MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

SAN FRANCISCO, July 22nd, 1884.

ARTHUR R. BRIGGS, examined:

BRIGGS

Q. What is your full name?—A. Arthur R. Briggs.

Q. You are president of the Immigration Association of California?—A. Yes.

Q. How many years have you been connected with immigration in California?—A. About three years in November.

Q. How long have you been in California?—A. I came here ten years ago in June.

Q. Have you interests here separate from those connected with the immigration association?—A. I have; have during the last seven years published a commercial newspaper in this city.

Q. Will you state the conclusions you have reached on the subject?—A. Do you want it in the form of an interrogatory?

Chinese immigration a bar to white immigration.

Q. Just state the conclusions to which you have come?—A. Well, in reference to immigration to this state, my opinion is, after having studied the matter carefully, that the immigration of Chinese to California has been a bar to the immigration of white people from the eastern and western states and from Europe, and that as long as it continues it will act as an obstacle to white immigration. My impression also is that the continued immigration of Chinese to this coast furnished simply a supply of manual labor without adding to the industrial resources of the state in the manner that white immigration would. I believe that we have suffered greatly by the increased numbers or by an excess in the numbers of these people in California and on the Pacific coast, which we were not able to utilize in our factories and industrial enterprises here.

If influx had continued white immigration would have ceased entirely.

Q. You have stated that the immigration of white settlers has been retarded. Do you think it has been retarded from the states of the Union as well as from outside?—A. Unquestionably. I think that the statistics show that immigration from the states of the United States—eastern, middle and western—had almost ceased, and would have ceased entirely if this influx of Chinese had continued. Perhaps I can show you what I mean by a few statistics. I have not time to put them into shape now, but I will put them into shape for you. I have some few statistics here. For instance, the excess of arrivals over departures in 1879 was 9,500, that is Chinese and all; in 1880, 4,100, and most of those were Chinese; in 1882 there were 17,573 Chinese immigrants to this coast. The immigration to this coast for 1883, according to the statement that I made here for one publication recently was about 24,000, the number of immigrants registered at our own office from the year ended May 31st last, shows a total of 9,680, most of them seekers after homes. These were registered at our

Increase of white immigration.

office, and probably, not to exceed, one-third reached this city. We calculate that about one-third reach San Francisco, not to exceed that proportion. They begin to drop off at Los Angeles and continue to do so all the way to San Francisco, wherever they can find employment. Coming the other way they begin to drop off after reaching the Sierras, so that we get in this city perhaps one-third of the immigration, which is seeking home in this state.

White immigration invited after influx of Chinese was stopped.

Q. Do you attribute the increase in white immigration recently to the legislation at Washington?—A. Not wholly. At the time this immigration association was formed, as I said, we had scarcely any movement of white immigration here; in fact we were doing nothing to encourage immigration, because we had all the labor we could utilize. But the moment Congress was invoked to stop the influx of Chinese to the coast, then we began to circulate printed information relating to the state, showing its advantages and opportunities, and sent that broadcast into Europe and east of the Rocky Mountains in this country, and thereby induced a larger immigration than would have come otherwise. Unquestionably the effect of the Restriction Act was toward the increase of that immigration, because we could say to these people that the Chinese immigration had ceased, and they no longer were in danger of coming into competition with coolie labor direct from China that was constantly coming at the rate of 15,000 or 20,000 per year.

Restriction Act cause of increase.

Credit due also to organized effort.

Q. So that not only had you the restrictive legislation but you put forward greater efforts to secure immigration?—A. It is not fair to say it was all due to the Restriction Act, because this immigration association represents the first organized effort that has ever been made to encourage immigrants into this state. There have been desultory efforts of a private character for many years, all signal failures; but this is an organized effort, and to this some credit is due for this increase in white immigration.

White laborer a consumer and a producer; excess of Chinaman's wages go out of the State.

Q. You stated yesterday that the Chinaman worked for a considerably lower wage than the white immigrant. Do you consider that the state will get an equivalent for the difference between the amount paid to the Chinese worker and the amount that would have to be paid to the white worker?—A. It is my impression that the state derives more benefit than the difference between these wages, for this reason: the white laborer comes here generally with his family, supports his family. He is a consumer as well as a producer. He rears his family, spends his money at home, and thereby retains the money in the country and developes the resources of the state. Whereas with the Chinaman any excess of wages or earnings over his necessary expenses for living, are taken directly from this state and from this country. It would seem to me that in considering the advantages between the Chinese laborer and the white laborer there is no such thing as a comparison. It is so overwhelmingly in favor of the white laborer, it would not bear comparison at all.

No comparison between Chinese and white laborers.

Q. That is the state of the case as it stands now?—A. Yes. It appears so to me.

Chinese an important factor in the development of the State up to a certain period.

Q. What has been the effect in the past of the employment of Chinese labor on the prosperity of this state?—A. I think the Chinese have been a very important factor in the development of our public works, and in the development of the resources of the state up to a certain period. I

think the time was when they were greatly needed, and did much good. We have outlived that day. The building of the overland railroads, and the interior roads, required a peculiar kind of labor; laborers who would follow up the work and live in a very primitive way, board themselves, take care of themselves, without families; labor that was always to be relied upon, and hence I believe the Chinese have done a great deal of good to the state. I think we derived a peculiar advantage from their presence here in early days. But we have outlived that day; we have finished these works, and now this labor must go into other channels, other industries, into agriculture, viticulture, factories, etc., and take the places which otherwise would be filled with white laborers in the towns and villages, and in the country, to an extent that almost prevents the whites from finding suitable employment. They now take the place of boys and girls that are growing up in this country. I believe that the peculiar advantage derived from this labor has been outgrown.

Their labor always reliable, and must go into other channels.

Outgrown advantages derived from their labor.

Q. Do I understand you to say that if these great public works were still *in futuro*, you would then welcome Chinese immigration?—A. No; I do not believe I should welcome it. I can see that it might be utilized to advantage, but the question then would come up what to do with that labor after these works were completed; that is the question we have been called upon to solve.

Would not welcome Chinese immigration.

Q. If they come here merely single men, which it is said they do, where is the difficulty about the tide receding?—A. The peculiarity of Chinese immigration is that it never recedes. The Chinese are a people of conquest, and wherever they obtain a foothold there they remain. That is the history of all the Pacific Islands; that is the history of all countries where they have obtained a footing.

It never recedes; where they obtain a foothold they remain.

Q. Do I understand you to say that in manufacturing work, white men cannot compete with them?—A. I think that day has gone by; the time was when they could not. Chinese to-day do not labor for as low wages as they did ten years ago. Their labor is regarded nearly as valuable as white labor, particularly in piece work; they earn as much as whites. And many are laborers on their own account.

Their labor regarded nearly as valuable as white labor.

Q. Then, after a time, the objection from the working men would disappear?—A. So far as wages are concerned it does not hold as good to the extent that it did in the early stage of the introduction of this labor.

Q. You have never tried the experiment of making them settlers in the country?—A. No.

Q. Would you think it desirable to try that experiment?—A. They can only become settlers by purchase under the present law.

Q. But suppose they were allowed and encouraged to live here as other settlers with their wives and families?—A. If the Chinese were to come to this coast with their families I think much of the feeling against them might be removed. If it were possible for them to come here to remain permanently and maintain homes and families, so that their children and their children's children would become Americans, I do not believe that the same objection which is found to-day would ever have existed. But the fact is that they huddle together in droves, like animals in their habitation, and have no such things as homes; they are simply livers.

If they came with their families much of the prejudice against them might be removed.

They huddle together in droves, and have no homes

Moral effect hard to explain.

Q. This huddling together, what effect has it? What is the moral effect of their huddling together on the community in which they live?—A. The moral effect is very hard to explain. I question if the Chinese have any moral standard, and I believe, from my experience with them, that they are governed by a question of policy; that they know nothing of the moral sentiments of right and wrong. The Chinese are actuated simply by the desire to accumulate money.

Large numbers would have a demoralizing effect.

Q. What I mean is this: How do they affect the morals of the community on which they are for the time being engrafted?—A. You can readily understand that an aggregation of these people, who are single men, and who bring their females into their midst to use as prostitutes, would certainly have a very demoralizing effect on any community. The young men of the community are often contaminated by association with Chinese women. As degrading as it may seem, there is little doubt that this influence is the source of many moral and physical wrecks. Aside from that, I do not know the presence of the Chinese has any moral effect here, unless it be that through the introduction of opium-smoking, which is a prevalent and growing habit, this vice becomes common with the lower classes of whites. The Chinese depreciate property in their vicinity, because of the manner in which they live, the manner they treat the buildings which they occupy. Their filthy habits and their manner of living in every way has that effect; but as to the moral sentiment of the community, I do not know that it has very much effect, because there is not association sufficiently intimate to affect that.

Their presence depreciates property.

Q. Then, so far as your observation goes, the question would seem to be a politico-economic one altogether?—A. Almost wholly.

Q. So that if we are to decide on the question whether it would be good or bad statesmanship to keep them out, you have to ask what their effect really is on the industrial development of the country?—A. I think that is the key to the whole question.

Q. You mean that is the key to your position?—A. Yes; to the position taken by the people of this state.

A politico-economic question more than moral.

Q. Your observation leads you to think that is the chief question?—A. Yes; I think it is more a politico-economic question than a moral one.

If Chinese labor had not been available it would have come from other sources.

Q. If you look back in the history of California, to the time when these great public works did not exist, would you not find that the bringing in of Chinamen, for some time anyway, would have been a useful plan?—A. I cannot say that, because I believe if the Chinese labor had not been available, that labor would have been brought here from other sources. I believe our public works would have been carried on as in the eastern states twenty-five years ago. True, it would have been more difficult and work might have been retarded, but future development of the country by them would have been of vast importance to the state, whereas with the Chinese, when the railroads were completed, their mission was ended.

Their mission ended after building the railways.

Q. Have you not had a large amount of swamp land reclaimed?—A. Comparatively little with them. That is a matter of no importance so far as their usefulness is concerned. They have been utilized to a certain extent in that way, but that is not of so much importance as is the building of railroads and that sort of work.

Q. You think they played a very important part in the building of railroads?—A. They did, assuredly.

Q. Did you read the testimony of the president of the Central Pacific Railroad before a committee of Congress in regard to swamp lands?—A. Four years ago?

Q. Yes, sir?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember how emphatically he spoke of the impossibility of building the railroads without them?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that was correct?—A. I think his statements, or the statements of the railroad people, are entitled to great weight, because they have had the largest experience with Chinese labor in that work, and their experience is worth more than the opinion of a man who simply has observation to guide him. I am bound to believe that men, who are thinking men, like Mr. Stanford, Mr. Crocker and Mr. Huntington, have good reasons for their opinion. They have expressed the belief within recent date, that the Chinese were the best laborers for the public works to be had in this state. Nevertheless, I am not sufficiently informed to express an opinion as to whether the railroad companies here accomplished more in the prosecution of their work with a given number of Chinese laborers than the eastern or western railroad companies accomplished with white labor. The Union Pacific was built in the wilderness chiefly with white labor; the Central Pacific with Chinese labor.

Chinese best laborers for public works.

Q. Did you see Mr. Crocker's evidence where he speaks of reclaimed swamp-land, and note the statement that they could not get white labor to do it because it was so severe and distasteful to them?—A. I saw that.

Q. But they were able to get Chinamen to do it, partly because Chinese labor was in abundance and partly because the Chinese worked under a hotch-potch contract; did you see that?—A. Yes.

Q. What is your impression of that evidence?—A. That might have been true at the time, but the labor conditions have materially changed within a few years. At the time these railroads were building and marsh land was being reclaimed, mining was the great business of this coast, and the white laborers were very generally engaged in that occupation. The Chinese were not in that at all, or so few as to be of no moment. That has almost entirely changed, and now the white people have been obliged to find employment in agriculture, or as day laborers, or in factories, and to day are willing to do precisely the work which the Chinamen did then.

When railroads were building white labor was engaged in mining.

Q. But travel back to the time when this swamp land was unreclaimed and the white men were all mining, surely the Chinamen fulfilled an important industrial necessity here then?—A. Yes. We invited those people here; we not only invited them but we welcomed them. We believed they were desirable, and they were at the time.

Chinese desirable at that time.

Q. Has their effect on the development of the country disappointed your expectations at that time or has it been realized?—A. I question if many men looked so far into the future as to form an opinion as to

what the future of their residence here would be. I do not think that was seriously thought of ; but the fact of the unanimous sentiment against further Chinese immigration into this state, is almost conclusive that their introduction has disappointed early expectations.

Their introduction disappointed early expectations.

Q. What is the possibility of their residence here if they have no families?—A. Nothing beyond what you see to-day, in my opinion. They do not come with the idea of remaining. They leave their own country with the unalterable determination to return dead or alive to their native land.

They do not come to remain..

Q. You do not anticipate then they will become more powerful here?—A. Not under the Restriction Act. They would have become more powerful with an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 a year. They would have taken such a position with regard to the industrial interests of this coast as would have been a permanent bar to the further introduction of white labor.

A large influx would have been a bar to white labor in industrial pursuits.

Q.—I understand your position then to be: that there was a period in the history of California when they were useful, but it is now gone, and it is well to have a Restriction Act now, in order to prevent them taking up such a position as would almost make a Chinese district of this part of the Union?—A. I would not put it in as strong language as you do.

Q. I wish to have it in your own language?—A. I would say then that there was a period when they did perform an important part; that that condition has been gradually changing, and is changing now. I believe they perform an important part here to-day, which we would feel very sensibly if they were excluded wholly; but with a hundred thousand of these people here I believe we have all we can utilize for years to come.

Changed condition of things.

Q. Suppose you exclude them wholly. Many persons, as you are aware, would wish to drive them out; what would be the consequence of excluding them entirely?—A. That would be a serious matter to this state; it would almost ruin some of the industries here and prevent progress in others for years to come.

Total exclusion would be a serious matter.

Q. To exclude them?—A. Yes.

Q. Then they must play an important part here still?—A. They do, but less important than ten years ago.

Less important than ten years ago.

Q. You spoke yesterday of the mode of employing them, Mr Briggs. I understand that mode to be: they employ them through agencies, through the agency of one or more individuals?—A. Chiefly.

Employed through agencies.

Q. What has that arisen from?—A. From two causes, in my opinion: one from their inability to speak the English language; the other and important one is from the fact that they come here under contract to the six companies, and are directed by the six companies, and employment is secured through them.

Come under contract to the six companies.

Q. Do you think that their fear of being unfairly dealt with, if they acted independently and alone, has made them, as individuals, seek work through some important contractor in that way?—A. I think not; because there was no feeling of that kind in the early days of this state.

Q. They have not, then, been treated at any time unfairly?—A. Yes, in rare cases; but the community as a whole has not treated them unkindly. We have had an element here — the sand-lot element — that raised the cry of "The Chinese must go"—that is the sand-lot jargon; but as a whole I believe it has been exaggerated.

Keen judge of property; if properly treated will keep his bargain.

Q. As a bargain-maker what is the Chinaman's character? If he makes a contract how does he fulfil his contract?—A. He is a keen judge of property, and makes a very close bargain. If properly treated he keeps his contract to the letter.

Good, faithful workman.

Q. And as a worker; is he a good or bad workman?—A. Good; faithful; does his work, nothing more nor less. He cannot be hastened, and is very exacting of his rights. Once offended, or suspicious all is not right, he will not be persuaded to continue work, and confidence cannot be restored.

Q. Does he make any progress financially?—A. Yes, sir.

Generally frugal.

Q. Does he save money?—A. So far as we are able to see here they are generally frugal.

Sends money to China.

Q. Having saved money, what does he do with it?—A. Sends it to China.

Q. Does he invest it in any reproductive works?—A. No, sir; there may be rare instances, but it is very rare. A few of the Chinese own property in Chinatown, but very little outside.

Chinese as cigar manufacturers.

Q. You told us yesterday, Mr. Briggs, that they were accustomed to save money, and were frugal and became manufacturers and went into the boot and shoe business?—A. There are industries here almost entirely in the hands of Chinese. For instance, the Chinese were at first employed by the cigar manufacturers—they are very expert at whatever they do with their hands. Having learned their trade as cigar manufacturers, and having accumulated some money, you find occasionally one of these men who has invested his money in a manufactory. He does not make the plant, but rents a building, and buys the raw material and produces these goods. He utilizes his money in that way, and to-day they have obtained almost exclusive control of the manufacture of cigars in the state. That is to say, cigars are made almost wholly by Chinese workmen, and many of the factories are in the hands of Chinese, and owned by them. They do the same thing in tin-ware, boots and shoes, and clothing. These are the principal occupations of the Chinese where they work on their own account.

Control the manufacture almost exclusively.

Other manufacturers carried on by them.

Q. In these directions they must have swelled the stream of industrial development?—A. In that direction they have; the question is whether the whites would not have swelled it still more.

Chinese were an important factor.

Q. There is no question but there was a time when the whites were not to the fore to do the big work?—A. Not any question of that; no question but that they were important factors at one period, and quite a factor even now.

Q. If these Chinese are kindly dealt with by the state in which they are, and the people treat them well, do you not think having industrious and frugal habits you speak of, they must be a people capable of playing a useful part in a large community?—A. That is an indefinite question.

Q. I intended to make it indefinite. I do not wish to suggest anything to your mind. I do not want to suggest the answer. I would like to know whether you think, in an Anglo-Saxon community, having the qualities you describe, evidently most admirable in some respects, that they are capable of playing a useful part?—A. My opinion is that as laborers they must always play a part in any community under certain restrictions. To what extent they can be utilized is a question we are not able to determine here, because we are a new community; we have had an experience of barely twenty-five years with them, and may be somewhat prejudiced against them from the fact that their labor has been overdone; their numbers having increased more rapidly than we could utilize them.

As laborers they must play a part.

Their labor has been overdone.

Q. You say they could be utilized under certain restrictions; what restrictions?—A. I believe this—while I would not care to express it publicly, because I am opposed to them, and was active in favor of the Restriction Act—I believe that if the Restriction Act had been modified, so that a limited number of those people could have continued to come to this coast, we might have utilized them, and never have felt the opposition we feel to-day to the Chinese. I believe that in our fruit interests it would now be an advantage to have even more than we have. I believe that in some other industries, minor industries, the Chinese would play a part which would be more or less important even to-day if they were to continue to come. With that view, with the idea that we have had a scarcity of labor here, and will probably continue to have during some period of the year, for the next few years, because the industries are developing faster than the population is increasing, their presence would not be altogether undesirable. We are putting forth efforts to secure white labor, and I do not believe the Chinese would play as important a part as white labor if we can secure it. I think the advantage to us, and to the coast, is so greatly in favor of the whites that we can better afford to suffer somewhat from a want of supply, than to encourage them, and still put an obstacle in the way of the whites coming here.

If Restriction Act had been modified limiting a few to come they might have been utilized.

Industries developing faster than population increasing.

Advantage to the coast greatly in favor of white labor.

Q. What I understand you then to say is, that you think the labor, if properly regulated, would be very useful?—A. It might be, but I cannot believe it would prove ultimately beneficial or desirable.

Q. You are connected with a newspaper called the *Grocer and Country Merchant*?—A. Yes.

Q. That brings you in contact with a large number of business men?—A. Yes, constantly.

Q. And enables you, of course, to know pretty well the opinion of the community?—A. Yes.

Q. The business men, the employers of labor, those who employ Chinese, how do they feel towards this question?—A. Up to a certain period manufacturers seemed to be greatly in favor of Chinese labor, but the Chinese have now begun to realize the value of their services, and have banded themselves together very much as the whites do in trade organizations, and strikes among those people are as frequent and as arbitrary as among the whites, so the feeling that there was in their favor for some years has been greatly changed, and I believe there is a disposition now on the part of manufacturers here to dispense with their services as rapidly as they can get white men.

Chinese band themselves together and strikes are frequent among them.

Disposition to dispense with their services.

Q. In fact the manufacturers, so long as they could get them cheap, were willing to have them, but now they propose to have the whites when they cannot get Chinese cheap?—A. That is about the case. So far as the business men are concerned generally, the feeling was never very kindly towards them, because the business public employ very few of them; it is only in special departments.

Among business men feeling never very kind towards them.

Q. Manufactures?—A. Yes. Manufacturing departments.

Q. In domestic life are they not utilized to a considerable extent as cooks?—A. Yes, very largely.

Q. As house-servants?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you observed them in that position?—A. I have.

Q. What is their character? Are they clean and efficient as domestic servants?—A. For many years they were about the only domestic servants we had here, and my observation is that generally they are quite as efficient, and as useful, as white servants, and quite as reliable.

Clean and reliable as house-servants.

Q. What about their personal character? Are they cleanly or repulsive or what?—A. Those Chinese servants who enter homes are cleanly in their habits; there is no objection to them on that score of uncleanliness.

Q. While white help in houses is scarce, would it not seem to you to be very important, especially to the women of a community, that this supply of domestic labor should not be interfered with?—A. The moral influence of Chinese upon children is a wretched thing, and if a family has children it would be almost suicidal to permit the Chinese servants to associate with the children, or to have charge of them. I think the objection to them is made on that score as much as any other.

Suicidal to permit them to associate with children.

Q. Do these Chinamen show none of that reverence for childhood that grown white men feel?—A. No, sir.

No reverence for childhood.

Q. They display a kind of sexual irreverence for childhood?—A. Yes, sir; they have no regard for woman anyway. A Chinese child, if a female, excites no parental regard. If a Chinaman has a boy he is proud of him, but women have no position with the Chinese, and they entertain very little reverence for a child if a female. Instances are not rare where these male servants have debauched children, and with their lack of moral standard the only restraint would be fear of detection.

Women have no position.

Chinese male servants debauch children.

Q. You think the moral effect counterbalances their economic utility?—A. When taken into homes I do most assuredly. I think very few white people would be willing to let the Chinese associate with their children in that way, though many employ them as house-servants.

Moral effect counterbalances their economic utility.

Q. In your experience have the Chinese shown any tendency to become domesticated, to become a part of the community, that is do they tend to homogeneity instead of diversity?—A. I think not. My experience with them is that they start with the idea that their civilization is vastly superior to all others, hence there is no incentive for them to become Americanized. They have no local attachments; they never form local attachments here; hence there is no incentive to become citizens or a part of our people. They look on all other races as inferior to themselves, and

They do not tend to homogeneity.

They look upon all races as inferior.

for that reason adhere to their own practices and their own habits of living, the same as in their clothing. They never give up their style of clothing.

Q. I saw some on the railroad who had?—A. Yes, but the Chinaman always wears his queue; it may be coiled up under his hat but it remains all the same; and as to his clothing he adopts the ancient custom immediately on his return to the city when he can be among his friends.

Q. A few generations ago our grandfathers wore queues. You can see the statue of an English king with a queue not far from Trafalgar square?—A. That is true, but there was no superstition connected with it. It was mainly the custom of the time.

Chinese immigration has stimulated trade with Asia.

Q. The trade with Asia, Mr. Briggs, ought to be a very important thing to the Pacific coast. Has the Chinese immigration increased that?—A. Yes, it has stimulated it; both the importations and exportations. There is no question it has stimulated trade.

Q. It has stimulated the Asiatic trade?—A. There is no doubt about that.

Q. Is there anything that occurs to yourself that I have not asked you—any other point you think of importance as bearing on the desirability or undesirability of Chinese immigration to the Pacific coast either in Canada or here?—A. Well, the aggregation of these Chinese in any city or town, in my opinion, is a sort of moral blight, because they never improve anything. When they take possession of a building, that building becomes unfit for occupancy by any other people except Chinese.

Chinese a moral blight.

Q. After they have once occupied it?—A. Yes, from their uncleanliness. There is an uncleanliness about everything they touch; where they live; their manner of living is so filthy.

They disregard all the laws of health.

Q. Is it so virulent? Is there a virus about their mode of living which will not succumb to soap and water?—A. They live in an atmosphere of smoke; they never paint; they never whiten; they never clean if they can help it. They have to do it under the sanitary regulations to a certain extent, but you can form a better idea of their habits by going into Chinatown than any one can give you by talking. They disregard all the laws of health as we understand them.

Policy to utilize their labor as they are here and restrict further immigration.

Q. We intend to do that. Will you state, Mr Briggs, what policy is the one that strikes you as the sound one to pursue where the Chinese have become settled and incorporated as a part of the community?—A. Where they have become incorporated as a part of the community, speaking of this community and our experience here, wise policy would seem to lie in the utilization of their labor, rather than the expulsion of these people, and in the restriction of further immigration.

Restrictive legislation has been in that direction.

Q. Do you think that the restrictive legislation of Congress is working in that direction?—A. It is most assuredly. I think the Restriction Act has satisfied the demand of the conservative element in the community. The dissatisfaction in regard to it comes largely from those who are still clinging to the old idea that the Chinese should be driven out, rather than that immigration should be restricted.

Q. Do I understand then that the policy which is being pursued and of which you approved is to encourage white immigration, and allow the present Chinese settlement to die a natural death?—A. Yes. I believe that in the course of time, by removal and death, these people will become so few in numbers that their presence will cease to be a serious objection, and that by giving encouragement to the whites we shall be able to supply their places with white people.

White immigration to be encouraged; the Chinese to die a natural death.

Q. What is the relative value of white labor and Chinese labor in this market?—A. For house-servants the average wages paid to the Chinaman is about the same as to the white girls and to white women. In piece-work, in our cigar factories and other factories, they are paid substantially the same. In some other departments there is probably a slight difference in favor of the whites, but I think the difference that existed years ago has been largely overcome, and that the Chinese to-day receive about the same wages as whites, or most of them.

White labor and Chinese labor paid about the same.

Q. As an average, do they command the same wages?—A. Scarcely; there may be a slight difference in favor of the whites.

Slight difference in favor of whites.

Q. About what per cent?—A. Possibly ten, in rare cases twenty per cent.

Q. Do they seem capable of becoming directors of labor?—A. It is impossible for me to tell that. My impression is that the foreman is generally connected in some way with the Chinese six companies, or is of a higher order than the ordinary Chinaman. He comes here perhaps with some means, or is supplied by one of the companies.

Q. How far are they able to organize and lay out work?—A. I perhaps did not answer your question, but I understood it nevertheless. You want to know how far they are apt as employers of labor. I think so far as that is concerned many of them are able to direct and would manage their labor well.

Many of them able to direct and manage labor.

Q. They are skilful?—A. Yes.

Q. Intellectually do they appear to be inferior to the laboring classes of the white people?—A. That is a very difficult question to answer. They are not a reading people, though most of them read and write in their own language, but they have no newspapers, they have no books. They appear to have means of information, though how that information is disseminated it is impossible to tell. They are non-communicative; you never can ascertain anything from a Chinaman. In their amusements or intercourse with whites, the majority of them exhibit a very low order of intelligence. They certainly show little capacity for progress, but appear content to continue always in one channel. They are certainly the most inhuman of all people unless it be the uncivilized races. They will leave their own friends and people to die of neglect and starvation if they are sick, and seem totally indifferent to suffering.

Not a reading people, but read and write in their own language.

Low order of intelligence; little capacity for progress.

Totally indifferent to suffering.

Subsequently the Secretary received the following:—

DEAR SIR,

As supplementary to and in support of my testimony touching the advantage to this coast resulting from the Restriction Act, to prevent

further immigration of Chinese, I beg to hand you the appended statement covering a period of four years, viz.: 1880 to 1883 inclusive.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

ARTHUR R. BRIGGS,
President I. A. C.

Evidence of increase of Chinese immigration.

1880

	Arrived.	Departed.	Excess of Arrivals.	Excess of Departures.	Excess of Arrivals.
Whites and other than Chinese overland....	34,280	30,367	3,913		
" " " by Steam Ship.	760	1,808		1,048	
Chinese.....	5,950	5,252	698		
	40,990	37,427	4,611	1,048	3,563

1881

Whites and other than Chinese overland....	47,107	30,891	16,216		
" " " by Steam Ship.	670	2,301		1,631	
Chinese.....	18,561	7,424	11,137		
	66,338	40,616	27,353	1,631	25,722

1882

Whites and other than Chinese overland....	58,113	37,113	21,000		
" " " by Steam Ship.	7,665	6,860	805		
Chinese.....	27,404	9,831	17,573		
	93,182	53,804	39,378		39,378

Stopped by Restriction Act.

1883

Whites and other than Chinese overland....	77,022	38,133	38,889		
" " by Steam Ship.	2,355	4,336		1,981	
Chinese.....	3,536	6,541		3,005	
	82,913	49,010	38,889	4,986	33,903

SAN FRANCISCO, July 26th, 1884.

WILLIAM F. BABCOCK, merchant.

Resided in San Francisco since 1852. In a new country cheap labor is absolutely necessary. Effect of Chinese labor beneficial, and that beneficial effect will continue. Instead of driving out labor by cheap labor, cheap labor increases the market for labor. Labor begets labor. On the advancement of California the effect of Chinese labor has been beneficial and has added materially to our wealth. The Chinese spend on an average twenty-five cents a day, perhaps nine hundred thousand or a million of dollars a month among us. They are a necessity, and to drive them out of the state would be a very great disadvantage, but under certain rules and regulations to restrict this immigration would be very proper. We have not too many Chinese now, but I would not overrun the country with them. They have not increased since 1865, and there is no danger of too great an influx. I do not think they have been a bar to white immigration from the East. The strong feeling against them arises from politicians, office-holders and foreigners. There is no real competition or conflict between Chinese and white labor. The building of railways down in the valleys of California has opened the country, settled it and drawn a white immigration to the coast. The southern country has been rapidly settled up, and all this is due to the building of the railways. Still, for certain reasons, I think it would be good policy to restrict the numbers coming in. But to do this would be in direct contravention of a treaty forced upon China by the Americans. I was from 1854 to 1862 agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and I have constant dealings with the Chinese, selling them silver, quicksilver, and articles of that kind, and I find them very clever merchants. I never lost a dollar with one of them in my life. I would trust them with ten or fifteen thousand dollars just as soon as I would any jobber in the city. Mr. Parrott, who did their banking business for years, told me he had never lost a dollar of principal or interest through them. I have always found the Chinese a most quiet and industrious people, and quite as moral as the low class of whites. The Chinese will smoke opium and the whites will drink whiskey. I have been a large employer of Chinese labor. I think the employment of Chinese, so far from being injurious, is beneficial. Its effect on trade, as for instance, in the manufacture of cigars, is to enable people to smoke cigars at a less price than they would otherwise pay, and I think it is a good thing that they should have engrossed the washing of the community. In consequence of Chinese laundrymen the poorer classes change their inside clothing much oftener than they would otherwise do. The Chinamen are a great advantage all through the state, acting as cooks and waiters. People in the country find a great difficulty in getting white servants to remain with them, whereas the Chinaman does not care where he goes. Rich Chinamen, if protected by our laws, would come here and bring their money, and we should see Chinamen buying lots and building houses. Chinese labor is more desirable than white labor from this point of view: the factories here can exist and make money by paying for labor a dollar a day, the Chinamen finding themselves, and they can compete with the East, while if you brought white labor here and gave two dollars a day the labor would disappear. Chinamen come here with the intention of returning to their own country, and I think it better that the country should be peopled with whites, but cheap labor in a new country is absolutely necessary, and we should have the cheapest labor

Cheap labor a necessity; Chinese labor beneficial.

Chinese a necessity; but it would be proper to restrict their immigration.

They have not been a bar to white immigration.

Good policy to restrict their numbers.

Honest, quiet, and industrious people.

An advantage as laundrymen cooks and waiters.

Their labor more desirable than white.

They have no intention of remaining here.

we can get. A hundred years hence, when our descendants are living in California they will, marking what Chinese labor has done for this country, smile in derision at their ancestors' views on this question. We shall then, or earlier, be one hundred and fifty millions. There will probably be one or two million Chinese. I would not give them votes. I see no objection to having a non-voting population within a free commonwealth. The Chinese do not want to meddle with our politics; they are the most quiet, industrious and best people I ever saw. They are the most valuable laborers I ever saw in my life. Up at Clear Lake silver mines, in which I am largely interested, we employ a considerable number of Chinamen, and it would be impossible to get along without them. They bathe every night, and are very clean, and are all educated, compulsory education being a Chinese institution. They are a bright, clever, intelligent people. I am not speaking of the very lowest, such as we have in California. Those here pay their debts ten times more promptly than white people. The business men are shrewd, smart, intelligent, bright men. They are capable of managing large undertakings.

Should not be enfranchised.

Most valuable laborers.

Clean and all educated; bright, clever, intelligent people.

COX.

C. C. Cox, detective, examined:

Eleven years connected with police force in San Francisco. For the last four years paid special attention to Chinatown. The Chinese have amongst them a greater number of criminals than white people, in proportion. A case came before the police of kidnapping, where the woman swore she was to be sold, and he could, if necessary, supply a copy of the evidence. All his information would lead to the belief that it was a common practice. Cases of most revolting crime came before them. One instance of which all details could, if necessary, be supplied, was that of a man who cut out the penis of another who refused to submit to his degrading desires, and was sentenced to the state's prison for a term of years. They have taught white men and women, and boys and girls, to smoke opium, and many arrests of whites in these places have been made, and they have been brought down and fined and imprisoned. In the case of the regular opium-smoker, when he is kept a day or two in the cells without a smoke he is regularly doubled-up like a man after a dreadful debauch wanting a drink—troubled with cramps. There can be no doubt that the women corrupt the young boys in a way which the white prostitutes are not chargeable with, by allowing them, for a few cents, to gratify prurient curiosity. As to opium-smoking—it is like drinking. Some Chinese don't smoke, but in the most respectable restaurants the pipe is there for those who wish to use it, and in the most respectable houses. Those were all tenement houses where we saw them packed like sardines. They are expert thieves, shop lifters and burglars. His (Cox's) experience for the last four years led him to the belief that they are a detriment to the community. They are notorious perjurers. They had made charges to him against each other of unnatural crimes, but he took no notice of it because he could place no reliance on their word, and was afraid black-mail was intended. They have information to the effect that Chinamen evading the Restriction Act were coming across the line from British Columbia down by the way of Portland. They are notorious kidnappers. Five are now in the state prison for kidnapping Chinese women for the purpose of selling them. There are now two reports in the chief's office of Chinese children stolen; and, besides, one woman held before the Superior Court for kidnapping—stealing a little

Chinese more criminal than white people.

Revolting crimes.

They teach whites to smoke opium.

Women corrupt young boys.

Expert as thieves, shop-lifters and burglars; notorious perjurers.

Kidnapping for purposes of prostitution.

girl for the purpose of selling her into prostitution. There is a Catholic school and a Methodist school, and one or two other religious seminaries, but it was his belief that Christianity makes no progress among them. The schools, in his belief, are simply attended for the purpose of learning English. One of the last men sent to the state's prison was one claiming to be a Christian, and who robbed the young lady who had been teaching him for two years and a half of $140. The young lady is a daughter of J. W. Deering, Esq., of 819 California street, San Francisco. He had now in hands—the cases came up on Monday—a conspiracy, two men for robbery and one man against whom there are two charges for murder. "You saw," said Mr. Cox, "when visiting the quarter, the murderous weapons, knives, stilettos, bars of iron, which they carry up their sleeves, which we showed you, and which were taken from them by the dozen when we make a raid on them in the theatre." I believe one of the reasons why they keep their places so close and warm is that even the expelled smoke of the opium may be again inhaled. The thing is so valuable. It is worth from $18 to $20 per pound. I know to my own knowledge of a man marrying a woman and then placing her in a house of prostitution. When a woman tries to get her liberty they bring a charge against her of larceny of the jewelry on her person. To-day, a fellow wanted the steamer going to China stopped, in order to get ashore a woman whom he charged with leaving the country with intent to defraud her creditors. They trump up all kinds of charges against each other. A case occurred this week—you may have seen it in the papers. A woman was arrested on a charge by two Chinamen, and immediately these two Chinamen were charged with burglary committed at ten o'clock that morning; but they had been in the company of the police officer since 8 o'clock a.m. The last case of leprosy I saw was eighteen months ago. Avan got one a few days ago. He got three within the last ten days.

Christianity makes no progress among them.

Murderous weapons.

Marrying a woman for purposes of prostitution.

Charges trumped up against each other.

Q. We saw no cases of leprosy, and we went into very likely places, the worst in town?—A. No.

Leprosy.

Q. Then the reports we have seen in the papers that a great many of them were thus afflicted, cannot be true?—A. No.

Q. Is there anything else that occurs to you that would throw light on the question of Chinese immigration?—A. No, unless that they are inveterate gamblers, and given to boycotting. Two days ago they boycotted a poor apple woman who had informed on a Chinaman for passing a counterfeit coin. They sometimes placard all Chinatown denouncing a person or a house; sometimes even the theatre, and menacing trouble if it is patronized.

Chinese as "boycotters."

E. L. SULLIVAN, examined:

SULLIVAN.

I have been in California since 1849, and was collector at this port from the 1st of August, 1880, until the 15th of May, 1884. At first we welcomed the Chinese, but after some time I became convinced they were an injury. During the time I was collector they gave me great trouble with false certificates and information.

Chinese an injury.

Q. What do you mean by false certificates?—A. Well, they would bring forged certificates that they had been in America before and would claim a right to land, the Restriction Act allowing those who had been in the United States to return. Merchants were

Forged certificates.

allowed to come in whether they had been here or not before, and so laboring men would come up to my office with a silk dress thrown over their blouse and when we opened it we found they were laborers. Constant were the appeals from the decision of the surveyor of this port, until at last I was forced to say to the consul the decision of the surveyor must be regarded as my decision. Not only was Chinese testimony suborned but I found the same three white men coming up in every case.

Testimony suborned.

Q. But their desire to evade the Restriction Act would not prove that they do not contribute to the wealth of the community?—A. We have no desire to have our workmen live a degraded life. No white man who has to bring up a family, and fulfil all the duties expected in the United States from a respectable working man, can compete with these people; and the ideal at which the republic aims is not the cheapest labor but to have all its citizens on the highest plane of humanity possible. There is nothing more that occurs to me.

No white man can compete with them.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28th, 1884.

BEE. Colonel F. A. BEE, examined:

Q. You are the consul here for the Chinese Government?—A. Yes, sir; I am.

Q. How long have you been consul?—A. Going on now in my second term—six years in November. My second term expires in November. The consul is appointed for three years. I have been consul six years up to next November.

Q. Before asking your evidence on certain specific points, I think it is only fair to the Chinese population of San Francisco that I should ask you what you think has been the effect on the commercial development of the country, and their conduct as citizens?—A. The geographical position of this coast was such when California was first settled—and the same idea holds good yet—the great distance from the labor markets of the world for instance, and the East, and the cost and expense of getting here, and the higher rate of wages paid, and the very small amount of manufacturing which was done; for these reasons, and the very limited extent to which farming was carried on, in view of the mining operations of the country, Chinese immigration was encouraged at that date. At the early settlement, in 1854 and 1856, up to 1860, when the civil war broke out, there was almost a universal sentiment throughout the country, at the breaking out of the war, to establish manufactures. Heretofore we had ordered all our wearing apparel, and all the implements of toil we used were imported from the East; and it was suggested then, and the press was quite unanimous, that Chinese labor should be used in establishing manufactures on this coast, in view of their being cut off by the civil war—the railroad only being projected then, and all our resources were shipped around Cape Horn—the railroad was in course of construction. It was thought then by the citizens resident here, who had the best interest in the development of the state, we should utilize this labor; and we did, and we date our large manufacturing interests from that time. We commenced about 1860. The branches of labor which the Chinese embarked in at that time were the manufacture of boots and shoes, the manufacture of clothing, underwear, cigars, matches, and various other little

Chinese immigration encouraged at the early settlement of California.

Manufactures the Chinese were engaged in.

light industries of the country. It was largely organized under American capital, and this labor I want you to understand was employed in these manufactures, and those manufactures have been growing year by year till they have got to be a very large proportion. Then we, at that time, sent forty millions of dollars East for what we purchased; we do not send to exceed eighteen or twenty millions now. This success in the manufacturing interests with Chinese labor, of course, developed other industries. Capital went into agriculture, foundries, machine-shops, woolen-mills. We were sending our wool out of the country. The capitalist went into woolen manufactories, some of them employed as high as six hundred Chinese for the manufacture of our wool into cloths. That labor has been since largely displaced by the employment of white labor. There are but few in those manufactures now. At that time it was considered to be just the labor we wanted, and we utilized it for that purpose. There was no opposition to the establishment of any of these industries. There were not at that time more than thirty or forty white shoemakers in the country when the Chinese first entered into that manufacture. Consequently, you can see we had to send East, to New York and Massachusetts, for all of that kind of wear. Now our importations are light, and comparatively nothing worth mentioning. Of course, in the establishment of those industries, California saved large amounts of capital and kept it at home. The hides were sent East to be tanned into leather, and the leather was made into shoes, and sent back here, but now the leather is tanned and the shoes are manufactured here.

Chinese labor developed other industries.

Their labor displaced by the employment of whites.

Q. You attribute this development to what may be called the use of Chinese labor?—A. Largely so.

Q. I understand that after a time the Chinese passed from being laborers to taking the manufactures into their own hands; is that so?—A. Of course; naturally a large number of Chinese capitalists went into manufactures, and are in them to-day, with their own capital, as investments, but not into foundries or machine-shops. They do not interfere with the day laborer, for instance; they never are permitted to work on public works at all, in this city; you never see them carrying bricks or mortar, or acting as masons.

Chinese capitalists and manufacturers do not interfere with the day laborer.

Q. They are represented to us by some witnesses we have examined as being very immoral, and as having a bad effect on the morals of the community; what have you observed in that respect?—A. My experiences as to their immorality is, I do not think they carry it to any greater excess than other foreigners we have amongst us. Many of the charges made against the Chinese as to their immorality in the community are not true—the excessive charges made against them are not true.

Their immorality no greater than among other foreigners.

Q. It has been represented to us that the percentage of criminality amongst them is larger than amongst any other people; what have you observed about that?—A. My observation has been quite to the contrary. For instance, a few years ago the records of the police department would show largely in excess the arrest of Chinese set down as criminal arrests. On examination of the records in the office you will find that sixty or seventy-five per cent. of these arrests were based upon trivial offenses, like the violation of the cubic-air law—the law that there must be five hundred feet of cubic air to each individual. Scores were arrested in one night for violation of that law.

Criminality of the Chinese.

Q. We examined Chief Crowley, and he showed us books containing photographs of from three to four thousand thieves—Chinamen?—A. That book has been running for thirty years. That is what has been collected in thirty years. I think it would be well for you to examine the municipal reports of the city and county of San Francisco, to see how many Chinese were occupants of the industrial school, of the hospitals, of the house of correction, and you will get a very correct answer to the question. Here is the chief of police's report for the city and county of San Francisco, 30th of June, 1878: number of arrests for drunkenness, 6,127, not one of them charged as being a Chinaman. I think there were four Irish brought before the courts to one Chinaman, from the lower courts to the highest in the state.

Q. Could you give us statistics to prove that?—A. That is a very difficult thing to do; you can only judge from the names.

Criminal statistics.

Q. It will not be necessary to go into the nationalities?—A. I have in my hand here the statistics for the year 1881, the municipal reports of the city of San Francisco. I find out of 264 committed during the year ending June 30th, 1881, Chinese, 61; Irish, 83. Out of these 61 committals, nine were females; thus out of 380, China supplied 61. In order to get at the true percentage, you have to add 352 committals of native Americans; 352 and 380 foreign makes 732, so that the ratio of Chinese crime, judged by this table, would be as 61 is to 732.

Not paupers.

Q. Do many Chinese become to a large extent chargeable upon the public charities, Colonel Bee?—A. By reference to the same report, pages 367 and 368, there was committed to the almshouse during that same year 564 foreigners, 164 natives of the United States, not one Chinese. In the same volume, city and county hospital, page 341, natives of the United States committed 962, foreigners, 2,242, total 3,204, out of which number 10 were Chinese and 1,053 Irish.

Q. Have they hospitals of their own?—A. They have private hospitals. Each of the six companies has a hospital; they being benevolent associations, they have hospitals for the care of their sick. During the same year, I find in the report of the pest house, 26th street hospital—the year in which the small-pox was epidemic in San Francisco—that the small pox hospital admitted 459 patients, of which the Chinese numbered 34, pages 316 and 319. That comprised all the public charities and the admissions thereto.

Q. Then you take issue with those who state that crime is more prevalent amongst them than amongst other portions of the population?—A. I do.

Six companies organized for benevolent purposes.

Q. You spoke, Colonel Bee, of the six companies as charitable associations; could you explain to me their organization?—A. Yes, sir. The Province of Canton is comprised of six divisions—you might say six counties comprise the province of Canton. The Chinese here organized what is known as the six companies, wholly for benevolent purposes. A Chinese immigrant to this country, who came from one of these counties in Canton, on his arrival here was met at the steamship landing by the secretary of each of the companies. These secretaries announced that they were the secretaries of the associations, representing each of the separate districts. The Chinese gave their names and were registered as resident

of the district. That register is kept at the headquarters of the company. The functions of the Chinese six companies are to protect their Chinese fellows in health, and provide them with means to reach the interior; provide them with medicines and with hospital accommodations in case of sickness, and look after their interests physically, generally. If a Chinaman becomes sick he applies to the agent of the six companies who procures medical aid for him, and puts him in the hospital if he is at a convenient distance. And if he dies that company buries him; and at the proper time, at the request of the parents, that company returns his bones to the parents in China. There the functions of the company cease. They have been charged as being immigration agents—importers of Chinese labor. I undertake to say the proof cannot be produced in a single case.

Q. Why should these companies take so much interest in the Chinaman then?—A. The testimony cannot be produced that one of the Chinese companies brings labor to this country, paying his passage directly or indirectly. It cannot be produced that they have collected a dollar of his wages and appropriated it. It cannot be shown that a dollar has been collected as a fee from him, until his departure from the country. Before departing he goes to his headquarters, and settles his fee as a member of the company, the fee ranging from $2.50 to $10. Those companies who represent a district where there are but few immigrants, their fee is $10. Where there is a large number, it is $2.50. That is the fund and the only fund they have from them. The interest is no more or less than that exercised by other benevolent societies—masons, odd-fellows and druids. Fees.

Q. You say the testimony cannot be produced, but the fact may be though the testimony cannot be produced?—A. It cannot be a fact that the Chinese companies ever have brought any immigrants to this country. It is entirely outside of the functions of their organization, and hence a matter in which they have no interest. Immigration outside of their functions.

Q. What motive could they have then in organizing?—A. If you desire to get the reasons of the organization of the six companies, I can give it.

Q. Yes?—A. In the early settlement of California by the Americans, we had in our early days no laws, we might say. We were here in large numbers without courts, without laws, no established government; we were a territorial government for a time. There were no sheriffs, no officers, no courts; no mail facilities to speak of, except by express; no mail contracts let by the government. Communication with the interior and the sea-board was very difficult. Americans arriving in the mines organized associations. For instance, I belonged myself to a New York association; adjoining me was one called the Palmito association; another one was a Pike County of Missourians, etc.; they went by the names of the different states. Each one of those associations kept a book, and all residents of New York arriving in those diggings would come to this place and register their names, writing where they resided. Once a month, a courier would come around to those different associations, and take all the names off the registers. He would come to San Francisco as a courier and get the letters and mail belonging to the subscribers for which he received $1 for letters, and newspapers 50 cents. Mail was delivered and separated generally in the headquarters of those associations, and the parties who had signed their names came there and got their mail. When a man from New York was taken sick, a notification was sent to the members that he was sick in a certain ravine or canyon. Then a committee was appointed to go and take care of him, and to nurse Organization of the six companies.

him and bury him, or procure medical attendance if necessary. Chinese, when they came into the mines, noticed and became familiar with those organizations of the whites, and hence the basis of the six companies. They organized then their six company associations, not organized in San Francisco originally, but in the mines, establishing a headquarters here where their letters were sent from here to the mines, the same way we were doing it. They have kept up that organization till this day, although all the other associations fell through when the government machinery was put in work, mails established, officers appointed, and a regular government, and no further necessity for such associations. That was the beginning of the six company associations which does not exist in any other country in the world to which the Chinese immigrate but California.

Q. You would say that they are survivors of that original?—A. Yes.

Q. A statement has been made that these companies try men for offenses, that they in fact make laws of their own, have their own sanctions to these laws, and inflict severe punishment, and sometimes have not hesitated to inflict capital punishment; what is your evidence on that head?—A. It is not true. I will state that I know that like ourselves occasionally they have cases for arbitration brought to the attention of the six companies, and they arbitrate or employ arbitrators, and white men are sometimes called in to act with them; but as to their trying a man for a criminal offense, it is not true, or that they inflict punishment.

Six companies as arbitrators.

Q. What is your evidence, colonel, as to the statement that women are sold over in China for the purposes of prostitution here?—A. That is true; women are bought in China and brought here for prostitution. I would like to state that we also have a foreign association that imports prostitutes direct here from France, for the same purpose of prostitution.

Prostitution.

Q. We have in evidence that these Chinese prostitutes are in a special way corrupting to the youth of San Francisco?—A. That is not true. In order to find these prostitutes you will have to have a police officer. They do not flaunt before your gaze their calling like the Europeans. I can better refer to the testimony of Dr. Stout, a member of the State Board of Health, page 652, the Report of the Joint Special Committee of 1876. Dr. Stout says: "The hoodlum boys go among them and the white men, sometimes sailors, sometimes the wanderers of the coast, and the Spaniards go among them, and they go more to molest the women, to disturb them, than to use them. And when they use them they do not run greater risks than in going to other houses. When boys go to them and get disease they are of that class, they would go there or somewhere else. They will be in mischief; and where the mischief is worst, it is the better for them, and adds to their gratification while there. And if they contract their first baptism of blood there, it is perhaps better than if they should contract it somewhere else; and if it is cheaper it is perhaps better. The statement that the morality of our white boys is corrupted by going among the Chinese is a gross exaggeration. They can go further and fare better. Very few go among them anyhow."

The youth of the city not corrupted by Chinese women.

Syphilis.

Q. Would you turn to page 672 of the same report? You will see there that David C. Wood, who was the superintendent of the industrial school of San Francisco, was examined, and he states that he has an average of 175 boys under his care. You will see that in reply to the question as to the physical effect of the Chinese on the community, he says: "They

introduce venereal disease among my boys; there is hardly a day since I have been at the school that I have not had boys being treated by the doctor for these diseases, and they invariably got the disease in China-town from Chinese prostitutes."—A. That is the criminal class referred to by Dr. Stout. Mr. Wood was superintendent of the criminal school—prisoners—that is my only answer. They were not sent to that institution because they had these diseases. They were sent there as criminals belonging to the criminal classes. It is a slander to call this class "our boys."

Q. It has been stated, colonel, that when the Chinese quarrel amongst themselves, they are very savage and violent, and use weapons; what is your evidence on that head?—A. In California there are about 1,400 Chinese, according to my estimates, that are irresponsible, vicious, criminal, who have no occupation. They are known as highbinders. Those men are cruel, irresponsible and of the criminal class; but take the Chinese character and people as a whole they are not savage or cruel—they are not savage, they are timid. A hoodlum of twelve years of age can drive half a dozen of them from the street. They avoid contact; they avoid difficulty of that nature, all that is possible. As a class they are not to be judged by the few irresponsible non-working Chinese highbinders. Highbinders.

Q. Are those highbinders ever employed by the six companies?—A. No, sir; they have no occupation whatever. The six companies have no use for that class.

Q. Is there any other point which you think would be useful for us; you know what our object is?—A. No; I think we have gone over all the points.

Q. Did you know Benjamin S. Brooks, who was examined before the joint committee?—A. I did.

Q. Is he alive?—A. He is dead.

Q. What was he?—A. A distinguished lawyer; an old pioneer; a man of the highest respectability and standing; and by reference to this testimony before the Senate committee you will see how strikingly he brings out the necessity of Chinese labor to the advancement of this state, and probably no man in California had studied its interests more thoroughly than had Benjamin S. Brooks.

CROWLEY.

PATRICK CROWLEY, examined:

Q. Your name, sir, is Patrick Crowley?—A. Yes.

Q. And your position is chief of police?—A. Yes.

Q. Of San Francisco?—A. Of San Francisco.

Q. How long have you been connected with the police?—A. This is my twelfth year as chief of police. Twelve years chief of police.

Q. And have you had during that time occasion to observe the habits of the Chinese in San Francisco?—A. I have; yes, sir.

Chinese habits and actions unbearable.

Q. Up to the passing of the Restriction Act, what were the habits of the Chinese?—A. Their manner and habits and actions and everything else were almost unbearable, so much so that it came very near a number of times to being the cause of creating a bloody riot—a fearful riot. I am in a position to know that better than any one else. I have got reports here that would astonish the citizens if they were made public. There were secret societies—we looked upon those people as assassins, for the reason that they did not appear to have any discretion at all in the matter. They were willing to murder and rob for the purpose of getting rid of the Chinese. What I mean is this: there is a class of people here that are just as much opposed as these people, but they are intelligent and have property interests here, and did not want to resort to these means. They wanted legal and peaceable means to be used to get rid of the Chinese. But outside of that there were the working classes, for instance, and those people doing business, who live on the working classes, who did not appear to have patience and had got up secret societies.

Secret societies among the whites to get rid of the Chinese.

Q. The secret societies were made by the whites?—A. Yes, sir; of course.

Q. I do not understand you to say that the Chinese were assassins?—A. No; I mean to say that we looked upon those people that were organized in that form as assassins.

Q. The whites?—A. Yes; because the law-abiding people did not approve of anything of that kind, although they wanted to get rid of them.

Q. What conduct on the part of the Chinese led to this action of the whites?—A. The cause of it was this: We have you understand—this is a new country—we have a rising generation here of young people, girls and boys, that are growing up here. Our manufactures here are very scarce, and those employed in these places are principally Chinese. This class I have reference to were born and raised in the city, their parents are poor, and it has the effect of driving the women into prostitution, and the boys to live off prostitution and thieving. The boys really are to be pitied. It was only the other day I was talking to Mr. Taylor, a respectable merchant here, who some years ago was in sympathy with the Chinese, like myself. I know that they caused me a good deal of trouble, because I believed they were a persecuted race. That was at the time before they had introduced themselves into manufactures. He, Mr. Taylor, talked with me and said, "It pains my heart;" and said: "I had ten or twelve of these people come to me for employment; what can we do for them?" There are several societies that are organized for the purpose of relieving this class of people; sending some of them to farming in the country, etc. I will explain my position in regard to that matter. I said, I was friendly to them at that time, which is true. About eighteen years ago, the first determined effort was made against the Chinese—as long back as eighteen years ago. There was a contract given, for instance, for building a railroad, a street railroad, to the Potrero. Two men by the name Myers and Weed had the contract. They took the contract on competition; it was very low. They employed white labor, and they found they could not carry the contract without a great loss to themselves, so they were compelled to discharge all the whites and employ Chinese labor. By doing that they could make a profit on the contract. They did do it, and it raised quite an excitement. The people rose up and drove the Chinese away from there, and the consequence was we had a riot.

Effect of Chinese labor to drive white women into prostitution.

White labor displaced by Chinese.

Q. Am I to understand that the main objection is that they work cheaper; they undersell the white labor in the labor market?—A. Yes, sir; for this reason: That the Chinese can live ninety per cent.—well seventy-five per cent. anyhow—and I do not exaggerate when I say that they can live seventy-five per cent. less than the white men.

They undersell white labor and live 75 per cent cheaper.

Q. With that exception is the Chinaman as good a citizen, as law-abiding?—A. He is not a law-abiding citizen. You would be astonished the way those fellows fight the law. We have a place in Chinatown, a space of five blocks square—you understand what a block is? In that space there are crowded about fifteen thousand Chinese; in that space of territory we have about eight policemen. We have only got a population here of probably, I think, two hundred and sixty thousand inhabitants anyhow. We have four hundred policemen, that includes the clerks and detectives and the whole department, you understand. We have about three hundred patrolmen. The patrol is divided into two divisions, one half on duty at a time. If you will only make a calculation, as the difference between, say, twelve or fifteen thousand with a representation of eight policemen, and two hundred and fifty thousand with a hundred and fifty policemen, there is that difference. What I mean is that it requires that little space to be more than double the police to keep those fellows in subjection.

He is not a law-abiding citizen.

Q. But there is a far larger number within that space than of whites in any like space?—A. Of course there is, but the space is so small it ought not to take so many police.

Q. It is the number that would require the policemen, not the space?—A. Yes, but that little space ought not to take so many.

Q. You ought to be in a position to judge by statistics as to the relative criminality of the Chinese; how do they stand in that respect?—A. The proportion is away above any other nationality.

Chinese criminality above that of any other nationality.

Q. When you say away above any other nationality, chief, do you mean that, taking the men of any other nationality, there is a larger percentage of criminals among the Chinese?—A. I think there is. I look upon them as a nation of thieves, and I am willing to assert that publicly.

A nation of thieves.

Q. It would not be fair to take the white population and count the women and children in. In order to make a fair comparison you have to take the number of males. Do you think that there is a larger number of criminals amongst the Chinese males?—A. There is not any question about it at all. You take the white race and there is a proportion of crime amongst the females, when you count the arrests for prostitution and drunkenness, and all that kind of thing. I find this in my business. I make a distinction between the whites and the blacks. We find the percentage is far smaller amongst the blacks, as amongst the whites and blacks.

A larger number of criminals among them.

Q. You mean the negroes?—A. Yes, that is in this country; but they tell me in the south it is different. But my experience in this state amongst the blacks and the whites is that the percentage of crime is far below any other with the blacks, and amongst the Chinese it is away above. And Chinese will all steal.

They all steal.

Q. You said you would supply us with some statistics under this head?—A. Yes, sir; I will have it ready before you go away. Here is a specimen

Photographs of Chinese criminals.

of what I charge those people with. Here are books that are exclusively filled with the photographs of Chinese thieves; these are Chinese thieves every one of them. I have got a record of every one of them. [The chief produced five books with photographs of Chinese, each one containing about one thousand photographs.] There is one thing I want to explain. Those are only for the thieves. We do not take the pictures for other crimes. Those are for stealing and robbery, and that kind of thing only. We have the most complete record here that they have in any part of the world. This fellow here [pointing to one of the photographs in the book] we may trace him through half a dozen countries. That is the prison record.

Criminal record.

Q. A statement has been made to us that the women are sold in China for the purposes of prostitution; would you be able to give us any evidence of that?—A. That is not susceptible to evidence, but you can rely that it is positively so. That is why I suppose that any country they get into, they do not care how powerful the laws may be or how well they are executed, the ingenuity of those people will defeat them.

Their ingenuity defeats the laws.

Q. Another statement has been made to us that they come here under bondage to the six companies, have you any evidence on that head?—A. No; of course if we could prove those things we could break it up, but you cannot prove anything against them. You cannot get a Chinaman to go into court and testify where a Chinaman is interested.

They will not testify where Chinamen are concerned.

Q. A statement has been made that they corrupt the youth, the young boys, have you any testimony on that head?—A. The only testimony we have is the hospital, that is all. They have loathsome diseases that they get from those women.

Prostitution and its results.

Q. Are there any number of boys in the hospital with loathsome diseases?—A. There has been; we have them down in the city receiving hospital, and at their homes.

Q. Did they attribute their diseased condition to Chinese women?—A. Altogether.

Q. It has also been stated that the Chinese men corrupt the boys in this respect, by teaching them to smoke opium. Have you any evidence on that head?—A. Plenty on that head. We get the evidence because we catch them in the act, and convict them. It is the greatest curse in the country.

Opium-smoking the greatest curse of the country.

Q. How do you catch them in the act?—A. We catch them in the opium joints.

Q. You catch the whites smoking there?—A. Yes; one of these Chinese places. The Chinese receive the fees of admittance, and they give them the opium. It was made a crime under a city ordinance here to smoke opium. The Chinese tried to beat it in another way, and an ordinance was passed requiring them to pay a very heavy license, but it does not appear to stop them.

Opium joints.

Q. Was a special law passed to deal with opium-smoking?—A. Yes.

Q. And it is now a criminal offense?—A. Yes, and we make any quantity of convictions under the ordinance. They become so much accustomed

Opium-smoking a criminal offence.

to it, and it takes such a hold, it is almost impossible to reform them. It is the greatest vice we have here in this country and all over America.

Q. When you say "any quantity of convictions," could you give us any definite idea of the number?—A. Well, a great number of convictions for smoking opium, against both men and women. We bring in as many as thirty in one haul, so you can judge. They just lay up there naked, without a stitch on them—men and women—under the influence of this drug, and they are principally young people. They do not have any control over themselves at all, while they are under its influence.

Convictions against white men and women for opium-smoking.

Q. Is it any worse than drinking whiskey?—A. Yes, it is far worse than anything of the kind.

Worse than drinking whiskey.

Q. Far worse than whiskey?—A. Yes, sir; because a person may become addicted to whisky and there is a chance at some time or another of reform; but when he becomes addicted to smoking opium, there does not appear to be any reform in them at all. They die in the insane asylum—a great many of them. I presume if you went to Stockton or Napa, and interviewed the resident physician there, he would tell you there was a great many cases there caused by the smoking of opium.

Q. Is there anything else that you think would be useful in forming a judgment as to the desirability or undesirability of Chinese immigration on the Pacific coast?—A. About four years ago—I do not remember the year—the Restriction Act first went into effect, I say 1880, but it might have been 1881. It is an easy matter to get at the year exactly. There was a proposition to submit the matter to the vote of the people of this State of California, and out of the poll of one hundred and fifty thousand, there were eight hundred in favor of Chinese immigration—you see that is an immense majority, eight hundred out of one hundred and fifty thousand.

Chinese immigration universally undesirable.

Q. There was a question I intended to ask, it is this: What has been the effect of the Restriction Act?—A. The Restriction Act has worked splendidly. Business has become more prosperous all over this country, particularly in San Francisco, because it has really driven the Chinese away from here and scattered them all over. Heretofore they were employed principally here in manufactures and all that kind of thing, and as they became scattered the demand for Chinese labor was not so great, and has given the young people a chance to get into cigar factories and shirt factories. It is only a short time ago, within the past two or three weeks, there was some sixty Chinese that were discharged, and sixty boys and girls were put in their places. That was done by the aid of the best people in this town. They make up the difference in loss to the employers.

Effect of the Restriction Act.

Chinese scattered.

Chinese displaced and boys and girls substituted.

Q. I would like to know what effect it has had in relation to keeping the peace?—A. A great effect. Those fellows at times here, as far back as I remember, they had trouble. They are an excitable, desperate lot of fellows as you ever saw. You might think they were cowardly, but they are not. They made a raid—and they commenced in a room about this size, where they crowded in about five hundred, and they cut each other all to pieces, and at the great risk of the lives of the officers we quelled them. They fight with all kinds of instruments.

Q. With what instruments?—A. With knives and iron bars. One fellow had some eighteen slashes about him; and they were very bold here.

Murderous weapons.

anyhow, at one time. We made raids on them once in a while, and every man would have a knife or a pistol, or a slung shot, or something of that sort. The buggers would turn down the lights, and some we would catch with their weapons on, but they would throw them away if they could. It would sometimes take almost a cart-load to bring them down.

Q. Is there any other thing that you would like to say?—A. There is one thing that is of more importance to the whites in America, or North America, than anything else I know of. Outside of all other considerations the great objection to the Chinese is this: that some years ago, there was not great opposition to the Chinese for the reason that people were willing to accept their services on account of being cheap. They worked in shoe factories and all kinds of factories here, you understand. The Chinese worked some time till they learned the business. When they got the business to perfection, they started in on their own account; they sent to China and got capital and the very people that employed them were driven out of business, because they could not compete with them, don't you see. Therefore the capitalists would be hurt by them just as well as the working people, and every body—it drove them out of the business.

Chinese starting business on their own account injures capitalists.

Amended Act an improvement on the first.

Q. What has been the effect of the amended Act, which has just come into operation?—A. It has only gone into operation, and the presumption is it will be a great improvement on the first. That shows in itself how objectionable the first Act was, and the people were not satisfied with it, and wanted to have an amended Act.

Immigrants not allowed to come without a certificate well authenticated.

Q. How was the first Restriction Act found ineffective?—A. In this way: that it exempted, for instance, merchants and students, and all that kind of thing, of course, which is all right, I presume; but the rascals took advantage of it in this way: that every man that came was a merchant or a student. So now in China they have to get a certificate from the American authorities, the American minister, with well authenticated evidence.

Q. They have to get that certificate from the American minister in China?—A. Yes.

Q. They did not have to do that before?—A. No; they got certificates there, but now the minister has a right to take testimony and all that kind of thing.

System of identification more perfect.

Q. I understand you to say that the system of identification in China is now more perfect?—A. I think it is. The minister now takes evidence; and vouchers of a more authentic character have to be produced by any Chinaman before he is allowed to enter here.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 29th, 1884.

SWAN.

Dr. BENJAMIN R. SWAN, examined:

Q. How long have you been in San Francisco, doctor?—A. I came here in January, 1870. I arrived here fourteen years ago.

Three years a coroner.

Q. I understand you were for some time coroner for the city and county of San Francisco?—A. Yes; I was coroner from December, 1874, until December, 1877—being three years.

Q. In your character of coroner you were brought into special contact with the Chinese?—A. Yes, whenever a sudden death took place, or any case that required a coroner's investigation—that applied to the Chinese the same as to other nationalities.

Q. In connection with the enquiry as to the effect of Chinese immigration into British Columbia, we have visited San Francisco in order to get what information we could as to the character of the Chinese immigration here; is there anything that came before you, in your office of coroner, that you think would be of interest to us in regard to such enquiry?—A. I consider Chinese testimony, as far as my three years experience went, as perfectly unreliable in the case of crime—murder, that was all I had to deal with; deaths in that way. A given case being reported I frequently found Chinamen who where near the spot; claimed to have witnessed the whole transaction; gave graphic accounts; these would be among the witnesses on the formal inquest. On appearing they would intimate that they did not understand English, and through the interpreter would say that they knew nothing about the affair, and upon asking him in distinct terms, through the interpreter: "Did you not yesterday at such a time, tell that man (pointing to my deputy) so and so?" The reply would be: "I did not understand what he said." I never succeeded in fastening a crime on a Chinaman through Chinese testimony but once. In that case the witness was a little Chinese girl, old enough to be intelligent; too young to understand the danger she was running in testifying. That man was hung.

Chinese testimony unreliable in the case of crime.

A man convicted and hanged on the testimony of a Chinese girl.

Q. What do you mean by the "danger she was running in testifying?"—A. As she was giving her testimony, and she was asked to point out the man that she saw do the act, out of a number of Chinamen that were there, she pointed her finger at the man and says: "him." As soon as she said this he jumped right to his feet, and said something to her in Chinese. She started back with a great deal of terror, and went into the arms of some bystander, or bysitter I should say. This was at the inquest. The accused jumped right out of his chair and started across the room, and I asked the interpreter what he said in his Chinese. The interpreter said he had said: "You had better shut up." Of course this is all an opinion of mine, for the girl was very much frightened, and on enquiry I got hold of this idea that she was threatened; and the remark was made by the Chinese police officer—I mean the officer that was on the beat in Chinatown—that if the girl had been older, and understood, we could not have gotten anything out of her, on account of the danger that she ran in testifying against this man.

Danger in giving testimony.

Q. Could you be more specific as to the danger she ran?—A. I should consider that she ran the danger of assassination.

Assassination.

Q. By whom?—A. By this man's friends or acquaintances; and, as I say, all these matters are simply matters of opinion that I could not bring you specific proofs about.

Q. While you were coroner, did you have many cases of violent deaths in Chinatown?—A. Yes, sir, a good many; but after we hung this man there was not any for two years—no murders. That is my recollection; all this happened seven years ago. I think there were no Chinese murders—that is, that came to our knowledge—for two years.

Many cases of violent deaths during witness's term of office.

Q. During the first year you were coroner, were there a good many?—A. There was quite a number altogether. I do not mean while I was coroner—that this two years includes all of my term. That is what I believe the record calls for. I think there was a part of these two years would come into my term.

Q. Have you got the official statistics in your possession?—A. I have got the whole number of cases that occurred.

Statistics of murders, sudden deaths and accidents.

Q. Would you give it to us, please?—A. This includes all the Chinese cases, whether murder or sudden death, or from accident. Here I might say that you can get the exact figures, and all the particulars, at the coroner's office, for they are all kept there. Mine are only taken from my annual report. While we go into office on the first of December, our reports run from the first of July till the next first of July, so that I would give in my first report only one half—that is for my own self and the other half for my predecessor. So that the last six months of my office is reported by my successors, but from 1874 to 1875—July to July—out of 297 cases investigated there were twelve Chinese cases. There is the table [showing book]. The birth place is given. In 1875 and 1876, out of 321 cases there were 22 Chinese cases. In 1876 and 1877 out of 200 cases there were 43 Chinese cases. That includes accidents and everything.

Q. I suppose we can get full particulars, if it should strike us as of importance, for every year, from the municipal reports, up to the present time?—A. Yes; but you will find that there was a special law passed in 1872; and these peculiar reports, and my action, were all under the new law passed in 1872; and there has been full and complete records ever since. When I took hold of the office I opened a new set of books, and they have been kept up; and you can find there not only the record but everything—the man's name and the crime charged, and also the whole testimony on file, and the whole business.

An unseen power

Q. Is there anything else, doctor, that you have to say that you think would be of use to us?—A. When I wanted to get hold of one particular man, we always went to the interpreter of the company he belonged to, and the impression left on us by dealing with him, and by other facts, was that there was some power behind that we could not grasp nor understand.

San Francisco, July, 30th, 1884.

BROOKS. Charles Wolcott Brooks, examined:

Q. How long have you been a resident of San Francisco, sir?—A. I came out in 1852 first.

Q. Are you an Englishman?—A. No, sir; I was born in Boston, or the suburbs of Boston, in Massachusetts.

Q. Have you ever lived in China?—A. I have made a good many trips there.

Q. I believe you were the representative of the Japanese Government in San Francisco for a considerable time?—A. Yes, sir; I was consul

seventeen years, and two years I was connected with the diplomatic service—travelling. I was attached to the embassy accredited to the fifteen treaty powers, for the revision of treaties.

Q. Have you studied the character of the Chinese who immigrate to this coast?—A. Yes, sir; I have been thrown a good deal with them. I understand the subject pretty thoroughly. I first began to study the habits of orientals before I came to California, when I resided in Calcutta, and I made up my mind that in order to thoroughly understand any people you must understand their motives of action; to understand those it was necessary to study their religion—not in order to adopt it, but to know what motives governed them. Studied Chinese character.

Q. Now, sir, statements have been made to us that the Chinese immigrants in California are a detriment to the community, partly by reason of their competition with white labor, partly by reason of their vicious character, and partly because the wealth they gained they carry back to China. We should be glad to get your evidence on all these heads?—A. No Chinese ever come from China to the United States. None after my knowledge. They all come from the British Province of Hong Kong. China is not the name of the country—it is Ta Tsin. Natural emigration and coolie trade are two very different things; one comes voluntarily, the other is a trade in labor. The United States has always invited immigration. Countries with smaller territory, more thickly settled, have encouraged emigration. The United States has ten persons to the square mile, and California only two and a half to the square mile—about. The money markets and the labor markets have been considered open markets. Certain duties in every country must be performed cheaply, and cheap labor is necessary. Intelligence is the standard of labor value—the measure of power in races. The Chinese come to this country from a very old and highly cultured race. They have great adaptability, nicety of execution, and furnish a great many faithful laborers; but no country should be judged entirely by a limited number of its people. The better classes in China rarely go abroad, and never emigrate. Those who are well off are satisfied to remain at home. The character of the emigration is therefore entirely composed of persons who go abroad to better their condition, to earn money sufficient to enable them to return home and live in a condition of independence. Three hundred dollars is generally considered sufficient capital to support an ordinary laboring man on his return to China. Many who come abroad leave wife and children or parents at home, requiring assistance, and from the best information I can gather, and I have taken a good deal of pains to do so, I am assured by the leading Chinese merchants and managers of the six Chinese companies here, that the average Chinaman who sends home money at all sends home about thirty dollars a year. This would be the extent of the drain on the country in bullion, against which the country receives the labor of one man for a year, and the various industries of the country, necessary to the support of that man, are patronized to the extent necessary for his support and transportation. The average Chinaman returns home in five years, most of them to remain, although many, including generally those best educated, return from preference—I would say have latterly returned from preference. It is a difficult thing to govern a people who speak an entirely different language, and whose habits are so entirely at variance with our own. As a question of political economy we may well examine into the policy of introducing a new race, differing in features, taste, and religion. Mind is the standard of quality in man, and largely determines

Natural immigration and coolie trade.

Cheap labor necessary.

Those who emigrate do so to better their condition.

In China $300 sufficient capital for a laboring man to live on.

They return home in five years generally to remain.

No nation desires immigration that will tend to lower the standard of its own laboring classes.

his position in life, and the survival of the fittest is a universal law. No nation desires immigration that will tend to lower the standard of its own laboring classes. The question then arises: Is that the effect of the present immigration from China? For of nations it is true as well as of all things in the animal or vegetable kingdom, that each must progress or perish. Now, if the progress of a nation is impeded, we will say by an objectionable immigration, it must be stopped, or the nation will go backwards. The Chinese come here because it pays them to come. They come to earn money, and their ultimate idea is to return home in better circumstances than they came. This naturally leads to great economy and thrift. The early immigration from China labored for much less wages than our own people could afford to, but when, by the revision of treaties, their coming was stopped, those here were soon able to command wages nearly, if not quite, as high as is paid to Americans for similar service. China has a population of over four hundred millions. I can give you the exact figures in 1842 if you want.

The Chinese come here to make money.

Population of China.

Q. Yes; please do so?—A. The figures were 413,267,030, but this comprises a vast variety of peoples belonging to seventeen or more provinces, under different viceroys, and it is only from the Province of Quang Tung—popularly called Canton—that any immigration has come to America. How far the desire to come here may in time spread, it is impossible to tell, but such is the fact at present; therefore the question of immigration only concerns the single province of Quang Tung. The central government of China is over these different provinces, but its power is very limited. The early immigration came to supplement rather than to supplant our laborers. When it came it was very much needed. With the gradual filling up of California it is now claimed that we do not need it, and that any renewal of Chinese immigration would tend to lower the standard of wages obtained by American laborers. It is the pride of the United States that they are enabled to pay higher wages for labor, through the great bounty of nature, and their great territorial advantages and natural wealth, than any other country in the world. Thus the laborer is enabled to educate his family and acquire more home comforts; he is, in fact, raised to a higher condition of existence than is possible under the cheap labor of Europe. This same thing applies to Canada exactly. If the Chinese coming into the country are limited in number to the actual requirements of a new country, and are able to command wages equally with American labor, the only question then involved would be whether their presence would crowd out a corresponding amount of home labor? With the enormous territory of the United States at present unoccupied, and only waiting labor to develop its resources, this can hardly be urged as an objection at present. But the presence of too many Chinese, especially if they attempt an internal self government—*imperium in imperio*—by which they farm out fishing grounds, and district the cities for wash houses, forming combinations and interfering with avenues of labor needed for the proper support of our own people, their presence is objectionable. All civilized nations have proclaimed against exclusiveness, and mixture seems to be an element in progress; but as every home has a right to protect itself, socially, morally, and industrially, against all outside interference, so a nation, through its government, is bound to protect all proper industries in process of development within its territory. Conditions may exist when the accession of Chinese aid in the labor market may protect and also increase the American labor required, our people becoming directors, and the more menial duties necessary to exist-

Their early immigration supplemented rather than supplanted our laborers.

The presence of the Chinese as monopolists objectionable.

ence may be performed by laborers with less intelligence. We often blame the Chinese as a whole for the errors and faults of an individual. When anything bad occurs it is said: "a Chinaman did it;" therefore the whole race suffers in public estimation for the wrong doing of an individual. We should judge of a nation as a whole. Moderate immigration of really good men might, under certain conditions, be desirable, but no question can exist but that excessive immigration of an inferior class is a decided curse. It has been claimed that the presence of Chinese labor has caused the growth of what is termed the "hoodlum" element in this city, but we must remember that all great seaport towns have a similar element. Baltimore has its "plug-uglies" and its "dead-rabbits," as they call them; New York has its "roughs;" and I am much inclined to believe that the action of our trades-unions, in forbidding shops from taking over a limited number of white apprentices, has prevented the sons of the very mechanics therein employed from learning trades, and has thereby thrown them upon the world as hoodlums. If such be the case, and I believe it to be so, our own autocratic labor leagues are equally or more to blame than Chinese immigration for the presence of hoodlums amongst us. The Chinese who come to this country come mostly from six districts in the province of Quang Tung, and those six districts have formed companies, or rather clubs, in this city, having managers and regular business bureaus and arbitration tribunals. By some Americans it is claimed that they at times exercise criminal jurisdiction. This is denied by the Chinese, and it is very difficult to prove even if it be so. These companies are organized for benevolent purposes. A small fee is received from each person joining, and in consideration of which the club agrees to take care of him in sickness, and should he die to send his bones home to his native place. The six companies, whose headquarters are in California, but whose members are scattered all over the United States, have a membership approximating as follows:—

Moderate immigration of good men, under certain conditions, desirable, but excessive immigration of an inferior class a decided curse.

Hoodlums.

The six companies organized for benevolent purposes

Sam Yup	10,100
Yung Yo	12,200
Kong Chow	15,000
Ning Yeung	75,000
Yan Wo	1,300
Hop Wo	34,000
Total	148,000

Much complaint has been made in regard to crowding together of Chinese in houses, and they are alleged to be uncleanly in their habits. Like every nation, the poorer classes, from necessity, have not the facilities for cleanliness that those have who are better off. It is my opinion, from observation, that as soon as a Chinaman gets a little forehanded, he is very particular in regard to his personal cleanliness. Few nations wash their bodies more frequently than the Chinese. On the other hand the clothing of the laborers is, like that of our own laborers, often worn a long time. The houses of those who are well off are kept with great neatness, but the poor are crowded together in unhealthy localities. Nearly all of the Chinamen in San Francisco are crowded into six or seven blocks, where houses let, to Chinese, for double and treble the rent, which far superior houses in other localities rent for. Many of those who are loudest in their complaints of Chinese appear on our assessment books as owners of such houses and receive these extraordinary rents. In regard to their honesty, the word of a Chinese merchant is generally as good as his bond.

Chinamen personally clean.

Chinese merchants are honest and compare favorably; but among the lower classes the same temptations exist as among a similar class of our own people.

I think their mercantile integrity will compare favorably, if it is not superior, to that of our own average merchant. But among the lower classes the same temptations exist as among a similar class of our own people. It is difficult to speak in regard to the Chinese as a whole, but they should be described in detail, and I think each class, when compared with a like class among our own people, would appear much better than is generally supposed. Their exercise of judicial powers within the territory of another country is but the exercise of that extra-territoriality which western nations have claimed on oriental soil, and to-day all offenses of Americans in China, Japan, Egypt, and many other countries, are tried before American consuls, and appealed through the United States minister to the circuit or district courts of the United States. It is simply extra-territoriality in practical operation; and the disadvantages of the use of a foreign language naturally leads them to courts where they can freely express themselves. Municipal laws properly enforced may correct all existing evils. Were the Chinese laborers obliged to keep their quarter in the order in which we find those of American laborers, if each were to occupy a separate room, with proper ventilation and sanitary appliances, all of the evils of uncleanliness would vanish, or certainly would be no greater than those found in certain portions of every large city.

Mentally they are not an inferior race.

In mental training the Chinese are not an inferior race. As a people they are in about the condition of Europe in the 11th century. With western education Chinese labor may readily rise to our standard. They practice greater economy; our people desire and have greater comforts. Every Chinaman returning to his own country becomes a missionary of western civilization; and in a broad humanitarian view of the subject I believe that the greatest good of Chinese immigration to this continent will prove to be in the fact that the returning Chinaman becomes a missionary of western civilization, cultivating new desires and aspirations, which will in time permeate to every section of that vast empire, which comprises nearly one-third of the population of the globe. They are undoubtedly the oldest nation extant, and have been surrounded by a great wall of exclusiveness for many thousands of years. If we admit that geology teaches that the world has been created thousands of millions of years, it is not unreasonable to suppose that China has been peopled for at least a million of years. Chinese history claims to go back with a clear consecutive record to 3588 B.C., while the mythical period runs back for more than one million years, wherein races and dynasties are designated under names that are ascribed to individuals. Such very ancient history is naturally obscured by fables, errors and transpositions; but it appears that the Chinese were uncontrolled by foreign influence for about 360,000 years, showing in their nature the perpetuity of principles now so deeply implanted as to be not easily eradicated. Industrious and frugal habits, are characteristics which, when slowly built up, are likely to stand firm amid any changes of condition. They have grown up, and generally continued, under patriarchal rule. Defensive wars, famine and pestilence, and the attendant evils of corruption, have at times nearly depopulated the great plateau where the nation is said to have been founded. In time their ancestors were conquered by barbarians coming from the South, then by Thibetian hordes from deserts on the East, and more recently by a southern irruption from India. Each new element thus in turn absorbed into the population, introduced slight changes along the fixed limits of its progress; but individuals in each succeeding generation were trained to follow the exact calling of their progenitors, and a frozen conservatism prevailed. The present marked emigration of young

Chinese as missionaries of civilization.

Chinese history.

men from China to other countries, is forming the nucleus of a young and progressive party in China, who desire to catch up with, and keep abreast of the times. A desire to emerge from the seclusion of their dark ages of history, will tend to the gradual disintegration of much past conservatism, when the wonderful inventions of western progressive civilization are voluntarily introduced, and availed of, in the homes of travelled Chinese, educated and trained abroad. Such a result seems further assured, when we reflect that the action of mind is progressive, and all who go abroad leave China in full expectation of returning home. Thus a vast and secluded nation is gradually awakening to new life, and developing germs calculated to centralize its national strength. This new and momentous movement of Chinese, is but an initial step in the approaching enlightenment of a secluded race, destined by a wise Providence to make its impress on the future history of nations. In a most remarkable degree, they inherit largely developed brain-power, evolved and built up through ages of constant application, culture and severe mental training in a land where parental obedience is supplemented by ancestral worship. Thus they are mentally and ethnologically well fitted, under new conditions and different direction, to assume and maintain a strong national position, in the future industrial, commercial and political history of our globe.

Chinese emigration forming a nucleus of a young and progressive party in China.

They inherit largely developed brain-power.

At any rate centuries of isolation have rendered the people highly conservative. In different parts of China the people speak different languages, and Chinese residing in one province are totally unable to converse with those residing in some others. The educated classes are mostly followers of the doctrines promulgated by Confucius, while many of the lower classes are Buddhists. The books which most largely influence the Chinese character and mind are the Le-ke one of the Five Books of King and the Analects of Confucius and Mencius. The presence of what are termed heathen temples or Joss-houses, in our midst, is deplored by Christians, but the public generally seem not to be aware that the Chinese Joss is the devil, or evil spirit, and that the worship accorded to him is mock worship. In other words they conciliate the evil spirit, believing that God, the Good Father of all, loves His children, and they should love Him in return. He requires no conciliation. Hence all worship in these temples is not what may be termed true worship. It is, however, customary to have mediums, gifted with power to communicate with spirits, as priests, in many temples, and planchette is probably thousands of years old. These temples all have boxes containing white sand on which it is claimed answers to spiritual questions are traced. The questioner usually writes his questions on vermilion paper, which is burnt in a furnace prepared for burning prayers. The answer is then traced in sand in the presence of the medium or priest.

Centuries of isolation have rendered them conservative.

Literature.

Idol worship.

In regard to the expediency of allowing a large Chinese element to enter as a factor in our population, it is well for us to consider first, the requirements of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the physical relations of the two races to the soil they now inhabit. The Anglo Saxons are generally admitted by scientific men to represent the highest existing type of the human race. They, therefore, require conditions for their existence which other races do not. It is only within certain isothermal lines that this race can acquire its highest development. In the frozen north it perishes; in the malarial districts of tropical and equatorial regions it cannot long sustain itself. The belt of habitable earth situated within proper degrees of latitude, or at suitable altitudes for its proper development is exceedingly limited. In turning around a globe it will be observed that in the northern hemisphere a large proportion is situated in Europe and the United States, and a small

Requirements of the Anglo Saxon race to be considered before allowing a large influx of Chinese.

The zones in which the Anglo-Saxon can live should be kept clear for him.

part in Asia. Much within these parallels is water, and in Asia specially we find deserts, and large areas of low swamp land through which run swamp rivers, whose exhalations cause fevers among persons of the Anglo-Saxon race. The Chinese, not having as white a skin as the Anglo-Saxon, are enabled to live, and through centuries have become inured to the conditions of these low swampy lands. They are happy, and prosper where the Anglo-Saxon could not long exist. As the Anglo-Saxon can only exist within a given area of this earth, it is right that that portion which is best suited to his development, and through him to the advancement of the whole human race, should be preserved for his use. In the southern hemisphere, Australia, South America, and a small portion of South Africa, offer to him favorable localities, but by far the largest part of the temperate zone in that hemisphere is covered by the ocean. It therefore seems that we should be very careful to preserve for our own race those portions of territory which seem to have been given us as our natural residence, and while commercially and diplomatically friendly to China, and all other nations, we should not allow our natural habitation to pass from our control, or be unduly encroached upon.

Outrages committed by Chinamen done in self defence.

In regard to outrages that are sometimes said to occur, where Chinamen attack our people, it will generally be found that it is done in self defence, and the lower orders of our citizens, who abuse and maltreat inoffensive Chinamen, because of their nationality, have only themselves to blame when their victims attempt retaliation. My observation has been that they are long suffering; aiming to avoid trouble on all occasions as far as is possible.

Definition of the word "coolie."

Q. You say there is a natural emigration and a coolie trade; are those who come to the Pacific coast mostly coolies—that is to say, would you consider their coming here as part of the coolie trade?—A. To answer that question it is necessary first to define the word "coolie." The word "coolie" is a Sanscrit word which simply means "laborer;" now "coolie trade" is a trade in laborers. It has always been against the principles of the United States to authorize labor contracts, consequently any Chinese coming to this country under labor contracts, come under contracts that cannot be enforced after they have landed. Nearly all who come to the Pacific coast are laborers or coolies, but comparatively few come under labor contracts, in fact no more so than Irishmen came originally to the United States when railroad companies agreed to employ them in building railroads.

Nearly all who come are coolies, but do not come under contract.

Q. When you say that Hong Kong is a British province, I understand you to mean that it is a British colony?—A. It has a Governor General

Q. Are many of the Chinamen in that colony British subjects?—A. After they have resided there a certain length of time. That question has been adjudicated upon within three months.

All Chinese come from Hong Kong.

Q. Do I understand that all the Chinese come from the Island of Hong Kong—that is, from a crown colony of Great Britain?—A. Yes.

Q. By the "Statesman's Year Book" for 1883, the population of Hong Kong, including the military and naval establisment, according to a census taken in 1881, was 160,402 of whom there were:

Population of Hong Kong.

Chinese, males	109,013
" females	43,399
Total	152,412

The total population, the book goes on to say, in 1871, was, 123,978, the increase in ten years having been 36,504. Now, is it your opinion, as one who has given a great deal of study to ethnology, that the Chinese in that Island could increase in the course of ten years by some 30,000, and yet spare the amount of emigrants that they sent to British Columbia and to California, and elsewhere?—A. No, sir; they come into Hong Kong from the whole province of Quang Tung, which is across only a few miles of water, over on the mainland.

They come into Hong Kong from Quang Tung.

Q. That answer accords with the book entirely. I read here on page 672: "There is a constant flow of emigration from China, passing through Hong Kong. In the eight years from 1872 to 1879 there passed through Hong Kong annually upwards of 12,000 emigrants, the majority going to the United States"?—A. From my observation and information I am inclined to think that the average arrivals of Chinese at the port of San Francisco, or in the United States, has been about 14,000 a year, and about 10,000 a year have gone back, leaving a gain of about 4,000 a year.

Annual average of Chinese arrivals here.

Q. You say the immigrants come here to enable them to obtain money to live in China independently. Would $300 be sufficient to support a laborer in China; do I understand that $300 would be sufficient capital?—A. Yes.

$300 sufficient to support a laborer in China.

Q. And that the interest on that would support a laborer and his wife for life?—A. I would not say his wife. He will probably do a little something.

Q. Do you know what is the return that is usually received in China for capital?—A. It is often one per cent. a month.

Q. That would be $36 a year. Do you think a Chinaman could live on $36 a year?—A. Easily, I should think, in China.

Q. You used the phrase "survival of the fittest." This is Herbert Spencer and Darwin's phrase. The phrase has been used by other witnesses, and in the pamplets and speeches I have read on the subject it constantly comes up, in different senses. In what sense do you use the phrase?—A. That race which is best adapted intellectually, morally and physically to sustain itself against all adverse conditions of environment, and best enabled to avail itself of those conditions which are favorable, need fear no permanent injury while it retains these qualities. The Chinese brain will, in many cases, weigh more than the brain of the average Anglo-Saxon, therefore we must remember that we have to contend with a race capable of great intellectual development and culture.

Explanation of the phrase "survival of the fittest."

Weight of a Chinaman's brain.

Q. What position do you now hold, sir?—A. I am secretary of the California Academy of Sciences.

Q. I understand you have given a great deal of study to this Chinese question?—A. I have watched it pretty carefully for about thirty-five years.

Q. Have you written anything on the subject of the races of the East?—A. I have communicated a good many papers on the early migrations of the races, and I have a few now with me. One is "The Origin of the Chinese Race," the other "Japanese Wrecks" stranded and picked up adrift in the North Pacific Ocean; another is "Early Discoveries of the Hawaiian Islands in the North Pacific," and I am very glad to present them to the Commission.

Pamphlets on the migrations of Eastern races.

Q. Mr. Brooks, are you the Mr. Charles Wolcott Brooks referred to in Bancroft's "History of the Native Races of the Pacific States," Volume V., page 511?—A. I am, sir.

Q. I see he speaks here of you as a most learned gentleman and specially well versed in Oriental lore. The Commission is very much obliged to you for the time you have given us, and the very valuable evidence you have contributed, and for these books. Have you anything to add?—A. Only this: A higher power has planned that each zone should produce an assortment of animal life best suited to its conditions. In this manner habitations have been fixed for the comfort and perpetuity of the various forms of the human race. The home of the Chinese race is in Asia, and a great future awaits the Anglo-Saxon branch of humanity upon the continent of North America. As political economists, we must ever hold in view the unalterable fact that all human laws, however framed, are practically inoperative, unless in accord with the general laws of our being. The policy to be adopted by the Dominion of Canada cannot but be a matter of very deep interest to our people, as the United States and Canada have a thinly populated boundary line, in common, which is difficult to guard. Should Canada invite a large Chinese immigration, great numbers would inevitably cross unguarded spots along the frontier, which act, if constantly repeated, would lead to much litigation and vexatious claims, liable to engender hard feelings between two people of Anglo-Saxon blood, who should ever continue the best of friends, joining shoulder to shoulder, in pressing steadily forward as the vanguard of an enlightened and progressive civilization.

International aspect of the question.

LAWLER.

The Hon. JAMES LAWLER, Judge of Police Court No. 2, San Francisco, examined:

Q. How long have you been police magistrate?—A. One year and a half.

Moral status of the Chinese here bad.

Q. What is the moral status of the Chinese population of San Francisco?—A. I consider it bad, and am of the opinion that it is not improving. This, no doubt, results from the fact that these people are peculiarly wedded to ancient customs and modes of life, and are, besides, exceedingly exclusive. They all nearly live in the same locality, which is called the "Chinese quarter," and it is astonishing how so many human beings can live within such small limits. At night, especially, when these people gather from their different places of employment, the Chinese quarter presents such a scene of animation that it has to be seen to be appreciated. This quarter consists of only a few blocks, and as most of the Chinese population of the city, which is estimated at about 30,000, live there, an idea of its crowded condition may be gained. Houses of prostitution abound in this locality, and in many of them females of very tender years, children in fact, are to be found. These houses are patronized not only by Chinese, but also by whites. In this quarter crime prevails to a large degree. As is well known, these people are naturally addicted to gambling and indulging in various games of chance, and for the suppression principally of this gambling vice special officers have been detailed to Chinatown. Through the vigilance and diligence of this detail, the municipal treasury has, for a long time been greatly enriched. Their most favorite games are "tan" and lottery, and when a conviction for partak-

The Chinese quarter to be seen to be appreciated.

Prostitution and gambling.

"Tan" and "lottery."

ing in either takes place, the customary fine is $20, with an alternative of twenty days in the county jail, but in the majority of cases, and I might say in nearly all, the fines are paid. Public offenses of a different character are not uncommon amongst these people. Cases of robbery, assaults with deadly weapons, and assaults with intent to murder, and extortion, come frequently under my notice, and I will say in addition, that there are to be found amongst them a great number of petty thieves.

Criminality of the Chinese.

Q. We should also wish to have your evidence on the character of their testimony in court?—A. Being at the present time upon the bench, I do not think that it would be proper for me to say much upon this subject, nor to indulge in many criticisms upon their testimony. I will say, however, that as witnesses they are exceedingly shrewd, shrewder in fact, in my opinion, than the people of any other nationality. Cases have often come before me, in which I am sure that the evidence was prepared, and the witnesses drilled as to the mode in which they should testify, and it was surprising to see how thorough the drilling had been. Between the evidence of the witnesses there was no discrepancy, and the most thorough cross-examination by able counsel utterly failed to break them down. I can safely say that, as witnesses, they have no superiors, and their evidence should be received with caution.

As witnesses they are shrewder than the people of any other nationality.

Testimony should be received with caution.

Q. If you know anything about their influence on the commercial development of the community, we should be glad if you would give us the results of your observation?—A. I have been raised in this state, and have given this matter much attention, but this subject has been so fully and ably dealt with, I do not think that what I would say would add anything to the intelligence already obtained. There can be no doubt whatever but that their presence amongst us has a demoralizing effect upon white labor. Owing to their cheap mode of living they can work for far less wages than whites, and there are at the present time a great many places of employment filled by them, which no doubt would be occupied by white men and women, if they could live as cheaply as the Chinese. There is no doubt, but what they are skiful laborers, and when they learn a trade, they work with the regularity, I might say, of machinery, and on this account they are much sought after by persons who are not inimicable to them.

Their presence has a demoralizing effect upon white labor.

They are skilful as laborers.

Q. From your observation of the Chinese do you think the vicious element amongst them is more difficult to control than that element amongst other people?—A. It certainly is, and the reason for it is very apparent. As I have said before to you the Chinese quarter is overpopulated. There are places of abode under ground as well as over, and in a small room that a white man would not think of living in, a dozen Chinamen may be found, not only sleeping, but living and cooking in it. Chinatown is intersected, or cut up also, by numerous small streets and alleys, and between a great many of the buildings there are communications like bridges across the streets and alleys, and there are means also of passing from roof to roof. Owing to this convenient connection between the buildings, and the crowded state of the Chinese quarter, it is often a matter of extreme difficulty to pursue and capture an offender, and as the means of secretion are numerous and complete, there is no doubt whatever, but that many criminals escape detection and punishment through these means. The most vicious element amongst these people is what is termed the "highbinders," amongst whom there is a strong union. They do not belong to any one of the six Chinese companies, but they are composed of members from them all. They are a desperate class of people, and live, as I believe

The vicious element among them more difficult to control than among other peoples.

Difficulty in capturing offenders.

Highbinders.

from my experience, in a large degree, upon means obtained by them through extortion, gambling, etc.

Highbinders send threatening letters and are much feared by the Chinese merchants.

Not long since a case was examined by me, in which their mode of procedure was well explained. The evidence showed, that just prior to the Chinese new year, the defendants who were before me sent threatening letters to a Chinese merchant, stating that they were without money upon the approach of the festival, and that they should be supplied with money, otherwise that serious consequences would follow a non-compliance. These highbinders are much feared, and are through this tolerated, and are not prosecuted by many of these respectable Chinese merchants. It is often stated, and I think with a considerable degree of truth, that there are in Chinatown species of courts, in which many cases arising between these people are tried. For it is a noticeable fact that crimes are often committed in that locality, and the greatest diligence fails to discover any clue. This may happen where trouble arises between members of the same company; for the heads of these companies have such a control over these members, that they can at any time prevent one member from going into a court of justice and testifying against another. Were it not for the fact that my time is exceedingly limited, and that I am at the present time pressed with judicial business, I would endeavor to state to you more elaborately my views upon this subject.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 1st, 1881.

GIBSON.

Rev. OTIS GIBSON, examined:

Q. Were you examined before the Joint Committee?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you read your evidence as published in that volume?—A. Yes.

Q. Is it correctly reported?—A. Yes.

His opinion the same as in 1876.

Q. Has anything occurred in the interval between that examination and the present to alter your opinion? Does your experience since leave that evidence intact?—A. Yes; I have not altered my opinions. I have never given the Chinese credit for anything I do not think they deserve. I try to be just and equal in my views.

Mr. Gibson's work. Schools.

Q. How do you find your school for boys work?—A. Our school for boys runs only at night. The girls are kept in the house. They are escapes from servitude. This is occurring all the time. A Chinaman makes a bargain with a woman to marry her. Sometimes he buys her. If he can't buy her he induces her to run away, and pays for her board for a year; then they get a license and marry according to law. We cannot get Chinamen to testify against traders in women. The better class say they don't know anything about those women. There is this drawback in them as an immigration: they don't purpose to amalgamate to our civilization. If they can they fight against it. But we give them no chance. Our legislature denounced them because they would not become citizens, because they would not go to our schools, because they do not hold real estate; and the same legislature passed Acts to prevent them holding real property, or becoming citizens, or attending the public schools. I said to Mr. Angel, Mr. Swift, and Mr. Trescott: "Go and arrange with the Chinese Government that we will welcome your people to America provided they will come just as other people to live, and will

Women.

Dont amalgamate.

conform to American customs. Let the Chinese Government issue a proclamation that they must land without a queue, and stay here without a queue, and wear American forms of dress, and that those here with a queue shall have three years to arrange matters to cut off their queues or go home."

He proposes that the Chinese should emigrate without their queues and characteristic dress.

Q. But do you think you would get any Chinese under such conditions? —A. You would not have half the Chinese you now have, but the immigration you would get would be twice as useful—twice as good. There would be no friction. In a new dress the Chinaman would feel the inspiration of the new civilization. He would then be no more resented than are the Spaniards or the Portuguese. I have nothing else to add supplementary to my evidence before the Joint Committee.

[The substance of this witness's evidence before the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States will be found in the summary of that evidence in the Appendix.]

HUANG TSUN HSIEN, Consul-General for China, examined:

HSIEN.

Q. Colonel Bee's evidence has been read over to you, is it correct in every particular? Or have you anything to add?—A. It is correct; I have nothing to add.

Q. Colonel Bee promised to get us statistics as to the amount of imports and exports directly due to the presence of Chinamen here, and the amount paid by them in customs duties, perhaps you could give us the facts?—A. It will require some days' time to do so.

Q. He also said he would get us the statistics as to the amount of rent paid for tenement and other houses. Can you give us these facts?—A. Several years ago the business houses, merchants, manufactories, restaurants, lodgings and places of amusement, reported an aggregate paid for rents of quite $1,000,000 per year. This did not include the numerous small streets and tenements

Rents paid for tenement houses.

Q. Also the taxes paid by Chinese, municipal and otherwise, and under the proper heads?—A. Consul Bee informs me that to correctly answer this would require a great amount of labor in going over the books at the city hall. The personal property tax of 1875 I have on file; it foots up $591,500, but only includes sums of $1,000 and over. The number doing a business of less than $1,000 is very large. Considerable real estate is owned by Chinese, some of which stands in the name of white people. The taxes paid by Chinese otherwise are very large, in the way of licenses, poll taxes, etc. That which is paid to the United States for internal revenue is fully $500,000 per year. The duties paid by Chinese merchants for customs duties, directly or indirectly, for the fiscal year 1882 and 1883, will exceed $3,000,000.

Taxes paid by Chinese.

Q. Can you state the numbers who have returned each year to China and the amount of wealth, either in money or valuables, carried back with them?—A. The number of Chinese who have emigrated to this country from 1852 up to December 1878, a period of twenty-six years, numbered 230,430; departures for China and deaths same time, 133,491; total number in the United States, 96,939; births, estimated, 2,000;

Numbers going and coming.

grand total, January 1st, 1879, 98,939. The foregoing was prepared at this consulate at the request of the Census Bureau at Washington, D.C. The census taken a year later gave the number at 105,000. As to the money values carried back, I have no means of knowing.

Ninety per cent. of the clothing of Chinese in California is American manufacture.

Q. What proportion of the food and clothing of the Chinese in this state and city comes from China?—A. Ninety per cent. of the material (clothing) worn by the Chinese is of American manufacture. No food, except a line of choice eatables, are imported. Rice is largely imported—last year over 41,000,000 pounds, which paid a duty of 2½ cents per pound. It is charged that the Chinese work cheap because they live upon rice. Let me call your attention to the fact that rice costs by the quantity $6 per 100 pounds, while flour from wheat is only $2.50 per 100 pounds.

Q. Can you supply us with statistics as to the death rate among the Chinese in California?—A. With a Chinese population in this city in 1880 (United States census) of 22,000, there were deaths amounting to 479, or 21·77 per cent. that year.

Q. Can you state how much land has been reclaimed by Chinese labor?—A. I have no means of knowing. The number of acres is very large.

Q. How much Chinese capital is invested in permanent improvements in San Francisco—in California?—A. I cannot give you the amount. They own several very valuable properties.

Trade between China and San Francisco for 1881 $16,185,165.

Q. How much Chinese capital is invested in trade?—A. That is a question difficult to answer. The trade between this port and China, imports and exports, for the year 1881, according to Commerce and Navigation Report, Washington, 1881, was $16,185,165. The charge is made that the largest part of this trade is done by Chinese merchants.

Q. As to tenement houses, are they held under long leases?—A. Yes; most of the leases have run for twenty years, made at a large monthly rental.

Landlords of tenement houses willing to renew leases.

Q. Are these leases on the point of expiring?—A. Some of them.

Q. Will they be renewed, and if not renewed, does the obstacle to their renewal come from the landlord or from the tenant?—A. Yes, the greater part of them; the landlord is quite willing to renew.

1,200 families.

Q. How many of them have their families here?—A. There are in this country over 1,200 families.

Chinese slow to change their habits.

Q. What is the reason that the greater number of them have not their families?—A. You must know that China, until quite recently, has had no trade or intercourse with foreign countries. The people are slow to give up their old habits and traditions, which for many centuries they have enjoyed without molestation. The idea to them of seeking homes in far off countries is so entirely new that to take their families with them when they conclude to go is never thought of. It has not been accustomed for the Chinese female to so emigrate. All these objections will in time wear off, and new ideas obtain which will overcome this prejudice. But, however, a large number of Chinese families have recently come to this country.

Majority laborers.

Q. The statement has been made that the immigration comes from the humblest of Chinese, how is this?—A. The majority of laborers coming

to this country from the south of China, the province of Canton, are largely of the farmer class. There are also large numbers of merchants who invest a large amount of capital for mercantile pursuits in this country.

Q. Why is it that the immigration comes from only one province? —A. Because that province has been longer open to trade with foreigners, and the people became familiar with them and learned much about foreign countries.

Q. How many, if any, have settled on land?—A. A great number rent and a few buy land, I can hardly give you the average.

Q. Are they of the same class and from the same province as those who settle in British Columbia?—A. Yes.

From same class as those who settle in British Columbia.

Q. How far does the desire to emigrate exist in other provinces?—A. There is no desire to emigrate in any of the other provinces, except Canton and Fuhkien. Fuhkien is a province in the neighborhood of Canton. The immigration from Fuhkien is only confined to the Straits Settlements and other Islands of the South Pacific Ocean.

Q. I am aware that you have very cold weather in China, what do you think would be the effect of the climate of Canada, where the winter is rigorous, on immigration?—A. Chinese soon become acclimated but much prefer a mild climate.

Chinese soon get acclimatized.

Q. Have you any further information to impart?—A. I would like to say this: That it is charged that the Chinese do not emigrate to foreign countries to remain, but only to earn a sum of money and return to their homes in China. It is only about thirty years since our people commenced emigrating to other lands. A large number have gone to the Straits Settlements, Manila, Cochin-China and the West India Islands, and are permanently settled there with their families. In Cuba, fully seventy-five per cent. have married native women, and adopted those Islands as their future homes. Many of those living in the Sandwich Islands have done the same. This course depends wholly upon their treatment in any country they emigrate to. As a matter of fact they do not assimilate as readily as the German, Irish, English and other European immigrants who come here, as their civilization is so widely different from that of China. There is quite a large number of foreigners in China, but few of whom have brought their families, and the number is very small indeed who have adopted that country as their future home. You must recollect that the Chinese immigrant coming to this country is denied all the rights and privileges extended to others in the way of citizenship; the laws compel them to remain aliens. I know a great many Chinese will be glad to remain here permanently with their families, if they are allowed to be naturalized and can enjoy privileges and rights.

Why Chinese do not readily assimilate explained.