CHAPTER XV.—THE CANNING INDUSTRY.

The salmon canning industry of the world is practically confined to the North Pacific Coast of America.

The number of Japanese and Chinese engaged in it greatly exceeds the number of them employed in any other industry. For some years past the total pack of the Pacific Coast has been in the neighbourhood of three million cases, but for the season of 1901 the enormous pack of over five million cases of 48 one-pound tins is reported. Of this number over 1,200,000 were produced in British Columbia; 950,000 of which were packed on the Fraser River, and 1,400,000 cases or over, were packed on Puget Sound, chiefly of Fraser River salmon.

This industry in British Columbia ranks in importance with that of the mines and lumbering industry. The following tables will indicate its growth.

Total number of licences in British Columbia:—

Year.	Total.	To Japanese.	Canners.	Others.
1896	3,583	452	1,063	2,018
1897	4,500	787	1,203	2,510
1898	4,435	768	1,204	2,463
1899	4,197	930	175	3,092
1900	4,892	1,892	542	2,458
1901	4,722	1,958	548	2,216

Year.	No. of Employees.	Value of Plant.
		$
1896	14,227	2,197,248
1897	19,850	2,350,260
1898	20,695	2,480,245
1899	20,037	2,145,173
1900	20,262	2,839,904

Value of Salmon Pack by District.

District.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	$	$	$	$	$
Fraser River	1,801,654	4,219,751	1,268,278	2,531,500	1,590,532
Rivers Inlet	529,588	211,644	434,042	401,414	439,617
Skeena River	559,631	330,747	505,737	589,934	702,144
Nass River	70,315	96,000	96,000	93,321	96,960
Vancouver Island	24,216	66,276	60,187	58,320	82,089
	2,985,305	4,927,418	2,364,245	3,674,491	2,911,344

This is based upon a uniform price of 10 cents per pound.

The exports of dry salted dog salmon to Japan are:—

1898	$ 160,000
1899	120,000
1900	228,000

These were valued at three and four cents per pound.

The total output for British Columbia:—

1894	494,371	cases
1895	566,395	"
1896	601,570	"
1897	1,015,477	"
1898	484,161	"
1899	732,437	"
1900	585,413	"
1901	1,205,037	"

Of the twenty thousand employes engaged in the Fisheries it is estimated that ten thousand are employed in and about the canneries, and of these about six thousand are Chinese. Of the 74 canneries in British Columbia, 49 are on the Fraser. The process of canning (making cans, filling, cooking, soldering, and boxing) is almost exclusively done by contract. The contracts are made with boss Chinamen who hire their own help in their own way.

This method of doing business adopted by the canners has its special advantages and probably accounts for the fact that Chinese are preferred for this department of the business. Certain Chinamen have become experts and are sought after, both by the employer and the Chinese contractor. They command from $35 to $45 per month. The contractor makes an advance of from $30 to $40 to each Chinaman at the opening of the season to induce him to come. The contractor furnishes the provisions, where chiefly his profits are made. At the end of each month what he has supplied is made up and charged *pro rata* to the men in his employ. At the end of the season, if the run is short, the contractor may lose money on his contract which, however, is partly covered by his profits on the provisions. If the provisions furnished to the Chinamen and the advances made to them exceed the amount of their wages at the end of the season the loss falls on the contractor and not on his employer.

The advantages to the canners are: First, the contractor takes the responsibility of employing sufficient hands to do the work, thereby saving all the inconvenience and trouble which would otherwise fall upon the employer; second, the work is done by experts who have been trained to the business; third, the canner knows exactly what 'the processin' will cost per case; fourth, any loss falls upon the contractor: fifth, he avoids the trouble of furnishing supplies, and the expenses of providing accommodation suitable for white men; sixth, the Chinese boss is able to get more work out of the men and to have it done more satisfactorily than when they work by the day for the cannery employer.

It is manifest that this method of conducting the business, places it practically in the hands of the Chinese, prevents white workmen from being trained to this part of the business, and partly accounts for the fact why cannerymen agree that Chinese are required for this industry.

Alexander Ewen, of New Westminster, said: I have resided in British Columbia thirty-six or thirty-seven years. There were a good many Chinese here then. There were not many people in the country at that time. The canning industry started about 1870. I did not employ them the first two or three years. I was among the first to develop this business. I employ from 150 to 200 men now in the canneries. Of these the average would be about twenty whites. I employ Chinese and Japanese, but pay wages individually and not by contract. The Chinese come from all over the Province. There has been difficulty in getting Chinese for the last four years at least.

Last year it was difficult to get them, and after we got them it was unfortunate that we had little or nothing for them to do. Latterly I have had to employ Chinese through a boss, because labour is getting so scarce that skilled Chinese are hard to get. The Chinese we get do various kinds of work, such as farming and clearing of land.

I make the cans at my own cannery. I have a certain amount of machinery to lessen the cost. I do not get them at the Automatic Cannery. When I started in business the tins were boiled in kettles over a large fire; afterwards we used steam to heat the water. Retorts were introduced in 1881, also soldering machines which save considerable labour. The soldering machine did not work well for four or five years after it was introduced. Soldering machines and retorts were first developed in this country. The cans are wiped and capped by machinery. One washing or wiping machine, with three people at the outside, will do up to two thousand cases every day. Before that we had to have twenty or thirty hand washers. Two hands with a capping machine will do 1,500 to 2,000 cases a day. By hand there would be twenty putting covers on. The fish cutting machine saves the labour of five men on 1,500 cases a day. We have an automatic cooking process and tester as well, and an automatic washing machine, which saves the labour of from fifteen to twenty men, or more. There has not been much improvement in washing and cleaning fish. Canneries make cans as cheap as they can buy them, probably cheaper.

Most of the machinery has been invented and manufactured in British Columbia. I do not know of any improvements in the process for catching the fish. The nets are, of course, heavier and better, and the boats are larger and more sea-worthy. These are more expensive now. It costs more now to catch fish than it did ten or twelve years ago. We are fishing with drift nets, as we have always done. The improvement has been in taking care of the fish after they are caught.

I can make as cheap cans as the Automatic Cannery. Machinery has reduced labour in the cannery one half or a little more, exclusive of the question as to whether or not the factory can produce cans any cheaper than I can. Where I used to have to employ three or four hundred men nine years ago, now I can do the same work with the same class of labour with a hundred and twenty men. The fishing is overdone. The river in my opinion is over-crowded. There is just a certain amount of work to do, and they cannot get the same quantity. It is dividing up the catch on the river among too many. If there were a fewer number of fishermen they would get more fish no doubt, but that is like everything else. The business will level itself; I do not see how that can be legislated down. The business is overdone. The canneries were built on a large scale when there were fewer of them; now there are a great many of them, and it is almost impossible to get a full day's work. Three or four days in the season you will have all you can do, get more than you can handle, but immediately after it drops down to only half a day's work.

The canneries are not all alike. The plant alone will run ten to fifteen thousand dollars, for from 1,500 to 2,000 cases a day, and some will be a good deal higher. The trouble is to get the fish, and the people to do the work; that is the great difficulty. It is only work for a short season. You have to invest that large amount, and make all preparations for a large run, for you can never tell what is before you. The bulk of the work has to be done in eight or nine days; the principal portion of your catch has to be taken care of in that time.

If we had as many fish as in 1897, or we had any guarantee of what it would be, it would be easier to do the fishing with a thousand boats or less, than with 3,000 boats. If the Japanese had not come in the industry would have been out of existence. With the number of canneries in existence now you could not get along unless there were more boats. The number of canneries has doubled within twelve years.

A great many white men within the last three years have become not so anxious to fish as they were. They will not leave work at which they are earning $5 a day to go fishing, and a great many of them have dropped out. It was not from the number of boats but from the number of fish in the river. I say judging from the capital invested and the preparations made to take care of the fish, there are not enough boats to keep the canneries going. They have got to go away into the ocean to get the quantity

has been proposed about limiting the number of traps on the other side. If something is not done soon they will catch at least three fourths of the salmon that ought to come to the Fraser River; that is my opinion upon it, unless there is some restriction put upon the number of traps there will be depletion of the salmon. I do not think there are so many here just now trying to build new canneries, although there are some of them at it yet. Machinery for canning purposes is in use for an average of two months I expect. The earning power of the machinery in any branch of the business must be taken out of it in two months.

Japanese are about the same as whites in the way of catching fish.

I expect the cost of production now compared with ten years ago is about double what it was then. The cost of catching fish is more expensive, because the fishermen have to have more expensive boats to go to sea after the fish. In the river they use cheaper nets.

I do not say there are not enough Chinese here, but I do not say there are enough. There was a time a few years ago when I was not able to take care of the fish for five or six days, when I expected to put up nearly one-half of the pack.

Four years ago salmon fishing on the Sound was only new. The Americans have more effective appliances and fish all the time. The fish are afforded some protection here. We can only touch the fish in the river within the tidal waters.

The demand for fishermen has been unlimited for the last four years, but the question is the putting up of the price of fish. This last fall, the market in Great Britain came down, showing that the fish are not going so rapidly into consumption. The price went up in a panic and then it came down all at once. It is impossible for me to say whether there are too many fishermen on the river or not. I do not know whether there should be any restriction on Chinese and Japanese coming here. I do not think they are pouring in in increased numbers. Last year a great many came in, but that stopped. They found that it was not so pleasant as they thought.

Over-crowding will cure itself. It is a case of the survival of the fittest. It is so in all other industries. But for cheap labour I do not think there would be so many canneries in existence. Unless you had a population of five or six millions in British Columbia it would be impossible at that particular season of the year to draw the men from the ordinary labour of the country to supply the canneries. You cannot get white men to come here and run chances of getting work after the fishing season is over, when there are abundant opportunities for them getting steady work elsewhere all the year round. Take the 150 men in the cannery and increase their wages by one-half, and you would stop the industry altogether. More than three-quarters of the inside work is done by Chinese. The cost of their labour is less than the other quarter of whites. If canneries cease operations the country will feel it. Japanese take the place of Norwegians and Swedes, who now fish on the Sound. Canneries have made no money since 1897. The cost of production increases every year. The Sound fishing increases all the time. The canneries here made more money before the Japanese came than they have done since.

In a big run there is a limit put to each boat. When a thing is looked upon as prosperous, people rush into it, and it is overdone; then with cheap labour it is overdone. The continuance of cheap labour cannot make it worse. They have stopped coming now, and they are getting out of here as fast as they can, a great many of them going where they can do better. If the cost of production becomes greater, then a great many cannaries must go out of existence. It does not matter whether it is from the scarcity, or the cost of labour, or anything else.

Hand filled cans sell higher than those filled by machinery. I think there are two many canneries, and I consider there are too many fishermen. The number of canneries necessitates a large number of fishermen, and if there were any serious reduction of fishermen, those canneries would have a greater shortage of fish than they have now. The question really is one of competition. The price of fish has steadily increased each year. You require to have enough salmon go to the spawning grounds in order to keep up your supply of fish. The fish that have their home on the Fraser river are just as

plentiful as heretofore, and the fish caught on the Puget Sound are undoubtedly salmon making for the Fraser River. Fishing is more or less of a gambling transaction.

Q. Do you think there is any method to be secured by legislation limiting the number of fishermen on one side and of canners on the other?—A. It would be very unsatisfactory. It is business and business should not be controlled by legislation, but by the profit that may be in it. I do not agree with limitation of the number of fishermen or the limitation of the number of canneries.

A great many of the fishermen are dead broke all the time. Some of them have saved a good deal of money on the Fraser river. There was never a time in this Province when white people were available for doing the labour inside the canneries. By the introduction of machinery we have had to employ more high class labour. It turns out the low class of oriental labour and brings in a high class of white labour to look after the machines. Supposing the canneries went out of existence for some reason or other, the country in general would suffer, and the canneries would have a lot of plant and machinery that would be useless, but the whole country would suffer in consequence of arresting the flow of money. Under existing circumstances the canneries could not be carried on without oriental labour. Within the last three or four years they could not exist without Japanese fishermen. Most of the Norwegian and Swede fishermen on the other side have their homes there.

Every one does not get the same price. The run was so short last year that the price of fish rose in the English market about $2 a case. Last year was not a remunerative one. The year before in a majority of cases it simply held its own. For some years past some have held their own, others have gone behind, very few have made one per cent. Even 1897 was not a profitable year. The price fell considerably. There was an immense catch in 1897. There was a large waste of fish then.

The ultimate result in my private opinion will be to deplete the fish coming to the river if the fishing continues the same way on the Sound. Four years ago the fishing there was very limited, but now with increased facilities there, the tendency is towards depleting the river of fish.

Before the Japanese came here we had a great number of fishermen from the State of Washington. I said the industry was overdone. I cannot have said there were too many fishermen. While there are so many canneries they want more fishermen. The fishermen do not come from the Sound now as they did before, but they would come I have no doubt if they could get work. If the number of canneries were reduced there would not be so many fishermen wanted unless the canneries were to double their capacity. If the number of fishermen were reduced by one half, leaving the canneries as they are, the effect would be that the canneries to run properly and get a reasonable interest on the money invested would have to reduce the price of fish.

The canneries would pay as much for fish if the markets would allow them. I was pretty successful for many years. We had no Japanese then. I would like to see that return. I was then putting up fish that cost me $12 a case to put them up, and I was perfectly satisfied if I got $16 or $20 for them. The price of fish then was about one-half a cent a fish. The market price for our product was much higher then.

If restriction were enforced I would have to stand it. I would submit to it gracefully.

Exhibit 52.

MEMORANDUM *re* Wages paid by Ewen & Co., New Westminster, to Employees, 1897 to 1900, inclusive:—

CHINESE.

Month.	No. of men.	Average time per man per month.	Average monthly earnings per man.	Total wages paid for month.	Average for Season.
1897.			$ cts.	$ cts.	
April	45	16 days	23 38	1,052 10	Per day of 10 hours, $1.48. Per month of 26 days, $38.54.
May	45	13 "	18 93	851 85	
June	45	22½ "	31 71	1,426 75	
July	155	16 "	24 27	3,761 85	
August	159	23½ "	35 77	5,687 43	
September	53	20 "	30 12	1,596 36	
				14,376 54	
1898.					
April	9	1⅝ "	2 75	24 75	Per day of 10 hours, $1.44. Per month of 26 days, $37.58.
May	38	24 "	33 06	1,256 28	
June	38	24 "	34 12	1,296 56	
July	116	6 "	8 67	1,005 72	
August	116	13 "	19 70	2,285 20	
				5,868 51	
1899.					
May	4	6 "	7 14	28 56	Per day of 10 hours, $1.51. Per month of 26 days, $39.39.
June	35	6 "	9 50	332 50	
July	122	7 "	10 96	1,337 12	
August	146	14½ "	22 00	3,212 00	
September	44	16 "	25 40	1,117 60	
				6,027 78	
1900.					
April	12	2 "	3 33	39 96	Per day of 10 hours, $1 54. Per month of 26 days, $40.15.
May	30	21½ "	33 09	992 70	
June	30	9½ "	16 26	487 80	
July	63	6 "	9 56	602 28	
August	85	16 "	22 69	1,928 65	
				4,051 39	

WHITE MEN.

Year.	No. of men.	Average time per man for season.	Total wages paid for season.	Average per man for month of 26 days.
			$ cts.	$ cts.
1897	19	5½ months	8,316 23	79 58
1898	21	5 "	7,950 51	75 71
1899	20	5 "	7,720 95	77 21
1900	20	5 "	8,091 71	80 91

NOTE.—White men are paid from $40 to $100 per month and board—above figures include board at $12 per month. Chinese are paid for actual time worked only, and in all cases board themselves. Their wages vary from $35 to $75 per month.

MEMO. *RE* COST OF PACKING.

—	Pack.	Chinese labour per case.	White labour per case.	Steamers cost per case.	Total.
	Cases.				$ cts.
1897	39,131	36 cents.	21¼ cents.	6½ cents.	63¾
1898	10,005	58½ "	79 "	25 "	1 62½
1899	18,789	32 "	41 "	13 "	86
1900	6,105	66 "	$1 32½ "	41 "	2 39½

NOTE.—Salmon packs for 1897, 1898 and 1899 were all cases of 48 one-pound cans.
Pack for 1900 consisted of 3,210 cases, containing 48 one-pound cans and 2,895 cases containing 96 one-half pound cans, the latter of which entail nearly double the amount of labour necessary to pack one-pound cans.

EXPENDITURE for boxes, lumber and Machinery from 1897 to 1900 by Ewen & Co., New Westminster, B.C. :—

1897—Sawmills	$6,295 53	
Machine shops	940 56	
		$ 7,236 09
1898—Sawmills	2,539 38	
Machine shops	1,274 68	
		3,814 06
1899—Sawmills	2,767 29	
Machine shops	799 27	
		3,566 56
1900—Sawmills	1,949 04	
Machine shops	2,442 51	
		4,391 55
		$19,008 24

Two steamers, employing seven to eight men, are run in connection with our cannery at a cost of $2,500 each season, wages of whom are not included in amount paid to white men.

Mar Chan, Chinese contractor, of Victoria, says: I am a cannery contractor,—contract by the case. I employ my men by the month and pay from $50 to $60 a month for can-makers. In one cannery probably thirty are employed making cans. I contract with three canneries on the Fraser and three on the Skeena River. Last year I employed 180 men in the three canneries on the Fraser. I also employ Indians to help as well. I employed eighty men for can-making. The cans are made at the cannery before the season opens. The tin is owned by the canneryman and brought there. Everything in the way of machinery and material is owned by the canneryman. When the fish commence to run we try to employ all the Indians we can get for cleaning the fish and for miscellaneous work around there, such as carrying the cans from the can loft to the fish fillers. The lowest wage paid is $37.50. I lost money last year. It was a bad year. I employ no whites. Out of a total of 180 Chinese employed I cannot remember now how many are married. There may be a few.

Q. Would you venture to swear there are five out of the lot?—A. Yes.

Q. How do you know: who are they?—A. Mar Sue is one—I cannot remember the others.

The contract price per case has decreased. The price now is cheaper than formerly. They have more machinery now used in the canneries than formerly. In the ordinary work the machine has taken the place of the ordinary work and the men employed in these places are experts in their lines. There is a competition among the cannery contractors to get the experts, which has a tendency to raise the wages. I furnish the men with provisions. The workmen in the canneries of course get their provisions from my firm. The wages paid to Chinese ten years ago in the cannery business was much less than now. Wages have been getting higher every year. A great many have gone away from here, going to other places. A great many have gone to the American side. There is more work and better pay over there. There they have a longer period of work than they have here. The wages are probably about the same, but the length of labour would be longer there than here. Over there they put up every kind of fish that comes along and they have no close season.

The men get an advance before they go to the canneries. In the first lot of them —that is the men who go to make the cans—they get from $40 to $50 advanced before they go to the cannery. The second lot of men that go got an advance of from $30 to $40 last year. If they do not get it they won't go. That is the custom of the men going. If the fish do not come they cannot make any money unless I pay that money. I do not get it back. It is not marked a debt; it only holds for that season. I get men to work in the canneries from the labouring class—men who work in the gardens —anybody I can get.

Q. Is it because these men refuse to leave their places of employment and take the chances of the canning business, you have to make this advance?—A. Yes, they have to be paid in advance before they quit their employment to go to the cannery.

The contract price for canning salmon is about five cents cheaper per case on the American side than on this side. They fill fish by machinery.

Q. How much do the Chinese get on the American side where they have filling machines?—A. Those who have filling machines are one cent or two cents cheaper per case.

Q. Outside of the filling machines what would be the difference?—A. They have got machines for cutting the fish and chopping the fish different from what they have here.

Q. Haven't they a machine for that purpose on the Fraser river?—A. The machine over there is quite different from that they have here.

Q. How much is the difference in labour on the case?—A. It is a difference of two cents on the case.

NOTE.—It was explained by the canners, that filling machines were not generally used on the Fraser because it could not be done by machinery as nicely and well as by hand, and the hand-filled cans commanded a higher price in the market.

Q. Have you to guarantee a certain amount of money?—A. The first lot of them some have to be guaranteed four months' work and some in the second lot had to be guaranteed two months' work.

Q. Does the cannery proprietor advance you this money to pay the advance to the men?—A. Yes, they pay part of the advance; they pay certain sums for that purpose, but it is not a sum that will cover the total advance.

Q. If you should advance more than the men can pay back who is the loser, you or the cannery proprietor?—A. I would lose the money.

Q. If there were not many fish would you lose the money or the cannery proprietor?—A. The canners would lose and the contractor would lose. The canners would come back on me for the advance they had made me.

Q. Do you mean to say you guarantee so much work for the men and have all the margin of money between what you pay the men and the money you get from the canner?—A. We generally figure to make a margin of profit out of the provisions we sell to them.

Q. I suppose then the chance of losing on the advance is made up by the price on the provisions?—A. And also the prospect of a good run of fish, and making a big pack. That gives me some profit.

The way it is done is this: all the provisions sent to the cannery are ordered by the foreman and then at the end of the month it is averaged and all pay pro rata. It is the same in the canneries where they employ their own help directly. At Bell-Irving's cannery they pay their men in the same way. They work it on the same principle in other canneries like Bell-Irving's, where they get paid directly. It is all thrown in together and at the end of each week they average to each man.

Q. Do they deduct that amount from the men's wages?—A. When the pay roll is made out the boarding house bill is deducted from the wages. The wages are then paid to each individual.

Henry O. Bell-Irving, of Vancouver, said: I represent the Anglo-British Columbia Packing Company. We have six canneries on the Fraser River, one on the Rivers Inlet, two on the Skeena River, and then we have two in Alaska and one on Puget Sound.

On the Fraser River last year we employed from seven to eight hundred men inside the canneries, and up to a thousand, possibly twelve hundred. That would be a fair average during the busiest season. The number varies with the season.

Of the twelve hundred, about one hundred and eighty are whites, probably three hundred are Indian women, and the rest are Chinese. The capacity of our canneries is from 140,000 to 150,000 cases per season. 1897 was probably the nearest approach to our full capacity, when I think our pack was 120,000 cases.

At two of the canneries on the Fraser River inside work is done by day labour. It is done by contract in the others. The Chinese contractors hire their help in their own way; we do not generally inquire how. Approximately their wages vary from $35 to $40 a month. They board themselves. Indian women are paid by piece work, as a rule, for filling cans. They earn from a dollar to a dollar and a quarter a day, sometimes more. They are hired by the Chinese contractor. Scarcely any Japanese and Indians are employed inside the canneries. The proportion of whites to Japanese and Indians employed in and about the canneries is about the same. We employ fewer Chinese on the Skeena, and there is a larger number of Indians and Indian women inside the canneries. We employ there about seventy-five Chinamen in each cannery, about fifteen white men and seventy-five Indians, male and female.

At Rivers Inlet we employ ninety Chinamen and about the same number of Indians, male and female, inside the cannery.

The wages at these places for inside work is about the same as at Fraser River, only we have to pay their fares up there.

In Alaska last year we employed one hundred and twenty Chinese, one hundred and sixty Indians and about twenty whites, inside the factory proper. In our Puget Sound cannery we have from one hundred and eighty to two hundred Chinese inside the cannery, and in the busy season we have probably fifty whites and say one hundred Indians additional. The work is done by contract, about twenty per cent lower than in British Columbia. This is accounted for by the fall pack being so large and the season longer. Wages to whites there is about the same as in British Columbia, but the season being longer, and the pack larger, the cost per case is very much less. We hire white men there by the season.

Everything here is done with a rush, and costs more than in the United States. Frequently the cost over there is a little more than one-half what it is in British Columbia. Materials are cheaper also.

We had not enough labour to take care of all the fish in 1897. We had all the plant and appliances on hand that was necessary, everything excepting labour. The demand for it that year was abnormal owing to the heavy run. In ordinary years labour is getting more difficult to obtain. It has necessitated more machinery being employed, though we pay about practically the same for labour per case and we make advances in cash before any work is done. The advances practically fall upon us because none of the men are very responsible. We have one contractor for each cannery. The principals reside in Victoria. The contracts are usually drawn up in the names of a working partner and a sleeping partner. The first has no means as a rule, and the other is supposed to have, although it is often found that he has not got any. It occurs

frequently that they do not get the labour we require. Our season is so short that if we miss a day or two out of the run it is a great loss to us, and we have to keep a large number of men on hand so as to cope with an emergency. The sharp demand for men does not begin until the beginning of July. We employ fewer Chinese now than seven years ago, but we have been compelled to employ more machinery and pay the Chinese the same per case for doing the work.

The ease with which labour would be obtained may have had to do with the rapid increase in the number of canneries. Labour was certainly more easily obtained in former years than now. There were larger profits made a few years ago than now or ever likely to be made again. If there are too many canneries it will mean the survival of the fittest. A considerable portion of the pack is represented by certain fixed charges which go on whether the run is good or bad, managers' salaries, steamboat services, insurance and other charges that amount up in an alarming way.

Our white labour bill in 1900, independent of managers' salaries, amounted to 92 cents a case; added to this is 16 cents per case for the messhouse bill, whereas the Chinese labour bill was $1.01 a case. In other words, out of the $7.16 a case at that cannery, the Chinese labour bill was $1.01 or one-seventh of the whole, and probably 25 per cent of the amount was paid by the Chinese contractor to the labour he employed, such as Indians, both men and women. At another cannery the white labour bill was $1.20 per case as against $88\frac{4}{10}$ cents for Chinese labour. Of course last year's figures were quite exceptional. In 1897 the white labour bill was $33\frac{8}{10}$ cents as against Chinese labour 83 cents. These figures cover an exceptionally good run and a poor one. The percentage of the cost of labour paid to the Chinese varies a little to the total cost of the pack. It varies from $13\frac{1}{2}$ in 1900, $15\frac{1}{4}$ in 1899 and $17\frac{1}{3}$ in 1896. A great deal depends on the run of fish, but the fixed charges go on.

Take the pack for the big year, that is for 1897, 1,015,477 cases, the approximate cost of which is $3,572,800. Out of that I figure that $964,656 represents material manufactured elsewhere than in British Columbia. Seventeen per cent represents the the amount paid to the Chinese labour contractor, and I think 5 per cent of the 17 per cent represents the payment by the Chinese to their Indian employees, leaving 12 per cent actually earned by the Chinese themselves. That represents earnings by the Chinese of $428,736, and the earnings of the employees of the Chinese $178,640. The balance, 50 per cent, of the total cost of production was $2,000,768. That represents the sum of money practically distributed in British Columbia for all sorts of material, labour, machinery, steamboat service, insurance, lumber and everything in fact produced in British Columbia.

Other things being equal, we would prefer to employ whites. I do not think it is a good thing to increase the restriction tax on Chinese from $50 to $100, or to have any restriction put upon the labour of the country. We must have cheap labour for production, where we have to compete in foreign markets, or to be forced out of the markets entirely. Being in a position to employ cheap labour enables us to give good pay to a large number of good men, high class men. If there were no Chinese to be had the industry would lie idle to a large extent. They receive a very small portion of the cost of production, and yet they are an important factor in the industry. The cost of production fluctuates more than his wages amount to. I think the industry has reached very nearly its maximum in British Columbia. We are suffering from competition among the canners, and we are suffering from a scarcity of Chinese labour.

The pack would be restricted enormously if we were to employ all white labour, or we would have to close up entirely. Supposing further restrictions were introduced, as long as we had the present supply of cheap labour we could get along. I believe white labour in British Columbia would be greatly benefitted by a large number of Chinese in the country. The conditions of life would be very much easier in the development of our resources if white men and their families had servants like the Chinese to do the dirty work for them. I think it is the destiny of the white men to be worked for by the inferior races.

The canneries do not supply a place for a labourer with a family to start in this province, but there is other work in the country. My view is that for the time being it

would be better to have the places requiring unskilled labour filled with Chinese, than to have them filled with white people, and reserve the higher places for the whites. I think it better that they should be employed rather than that we should not have the industries established. A great many of the white men go to the mines, and then cheap labour comes in in the form of the Chinaman. The white labour does not come in, so the difficulty goes on increasing. The presence of the Chinese cheap labour here enables industries to go on that would otherwise be impossible, and the country is benefitting in consequence.

No cannery on the coast has ever successfully employed exclusively white labour. The Chinese are steady in their habits, reliable in their work and reliable to make contracts with. They won't strike while you have a big pile of fish on your dock. They are less trouble and less expense than whites. They are content with rough accommodation at the canneries. If you employ white people you have to put up substantial buildings with every modern appliance, only to be occupied six weeks in the year. The canneries draw upon all other industries for their Chinese labour. Quite a few domestics come to work.

Exclusion would make the conditions very acute within the next few years. The Chinamen would go home and die off. I do not think there is any reason for exclusion just now. I know there is no reason for any extension of the canneries, and if the present number of Chinese would be preserved, I believe the industry could be maintained. I believe that if traps were employed fewer men would be necessary, and the white men would receive much better pay. We will employ Chinamen just the same inside the canneries.

I believe free trade in labour for some time to come would be the best policy. I would like to see all restrictions taken off the Chinese. I have resided in Canada since 1882. I would like to see the country settled by white people, but I do not think it possible just now. The Chinese will remain a race apart. They will never assimilate, and it is not desirable that they should. I look upon them as steam engines or any other machine, the introduction of which deprives men of some particular employment, but in the long run, it enormously increases the employment. The Chinese standard of living is not comparable at all with that of the white man. I know white men would not care to live as they do.

At Astoria, Oregon, where they have a population of eight or ten thousand white people, they employ almost entirely Chinese for the same work as we do. There are probably about six thousand Chinese in the canneries in British Columbia. The few weeks a white man would be employed in the cannery would not make it possible for a white man to start a family upon.

Prior to 1895 the salmon industry on Puget Sound was very limited indeed, but it grew very rapidly afterwards. The packs for three years were as follow:—

	1898.	1899.	1900.
Puget Sound	355,000	871,500	432,000
Fraser River	256,000	510,000	316,000

The pack on Puget Sound was divided amongst seventeen canneries as against forty-eight on Fraser River.

Filling machines work more satisfactorily if the fish are fresh, as from trap fishing. No filling machines are used in this vicinity. Fraser River packers have found it to their advantage to keep up the quality of the pack by carefully hand-filling the cans. Machines are used in Alaska and some on Puget Sound, but if we used them we would have to take so much less for our fish, though by using them we could dispense with a great deal of labour.

The Automatic Can Company saves Chinese labour, but canners, to make sure of the advance to the Chinese and to keep them through the season, prefer to pay a premium to them in order to have them on hand during packing operations. 12½ cents are allowed to Chinese when the cans are made at the cannery. I think the cost for labour at the Automatic Can Company is about five cents a case. The capacity of our

canneries in British Columbia is about 13,600 cases a day. The cost of our plant to insure that production would not be less than $360,000.

We find that day labour costs more than contracting inside the cannery. The Chinese boss can obtain better results than we can with the same men. Undoubtedly if there was an abundance of labour for the inside work of the canneries we could handle a great many more fish and pay better prices for them. In July and August I would place the number of people engaged directly in the business in British Columbia at from 20,000 to 25,000 full grown men and women. Harvesting happens about the same time. The summer months are the best in almost every line of business. A small proportion of the fishermen bring their families with them, excepting the Indians. White women would not care to camp out under the conditions that exist during the fishing season. Almost everybody in the province is either directly or indirectly interested in the canneries.

I think the Chinese are particularly adapted to the canning industry. I cannot well conceive conditions, that the canneries can bring about at the present time more favourable to the white men of the country without stifling the business itself. We are able to carry on the industry with the aid of the Chinese, which would not exist otherwise.

If it were not for the competition of the Alaska canneries with their cheaper fish, the canneries in British Columbia would be pretty well off. The canneries of British Columbia could easily put up two million cases if the fish were there.

I do not think the whites are being replaced by the Chinese. As a practical fact the canners have not found it possible to employ whites for that class of work. The Chinese make very good wages. I do not know what the views of other canners are in respect to immigration.

We put up an especially high grade of goods on the Fraser and spend a great deal of extra labour in doing so, to fill a special market in England.

The average number of fishermen connected with our canneries would be from nine hundred to a thousand men. About half of the fishermen are white men; the balance are Japanese and Indians; probably a little more of the balance are Japanese.

On the Skeena we employ about 150 fishermen; that is, net men and boat pullers, chiefly Indians. Of them, there are perhaps thirty white men at each place, and twenty-five Japanese all told. Indian labour is becoming scarce.

At Rivers Inlet we have about 220 net men and boat pullers. Of these, about 40 are white men, about 40 Japanese, and the rest are Indians. Last year was the first year we employed Japanese to any extent.

The fishing in Alaska is all done by seining, at which we employ about sixty or seventy men. We supply the gear, and the men are paid so much a fish. There is a larger quantity of fall fish packed there than altogether in British Columbia. Responsible men are paid high wages there, probably $90 a month.

Fishing on Puget Sound is done principally by traps by all white labour, which is very well paid. We cannot really call them fishermen. They are cutting piles and driving them with steam pile drivers, running steamers, &c. Gill nets are used very little there. We employ no gill nets, whatever, although we buy a few fish from the gill net men. Trap fishing is licensed by the Fish Commissioner, for which we pay $50 a trap. The traps are placed in navigable water. Any American individual or corporation, formed or established under the laws of the State of Washington is entitled to use three traps. Their size varies very much; some are 2,000 feet in length; 1,200 would be a fair average. There is no exact width.

It is a system of continuous fishing, and at the same time a sort of warehousing them, keeping them alive. I hardly think the work could be done by the Japanese. The piles are taken out every year. Some traps are very costly. The average first cost would be about $3,000, and including the cost of operating it, and wear and tear, about $4,000 for one season. The difference in cost is in getting a good or bad location. Much experimenting has to be done to get a place where traps lay down properly, and where the piles may be driven to advantage, and to provide against them being washed away by a heavy tide. Our total expenditure on seventeen traps last year, including the

labour in connection with them was $97,000; that included three traps on the British side at Boundary Bay, which we have operated for some time under a license. This will be our sixth year on Puget Sound.

Fishermen in Northern Alaska can catch 1,500 fish a day with one-third the netting we use on the Fraser River.

In 1896 the average cost of fish at four canneries was $2.07 a case. The average cost on Puget Sound the same year was $1.05 a case. In 1897 fish were the lowest I have ever known. On the Fraser River fish cost on an average at four canneries about 95 cents a case. On Puget Sound the cost was 84 cents, but owing to the very large number of fish we caught and could not use there, we had to liberate them. Labour was not obtainable. On the Fraser the price started at ten cents per fish, eight cents after a while, and I daresay some off lots at odd times for five or six cents. We calculate about twelve and a half fish to the case. The fish are smaller in big runs. In 1898 the difference in cost per case in favour of Puget Sound was 80 cents; in 1899 about 44 cents; in 1900 it was in favour of Fraser River by about $1.13.

Alaska is a great factor. There must have been twelve or fifteen new canneries put up there this year in addition to additions put to others. In 1897, if there had been more Chinese we should have given employment to more white men outside in fishing. There were very few Japanese then. In a big year the cost of fish is a great factor.

The parties who interested themselves in Puget Sound in the first instance were British Columbia packers. The industry has been driven very largely across to Puget Sound because they are not hampered with so many restrictions there as to fishery regulations, &c. They saw a chance of getting more fish there and getting them cheaper by the use of traps. They have no close season there.

The crew for a trap consists of five or six men, who get $50 or $60 a month each and board. Two extensive traps might keep a cannery going, or it might take ten. In early days on the Fraser River forty boats would catch enough fish to supply a cannery. It has become necessary to employ one hundred boats now. Traps would alter the situation very much. Fewer men would be employed, and they would become more mechanics than fishermen. You can do better with traps. The fish can be kept alive for a few days before they are required. If, as has happened on several occasions, an enormous run of fish has come, and we cannot use them all, it is possible to open the trap and let the fish go. These are not destroyed; whereas catching fish with gill nets you cannot keep them long, and great care has to be exercised in the selection of fish brought in by gill net boats. If traps were used I think entirely white labour would be employed, as at present on Puget Sound. By them we could dispense with a great many fishermen, but to adopt them immediately would constitute a hardship and an injury to the fishermen. I look upon trap fishing as being the scientific method of catching salmon for the market.

I should think $65 would be a fair figure to allow for the depreciation of the value of a boat and net for a season. We pay now about $77 for a round bottom boat, whereas we used to buy flat-bottomed skiffs for from $25 to $35. Canners frequently commence the season by paying a figure for fish which they know will result in a loss to them just to get the work started.

The average fisherman on the Skeena catches more fish than on the Fraser. The average number of fishermen on the Skeena is a little smaller per cannery, and the canners there do not prepare such large packs. We pay 20 cents a fish on the Fraser, 10 cents a fish on the Skeena, and in Alaska from 1 cent to 8 cents a fish. We catch them in our own traps on Puget Sound.

Fish kept in traps begin to suffer after three days. Regulations for close time could be easier enforced with traps, and they would be better for the spawning grounds. That is clearly proved, I think, by the number of fish that go up the river on Monday morning. During a heavy run you are able to liberate the superfluous fish from the traps. Personally I believe it would be in the interests of both canners and fishermen if an arrangement could be made to reduce the number of boats on the Fraser River. I have seen 15,000 fish taken out of a trap in forty minutes. The trap has as great an

advantage over net fishing as an express train over a wheel-barrow. I have known of one boat earning $200 a day on the Fraser River.

We made heavy losses on Puget Sound last year. We lost money on the Fraser for the last three years. In the world's market we have to compete with a cheaper production in Alaska. There the fish cost very little. They can produce at $2.25 to $2.50 per case delivered in San Francisco. It is practically the same fish, but not as good as the Fraser River or Skeena fish. The Alaska fish finds a market in the United States chiefly. From 450,000 to 500,000 cases of Alaska fish go to the United Kingdom. They do not command as good a price as the Fraser River fish, because of our pack being of such a good class. The average difference in the market price would, I think, be from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a case in the English market. Alaska is our chief competitor, although Puget Sound is running it pretty close. Puget Sound can take a good place with Fraser River. The difference in cost on the Fraser River on an average over Puget Sound per case was, in 1896, 89 cents; in 1897, (that was a big run) the difference was 13 cents; in 1898, about $1.26; in 1899, about $1.90; in 1900, about 68 cents. The average market value of sock-eyes is a very difficult question to answer. After the shortage was known last year the price went away up, to 27s. 6d. from 22s.

Most people sold in advance last year and lost severely in consequence. As a rule they sell partly in advance and hold partly for the future. I do not think people can sell at all just now; there is no business offering. We sell British Columbia salmon in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. Our Alaska and Puget Sound output we sell in the United States and the United Kingdom. The cost of fish was less prior to 1897.

As an inducement for white labour to come here we cannot pay a trifle more, as we depend upon conditions we cannot control. The market does not depend on whether you employ Chinese or not.

British Columbia, under favourable circumstances, may furnish 1,000,000 cases out of a total pack for the coast of 3,500,000. The Canadian market takes from 80,000 to 100,000 cases.

Frank Burnett, of Vancouver, President of the United Canners' Company, Limited, said: I have been connected with the cannery business for four years. Production by our company last year about 50,000 cases. We employ from 200 to 600 Chinese. We do not employ any Chinese, except the cook, except by contract. We contract with one man to make the cans and fill them and prepare them for shipment. The contractor is a Chinaman. He employs Indian women by the month. I do not know what the Chinamen under him earn per day. We let the contract by bargain.

We contract that women altogether shall be employed for the cleaning of the fish. As a matter of fact we supply them and charge them to the contractor. We can get the women better than he can. They do the work of cleaning the fish better than Chinese. We have been able to get enough Indian women to do that work. We have three canneries, two two years old and one three years old. The Chinese make the cans, fill them, solder them, cook them, lacquer them and fill them into the cases. We have five white men in each cannery, perhaps eight or twelve in each. All canneries do not pay alike to the boss Chinaman. The work is done a little cheaper since we have used machinery. White men could do the work of the Chinese in the canneries. With a little experience I think he could do the work as well as the Chinaman. I do not think he could do it as cheaply. Chinese are very clever at it. If a Chinaman takes the contract he gets Chinese to do the work. The boss Chinaman has not had any difficulty that I know of so far in getting sufficient Chinamen.

The Chinese have nothing to do with catching the fish. We have never tried to get white men to do the work of Chinese. I do not think the white men are here in sufficient numbers to do the work, and be out of employment the rest of the time. I do not know where you could get employment for the immense number of men employed for the fishing season in the forty canneries on the Fraser River.

If no more Chinese came in we would have no difficulty in getting all we want. The Chinese who are here are the ones we want. If there was exclusion there would be no difficulty at the present time, but there would be in the future; that would depend

upon the mortality of the Chinese here. Sentimentally I am in favour of restriction, but from a business point of view I would favour it to a certain extent. The increase of a tax from $50 to $100 I do not think amounts to anything. I think a higher poll tax would be advisable. I would not absolutely exclude the Chinese, but it would prevent such a large number coming in. I am inclined to think too many have come in. What to suggest is hard to say; $300 I think would certainly tend to keep a large number from coming in, tend to decrease the number. I do not think it would keep them from coming in altogether. Exclusion would affect us very soon; some die, and some go back to China. Our contractor tells us he had difficulty in getting all the Chinese he wanted. It was not to his interest to say so. It might be his interest to say so while the Commission is sitting. My idea is that the equilibrium obtains now,—that there is enough here now, but I would restrict increase to a certain number coming in, so as to supply the demand. Sentimentally I prefer exclusion. I would certainly rather see the country developed by white labour. I think that would be desirable, because the Chinaman does not assimilate. He is a foreigner all the time. It is not desirable that they should assimilate. Those who pretend to assimilate and pretend to belong to churches are far worse than those who do not profess to be converted. Their profession of conversion in nearly every case is hypocrisy. They become tremendous rascals, when they pretend to become Christians. An unconverted Chinaman is generally honest, and can always be relied on to keep a contract. The more converted a Chinaman becomes the worse he becomes. As to the character of Chinese for honesty, with the exception of those who pretend to be converted, I have found no better people as regards honesty, for keeping their contracts. I think they are far ahead of the Japanese as regards the keeping their contracts. The Chinaman will keep a contract whether he wins or loses by it as far as possible.

The English market is our principal market. We do not control the trade by any means; our great competitor is Alaska in the English and Australian markets. I know that they can sell fish cheaper than we can. The price of fish in the English market varies very much. I think there are not enough white men and Indians to do the fishing on the river. I do not think there are too many nets on the river. In the heavy runs there were more fish caught than could be saved.

The position taken that if there were a fewer number of boats the fishermen would catch more to the boat, is theory. There has been no opportunity to prove that yet. The boss never complained of any scarcity of Chinese labour. On account of the strike last year the Chinese were idle half the time.

We cannot pay the same price for fish one year as another. If there is a pack of 600,000 cases on the Fraser river we are not going to get the same price in England as if there were only 200,000 cases put up. It is a case of supply and demand. The price went away up when it was found that the pack was a failure last year, and it would have gone down if the pack had been a great success. The price has gone down from 38s. to 28s. 6d. for half pound flats. During the strike it went up 8 shillings in a week or two weeks; that would mean an advance of 20 cents a fish; of course that was phenomenal. The extent of the run and the fluctuation of the market is one of the difficulties in respect of the trouble in fixing the price. You can no more make the price more continuous or more steady, than you can arrange for the price of wheat or any other commodity to be more steady. I have sold out almost completely. I have made no money in it. To-day I have practically no cannery stock at all, and I am glad, too. I think a great many I have met have been no more fortunate than I have been. There have been no failures, but many are in the hands of the banks and the banks have to carry them. There must certainly be a certain number of people to take care of the fish of the canneries, but not necessarily Chinese. The Chinese are necessary at the present time, because I do not think there is white labour enough available. There is a parallel case in Manitoba. When the wheat crop comes on they have to provide for the harvesting by bringing white labourers in from the east, and taking them back again when the harvest is over. The same conditions exist there. I was fifteen years in Manitoba and know how it was. It is a question whether the Canadian Pacific Railway could bring so many here, and take them back again to do the same here. The Chinese get well paid for the time they

are working; it is not cheap labour by any means. Some of them would probably be employed for four months, and others for six or seven weeks; about two-thirds for only six or seven weeks.

I do not think there are too many canneries; I do not think there are too many fishermen. Every four years we have a good run. I believe in free trade. It is a case of the survival of the fittest.

If white fishermen were there we would rather deal with them. We pay fishermen the same price all round.

If you increase the cannery for a big year you lose so much more in other years, so it becomes purely a matter of dollars and cents. I think they have reached the limit now; that is the way I have got out of the business.

I think mostly from domestic service the Chinese are drawn, that work inside the canneries. I know of two canneries that have practically failed. The traps on the other side is one thing that has decreased the price of their fish.

James Anderson, whose cannery is in the city of New Westminster, said: I corroborate the evidence of Mr. Ewen as to the labour question, what it cost in machinery, and the like. I might differ with him a little about the number of canneries. We could do with fewer canneries, but the people who put their money into them, that is their concern.

We cannot carry on the industry without the Chinese under present conditions. I employ about 125 men all told. I start my white men on April 1, and last year I had them until November 1. I am not in favour of Chinamen coming in as freely as they please. My opinion is to get rid of Chinese and Japanese if the conditions will allow it. I think you can do better without the Japanese than without the Chinese. The Chinese do not fish, but if we got white men and their families we might get the Chinese out. That would take a number of years. That is, it would take some time. As conditions are, you cannot get white girls or boys to go to the canneries, because the Chinese are there, and they do not want to associate with them. They do not care to work alongside the Chinese. If no more Chinese came in, having regard to the numbers that are here, the change to white labour would come about gradually. It would cost white people a good deal to come to the coast. There would be work for them if there were no Chinese or Japanese.

I would like to see nothing but white labour in the country. I am speaking personally, not from a business standpoint. If there was further restriction on further immigration, there would be the difficulty of replacing the labour, that is our difficulty. The presence of Chinese and Japanese here may have a tendency to keep out white immigration, but personally I cannot say. It is a serious matter to have all the avenues of labour filled with Japanese and Chinese. We would build up the country much quicker with white labour. The Chinese supply a certain class of cheap labour that you cannot now fill with white men, but that would soon remedy itself. For removing that difficulty I say there is no time like the present. The remedy will have to come some time, and I suppose you may as well begin now. Of course, speaking for the canning industry, we are a little handicapped here now by the competition on the other side. If no more Chinese were allowed to come in, the change would be gradual. I think it would be a mistake to make any radical change. Many of the Chinese go to the United States, I believe, and I believe some of them are going to Toronto now as domestic servants. I would prefer to see the oriental going out, rather than our people.

Thomas R. Smith, of Robert Ward & Co., general agents, Victoria, said: Have been in the canning business as an employer three or four years. The industry was largely developed before I went into it. The industry is not dependent altogether on Japanese labour. The length of the fishing season is about two and a half months. It is not always the same. It depends on the run of fish. The supply of fish is intermittent. There may be a good supply one day and no supply the next day. These men have to wait there. Fishermen sell their fish by contract at a certain price. Of course labour is required inside the canneries to take care of the fish that are brought in by the fishermen. Fishermen are a class entirely distinct from the labourers inside the canneries. I do not think the labourers catching the fish and the labourers taking care of

Q. Having regard to the number that are in the country at present, do you think that industry is dependent upon any further admission of labour of that kind for its continuance?—A. No, I do not think so. Of course labour will have to be obtained. If it has to be obtained at a higher price so much the worse for the industry. I should say the Chinese are the least undesirable. I think they are preferable as a matter of comparison.

The Chinese will never assimilate. They are a distinct and alien race—alien in speech, habits and civilization—in every way.

Q. Do you think it in the interests of this country to further increase a race of that kind?—A. I do not think so. In the general interests of the country, I should say not.

It would be unwise for a white man with a family to come into the province, unless he has something in view before he comes, because he would have to enter into competition with the labour that is in the market here. It is just such a man as that who would go away greatly disgusted with British Columbia, and injure the province, because he could not live here and compete.

Q. Would you advise white men, white labouring men, to come to Victoria, under existing conditions?—A. No, I do not think so. Whether they would not be a far more desirable class of citizens is a different question.

Q. From your knowledge of the canning industry, do you believe the profits of the cannerymen are as good as the profits of the manufacturers throughout the country?—A. Yes, it is a very progressive industry of course.

Q. You think they would make fully as much profit as other industries?—A. Yes. Last year was a poor year, and it was not very good the year before that.

Q. Do you think it is wise that the Government should encourage the immigration of Chinese into the country?—A. No, I think the general policy should be to keep the Chinese out, and gradually to get white men in.

G. A. Kirk, of Victoria, said: We have three canneries and employ seventy Chinese in each cannery. We might have ten white men. We pay the Chinese contractors so much per case. We have introduced labour-saving machines in the canneries and where the work is done by them we charge the Chinamen for that. White men have never done the whole work. The white men cannot give us sufficient men to do the fishing. We employ all the white men that offer. We are only too glad to get hold of them. I know that but for the Japanese several canneries would have to shut down next year. I do not think there are too many Japanese fishermen. I think we pay better wages than on the other side of the line.

Charles F. Todd, wholesale grocer and salmon canner, said: I have resided in Victoria 37 or 38 years. There is no competition between Chinese and whites in the lines of labour I employ, that is canning, because they are not doing the same thing. The condition does not arise. We employ white men as superintendents. We contract at so much per case with the Chinese firm. It is one of the conditions that they shall not sublet their contract. The business could not be carried on without the Chinese. The labour could not be found. We have been in business since 1882. If they were not here the business would not have been developed. The Chinese are employed at the same work on the other side of the line at a cheaper rate, except in some places in Alaska where they may be able to get enough native workers. The fisheries on the coast depend on Chinese labour. I think there are between sixty and seventy canneries in the Province employing on an average I should think about 75 men each, probably from three to five thousand Chinese altogether. Up north they have some Indian help, but the work is not so much manual labour as it is expert labour, such as soldering. The packing season on the Fraser River is from four to eight weeks. A man would not get probably more than four weeks' work the season.

There may be enough Chinamen now to fill up all the requirements. I think so at the present time unless the labour were diverted so that it would not be available. Chinese are not as desirable as whites, but there are lots of whites no more to be desired than Chinese.

Q. If no further immigration of Chinese were allowed, do you think that trade would gradually adapt itself to the changed conditions, not to put out the Chinese that

are here?—A. I do not know. It would depend on conditions not alone in British Columbia. The canning business is not confined to British Columbia, but is governed largely by outside conditions, so unless the conditions should change in Alaska and Puget Sound and elsewhere, white labour could not be available at a low enough wage; unless the wages were low enough there is only one thing would happen, it is simply a question of a fisherman taking less for the fish, or the white people to be paid more for putting them up, and if we had to pay more for putting the fish up the fishermen would have less for the fish they caught.

The price varies very much. In the United States the methods of catching salmon are different from ours. They get them cheaper. They have a large home market and they go to the English market as well. Generally they export more than we do.

I would not recommend the Chinese should be allowed to come in without restriction. It would be overdone. There are enough here. I should think, unless the flow becomes greater than at the present time $100 is sufficient. There are a very few coming into the country now, that is as far as I know.

We have from 175 to 200 fishermen, all full grown men. All the Indian women who come to the cannery are employed. There is a great scarcity and competition for them. I have known them to be paid as high as $3 a day. Indian boys are largely employed. Wages for women are 15 or 20 cents an hour. Boys, 10 to 15 years old, 10 to 15 cents an hour. They wash the fish apart from the Chinese. We sometimes employ them subject to the Chinese and deduct what we pay them from the Chinese contract. They board themselves; have cabins, tents and houses at the canneries for their accommodation. Have never employed white men and boys for the same purpose. You would have to have better accommodation for white people. The season is so short. For instance, over on Puget Sound the canneries are sometimes located in cities where they may employ a certain amount of white help who live at home, but in British Columbia the conditions are entirely different. I do not see how it is possible to employ white help at all. I would certainly not like to see it done. It is very degrading. White fishermen very seldom bring their families to the canneries. The fishermen are not inclined to work inside the canneries and do not bring labour with them to take care of the fish they catch. Of the 350 fishermen I think about 100 were Japanese. In the past a good many of them expected to get their living out of fishing only, but are wakening up to the necessity of finding some other employment as well. They find they cannot get a year's living out of one or two months' work now.

We have been engaged in the canning business in Puget Sound; employed Chinese and white people in the same capacity as here. Wages are less there than here; for the Chinese about 20 per cent less; whites about the same wages. Cost of living cheaper there; cost of machinery we found was 50 per cent cheaper than here. The necessities of life are cheaper too, cheaper over there; meat and farm produce are very much cheaper over there; 75 per cent of the fish over there are caught by traps, probably ten men for one trap; with many traps together they probably would not average more than six men to a trap. The men were largely Swedes, Norwegians, Russians and Finns. Take an ordinary successful trap and the ordinary results on the Fraser River, I should think a liberal estimate would be four traps would give you the same results as 150 or 200 fishermen on the Fraser River. It would depend largely in the way traps were situated and worked. I have known one instance where one trap caught more fish than 175 fishermen did on the Fraser River, where there would not be over eight or ten men employed.

We paid on the average on the Fraser River the year before last 22 cents a fish, and on Puget Sound we estimated on a fair average the fish cost us about five cents, if the traps were favourably located; 17 cents a fish difference, or equal to $2 a case is a fair average for the year 1899. Their season is longer over there; the foreign market takes only the best of fish, whereas their local market takes any kind of fish; therefore canneries can start on May 1 over on the other side and run until the end of November as they do in many cases. Over there men are employed much longer and make much more time than men do over here.

One of the advantages of the trap method of fishing is, that they are able to catch fish alive, therefore they can keep their fish on hand between the runs of the schools by using double pots holding the fish and keeping them alive until such time as they are able to use them. Whereas on the Fraser River the fish have to be used as soon after they are caught as possible. I believe the fish in traps have been held alive as long as two weeks on some occasions. It works to the advantage of the labourer in giving them a longer season to work and more constant work. In the canning industry, where there is great competition, it is necessary to have the same conditions as elsewhere in order to compete.

Q. Could you dispense with a large amount of that labour in our fishing if you used traps?—A. I should say so. You may make it up to a man in some way by giving him longer employment, and in one year employing 35 men for seven or eight months in the year, whereas you now employ 175 men for only six weeks. They work by the month. With the use of traps Japanese could be dispensed with very largely. A man cannot afford to catch fish at the same price as they can be caught in the traps.

All their sockeye salmon like ours emanate from the Fraser River. They depend almost altogether on salmon from the Fraser River. We employ ten white men in each cannery. The price of fish ran from 15 cents down to 6 cents four years ago. Of course at that time the American traps were catching fish at one cent a fish.

Two men will do as much work with a soldering machine to-day as 75 men working by hand would have done some years ago. We pay more for the fish now and the price in the market has not gone up. The contract price, even with the machinery being added every year, has not gone down. There are enough canneries here for the fish running. Traps could have restrictions put on them the same as any other methods of fishing. I look at it simply as a commercial man.

W. A. Munroe, of Steveston, said: I am manager of the Phœnix and Britannic canneries, which belong to the Anglo-British Columbia Packing Company. In 1897 we had more white labour than usual. It was a large run and the Chinese were not obtainable. Our people in Vancouver set to work and sent as many white people over as they could gather up, I think 15 or 20, and about the same number came from the Westminster Automatic Can Factory. Most of those from the can factory were boys. Part of the cans were made in that factory I myself stood outside the dyke and tried to get Indian men and women to do the work; labour was very scarce that year. We had quite a number of cans from the Automatic Can Factory in 1897. The Chinamen did not object to these cans that I am aware of. I never knew that any of our cans were punctured by anyone. They did not object to the capping machine that I am aware of. As far as puncturing cans or damaging the machine goes I do not know anything about that. We had a number of strangers who were sent from Vancouver, men not accustomed to work on machines, and because the machines would not work easily they might have thought that the Chinese had been monkeying with them. We had a little difficulty with the Chinese that year. I think it was because a number of them were opium-smokers, and we wanted to get all the work out of them we could. The whole trouble did not amount to much. The contract system did not prevent me from engaging all the white labour available for the cannery. I got all the labour I could get hold of; the contract provides for that. It is immaterial to us what labour the Chinaman brings. When fish are plentiful we are always willing to pay good prices for labour. The canning industry has not been profitable for some time. Some men went into the business and came out all right. The average man who goes into the business is very soon tied up; that is the man who goes in with a little capital.

William Campbell, manager of the Automatic Canning Company, New Westminster, said: The factory running to its full capacity will turn out about 200,000 cans a day. We employ from thirty to eighty, all whites, men, boys and girls. We make cans for some of the canneries. We do not make all the cans for the company of which Bell-Irving is manager. We are usually employed on cans for about four months in the year in the summer time. I believe we can make them more cheaply than the canneries can make by hand. I believe that the labour is about one-half between the factory and hand labour. We have been in existence four years. The labour costs about $1 per thousand

cans. The canners say they have to have Chinese help, and they employ them in making cans for some time before the fishing season so that they will have the men on hand when the fishing season comes on. We have an advantage over individual canners in buying our material in large blocks. If the canning industry depended absolutely on our product, there would be no trouble in having enough on hand for the whole of them. There has only been a stringency on one or two occasions by reason of tin not arriving in the country in time. I never heard of any of our cans having been punctured or made defective by the Chinese in order to have the cans made by themselves. We have had no trouble in getting white labour, and I would rather have it. Our trade grows in miscellaneous cans. I do not suppose we supply more than one-tenth of the cans used on the Fraser River. We manufacture cans of all sizes and descriptions.

Lee Soon, of New Westminster, said: I have been in this country sixteen years. I have been in the canning business five years. I have got about $30,000 of capital invested. I have ten partners, some are here and some of them are in China. I employ eighty to one hundred hands; 20 per cent of them are white men. I have an engineer, net boss, watchman, fish collector, and some young boys who carry fish to the cans. We have also steamboat men. Our steamer would be worth $2,750. We have from fifty to sixty Chinese in the cannery, no Japanese. Last year I had five boats of Japanese. The rest of the fishermen were white men and Indians.

I would like to see our people come in very well. I would like to see the head tax remain as it is now, $100, and not be increased any further. With a head tax like that the population would not increase any further. I am also in the merchandising business. Men in the cannery business lost a great deal last year. At first the fishermen were not satisfied, but after the strike they were satisfied, they told me so.

I own considerable land in this country. It is under cultivation. We employ fifteen to eighteen Indians inside the cannery beside the fishermen. I brought all the capital I invested here from China. I paid $1,565 to white labour in the cannery last year, and $600 for wages on the steamboat. I am called on for public subscriptions, and I always subscribe. We had about twenty boats of white fisherman last year and from twelve to eighteen boats with Indians. The fishermen say there are too many boats. I think not too many boats, but too many canneries. I pay the same for fish to all. White men and Indians work our cannery boats. White fishermen struck first last year. It was not easy to get fishermen to work for me last year. There was a lot of fish last year, but there was a strike on, and they did not go out and get them. I do not think there are enough Chinamen for all the canneries this year. We cannot take so much fish from the fishermen if we have not enough men to take care of them.

We hire the men at the first of July. There are just about as many men available now as last year.

Thomas Robinson, of New Westminster, assistant to the Inspector of fisheries, said: We have no means of ascertaining the value of a plant of the individual fisherman as distinct from the whole. The statement gives the value of plant. In 1896 there were 14,227 employees. The value of the plant then was $2,197,248. In 1897 the number of employees was 19,850, the value of the plant $2,350,260. In 1898 employees 20,695, plant $2,480,245. In 1899 employees 20,037, plant $2,145,173. In 1900 employees 20,262, plant $2,839,904. These figures are from the Government return as far as published by the department, and beyond that from our own office records. The information is from the various canneries in answer to a form of questions that is submitted to them.

The price is based on ten cents a pound, so the figures will show the difference in bulk more than the market price. It will show the value of the production, rather than the market price. With regard to the plant, we have no means of ascertaining it apart from the plant which belongs to the individual fisherman. The statement includes everything in the industry. It is made up partly from the cannery returns, and partly based on the number of licenses issued.

As to the employment of Chinese in canneries, in my opinion the present conditions are unnatural. The Chinese were here, were brought here from the east and the canners have made use of them, but I think that with white help they could have done the

same work. We have depended on the Chinese till we think we need them, until we seemingly need them. Some people have worked themselves into the belief that they are necessary. We have created the necessity by our action in using them. I was at one time interested in the Fraser River Industrial Cannery. There were eighty or ninety interested in it as a co-operative association, nearly one-half were fishermen. The inside work was done by Chinamen. They had not very much to say about employing Chinese. They accepted the directions of their financial agent.

The Co-operative Cannery was sold by bankrupt sale. The difficulty I should say was in the first place lack of capital, and lack of harmony amongst the membership. It ran three or four seasons. I think we had one or two successful seasons. It had profit in 1896, but I think it went behind in 1897.

I have no knowledge personally to draw comparisons with labour conditions in lobster and vegetable canneries elsewhere, with salmon canning on the Fraser. I believe it was difficult to get some expert Chinamen one year. I think there were fish refused last year by the canners. The capacity of a cannery depends upon the labour and the plant within it. The canneries are very rarely worked to their full capacity, on account of the run of fish. It always seemed to me that when there were plenty of fish they were choked. I think there was a shortage of Chinamen in 1896. There was a scarcity of Chinese labour in 1897 when the run was on.

It would take some time for the white men to become expert in the canneries under present conditions, because the work is in the hands of the Chinese.

G. H. West, fisherman, of New Westminster, said: I think restriction of Chinese and Japanese is absolutely necessary, for the reason that we have been crowded out by them. The Chinese do not interfere with us in gill netting. The Chinese should be restricted. White men and Indians should have the opportunity of making the money and spending it in the country. I should like to see the tax made so high that no more Chinese could come in. In Australia they have a tax for fishing licenses, and they have to pay a poll tax as well. Chinamen and white fishermen are taxed the same here. Chinese fill so many places in lumber mills during the rest of the year that white men cannot get work and cannot make a living. We only require to encourage our own people to come, but if you wish European immigration it can easily be got if the Chinese were not here. If they were sure of work they would come. I would be in favour of the Government bringing them in.

The Chinese are increasing in the industry on the other side, but they have got a whole lot of white people working with them in the canneries there. A white man can earn more over there.

Hezekiah Stead, fisherman, of New Westminister, said: I have seen factories and canneries run in the east successfully without either Chinese or Japanese. The presence of Chinese tends to keep white settlers from coming in, and discourages those who are in. A white working man who may have saved a little before he came here is scared to invest anything in the country, and they go to a country where they have not competition such as the Chinese or Japanese.

I think the canners have nothing to do with the help. The contractor is supposed to supply all the help that is required. I think they hire one or two white persons, but if they hired more they would lose the contract I suppose. They would have to pay larger wages and would lose. I was inside the canneries in 1897. I think everybody could get work then inside the canneries that wanted to work. Not many fishermen worked inside. I think they would get work then there. I know there is a clause in the contract between Chinese contractor and the canner that the canner may put on anybody he likes to work in the cannery at certain wages, if there is not sufficient labour otherwise. I do not know of anyone doing it.

Speaking of canneries in the east, I refer to lobster, salmon fishing and other industries in Newfoundland. My sisters worked in an oil factory and a lobster factory at 40 cents a day. The white boys and girls did the work there much more satisfactorily than the Chinese do here. Just a few white people are employed around the canneries here when they could not get Chinese to take the places. The capacity of a lobster cannery in the east is from 500 to 3,000 cases in a season. I think the season is two months

for the lobster fishing. We have machinery in some factories, some are on a small scale. They got white people there from the fishing villages and from the fishermen's families. There have been quite a number of people come here from Newfoundland, and they are moving home again because of the Chinese and Japanese. They do not come to stay here and compete. They think it is likely to be better there in the future, and they would not build houses here and settle.

I do not think the traps are going to hurt fishing at all on the river; the traps on the American side, I mean. It is my opinion that the fish will follow their own course up the river, and they will shun the traps; they will learn to shun the traps. It did not take long for the fish in Newfoundland to keep clear of the traps near shore.

John C. Kendall, fisherman, of New Westminster, said: If the Chinese and Japanese continue to come in here I will either have to leave or to starve. The Mongolians have cut me out of everything as well as they have done in the fishing. During the three years I have been here, I have only been able to secure work for four months outside of the fishing. I cannot get work outside of the city.

I do not believe that canners cannot get white labour here. I have met white men with tears in their eyes starving, and could not get work because of the Chinese and Japanese here.

George Mackie, fisherman, of New Westminster, said: No more Chinese or Japanese should be allowed here, because white immigration is more desirable. Enough white people have left here since I came to supply all the demands for labour, if the Chinese and Japanese had not been here. I know a great many people in the cities who would be glad to get employment that the Chinese and Japanese have to-day, more particularly the Chinese. There are enough white men and Indians in the province to do all the fishing. In the old country at the herring curing establishments they do the same work as the canneries here all with white labour. If no more Chinamen came in the canners would turn round and employ white boys and girls, and in one season would become as expert as any Chinaman. The Chinese only employ white boys and girls at the time of a big rush. The presence of the Mongolians not only prevents immigration of white people, but it drives many people who are here out of the country. Men who came from Scotland and Canada are returning to where they came from. A floating population that used to come here only come now in small numbers.

They employ Chinese in the canneries because it saves the management a great deal of bother. There would not be much trouble to get white labour.

Rev. John Perry Bowell, clergyman of the Methodist Church, New Westminster, said: I am personally acquainted with a large number of fishermen, who came to the province with the expectation of finding profitable employment in the fisheries on the Fraser, and the deep sea fisheries as well. Those who came several years ago succeeded to their own satisfaction. Several of them secured little blocks of land and built for themselves homes; but the greater portion of them were not only fishermen, but were skilled mechanics—carpenters and shipbuilders—and specially fitted to go into shipbuilding. Since the influx of Chinese these same people are pretty severely tested. Many of them had to go all over the province seeking employment, and a large number had to leave the country. Nearly all of these were men with families. Were the Chinese and Japanese not here, I am persuaded we would get a large number of people from Newfoundland. I have a great many letters from there inquiring as to the conditions here, but I would consider it a great crime on my part to advise any of these people to come here. Were the conditions such as they ought to be in a British province, large numbers of men from eastern points would easily be induced to take up little holdings and settle here. Owing to the increased cost of living of this coast the condition of the labourer here is no better than the condition of the unskilled labourer in the east, and the man out of employment in the east has not the great irritation of seeing the labour he could perform in the hands of foreigners. It has the effect of practically stopping white people from coming here. The Chinamen who are here would be sufficient for some time to come. On Vancouver Island especially I have observed that the Chinese are inclined to do work that white men in this country at any rate do not care to do. If our boys had work in the canneries during the fishing season they would

be a great help to their family. The canners only employ white people when there is a rush. The Chinese are employed every day, while the white people are employed sometimes for a few hours in a week. There would be no inconvenience to the canneries if no more Chinese came in. In many places near settlements, the school vacations could be made to fit in with the cannery seasons. If fishermen had their families living in the neighbourhood of the canneries, it would encourage settlement, and in the fishing season they would be readily available. Newfoundlanders have large families.

I would not like to see boys and girls under twelve years working in the canneries, but I have known boys and girls to work until two o'clock in the morning for a week at a stretch. If there were no Japanese on the river I say there would be sufficient white people to be got to work the canneries to their reasonable capacity—men, women and girls. There is destitution among the fishermen in Newfoundland, amongst the fishermen when there is a short run; there is not likely to be so much destitution here. Expensive management has a good deal to do with the trouble. Labour does not get its share. I would consider 10 per cent fair interest on money invested. In the case of the canning industry a little more interest might be allowed; I should say 25 per cent. Canners have to pay a larger price for fish now than they did before the invasion of the orientals. With fewer fishermen they would pay less, and yet the fishermen would make money. The increase in the price of fish due to orientals was not a good thing for the white people. Before the orientals came the fishermen made good wages. I have seen no evidence of the industry here being crippled by traps on the American side. In Newfoundland about two-thirds of the population, 225,000, I would say about two-thirds would be depending on the fishing industry. I should say 100,000 were actually engaged. Those people I spoke of from Newfoundland came here from ten to twelve years ago. Since I came here very little has been done in regard to deep sea fishing. I believe the cod-fish here would give employment to a large number of people, but men who understand vessels and deep sea fishing would have to engage in it.

I would call a fair remuneration in this country not less than $1.50 a day. Encouragement should be given every way for men to marry, and their families growing up in the country. I do not think the American methods of fishing are prudent, but they are not so undesirable as the presence of Chinese and Japanese here. The use of traps may be a factor, but not a very large one. The question to be considered is, will cheap Chinese benefit the employer and injure the labourer? Being one-sided some remedy should be employed. I think the fact that the Japanese is better qualified to adapt himself to the conditions prevailing here makes him a greater menace than the Chinamen, who are common to our own labouring people. I do not think there is enough white labour at present to replace the Chinese in the inside work in the canneries. A good deal of the distress which occurred in Newfoundland was attributable to the fishing having been depleted. If not attended to very soon here the result may be the same. The vast majority of the fishermen here have been unmarried men and that is not a very desirable condition of things in a new country. Fishermen who come to this country usually have been seafaring men, or fishermen elsewhere. Their first thought of course when here was fishing. A great many have come and gone away. A large proportion of the fishermen on the river are bona fide fishermen, but they cannot under present circumstances rely on fishing for a living.

M. J. Coulter, of New Westminster, said: I am vice-president of the Grand Lodge of Fishermen's Union of British Columbia. I am a fisherman, have been four years on the Fraser river. I also fished for eleven years on the Columbia river before coming here. I am a British subject.

I am opposed to the further immigration of Chinese and Japanese. They hurt the interests of white labour. In the fishing industry they are not individual but contract labour. The canneryman engages white men individually, but when he wants Chinese or Japanese he goes to a Chinese or Japanese boss and says: how many men can you supply me with, and he gets them at so much a head.

Patrick Cain, of New Westminster, fisherman, said: The Chinese ought to be excluded as well as the Japanese. The Chinese do not fish; they take care of the fish after they are caught. White people could easily be got to work in the canneries if

there were no Chinese here. If they could not get them in this country, they could get them in some other country. The cannery people will take as many fish this year I suppose as the Chinese can take care of. I do not think it would harm the country if every fisherman were required to provide labour to take care of the fish he caught himself. It would be better if it were done in that way. I think they should be able to compete with the Americans in the English markets.

Thomas Sheaves, fisherman, of New Westminister, said: The Chinese do not interfere with my business of fishing, but if they were not here I could get the cutting of cord wood out in winter and lots of other jobs. White people can do the Chinese work in the canneries just as well. It would not do for white people to depend altogether on the work that they would get inside the canneries, but there would be a great many good white settlers if there were not Chinese or Japanese in the province. I want to make a living in my own country and I want to have justice.

Alfred Totterman, fisherman, of Steveston, said: If the canneries would only employ white labour and nothing else, they could get plenty of it. The Chinese labour can be replaced by Indians and white women. I myself can supply three women to the canneries. Canners seem to prefer Chinese. I have seen lots of Indians and white women turned away right in Steveston over here. I know of many families who have got three or four children that are able to work, and two-thirds of them are married and have families.

The Chinese contractor contracts to put up all the fish for the season. Only the surplus labour is given to white people. I consider that women and boys are better than Chinamen in the canneries. If there is any inducement for white people to come here, there will be enough of them for all the work that is required in the canneries. If there were no Chinese or Japanese here there would be no difficulty in getting a sufficient number of white and Indian fishermen, citizens of the country to do all the fishing, and to secure all the canneries require. That is my opinion founded on many years' observation.

Capt. J. L. Anderson, of Vancouver, formerly a fisherman, said: Chinese take the place of cheap white labour that might be employed in the canneries. All the labour in the canneries could be easily supplied by white labour from the east, say from Montreal and Quebec, and even from Newfoundland. The canneries seem to prefer the Chinese and Japanese.

John Stewart Fraser, of New Westminster, said: The conditions existing now are alarming. They alarm me, because I have still in this province three sons, and I am very anxious for their future. When I see the central school up here dismissed at noon, and see the large number of boys coming out there I stand and pause, and think what they are going to do. Where are they going to get work? These are questions that frighten me. They cannot compete with Chinese and live respectably. Some provision must be made for them, and if the Chinese and Japanese are allowed in this country, these boys will be driven out of their own country and have to seek a living on the other side. It is not so that those boys do not wish to get employment. At the Automatic Can Factory I believe it was found that cans had been punctured, or at least one of the largest canneries where the Chinese and Japanese had been dismissed, and they sent a steamer to Vancouver, and in a very short time they found boys and girls enough to operate the Automatic Canning Company. Well, now, I cannot answer; if it was the Automatic Canning Factory, they preferred to have white boys and girls. You will understand the company manufactures all kinds of improved cans, and they found their cans were being tampered with. I was in Steveston at the time and saw the steamer there landing the boys and girls, a fine looking lot of young people, all willing to work. I think that disposes of the argument that boys are not willing to work. If you go down street in the morning you will find boys going to the different factories and asking for employment. No, sir, they are not all able to find employment because of the presence of the Chinese and Japanese.

That is true that nearly all the industries are requiring men in summer and there is not so much work in the winter. Men are employed in th canneries for a short time in the summer, and are out of employment there in the winter.

Alexander Cumyou, a Chinamen born in Canada, residing in Vancouver, said: The wages for Chinese and Japanese are higher on the American side than here, from 25 to 50 per cent. I do not know about the Japanese, but about the Chinese I do.

I visit the lower parts of the lower mainland in the capacity of an interpreter in connection with the provincial revenue tax.

John Ibbottson, fisherman, of Vancouver, said: My family wish to go to work in the canneries. They were told they could make from $1 to $1.50 a day. My wife and three children were there for 96 days. They earned for 96 days $74 for the four of them. One was thirteen years old, another seventeen, another twenty-two. My wife is about sixty-three. The youngest was a boy, the other two were girls. They were working by the day or by the hour. They were to get from ten to twelve and a-half cents an hour, and what I am trying to tell the Commissioners is that they gave them so little work that in 96 days they only earned $74. They were just held as a reserve. When I was complaining they said there would be more fish by and by, but when the fish did commence to run more Chinese were sent for to town The white people only got work when there was more than the Chinese could do. They had not been out working in the canneries before.

My notion is that to limit the licenses and give them only to people who are real settlers. I would give the license to the heads of families in preference, and that would to a great extent keep the Japanese out. I was employed at a cannery last year as assistant net man. All I got was $40 a month. A first-class net man is worth, I think, about $100 a month.

Robert T. Burtwell, Dominion Fishery Guardian, Vancouver, was asked:

Q. Do you know of any cases where Chinese were forced to go back when they had left?—A. Yes. I was working at the English Bay Cannery three seasons ago. Sing Soong and King Foong were the contractors for putting up the salmon. The season was a very poor one. The men employed by the contractors were indebted to the contractors. Some of them had left the employ of the cannery, and had started a little place or camp adjoining the cannery, to do something for themselves. The manager of the cannery came to me and said: 'Mr. Burtwell, I do not know what we will do with these Chinese; they want to sneak away to town; they are indebted to Sing Soong and King Foong; I want to stop them from going; can you hit on some scheme to stop them and get us out of the hole?' After a little while he said: 'You can go as if you are a policeman and get them to return.' I said: 'I am not a constable and have no authority to act as an officer of the law; I do not wish to get myself in trouble, but I will try to run a bluff on them.' I went to a trunk of my own, found a document with seals on it; I put that in my pocket; I went to the cannery and saw Sing Soong and King Foong and Mr. Crane; they told me the Chinese wanted to go to town; they were indebted to the contractor. I said: 'You fellows want to break your contract.' They said: 'No, but the Chinamen that left want to.' I went to the contractor that left and asked them why they wanted to break their contract; they said they did not want to break their contract. Sing Soong says we owe him money, but we do not; he treated us very mean because we were not catching much fish; he gives us only one meal a day and a little rice; we want to go to Vancouver and get work there. They told me they were hungry. I told them they had better stay on the contract. I succeeded in getting the Chinamen back and kept them there until they finished up the contract. I was paid for my services. The Chinese explained to me that Sing Soong made certain advances to them, and as the season was bad he was losing money, and he charged them too much for their food. So they should not incur any more indebetedness, he limited the amount of food they should get to one meal a day. If he had furnished them with three meals a day, as he had contracted to do, it would have increased the indebtedness. I know the practicel part of it myself; I knew for a fact they had only one meal a day. I went to Sing Soong and insisted on him giving them more food. It was practically nothing more or less than a system of slavery.

I was not a British subject nor fishery guardian at this time. In a sense I was a British subject; I was born in the United States, taken as a baby to the old country; resided there till I was fourteen years of age, and then came to Canada; but as I was born in the States that made me an American citizen.

Q. I suppose your suggestion is, the Chinese employed there were not free?—A. They thought they were, but the boss put up a job on them, compelled them to remain there to do their work.

Q. You helped that?—A. Yes.

Q. You say they had only one meal a day; how long did that continue?—A.—For two weeks prior to my leaving the cannery.

Q. And you helped to keep them at the cannery?—A. Yes; and they used to get the tail pieces of the fish from the cannery.

Q. They were living on one meal a day and you helped to keep them there?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you do with the parchment paper or deed?—A. I pretended it was an official paper.

Q. And you terrorized these Chinese and kept them there?—A I did not terrorize them, but when they saw a paper with me with a seal on it they thought they had to return to work.

AMERICAN EVIDENCE.

Everell B. Deming, manager Pacific American Fishing Co., Fairhaven, Wash., stated: This cannery was established in 1899. We employ Chinese. In the working season we employ 2,500 hands, (inside the canneries 1,000) and of these about 300 are Chinese, and a few Japanese. The Chinese do all the canning except the filling under contract through boss Chinese. The filling is done by whites entirely, boys, girls and women. The proportion of Chinese labour employed by us is about one-fifth. This company has always employed them. They come from Portland and return at close of season. Chinese average about $45 a month and board for a season of six months. All the canneries on the Sound employ Chinese for the same purposes and limited to the work mentioned. We catch our fish in traps, and work is done by whites. In a rush season we employ Japanese. Japanese are unsatisfactory. We would not think of employing them as Chinese are. I prefer white labour at higher price to Japanese. Can get about as much work out of Japanese as out of whites. White labour is paid from 20 to 25 cents per hour. It is all hurry up work, no regular hours. Chinese are employed because they are skilled, and will do work white men won't do; for instance, soldering cans, a very tedious job. Chinese don't strike; you can always count on them. I would pay them more than white men for same work. Chinese are not cheap labourers. I like Chinese because they stay right with their work and do it right. We get a great many of the same Chinese every year. A good contractor keeps the same gang right along. We have this year all the best Chinese we had last year. Japanese are very quarrelsome. They get drunk. They don't mix with the Chinese or whites. Won't be in the same house with Chinese. Would not care to run a cannery without Chinese.

Our output last year was 150,000 cases; total capacity from 300 to 400,000 cases. The regular day's work lasts twelve hours, but for short periods, men work as long as fourteen hours. We did not make our own cans this year; bought them from can factories. When a cannery is running full capacity would have from 1,000 to 1,200 hands inside during the run of fish.

We are putting in two filling machines this year. Never packed with fillers before. Our market is in the United States. Have not shipped to England.

We had a fairly good run in 1899; put up 219,000 cases, of which 130,000 cases were sockeyes.

Capacity of our traps about 6,300 fish per diem. We make a contract with a Chinese boss for so much per case. Under that contract he furnishes us so many skilled Chinese; we furnish the rest and charge their wages up against the boss Chinaman's contract. We get some fish from gill nets and seines. We could not depend upon that source. Average price for gill net and seine fish, sockeyes 25 cents; year before last was 17 cents, and probably the fisherman got the worst of it. Trap fish brought 17 to 17½ cents. There was no contract last year between canners and

fishermen. We paid market price from day to day. Canners here to some extent supply fishermen with gear, probably half and half.

This year a big run is expected and the contract price for fish is 15 cents. If we had to depend upon gill nets the plant would be closed up. Large number of men are employed in connection with traps, getting out piles and steamboating. We have twelve steamers and we use 12,000 piles each year. We pay trap fishermen by the month. Net men work on shares. Trap fish are as a rule cheaper than net fish. Last year the trap fish were higher. Couldn't get enough fish on Puget Sound with nets and seines only. Conditions are different to the Fraser River. With traps we can store fish for two or three days and this helps to give cannery hands steady work. With gill men only we have to have five times as many steamers for towing around, &c. Under the trap system less fish are destroyed than by gills and seines. We don't dump any fish from the traps if choked up, but let them go. There are sixteen canneries on the Puget Sound. Total capacity in 1899 was 885,000 cases. Just as many canneries then as now. Capacities have been increased and with a good run 1,000,000 could be put up. The number of Chinamen employed by us is about the average in proportion to capacity. The Alaska Co. have a smaller proportion because they fill entirely with machines. Chinamen's earnings represent one-fifth of the cost of the pack. Our fishermen we employ in the net field. Work commenced February 1, so they got steady work until 1st of following January, for they have to bring in and repair nets after close of season. They average $50 per month. The Report of the United States Fishery Commissioner, Mr. Wilcox, has very complete statistics, and covers Alaska as well as Puget Sound. The State Commissioner's report is not so full. There is great antipathy to Japanese here. Until this plant was put in the anti-Chinese feeling was very strong. As this plant could not be operated without Chinese the feeling is not now so strong. The feeling remains very strong against the Japanese. It is realized now that Chinese are not cheap labour; they are skilled and don't have to work for little money.

Last year we imported 300 tons of coal from British Columbia, and had hard work to get anyone to unload it, though we offered 50 cents an hour. One or two white men came down but refused on the ground that the work was too dirty. Finally we secured Chinese at 40 cents an hour. When they learned that 50 cents had been offered for the job, they struck for a higher rate. I don't know if many Chinese came in from British Columbia; suppose some do. Our men are nearly all old men; don't see any young men now; youngest between 35 and 40 years old. We find a difficulty in getting white boys and girls. We have had trouble to get white men, but not this year. There are plenty of men now, but they are of a class that will not work steadily. It is almost impossible to get a girl servant either in Fairhaven or Whatcom. If whites had been trained, could have done as good work in the canneries as the Chinese. The whites employed around canneries are not steady and cannot be relied on. Will strike when they have you where the hair is short. They would take us at a disadvantage when the fish were running fast. We could not deal with mechanics through their organizations. You can make a contract, but they wont live up to it. Can't make contracts with them as an organization, because you can't make them binding.

The cannery business, as far as this country is concerned, has been a money maker, on paper, but it has all gone into betterment. The same thing applies to nearly every other industry on the Sound. Business has been profitable, but all the money made has gone back into plant. The cost of fish in traps depends entirely upon the run. Last year trap fish averaged 75 cents a piece. As a rule the traps belong to the cannery companies; that is, they are controlled by the companies. The laws of the state permit a man to own three traps.

The main difficulty of having to depend on whites entirely is the fear of their demanding exorbitant wages just when the run is on. There is no question of being able to get just as skilled whites as Chinese, if the whites would take up the work. There is no difference in having work done here and in Chicago. I have been handling canned goods for twenty years. I have concerns in the east. What is saving them there will ultimately save us here—machinery. For instance, in canning corn, boys and girls do all the labour necessary. We are getting some machines here which will make us inde-

pendent of any particular class of labour. None of the eastern canning industries fluctuate as the salmon fishing industry does. If there had been no Chinese the salmon canning business would not have been conducted on so big a scale. With big plants like this we must run to fullest capacity to earn interest. Our pay-roll to-day averages about $15,000 per month, and we are not earning anything, just getting ready, and the same thing after the season of about sixty days. We don't give a rap for the fall salmon. We must make our money out of the sockeyes. The average cost of putting in a trap is $5,000.

Mr. Deming subsequently stated to the Commissioners, whilst showing them over the cannery, that the labelling machine would save the labour of twenty men; the box-nailing machine saved $1,000 on 200,000 boxes, and that the boxes were now made up at a cost of ten cents apiece.

H. F. Fortman, president of the Alaska Packers' Association, San Francisco, said: The total output of Alaska last year was 1,534,745 cases, of which between 750,000 and 800,000 were exported. Great Britain took about 600,000 of them.

It would be impossible to run the Alaska fisheries without Mongolian labour. About 5,000 Asiatics are engaged in the fisheries of Alaska, 500 of whom are Japanese. We get them from San Francisco and Seattle. Ten to fifteen per cent of labour inside the canneries is white. We employed 1,581 white men fishing last year for Alaska canneries. We had 1,086 Indians and 2,162 Chinese. Traps, gill-nets and seines do most of the fishing. Japanese are not employed as fishermen. Fishermen are hired for the season. We pay them so much per fish. They work at loading and discharging vessels as well, and in six or seven months they often make $400. Transportation and board up and down are free. We catch about 85 per cent of our fish by gill nets and seines in Alaska. We use all the canning machinery we can get, and control some patents that other canners cannot use. We could not run our canneries at present without Chinese, although we use every labour-saving device at our work. British Columbia is our chief competitor. They have a fine class of goods and are well established in the trade. Chinese are the skilled labourers of the canneries. They understand it, and lay out to do their work well. We have no trouble with Chinese contractors. If a Chinaman gets sick there is another to take his place. It is not the same with white men. The gang is only as strong as the weakest link. With whites, if one man quits, the whole cannery is at a standstill.

We send to England and the British Colonies about 75 per cent of our Puget Sound pack. We always did so.

The first cannery operated on the Sound was in 1891. In 1893 a second cannery was built by another Fraser River canner. In 1894 another cannery was built. None were erected in 1895. Fourteen were built in 1896 and 1897, and two since then. The capacity of the Sound canneries is about 40,000 cases per day, and they could put up 50,000. For sockeyes salmon traps are used nearly altogether. There are a few gill nets and seines used. I never saw Japanese fish on Puget Sound. A man must be an American citizen, and a continuous resident of the States for one year before he can get a fishing license. We have now a reasonable supply, but not an over-supply, of Chinese. Japanese would not be employed if we had sufficient Chinese. So far they are engaged by the Chinese. We pay Chinese as much for labour now as we did before we installed labour-saving machinery, so that the profits on machinery are distributed amongst the Chinese. We guarantee the Chinese contractor so many cases for the season. We guarantee him about $160 per man for the season. They get that amount absolutely. We furnish them with transportation. They board themselves. Wages on Fraser River and Puget Sound are practically the same. It is a longer season on the Sound.

Profits on fish sold in England are about the same as in the home market. The market is not unlimited, it is fixed. We have a better market than British Columbia. We have the whole United States. After shipping to England we have the home market to fall back on. The English market for us is the more important of the two and more profitable, principally on account of the large quantities purchased at once.

Chinese do not tend to keep wages of white men down. They obtain all they can get. I would favour restriction of Chinese; I would not have unlimited immigration. Your present law is all right, that is a tax of $100 on each Chinaman.

Chee Foo, Chinese merchant, Portland, Oregon, said: I have been a contractor with the Alaska Packers' Association for ten years. About 200 Chinamen go from here to Alaska, and the balance, 2,500 or 3,000, go from San Francisco to Alaska. Wages have increased since the Exclusion Act. It is hard to get 20 men now where I used to get 400, though I pay half more now. There are not half as many Chinese here now as ten years ago. Some go to China, some are old men, some die, &c. There used to be thirty canneries on the Columbia River, now there are only five or six.

Cold storage has done away with a great deal of canning; therefore not so many Chinese are wanted on the Columbia River. I don't know of any Chinese who have come over here from Canada. At the canneries I am glad to employ all who come and are willing to work. The men who solder get $300 for the season, the butchers about $320, and other labour is about $280 and board for the season; for mending cans the pay is less, about $250 for the season. I paid $25,000 advances last year, which cannery owners guaranteed. The Alaska packers advance $85,000 for so many men. I take the contract to supply the men. I pay Japanese $1 a day in the cannery. There are a good many Japanese in Seattle. They can be got cheap; I have got 120 going into the cannery this year at half price. I figure that 75 men are required for 1,000 cases per day. In the season I employ all the white men I can get at 15 cents per hour; boys and girls get 10 cents an hour. Stout men get 20 cents per hour. The Chinese never strike. We supply the company with 400 men to fill all positions. The filling machines save five men per thousand cases. Men will be scarce in Alaska. I wanted 100 and only got 30.

Walter Honeyman, of Portland, Oregon, said: My business is mainly in fishery supplies. The number of Chinese are lessening on the Columbia River now owing to the number of canneries being lessened. There is not one half the number of Chinese employed that there were five or ten years ago. The output has been reduced; the cause, want of protection to the fish. I do not think there are over 500 or 600 of them engaged on the Columbia. We have no Chinese left in town here now, and they are swarming in town in the winter.

I have seen only once or twice in twenty years that there was not sufficient labour in the canneries to handle the bluebacks. There were thirty canneries here twenty years ago. Now a great many of the large salmon are shipped by the cold storage men. They do not ship bluebacks or anything less than 25 pounds. We can find a good market at our own doors for all the salmon we can catch.

We have to refuse a great many orders for nets when it comes to this time of the year. We cannot get Chinese now. Hand-made nets are made here. The machines for making nets seem to be controlled by the manufacturers. No machine-made nets are made here. The bulk of them, I should say three-fourths used outside of the Columbia River, are machine-made nets. They fish here with seines, traps and wheels, not many gill nets. No weekly close season.

SUMMARY.

The canning process is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese. Cannery owners contract for the work with a Chinese boss, who is usually backed by a firm of Chinese merchants. The contractor is required to supply all the labour necessary to operate the cannery to its full capacity at the height of the season. Failing to do this the contract usually provides that the owners may employ whom they please to perform the work, and charge this labour to the account of the contractor. With the exception of white foremen, engineers, and a few skilled men occupying responsible positions, the contract covers all the work of the cannery in preparing the fish as they come from the fishing boat to the finished case of labelled tins ready for the market. The contractor in a heavy run engages all the Indian women and youths as well as all the white youths available. It was estimated that of the cost of the pack of 1897—a large run—seventeen per cent was paid to the Chinese contractors, and that five per cent of this percentage would be paid by them to labour other than Chinese; that 27 per cent of the cost of that pack was for materials manufactured elsewhere than in British Columbia, and

that 56 per cent represented the amount left for distribution in the province, exclusive of imported materials and Chinese labour.

Without an exception the canners stated that the industry at the present time and under existing conditions could not be carried on successfully without the aid of Chinese; that the Chinese are experts and are fully adapted for this work. All the available labour-saving machinery known to the trade is in general use by the canners and has reduced the Chinese labour by more than one half, but they state that its introduction has not lessened the cost per case for Chinese labour. The Chinese are reliable and industrious, and are willing to work long hours when the fish are in supply. They live in houses in connection with the canneries, unsuitable for whites, and live cheaply.

By reference to Exhibit 52 ante, it will be seen that although a large number of Chinamen may be engaged in the cannery during the busy season,—that is July and August, and less than one-third that number for April, May, June and September, and although their wages are comparatively high, for the time they do work, yet they do not work more than half the time; and measuring their employment in years, their total number would be represented by comparatively few. For instance at one cannery in 1897 where from 45 to 159 Chinese were employed from April to September, their total time only equals the employment of 32 men for one year, and their earnings per day of ten hours is $1.48, or equal to $38.54 per month of 26 days. In 1898 where from 9 to 116 men were employed, it only equalled 14 men for a year, at $1.44 per day or $37.58 per month. In 1899 where from 4 to 146 men were employed, their time equalled 14 men for a year at $1.51 per day or $39.39 per month. In 1900 where from 12 men to 85 were employed, it equalled about 9 men for a year, at $1.54 per day or $40.15 per month.

In the same cannery during those four years from 19 to 21 white men were employed at an average of $78.35 a month, and at an average of over five months each year. Board herein is included at $12 per month. Their wages run from $40 to $100 per month. For these years the Chinese labour varied from 32 to 66 cents, average 48 cents per case. White men's labour varied from 21¼ to $1.32½, averaging 68 cents per case, exclusive of wages on steamers, which varies from 6½ to 41 cents and averaged 21½ cents a case.

The contract price with contractors is practically the same in the different districts of British Columbia, and in American territory, excepting in Puget Sound, where it is stated by one Canadian canner, that owing to the length of the season the cost is about 20 per cent less. A Chinese contractor at Victoria puts it at 5 cents a case less on the American side. A contractor at Portland stated that since the Exclusion Act wages of Chinese have increased.

The Alaska canneries are supplied partly with native and white labour, and with Chinese sent there from San Francisco and Portland. On Puget Sound the Chinese are obtained chiefly from Portland. They have also American Indians, and a large number of whites are employed there in filling cans. Two-thirds of the Puget Sound canneries are located in or near by towns or villages, from which they can draw a good supply of white labour.

The northern canneries of British Columbia obtain a larger amount of Indian labour. Their supply of Chinese is principally from Victoria. There is said to be very little land fit for agricultural development along the streams where the canneries there are located.

It is evident, therefore, that the supply of labour must continue for some time to migrate there.

In the Fraser River district one cannery is situated about two miles from Vancouver city, six are within the city of New Westminster, three are situated within two and a half or three miles below and across the river from New Westminster. The remaining thirty-eight canneries are scattered along the river banks at a distance of from seven to twelve miles from these cities. Steveston is a village almost wholly made up of people directly engaged in fishing and canning, and is practically deserted when the fishing is over. A large number of canneries are there, and it is regarded as a fishing centre. A fine agricultural country is in the neighbourhood of many of those thirty-eight canneries,

but it is generally held in large holdings. The harvesting season is on invariably at the time when the rush of salmon is expected, and this makes a demand for labour that might otherwise be available for the canneries.

It is evident, therefore, that with the exception of those canneries located near or within the towns, the labour required must migrate to them, and if white people were employed instead of the Chinese this would necessitate the provision of suitable accommodation at considerable expense on the part of canneries.

It was also represented that the premises would be only occupied for a short time, and not fully, except in heavy runs.

On the one hand it was suggested that the gradual displacement of Chinese labour by white labour might increase the cost of production. On the other hand, this contention was met by the proposal that the number of fishing licenses be reduced, so that those engaged in fishing, by reason of larger individual catches, might be able to sell their fish for less, and thus relieve the canner of the possible increased cost entailed by the employment of white labour in the cannery.

The number of hands required in the canneries,—at least five thousand—the location of the canneries, the uncertainty of the run and therefore of the length of time employment can be given, and the fact that the Chinese alone are trained in the canning process, present conditions which preclude any sudden change from Chinese to exclusively white labour.

From the foregoing it will be seen that:—

I. The Chinese by reason of their presence have been utilized and become experts in the cannery business. Their employment simplifies and to a certain extent makes easy the work of the employer so far as the employment of labour is concerned. The work is done by contract through a boss Chinaman at so much a case. The responsibility for labour then rests with him. He employs Chinese chiefly. Indian women are largely employed for cleaning the fish, and white men and boys are employed when the work cannot be overtaken by the regular gang.

Japanese also of late are employed in the canneries to some extent.

II. Until recently cans were made almost exclusively by Chinese labour, and although an automatic can factory run exclusively by white labour has been established at New Westminster with a capacity to meet the requirements of the entire trade on the Fraser River, and at a price as cheap if not cheaper than those made by the Chinese, yet the Chinese are still employed to a considerable extent in making cans, for the reason that this gives them a longer employment, and the employer is then assured of having them ready when the fishing season opens.

III. The introduction of machinery and its improvement from time to time has greatly lessened the number of Chinese required.

IV. There is a sufficient number of Chinese in the Province now to meet present requirements and supply the demand for years to come, although in an emergency occasioned by an unusually heavy run difficulty is sometimes found in getting an immediate supply.

V. Opinion is divided among the cannerymen as to the expediency of prohibiting further immigration. Two were in favour of no restriction whatever and thought that something in the nature of coolie labour, or at all events cheap labour, necessary. One declined to express an opinion, and one thought the present restriction sufficient. Two favoured further restriction and one exclusion, and all agreed that the Chinese labourer did not make a desirable citizen and ought not to have the franchise.

VI. Chinese labour being always available, easily handled and efficient and cheap, is perferred to other which is less expert from want of practice, and not so cheap.

VII. Cheap labour and the large profits formerly made, induced so many to engage in the business that it is now as all admit crowded if not overdone, which, together with competition from the Sound, but principally from Alaska, has cut down the price and reduced the profits.

VIII. Owing to the number of Japanese engaged in fishing there has been over crowding on the Fraser, with the result that both the canneries and fishermen have suf-

fered, the individual catch being less and the price per fish to the canners increased, and their profits thereby diminished.

IX. Had there been no Chinese in the country it is probable that the whites and Indians would have been trained to the business, and would have furnished a sufficient supply, but the almost exclusive employment of Chinese through their boss contractor, who naturally employs his own countrymen when available, has practically shut the door against whites and Indians and prevented them from learning the business.

The exclusion of further Chinese is not likely to seriously affect this industry, for:

(*a.*) There are sufficient Chinese already in the province to meet the demand for years to come, having regard to the views generally expressed by witnesses as to a maximum development having been reached, and the possible depletion of supply and the number of Chinese now in the province.

(*b.*) The change will be so gradual as to be all but imperceptible, and may be met by the employment of whites and Indians.

(*c.*) On the Sound where the Exclusion Act has been in force for many years and the number of Chinese has decreased in the last decade, it has not retarded the development of this industry, but on the contrary it has received its chief expansion during this period, many millions have been invested therein within the last three or four years, and this although Chinese are employed both on the Sound and in Alaska, as they are in British Columbia.

There is nothing disclosed in the evidence as it affects this industry which renders it inexpedient, if otherwise desirable, to exclude the further immigration of Chinese into the Dominion.

CHAPTER XVI.—DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

White domestic servants are very hard to obtain in British Columbia, and the Chinese largely fill these positions. In Victoria there are employed as cooks and domestic servants, 530; in Vancouver, 262; in New Westminster, 65, and in Nanaimo, 42. They are also employed almost exclusively in the lumber camps, on steamboats, and in the various towns and villages, and to a certain extent on the farm as cooks. For instance, in Kamloops there are 30 employed and in Rossland 120. In short, they are employed to a greater or lesser extent as cooks and domestics throughout the province, except in the towns of Phœnix and Sandon, where they are not employed and not permitted to come.

The wages range from $10 to $30 per month in private families, and from $25 to $45, and in some cases even higher, in hotels.

Their efficiency it is said largely depends upon their instruction when first engaged. It is difficult to get them to change or adopt new ways. Their service differs from that of the ordinary white servant girl in this: that in addition to doing all kinds of housework they frequently cut the wood, look after the garden, and do general choring about the place, such as is generally done by a man servant, and this feature of their service accounts for the fact of their employment in many cases.

The wages given above have application where they have received a certain amount of instruction. On their first arrival many work for even less.

While, as among whites, there are good, bad and indifferent, yet the weight of evidence indicates that they give general satisfaction, and many of them are exceptionally good servants. We think it may be said that the larger number are found to be honest, obedient, diligent and sober. The care of children, however, is seldom entrusted to them.

Probably the strongest certificate of character they received was from Major Dupont, of Victoria, who said: I find them most faithful and most obedient. They are just as zealous to serve us and make us comfortable as on the first day I employed them. It is most unwarrantable to say they are not considerate and respectful to white women. I find them quite cleanly. There is lots to be said about his unsanitary condition in his own quarters. Chinese quarters with me are as tidy as bachelors'. I don't think

they crowd out white girls. Any white girl can get a situation at from $15 to $20 a month. I never lock a door in my house. I never knew a Chinaman who took my wines or liquours. I have been gone eighteen months at a time, and I would be most ungrateful if I did not bear testimony to their honesty, real and capacity as servants. I have had one for 24 years and one for ten years.

Samuel M. Robins, general manager of the New Vancouver Coal Company, Nanaimo, said: I never employ Chinese as domestic servants. I have heard there is a difficulty to get white girls, but I have not experienced any. There is difficulty by certain persons and no difficulty whatever by others. It is a difficulty with the mistresses. I think the employment of Chinese as domestics more injurious than their employment in any other calling.

Clive Phillipps-Wolley, of Victoria, who lived in China for many years, says: You cannot get the same deference from a Chinese servant to a white woman that a white servant will give, but a Chinese is always deferential to men.

Q. You know from observation of cases where the ladies of the house would not part with a Chinese on any account?—A. I believe there are cases of the kind.

Q. They bear a character for honesty?—A. I do not know of them bearing that character. I know of a Chinese servant who was in one employment for many years, and was trusted by his employers, and was found to have been a persistent thief during all the years he was in the service. He was so clever a thief it was hard to discover. He could cover up his tracks better by far than any white man I ever heard of, or read of. You want me to say whether Chinese remain a long time in one employment; the Chinese I know of the longest in one employment was one of the biggest thieves I have ever known or heard of in my life.

George Allen Kirk, Manufacturer, of Victoria, who came to the Province in 1885, said:

Q. Would it be possible if there were no Chinese cooks here to get cooking done in the private houses of the city?—A. Certainly not at present.

Q. Is the Chinese a good or bad servant?—A. I think he is a good servant. I have found if you give them decent rooms to sleep in they are cleanly. If I could get white people as good I would take them.

Daniel McFadyen, of Vancouver, contractor and carpenter, said: In connection with household help, we kept a lodging house in this town and we kept Chinese help from time to time. In regard to their being a desirable help, they are not. They must be taught first, and then they get so independent they will not do the work. I found them unsatisfactory. We gave from $5 to $10 a month. Then they want more and try to run things. I have seen some good servants. Servant girls are rather scarce, but I think more could be employed than at present. I say if servant girls had been encouraged to come to the country there would be a great many more of them than there are. A $10 Chinaman is not equal to a white girl. There are girls who would come from Nova Scotia. I am from there.

Tim Kee, Chinese Tailor and employment agent, of Victoria, said:

Q. Do you think white people could get along here in business without the Chinese; how would white men get along without any Chinese in Victoria?—A. They would get along all right.

Q. How would they cook?—A. They would get other cooks, white cooks. Suppose there were no Chinese here, white people would do all the cooking and washing.

Lee Cheeog, Chinese merchant, president of the Chinese Board of Trade of Victoria, says:

Q. Do you think we would have no servants at all if there were no Chinese immigration?—A. Certainly. If you had no Chinese here you would have white servants.

Q. How do our people in eastern Canada, in Manitoba and other places, get along where there are no Chinese?—A. Your people would have servants to look after the houses. Some few years ago our people were not here and you had servants then and you could have the same now.

John W. Taylor, barrister-at-law, of Victoria, accounts for the difficulty of getting cooks by the presence of Chinese.

Henry Croft, of Victoria, engaged in the lumber and mining industries, said:

Q. Have you had any experience with Chinese as cooks?—A. I have had them in the house.

Q. Are they good or poor cooks?—A. It depends on their training. Some of them I know are very bad cooks. I have had three Chinese cooks in one day and discharged the whole of them.

Q. Have you had other Chinese cooks that were more satisfactory?—A. Yes, some stayed a little while. I would sooner have a white cook in a house myself because I have been used to a white cook.

Q. Can you get women in this country for domestic service?—A. You can get them but they are not at all plentiful.

Q. Then you have to pay them a very high wage?—A. Oh, not at all. You pay them a reasonable wage and a white girl will stay with you for a long time and give you no trouble. It is hard to get a good white servant at certain times.

Edward Musgrave of Cowichan, Vancouver Island, said: I don't see where the supply of domestic servants is to come from except the Chinese. I have never found a servant equal to the Chinese. They will do as much as three English servants.

Dr. O. Meredith Jones, of Victoria, says: I have heard it said people could not get on without Chinese domestics. I suppose people would be put to a little inconvenience at first. In the course of time you could get the same comfort from white servants as Chinese give. It would be difficult at first. There has been no organized effort of getting white girls. I think if there was an organized effort to bring girls out there would be very little difficulty, for they could be got from eastern Canada. I should say England would be the best place. There are lots of women willing to go into domestic service. The girls here are not inclined to go into service. They prefer other positions for half the wages. They could get employment if they wished.

The majority of white girls here are employed as nurse maids, and people have difficulty in getting girls as nurse maids. People won't have Chinese attend to children. Where they have no nurse maids the Chinamen does the housework and the lady of the house looks after the children.

Q. Is that conducive at all to home life?—A. No, I think not, but the fault in many cases lies with the employers. If they were to take the same interest in white girls as they do in the Chinese, and put the girls through a course of training in cooking, matters would be improved greatly, or girls could go to some cooking school, and it would be a very good thing for them if they did know how to cook. If they were good cooks it would tend to make a good many homes happier.

A good cook is very much sought after. They don't like to go into any kind of work the Chinese do. They think it degrading.

The Rev. Elliot S. Rowe, Methodist Minister of Victoria, said: The problem of domestic service is not confined to this province, but the presence of the Chinese may aggravate the conditions here; I think better wages are paid here for domestic service than in places with which I am familiar; but those people who have Chinese servants have various opinions as to their work and desirability. I cannot say whether the majority of opinion is that they are very desirable as domestic servants. I have had no experience in that line here; but the domestic servant problem will exist as long as the conditions affecting domestic labour are retained. I heard two medical gentlemen discussing the question this afternoon, and the views they expressed were entirely in accord with my own views. There was a time when medical nursing was looked upon as menial; but schools were established in connection with our various hospitals for the training of nurses, and now the ranks of the medical nursing are filled with the finest of our young women. The question of work done in the kitchen and of work done in a hospital has a more intimate connection than many would suppose; it is just as honourable to keep a man out of the doctor's hands by cooking food properly, as it is to care for him after he has got sick. Probably there would be less trouble in domestic service if such methods were adopted in domestic economy as have been adopted in the study of medical nursing. It would be well if there were established some institutions, as I believe have been established in some parts of the United States, where degrees or

certificates of efficiency would be granted to students, when the degrees of mistress of domestic science will be looked upon with as much pride as a degree from our schools where sick nurses are trained. Then girls will readily enter into domestic service in place of looking after situations in shops and offices; there will be institutions established for instruction in cookery and other domestic work, and the degree of mistress of domestic science will be as much prized as that certifying to efficiency in sick nursing. To my view that will be the solution of the domestic service question; then the rush for positions in shops and offices will be less than it is now, and the home and home life will be vastly improved. The presence of the Chinese domestic creates difficulty. My experience in reference to getting employment here for people anxious and willing to work is very different from other places I have been in. I have not been called upon to seek employment for a girl here. I used to conduct a small employment bureau in some of the places I was in. Under the Utopian conditions I have suggested I think work could be obtained in the near future, but I think it might be difficult to obtain employment now.

Alexander G. McCandless, of Victoria, clothier, said: In regard to domestic servants, I think we can get along first rate even if there wasn't a single Chinaman in the country. It is a mere fact of the Chinese being here that prevents white girls wanting to occupy those positions. I believe I could go east and could get good white girls to come here and work for $15 and $20 a month in domestic service were there no Chinese here; and with no Chinese here, were white girls offered the same wages as they now pay to Chinamen, there would not be the least difficulty in getting all the domestic servants we may require.

I hold strong views on this question, as I have had reason to consider it, but I do not wish to weary the Commission by presenting them at length.

A. R. Milne, C.B., Collector of Customs at Victoria, said: I think the supply of Chinese domestics is equal to the demand. Domestic servants are always certain of employment. Good mistresses are always able to get good domestic servants, white girls I mean. With a little thoughtfulness on the part of employers there would be enough of white domestic servants to fill all the demands. I think some ladies prefer to have Chinese as domestic servants, I suppose because they have got into their ways and have learned to do the work. They all come from the coolie class. Many of them I find are fairly intelligent, and they adhere strictly to their contracts. Mistresses are not at all considerate of the feelings, either physically or otherwise, of girls who go into domestic service. The girls are driven to take other work because of the long hours and inconsiderations on the part of their employers.

Dr. Robert E. McKechnie, of Nanaimo, said: I have two Chinamen in the house. One is moderately good and the other is poor. They demand fairly high wages. I employ them because of the impossibility of getting suitable white help. I think it is more difficult in Nanaimo than in Victoria, because you may say we are quite a distance from the centre. We have to obtain white domestics from Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster, and some efforts have been made to obtain that help as far east as Montreal. Servants did not like to leave large cities to come to a coal mining town. The men of this town earn fairly good wages, and as soon as they are able to give their children a good education they do not care for their girls going out to domestic service. A large proportion of the girls under eighteen and nineteen are fitting themselves for better positions than domestic service, because of the Chinese being employed in that service. Very few girls are available from the white population here. It is very difficult to get white girls as domestic servants. I think there is a reason for it; very few white families come to the country, and girls do not care to go far from home or from the centres in the cities, and between the two we fall. There is a difficulty. The Chinese fill the gap to a certain extent, but we would be better with white people, and have the Chinese out of service altogether.

John Mathews, mine manager, Cumberland, said: We have Chinese as domestic servants here. There are no girls to get a supply from. There are few, if any, girls in domestic service here. The miners are quite able to keep their daughters without going out to domestic service. Hotels have Chinese and Japanese, principally Chinese. I

know of only one girl employed here. Wages for a girl from fourteen to sixteen years of age is $12 to $15 a month usually.

Benjamin T. Rogers, manager of the Sugar Refinery, Vancouver, says: I think Chinese domestic servants are a perfect godsend to the country. I have had women cooks, much to my sorrow. I have two Chinese servants, and two white servants. I would not have white girls to take the place of Chinese, if they worked for nothing, if they wanted to work. The Chinese does not waste anything and the white cook will waste more than his salary is worth in a month. I would not favour exclusion because we need them as cooks. I pay one Chinese cook $37 a month. I think there are enough Chinese in the province to-day for domestic purposes.

Richard Marpole, superintendent of the Western Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Vancouver, says: I find Chinese far ahead of any servants I have had. I pay $20 a month for girls as cooks. I am trying to get them now at that rate. I am satisfied with what I have. Naturally you would prefer to have a white girl cook when you have to pay a Chinaman from $25 to $35 a month; but you cannot get white girls who will stay long with you. I tried to get girls from the east, but they turned out to be very much like some of the white labourers coming out here; they took advantage of us. We employ Chinese cooks on the Kootenay boats, for a good reason, we cannot get white cooks. These are the only places where we employ them. I failed to get servants from the east, and there are others who have failed in the same way. I will never close the door against getting good servants here. If they are scarce in Toronto how can we get them here? I think probably the distance they have to come and the cost of coming here, three thousand miles, has something to do with the difficulty of getting white girls for domestic service.

Johannus Buntzen, manager of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Vancouver, says: As to Chinese domestic servants I found one or two very good.

Bernard McDonald, manager of the British America Corporation and the LeRoy group, Rossland, says: We employ one Chinese as janitor in Rossland. We have a boarding house. The cooks employed there are whites, both cooks and waiters. I think Chinese necessary as domestic servants. My own personal experience is, they are more reliable as domestics and the consensus of opinion here among my acquaintances is that they are almost indispensible. It would appear white girls cannot be got. I know of Chinese being sent to Ontario to take domestic service there. In some cases it would keep families out, and other cases where families would come in, they would do their own service. There is a sufficient number of Chinese to give all the servants that are required. $20 to $30 a month are paid to Chinese. Very few girls are employed here. Chinese are more desirable here than Japanese.

Edmund B. Kirby, manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star Mines, Rossland, says: There are enough Chinamen throughout the west to provide domestic service and do laundry work, and, in short, work of the class that white labour is reluctant to undertake, and up to that point I don't think they do any harm and are a benefit, and I find in private conversation that is the opinion of men all through the west. The reason being that there is a gap there for which there is no supply of white labour. The caste prejudice against domestic service is each year becoming stronger, and white girls seem to be more reluctant to undertake that class of work.

Smith Curtis, M.L.A., Rossland, barrister, for the last two years engaged in mining, says: Take the case of domestic servants. Were there no Chinese available I have no doubt that there would be a fair supply of white domestic servants, were they paid the necessary wages. Give servant girls here the same wages given to Chinese and exclude Chinese from this service altogether, so that it will not be looked upon as a menial employment, as it is at present, from them being engaged in it, and a fair supply of girls would I believe come into the country. I lived fourteen years in Manitoba and we had more or less difficulty in getting servants, yet we pulled through, and British Columbia could do the same if Chinese were out of it. If I were in the British Columbia government and the Chinese were shut out, I would undertake to get servant girls in the country. Girls don't look forward to domestic service where orientals do that

service. They look upon it as a more menial work than they otherwise would. If more servant girls here were married off it would greatly benefit the country.

Henry E. Creasdale, of Nelson, former manager of the Hall Mines and Smelter, says: In domestic service the Chinese do not come in conflict in any way with the labouring classes here. I am quite willing to admit the majority of people here are opposed to employing Chinese, but I think they are made up of those who never employ Chinese, and never found any benefit from their service. If you took the employers I think you would find the majority in favour of keeping the restriction as at present. There is no doubt to anyone who knows the country and the scale of wages paid if you had to depend on white women to do the drudgery, they would not do it all, or only for very high remuneration, and if immigration was completely stopped, it follows that with an increasing population the number of Chinese servants must become less than the demand.

I should say their presence has indirectly assisted development in a way: that is to say, people have come into the country and have become interested in it, who would not come if they had not Chinese servants, and the ordinary domestic comfort has been favoured by the Chinese. They contribute to the comfort of the whites who are here. It is not because of the Chinese being here that girls cannot get employment; girls are not avilable.

Fong Wing Chong says: Have resided in Nelson six years; twenty-one years in British Columbia; am a merchant, married, wife in China. I went home and married and left her there seven years ago; one child; not been back since. There are about 325 Chinamen in Nelson,—50 cooks and servants, 20 in laundries, 40 working for white men, 50 gardeners. The rest have nothing to do,—150; half I know have nothing to do.

Gustave A. Carlson, Mayor of Kaslo, says: I believe if we did not have the Chinese here we could have white servant girls, which would be much better. There is no encouragement now for them to come to this section. As it is there are only a few here and they get lonesome.

AMERICAN EVIDENCE.

A. H. Grout, Labour commissioner, Seattle, said: There are probably fifty Chinese cooks in Seattle in private families. Japanese have been getting into places as substitutes for Chinese. The Japanese help in that line is I think more satisfactory on the whole than the Chinese. They get in where employers cannot secure white women. Employers here prefer white help, but white help has been a little scarce for some time; $15 to $30 a month for general domestic help; Chinese and white girls are about the same. Occasionally a good Chinaman may get a little more, but generally the white girl gets as good wages as the Chinaman. You cannot get a good Chinaman to take a position in a family for less than $20 or $25 a month. He knows he can get it; that is an experienced Chinaman. I advertised in Chicago and New York for white girls for domestic service. Some girls came here and got good positions, but were very soon picked up by the young men here,—got married and became good citizens. I think good white girls could be easily got for domestic service were they paid the same wages as the Chinese are paid. Most of the domestic service in this city is performed by white girls, and the service has been very satisfactory. The demand has always been in excess of the supply. We could fill fifty places if the girls were available to-day. There has not been a time within the last few years that we could not place twenty girls at a time. The American girls perfer other callings where the work is lighter and perhaps where the hours are shorter.

Q. Does that dearth of domestic help cause many families to go boarding?—A. It has quite an effect in that direction; I know of several instances where families have been obliged to do without help for several weeks, and finally they have had to close up their homes and go boarding. Several cases I know of.

Q. You furnish white and Chinese and Japanese, no distinction?—A. In domestic service the girls are scarce, and so people are glad to get Chinese or Japanese, but that is the only department affected in that way.

Do you think the presence of large numbers of Chinese and Japanese here would have a tendency to keep white labour from coming in?—A. Yes, I think so. It would have a tendency to keep out domestic servants also. If there were large numbers of Chinese here the wages would be reduced and that would be an inducement to people to get that kind of help.

Where the white labourer goes he takes his family with him and from that source the greater part of our white domestic help is drawn. If the families were withdrawn from this market then their places would be filled with Chinese and Japanese. We would rather have white men and their families and do without the Chinese and Japanese altogether.

Miss Nina Kocklowski, assistant to the last witness in the labour bureau of Seattle, said: All applications for domestic service come before me. Most all the places are filled by whites. Very few families have coloured help. A great many families do not care to take coloured girls in, although those whom they have taken into domestic service make good house servants. There are some Japanese employed in households in the city. The Japanese prefer to go to service where they can work part of the day and get away to go to school in the afternoon. Most of our people prefer to get white girls as domestic servants. The Chinese as a rule want too high wages; they want to get from $30 to $35 a month, whereas a white girl will be paid from $20 to $25 a month. The Chinese I speak of is a first class cook. Six Chinese have come in since I have been in the office, that is since November, 1899; 534 white girls have applied to me for domestic service this month; 534 was just for one month. These are what I sent out. That was the number of orders for girls. I am sure there were 500 places filled anyway. Sometimes there is a scarcity and at other times the supply is equal to the demand. Friday and Saturday I find that girls are scarce. I can get whatever number of girls I want. I think I could get two hundred girls all right. I have about fifty orders now. The proportion of Chinese and Japanese to whites is very small indeed. There are other employment agencies in the city. Many families go to the Chinese and Japanese boarding houses. The figures I have given only apply to our own office. Very few families care to take Japanese help, and as to the Chinese, they want very high wages, and families do not care about taking them and paying such high wages.

Last month we supplied in the neighbourhood of four hundred girls with places. Quite a number apply for places to do washing, scrubbing and the like. The wage paid is $1.50 a day and the hours of labour are from eight until five o'clock. Quite a number of girls come from the east, from Minnesota and around there. Quite a number of girls came from Victoria in January last, but lately not so many. They wanted to get housework.

Q. We have been told that girls are scarce in Victoria, that they cannot get them at all?—A. I do not doubt it, because the girls come over here and get better pay. From what I hear from the girls coming here, they are not well paid in Victoria. Not long ago a girl came and told me that she wanted to get domestic service here. I asked her where she came from, as she appeared to be a very good girl; she told me she came from Victoria, that she had been working there for $8 a month in Victoria, and working for a family of six. It is no surprise to me that girls should come here and prefer to live here working hard for a little pay in Victoria. The girl secured a good place here at good wages, and the family are well satisfied with her.

In January there were six girls from Canada applied for work; they came from Victoria to Seattle. The wages are from $20 to $25 a month; the going wages are $20 a month.

Note.—The city of Seattle established in 1894 a free labour bureau and employment office, and has maintained it ever since. Last year this office found places for 27,605 workmen and from 400 to 500 domestic servants per month. (See 7th Annual Report of the Labour Commissioner of the City of Seattle for the year 1900, at page 222 of American evidence taken under this Commission.)

James D. Phelan, Mayor of San Francisco, said: The Chinese are engaged largely in domestic service. People who cannot get white domestics go down to Chinatown and get Chinamen. I think this is very undesirable. The Chinaman engages in domes

tic service through the day and at night he returns to Chinatown and engages in gambling and opium smoking, and in the morning returns to the domestic circle, and what the effect of his associating with gamblers and opium smokers in Chinatown has upon the domestic circle, I leave it for yourselves to picture. Some people have an aversion to Chinese in their homes. Those who have them, I must say, consider them very valuable as domestic servants. The Chinese have been so long in domestic service that they have crowded out the white girls. It is one of the problems of the day to find places for our young women. I have helped myself within the last three months to establish a place, from which families could get white women to work. We got a number of sewing machines and got white girls to make up women's work, but we had to give it up. The Chinese would bring their wares to the stores and sell them cheaper than we could produce them. The Chinese have crept into a great many places and people hardly realize what they are doing.

SUMMARY.

The above fairly indicates the different views expressed on this subject. A number of witnesses stated that girls refused to take service where Chinese are employed, and doubtless there is some force in this.

Many complain that after obtaining white servants at great expense and with difficulty, sometimes from the eastern provinces, and sometimes from the Old Country, they marry within a very short time, and after trying to supply their places with white servants are compelled to engage the Chinamen. The fact that Chinese servants are always to be had when wanted, and that white servants are difficult to obtain, accounts partly for the fact that Chinese are chiefly employed, although white servants would be preferred by many.

While opinions differ, it may at once be conceded that under present conditions it is exceedingly difficult to obtain white servants, and a large proportion of those who employ domestic servants are dependent upon the Chinese for a supply.

The cause of this abnormal scarcity of white domestic servants is not far to seek. The callings requiring unskilled labour are largely filled by Chinese and Japanese, who have thus taken the places of fathers of families from which, under normal conditions, domestic servants would be drawn.

In Victoria for instance there are 3,000 Chinese engaged in various callings, or unemployed: 198 market gardeners, 48 sawmill hands, 886 cannerymen, 197 laundrymen, and over 800 labourers employed and unemployed. Can it be doubted that if these positions were filled with white men, a large proportion of whom might be expected to have families, the difficulty of obtaining white servants would be greatly minimized? If callings usually filled by white men, with families from which domestic servants are usually supplied, are occupied by Chinese, is it surprising that there is a great scarcity of domestic servants, and how can it be expected to be otherwise until these conditions are changed? This applies with greater or less force throughout the province.

In Nanaimo for instance, with a Chinese population of over 500, only 42 are employed as domestic servants and cooks. In New Westminster, with a Chinese population of over 700, 65 only are cooks and domestic servants; and in Vancouver, where the Chinese number over 2,000, only 262 are so employed. The Chinese both create and fill the want.

While on the Canadian side the greater number of the domestic servants and cooks are either Chinese or Japanese on the American side, in Washington and Oregon, comparatively few appear to be so employed. In Seattle it was stated that there were about fifty Chinese cooks, and that only six had been sent out through the City Labour Bureau since November, 1899, while 534 white domestic servants had been placed within a month. In Portland there are said to be about 200 Chinese employed as domestic servants. There is the usual scarcity of domestic servants in Seattle, but at the time we visited that city the supply was said to equal the demand. It is not suggested here that if there were no Chinese or Japanese in British Columbia there would be no difficulty in obtaining domestic servants, but it is believed that if the positions now occupied by

Chinese were filled with white men, the conditions would be much the same as in the east. At present there seems to be a surplus of both Chinese and Japanese, some of whom doubtless will take to domestic service, and should no more Chinese come into the country, with the present supply already there, this question like others will adjust itself to the new conditions.

CHAPTER XVII.—THE LAUNDRY BUSINESS.

The laundry business in British Columbia is largely in the hands of the Chinese. In Victoria there are 40 Chinese wash houses, giving employment to 197 Chinamen, in Vancouver 35, employing 192; in New Westminster 9, employing 38; in Rossland 20, employing 60 Chinamen, and other towns and villages in proportion.

These wash houses occupied by Chinese are in different parts of the city, and a tenement that is not fit for anything else is usually rented for that purpose. They are regarded as a nuisance and a menace by those who live in the vicinity, and great difficulty has been had to enforce sanitary regulations in regard to them by the city authorities. The average wages paid are from $8 to $18 per month, and board.

Steam laundries are also used in the principal cities and towns. As to how far they are able to compete will appear in the evidence quoted; but it is quite clear that white labour, having regard to the cost of living, cannot compete with the Chinese.

A. F. McCrimmon has carried on a steam laundry business in Victoria for eight years. He employs seven men and twenty-three women and girls. His charges are higher than the Chinese. He pays his men from $10 to $15 a week, and his girls and women from $4 to $7.50 a week. He has capacity for eight or ten more hands. There was another steam laundry started in Victoria, but quit the business as it could not get work enough. There is sufficient work in Victoria to keep four steam laundries busy if there were no Chinese. It would take three or four times the number of Chinese to do the work as well without steam. He favoured a tax of $500, or exclusion.

It will be seen from the above that if this business was entirely done by steam laundries, there would be employed 28 men and 91 women and girls.

Donald M. Stewart has a steam laundry in Vancouver. There are four there, including the C. P. R. hotel. Mr. Stewart employs from 70 to 75 hands. He says the Chinese do nearly three-fourths of the work. All the steam laundries employ white people.

Alfred Larcen has a steam laundry in Nelson and employs fourteen hands. He pays out wages amounting from $840 to $900 per month. He has no difficulty in getting help. He pays three hands $18 a week each, one $15 a week, girls $10 a week, overtime extra. He has capacity for three times the work he does. He employs white labour exclusively. He says he cannot do the laundry work as low as the Chinese. He has expended in the laundry business $28,000 in two years.

At Grand Forks the steam laundry had to close down on account of the Chinese competition.

At Greenwood the laundry is still in business. Before it started the Chinese charged 75 cents per dozen, afterwards they dropped to 25 cents per dozen.

Mrs. Walsh, a widow, residing at Nelson, complained that she could not compete with the Chinese and lost her means of livelihood.

Mrs. Josephine Marshall, the vice-president of the laundry workers' union of Nelson, pointed out that many white women who had to earn their own living, could not get enough work to do, on account of the competition of the Chinese. This witness declared that there were plenty of girls that could not get work.

EXHIBIT 67 B.

RESOLUTION TO ROYAL COMMISSION FROM NELSON LAUNDRY WORKERS' UNION.

NELSON, B.C., February 14, 1901.

Confronted by direct Mongolian competition, we the undersigned members on behalf of the Nelson Laundry Workers' Union do condemn and declare the same to be injurious to our business to the extent that about seventy-five per cent of the laundry in this city, and all in the outlying towns and camps, is done by Chinamen, thereby curtailing the pay roll of our countrymen by eighty per cent and the number employed to a like amount.

In the laundry work in Nelson alone there are at the lowest estimate two hundred Chinamen employed at a wage varying from 75 cents to $1.50 per day, their hours of labour extending over the whole twenty-four hours, with barely time to eat and sleep. In some wash-houses a double gang is worked, the off men sleeping in the same apartment as those working and often sleeping on clothes to be washed; and their habits are such that we feel sure that in many cases a health officer would condemn the same as injurious to public health.

Knowing the above to be true, we have no hesitation in saying, were the Mongolians removed from the Kootenays, in addition to the two steam laundries, owned by the firm for whom we work at Nelson and Greenwood, each costing well on to $10,000, there would be at the present, room for five more each employing from fifteen to twenty hands and paying a fair profit to their owners, which we are sorry to say is not the case now.

Trusting that the Commission will see the necessity of immediate action, we extend our most hearty approval and support to any legislation which will effectually remove this evil of Mongolian labour.

Signed on behalf of the union,

MRS. MARSHALL, Vice-President,
JOHN TEMPLETON,
CARL LARSON, Secretary,
I. J. LARSON,
ROBERT NIEVLAIDES.

Ming Lee, laundryman (farmer in China), says: I have been in business eight years in Victoria. Pay my men from $17 to $18 a month; the lowest $8 a month. I board my men. I send home between $100 and $120 a year. I expect to return to China as soon as I get money. My wife is in China. I had six acres of land in China. It cost $80 Chinese money to live there. I intend to go back to China by and by. If there were no tax on the wives and children I think Chinamen would bring their wives and families to this country. I would certainly bring my wife. It costs too much money to keep them here and feed them here.

Sun Sam Cheong, laundryman, who has lived eighteen years in Victoria, says: As soon as I arrived I went into the laundry business. I went home and came back and took it up again, and have been in it up to date. I have a wife and three children in China. Sometimes I send $100 a year and sometimes $130, and the largest amount I ever sent is $180 a year. I employ ten men, including myself. The highest wage I pay is $18 a month and the lowest is $6 a month. I have hardly enough work to keep my men busy. I pay $20 a month rent. I am in debt now, because I have so much of debt that cannot be collected. I board the men I employ. Each man costs me about $7 or $8 a month. If I did not make so many bad debts I would earn something. Several years ago I made some earnings, but during several years I hardly make any earnings at all. The largest amount of money that any man owes me for a bad debt is $100; one man owes me that. That man's washing comes to $5 a month. I have been washing for him since starting the laundry business. Four men owe me about that, and lots of them owe me from $10 to $20. As to honesty, Chinese and whites are about the same.

Mar San, laundryman, of Nelson, says: I have eight or nine men in my laundry. There are nine Chinese laundries altogether in Nelson. I and two others employ eight or nine men. The rest employ two or three men each,—altogether about fifty Chinese laundrymen. I have been here eight years. My wife is in China. I pay my men $20 a month and give them board. I pay $18 a month for rent, and $10 a year for license. I own one house in Chinatown. The lot cost $850; the house cost $1,500. I can't tell if $100 is too much to pay, head tax. I can't say if $500 will keep the Chinese out. I don't care. I am not a British subject.

A. H. Grout, Labour Commissioner, Seattle, says: I should judge that from one-sixth to one-eighth of the work done by laundries is done by Chinese, and the other seven-eighths of the work is done in laundries where white people are employed.

SUMMARY.

The result of the evidence seems to be, that probably from eight hundred to one thousand Chinamen are engaged in this business. They do their work well, and are, in many places where steam laundries do not and cannot exist, a great convenience, but at the same time they take the place of many poor people who would find in this employment an addition to their stinted means.

This may be looked upon as a trivial matter, but in the aggregate it is large. Doubtless the work is done cheaper than it would be by white labour, but a large proportion of the money paid for the service does not return into circulation, but, as in the case of other employments occupied by Chinese, passes out of the country. There is probably paid out in wages to Chinese laundrymen in British Columbia over $200,000 a year, a small proportion of which benefits the country at large.

CHAPTER XVIII—PART I—MERCHANT TAILORS.

During the course of the investigation it was frequently stated that Chinese labour was employed in the more menial and unskilled employments, and that there was no danger of it encroaching upon the different trades and callings where higher wages are obtained. How far this is so, will appear from the examination of this and other trades, where they have already entered, and in some cases supply all the labour except the foreman.

James Andrew Grant, a merchant tailor, of fifteen years' standing in Victoria, says: In 1891 there were eighteen white tailor shops employing 150 men and women, with a yearly wage of over $109,000; average weekly wages for men $18, for women $10. A Tailors' Union existed with a membership of 130.

The first competition from Chinese was in 1891. Then there were 150 whites employed. On March 13, 1901, there were employed in Victoria in the tailoring business twenty-one white men and 30 women and girls, with an average wage for the men of $12 per week, and for the women $6 per week, giving a yearly total of about $22,464. In the meantime the population of the city has nearly doubled. The decrease in wages is $86,736 per year. To what extent has this change been brought about by Chinese entering into competition in this line of business?

There are fourteen firms of Chinese merchant tailors, employing eighty-four hands in the manufacture of clothes for white people. This does not include two firms who manufacture Chinese clothing. It must not be supposed that these Chinese firms manufacture the cheaper class of clothing; the contrary is the fact. The evidence was indisputable, that many of their firms have a very large trade in the highest class of work, including ladies' tailor-made dresses, which it was said formed about one-third of their business.

Daniel Campbell, who is a high-class tailor, said that he had carried on business in Victoria since 1889. Wages were about fifty per cent lower now than then. He now

employs one hand where before he employed sixteen. Victoria then contained about 16,000 of population, now about 25,000. The Chinese competition has caused this. He then, as did other merchant tailors, went into great detail as to the cost of manufacture. He still paid for high-class work $18 per week. He had to move into cheaper premises where he now pays $40 a month for rent instead of $80, owing to the falling off in business. He says a suit that would cost $35, the Chinese tailor sells for $18 to $22. That simply drove them out. A serge suit which he would sell for $28 they would sell for $18. Their work would not pass his inspection at all.

The figures quoted above show a decrease in the actual number of hands employed from 150 in 1891 to 135 in 1901; in the former year only white hands were employed, whereas in the latter year eighty-four Chinese are included in the total. This decrease in the number of hands employed, in view of the increase in population, and of the fact that the Chinese engage in ladies' tailoring, and, also, in tailoring for their own people, would indicate the extent to which eastern ready-made clothing has encroached upon the tailoring business, but the fact remains that the Chinese do more than half of the 'made to order' clothing in Victoria.

John Logg, a journeyman tailor, of Victoria, put it in this way: I came here in 1889. I stayed two years at that time; conditions were good. My wages averaged over $20 a week. About ninety men and sixty women were employed. Now the average wage is about $12 a week for men and about $6 for women. The Chinese came into competition and are taking almost the whole trade. It is impossible for a white man to compete with them. Whenever I pass at eight, ten or eleven o'clock p.m. the hands are working. The white men can hardly live here, and they have left. Their manner and mode of living is altogether different. I am a married man and have four children. I don't know of a single case of any Chinese house like a white man's. Our business will be wiped out. If things do not change, and that soon, I will leave with my family, and leave the country. It seems to apply to other trades as well as our own. It will stop the flow of immigration into this country. Most of the journeymen have families. The Chinese competitor does not bring his wife with him.

This witness gave a carefully prepared statement of the cost of living for himself and family for one year in Victoria. The family consists of himself, wife and four children.

Rent, $8 per month	$ 96
Groceries, meat, milk, &c	365
Fuel, wood and coal, $2.50 per month	30
Boots and shoes	40
Dry goods and clothing, self	30
" " wife	30
" " children, $10 each	40
School supplies	12
Scavenger	9
Taxes	5
Furniture, dishes, &c	5
Total	$662

There should be added something for laundry, fraternal societies, newspapers, church, doctors' bills, nursing, &c. If all these were added it would bring up the cost of living to $800 a year. I am living in a house altogether too small. If I had a large enough house it would cost $4 a month more. A white man cannot exist on wages brought about by Chinese competition.

T. R. Smith, Victoria, commission merchant, said: When I came here to Victoria first there was tailoring done by white tailors. No tailor would work for less than so much per garment, and the cost of clothing was then so high that it induced a great many from Toronto and Montreal to send their travellers here, and they took a large part of the business away from the tailors here. If they had been content with less profit the trade would all have been kept here.

Samuel McPherson, merchant tailor, and member of the Merchant Tailors' Association, Vancouver, says: I was appointed at a meeting to appear here and answer any questions. The Chinese have affected our trade some, but not as much here as in Victoria as yet. There are three shops here, one Japanese and two Chinese shops, who do custom tailoring for white people; one employs from four to six hands. The principal work they do here is in the manufacture of overalls and shirts for the wholesale furniture establishment. Apart from these three shops I do not know of any others who do custom work.

Q. Was that the work that used to be done by white men and women—the making of overalls and shirts?—A. Not in this country that I am aware of, not in the Province of British Columbia. From my own standpoint as a merchant tailor I do object to the Chinese coming in. I do not think they are any good to the country.

If their numbers increased in the trade as it has done in Victoria, it would be a very serious injury to our trade here. I am more dissatisfied with the way in which they learn the trade than with the present restriction; they learn their trade from the Dominion Government. They are committed to the penitentiary for some offence; they learn the trade in the penitentiary; there is one of them in Vancouver now and one in Victoria and another one who is here.

Q. What would you do with them?—A. Let them learn something else.

Q. What else?—A. Well, speaking from a selfish point of view, any trade that does not interfere with me. The reason I mention it is—I was trade inspector in the penitentiary for three years, and those three men were there. One is now doing quite a business on the corner of Hastings Street and Columbia Avenue; they are in the same business as I am; they buy from the same wholesale man as I do, but when a white man goes there to buy from them they do not want their names to appear in English on their books; their names are put down in Chinese; that is what one of them told me himself.

I am in favour of further restriction; we can get on very nicely without any more of them. My reason for favouring restriction or exclusion is that there is danger from them of driving our men out of the business.

The tailoring has not improved in the last three years; it is not as good as it used to be.

Q. Why?—A. Well, eastern competition as much as anything else, and there are more tailors. There is not so much business done by them altogether as there was three years ago.

There are three shops, averaging from four to six men apiece, say fifteen hands altogether, of Chinese and Japanese. Of the white shops there are over twenty, with from eighty to eighty-five workmen; in a dull season perhaps about forty-five.

Q. If a factory is established here working exclusively with Mongolian labour would it be possible for them to produce so cheaply as to shut out eastern competition?—A. Yes; that is my idea, that Mongolian labour should not be allowed to come into competition with our own people here.

Alex. McCallum, merchant tailor, of Vancouver, said:

Q. Do I take it that the Merchant Tailors' Association as a whole are opposed to further Chinese immigration?—A. Yes, as far as the association was represented. We were all present at that meeting.

Q. Is there any other special point you wish to bring before the Commission?—A. Did Mr. McPherson refer to the teaching of Chinese in the penitentiary?

Q. Yes.—A. I am not familiar with that, but I am anxious that that should be brought out.

There is no distinction between the Chinese and Japanese as far as our particular trade is concerned. Their prices are far too low. The prices would indicate that the wages they pay to their men were such that white men could not make garments and live here. Their charges for a suit are so low that they indicate that no white man could work for the same wages. We would prefer all white labour here. Then we do not get any advantage from those people as customers. As soon as they make a little money they send it away to China and Japan, instead of spending it for clothes as white people do.

Francis Williams, a journeyman tailor in Vancouver, said: There is so much competition by Chinese and Japanese that the white man will be driven out of the trade unless the immigration of these people is restricted or stopped. Twelve years ago when I came here I knew but two or three Chinese engaged in trade and no Japanese. To-day the Chinese and Japanese outnumber the whites by three to two. The number of white tailors here is fifty-five or sixty, the Chinese and Japanese 120; of these, ninety to one hundred are Chinese.

Tim Kee, a Chinese tailor of Victoria, stated that he employs from two to four men and pays them from $25 to $35 a month. The men commence work at 9 o'clock and usually quit at 8 o'clock at night, with an hour allowed each for dinner and supper. He further says:

Q. What do you charge your men for board?—A. We charge about $10 a month.

Q. Is that deducted from their wages?—A. No, we pay them so much a month in clothes, board and lodging.

Q. Where they have lodgings to pay, how much do they pay?—A. It is this way: two, or three get together and rent a room. They get a room for $3, $4 or $5 a month and all live together.

Q. Sometimes more live together?—A. Yes, sometimes six live together.

Q. How many have you known join together in renting a room?—A. Four or five.

Q. How large a room would that be?—A. About 8 feet by 12 feet.

Q. What I would like to know is what it would actually cost a Chinaman to live in the way you describe?—A. I would say $7 or $8 a month.

Q. What do you charge for lodging alone?—A. About $1.50.

Q. If it is not so good then it would be $1?—A. Yes. I do not have any lodging house; we give them a bunk and they get their own clothes. We charge them so much rent per month.

Q. And he furnishes his own blankets?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the usual price for that is $1 a month?—A. Yes, that is the usual price.

This witness further stated that the cost of board for a labouring man boarding himself would be about $4.50 or $5 a month.

Charlie Bo, another Chinese tailor of Victoria, employed six hands and paid from $30 to $40 a month and their board and lodging. The hours of work given by this witness were the same as the last. He says: The average amount of business altogether that I do in a month is about $900. I guess I make seventeen or eighteen suits of clothes a month. From January to December it averages about fifteen suits a month that we make for white men. We average about fifteen suits a month for white men in the year, and for Chinese from eighteen to twenty suits a month. The Chinese suits costs $12, $14, $16 and $20, different prices.

Yuen Wah, Victoria, a Chinese journeyman tailor, said: He worked for $30 a month and board and lodging, and works from 8 o'clock in the morning till 8 o'clock at night, with an hour allowed out for meals.

Alexander Peden, journeyman tailor of Victoria, said: About ten years ago Mr. Jackson employed sixteen or seventeen hands. He paid them as high as $20 a week, and it has just gradually fallen away, until now he employs eight men, half the number he did then, and at that time we only did men's tailoring. Ladies' tailoring furnishes about one-third of the work. A good deal of ladies' tailoring is done by Chinese. If we only did men's tailoring we could only employ five men for that. I attribute the falling off wholly to the Chinese. We cannot compete with their prices at all. A suit the Chinese make up for $14 we could not make for less than $22 or $23.

William H. Middleton, Secretary of the Western Central Labour Union, Seattle, said: There are a few Chinese tailors here. It is not a very serious competition with white tailors, and they are not patronized at all by organized labour; that is to say, if we discover any of our members patronizing the Chinese stores, the organization would not stand it. A man doing that would be at once expelled from the union. No white man is able to compete with Chinese labour.

It is quite clear on comparing the cost of the different suits, that it was impossible for the white tailor to compete, without reducing wages below what a journeyman tailor

with a family could live upon and properly support and educate his children. If matters continue for a few years as in the past the Chinese tailors will practically control this source of employment.

PART II.—WHOLESALE MANUFACTURE OF CLOTHING.

The wholesale manufacture of clothing in the province is chiefly centred in Victoria. White women and girls and Chinese are largely employed in this industry, but the Chinese have almost entirely displaced white labour in some branches.

The change came about in this way, as explained by James Andrew Grant, of Victoria. He says: We concluded to go into manufacturing (of clothing). We put in plant costing us over $2,000 for the latest machinery. We got work from the wholesale merchants at a price we thought we could make money at. They told us the prices they had been paying to the Chinese, and we were informed that they would give us the preference over the Chinese and that, while the Chinese took the most of their payments for work out in trade, they would pay us in cash. That was the information we got from the wholesale houses. We got $6.50 a dozen for the best grade of ready-made. I refer to this particular branch as an illustration. The Chinese found that this was going to injure their trade, and they offered to do the work for $5.50 a dozen. The wholesale house informed us that we could have the trade at $5.50 for the same work. They admitted to us that our work was superior, but they were not willing to make any sacrifice to us. Well, the end of it all was that the price came down to $4.50 a dozen, and we could not compete at that. That is $4.50 for making a dozen pairs of pants. If you want to have evidence I can produce the books to show the figures I have mentioned to be correct. We employed about forty hands at that time. We employed sixty hands in all. We employed forty hands at that time for that business. These hands were not tailors or tailoresses. They were machine operators and finishers and pressers. I may say we went out of the manufacturing business.

Q. Why did you do that?—A. Well, it was a financial failure. We could not possibly make a success of it. We were unable to compete with the Chinamen. We were losing money.

Q. Can you speak of the wages you were paying?—A. We were paying from $16 to $40 a month for that class of work. We paid $16 a month to hands who were learning. In that class of work we employed no tailors at all. They could make at first at that class of work $16 a month, and afterwards earned $40 a month when they were expert at it.

Q. What proportion of these were women?—A. All women except the pressers.

Q. White women?—A. Yes. We decided to try and keep the hands on. We asked them to work by the piece and see what they could earn. The girls worked hard and they earned about forty cents a day. That is all they could earn on piece work. Needless to say they quit piece work. We still kept them on for some time, because at that time the Klondike rush came on, and we were able to pay them big wages. But that was the end of the manufacture for the wholesale houses. In the experiment we made with piece work we counted on nothing towards paying our rent. We simply paid the girls what was coming to them, and they could make about forty cents a day. The hands we were paying $1 a day before that, could only make forty cents a day on piece work when the price was reduced to $4.50. We were running our tailoring business in connection with that, or else we could not have kept it up so long. We made a little on that and lost it in the other. We could not compete with the Chinamen at the prices paid for any of the other garments even, such as jackets, coats, lumbermen's jackets, waiters' jackets and different kinds of jackets in addition to pants and overalls.

Q. I understand you to say that you started at the price the wholesale men were paying to the Chinese; then the Chinese dropped below it; you came down to their

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Q. I understand you to say that you started at the price the wholesale men were paying to the Chinese; then the Chinese dropped below it; you came down to their

price again, until finally a point was reached where you could not manufacture except at a loss; then you gave up the business?—A. Yes, we went out of that line of business. The work is done by Chinese through Chinese contractors.

George Allen Kirk, wholesale merchant, of Victoria, says: When I have had goods made by Chinese they were put out by piece work to the different Chinese contractors.

Q. Evidence has been given here that work was done for the wholesale houses by Chinese, more particularly in the manufacture of clothing; that the Chinese reduced the prices; that white men lowered their prices to meet that of the Chinese; but again the Chinese lowered the prices and the white men followed suit, and then the Chinese lowered their prices for the third time, and came down so low that white men, even with the aid of machinery, could not compete, and the white men were driven out?—A. The work is cut out by our company, and is given to the Chinese to make up.

Q. Do you find the competition of the Chinese has a tendency to reduce prices?—A. Yes, but I do not think it is the Chinese only that bring prices down. We have competition from the east as well in the making of overalls.

Q. Are your importations greater in value than the articles manufactured in Canada, speaking of the trade generally?—A. That of course I cannot say. I know we make nearly everything in the line that is sold. We do import overalls sometimes from San Francisco.

Q. Are they equally satisfactory?—A. We prefer to have them made here.

Q. In that case do you consider it better for the country and for the Province to have the goods manufactured here?—A. I think it better to have them manufactured here, even with Chinese labour, because we make more on them than on the stuff we import.

If they were imported from the other side I would not employ men here at all, but simply sit down and write a letter and order so many dozen of such and such goods.

Q. Wouldn't you prefer to see the class of garments you manufacture here by Chinese labour manufactured by white labour in the east, in preference to importing alien labour here and the trade going into their hands?—A. No, it is a matter of profit to me.

Q. Don't you see that if you employ that class of labour in your trade the final result will be that other trades will employ the same class of labour?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you able to say how the prices paid for making up these garments compare with the prices paid in the east for the same class of work?—A. I do not know, but we are able to manufacture a little below eastern prices now.

Q. That is to say, you pay a little less than eastern labour plus the freight?—A. Yes, we can sell at the same price that eastern men sell, only we claim to make a better article.

Q. Do you know the conditions under which the goods are manufactured in the east, with which you have to compete?—A. No, I do not.

Q. You do not know the systematic conditions?—A. I think they have factories and they employ a large number of girls. They have cutters who get out a large quantity of work, and I think that work is done by piece work.

Q. You refer to the big eastern cities, do you?—A. I refer to Montreal and Toronto.

W. A. Lorimer, salesman for Turner, Beeton & Company, of Victoria, described the method of procuring this work to be done by stating that: We make no contracts; just as the work requires to be done we give it out to the Chinese boss. Four Chinese firms do our work. It amounts to about $300 a month in trade. We have our canvas work done by white labour. It costs more, but I give white men the preference, probably as a matter of sentiment. Our house handles coarse clothing, such as mackinaw. The Chinese manufacture these. Women could do this work, but it would necessitate putting in a power plant. We pay $4.50 for pants and $5.00 for coats a dozen. The Chinese tell me they pay their men from $8 or $10 up to $25 a month and board them.

Moses Lenz of Victoria, said: We manufacture shirts, overalls, underwear, pants and the like, canton flannel and flannel underwear. The Chinese are principally engaged in the manufacture of overalls and pants. This work amounts from $150 to $200 a month. We also have a factory where white hands are engaged, 27 at present,

manufacturing principally shirts, underwear, &c. An experienced girl is paid $20 a month. Good girls earn as high as $30 a month; apprentices $10.

Q. What are the Chinese able to make usually?—A. We pay them by the dozen. For pants all the way up from $3.50 to $5 a dozen.

Q. What kind of pants?—A. Tweed and worsted pants.

Q. Supposing there was absolute prohibition of any further immigration of Chinese, are there enough here for the present trade?—A. Yes, for the present trade; but last season we were very busy, and we could hardly get our work done. It was very hard to fill all our orders.

Q. Last year you had the Yukon trade?—A. Yes, we had our own factory and got all the outside help we could get.

Q. Could you afford to employ whites with machines at your trade?—A. I think the class of manufacture is too low for white men.

Q. White girls?—A. We employ all the white girls we can get.

Q. Do you prefer them to Chinese?—A. We do in most work. They do better work.

Q. You have never made up your mind whether you were in favour of unrestricted immigration or not?—A. No.

Q. Are you able to hold your own with the eastern manufacturers?—A. As a rule we are able to compete with the eastern people; in very low lines of goods we may not be able to compete. We cannot compete in the low lines, either by white labour or Chinese; but in the most of our manufactures it is cheaper for us to manufacture here. It is an advantage to us to manufacture. If we bought the goods we could hardly be able to compete with other houses. The majority of the factories sell both to the wholesale and retail trade. They would compete with us in selling their own goods. If we were to buy from different houses, probably three or four travellers would be selling the same identical line of goods.

Q. If the Chinese were excluded would it affect it?—A. In present conditions we could not get the labour. When we first started we had foot power machines, and now we have electricity. If we could get it, we would employ white labour.

A. M. Sandell, cutter at Lens & Leiser's, wholesale manufacturers of clothing, Victoria, says: I should say we had about thirty or thirty-five Chinese engaged in the business. We average about $200 a month for the work done. They work for other houses and earn from 90 cents to a dollar a day. We have experienced women who earn from $20 to $30 per month. There are not sufficient girls and women to do the work. Men could not do it, and live.

Q. What do you pay for trousers a dozen?—A. $2.25, $3, $4.50, and as high as $6.

Q. White men cannot live on that?—A. No.

Q. There is no difficulty in getting Chinese to do the work?—A. No, there is a surplus.

Q. A large surplus, do you think?—A. Yes.

Q. So if the Chinese here are allowed to remain and further Chinese immigration prohibited entirely, there are quite sufficient Chinese here now to supply the labour market?—A. Yes, quite sufficient.

Q. You would not be affected in your business by any restriction or prohibition?—A. Not at all.

Q. For how long a time to come do you think?—A. For all time.

Q. So from your standpoint further restriction, or even prohibition, would not affect your business, leaving the Chinese here that are here?—A. That is my view.

Q. Are you in favour of restriction or prohibition; what is your own opinion about it?—A. I think it would be better for the country in general to have no more Chinese come in.

Q. There is at present a poll tax of $100?—A. That is not sufficient.

Q. We were told by one witness that the white men did the work satisfactorily, then the Chinese came down in price, then the white men dropped their price, then the Chinese dropped their prices again to such an extent that white men could not do the work and live, and these white men were driven out of the country?—A, White men

could not do that class of work—ready made trousers—and compete with the other business. I cannot speak of any but my own business.

Q. You say there is abundance of Chinese labour here now?—A. Yes.

Q Is that the way all the year through?—A. Yes.

Q. Just as plentiful in summer as in winter?—A. Except in the canning season, and that does not last long.

Q. Have you sufficient of Chinese then?—A. I think we have sufficient; not many tailors go to the canning. There are sufficient left to do all the tailoring we want done.

Chinese in our employ make overalls, the white girls, shirts. We send the best tweed pants to Chinese now. I do not think white men ever did it; it was done by girls, now by Chinese. If the Chinese were deported from Victoria, we should have to go out of the business of making overalls. If the present number of Chinese remain our trade will not be affected. I think white labour is getting more plentiful. The matter will adjust itself. White labour will have a tendency to increase in this country if Chinese are kept out.

John Piercy, manufacturer of clothing and men's wear, Victoria, said: We employ from ten to twelve or fourteen Chinese, who work by the piece. We contract with two different men. I am sure I do not know what wages they average; I have never gone into it; probably they earn $10 a week sometimes. Probably we pay out $250 a month to the Chinese. We employ those Chinese because we cannot get enough of white labour for our factory. We have from eighteen to twenty white women employed. They do a better class of work than the Chinese. I do not think the Chinese capable of doing as good work as the white women. I think if there was plenty of labour to be got in the city the white girls could do just as well, if not better, than the Chinese in the work the Chinese are doing, but we have not got the girls here and cannot get them. I do not think they are in the city. I think the women earn more than the Chinese, taking it all through.

Q. Could you carry on your industry here without Chinese labour?—A. Well, we could do so, but it would be a loss to us; at the same time we prefer to have Chinese labour until we can get more white labour; that is the position now.

If no more Chinese come in we could get more white labour. With the number of Chinese that are here and with a probable increase of white labour, I think we could carry on our business without loss. I am thoroughly in favour of exclusion; my reason for that is, sympathy for our own class and our own people. We prefer to give employment to our own people, if we can get them. We do not want the others to replace them.

SUMMARY.

There are several wholesale houses in Victoria that manufacture overalls and special lines of coarse underclothing and mackinaws, &c. The work is not done by regular journeymen tailors, but by women and Chinese. One firm put in a plant costing $2,000, with the latest machinery, and employed about forty hands, obtaining work from the wholesale merchants at a price which was thought would pay. The Chinese took most of their payment for work out in trade. This firm was paid in cash. The Chinese found that their trade was likely to be injured, and they offered to do it for less. The price continued to be cut until the firm was driven out of the business. The hands employed were then allowed to make all they could earn at the present prices; the girls by working hard could only earn 40 cents a day on piece work, and quit. Since that time the work has been divided between women, girls and Chinese. The work done by Chinese is let by contract to Chinese bosses, who sublet, or engage their own men by the month. Certain parts of the trade are entirely in the hands of the Chinese. Women are said to earn from $20 to $30 per month; apprentices, $10 a month.

All the employers engaged in this business stated that sufficient white women and girls were not obtainable, and one stated that if the Chinese were deported, he would have to go out of business. All, however, agreed that the present supply was ample, and no injury would be done to the trade if no more Chinese were admitted.