. Few come who have passed thirty years of age. Contracts and bonds are given on ship-board for their gambling debts, contracted on the way, to the contractors or to some man who will file his claim on arrival. Is convinced that no others come here except from the districts mentioned, their immediate vicinity, and the banks of the river Canton and the island at its mouth, as well as Hong Kong and Macao. This section ("Two Kwang") contains many millions, in fact greater than the population of the United States, the population of the city of Canton alone being greater than that of all the Pacific states. "The principal reason why other sections of China do not come here is the enmity and the cause of trouble arising between the two sections or

All sailing vessels have charter conditions to take no Chinese but those supplied by the companies.

Contractors circulate in China roseate accounts of times in California and elsewhere.

Chinese competition fatal to white labor.

Women.

Prostitution.

Dirty; lice; itch.

Small-pox; venereal disease sodomy.

Population of the Two Kwang.

## Chinese dialects.

"adjoining counties, as now here, and the greater ignorance of this country, because those speak a different dialect from the other sections of China." The dialect differs almost every hundred miles apart in China. The written language is the same, but the words differ. The Commissioner to the Centennial from China, in passing through here, could only receive a deputation from the Six Companies through an interpreter. He could not talk with the other Chinese. They afterwards communicated with him in the written language. The official language in China is called by foreigners the mandarin dialect, court language. They communicate with the lower class only through interpreters. The European and American residents live in a separate section from the Chinese at Canton and Hong Kong, only a few of the Chinese merchants who deal with them being allowed to live there. As to the effect which the stoppage of the coolie-trade would have on our commerce there is but little or no knowledge outside of the districts they come from, and the American in China is only known for buying tea and silk, and selling cotton drilling and cloths, coal oil, and gin-seng, and being a "small fightee man." The Chinese say that the American in China oppresses them less, fight with them less, make less demonstration, have less men-of-war, less naval forces than any other nation. They say he is a good trader, but a very "small fightee man." Gin-seng is used for medicine. Chinese in one section are not tolerant of those in another. If the information respecting this country is disseminated further it will be of no consequence, as the immigration from other sections will not be increased. Those here cannot in justice to our own requirements be summarily disposed of to the detriment of their rights. Our teas and silks would come along as cheap as now, and China has no other market to obtain her flour and shells. A large portion of the traffic and trade which the Chinese have the credit of making here and paying duties is largely used by Americans, which is shipped into the interior. Diminishing or stopping coolie cargoes would be more than met by the increased freight before a year elapsed.

In order to escape punishment they agree to emigrate.

They come to make money and intend to return.

Employments in which the Chinese are engaged.

Only the Six Companies know how many Chinese are here. To avoid punishment at home they agree to come here. The time of year most active in contracting for them by coolie-brokers is during the winter months, when scarcity of agricultural labor weighs heaviest, and then during the months of February, March, April and May. They come in greater numbers during these four months than all the rest of the year. Both sailing ships and steamships constantly carry from twenty-five per cent. to thirty per cent. more than the law allows, the steamers carrying them on three decks when the law allows only two decks. Steamers limit their luggage but not sailing vessels, consequently the latter bring sometimes ten fold the luggage, which is but cargo smuggled in free of duty for the coolie-brokers. Frequently opium, and silk, and cotton goods, and often native alcoholic drinks, are brought in in this way. It is a common occurrence with almost every vessel when searched to find the Chinese in possession of opium. They come to earn a certain sum of money and return. They never care to learn our customs or habits or follow them. They know the police and courts punish or protect them, and that the use of money by the employment of counsel enables them often to escape punishment and to commit crime with greater impunity. They have no respect for oaths; and the English courts in Hong Kong never rely on them. As domestics they plod along in drudgery; they are not so valuable as formerly. Before, many, including artisans, occupations offered, but of late they canvass the cities as tinkers, chair and crockery

menders, drive carts, and act as hostlers and gardeners, and large numbers are pedlers of fruit and vegetables and provisions imported by Chinese, such as rice and oil. They do the largest part of the work of the Pacific states, carry on fisheries of the inland waters, are largely employed in agricultural pursuits, often are proprietors of garden and fruit farms, and largely engaged in gold mining, generally working out poor or abandoned diggings or claims. In this city they find employment in factories, and in all work not requiring steam power. Learning the trades they soon set up for themselves in the craft, and by their cheap mode of living soon control such industries as shoe and cigar-making and other kinds. They are the only scavengers of the city. Of late they have entered into trades as masons, carpenters, painters, tinsmiths, etc., keep stores of their own and sell American commodities. It applies more to this city than to the interior. Their character as laborers is plodding, attentive to learn, stimulated by hope of getting a bonus or higher wages which is generally used in dissipation and vice. Without tasks they are slow, indolent and careless, requiring constant watching and urging. They will only imitate, having but little originality or judgment about their work, and will evade or slight work with or without a task. Trades they learn, and Chinese factory-work is hired from contractors who receive the money for them and govern all disputes, the contractors agreeing to furnish a given number of men or boys. Learning the trades at the expense of the Americans they soon go to work for Chinese or on co-operative plans, as seen by the many small factories in the city, where they huddle in the work rooms, eating and sleeping in the same space in which they work, under or above ground, in filth and disease. As domestics, they receive about ten per cent. less than European; as hostlers and gardeners, from thirty to fifty per cent.; as agricultural laborers, twenty to thirty per cent.; as common laborers, fifty to sixty per cent.; as artisans, from fifty per cent. and upwards less; as laundrymen and pedlers they earn about half that which supports white labor here. The labor market here is not overstocked. They are fast closing upon all such pursuits, stopping white Europeans or Americans from coming here, as well as driving out those who have come and have been engaged for many years past. As a rule of those coming here out of every 800 some 740 show distinct marks of having had the small pox; on going back there is a greater proportion than that, showing that a great many of them must have had it here. They inoculate for small-pox in China. They frequently die of it here, and get a burial permit and are buried, without any one knowing anything about it. They are not attended by any physician. Cases are common in China where they have it two or three times. Their places of abode are filthy here as are their persons; they seldom bathe. A majority of them are afflicted with skin, venereal, and similar diseases; but their condition here is above their condition in their own country. They have no regard for sanitary rules, from the highest to the lowest. In the immediate vicinity of Canton there are a dozen outlying cities and villages, including the section that this people come from, besides Macao, Hong Kong, Swatow, Namoa, Amoy, Chinchew, Hacitan, Fuhchau, Tamsuie, and Keelung on the Island of Formosa, the only open ports there; Nanking, Cheichang, Ningpo, Cheepo, Yangchau, Shanghai, Suchau, Hang-chau, Chefoo, Nuchang, Tien-tsin. The extremes of these places is 2,000 miles. All these places were visited by the witness who saw all classes from mandarins down, and penetrated many miles into the interior without

Do the largest part of the work of the Pacific coast.

Soon set up for themselves.

Labor well but spend viciously.

But without task are slow and indolent.

Imitative. Will evade or slight work.

Pay as domestics, hostlers, laborers, artisans.

Not only stop white immigration but drive away white labor. Small-pox.

Filthy and diseased.



Family life;  
women.

Nurseries for  
prostitution a  
business in China.

Common practice  
in China to pur-  
chase women.

Origin of the Six  
Companies.

They act as agents  
and go-betweens.

hindrance, and on the above excursions he bases his statement as to the sanitary condition of the Chinese. The Japanese are a far more cleanly people.

Not half a dozen legitimate families can be found in the Pacific states among the Chinese. Often women who have been bought bear children, who are cared for and treated as their children, care being bestowed to raise them, especially if males. The companies only know how many Chinese women are in this country and they never tell, fearing an outcry. Few come except from Chinese brothels or raised for prostitution in China, which is a business there. On arrival they are sold to live with some one man in the city or the interior or to live in some brothel in the city. As a rule they are young, often not more than thirteen years old, accompanied by less diseases on arrival than the men, but mentally they are very weak, acting like slaves, with but little or no education. The bawds often advance money to prostitutes in China, who are brought under contracts like men, all of which passes through companies here the same as men. Bought and sold as applied to women means for periods not for life, yet their contract is called a "Bill of Sale." It is a common practice in China for foreigners as well as Chinese to purchase them and get a bill of sale. Those coming here are for periods, it being more advantageous to the owners, urging them to greater efforts for gain for a few years, only to find at the end that it has induced dissipation and misery and deeper in debt and bondage than ever. The small-footed women are called aristocratic, but many of them are poor. These women are bought and sold by bawds, never by parents, as a matter of speculation. It is customary in China for the husband to pay a dowry with his first wife, the others being handmaids or concubines, all matters of purchase.

Originally the companies were the agents of Chinese firms of Hong Kong. The principals there were Wo Hang and Hing Wa, portrait painters at Hong Kong in 1850 and 1851, who conducted it many years afterward. They were the principals in opening the passenger trade and sending men here to be hired out. Afterwards some other Chinese merchants were added, and they requiring that some agents should be here to collect the advances on contracts, their agents banded together for mutual protection against the coolies evading their agreements and to keep others out of the business; also to ensure that the coolies should be returned, dead or alive, at the termination of his contract, and to give them confidence before starting from China that so important a part would be fulfilled and that they were here to carry it out. Having these Chinese to supply they became importers for them and all kindred commodities that they could sell to Americans; and their business growing with their wealth, they became a power to hire immigrants, and they would intimidate, overawe, and punish secretly the ignorant for any infraction of their contracts. They also wished to prevent any Chinese coming here except through them. They act as go-between and arbitrators and judges between the Chinese, and punish offenders. They collect regular fees for purposes of registration and for conducting the business of attending to the coolie contracts and their enforcement, but they never guarantee the payment to the coolie by the contractor. They are supposed to defend those who pass through their respective companies if in trouble. They are the medium through which the coolies remit money to China, profiting greatly thereby; they also continue to largely supply coolies with goods which they import from China. The companies are firms not corporations. They are known as the Six Companies from simply having banded together to monopolize the

coolie traffic. Their source of profit is the registration fee, the contractor being the party paying it, the coolies knowing little or nothing about it. For this fee they agree to see the Chinaman returned to China at the end of his contract; if he dies to return his bones; to look after him if he is sick, and attend to his interests generally. All Chinese here can understand each other. The companies do not take them all to one place. If a man wants to hire 500 Chinamen he goes to the head of one of these companies and contracts for so many men. As to the responsibility of these companies and the American contractor to see the laborers paid, witness knew gentlemen who came from the east and hired fifty or sixty or one hundred men as laundrymen, and when they got east they refused to comply with their contract. The money due them in the east was supposed always to be paid to the contractor here, except a certain percentage which was remitted. When they refused to comply with their contract there was no means by which they could get their money. In some instances they did not get it, the American claiming a violation of the contract, and they did not know enough to sue for their services on their individual account for work which they had done. The companies do not guarantee the coolie that he shall get his pay. The companies become individual firms and contractors. As a mercantile firm they would make a contract and pass it through the company perhaps. Merchants advance them their provisions and the Chinese contractor collects the pay for their labor.

The Chinese know nothing of our institutions, except the prisons. They do not know or care about citizenship, only to evade the merest duties or burdens of it. They are nearly all agricultural or other laborers, rarely artisans. As a rule they are ignorant, slavish, submissive, and often brutish in their manners, living in hovels, poorly fed, worse clad, over-worked, profane and immoral in the extreme. Very few people that witness had met in China, except missionaries, understood the Chinese language. Those who do learn the language are more from the northern part of China, such as Shanghai. It is a very rare thing for a merchant living there his lifetime to learn the language. The Chinese have no conception or idea of free government, or the right of an individual man to be heard and be a part of same. They are a slavish people. As diplomats, they have evaded, whenever possible, all treaty obligations that they have undertaken. When they agreed to hold negotiations at Tien-tsin, and the English and others were going up for that purpose, they were all massacred without any warning. When W. H. Seward stated they were the shrewdest diplomats he ever met, witness thinks that he was rather too old and infirm to judge and properly understand the question. Respecting their profanity, not knowing the language, could not say whether they swear much; but there were commonly-known vulgar expressions and profane vulgarity which were the first things acquired, more especially in intercourse with them commercially. They swear in the English courts at Hong Kong. There are many professing Christianity, but not one in a thousand sincere, missionaries themselves declaring that they do not believe them sincere. Does not know whether the Chinese residents of Hong Kong become British subjects under the naturalization law, but there are certain terms provided by British law which entitle them to protection. When they visit Canton and are arrested for some offence previously committed, or for some debt, the English Consul at Canton generally succeeds in getting them released if they are residents of Hong Kong. There is no legislative body at Hong Kong; it is a crown colony, and no municipal

Manner in which  
labor contracts are  
made and carried  
out.

Chinese know  
nothing of our  
institutions except  
prisons.

Ignorant, slavish,  
submissive,  
brutish, ill-fed,  
ill-clad, profane,  
immoral.

Diplomacy.  
Treachery.

Their Christianity

Status of Chinese  
residents of Hong  
Kong.

Value of human life in China.

Punishment cruel.

Gambling.

Prostitution.

"Flower boats."

Sodomy.

Indifference to human life.

Chinese imperial authorities cannot protect foreigners in the interior.

Commercial character.

elective bodies. The value of human life in Chinese eyes is very low. They are cruel, selfish, and ungrateful; liars and dishonest in the extreme, the only exception being where it is against their interest. They hoard and bury money in fear of officials and persecutors among themselves and of thieves. Their mode of punishment is of a summary kind, cruel and barbarous. They have no long imprisonments, except to compel money payments. They treat their women badly, and place them in a very low scale. As to gamblers, his knowledge obtained by going through a Chinese city and seeing at almost every short distance open gambling houses; saw them going on with their gambling in Chinatown here much the same as in China, although it is said the police are very strict against it. In Hong Kong the authorities license gambling houses for Chinese alone, and do not allow foreigners to go into them; but in Chinese places, in the open market, gamblers' tables meet you at almost every turn. Respecting prostitution, witness does not know of any street-walking here among Chinese prostitutes, nor did he ever observe them in China soliciting men on the streets; here they solicit them out of the windows—window-tapping. Along the water-front of the city of Canton they have large boats or vessels, a hundred or more feet long and half as broad. They are flat boats, upon which are built most gorgeously fitted-up houses of one or one and a half stories high, which are called "flower boats." They contain sometimes from ten to twenty prostitutes, and are places of resort. They are frequently taken by the better classes up and down the river upon trips of debauch, and are known as floating brothels; but there are also on shore numberless quantities of prostitutes. Sodomy is a habit. Sometimes thirty or forty boys leaving Hong Kong apparently in good health, before arriving here would be found to be afflicted about the anus with venereal diseases, and on questioning the Chinese doctors to disclose what it was, they admitted that it was a common practice among them.

With regard to their care for life, witness never heard that it was a merit for a Chinaman to save life, and never heard of it being practised. Has seen Chinese floating by in the water or clinging to the wreck and their own boats pass them and go to the wreck to get plunder. In 1859 went to the rescue of an American ship, the *Vancouver*, in the Shanghai River; found around vessels known to be plying for hire and carrying cargo as their vocation; had to open a battery on them to drive them off; they had driven the crew off and taken possession and were plundering her. In another case, the wreck of the *Lucky Star*, Captain Nelson, on the Island of Formosa, they not only plundered the vessel and robbed the crew, but they stripped the captain and his wife and marched them many miles naked. Does not think the Chinese imperial authorities have the power to protect foreigners who travel into the interior from assaults and indignities; nor does he think they have the power to enforce the treaties with the eastern powers in the outlying provinces. Very little is known at the court of the doings of foreigners in China, as a rule, very few are educated beyond a few characters, and seldom without the aid of a scribe are they able to read, much less make out their contracts; when made they take every advantage and commit every wrong under it. To the credit of the Chinese here, as far as it goes, witness observes that the companies here have more credit in this respect and among this community than their principals have in China, for one of their largest principals at Hong Kong, Wo Hang, is not able to make a charter, and he is considered so wanting in faith that he would not be trusted. The contract made with the coolies that leave Macao for labor

in Cuba or Peru is of the same nature as the contract made with the coolies that leave Hong Kong for California, only made by a Peruvian or Cuban agent instead of with a Chinaman. There is a treaty between the Chinese Empire and Peru by which they carry on the coolie trade, also with the United States. A coolie can be brought here by stating at the American consulate at Hong Kong that he enters into his contract voluntarily. In the case of coolies going to Peru or to Cuba, their ships are fitted as prisons, with bars and grates, the same as slave-ships were fitted, and with much larger crews. There are never only a certain number allowed on deck, and they are treated with all the surveillance as if they were prisoners. It is a common thing for them, when opportunity offers, to take the ships and destroy them and escape from their bondage. The coolies say they go in these ships voluntarily. The shipment of coolies to Peru has since been stopped, as it was found out to be slave-labor, and when runners or pimps were caught in Canton inveighing them away they were decapitated by the Chinese authorities for engaging in the coolie traffic. There is no coolie traffic in this form carried on between this port and any ports in China. The coolie agrees to come here and work for a certain period for a certain rate of wages—\$3 to \$5 per month, very seldom more than that. Very few who come here have families. They come here to work to pay debts of a doubtful character contracted at home.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 24th, 1876.

Respecting small-footed women, as a rule small feet are a sign of Women. their being of a higher class; yet a considerable number are seen in their brothels, and among them the very lowest classes of street laborers and beggars. [Witness here produced photographs taken in China showing that the small-footed women as well as the large-footed ones are so engaged.] The people coming here are not as fair representatives of quiet and order as could be had from other sections of China. Every war with foreigners has arisen in the immediate vicinity where these people come from. Those sections have exhibited the most horrible means of warfare, such as attempting to poison the whole foreign communities of Hong Kong during the last war. From these districts come, with few exceptions, all the professional pirates of the China seas. They prey upon foreign and native crafts alike, and frequently plunder places along their own coast. The record shows that nearly all foreign vessels attacked or captured in China have been attacked by the people of these districts at the mouth of the Canton River. In fact the people of these districts furnish largely the brothels and the banditti to other ports on the China coast, the men being dreaded wherever they go. Some of these pirates come to this country. Here is one of the worst of their pirates [producing photograph] belonging to that class. He came here. Have known him for a long time as a pirate. Here are also photographs of that class of people among them. The riots at Tien-tsin originated in Canton.

The principals of the Six Companies are at Hong Kong where messages were addressed to them at the time of the agitation to stop immigration. It is called a hospital. It is also known as a secret league of the Chinese in a British colony, composed largely of Chinese engaged in the coolie traffic, as well as of members of the Chinese commercial community there, for carrying secret measures of their own instead of through the lawful channels. They are there known as the defenders of those committing

Coolie trade with Cuba and Peru.

Class emigrating to Pacific coast.

Canton district grows the banditti and prostitutes for other places.



crimes, but not caring for the helpless. Knowledge of Six Companies gained from long and patient investigation of hundreds of men who have been both connected with them here and at Hong Kong, during long voyages at sea, and reading accounts of them in the Hong Kong papers where they are under an English colony and an English government.

SAN FRANCISCO, November 18th, 1876.

Chinese in the  
Straits Settlements.

On being recalled witness said: The Chinese go under contract with Chinese as coolies to the "Straits Settlements" the same as here, but in far larger numbers, and to such an extent have they swarmed over those countries that they not only monopolize the artisan as well as the agricultural pursuits there, but they also own, manage, and conduct nearly all trades and mercantile businesses, as well as most of the large fleets of European style, sailing and steam vessels, trading to many parts of the globe.

The continued immigration of Chinese to those places requires a large fleet of European sailing and steam vessels to convey them yearly. Chinese junks also are largely employed in carrying coolies besides.

The Chinaman in  
Siam.

In Siam, also, the Chinese coolie system has produced to the native population no less disastrous results. The commerce and trade of all kinds, with but little exception, has passed from the possession of the Siamese into the hands of Chinese, they also monopolizing the carrying trade to the exclusion of natives.

The above will largely apply to the other adjacent countries, as Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Luzon.

Chinese contractors  
for labor.

Europeans or Americans visiting China for the purpose of obtaining Chinese emigrants have never been able to obtain them, unless through Chinese contractors; and in every case where the coolie has not passed through the hands of the Six Companies he has violated his contract. Several years since the cotton-growers of the south sent their deputies to Hong Kong, who after many months there endeavoring to make contracts with coolies direct failed to do so; and at last, through the coolie brokers, obtained a few ship-loads. After paying them, large numbers deserted the vessel, some drowning in the harbor in doing so, evidently never intending to keep their contract, or any contract, when not bound to do so by the fearful penalties to which they are said to be liable under their system both at home and abroad, where it is carried as far as among themselves. I have heard that for no other reason but that these coolies would not keep their labor contracts after arrival at New Orleans the experiment was not repeated. So absolute was their bondage that their labor contracts were pledged to the ship for their conveyance. I have known Mr. Koopmanschap state that all his engagements with the Chinese were much of that nature; he could not rely upon them; he could not engage them in China except through coolie contractors.

Experiment in the  
southern states.

In investigating this contract system I have found that a large portion of them, nearly one-half, who come here are under contract to coolies gone back from here, who, taking the result of their labors, three, four, or five hundred dollars, are enabled to go to China and there hire ten or a dozen under this system; and the ignorant coolie remains in a state of semi-slavery for the years of his bondage and at low rates.

Contract system.

In Japan.

In Japan, although for many years after the opening to foreigners to live and trade there, the Chinese were not allowed except as servants of Europeans or Americans, yet they have succeeded in wresting

from foreigners, who surreptitiously got them a footing in the country, its foreign import and export trade to China as well as other countries, until now it is conceded the Chinese are the most affluent so engaged there, and the streets of their largest city of foreign trade, Yokohama, is ablaze with their business sign-boards at every turn.

This state of things is not because the Chinese merchant has any superior mercantile ability than our own; but it is their ability to bring into force their cheap mode of living, whereby they can compete or afford to transact business at far less and make a profit. Their presence in the countries mentioned has not had the effect of elevating their lower classes, but the contrary effect on their better classes, as our manufacturers are finding out now to their cost.

Chinese competition is not only with the common laborer, but it is also with the American merchants. The Chinese who used formerly to import through American firms do that themselves, owing largely to competition.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 24th, 1876.

JOHN L. MEARES, physician and health officer of the city of San Francisco, MEARES since 1st of May, sworn and examined:

As to the physical condition of the Chinese they are not equal to the white man, not being capable of doing the same amount of heavy labor. They live in large tenement houses many of which are unfit entirely for habitation, and ought to be declared so. They live crowded in small rooms without ventilation, and as they often have diseases of a contagious nature they are exposed to it, breathing vitiated air all the time.

With regard to the epidemic (small-pox) which has been prevailing since the 24th of May, seventy-four deaths have been reported among the Chinese. When they die of small-pox they are removed to Cooper's alley, Bull Run alley, or some other place of deposit for their dead. It is impossible to ascertain where they die. On this account their houses cannot be disinfected, and they are a perpetual source of contagion. Occasionally a case is discovered in the basement, where there is a hall opening upon the street; one case in particular I found of a Chinaman who had been sick for fourteen days and was then dying. During all this time the poison was going through the hall to the street. I called a meeting of the heads of the Six Companies and told them they were concealing cases of small-pox, and that it was absolutely necessary to do something. They promised they would correct this, and reported three or four cases the next two or three days, but stopped from that time. The cause of the existing contagion of small-pox among the whites can be traced to the Chinese quarter. I do not think we should have had an epidemic here if it had not been for the concealment of these cases in Chinatown. It may be communicated by the atmosphere becoming infected, or through clothing taken to an infected house for washing, remaining there two or three days and absorbing the poison. Where small-pox becomes epidemic in cities where no Chinese reside, it is caused through the neglect of the local authorities. In the east the disease can be sporadic in the winter and only occasionally epidemic, and it is rarely epidemic in the summer time; but here it becomes epidemic without regard to the season of the year. It is entirely different from yellow fever, for that were brought here it would die out.

Small-pox epidemic arose in Chinatown.

## Small-pox.

In fumigating the Chinese quarter by order of the city government I found the condition to be inconceivably horrible. I found these people living in big tenement houses, and large numbers crowded in individual rooms and under ground, without proper ventilation, with bad drainage, and a great deal of filth, the odors from which were horrible. You go into a room which was originally higher than this room. They will have bunks all around; sometimes they will have a platform in one corner, extending over one-fourth of it, not more than three or four feet in depth, and numbers of them will sleep on that. I found cases of small-pox concealed in places like that. Found one case in a box, probably eight feet long, three feet wide, and four feet high, in a corner of the hall. I supposed it was a cupboard, a place to keep something to eat or clothing in. They will not tell you the truth about these things, and from my own observation, taking them as a class, you cannot believe them on oath when it is their interest to lie at all. Under ground they live in bunks, in great filth, and no ventilation at all.

## Overcrowding and filth in Chinese quarter.

## Opium-smoking.

I cannot tell the amount of opium-smoking or opium consumption, but if you go anywhere in the Chinese quarter you will find them smoking opium. In smoking opium they generally lie down with the paste and a pipe and a little light in the hand with which they touch it occasionally. Frequently half a dozen or more are lying about, and sometimes you will find twenty people smoking together.

## Inhumanity.

I have never seen any class of people so indifferent to the sufferings of their fellow creatures. For instance, take the little hospitals in Aleck alley; you will find there small rooms horribly filthy, and Chinamen dying of consumption and other chronic diseases, lying in their filth, with no person to take care of them, and in a state of starvation. They will beg of you for five or ten cents to buy something to eat. They ask for bread and if you hand one a piece of stale bread he will devour it. They appear to be perishing of hunger; and yet these are the places procured, and run, and sustained by these Six Companies, for benevolent purposes as they call it. You may go into one of these hospitals to-day and not find a sick man in it, but to-morrow morning there will be three dead Chinamen there, and no one will know where they came from. As for attendants I have never seen anybody acting as such. I suppose somebody goes there sometimes and does something for them, but it looks as if they were starved. If a person not accustomed to those things opens the door and goes in, it almost knocks him down, the odor is so terrible. It is a notorious fact that the Chinese are indifferent to the sufferings of their brethren. I have never seen any women in these hospitals.

## Overcrowding.

Balconies, roofs, sheds and other buildings built about a house are generally utilized. They utilize every particle of room they can. Frequently I find bunks to sleep in in places of that sort. The cooking is generally done in a kitchen, principally in a large range, all using it in common. I have never seen any cooking in a sleeping room.

## Venereal disease.

There is a large amount of venereal disease among them, especially among the females. The so-called leprosy they have here is simply the result of generations of syphilis, transmitted from one generation to another. Some months ago the authorities sent back to China thirteen leprosy cases. I know of two other cases here. The condition of these leprosy persons is horrible; some of them with their noses eaten off. Leper means "scaly." It first commences on the extremities, a little round, circular spot, red and shining, and then a scale forms on that, and it is a succession of scales forming and dropping off all the time, and after a while another adjoining that, and so on, until it

## So-called leprosy result of congenital syphilis.

## Leprosy.

will cover the whole body. I have seen men at the hospitals like that—Leprosy. some of those we sent back. Their feet dropped off by dry gangrene, and their hands were wasted and attenuated, and their finger nails dropped off. It is a matter of opinion, but I doubt it very much, if a man had connection with a leprosy woman that such connection would produce contagion or cause disease to the individual. As an evidence of this these leprosy cases had been in hospital for years, and the employees in contact with it constantly. In the Sandwich Islands they are compelled to isolate cases of leprosy, because they do not want this disease transmitted from one generation to another; but in China or Honolulu you do not find white people afraid of taking this disease, and the best authorities say that it is not contagious. Leprosy not contagious.

Syphilis appears to be worse with the Chinamen because they are not Syphilis. treated for it, and it is handed down from one generation to another, until it assumes a tertiary form and presents a horrible appearance; but the primary syphilis which people contract I do not believe is any worse in Chinamen than in the white man or negro.

Opium-smoking I should say was very general. I do not think it is any worse than excessive drinking, but excess in opium-smoking will degrade more rapidly than excess in drinking. I think opium-smoking in Chinatown is better for us than drinking alcohol, for if they drank liquor to excess I do not know what would become of us. When they smoke opium they are inoffensive, so far as we are concerned. Opium-smoking.

There have been 202 deaths among the whites from small-pox, and up to this time, since the 19th May, there have been 1,002 cases reported—three cases concealed. I think it was generally understood that there was an epidemic in Central America during last February, March, April and May. It prevails pretty much in all those South American countries. It prevailed here as an epidemic in 1868-69; I do not know whether it originated in the Chinese quarter. In Philadelphia, in 1872, there was an epidemic, but I have no personal knowledge respecting it. I cannot say that I know that it always exists in large cities. Small-pox.

A disinfectant is an antiseptic that will arrest the decay of animal or vegetable matter, or will destroy that germ which is the seat of contagion. I have often thought that one reason of the Chinamen being so largely exempt from some of our contagious diseases, as scarlet fever, diphtheria, and measles, perhaps, was that they live in an atmosphere of smoke. That, however, does not protect them from this specific poison small-pox; but I believe that this smoking of opium, and the inhalation of it constantly, and tobacco smoke, and foul air, are deleterious to their health. A great many of them die of consumption—lung disease. I look upon them as a class as thoroughly protected against small-pox as any other class of people living. Every person in China is inoculated. It is compulsory. I do not think the practice of inoculation is carried on here. They may do it in infancy. Vaccination is not practised here among them. Why Chinamen exempt from scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles. Many die of lung disease.

Respecting the cubic-air law, I look upon it as exceedingly defective. I do not think that a small space in this climate engenders disease to the extent it would in eastern climates in the summer. If we had the heat of the east here we should have a plague almost every year in the Chinese quarter. Cubic-air law defective.

In the under ground places already mentioned they have passages which go from one street or alley to another, and wherever I have been I found people sleeping in these places. I found in small rooms large numbers Overcrowding.



Opium and  
whiskey.

Chinese immigration  
if unchecked  
bound to increase.

In San Francisco  
cuts off from the  
business portion  
of city its  
handsomest part.

Sanitary machin-  
ery defective.

With proper  
health laws great  
change for the  
better could be  
made.

How small-pox is  
disseminated.

Chinese in San  
Francisco mostly  
die of consump-  
tion.

Case of a China-  
man dying on the  
street.

with their bunks built around. They seem to care less about ventilation than any other people I have ever known.

From personal knowledge, I cannot say whether smoking opium fills our prisons and gaols to the extent that whiskey does; nor do I think it makes them vicious and quarrelsome; nor does it increase our taxes in comparison with whiskey drinking.

Considering the advantages the Chinese have here, and with such a population as China, I think they are bound to extend all over the country. Chinadom is extending in this city and cuts off the most desirable property—North Beach—from the business portion, and to reach that handsome portion of the city the street-cars have to pass through Chinadom, which makes it very objectionable to ladies and gentlemen going through.

I do not regard our health ordinances as sufficient. We have four permanent inspectors, but during epidemics we appoint more. We have now thirteen or fourteen. There is no regular inspection of those quarters any more than any other portion of the city. Nuisances are reported at the health office, but so far as Chinatown is concerned nuisances are rarely reported. On that account for the last eight months we have had a special inspector for that quarter, but we could use profitably all the time three times as many as we have. The abatement of nuisances properly belongs to the health department, in connection with the police. If we had health laws here the same as in Boston, giving power to the Board of Health to declare any house unfit for habitation, it would be very beneficial to us. From the natural location of the Chinese quarter it ought to be healthy. With proper police and health regulations the evils might be largely abated; it would be the means of scattering them which would be a great deal better for us. I cannot tell accurately the death-rate, but it is less than the American, because more than one-fourth of the deaths here are children under twelve months of age, and one-half under ten years of age. I do not think I have ever seen a Chinaman of seventy-five or eighty years of age. I have occasionally seen an old man, a very old man, among the immigrants.

The percentage of death among the whites has been twenty per cent. I have discovered cases of small-pox in Chinatown in a room where twenty or thirty Chinamen were at work making slippers, which were afterwards sent all over the state; and this is one way of transmitting the disease. I have never discovered a case in a Chinese laundry, although I have had a hundred cases reported to me, much to my annoyance. A large percentage of the white prostitutes live in Chinatown. If we are to have this population, it would be better for us if 10,000 Chinese women were here. I cannot tell what diseases prevail in Chinatown, not having been called there as a medical man. That can only be ascertained through Chinese physicians; but, from observation, I believe that most deaths are caused through chronic diseases, principally consumption. I consider the Chinese quarter engenders disease to a greater extent than any other thickly-settled portion of the city. The other parts of the city very bad, but that is from defective sewerage. Our white population, as a rule, live very respectably; but you will find in some of our low portions a dozen families crowded into tenement houses and a great deal of filth. The Chinese are not to be blamed for this lack of sewerage. I have seen dead Chinamen on the street, but not dead women. There was one case of a Chinaman dying on the street. A gentleman opening his store early in the morning, found him in a horrible condition; he must have been sick at least two weeks; it was a horrible sight; some Chinamen came along and carried him to Aleck alley;

must have been carried to where he was found; he died within twenty-four hours of small-pox. There was no necessity for an inquest, the evidence of the cause of death being plain. It is a very difficult matter to get a coroner to make an inquest in a small-pox case, or to get a jury for those cases.

All Chinese women are looked upon as prostitutes; as a rule, they are. There are a few women here, but it would be a great blessing if there were a great many more for the use of the Chinamen. The use of the prostitution of Chinese women is confined to a very low class of white people. You may go into some portions of the Chinese quarters and you will find the lowest class of white people, and negroes, and Mexicans, and Indians, all mixed up together horribly. I do not regard Chinese women as the chief source of syphilis, there not being enough of them. I think more syphilis is propagated from the unprofessionals than there is from the professionals amongst the white prostitutes. I doubt very much if there are 4,000 Chinese prostitutes here; there are a large number of white. In the Chinese quarter prostitutes are a more degraded class than the white ones; but there are some among the whites as degraded as it is possible to be. I have never thought of the position of Chinamen as domestic servants coming in contact with our children, and the question whether these prostitutes to whom they have access are not a protection to families. I think it would be better if there were more of them.

ALFRED CLARKE, clerk in the Chief of Police's Department; filled the position eight or ten years, but has been a member of the Police Department in different positions for over twenty years, sworn and examined: CLARKE.

The number of Chinese in the city is given by Langley in the directory as 30,000. From observation, the Chinese quarter whenever I went there was pretty dirty; I have not been there lately. There is a big number of Chinese prostitutes and gamblers. As to crime, it is not so easy to get convictions in cases where crimes are committed among themselves, for the reason that the witnesses who are cognizant of the facts are generally Chinese. The number of arrests in proportion to the population of the whites and Chinese does not vary much. We have ordinances here by which the police are authorized to break up the dens of prostitution and make arrests and to punish want of cleanliness. The laws in relation to prostitution and cleanliness bear upon all equally, but among the Chinese the officers have more to do. We have from time to time endeavored to use legal means to bring to justice the violators of this law, and the thing has been going on here for years. At one time we had eighty or ninety of them in a little gaol that was erected for the purpose, and during the time we pressed those prosecutions the practice diminished very much. In 1866 there were not more than forty or fifty prostitutes out of gaol. About this time a proposition was considered to locate them away outside of the city, but an Act was passed by the Legislature known as the "Chinese house-of-ill-fame Bill" which prohibited them anywhere. Keeping a house of prostitution is a crime here. It can only be abated by convicting the persons guilty of the offence and putting them in gaol, and if they pay the fine there is nothing except the fear of the law to prevent them doing the same thing over again. It is very hard to get another conviction because they are more careful. Respecting

A large number of  
prostitutes.  
Crime.

Chinese prosti-  
tutes forbidden to  
exist in any part  
of California.

Prostitutes held in bondage.

Chinese women being held in a state of bondage for the purposes of prostitution, my line of duty has given me some knowledge of these things. [Two original contracts for the service of these women produced. See Rev. Mr. Gibson's evidence, p. 262.]

Ten per cent. belong to the criminal class.

Chinese prostitutes do not as a rule know enough to escape from slavery.

Kidnapping a Chinese woman.

Secret tribunals.

On being recalled witness said: If one of these women escape after being bound by one of these contracts the owner usually tries to find her, and if found in the hands of another Chinaman he would be invited to give her up. [Here was read to the witness his answer to the Legislative Committee to the same question.] They do not quite as often get them arrested in our courts; they cannot get them arrested, because the sheriff would not now give them a warrant for stealing unless they brought corroborative proof of the theft; but some time ago they obtained some arrests and used the process of court. Assuming the population to be 25,000 or 30,000, about ten per cent. would belong to the criminal class. It is customary for the keepers of white houses of prostitution to send east for new women, and also for them to furnish money for their transportation, and generally an agreement as to how the money is to be repaid. Often the clothing of these white prostitutes is owned by the mistress of the house. There have been very few instances of arrest of these prostitutes on the ground of their running away and stealing the clothing they have with them. The main difference between the importation of the Chinese prostitute and the white is that among the former it is recognized as an established custom which ought to be obeyed and respected, but among our own people they know there is a law which gives them liberty. The Chinese women have generally submitted passively and helplessly to this imposition, degradation, and slavery, to be sold and bought and transported at the will of their masters. As to these bills of sale it is on record in our court where a certain person was charged with selling a woman, and tried, found guilty, and sentenced to six months in the county jail. As to the escape and recapture of these women, I have been informed of that by the women and others connected with them. Arresting these women for larceny is accomplished in this way: a Chinaman comes and says a certain woman stole a certain amount of money, say \$200 or \$300. He would get a warrant out, he would go with an officer and point her out, and when the woman was pointed out he would get other persons to come and file a bail-bond for her. When the bail-bond was filed, those who gave the bail-bond would accompany her as friends, and go away with her. Afterwards the Chinaman would come to court and represent that the charge was unfounded, that the property had been restored, and in that way get the case dismissed. The Chinawoman would then be left in his possession. This is not now continued in practice. Two or three years ago there was a case of kidnapping of a Chinese woman by white men employed by the Chinese. This woman had been consorting with a washerman in violation of her contract, and her master thought they had a right to the assistance of the Chinese to have the contract sustained. The woman was captured in pursuance of the obligation, and was kept until the contract-principals met, and an agreement made that there should be no prosecution in the case, which agreement was faithfully carried out in spite of all the officers could do to bring evidence into court. Another young man was arrested a year or a year and a half ago for participating in a similar affair. These facts I gather from reports as told at the police office.

There is a secret tribunal called the Hip-ye-tung which demands from those who bring Chinese women in and marry them something in the

shape of purchase money, \$5 a head. On one occasion a certain Chinaman who had been guilty of marrying a Chinawoman was invited to appear before this tribunal, and there give an account of the purchase money, or otherwise conform to the custom of his countrymen. A complaint was lodged at the police office against this tribunal, and officers detailed to make enquiries, and watch the place. The result was that eight Chinamen were arrested in the rooms where they held their sessions, and were tried in the police court on a charge of conspiracy. The statement that Lup Sam Yung gave was to the effect that having married this woman he was called before the Hip-ye-tung and told he would have to pay the price for her. He also testified that he was threatened before that tribunal, and that weapons were drawn, and was told in substance that if he did not pay for the woman he would be killed. The result of the trial was that they were acquitted, the evidence not being sufficient to obtain a conviction. A safe was brought down from the rooms and with difficulty opened. Books were found, one of which contained a list of 150 women and some accounts, also some papers which it was understood related to the transactions of the Hip-ye-tung. The tribunal consisted of thirty or forty members or more. Only eight were captured. We had to rely solely on Chinese proof. The man threatened was the strongest witness, but others were called in corroboration.

My observation leads me to think that there has been a union of effort among those interested in sustaining Chinese prostitution, because there is a good deal of money involved in the matter. If there are one thousand prostitutes here and all worth \$500 a piece, there is a good deal of money at stake, and if all run away it would leave their masters poorer.

The Chinese have societies for regulating matters among themselves, but this Hip-ye-tung, I think, was limited to affairs connected with prostitution.

The police have occasionally been called to suppress riots and disorders which have occurred at assemblies of Chinamen; sometimes there would be half a dozen badly hurt and a number arrested. I have heard some of the Six Companies state that they had met among themselves and arranged the matter, but am not so clear as to their being a regular tribunal similar to our courts. I have heard and read of notices having been posted in the Chinese quarter offering rewards for assassination.

Respecting the regulation of the Chinese laundries here the washermen have a board of management; and it would not be allowable, under the customs of the Chinese, for a Chinese washerman to start a laundry unless he had the permission and consent of the board. The board is something like a trades-union among themselves. I think I have heard the sum of \$2 and \$5 spoken of as the license.

As to the evidence of the existence of a secret tribunal to regulate the business of Chinamen here, I have never been in one, and have no clearer knowledge than about the Hip-ye-tung, which I have described; but there is a case in court now where it is charged that a Chinaman was imprisoned by his fellow countrymen for not settling a claim, and there are persons under arrest for that. A great many Chinamen have been taken off and killed, and it has not been easy for the officers to find it out.

Attempts have been made to suppress prostitution; there are arrests of white women every day; I think they number about 1,000 not 5,000.

Besides the contracts already referred to, I have seen some three or four others.

Secret tribunals.

The Hip-ye-tung try to extort money from a man who had married a woman.

United action on the part of those interested in Chinese prostitution. \$500,000 involved.

Rewards offered for assassination.

Laundries and trades-unions.

Secret tribunals.



City officers aid prostitutes to escape from bondage.

The city officers generally aid these women to escape from their bonds. At one time the number of Chinese prostitutes was down to forty out of gaol. White men and white women are sent to prison for procuring girls for the purposes of prostitution.

I understand that the Six Companies have a board of arbitration.

The most numerous class of offences for which the Chinese are arrested is gambling, prostitution, and violation of the pure-air law, for the latter a fine of \$10 or five days' imprisonment. If he goes to prison, his hair is cut.

Cubic-airlaw.

Chinamen are arrested in large numbers, thirty and forty of a night, for infringing the cubic-air ordinance.

The law excuses the cells in gaols and prisons from its application.

Sometimes the Chinese sue in our courts in civil matters, but most of their disputes are settled among themselves.

Trades-unions.

Washermen, cigar-makers, etc., I understand, all have their trades-unions, in which they meet and arbitrate their difficulties.

Secret tribunals.

No member of the Six Companies has ever said to me, in so many words, that there was a tribunal among the Chinese which settled matters, criminal and civil; but a man would say that the thing had been arranged—fixed up. This relates to criminal matters to a considerable extent.

Contact with our civilization improves them, but they have a tendency to draw us down.

#### SAN FRANCISCO, October 24th, 1876.

ELLIS.

HENRY H. ELLIS, connected with the Police Department for twenty years, upwards of fifteen years a detective, now Chief of Police, sworn and examined:

Number in city and state.

There are about 30,000 Chinese in the city, perhaps a few more. The number varies very much. During the rainy season there might be as many as 60,000 and from 120,000 to 160,000 in the state. Respecting their habits and crimes, I have a statement compiled from the books, and will read it as follows:—

Extent of Chinese crime

"For the year ending June, 1876, the white arrests made were 17,991; Chinese 2,117; total, 20,108. July, August and September of the present year the arrests of whites was 5,047; Chinese, 876; total, 5,923.

"The Chinese population of the city and county of San Francisco is reported by Langley as 30,000; 2,117 criminals, being equal to 7.05 per cent. for the year ending June 30th, 1876.

"Chinese per cent. of the whole number of arrests, say 20,108, for the year ending June 30th, 1876, the number of arrests being 2,117, equals 10.2655-5027, or 10 per cent. Chinese per cent. of the number arrested, say 878, for the three months ending September 30th, 1876, 2.92 per cent. of the Chinese population of 30,000.

"Chinese felons sent to state prison during the year ending February 17th, 1876, say 63, equal to 13.31-63 or 13 per cent. of 504, the whole number of convicts sent during that time.

"We did not have the record down any later than last February."

These convictions were for felonies, that is for the state at large; this latter paper does not apply to the city alone:

"The white population, according to Langley, is reported to be 240,000; 17,991 criminals being equal to 7.49 per cent. for the year ending June 30th, 1876.

"White criminals for the three months ending September 30th, 1876, is 5,047, Percentage of being 2.10-7.24 per cent. of the whole white population of 240,000."

Here is a summary of the whole thing:

"2,117 Chinese arrested, 1875 and 1876, being 7.056 per cent. of their population. "2,117 Chinese arrested, 1875 and 1876, being 10.5 per cent. of the whole number of arrests.

"878 Chinese arrested, for three months, ending September 30th, 1876, being 2.923 per cent. of their population.

"68 Chinese convicts sent to state prison during the year ending February 17th, 1876, being 13.31-63 per cent. of the whole number sent for the year.

"17,991 whites arrested, 1875 and 1876, being 7.496 per cent. of their whole population.

"5,047 whites arrested for three months ending September 30th, 1876, being 2.103 of their population.

"30,000 Chinese population, being 12.5 per cent. of the whole population of the city."

As a rule it is more difficult to arrest Chinese than whites. This statement embraces the crimes of Chinese against Chinese and Chinese against whites. It is very difficult where Chinese and Chinese are concerned to get a conviction, their testimony being unreliable, with a few notable exceptions. I know from rumor and hearsay that the Chinese have a court to settle among themselves civil and criminal matters.

One case came under my observation where an attempt was made to settle a criminal case in which I was concerned. The criminal was eventually found in an inner room adjoining the room where a large congregation of Chinamen were gathered. The man that took me there informed me that I would first have to wait to see what disposition was made by those people. I have heard of Chinamen being convicted of offences, and judgment being carried out amongst themselves. It has been understood by the police generally that such was the fact. Notices have been posted offering rewards for killing Chinese. I have seen notices purporting to be of that kind in the Chinese language and have had them interpreted to me verbally. There may be some copies preserved. I think their presence here has an injurious effect upon our civilization, their prostitution being more accessible to boys and youths. Their mode of solicitation is to stand at their windows and call people, asking them to come in. They use enough English to make known their desires and wants. It is universally believed by the police and people that these women prostitutes are held as slaves. I have no faith whatever in their conversion to Christianity, from the fact that I have seen some of them that professed Christianity come down and take a hand and an interest in cases in court totally at variance with their professions.

The condition of their quarter is very filthy as a rule. Without the police here they would be buried in their own filth in many places. They are compelled by the police to clean up once or twice a week. The nature of their filth is refuse of all kinds, thrown out indiscriminately, even worse than that. They have little places in some portions of Chinatown where they have vaults overflowing with filth. As soon as the Chinaman takes possession of a building, it seems to go to rack and ruin, and become filthy, dirty, and discolored. The condition of their stairways is very filthy. Chinadom is slowly extending. Some ten or a dozen blocks have been given up to the Chinese generally, situated in the heart of the old portion of the city, the northern part, beyond which there is a handsome quarter out towards North Beach. To get to that quarter, the people living there had one avenue; but the Chinamen got in there, and whenever they get in they maintain a foothold and crowd everybody else out. They did this on this street, and now it is quite a task to go up and down that street alone at some hours of the night; and to a lady it is very disagreeable.

More difficult to arrest Chinese than whites.

Secret tribunals.

Assassination.

Chinese prostitution more accessible to boys.

Prostitutes held as slaves.

Christianity of Chinese a delusion.

Filth.

Chinatown extending.

Chinese injure a street where they reside, but pay high rents.

Chinese pay higher rents, and white people do not like to live beside them. The effect of two Chinamen on each side of a man having a flourishing business, would be to injure his business and cause him to move away somewhere else.

The further extension of Chinadom would be disastrous to the whites, causing them to move away, and their places to be filled with Chinamen.

If the Palace Hotel were divided up to be a hive of Chinese, it would be profitable, and there is no law to prevent the owner from devoting it to such a purpose, and nothing to prevent the Chinese from taking possession. Public opinion might have some influence over the owners of property in some localities, as it has against them living in other parts of the city, the same having a tendency to drive them together. The Chinese quarter is more densely populated than any other part of the city.

Arrests.

The percentage of arrests, as compared with the whites, is about equal, the latter embracing women and children. It does not necessarily follow that they should be filthy, because they are crowded; they are filthy as a people. Chinese boys who have been any length of time in white families acquire cleanly habits, but as soon as they return to their quarters they lapse into their old ways.

Crowded and filthy.

Prostitution and the administration of the law.

Chinamen go bail; two persons being required to go on a bond. In a case of prostitution \$100 is required, the fine ranging from \$25 to \$50. Nearly all convicted go to the county gaol and serve their term out. Probably there were more Chinese prostitutes arrested last year than whites. We have an ordinance forbidding them to solicit prostitution. Keeping a disorderly house is another offence for which the fine is \$10. It is difficult to prove a case against either Chinese or whites. One act does not make prostitution in the eyes of the law.

More perjury among Chinese than among whites.

In the trial of white persons the testimony frequently fails to convict. Perjury is committed in all courts, every day on an average; but there is not one convicted of it in a year. Cases come up in the police court where twenty persons have sworn to an *alibi* that neither court nor officers believed—Chinese. Not such a great number among the whites.

The Barbary Coast here is replete with crime. A few Chinese are scattered through, as well as other persons, of all nations and all characters. In some localities they are a bad lot, in some pretty good. There is another district called the Tar Flat, made notorious by the hoodlums.

Lately we have been quite active in enforcing the ordinances against the Chinese, because of the epidemic, but heretofore these arrests have not been so largely in excess of other arrests.

Licenses imposed on Chinese laundrymen *ultra vires*. Testimony of better class of Chinamen reliable.

The Chinese laundrymen pay no license. There was a test case and the court decided it was not valid.

Among the better class of Chinese their testimony is usually reliable, and in their private transactions and dealings I consider them men of probity, and honor and truthfulness.

Secret tribunals.

The case already referred to in which I was personally interested, was assault for murder, and the man was delivered over to me. This is the only case that I know of where they attempted to settle among themselves any serious crime. It is usual among benevolent associations of white people to settle among themselves small difficulties that might be the subject of police investigation. The police have always understood that the Chinese had tribunals to try, arbitrate and punish, but I have no evidence of such being the fact. In the case of the Hip-ye-tung there was no evidence to convict. One of the witnesses was considered a respectable man, and at the time I had no doubt as to the reliability of his testimony, but

it was met by considerable evidence on the other side, and the judge decided in favor of the defendants.

Assassination is not confined to Chinamen, cases happening among the whites. During my twenty years' experience I should think there had been a dozen cases of assassination of Chinese by Chinese, and three or four cases where Chinamen have been assassinated by whites. I have read of hundreds of them being assassinated in the mines.

The police have had more trouble with hoodlums of late, of whom there are several thousands. Other boys besides these visit the Chinese prostitutes. The prostitutes are confined to six or eight blocks. It would not be possible with our police force of 150 men to exclude white boys, there being only seven or eight men detailed to look after that locality. We have special police for the Chinese, but these are the only regular officers to look after that people, nor is this number increased during the wet season, when as many as 60,000 Chinese are in the city. At the close of the harvest they begin to come in, and go out again from time to time as work opens up for them. They remain here two or three months. The 30,000 mentioned are the resident population, and the percentage of arrests is based upon that number. The voting population of the whites number about 30,000, and the arrests constitute grown-up men, females, youths, and boys. There are about 1,500 white prostitutes and about 1,000 Chinese in the city; other nationalities do not figure much, but they are not virtuous.

The centre of trade and residence has moved south, and the centre of Chinese population from the new city hall is about half a mile. The population and region inhabited by the Chinese has not extended as rapidly and as widely as the portion inhabited by the white, the former extending only a few blocks and the latter for miles. The section inhabited by the Chinese was a very lively place before they went there, the criminal element predominating. They have been remarkably exempt from fire considering their carelessness. They have wash-houses nearly all over the city, as well as cigar-houses and other institutions in the business part of the town, in many instances white people occupying the same building or part of a store partitioned off. Those who carry on wash-houses and cigar establishments eat and sleep there; they have their women there. There is a striking contrast as to cleanliness between the wash-house Chinamen and the people who congregate in the Chinese quarter, and there is an improvement in their condition when they become servants.

Chinamen have been very badly abused here. The hoodlums stone, beat, and abuse them in a shameful manner; and if he is found in a part of the city alone where the police are not in call, if he escapes with his life or without being maimed or badly treated he is very fortunate. Hoodlums here have the same standing as "roughs" or vagabonds in the east, the majority of them eventually becoming thieves and criminals. They follow no pursuit, live in blocks, and commit every crime known to the calendar. Several murders have been committed by them and several punished, but none has been hanged. Two hoodlums were arrested for stabbing a Chinaman to the heart, one was sentenced to the state's prison for a term of years, and the other was sent to the asylum from which he escaped immediately afterwards and has never been caught.

I am a housekeeper and have a wife and six children. My water rate is \$4.50 a month; \$2.50 is the lowest rate and it runs up to \$100 according to the quantity used. Water is a heavy tax on every citizen whether hoodlum or Chinaman.

Assassination.

Hoodlums and prostitutes.

60,000 Chinese in San Francisco during wet season.

1,500 white and 1,000 Chinese prostitutes.

Relative growth of Chinatown.

Chinese very badly treated by hoodlums.

Water rate.



I have known property to be destroyed by an incendiary, after sending threatening letters to persons employing Chinese.

Influx of Chinese bad for the white.

White boys become bad because they cannot get work.

Hoodlums.

When a police officer was shot the companies found the man and delivered him up.

Chinese riot.

**VREELAND.** EZEKIEL B. VREELAND, a resident of San Francisco for twenty-seven years, and Commissioner of Immigration from 1873 to 1876, sworn and examined :

Particulars as to the passengers which were reported by every ship arriving prior to the Restriction Act.

Witness produced an exhibit from the captain of the vessel, and the sworn statement of the passengers arriving by the ship *Alaska* on the 15th of February, 1875, said exhibit containing the names of all the passengers coming on that ship, their places of birth, age, occupation, sex and last place of residence.

Every ship that comes here makes a report in that way. Accompanying the statement is another one signed by the United States Consul at Hong Kong, stating that they are free and voluntary emigrants ; also in connection with that is a certificate from the English emigration office at Hong Kong, that they are properly provisioned and have a certain number of feet allowed for each passenger. The list contains 801 names, all of males. They all embark at Hong Kong, coming from different portions of

China. Their ages run from eight, and even smaller, up to forty-five and fifty years of age ; their average will be from twenty to twenty-five. More young people than any other class. They are mostly classed as laborers, the same as all women passing the Consul are classed as seamstresses. There is sometimes an invoice of Chinamen who come under the patronage of the government, and in charge of some head Chinaman, and these are classed as students. They go east to some college in Massachusetts.

In my opinion, the women that arrive are not all prostitutes. There is a company here importing Chinese women, the Hip-ye-tung, and six companies importing Chinamen. The importation of Chinese women has been stopped since the United States Supreme Court decided the case, and even before that. Eighty per cent. of the Chinamen imported are brought out under the auspices of the Six Companies, the remaining twenty per cent. being brought out through the agency of their particular friends or come personally. Those who come out under the auspices of the companies are generally attached to the companies on their arrival, and remain under their jurisdiction until the amount advanced them has been liquidated. In most cases they are assisted into employment through the agency of these companies. I think the companies are very good institutions so far as Chinamen are concerned ; they act as guardians and protectors of their interests generally. After their dues are paid I do not think the companies pay much attention to them, although they are always "attached." The wages are collected by a party who accompanies a gang of 100 or 200 into the country to work on a railway, this party representing the society. I have never heard any complaints of their being robbed or treated unfairly.

I never saw their contracts, but I am told it is nothing more nor less than a matter of honesty between them. The contract, as far as I got it from Chinamen themselves, is simply to refund the money advanced. I have known the companies to have contracts with the steamship companies that they shall take none back without evidence of their dues being paid—debts due to the companies alone. The Pacific Mail and all ships are under obligations to these Six Companies from the fact that they furnish passengers. The contract is in the nature of a security that the company takes for the payment of the money, and that cannot be got back until it is paid.

The women are bought in China, as near as I could come at the facts of the case, and brought over here and sold at various prices, from \$200 to \$1,000, by the Hip-ye-tung Company. The commissioner stopped twenty-two of them and took them before the District Court here, and they were remanded back to the ship to be sent to China. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court of the state, which court affirmed the decision of the District Court. A writ of *habeas corpus* was then got out and taken before the United States circuit court. The judge discharged twenty-one of them and kept one, so that an appeal could be taken to the United States Supreme Court, which court affirmed the decision of the United States Circuit Court, that no state had a right to prohibit the landing of passengers of any character whatever.

The flow of Chinese immigration has its periods. At this season of the year (October) there are more returning than coming this way. I understand they go back to celebrate the new year. It is a fact that the Six Companies and leading mercantile firms sent despatches stopping the immigration. The period when more are coming out than returning is in May, June, July and August, as many as 5,000 coming in the month of

80 per cent. of immigrants brought out by agency of the companies.

Companies act as guardians.

Wages collected by a boss Chinaman.

Contract simply to refund the money.

Women bought.

More come out than return in May, June, July and August.