CHAPTER VIII.—MARKET GARDENING.

This business, which seems to be peculiarly suited to the Chinese, is in their hands, with trifling exception. There are engaged in market gardening in Victoria 198 Chinese; in Vancouver 134; in New Westminster 70.

To give an idea of the extent to which this is carried on by the Chinese, reference may be had to the evidence of Lee Dye, of Victoria. He says: There are twelve market gardeners. I have four gardens, consisting of 193 acres leased land. The lowest rent per acre is $5, and the highest $12.50. I pay taxes. I supply steamboats and wholesale merchants at Vancouver and Victoria. The business was established thirty-two years ago by my father. He put in $4,000 cash, and with the credit it comes to about $10,000. We have four partners and twenty-four men; to be increased to forty-eight men in the spring. My sales amounted last year to $24,185.25. The lowest wages paid a green hand was $12 per month and board and lodging; the highest $25 and board and lodging—average $18 to $19 per month. I have been here seventeen years. My wife went to China five years ago. I have two children; they are in China. I took them there to be educated. The oldest is ten years and the youngest six years. I expect to go next winter and bring them out.

I own property here to the value of about $1,500 or $2,000; my firm to the value of about $30,000. It costs from $90 to $100 an acre to clear the land. If the trees are large it costs from $140 to $150. My land cost from $110 to $120 per acre. The lease is for ten and fifteen years. My lease is three years free of rent and the owner of the land pays the taxes. After three years the rent is about $8 an acre. If it is good land and easy to be cleared, then on an average about the fourth year it would pay my expenses and the seventh year it will pay me back all the labour and the expense besides. I would prefer to own my own land. I would have to pay for borrowed money about eight per cent.

This witness had an accurate account of his receipts and expenses, and had conducted his business with much success. Probably he was one of the most successful market gardeners in the Province. He employs exclusively Chinese labour, except occasionally white labour for ploughing. His plant he valued at $15,000 including eighteen horses, seven wagons, &c., &c. He paid for horse feed $1,187, fertilizers $671, horse shoeing $201, repairs $250, harness and repairing $250, seeds, &c., $300, for veterinary surgeon $150. Last year he paid for rent $1,100, and taxes $205. He sold of his produce to white people $16,000 worth and to Chinese $8,000 worth.

This witness offers the most favourable instance of a successful business man that this class affords. He can scarcely be called a labouring man, and it may be helpful here to stop for a moment and examine the result, as an illustration of the whole class of Chinese market gardeners. His business is successful; it has been conducted on business lines. He employs a large number of men. He supplies that, which, if not produced in the province, must be imported from the States. Is it not desirable that that class of Chinese at all events should be encouraged?

Sing Chung Yung, of Nanaimo, says: I am a market gardener and work one hundred acres. I have been here twelve years. I brought from China $2,000 (Mexican). My wife and two children are in China. They are eleven and nine years old. I visited China and remained fourteen months. I dress in English clothes all except the queue. I would like to bring my wife and children here. She don't like to come. The people in this country talk so much against Chinese that I do not care to bring them here.

I have eight horses, one colt, ploughs—everything. Their value is $4,830, including improvements.

Denies that he uses human excrement on the garden.

Statement of the business of Sing Chung Yung for the past year:—

EXPENSES.

Rent of farm		$ 720 00
Horse feed		1,100 00
Wages paid		2,880 00
Provisions for farm hands		860 00
Repairing of wagons, &c		250 00
Seeds		100 00
School tax		12 00
Post office box and stamps		10 00
Total		$5,852 00
Book debts, bad		500 00
		$6,352 00
Total sales	$7,500 00	
Expenses, &c	6,352 00	
	$1,148 00	

On Kee, of Nanaimo, has one hundred acres, thirty cleared. Has invested $3,520. Has a wife, two daughters and a son in China. The daughters are 21 and 22 years old, respectively, and the boy 15 years old. He also denies that he uses human excrement on the garden.

Statement of business of On Kee for the past year:—

EXPENSES.

Rent of farm	$ 400 00
Horse-shoeing	48 00
Provisions for farm hands	523 00
Horse feed	520 00
Repairing wagons, &c	112 00
Seed	100 00
Wages	1,600 00
Repairing house	300 00
Total	$3,603 00
Total sales	3,012 00
Loss for last year	$ 591 00

Let us follow the evidence a little further.

Andrew Strachan, who is engaged in horticulture, says: I had to give up market gardening. I could not sell my produce. The reason was the people buy from the Chinese who peddle their stuff in baskets. I at present cultivate about ten acres, principally fruit. I think there are sixty or seventy basket peddlers in Victoria. The majority of private families buy from basket peddlers. I came here in 1871. There were a great many more white people raising vegetables than now. Ten years ago market gardening was in the hands of the Chinese; it has remained so ever since. Market gardening is entirely in the hands of the Chinese. Twenty Chinese can live as cheaply as a man and his family of five or six. I think twenty Chinamen can live on $40 a month. I engaged a Chinaman for six months. I paid him $18 a month. A bag of rice at $1.75 and 25 cents worth of sugar was his food for a month. I paid a Japanese last year for picking fruit $15 a month. I employed him because I could not get anyone else. I do not usually employ Japanese. If I could

get white men I would rather pay them $2 a day than pay a Japanese 50 cents a day. White labour is scarce, and the reason that white labour is scarce is that white men cannot compete with the Chinese and Japanese. They cannot exist or live alongside of them. So many people employ what they call cheap labour, they drive the white man out and they have to leave the country.

Joseph Shaw said: I was a market gardener in England. I came here six years ago. I came here with the intention of going into that business, but was advised that I could not compete with the Chinese. For that reason I did not engage in the business.

A white gardener cannot possibly compete with them; you cannot employ labour and compete with them; and then if you do produce vegetables and get around to the houses in an endeavour to sell them, when you go to the door the first to answer you would be a Chinese and he at once says, 'not want any.' They make it impossible for a man like myself with a wife and seven children to compete with them at all. They make it impossible for me to carry on a market garden and earn an honest living from that. I cannot compete with them at all. I cannot make a reasonable living and clothe my seven children. The class of stuff they raise would be only classed as second class in the English market. They sell at a low price. I have never seen but very few beds of first class lettuce grown by the Chinese. I remember seeing one good bed of lettuce grown by Chinese at Darcey Island, and I certainly could not have used that myself because of the offensive odour from it. I had to go to the windward side of it. Dr. Duncan was there with me. He was the Medical Health Officer, and he had to go round to the other side to get rid of the smell of the excrement that had been used very largely to force the growth of lettuce. I have a little bit of ground and have gone into hay-making and anything that turns up, and now I am farming in a small way on about twenty acres of land. I do not try to raise vegetables for the market, but I am hoping the time will soon come that I will be able to do so. They do not go into general farming. So far they are not competitors in general farming. I never employed but one Chinaman; that was to cut wood.

If I could buy machinery cheaper I could sell cheaper. If I lived in the United States I could buy the agriculture machinery at one-half what it costs me here. The manufacturer here is protected by the farm labourers.

Henry Atkinson, landscape and market gardener, who has resided in Victoria ten years, says: Market gardening is entirely under their control now in the city. I came here from the Old Country ten years ago with the intention of starting a market garden. I brought my family out here. I was a market gardener in the Old Country, and I was led to believe that I could get a good business in market gardening here. I was very much disappointed. The difficulties were that the Chinese had practically the monopoly of the business of raising vegetables, and their peddling those vegetables about from door to door was another great difficulty. There were no stores here which you could supply and get cash for your vegetables. It was all truck business, but the great difficulty in the business, which has continued up to the present time, is the Chinese and their peddling vegetables from door to door. We have a white elephant in the shape of a market building here. I know gardeners striving at the present time to sell their produce, going around to the places trying to get customers, and they do not want it. When a white gardener goes to a house with vegetables he finds a Chinese cook there, and the Chinese cook does not want vegetables raised by the white man. I know the Chinese cook militates against their being able to do business.

Vegetables only come from California when vegetables are scarce. In England a great many of the early vegetables come from France and Spain. They come in two or three weeks before the vegetables in England are ready.

The Chinese can live on so little that white gardeners cannot possibly compete with them.

There is a small commission paid between the Chinese cook and the Chinese peddler. I know from Chinamen who have told me.

In England a man may have twenty workmen (landscape gardeners) and may have work for them all the year round, but here you cannot employ one white man because

you cannot keep him at work for a greater part of the year. I have advised all my friends not to come here, because there are no openings here for white men. The lowest wages of labourers in England that I know of in towns is four shillings a day. Wages here $2 to $2.50 per day. The purchasing power of $2 a day here is better than the purchasing power of four shillings a day there, provided the wages were steady, but the trouble is I cannot get beyond six months' work in my business here.

There is no market house in Victoria. Vegetables are peddled from house to house in baskets by Chinamen, and as nearly all the cooks and domestics are Chinamen, it may readily be seen why white men have practically yielded this field to Chinamen. If a white man applies to a Chinese cook to sell vegetables the answer is: 'none are wanted;' if a Chinaman applies he sells.

James Thomas Smith, who has a farm of 160 acres about six miles from Vancouver, says: The Chinese are doing us out of our market here, in the vegetable line principally. We have brought a few vegetables to the market, but we cannot compete with the Chinese. We cannot raise vegetables and sell them at the price the Chinese sell. The Chinese have control of the market. I have a knowledge of their methods of raising vegetables from personal observation. Our methods differ. We do not use the same stuff. They use their own water. They save it all winter in jars. They take it out and pour it on the vegetables, celery, lettuce, turnips and carrots. They do not use it on potatoes, but they use it on most of the other kinds of vegetables that they grow during the season. The stuff is poured on the top of the leaves of those vegetables. I have seen it done, and dozens of other farmers have seen the same.

Sam Hop, Chinese market gardener, stated: I know Mr. J. T. Smith. My holding is near his. I use nothing but horse manure on my garden. I sold the produce, a load of turnips, to Mr. Smith. He used them for his house purposes and to feed the horses and cattle that he had. He told me that he was going to use them for the house.

William Daniels, a farmer, South Vancouver, says: The Chinese can grow vegetables as good as myself. I cannot compete with them because they work more hours than I do, and they get their countrymen to work cheaper for them than I can get work done for. They have no families to keep like I have. The Chinese are good tenants and pay their rent promptly. I have observed their methods of cultivation during ten years, and I think they are very good market gardeners. I have heard statements about the objectionable methods adopted by Chinese market gardeners, but I have never seen any of those practices. I eat vegetables grown by Chinese and am not afraid to do so. They are all right.

William James Brandrith, secretary of Fruit Growers' Association for the Province, says: The Chinese are a menace to health from the way they use human excrement in their market gardens. I have seen them using it.

Joseph D. Palmer, of Vancouver, landscape gardener, says: They (householders) get their ideas from me and get Chinese to carry them out. They affect me in looking after ground, and they drive away numbers of men, useful men in a garden but not practical gardeners. They have largely got control of that work. I can't say how many white men have been superseded. Many gardeners, six or eight, have told me that they had given up their work. I consider Chinese a curse to the country. I had to stop writing to our people to come here. In my ten years of landscape gardening in Seattle I never met a Chinese. There are no Chinese employed in gardening in Seattle.

Mah Jo, Chinese, restaurant keeper of Rossland, stated that there were from one hundred to one hundred and fifty Chinamen in Rossland who worked in gardens in summer and cut wood and cleared places in winter.

Gordon W. Thomas, Cedar Cottage District, near Vancouver, says: There are Chinese market gardeners near me. We cannot compete with them in the market. Their mode of living is so much cheaper than ours and their labour is also cheaper. I have never known anyone who could hire them at market gardening. Only one has a family that I know of and he lives on Lulu Island. The rest live together, from five to fifteen men, according to the amount of land. They cook for themselves. They have no home life and no families. They are law abiding.

I know for a fact that those labourers working for Chinese market gardeners stayed for three years, or until they pay the expenses of the man who brought them out. Then the market gardeners send for a fresh supply again, and those that have served their time are turned loose on the country. When they become proficient in the work they demand more wages.

Twenty years ago at Cedar Hill near Victoria I was on a ranch when they were irrigating. They had a large pit five or six feet deep and ten feet square, and this was filled with human filth, and they had large iron ladles on the end of poles, and they digged this filth out into buckets and irrigated green vegetables with it, cauliflowers and cabbages and radishes, and several other things. I saw it done two years ago near where I lived. They had barrels instead of pits. It was put on spinach, cabbage and cauliflower. I would not like to swear it is done generally, but it is my firm belief that it is so.

Dr. O. Meredith Jones, of Victoria, says: I think there are other things far more dangerous than leprosy, such as the improper use of manures in the raising of vegetables. I think that is far more dangerous to the community at large. Leprosy is a very slow thing. I have no personal knowledge of such conditions having engendered disease, but there is no doubt they are a very dirty people. Their vegetables are very dangerous.

Dr. Robert McKechnie, Health Officer of Nanaimo, says: As to filthy practices, I would like to mention that one commonly finds in some dark corner a coal oil tin for the accommodation of urine. I took the trouble to trace what became of the urine contained in these tins. I visited the Chinese ranch. This is a rather extensive market garden. Going through the buildings I found a small shed opening on to a large store room. In this shed were some twelve barrels holding from fifteen to twenty gallons each. Two were half full of urine and the rest showed they had been used in the same way. In an empty stable I discovered a dozen more presenting the same appearance, and from the fact of the urine being saved in 'Chinatown' and a stock of it found on a vegetable farm, I concluded that popular report was true and that this liquid was used. If typhoid fever existed in 'Chinatown' it is a fact that baccilla is excreted by the kidneys, and using it on green vegetables would carry the disease; even if it were used on the soil it might be dangerous. I don't know of a case of typhoid amongst them. They do not report their cases.

Many other witnesses confirmed this practice of Chinese gardeners, but it was as distinctively and positively denied by them.

Your Commissioners think this practice was and still is followed, though not to the same extent now as formerly, and more secretly: and by some of the better market gardeners perhaps not at all at the present time.

The medical witnesses who were called undoubtedly regard this practice as a constant menace to health.

AMERICAN OPINION.

A. H. Grout, Labour Commissioner, Seattle, says: Market gardening by Chinese in the city and neighbourhood has been almost entirely superceded by white labour, Italians principally. It is hard to say or to find out what is the reason for the change. It may have had relation to the methods of the Chinese in market gardening, but I cannot say positively. At one time, fifteen years ago, the Chinese were extensively engaged in market gardening, but I do not know of any Chinese market gardeners now. I do not know the reason of the change. It was after the Chinese were expelled from Seattle. I came here two or three years after that. They were not really excluded. There was an attempt to exclude them, but the citizens representing law and order prevented any harsh measures. In Tacoma they were excluded and have continued excluded.

Henry Fortman, president of the Alaska Packers' Association, San Francisco, says: The Chinese now are the principal raisers of vegetables here. They do a great deal of market gardening, and we have vegetable canneries here. I think the asparagus business is entirely in the hands of the Chinese. The land is owned by the whites and

the canneries are owned and operated by whites. The vegetable exported from California to British Columbia is largely grown by the Chinese.

F. V. Meyers, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, San Francisco, says: The Chinese engage a great deal in market gardening. It is fallen into their hands to a considerable extent. I would say from my observation and from the information at my command, that from forty to fifty per cent of the market gardening here is done by the Chinese. I do not know that the question has ever arisen as to whether or not there was any menace to health from the Chinese by reason of the methods employed in market gardening. It is a matter of course of scientific knowledge that certain manures are good for use in the raising of vegetables, but the manner of their use is of great importance. I do not think that human excrement is used here. You will find a great deal of market gardening done by Italians here. About fifty per cent of the market gardening here is done by Italians, Portuguese and other nationalities.

SUMMARY.

Many instructive facts are to be obtained from this industry, the natural adjunct of farming.

The Chinese have this business almost entirely in their own hands.

They rent the land and pay a very high rent. Frequently they take land uncleared. They lease land uncleared for ten or fifteen years. For the first three years without rent; after that for $5 to $12 an acre, an average of $8 an acre rent.

In one case it cost to clear the land over $100 an acre. In another case $400 was paid for one hundred acres, with only thirty cleared; and in another case $700 rental for one hundred acres In another case $320 annual rental was paid for thirty-two acres.

The above rentals were sworn to by Chinese gardeners. Much higher rentals were mentioned by other witnesses.

The effect of those high rentals is to keep up the price of land suitable for market gardening beyond the reach of white settlers who cannot compete for obvious reasons.

The Chinese live in shacks and board themselves, or if boarded by the 'boss' he has his profits on the provisions. From five to fifteen men live in one shack.

They can be hired for $3 and $4 and as high as $12 a month and board. For old and skilled hands the wages are higher, ranging from $12 to $25 a month. Of this class the average would be from $17 to $18 a month, and board.

They are either unmarried or their families are in China. There are probably from six to eight hundred Chinamen engaged in this business. We only heard of one who had his family here. Under normal conditions this number of workingmen should represent a population of at least three thousand, contributing to the schools, churches, social life, and general well-being of the community. In the one case they are citizens in the proper sense of the term; in the other they cannot in any sense be called citizens, nor are they likely to become so.

They prevent social life wherever they come. The white man with a family will not settle in their neighbourhood if he can avoid it. They are separate from the community and take as little part in the interests that go to make up a desirable neighbourhood as the dumb animal, and we found no place, either in Canada or the United States, where there has been a change in this regard among that class.

Over three millions of agricultural products are imported into British Columbia yearly, including large quantities of market truck.

At San Francisco we were informed that forty or fifty per cent of the market gardening of that State is still in the hands of the Chinese, and, further, that of the vegetables exported to British Columbia from there, nearly all are grown by Chinese. In Washington State fifteen years ago the Chinese were largely engaged in this industry, but to-day they are entirely displaced by whites.

We believe that agriculture and market gardening would have been much further advanced if there were no Chinese to keep out those who would otherwise go into the business. It is our firm conviction that this great interest never will be developed to its true proportions so long as it is blighted by the presence of these people.

CHAPTER IX.—COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

Coal mining is one of the chief industries of British Columbia. The total output for the year 1900 amounted to 1,590,179 tons, of which 914,188 tons of coal and 51,757 tons of coke were exported. The Crow's Nest Pass colliery output was 206,803 tons, leaving 1,383,376 tons as the output of the Vancouver Island collieries.

There are no Chinese employed in the Crow's Nest Pass colliery.

The aggregate output for all Vancouver Island coal mines for 1900 exceeds that of 1899 by 180,175 tons. The report of the Minister of Mines says:—'There has been a steady demand both in the home and foreign markets for the hard bituminous coal produced by Vancouver Island mines, and work has been constant at all the collieries.'

These mines may be divided into two groups:—Those operated by the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company under the management, for the last eighteen years, of Samuel M. Robins; and the Wellington colliery in Douglas district, known as Extension Mine, operated by the Wellington Colliery Company, Limited, the Union colliery, operated by the Union Colliery Company, and the Alexandra colliery, operated by the Wellington Colliery Company, Limited, of which Mr. F. D. Little is general manager. For convenience the former will be referred to as the New Vancouver Coal Mines, and the latter as the Dunsmuir Mines.

It is stated in the annual report of the Minister of Mines for the year ending December 31, 1900, that the total number of men employed in and about the Vancouver Island collieries is 3,701; of these 568 are Chinese, 51 Japanese, and the rest whites. Assuming this to be an accurate statement for that year, the number of Chinese and Japanese employed in the coal mines has considerably increased during the early part of the year 1901, for, from the evidence of the managers of the Island Coal Mines, it appears that the Vancouver Coal Company employs 1,336 men, of whom 1,161 are white men and 175 are Chinese. No Japanese are employed by this company.

At the Dunsmuir Union Mine 877 men are employed, of whom 412 are white, 363 Chinese and 102 Japanese. Chinese and Japanese are largely employed underground in the Union Mine, and are engaged in every kind of work, as will appear from the following statement furnished by the general manager:—

MEN employed at the Union Mine, Cumberland.

	Whites.	Chinese.	Japanese.
Underground.			
Miners	203	16	6
Helpers	15	157	40
Runners	8	37	16
Drivers	30	12	7
Track	3	12	.....
Brattice	.....	4	.....
Labourers	2	14	5
Timbering	7	7	1
Underground—Other work	16	2	2
Supervision	17	.....	.....
	301	261	77
Topmen.			
Carpenters	22	.....	.....
Blacksmiths	11	.....	1
Machinists	5	.....	.....
Engineers	11	.....	.....
Supervision	8	.....	.....
Stokers	.....	15	.....
Railwaymen	17	8	.....
Labourers	.....	51	24
Other work	25	4	.....
Pithead	12	24	.....
	111	102	25
	301	261	77
Total—877	412	363	102

At the Wellington Extension Mine 1,060 men are employed, including 164 Chinese and 1 Japanese. No Chinese or Japanese are employed under ground. Formerly about 100 Chinese were employed in this mine below ground, but were taken out (according to Manager Bryden's statement) owing to a promise made by Mr. Dunsmuir.

As this industry is second to none in the Province, your Commissioners deem it of great importance to ascertain its exact position in regard to Chinese labour, and how far increased restriction or exclusion may affect it, and how the parties most interested would regard any change in that direction.

Samuel M. Robins, Superintendent of the New Vancouver Coal Company for eighteen years, says: The Company employs 1,336 men, of whom 1,093 are whites and 243 Chinese, including special hands. No Chinese are employed below ground. 918 white men are employed below ground and 175 above ground. Of the Chinese in connection with the mines, there are 37 stokers, 48 banksmen,—these are under the supervision of a responsible white man: 19 timbermen, 39 wharfmen, 17 cutting timber, and 18 for general purposes; besides these there are 57 clearing land and 8 farm hands proper,—making a total of 243. At present we have no Chinese at less than $1.12½ per day, and the highest $1.25 per day. Miners earn from $3 to $5 per day; labourers below ground have a daily wage of from $2.60 to $3 a day; very few get less than $2.60 a day.

The origin of the removal of the Chinese followed a sad accident we had here in 1887 and was brought about by pressure from the white miners upon the two companies, who simultaneously removed them from the mines. For myself I may say with great satisfaction, the principal reason outside the pressure was on account of the greater safety of the mines. I certainly consider Chinese under ground who can't speak and understand English an element of additional danger. I don't say they are not undesirable on other accounts, but that is a special cause of danger. They are undesirable on other grounds; for one reason in time of accident, they become panic-stricken and can render no help whatever, whereas a white miner has always the reserve of courage to meet a calamity. I am speaking now as a coal mine superintendent. I certainly regard it in the interest of the company to have them excluded from the mines. I don't think a single Chinaman has ever set foot below ground in any of our mines since 1887.

The Wellington mine also continued to exclude them while it worked, as far as I know. I believe it is quite closed now. I employ Chinese above ground, financial grounds forcing it upon the company.

It would have been possible to carry on the mines without the aid of the Chinese if all the mines removed the Chinese from their service. That would have been possible until the end of last year; it would have been possible then, but hardly possible now, for the reason that we are face to face now with entirely new conditions in the coal market, that may greatly reduce the output of British Columbia collieries, namely, the introduction of coal oil largely in California; as a corollary to that the conditions, as far as I can foresee them, might force upon the Company the reduction of wages of whites employed, if the Chinese were to be removed from the surface.

Q. I suppose your own residence here has enabled you to reach a conclusion in regard to the Chinese question as to the policy of further immigration?—A. Yes, I have formed an opinion of my own.

Q. Will you state your opinion fully to the Commission?—A. There are certain problems in connection with the thing which I need not go into at the present time, but upon the broad question of the immigration of Chinese into this province, I think it should be entirely stopped, either by prohibition or by a prohibitive head tax.

Q. Why; upon what grounds would you say so; what are your reasons?—A. Now, I am not speaking so much from my position as an officer of a coal mining company, as from my own views and feelings as a British Columbian. Another reason is that manual labour—that is labour that is not usually regarded as skilled—is looked upon as humiliating by the white population, because of the presence of the Chinese and their engaging in manual labour here, and the young generation are more desirous than in any other country I know of, to escape from manual employment. The younger generation here seems to be ashamed to do the work that the Chinese do.

Q. That condition of affairs you regard detrimental to the interests of the country at large?—A. Undoubtedly it is.

Q. From your own observation, do you think the Chinese show any tendency at present to live up to our standard?—A. None whatever. There is no change whatever in their practices as far as I have observed.

Q. If they would assimilate with our people do you think it would be desirable in the interests of the country?—A. I should say not. Assimilation covers not only the habits of life, but would imply intermarriage with the people, which would not be desirable here. It would be very undesirable for any foreign nationality to be largely imposed upon us. The standard of living and the mode of living of the Chinese are largely removed from that of a white worker in the same calling. A white man might live and support a family on the wages paid a Chinaman, but certainly it would be little better than starvation. It would be ruinous for any country to have such a nation as the Chinese intermarry with them.

I have never seen in the district more than two or three Chinese women, and they are the wives of merchants and not of the labouring class.

I have no cause of complaint as to their want of obedience, diligence and thrift. I have no means of knowing of their thrift or morality from an Englishman's standpoint. I understand there is a Chinese mission, but I am sorry to confess that I have not paid much attention to that, possibly because I doubt whether the Christian practices and Christian theories would not baffle the intelligence of the ordinary Chinamen we find here.

I apprehend no inconvenience will be suffered by the supply of Chinese labour being cut off. In forming this conclusion I know there is a large surplus of Chinese labour available at this moment. If there was a large emigration of Chinese we might suffer. There is no danger of that unless they were called home by the Chinese Government.

Q. Do you know of any industry here which has been called into existence by reason of the presence of the Chinese?—A. No, I am not aware of any, but that might not mean that no other industries were maintained by the presence of the Chinese; but looking nearer home, land clearing so far as my company is concerned, would cease at once if there were no Chinese here.

I could not always refuse to employ white labour even when tendered at Chinamen's rate of pay. I prefer to pay white men wages upon which they can live comfortably. I have never engaged Japanese in clearing land. When I speak of the one I speak of the other. If there were no available Chinese or Japanese the land clearing must cease.

The company have cleared about seven hundred acres by Chinese labour, whilst the leaseholders under the company have also cleared mostly by Chinese labour, six or seven hundred acres more. I say mostly, because a good many have done their own clearing or employed whites to clear, even if it cost three times what it would cost with Chinese.

The sale of lands have been about nil for the last four years. The lands have cost us more than we hope to get back, but we cleared first for safety on account of fires, and to improve the surroundings of Nanaimo. It is not my experience that most of the timber lands are useless.

I am of opinion that none of the existing industries in the province would suffer by forbidding of further Chinese immigration. That is the way I wish to put it. I do not think there would ever come a better time to do that than the present; in fact, if I am allowed to express an opinion without your giving me a question to answer, the sooner Mongolian immigration is stopped the better, before it grows to unmanageable proportions.

I may state here that a large proportion of the miners here own their own homes, but owing to the presence of Chinese which makes the children adverse to manual labour, and there being no other employment for them, the parents do not know what to do with their children.

The result of farming would not at present permit of the employment of white labour, although scientific farming might do. If white men could obtain blasting powder at a reduced cost it would materially aid them in the clearing of land.

The company leases to miners with the option of purchase, so they can do what they please Most of the miners who have arrived at marriageable age are married. A great many own their own homes. Large numbers may be considered permanent residents. That raises the question I have already referred to, the aversion on the part of children of white people to manual labour. Children are growing up here, their parents or heads of the house working in the mines, and those children are not able to secure any employment, and it has become a serious question with parents what to do with their children. The presence of the Chinese deters children from seeking employment because of the Chinese being employed at certain work, and as I say the parents do not know what to do with their children, with young boys and girls who are growing up in the community.

Q. How long is it since coal oil encroached upon the coal market?—A. It began to be felt last November. We heard about it before that, but it did not affect us much; but now we are beginning to feel the effect of coal oil competition. San Francisco is our largest market. The price of domestic coal is governed largely by the consumption of railway and steamship owners, but there is very little fluctuation in the price of coal. The British Columbia coal is about one-third of the coal consumed in San Francisco. We have found in years gone by that coal had come in from England and from Australia when there was no home demand for it.

Sometimes coal has been brought here, colonial and English coal would come in here and been sold at a price which would hardly pay for getting it out of the ships, but that has not occurred recently.

It is quite within the range of possibility that it will be impossible to mine and ship coal to San Francisco. Coal oil may be used in some industries and in other industries it cannot be used on account of danger; and then the question comes in as to domestic use. Coal oil can only possibly supersede coal for domestic use; but the use of coal in San Francisco may result in a large reduction in the demand for coal from here, and the orders from San Francisco would be of such small amounts, that it would not pay for us to keep our mines open. We are watching that very carefully but we cannot decide as to how far it will interfere with our mining here. It may be that the oil people will be able to secure new inventions, whereby oil could be more generally used in a great many industries, but at present they have more than they can handle and they have to get rid of it, and therefore the market is more affected at the present time. The competition from coal oil has increased rapidiy of late, because when one man sunk a well his neighbour had to do the same to prevent his land being drained. If the companies could place their oil elsewhere they would rather get $1.25 a barrel for their oil than 65 cents as they are getting to-day because of over-production.

Q. Would that follow irrespective of whether the Chinese were here or not?—A. It is perfectly independent.

I entirely disagree with the idea of servile labour. It might create a few large individual fortunes, but it would be utterly detrimental to the white labour class.

Q. Would you consider the Chinese and Japanese as at present here servile labour?—A. Largely so; not, perhaps, speaking in a legal sense.

They are a little too servile to please me. The Chinese have never put any pressure on to get more than half the wages of white labour. I can't remember of a strike; none in our mines.

Q. On the other hand if the margin was very close it would mean a reduction in the price of labour; it would mean the employment of cheap labour, or there would be no exportation of coal?—A. You wish to get an expression of my views whether it would bring Chinese labour into the mine? For myself and my company I say that under no circumstances would that introduce Chinese into the mines. We would rather suffer ruin first.

We are employing Chinese in all available departments above ground now. A Chinaman can do pretty well as much as a white man at the work we have them employed at now. In some I should say, yes, unhesitatingly, such as stoking, and as a banksman they do nearly as well as white men. The true banksman, the responsible banksman is a white man, but he has subordinates, and the subordinates may be Chinamen.

There have been times when we should have been glad of five cents a ton.

Q. You told us the presence of the Chinese prevented white men getting employment on the farms?—A. That statement was made in regard to children and in regard to boys being employed in clearing land. I have tried young men or boys of from fourteen to sixteen years of age. They are not strong enough to do farm work, but there are certain things that these lads when they reach the age of sixteen or seventeen might do about the place, where we now employ Chinese.

Q. Why don't you employ them?—A. Because you will understand, a lad about sixteen or seventeen, a growing lad is not so physically able as a full grown Chinaman for certain work.

Q. If you hadn't the Chinamen to employ you would't get such work done?—A. We would get it done in some way, but we are obliged to employ the Chinamen who are able-bodied, but if they were not here at all we should employ white men, although we might have to suffer a little in pocket.

Q. Isn't it a fact of the present generation and particularly of the present day that owing to the high standard of education the children get here they are inclined to climb more into skilled labour?—A. That is a feeling that is largely produced by the presence of the Chinese. Young people like to rise higher, and they cannot be blamed for that, but the shame they feel at doing manual labour as far as I can see is produced by the Chinese being here, and the young people do not care to go at work which the Chinese are generally employed in doing. * * *

I have never met one Chinaman without a pig-tail. If Chinese immigration were prohibited, Chinese labour would gradually disappear and perhaps it would increase the price. I don't think the scarcity of Chinese would be such as that their wages would approximate to that paid for white labour. I think Chinese immigration ought to be stopped entirely. I believe there are questions of imperial importance in regard to the Japanese. We own the land on which 'Chinatown' is built; the Chinese erected the buildings, such as they are, themselves. It was considered temporary. I wanted to get them outside of the town. I removed them. We get $50 or $60 a month for the whole of 'Chinatown.' It is unsatisfactory to me. They have been there sixteen or seventeen years. They tried to buy lots in the city. They offered very good prices on it. I refused. I refused to sell to them anywhere. As the Chinese gradually decrease the white labour would increase. I would try and maintain a standard of wages. If today you removed all our Chinese we would either have to reduce our wages or shut down. I always deprecated labour being brought in to reduce wages. I set my face against bringing the scale of wages down. We don't want to take every cent there is in the business. I have no doubt the miners' unions would do all they could to prevent wages coming down.

Q. Referring to the condition of the labour market in a large business like yours, don't you think the industrial conditions in regard to the rate of wages should be left to settle themselves without any interference from the Legislature in the way of restriction of any kind?—A. That, I presume, points to the question of the minimum wages. Speaking as a superintendent of a company I say that a wage be paid to a man upon which he can live respectably and support a family respectably. The wages should be governed on what a family can be brought up on respectably. Employers and men have to meet as far as possible each other's views. An employer may reduce wages by small degrees now and again until you are ashamed to look a workman in the face; until the workman cannot tell where his bread is to come from for the next day. That is the effect of the importation and employment of cheap alien labour. I may say that it is my earnest hope that such a time may never come in this country, and in order to prevent that, I would rather that no such labour should come in.

Q. Do you think it is proper a distinction should be made between one class and another?—A. That has been attempted but it has been brought about by agreement. There has been no legislation in England that I know of to prevent immigration.

Q. Do you know of any country where that idea is seriously entertained—the question of prohibition of immigration and the minimum wage?—A. I have not gone into the question of legislation and the minimum wage. I take the general ground,

from my point of view it is more satisfactory to the people to have such a thing as a minimum wage and then employees are adequately paid.

Q. Would you prefer to deal with organized labour in preference to dealing with unorganized labour?—A. Yes, most emphatically I prefer to deal with organized labour.

I have a copy of the Company's agreement with the union which I have pleasure in handing you.

This agreement, Exhibit 25, follows:—

Memorandum of agreement entered into between the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, Limited, and the Miners and Mine Labourers' Protective Association of Vancouver Island, this 24th day of July, 1891.

1st. The Company agrees to employ miners and mine labourers only who are already members of the Miners and Mine Labourers' Protective Association, or who, within a reasonable period after employment, become members of the Association.

2nd. The Company agrees to dismiss no employee who is a member of the Association without reasonable cause.

3rd. The association agree that under no consideration will they stop work by strike without exhausting all other means of conciliation available

4th. The Association agree that they will not interfere with the Company in employing or discharging employees.

5th. The Association shall comprise all men employed underground, excepting officials and engine drivers, and above ground all day labourers, not officials, engine drivers or mechanics.

6th. This agreement can be terminated by 30 days' notice on either side.

For the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, Limited.

Francis Deans Little says: I am General Manager of the Wellington Colliery Company. The mines are at Extension or South Wellington, Alexandra and Union.

The Alexandra is not working now, it ceased last December. At the time it stopped working we did not employ Chinese underground. We employed above ground about twenty, and ninety miners, all whites. In all, about one hundred and fifty white men. We paid Chinese above ground for ten hours $1, and for firemen for twelve hours, $1.50, and dumpers, $1.50 for eight hours. We never employed Chinese underground at Alexandra. We employed them underground at one time in all other mines. We employed them in the Extension till last year. It was an experiment on Mr. Dunsmuir's part. He appeared to think he could run as cheaply without them as with them; not a very good result financially. The expense was increased. It cost nearly double in track laying pushing and that class of labour generally. I have failed to find a single white man that will do the work of two Chinamen at this class of work, and some Chinamen will do at that work as much as white men. I do not agree with Andrew Bryden when he says a good white pusher is equal to two Chinamen, or when he says 'It would not be advisable for the management to go back to Chinese underground.' We have worked a mine, No. 2, with all Chinese, and never a man killed in it. It ran for eight years. The Chinese did all the work in connection with the mining, except one overman and two firemen to examine for gas. There were about one hundred and fifty Chinese working there and only required the three white men. We found it quite satisfactory in every way. I do not consider the Chinese any more dangerous than whites. I think they are a little more careful. They won't take risks. In case of accident they are not a bit more subject to panic. We employ here nine hundred men, of whom one-half are Chinese and Japanese; namely, about one hundred Japanese and the rest Chinese. We do not employ them all. We employ the labourers; of these 450 Japanese and Chinese, we employ 30 Japanese and 135 Chinese. For section men we use one white man to five or eight Chinamen. None of the helpers in the mines are employed by us. They are paid by the miners. The price varies from $1.25 to $1.50. We contract by the ton. We pay 75 cents per ton of 2,500 pounds. The miners average from $3 to $3.50 and some as high as $5 a day. We pay mule drivers (whites) $2.50, and Chinamen $1.50. The Chinamen do not manage quite so well. The intention was to exclude the Chinese here. It is better the way it is financially. I

would not change. Mr. Dunsmuir wants to change. I do not agree with this new idea of his.

We brought out two hundred Scotch miners, and they were no good. We have twenty left. I do not know where they went to and I do not care. I do not think one-third of them ever dug coal in their life. Very few paid their passage. They were supposed to pay $70 each for the passage, but never did. Many of them went to Seattle at once. They never came here at all. Mr. Dunsmuir spent $15,000 on them. I do not think he got $3,000 back. I paid $3 a day for a $1 day's work to some of them. I was longing for the Chinamen.

The Chinese and Japanese are about alike. The Chinaman is a little stronger; the Japanese smarter and quick. The Chinese are good and faithful. I never saw one drunk. Very few of the Chinese have their families here, only three or four of them have. I don't think they send very much to China; they save for a while and make a trip home and most of them come back, and when they go home they take their savings with them. I don't think they will ever become assimilated. They are wanted in this country for a while yet to get the country ahead. There are lots of industries here that would drop at once if they were driven out for several years yet; I think it is necessary for them to be in the country for ten years yet; then it would be time enough to take steps. I don't see any object in keeping them out, only the labour trouble. I think there should be no restriction whatever, and speaking for myself, I do not think the time will ever come when there should be restriction.

Q. Then, do you think the country would be better off supplied with that class of people than with white people?—A. Altogether, no.

Q. What do you mean?—A. I mean to prepare the country for labour, and the country wants that class of labour to develop it.

Q. Why cannot white men do the labour of developing?—A. A white man won't do it, so why not employ them as well as anybody?

Q. Do you think there is no object in trying to get a permanent class of white labourers here?—A. I think so. Under restriction they will never come together with the whites. They will be always as they are now, labourers clearing land, and getting things into shape to help the whites.

Q. They make good miners?—A. Yes; we never get a Chinaman in a mine unless we cannot get a white man, except as a helper.

We have worked a mine altogether with Chinese to our satisfaction. They are quite competent to do that class of work.

If there is any scarcity of white men we take the Chinese, to do the same work as white miners. There are only sixteen Chinese who do mining in the whole mine. We have had 150 actually mining. It worked all right.

Q. So, if the Chinese came in in sufficient numbers it would be best, I suppose you will say, to supersede the white miner?—A. It would.

Q. What would be the object?—A. We would pay them just the same.

Q. Do you think that would be desirable?—A. No.

Q. Why not?—A. I would rather have the whites than the others.

Q. If they do the work as good why not let them do it?—A. I do not know it would make much difference.

Q. You think as long as you get out the coal or the ore it would be as much in the interests of the country to get it out by common Chinese labour as by common white labour?—A. I do not see it would make much difference myself; they spend nearly as much money as the whites. As long as we pay the same money for it it makes no difference.

Q. They make good outside labourers?—A. Yes, first class.

Q. So all the outside labour except overseeing could be done by Chinese?—A. It is done now all over.

Q. So, really, if there were enough of the Chinese here in the country you could run your whole mining as you did No. 2?—A. You would have to have your machinists and blacksmiths white men.

Q. That would be, as far as the country is concerned, as good and profitable?—A. Yes, just the same; the only difference is in the labour part. We would only have so much done.

Q. Are there enough here now?—A. I think there are enough.

Q. Have you had any difficulty in getting all you want?—A. No, sir.

Q. Suppose no more were allowed to come in, would you have any inconvenience?—A. Not unless I wanted to extend the work.

Q. So, although you would not suffer any inconvenience if no more came into the country, you are still in favour of more coming?—A. I say, make it free to everybody. Let them come and let them go; that is my view. That's the view I always held and see no reason to change my opinion.

I have been connected with coal mines since '64, and manager for thirteen years. The white man can take on as helper whom he pleases.

We had plenty of Scotch miners here before; they came here about ten years ago and are here yet. It would take the Scotch miner six months to become a skilled miner here. We guarantee to make their wages $3 a day on dead work. We pay so much a yard for deficient work. It runs all the way from $1 to $10 a yard, besides the tonnage, the rate on which is equivalent to the rate on a ton of coal.

Q. Is your white labour steady?—A. Well, we have had it quite steady for quite a while. In five hundred men you have some moving now and again. We have had it steady for quite a while.

Q. Where do the white labourers go to?—A. To Washington and Extension.

Q. Do they go fishing?—A. No.

Q. Do they go mining?—A. Yes, the Yukon took quite a number from here.

Q. Could you afford to pay white labour and still have reasonable profit in the business?—A. If we paid $2.50 a day instead of $1 there would not be any profit left.

Q. Do you know what class of labour they employ on the American side?—A. They work ten hours a day and they get lots of men to work that time. The mule driver there will get $1.75 a day for ten hours; so we are paying the Chinese here more than they pay the white labour over there for that class of labour. That is in Washington State. I cannot tell what Washington miners get per ton. The labour only I talk about. Different mines will have different tonnage. There is one instance they pay $1.7 a day for mule drivers for ten hours' work, and we pay $2.50 a day for eight hours' work. There is one example: and the other things are about the same proportion.

Q. Does that ten hours represent the time from the surface until the miner gets back to the surface?—A. I do not know, but that is what it is here, eight hours from the surface and back, for all classes underground, and on the top ten hours.

There is not much profit now. Down at San Francisco the oil makes a difference. The output of our mines and the mines of Washington State does not affect the market but little. Australian coal affects it a little; not much. Very little coal comes from Scotland. There is still coal coming from Wales.

Q. If the other coal mining companies in this country excluded the Chinese, do you think it would be better all round, and that they will be enabled to continue to mine with white labour at a profit?—A. They are not in the market at all. They are simply sending coal to two parties under contract. It would not make any difference to them. We have not the regulating of prices there. Washington State and others have the regulating of that. We cannot do it.

I have never heard a single objection to working with Chinese or Japanese. I never heard any complaints.

Q. Have men never made any request to you for the employment of white men exclusively under ground?—A. No, sir, only the Miners' Union in Nanaimo; that body they have now.

Q. Do your miners belong to the union?—A. I do not know, I am sure. They might be union men and they might not.

Q. Have they ever asked you to employ white men only?—A. Who?

Q. The Miners' Union?—A. Oh, we hear from them regularly.

Q. You have no reason to doubt that their demands are in the public interest?—A. They are in their own interests.

Q. If it were possible to bring in a lot of white labour to the coast—the Chinese labour because it is cheaper—you would prefer it?—A. I suppose I would prefer the cheap labour. I do not care what labour it is so long as it is good labour.

Q. I suppose you would not go in for any more assisted immigration?—A. No, I have had two spells of that. I do not know which was the worst, the niggers or the Scotch miners. We brought sixty-five niggers from Pittsburgh and Ohio, and they were as bad as the others.

Q. What was the trouble with them?—A. Too much money. We had to pay their passage here and they gradually drifted away from us. I think there are some of them here yet.

There is no law for the eight hour day here in coal mines. I think eight hours is quite enough in a mine. I never approved of ten hours. I can't say if a miner with a white helper can do more than a miner with a Chinese helper. If the Chinese were not here we would hear from the unions; they do not know where to stop. I would certainly have recourse to Chinamen if we require them. Why shouldn't I? I fail to see that Chinese are forcing anybody out. The young people growing up in this country do not want to do that class of labour; they won't do it.

In 1898 an arrangement was made to put the Chinese out of the mines. There had been explosions in 1887 and 1888 in Wellington mine and in the New Vancouver Coal Company's mine. Mr. Robins said if Mr. Dunsmuir would do it he would do it. I don't think it was because it was thought the Chinese dangerous. They don't have helpers at the New Vancouver Coal Company; they work partners. If Chinese and Japs were not available we would have to get more for our coal or have to stop mining. The margin is close.

Cumberland is incorporated. The miners acquire the land from the company on which their houses are built; the majority of them own their own houses. The Japanese pay ground rent and build their own houses. It is the same with the Chinese.

John Matthews, local manager of the Union mine, said: I think the Chinese are as safe as ordinary miners if they understand English; that is the test, and they are not permitted to have charge of a place unless they do understand English orders. They are careful, faithful and obedient. In ordinary labouring work they are about equal to whites. They can't do as much as white men. In mining, about three-fifths would be a fair comparison. In pushing they are about equal. They are under the charge of a white driver of a mule. I have no preference for Canadians over a Chinaman in regard to working under ground. Above ground I would as soon have one as the other.

Speaking as a citizen, if there were more whites to take their place it might be better. It would not affect us much if the Chinese were shut out. It might indirectly affect us through the miners. It would be sure to raise the price of wages. Whenever a white man comes along we put a Chinaman out and put a white man in. I prefer white men because they do more work. Socially I prefer my own countrymen. The Chinese are absolutely necessary for present work. The cost of production would be greater without Chinese, but falling off in production here would not affect the price in San Francisco. It would compel us to reduce the white man's wages.

I have not the slightest doubt if left to their own choice the white miners would retain the Chinese as helpers. It enables them to work easier and they can make more money. I think their presence here has a tendency to keep the white man's wages high. I can explain that: The coal has to be produced at a certain price; we can only get a certain price in the market and we have to produce to compete with others. If we can get a certain amount of work done by the Chinese at a cheap rate, working in the place of white helpers at a high rate, it enables us to pay the white miners more. I do not think there can be any doubt about that. At the same time, it lessens the number of white men employed. If a number of white men came here to-morrow we could give them work inside of two weeks. They could get work without turning out Chinamen. We have got plenty of work for all. As to the Chinese, I think there are enough here for my purposes, but I want white miners.

The average Chinaman can be depended upon in time of danger. If a white man goes into any place in the pit the Chinaman will follow him anywhere, even to danger.

Business men are opposed to Chinese. If all the industries of the country were operated by white labour there would be more demand all round for mechanics. I think opinion is divided on the question among all classes. I don't doubt the general opinion is they would rather do without them. I do not think restriction would have any disastrous effect.

Andrew Brydon, manager of the Dunsmuir Extension Mine, says: We have eight hundred white men below ground and one hundred and ten Chinese in and about the mines. The miners work by contract at 80 cents per ton of 2,352 pounds. Our minimum wage in case the tonnage does not pay is, for miners, $3 a day. If one man can make $4 a day in the place, and the other can only make $2.50, it is the man's fault, and not the place.

We pay pushers and drivers $2 50 a day. About thirty timbermen from $2.75 to $3 a day; twelve firemen, $3.30 a day; and twelve track-layers $3 a day. Some of the miners make $8 a day and others $2.50. It depends on the place they are working and on the men. An average wage of miners is $4 a day. The men never worked more than eight hours a day underground; the miners actually are at work seven hours. Board is $20 per month.

About twelve months ago we employed about one hundred Chinese below ground. The reason of their removal was because Mr. Dunsmuir promised to put them away. They were paid underground $1.25 (for eight hours). We pay the surface Chinamen $1.50 for ten hours. There are only three now below ground, one in each shift, changing the rope from the empty to the loaded truck. The three are paid $1.25 each. The Chinese above ground dump coal. That don't require much strength. Youths could do it, that is if over 16, and stout. I prefer whites to Chinese; other things being equal I would prefer to employ them. About one-half of them understand English. I don't think they add an element of danger any more than whites that don't understand English, that is the element of danger. There is no difficulty in getting the number of Chinese we require. If no more Chinese came in it would not affect us. There are sufficient here now for any purpose that we require. I do not care to express an opinion upon further restriction, further than I have gone. I don't know what became of the hundred that were underground in the mines; they are gone. Eight or nine months ago we were scarce of white labour to replace the hundred Chinamen who were put out.

We imported two hundred miners from the old country. Very few of them paid back the expenses of bringing them out. Most of them are in Washington; some are at Crow's Nest. The work here was different and they did not like it. It takes a man four or five years to become a skilled labourer. It did not inconvenience us. Wages were pretty good in the old country at that time, about the same as they are here. They claimed they were making $3 a day before they left the old country; I do not suppose they were. They were an average good lot of miners and after two or three months' work here would have been efficient for our work. We gradually got other men from all over the world. There are good miners in all countries and in some there is a superabundance. When I was in Australia there were lots of miners that could not get work. It would not be advisable for the management to go back to Chinese under ground, if possible to get sufficient white miners. We employ Chinese as firemen, firing the boilers,—eight altogether. I can't say how many whites it would take to do the work of the fifty Chinese under me. It would take about the same number of whites. We would lose $50 a day in employing whites instead of Chinese. I don't know whether this would be a serious matter or not. Mr. Dunsmuir made some arrangement with the miners some months ago and he has carried it out. The Chinese that are there are giving satisfaction. An Englishman or a Scotchman would not take the place of the Chinese; miners would not. We have not tried to fill their places.

They don't employ Chinese in the mines at all in Australia. Our demand for white labour arose because we dismissed the Chinese. White labour is not always easily obtainable.

Kilpatrick supplies us with timber. He employs Chinese for that purpose. We have never tried to replace Chinese with white labour. A white man can't live here on Chinese wages. If Chinese were scarce I would fill their places by Japanese. I see no difference between them.

MINERS' VIEWS.

William J. McAllan, a miner who had worked in the Old Country, New Zealand, Australia and British Columbia, and who was appointed by the inspector of mines to act as arbitrator which involved an inquiry as to the danger of employing Chinese labour in the mines, says: I am opposed to the further immigration of Chinese. I object to them because they can never become a part of the nation. We should not admit any people to our shore with whom we cannot intermarry and who will not become a part of the nation. From the commercial standpoint they are a serious obstacle to successful business being carried on. They don't spend much of their wages in town. Any business requires traders, and if you have people who send their money out of the country you cannot build up the country. The industries of the country should not be operated by Chinese. I think such resources should be reserved for Europeans to operate. These riches might better be left in the ground. It tends to two classes, the rich and the coolie labour. I don't think we should have a servile class. It must have a weakening effect. It undermines the nation. The backbone of any nation is its toiling people. I am opposed to further immigration. This applies equally to Japanese.

I think the action taken in the colonies of Australia and New Zealand entirely does away with the argument that you require Chinese labour. No cheap labour is employed in Australia in the mines or on the surface. I never saw a native or Chinese employed in a mine in Australia or New Zealand. White men cannot compete with Chinese. I have no objection to Chinese as a working man if he would live and work like a white man. Chinese keep boys out of employment.

The Chinese wear overalls and the regulation miners' boots and hats when they are working outside the mine.

Eight years ago we had no difficulty in making ten or fifteen shillings a day in Australia or New Zealand; since then they have fixed a minimum wage. In Scotland about five years ago wages were from five shillings to eight shillings a day, eight hours shift. Cost of living in Australia and New Zealand is about $18 to $20 a month.

John Calligan says: I have resided in Nanaimo and Wellington 24 years. I am not working as a miner now. I am attending the pump. I have worked in mines with Chinese at Wellington. The Chinese were paid $1.25 a day. White men in general paid them a little more. The company would not allow them to pay more than the $1.25 a day. That was the standard price. The Chinese acted as helpers to the miners. The company paid $2.50 per day to white men for loading coal and helping. I have objections to working with Chinese underground because they nearly killed me, and because they are stupid and ignorant. They don't understand where there is danger. I am opposed to Chinese coming into the country. They help to reduce the wages of the white man. I should say, don't let Japs or Chinese come in.

William Woodman, of Nanaimo, an engine driver, says: I have charge of a stationary engine at the mine above ground. The Chinese don't compete with us. I object to Chinese immigration. First, because they are effective for capitalists to oppress the labour element in general; he is willing to work for half the pay of a white man. Secondly, I regard them as tending to impoverish the country, as two-thirds of their earnings go to enrich their own nation and impoverish this. Thirdly, in the sphere of domestic service there is a serious objection. I regard domestic service as a large sphere where women may earn an honest livelihood and learn to fit themselves for more important duties in life. I judge the greatest objection is from unskilled labour in the past. That same experience will be the lot of skilled labour in general. Fourthly, I regard the presence of Asiatics in large numbers as a menace to health. They are very unsanitary by allowing accumulations of filth all around them. I cannot urge any serious objection as to their personal cleanliness. Fifthly, another serious objection is

the injustice that a British born subject has to stand to one side and Asiatics be preferred to him. I don't think they ever will assimilate with our people, and it is not desirable. I mean to say that when an appeal is made to loyalty in such case, it is putting loyalty to a needless and dangerous strain. A British race ought not to be asked to surrender their rights in order that favouritism may be given to an alien race. I believe in their elevation, but not at the expense of our people. I think we are competent to paddle our own canoe without the aid of the Asiatic.

I would simply answer that question by the general application of the principles recognized by the present Dominion Government wherever money is spent, that is by the enactment of the law for a fair wage for its work; then there will be no discriminating against the Japanese or any one else. In keeping the Japanese and Chinese out of the country it would be a thousand times more effective than all the other legislation in the past or future. I would simply have the law that where Government money is spent that no Chinese or Japanese be employed, and the most effective way of getting at that is by fixing a minimum wage, and no contractor will employ a Chinese or Japanese where there is the minimum wage paid to white labour. A law such as I have mentioned would prevent the employment of cheaper labour or degradation of it.

To protect the weakly white man against Chinese getting into competition with them, I would have a Board of Arbitration as they have it in New Zealand. If a man is incapable of doing certain work, then the Board will decide he should receive less.

I would apply the minimum rate of wages to all callings, even to domestic service. It would apply also to skilled labour. It might result in increasing the wages for domestics.

It may be said to be very largely a wage question. It is a labour question. They want to do the white man's work for half the white man's pay. It is more than a labour question. It is serious from a sanitary point of view and it has also a strong tendency to permit the accumulation of wealth by the capitalist.

Labour in Great Britain is better paid because of the employer and employees getting close together and each studying the interests of the other, and each respecting the other.

I learned my trade in England. I was apprenticed. Quite a few girls here are in domestic service. The miners have families as a rule. White girls get from $15 to $20 a month. There are hundreds in the Old Country who would be glad to come. I wonder what the boys are going to do. If no Chinese were employed it would give place to boys. It would be an important factor in that direction. I regard it as a national weakness to bring about conditions which compel our youth to emigrate. I think the exclusion of Asiatic labour would benefit us all around. I regard the Japanese question as more acute than the Chinese question. I don't deny they are superior to the Chinese.

John Knowles Hickman, who is a locomotive driver in connection with the mines, and has resided in Nanaimo twelve years, says: The Chinese compete with me to a certain extent. The way I would point it out is this: That the rising generation—that is our young people—have not got the chance of learning my business, for the simple reason that the helpers we have, the firemen and brakesmen, are Chinamen; therefore the white boy has no chance to come and learn the business of locomotive driving. Therefore, I say, the Chinaman is injurious to the white man and his family.

We have had Chinese for firemen and brakesman for twelve years to my knowledge, in the new Vancouver Coal Company. There are five locomotive drivers. We have one fireman to each locomotive. I am opposed to the Chinese immigrants. They are an undesirable race of people. They cannot be depended upon in case of accident or emergency. I have found this so. Their sanitary condition is not what it should be. It ought to be righted, but it is not; overcrowding of Chinese and Japanese, the filthy state of "Chinatown" as I have seen it, and bad smells, are a menace to health. I don't think they ever will assimilate. They are still a distinct race. I know they fill the following callings, namely: firemen, brakesmen, domestic service, general labourer, laundrymen, market gardeners, helpers to plasterers, etc. They are a detriment to white wage earners. I learned my trade in England by apprenticeship. We have to teach the Chinese.

There are no locomotive engineers, Chinamen; they are at the top of the tree when they get to be brakesmen and firemen. The boys are around all the time wanting these positions. They would do the same work for $2 or $3 a week and team driving at the same time; Chinese would not be so profitable as white boys to learn the trade. I think boys would learn and be a benefit to the Company. I think there are too many Chinese here now. I believe in absolute prohibition of Chinese and Japanese. I am an alderman. The corporation does not employ Chinese on corporation work.

John C. McGregor, Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council, of Nanaimo, presented certain resolutions of the Miners' Union which shortly and fully set forth the views of the miners and mine labourers of Nanaimo, and probably fairly represent the views of this important class in the whole province:—

The following resolution was unanimously discussed and carried at the Miners' meeting held on January the 26th inst.

That as a Miners' Union we implore the Commissioners to impress upon the Dominion authorities the great necessity there is for restricting or preventing the importation of the above class of labourers into our province. That as miners we know by hard experience that these workmen are very undesirable in and about our mines, because of their being an ignorant and therefore a dangerous class of workmen.

In 1887 a serious accident occurred in Nanaimo resulting in the loss of over one hundred lives, and the following year at Wellington, with almost a similar result, and there were good reasons for supposing that these serious accidents were due to a considerable extent to the above class of workmen.

So much so, that the operators of these mines voluntarily agreed to dispose entirely of them from their mines and as a matter of fact no such accident has occurred since they were put out of these mines.

The fact of this has been made so clear to the members of our provincial legislature that they have exercised their powers to the utmost extent to safeguard the lives of white miners both in coal and metal mines by enacting laws prohibiting their employment underground; such legislation has however been declared ultra vires of the local House and we are now depending upon the disposition of the mine operators to keep them out, a state of things we consider should not be allowed to continue, considering the dangerous nature of underground work. We therefore present these facts and depositions to you in the hope that the Dominion authorities will as soon as possible give us greater security as miners.

On behalf of the above association.

WILLIAM STOCKER, *President.*
JAS. BRADLEY, *Vice-President.*
RALPH SMITH, M.P., *Secretary.*
NEIL McCUISH, *Assistant Secretary.*
WM. SMITH, *Treasurer.*

This witness further said: I think they are a detriment to the country. They tend to keep out labourers. Their habits are uncleanly. They cannot be counted upon as reliable men in case of trouble. I draw no distinction between the Chinese and Japanese. I think the country would be far more prosperous without them.

David Moffat says: I reside in Nanaimo. Have been a miner for 45 years. Mined in Scotland from the time I was eight years old till I was thirty. Came to the United States and mined in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wyoming, Washington and Utah. Have been here eighteen years. The Chinese should not be employed in the mines because they are inimical to the safety of white men's lives and their own. I have proved it by what I have seen underground with them; because they have no idea of the precautions that should be taken underground. Shortly after we had an explosion in the Wellington Mine, in the old slope, at 9 a.m.—Messrs. Brydon and Scott asked me to take charge of the mine—Mr. Brydon was superintendent and Scott was foreman of No. 4 shaft and the slope. Immediately after going to the slope I examined the place where the men were buried and found still a large quantity of gas. I took a Chinaman with me and put a fence up three hundred yards from where the gas was; at both sides

where there was access or egress to that place. I wrote in English that there was no road that way and had the Chinamen write in Chinese the same. Two days after that I was in the mine, at No. 10 level, east, and to my horror I met two Chinamen coming through this road in close proximity to this gas. I asked what they were doing there. They said "no sabbee." I took the naked lamps from them and took them back to this fence, asked them to read the writing on it, and they said they did not pay any attention to the writing. On another occasion I found them tacking the curtain up; the curtains keep the air to the bad places. They left these curtains open. I asked why they did it and they answered "no sabbee." On another occasion two of the pushers that set fire to a curtain ran off and left it. They had set fire with their lamps. When I found something was wrong in the air I went and found the curtain still burning. By that time it had caught the brattice (that is lumber put in to conduct the air). I put the fire out and went to hunt the Chinamen, but they had fled. They wanted to get up the shaft. I got a curtain and went back and fixed it up.

On another occasion two of the Chinese pushers let the car run away and, without warning, let it come down a heading and break a white boy's leg.

The explosion was twelve years past. I worked for the company eight years. Chinamen were in the mine all that time. Two years before they caused an explosion. In a previous explosion nine men were killed. After that there were many cases of carelessness. I was overman in charge of the whole mine. We have to search in every part of the mine for gas. The Chinese are not allowed to do that. They are not considered competent for that, nor to go in a mine after an explosion, even with a safety lamp. If there is a place where there is gas and you tell a white man he'll not go, but the Chinaman says "no sabbee" and he'll go there.

Q. Do you know from your own knowledge whether superintendents where Chinese have been employed regard the Chinese as dangerous?—A. They regard them as dangerous. They will not go into a place in the mine if it is a Chinaman that has examined it.

Q. How do you know?—A. I have proven it.

Q. In what way?—A. When I would ask Mr. Brydon to go into a place he would say: 'Have you been in there?' If I said yes, he would go in, but if I said a Chinaman had been in, he would not go in He would say: 'It is not fit for anyone to go in unless you have examined it yourself.'

If safety lamps are furnished and kept closed there would be no danger from the lamp alone. I have locked the lamp and given it to a Chinaman and going on shortly afterwards I have found it opened. I would like to see a lamp a Chinaman could not open. Where safety lamps have to be used the employer supplies them. When the mine is supposed to be free from gas, the naked lamp may be used.

It is lack of intelligence as well as stubbornness. The statute says that Chinese shall not be put in any position of trust in the coal mines (R.S.B.C., 1897, chap. 138, sec. 82, Rule 34).

I have not worked with a Chinaman since the Wellington explosion, January 24, 1888, when 31 white men and 45 Chinamen were killed. There is the same danger now as there was then. We have had no serious accident since the Chinamen were put out of the mines here and at Wellington. When I had charge we had two Chinamen to one white man. We paid a white man twice as much as a Chinaman. By having the Chinaman it kept the white man from asking more wages. Old men could work above ground if the places were not monopolized by Chinamen. There was a finding of a jury that the Chinese were the cause of the accident, and at No. 5 explosion the accident was directly traced to Chinamen.

James Cartwright, 27 years a miner, came from Lancashire, England, eight years at Nanaimo, always worked in coal mines, says: I speak of the danger of Chinese underground (refers to the above statute). I will not work with a Chinaman in the mine because I would consider it dangerous to my life. I am opposed to Chinese because they are not up to our standard of life. It costs them one-sixth of what it does a white man. I have seen sixteen or seventeen Chinese where one family would dwell; that is, so many Chinamen would pay in rent what one white man would have to pay to

keep his family. I know the presence of Chinese keeps out white immigrants. The wealth of every country is in its working people. The Scotchmen brought out here would not work with Chinese. I don't want any country to stop me from going to that country if I live up to the standard of that country and obey its laws. All my objections to Chinese apply to Japanese. I think they compete worse than the Chinese. I want a barrier that will keep the miner in the position he occupies to-day, or better it. Whites from the east would want a standard wage.

Miners' wages in Lancashire from 1895 were ten shillings a day. Board at that time, 12s. 6d. a week. I average from $3.50 to $4.25 here by contract. If we did not average $3 a day we would quit. Average cost of board and lodging here, $20 to $23 a month. I would have wages regulated by the Legislature. I would have a minimum wage.

In every country there is cheap labour amongst its own people, but if a man cannot have a living wage and they bring Chinese in to compete against him—if that is necessary for the capitalist—it is better for the country to close the works down. It is a wage question, and more important than that, it is a question of affording safety to human life. If they were educated up to our standard they will want the same wage as we do and live as we do and take their share of the responsibility of citizenship as we have to do. If we had the minimum wage and there was an enactment providing that that would be the lowest wage, there would be very little competition from the Chinese. There would be no working for half the wage of a white man then, because the companies would not pay Chinamen what they would pay a white man. We would not need to drive them out; they would go out.

There are quite a number out of work in Nanaimo. Quite a few miners own their own homes.

If the Chinese demand it and get the same wages that we do and lived up to our standard, I do not know that I would have the right to object then. I am a member of the union. If there was not enough work for the men under the minimum wage law, they would work in turns or work fewer hours.

John Hough, a miner from Lancashire, came to British Columbia in 1884, says: I worked at Wellington from 1884 to 1888. I speak from personal experience. I was fire boss at that time—the man who examines to see if everything is safe. I have caught them (Chinamen) even with fires along the road to warm the oil. I stopped them. I do not see them with fires any more. I was fire boss four years. As a result of that four years' experience I say they (the Chinese) don't report a danger. They were put out in 1888 on account of their being considered an element of danger. As long as they were there they were dangerous. After No. 5 explosion a committee, of which I was a member, was appointed by the miners. The report was that they were an element of danger. Before a mass meeting the two companies agreed to do away with the Chinese—ten per cent every three months till they got all whites. The miners would not accept this, but passed a resolution to do away with them at once, and the two companies at Wellington and Nanaimo did not employ them in the mines after that. There has been no accident in these mines since 1888. In 1884 there was an explosion at No. 3, South Wellington; 23 killed. The Chinese were not responsible for that.

Edward L. Terry, secretary of the Alexandra Miners' Union, Nanaimo, 205 members, presented the following resolution as expressing their views on this question:—

EXHIBIT 24.

SPECIAL MEETING, ALEXANDRA MINE, SOUTH WELLINGTON.
FRIDAY, February 22, 1901, 4.30 p.m.

Meeting called in order to hear letter read from F. J. Deane, secretary of Royal Commission to inquire into Chinese and Japanese Immigration to British Columbia, and to discuss the subject and decide upon a reply to the secretary's letter. President calls meeting to order. Secretary reads the letter.

Correspondence received and open for discussion.

Resolved that the secretary be instructed to reply as follows:—

That we, the members of the Miners' Protective Union, as a body of British subjects, do, after due reflection and consideration upon the subject of Chinese and Japanese immigration into British Columbia, hereby declare and make known our opinions and convictions, as follows:—

1. That, whereas the immigrants from China and Japan, employed in the coal mines of this province, represent the lowest class of the people of those nations, we submit that the employment of those immigrants in the coal mines of this province constitutes a grave menace to the safety of the mining community of this province.

2. With regard to the fatal explosion at Cumberland, which took place on February 15th, 1901, we believe that better precautions would have been adopted by the management if the men employed in the mine had been all white men, and we believe that the explosion would not have occurred had no Mongolians been working in the mine.

3. We believe that the employment of Chinese and Japanese immigrants in the various industries of this province is inimical to the prosperity of the province, and that it is instrumental in and conducive to the lowering of the white men's wages.

4. We believe that Mongolians absorb, to a great extent, the revenues of this province.

5. We believe that the presence of Mongolians in this province is a great factor in keeping white men of all classes from settling in this province, and we believe it is also the cause of many white men leaving the province.

6. That whereas the Monogolian standard of living is far inferior to that of the white man, we believe that the white man can never assimilate with or compete with the Mongolians.

7. That whereas the habits and general character of Mongolians make them destestable to all white men throughout this province, we believe that the presence of Chinese and Japanese immigrants in this province constitutes a grave menace to the public peace.

8. We believe that unless rapid action is taken with a view to expelling them from this province the white man will leave this province in possession of Chinese and Japanese immigrants.

Letter produced and read from Mr. McInnes re petition received and filed.

Meeting adjourned—no other business transacted.

EDWARD L. TERRY,
Secretary, M.P.U.

The witness further said: I think they are a menace to health. The two first cases of bubonic plague were discovered at San Francisco among Chinese residents. I was there at the time. I believe they are a menace to the peace, because at Steveston on the Fraser river the military had to be called in to keep the peace. I believe they are a drag on the prosperity of the province, because they send money to China and import provisions from China.

I think they are a danger to life in the mine. On November 9 last two men were incapacitated for life by being run into in a slope of the Alexandra Mine. A Chinaman was employed as signal man on that occasion, and it was owing to his signal, that the cars run into the slope when they ought not to have been run there. I saw the signal man. I don't consider them safe underground. The employment of Chinese signal men is contrary to law.

Two or three of my acquaintances came out with the intention of taking farms in the country, and so soon as they found Chinese here they went off. They did not like Chinese. They preferred to quit British Columbia because of the Chinese. Everybody here, almost to a man, is against them. They are a menace to the community in every shape and form. Very many men are not in the country, have gone out because of the Chinese.

There are a good many people afraid to come up and make complaints, especially in the mining community. The presence of the Chinese here is a great grievance; there is no doubt about that. I think before you get out of the province you will have enough men to satisfy you that the Chinese are a menace and a danger in the community. The strongest argument in favour of that is revolution. If people are not liked, trouble is certain to take place somewhere, and the military are called out, or the police, and then the government will come to the conclusion that something has got to be done. If these people, the Chinese and Japanese, are allowed to come here any further, I am afraid it will lead to trouble before the government act. I would be in favour of it myself rather than be driven out of my country. I should be in favour of revolution if the government did not do what was necessary under the circumstances. Most of the men here are British subjects, but we have got a good many Americans here. I think the majority of them are naturalized British subjects or Canadians. I have only been here nine months just now; was here two years ago, and went from there to California. Prior to that I was in South Africa and fought in the Matabele campaign for the British Empire.

William Stocker, says: I am a coal miner. I have worked in Utah and Colorado at coal mining. There are no Chinese mining there. I am president of the Miners' and Mine Labourers' Protective Association, representing 900 men. But for Chinese competition we would have got the ten per cent advance that we asked for recently. The strong competition of other companies employing Chinese prevented us getting that advance. I never worked where Chinese were employed. I would not take the risk. I believe that where Chinamen are in numbers, white men are afraid to come. By employing all white labour it would most assuredly increase the cost of production a little. My wages average about $4 a day. White men are generally contented in doing an average day's work. I am an American citizen. I would not advise my countrymen to immigrate this country or this island, under existing conditions. I am certainly in favour of restricting any further immigration of Chinese. Americans who are working here for three years and doing fairly well become naturalized. I have a great desire to become naturalized myself, and live permanently here, but I do not want to become naturalized until I know what competition we have to expect in the near future. If I were forced to go down into a mine where Chinese were working, or if a Chinese helper were forced on me here, as they are in some mines, I would have to quit and leave the country then. I intend to live here, if I can live without being brought into unjust competition with either the Chinese or Japanese. From what I have seen of them, and I have been on a number of occasions in 'Chinatown' here, they are penned up, to my way of thinking, in such a way that they cannot but be a menace to the whole community. You will find seven or eight and sometimes more, where three white men in the same space would feel that they were overcrowded. In fact one white man would consider he had hardly enough space in the room to dress properly. The Chinese live in small wooden shacks, barely high enough to get into, and very ill smelling in many cases. So many in such a small room cannot be good for health. I have been in some shacks where the Chinese live and the air was so foul, so ill-smelling to me, being accustomed to live in clean, well-regulated rooms, that I had to go out at once to get a breath of fresh air. In some of these shacks I could not stand up. The presence of the Chinese has a very injurious effect upon the white labouring man here, who would be to-day in a much better position if they were not here. The white labouring man would be able to make more money and would be able to spend more in the purchase of supplies. I would be better off if the Chinamen were not here. I consider the more money I am able to made the better member of the community I will be, and would be able to do better by my family in the way of giving my little girl education and in affording my wife more luxuries—all-round living better and spending more in the community, yet still saving and making a little home for myself and settling down as a good citizen of the country. The presence of the Chinese here has a tendency to bring other miners and myself down, so that we are not able to enjoy the privileges that white people should enjoy—that all white people should enjoy.

UNION MINES.

Richard Henry Hodson, miner, says: I have worked here ten years. I have a Chinaman helper. I pay him $1.50 a day. I earn about $4 a day. About two years ago when Chinese were not allowed in the mines on account of the law, I had a white helper for a few months at $2.25 a day. I made about the same wages so that it did not make any difference with me. I worked part of the time without a helper and made from $3.50 to $4 a day. I did not make as much there because I did not get all the boxes I wanted. If I had I think I would have averaged $4. What I say is what the rest would say. I don't know any miner who prefers the Chinese to the white man. I would not rather employ Chinamen and take $4 than employ white men and take less. I would prefer to employ the white man if all the others did it. In my opinion the white man is a far better helper. They know what to do and can do it; they can change off. If Chinamen were not in the mine the output would be greater per man. I would be willing to have my wages reduced rather than employ Chinese. I know of my own knowledge the feeling of the men is against the Chinese. I have heard them express the view that they are not a desirable race. If you get the manager willing to put them out I think the men would meet him half way. A person who cannot speak English is more dangerous in a mine than one who can speak English. I think something should be done. I think the time has arrived. I think the Japs are the worst element of the two.

If the company were willing to put the Chinese out the men would be willing. That is my honest opinion; but to take out the Chinamen at $1.50 a day you would have to replace him with a white man at $3 a day. You would have to raise the price of coal. You would have to have a raise in the price paid for mining or in the price of deficient work in order to meet that. I think the output of the mine would be about as much with fewer miners.

COAL OIL.

Bearing upon the question of the cost of oil as compared with the cost of coal as fuel, the following letter received by the Commission from R. P. Rithet of San Francisco and Victoria, B.C., may be of interest:

San Francisco, October 11, 1901.

Mr. D. J. Munn,
New Westminster, B.C.

Your letter of the 7th inst. reached me this morning. I will be very glad to give you any information I can in regard to the cost of oil as compared with the cost of coal as fuel. The price we pay for oil at present is 72½ cents per barrel.

According to our tests four barrels of oil are equal to a ton of coal, that is the best Australian coal or British Columbia coal. The price of this quality of coal to-day is about $6.50 to $7. Our fuel therefore on this basis costs us the equivalent of $2.90 per ton of coal for fuel.

In the case of British Columbia you will understand of course that the cost of oil would probably be $1.25 per barrel, while the cost of coal is probably only $3 per ton, so that the cost of oil fuel in British Columbia would be equal to $5 per ton of coal if the oil had to be imported, while the actual cost of British Columbia coal at the mine or say within a short distance from the mine in British Columbia should not exceed $3.50 or $4 per ton.

I think this covers the points you asked. With kind regards.

R. P. RITHET.

SUMMARY.

Chinese labour is not employed in the Crow's Nest Pass coal mines, nor is it employed in the Vancouver coal mine below ground, and has not been for many years. After the explosion at the Wellington mines in 1887 the New Vancouver Coal Company and the Wellington Coal Company, at the urgent solicitation of the miners, agreed not to employ Chinese underground (they never had employed Japanese underground). The reason for their exclusion was the alleged increased danger to the miners.

Both Chinese and Japanese are, however, employed underground at the Dunsmuir mines at Union, and on the surface at all the principal coal mines on Vancouver Island.

Name of Mine.	Whites.	Chinese.	Japanese.	Total.
New Vancouver Coal Company.	1,161	175 above ground.....	.....	1,336
Dunsmuir Union Mines..	412	363 above and below ground.	102	877
Dunsmuir Extension Mine.....	895	164 mostly above ground....	1	1,060
	2,468	702	103	3,273

Mr. Samuel Robins, for eighteen years the general superintendent of the New Vancouver Coal Company, that produced 600,000 tons out of a total production from the Vancouver Island mines of nearly 1,400,000 tons, favours exclusion at once.

Mr. Francis Little, the general manager of the Wellington Colliery Company, thinks there should be no restriction whatever.

Mr. Andrew Brydon, manager of the Dunsmuir Extension mines under Mr. Little, says: There is no difficulty in getting the number of Chinese we require. If no more Chinese came in it would not affect us. There are sufficient here now for any purpose we require. I do not care to express an opinion upon further restriction, further than I have gone.

Mr. John Matthews, local manager of the Union mines, under Mr. Little, says: Speaking as a citizen, if there were more whites to take their place it might be better. It would not affect us much if the Chinese were shut out. It might indirectly affect us through the miners. It would be sure to raise the price of wages. I think there are enough here at present for my purposes. I do not think restriction would have any disastrous effect.

The Commission were not favoured with the views of Mr. Dunsmuir, although requested. In an official utterance, dated October 9, 1900, as premier of the province, he favours 'an increase of the per capita tax in such measure as to surely limit the number of immigrants, and by enactment of legislation similar to the "Natal Act," to regulate their employment while in the country.'

It should be noted in this connection that the management favourable to exclusion are the largest exporters and have to compete in the foreign market. This appears from the following statement:—Of the total output of 579,351 tons of the New Vancouver Coal Company for the year 1900, 428,578 tons were exported to the United States, 11,888 tons to other countries, and only 55,802 tons sold for consumption in Canada, the balance being used at the mines.

In the Dunsmuir Mines, of a total output of 804,021 tons 389,049 tons were exported to the United States, 76,708 tons to other countries, and 221,064 tons sold for consumption in Canada, the balance being used by the company, made into coke or on hand. The result is that of the output of the Vancouver coal mines over 75 per cent is exported, and of the Dunsmuir Mines about 58 per cent. The point to be observed here is that the management favourable to the exclusion of Chinese relies almost entirely upon the foreign market for the sale of its product. It may be here stated that Chinese are nowhere employed in or about the coal mines of Washington State which enter into competition with the British Columbia coal mines.

The recent discovery of coal oil in California introduced a factor which has to be taken into account in its bearing upon the output of coal in British Columbia.

By an Act of the Local Legislature their employment in underground coal workings was prohibited, but the Act in that respect was declared to be *ultra vires* of the Provincial Legislature. (*See* the Colliery Company of British Columbia *vs.* Brydon. Appeal Cases 1899, page 580.)

The weight of evidence points to the conclusion that their employment underground is an additional element of danger to miners. Their employment on the surface and in the mines to that extent excludes white labour and distinctly promotes idleness among the youth and young men of the villages and towns adjacent to the mines.

The present supply of Chinese labour is sufficient to meet the demand for the present and for years to come.

The evidence of those principally concerned justifies the conclusion that further restriction, or even exclusion, of Chinese labour will not cause any appreciable inconvenience or loss to this industry.

CHAPTER X.—PLACER MINING.

The total production of the placer gold fields for all year up to and including 1900 amounts to over sixty-two and a half million dollars; the largest yield, nearly four millions, was for the year 1863. In 1900 the yield amounted to $1,278,000, of which the Cariboo District contributed $684,000, and Atlin Lake Division $406,000. The principal placer mines now being worked are in these two districts.

Atlin is reached by steamer to Skagway, railway to Bennett and then by steamer. It is distant from Victoria about one thousand miles. There are about 3,500 in this district engaged in mining; all are whites.

In Cariboo district during the season of 1900 there were about 150 companies working, large and small, employing about twelve hundred men, about one-half of whom are Chinese; this does not include the claims worked by Chinese on royalty and under lease, which would probably increase the number of Chinese engaged in placer mining to over one thousand.

John D. Graham, a resident of Atlin, gave evidence at Victoria. He said: I reside at Atlin, one thousand miles from Victoria. It is reached by water by steamer to Skagway, railway to Bennett and then by steamer. It is a mining district, placer and quartz mining. There were last year engaged in mining 3,500, roughly speaking. During the summer the population is large; in winter it is reduced. The population is all white. No Chinese or Japanese are there. There were Japanese last year, mostly engaged in the restaurant business. They were mostly frozen out and got out. We got married women to do the work. We do it ourselves if we cannot get white women to do it. I am opposed to the Chinese in the mining district because he works at reduced wages. He works for less and lives on less. I have lived in the Province since 1887. I think it would be better for the white man if the immigration of Chinese into the country were prohibited. There would be more openings for the white man. It seems to be human nature to go to the cheapest market. I know myself when I came here first I could get nothing to do for the simple reason that the market was filled with Chinese. They work for less than I could work and live.

Q. Would it be for the benefit of the industry of placer mining to have cheap labour?—A. I think it would be better to have our mines worked by white labour. The Chinese take all they can out of the placer mines and it is almost impossible to get any money out of them.

It might be a benefit for those engaged in hydraulic mining to have cheap labour, but the question is, what is cheap labour? Last year there were from eight hundred to a thousand men engaged in the installation and working of hydraulic plant, and the rest of the men were engaged in ordinary placer mining.

Q. What distinction do you draw between the Chinese and the Japanese?—A. I would rather deal with the Japanese. They are a more manly class of people.

Q. In your opinion are there any mining claims not being worked by reason of the cost of labour?—A. No, sir. In some cases capital has been lacking, but I believe it has been provided for. In 1899 we were overstocked with men.

The placer mines of Cariboo (except hydraulic mining on a large scale) are worked by Chinese; sometimes on royalty and in some cases under leases.

Major Charles F. J. Dupont, who owns some placer claims that are worked by Chinese, said: I know that hundreds, perhaps thousands, at least a considerable percentage of the Chinese in British Columbia, are engaged in work that not only does not interfere with white men, but produces wealth within the province. In placer mining the Chinese are content if they make from $1 to $1.50 a day; white men will not look at that. Then the Chinese are consumers of table goods, purchase their supplies at the stores of white men. They purchase rubber boots, carpenters' tools and nails. They are large purchasers of provisions. They travel largely by our railways and steamers.

I have some Chinese working on royalty for me. I had sixty in my own employ last year. They did not make a dollar a day, yet they are quite content to do the work this spring. I never could have worked without the Chinese. I have a white man in charge of each gang of Chinamen, and he checks the produce each night. He checks what each man produces. Two per cent has to go to the government, and the balance goes to the benefit of the country. I know these men are anxious to go to work this spring and contracts have been made with some of them. They do not interfere certainly with the white men.

I was Managing Director of a company engaged in a large work, expending about $400,000 on the South Fork of the Quesnel River. We paid white men $2.75 a day; that was for shovel work; skilled men we paid more. The ordinary pick and shovel workmen were paid that. The pick and shovel men struck for $3 a day. They were under the impression that we were at their mercy, and that we could not get any other men to perform the work, but we employed Chinese for a while, until the white men came to reason and were content to resume work at $2.75 a day; then we dispensed with Chinese labour.

The Honourable James Reid, senator, who has resided in Cariboo for 38 years, stated that placer mining is the chief industry. The Consolidated Cariboo is in that district. There are from five to six hundred Chinese in that district. More than one-half of these work their own claims. The others are cooks, gardeners, and farm labourers. The Chinese were employed in the Cariboo Consolidated. They gave place to Japanese who worked for less and were more available at that time. The Chinese have been there as long as I have been there. The Chinese have been useful. We could hardly have got along without them. I think we could do with a few more of them, for the present.

Q. In what way is the Province benefitted by the Chinese working at placer mining?—A. I am up and down all the time and I come in touch with a great many Chinese. Hundreds of dollars are taken out of the ground and put in circulation by the Chinese. A Chinese will work as long as he earns his board. He will keep along with the expectation of doing better. Sometimes they make from $8 to $10 a day, working hard all the time. Often they will not make more than their board, and they will still work on; but a white man will not do that. As soon as it goes below the ordinary wages of the country a white man quits.

Q. How does the Chinese money get into circulation?—A. I find when the Chinese do well they live well. They buy chickens and eggs and beef and pork.

Q. Do they travel much from one place to another?—A. They do in search of mining grounds. They are continually hunting up abandoned places and working them.

All the valuable ground is worked out in placer mining. The upper part has all been worked out. It now requires capital to go to work and develop the deeper grounds. The Chinese only go down a very little distance, and it will only require mining to go down two or three feet to come to pay dirt. Notably has that proved to be the case in the Cariboo Consolidated Company. Chinese excel in pick and shovel work and in running cars.

Dennis Murphy, of Ashcroft, M.L.A., says: I was born in the Cariboo country and lived there till I was sixteen, and am up there every summer. I am pretty familiar with the conditions there. The placer mines are carried on by both whites and Chinese; the largest concerns by whites. The largest company there is the Cariboo Consolidated. They employ over a hundred all told; no Chinese, except cooks, but from thirty to forty Japs. I think there are about 1,500 or 2,000 Chinese in the Cariboo, and about 1,000 engaged in the placer mining. They generally work for themselves. I don't think the whites employ them except for placer mining. The Chinamen are employed in the old worked out placers and they prospect just as whites do, and take up claims as whites do.

Leicester Bonnar, of Barkerville, in the Cariboo District, said: There are no Japanese around Barkerville. There are from 200 to 300 Chinese according to the season. About half work for themselves and half for wages. A Chinaman gets $2 and $2.25 a day and boards himself. They are not particular how long they work; I should think a twelve hour shift. Whites are paid $3 and $3.50 and board themselves. He would pay $30 a month for board. I was speaking of twenty mile radius from Barkerville. The British white labourer—that is the permanent miner—is not interfered with by the Chinese. I was manager of the Cariboo Gold Fields Company. They employed from 60 to 180 men; of these about 100 out of 130 were whites. That was during construction. Afterwards we employed about 30 whites and 15 or 20 Chinamen. The proportion in other mines would be about the same. It is sixty miles from Barkerville to the Consolidated Cariboo. They employ 200 men all told; of these about 100 are whites and 100 Japanese. Barkerville is 286 miles by road from the Canadian Pacific Railway. Our company operated since 1895, open hydraulic, and the largest, after the Cariboo Consolidated. The company expended there $500,000. It is putting in plant now. There are four or five companies adjoining. They have expended about $100,000 apiece. Chinese labour is an absolute necessity. The length of the mining season in hydraulic mining is about 90 days. The men have to pay their way up. It takes four days each way and costs $64 from Ashcroft to Barkerville and return. I am an Englishman. I don't consider Chinese good citizens. My feelings are against Chinese. I would clear the lot out. If they are allowed they will take the field from us. They can live cheaper than whites. From a business standpoint I favour Chinese. From a citizen's standpoint I oppose them. I think there are plenty of Chinese there now. They are trained to the business. They have been there a long time. I should say there are plenty in the country now. They have cleaned out the placer mines. They live on nothing. I think it would be a good scheme to stop Chinese taking up lands, and keep Canada for Canadians. Cariboo is fairly prosperous. If there was a permanent class of settlers it would be better for all, employers and employees. It is the permanent settlers we want. If they were all whites it would be far better for the country.

Edmund B. Kerby, general manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star, says: My experience has extended through the Western States and Mexico, in connection with mines and mining work, for the last fifteen years. As to placer mines, so far as I have been able to learn, they seem to have gone into placer mines that white men thought were worked out, or would languish until finally they would accept the offer of Chinese gangs to work them for them, and work them in their own way. They lease the property and pay a lump sum as a royalty. I have generally understood that a running royalty was unsuccessful because no one could get at the exact amount that the Chinese took out of the placers. All the bargaining is done by one Chinaman, and he deals for the gang. It has been considered an advantage to the owners, but I do not know that it has been any advantage to the district. I do not think myself it would be well to have placer mining carried out by Chinese all over the country. The Chinese are working placers and taking a large amount of money, hundreds of thousands of dollars, out of the country, and that undoubtedly has an effect on the whole community. Perhaps it will be well to leave the placers unworked until white labour could be got to work them. The Chinese get most of their supplies from their own people, and deal very little with white men.

SUMMARY.

In the early history of placer mining, after the richer claims were worked out, the white miners left the placer diggings in great numbers, leaving large numbers of Chinese, who continued to work the abandoned surface claims. In future the industry will depend upon the deep placer mines, which will be worked largely by machinery.

A large part of the earnings of the Chinese in this industry have in the past been sent to China, and it is a question whether it would not have been better to have left these abandoned claims to have been worked at a later stage by machinery and white labour.

There are no Chinese engaged in placer mining in the Atlin country, or the Yukon Territory.

In Cariboo, Chinese have been engaged in placer mining from the commencement of this industry. The richer placers were worked out and the Chinese now work over the old claims and take up new claims, sometimes working on royalty, but mostly on their own account. They are largely employed in the open hydraulic mines, except in the Cariboo Consolidated, where Japanese and whites are employed. These mines are situated, many of them, 150 to 300 miles north of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the difficulty of obtaining good white labour is very great. The mining season lasts only about ninety days. It takes from four to six days each way from Ashcroft to get in; and for a return ticket costs $64 from Ashcroft to Barkerville.

Under the present conditions of the labour market there, the Chinese are a necessity. Those there are trained to the business, and are sufficient in numbers to meet the demand. Exclusion of further immigration of Chinese will not affect this industry.

CHAPTER XI.—LODE MINING.

This industry has steadily increased since 1887. In that year the output was $26,547; in 1892 it had reached $100,000; in 1893 nearly $300,000; in 1894 nearly $800,000; in 1895 over $2,000,000; 1896 over $4,000,000; 1897, $7,000,000; 1898, $6,500,000; 1899, $6,750,000; and in 1900 over $10,000,000. There are probably between 7,000 and 8,000 men engaged in this industry. No Chinese or Japanese are employed in the interior, and very few on the coast.

Edmund B. Kerby, manager of the War Eagle and Centre Star, says: There are no Chinese or Japanese employed in those mines, nor have they ever been employed under my management. We have a large hotel up there in which at one time some Chinese were employed. They were employed in the laundry, and perhaps a couple of Chinese around cleaning up the bunk houses; that was not in the mining company, or anything to do with the mining company. When we operated the hotel or boarding house we had two; the parties to whom we leased it have one as a cook. Outside of that they are not used, except for domestic service among the members of the staff. I have had a large experience in mines on the other side. I have never known the employment of any Chinese except in placer mines; that holds good all over the coast. My headquarters were in Colorado, but I had worked pretty much all through the Western States in connection with mines and mining work. I do not see that any inconvenience would result at present if no more Chinese came in. I do not think myself that it is for the best interests of the community to have an unlimited supply of Chinese or Japanese labour coming into the country. My impression is that the plan we have adopted in the United States has worked out fairly well.

As to their being employed in rock or quartz mines, I have never seen the question raised. In the first place, their ability as miners would be rather deficient, and physically they are not nearly as strong as white men. Then, for another reason, their limited knowledge of English would make them a little harder to train as miners; and I suppose were mine superintendents to think of employing Chinese underground, they would consider the fact that it would lead to more or less trouble with the men, who

would object to their being used underground. I have never seen the question raised, however, of employing them underground, so far as metaliferous mines are concerned.

Bernard McDonald, manager of the British America Corporation, the LeRoy, &c., &c., says: We employ between 800 and 900 men. I employ one Chinamen as a janitor in the office. The boarding house is leased and the cooks there employed are whites.

There is just one Chinaman in the employ of the Company. It would make no difference to us if no more Chinese came in. I do not regard the Chinese as a class of people desirable to form the basis of the citizenship of the country. I draw a distinction; I think the Japanese would be preferable, because they are more progressive, and therefore more profitable, but my knowledge of them is not extensive. In the United States Chinese have not been employed to any considerable extent in the mines or in the industries connected with the mines. There are no Chinese employed in them that I know of. The mining industries have developed very fast in the United States. I do not think it advisable. Where these people are not employed there has not been any retarding of the development. The development in the Cœur d'Alene has been rapid and has gone on without this class of labour, and the development has gone on rapidly in other parts without the presence of the Chinese. Although the railways were built by the Chinese, I do not see why we cannot get along without these people. I think it would help to get white labour here if the Chinese were not here, and then we would have white girls—plenty of them.

James Devine, secretary of the Miners Union, Rossland, says: Chinese are not employed in or about the mines in this vicinity. I have had experience in Colorado, New Mexico and portions of Arizona. They are not employed in any of the mines I ever worked in. I should certainly say the Government should prohibit this class of people from coming into the Province. They are of no benefit to the country and it would be a benefit to encourage the immigration of white labour. They affect all trades and callings, both directly and indirectly, wherever they are. They drive out white labour and force it to seek employment elsewhere. It drives white labour from the coast cities and to seek employment in the mines. Labour when driven out by the Chinese has to seek employment where it is most likely to find it. There is more labour in the city at the present time than there is a demand for. There is an overabundance of labour here. The supply of miners has always been equal to the demand since I came to the country. They make it more difficult for white men to get employment, and their presence also has a depressing effect on the coast cities from which we could get white labour.

The wages here compare with the wages on the other side very favourably. In some portions of Montana the wages are $3.50 a day; in Washington State for skilled miners $3.50 a day. In portions of Montana, in the great copper mines of Butte, skilled and unskilled labour are $3.50 a day; in this camp unskilled labour is $2.50 a day. All over the Kootenay country unskilled labour is paid $3 a day in the mine. There is always more labour in the country than there is a demand for.

J. B. McArthur, K.C., of Rossland, says: I have resided in Rossland since January 1895, when it had a population of 75. I am interested in mining here and in the Slocan district, the boundary district, Similkameen, Lardo and Duncan. No Chinese or Japanese are employed in mining in any of these districts. Where they are engaged at mines as cooks they are generally paid from $50 to $60 a month and board; the second cook gets $40 a month.

The general feeling in these districts is universal, that the Chinese shall not be engaged in mining or in mines at all. The view is universal that they should be further restricted. My opinion is that a $300 tax would practically bar out all the undesirable Chinese; that is the Chinese that come into competition with white labour. I think what they really desire, as far as the boundary country is concerned, is practical prohibition of further Chinese immigration. Of course there are exceptions to that rule. That would apply to the whole of the country I have referred to, as far as I can judge. As to the development of mining centres, I do not think it would have affected us at all if there had been no Chinese. I think as the new conditions arose we would have met them in some way or other, but the Chinese followed the white men into all these

camps. I have seen three or four camps started, and the Chinese always followed the white men into the camps very quickly. I have about seventy men all told employed in the mining industry. Grand Forks, with a population of fifteen hundred, has 78 Chinese and 2 Japanese,—17 laundrymen, 26 cooks, 5 gardeners, 4 merchants, 26 labourers and hangers on, and two prostitutes,—the largest Chinese population of any other place in the boundary.

I think the production of the mines justifies the mine owners in paying the rate of wages paid. The grade of ore is more in the boundary. They pay slightly higher wages to muckers there than here, and have no trouble about labour questions there. There is no reason why our mining resources cannot be developed here as they are in Montana and other places. I certainly think it in the interest of the country to exclude the Chinese.

The Honourable Smith Curtis, of Rossland, says: I am a barrister by profession, but for the last two years have been engaged in mining, and not followed my profession. I am pretty familiar with the conditions now existing here. I am strongly in favour of the exclusion of all oriental labour. My reasons are: the orientals are physically and mentally an inferior race, and if allowed to come into the country without restriction they will drive out the white population, outside of the capitalistic class, or they will force white people to live on the same plane as the orientals; in other words, the white race would be driven out, or be degenerated and degraded. I hold that a servile race, or class, is not beneficial to a white race, and that has been proved by the experience of having the negro in the Southern States. And the inferiority of the orientals to the white race in British Columbia is shown by the refusal of the white race to assimilate in any degree whatever with the oriental. The opinion throughout the country, I believe, is practically unanimous. It is almost the unanimous opinion of all classes that there should be no more immigration of this class of orientals into British Columbia. In so far as industry is concerned, I do not think they are at all essential or necessary. I know of no industry that would seriously suffer from the exclusion of the Chinese. Its tendency is to keep white labour out of the country. If they were not here we would have the country populated by a very desirable class of white people, who would settle and develop the country. We are a new country; what we want above all things is good white labour. I may say in this country they can afford to pay the standard wages. We do not shut down because we cannot pay the standard wages, but because we have not sufficient capital to-day to develop property which can afford to pay white labour, so we do not require to have low-priced oriental labour. We have plenty of propositions—paying propositions; the country is full of them, simply waiting capital intelligently applied.

George Allan Kirk, wholesale merchant, of Victoria, and interested in mining, says: Take the case of mines. A number of mines with low grade are tied up because of the price of labour; there are a number of low grade mines which cannot be worked because of the cost of mucking and pushing. There is a mine up near Silverton with a very narrow vein; consequently we cannot pay so much to get the ore out; we cannot afford to pay $3 a day for doing it. The consequence is the mine is closed down and a number of people—one party of Scotch people—have been thrown out of employment, because the mine owners could not afford to pay the price demanded for labour. If the work was done by Chinese and Japanese it could be done for much less. The mining itself could be done by white miners, but the common labour, such as mucking, should be done by cheap labour such as the Chinese or Japanese. The machines could be worked by the white miners. I do not think that the effect of that would be that Chinese and Japanese would gradually encroach upon the white man's work, and get to working the machine.

In South America the common work is done by natives and there is plenty of work for white men.

Q. What do the white men there do?—A. They oversee the natives.

Q. There are comparatively few white men employed?—A. There is a white man to oversee each gang.

Q. Do you think it would be in the interests of the country and white labour to allow Chinese to come in without restriction—to allow them to come in in large numbers —a coolie class as you say?—A. Certainly.

Q. Do you think a coolie class is desirable in any country?—A. Well if you want to get into manufacturing I do not see what else you can do.

Q. I mean in the interests of the country, do you think a coolie class is desirable? —A. I was speaking from the standpoint of an employer.

Q. What is the effect on white labour?—A. I think it has a tendency to keep white labour down in the trades where the Chinese compete.

Q. Do you think that is desirable?—A. From an employer's point of view it is.

Henry Croft, of Victoria, says: I am engaged in mining at Mount Sicker, forty-five miles from Victoria; employ both white and Japanese labour at the mines. We employ only white labour in the mines, and Japanese in the sorting of ore. We employ from thirty to thirty-five Japanese. The boys from the town would come up and work for three or four weeks and then leave us suddenly. Either we had to get other labour or shut down. I thought about securing Japanese from sixteen to twenty-one years of age. We secured the Japanese for that labour. We found them perfectly satisfactory in every way. We pay them 90 cents a day. We cannot employ white labour for the simple reason that trade prices will not allow it. If we were to pay labour at $2.75 a day, which is what I understand to be paid in the Kootenays, it would make a difference to us in profit of over $1,900 a year. We employ only three or four Chinese, cutting wood. I am averse to Chinese and Japanese immigration, but I consider that in new countries like South Africa and Australia you must have cheap labour. I think there is a sufficient number of Chinese here now. I do not think it necessary to permit any more Chinese to come into the country; there are enough of Chinese and Japanese here at present. I believe it is now like a tap; when you want water you turn it on, and when you have got enough you turn it off. All you have got to do is to put a per capita tax on the Chinese high enough to exclude them. I think the miners to be introduced should be men likely to become permanent residents of the country.

Exclusion would certainly increase the immigration to this Province, but I do not think for some time. It will tend to make the different industries in a flourishing condition, as there would be more demand for goods of all kinds. I should advise the stoppage of immigration from the Orient in the future; we have enough Oriental labour in the Province now.

White labour will not come in while the Chinese and Japanese are occupying the place in cheap labour that they are doing at present, but with a restriction on immigration, white labour will gradually come in here, and the Japanese will leave the country.

Henry Crosdaile, of Nelson, says: I have been up to October last, manager of the Hall Mines. I was manager for seven years. When we were working full we had two hundred men. Neither Chinese nor Japanese were engaged in or about the mines. The head cook was not a Chinaman; he had an assistant at times, and one or two Chinamen for washing up. In my opinion the country is not fit for further restriction. I am speaking of this district. There is a large minority of people here who are dependent on the Chinese, and the Chinese in rendering them the ordinary service connected with gardening, washing and domestic service, do not come into contact in any way with the labouring classes. I am quite willing to admit that the majority of the people here are opposed to any further immigration of Chinese, but I think the majority is made up of people who do not employ Chinese, nor get any benefit from their service. If you take the opinion of people who have been the employers of Chinese, I think you will find a number of them in favour of keeping the restriction as it is, and not increasing it; but the main point I should like to make is this: I do not see how this district—the existence of the Chinese that are here—in any way affects the mines or the labouring men in the country. They certainly do not keep down wages or come into conflict with them in any way whatever. They do not even get employment on the railways in this district. I do not regard them as a desirable race,—that is to have the full rights of citizens,—certainly not the right to vote, because they do not have the power of understanding the form of government under which we live. They do not take any interest

in it. I simply look upon them as a class of citizens that we have to make use of,—only fitted for the service they render. They are good servants, and law-abiding. I do not think they are taking the place of citizens.

Q. Do you consider them a factor of any importance in the development of this section of the country?—A. No, I cannot say I do. They are not mining, and as I say, in this district, any work they do does not tend to develop the district. It is naturally dependent on mining, and in a secondary degree the prosperity is dependent on the railway.

Q. Is there an abundance of ordinary labour in this country—white labour?—A. Yes. Their wages are from $2.50 to $3.50 a day at the mines; that is on skilled labour.

To Mr. Wilson.

Q. As a British subject you feel it is desirable that the Chinese and Japanese should be gradually excluded, but all you desire is that it should not be rapidly consummated?—A. Yes.

SUMMARY.

The metalliferous mines yield the largest amount annually of any natural industry of the province. Out of a total yield of all minerals, including coal and coke, of over $16,000,000 for the year 1900, the lode mines alone yielded over $10,000,000. The industry has steadily increased since 1887, when the output was only $26,547, and this magnificent showing has been done almost exclusively by white labour.

The Chinese are not employed in the Kootenay or in the boundary district in connection with the mines, except in some instances in getting out cordwood, and as cooks. We heard of one mine near Yale where Chinese are said to be employed as miners, and a few are employed for development work in the interior, but only to a very limited extent, and their employment in this industry has not appreciably affected its development, nor can it be said that it is dependent to any considerable extent upon this class of labour. They are not an important factor.

The evidence of the large employers was to the effect that if there was no further immigration of this class of labour it would not retard the development of this industry. The opinion of those interested is almost, if not quite, unanimous in favour of excluding further Chinese immigration.

CHAPTER XII.—THE LUMBER INDUSTRY (EXPORT TRADE.)

TOTAL OUTPUT.

By the report of the Provincial Timber Inspector of British Columbia, for the year ending December 31, 1900, it appears:

There has been cut upon Crown Lands in timber.....	152,486,199 ft.
" " cordwood...	19,202,900 "
" leaseholds in timber.....	61,140,883 "
	232,831,982
There has been cut upon private property in timber.	9,745,641 "
" " E. & N. Ry. land (so far as reported).....	27,272,770 "
Imported timber.....	6,386,077 "
	43,404,488

The cut for the year 1899 amounted to only 217,000,000, showing an increase in the total output of 59,000,000 feet. The above does not include timber cut on Dominion lands, and only a portion of that cut on the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway land.

TOTAL EXPORT.

The total shipments of lumber of the British Columbia mills for export for the year 1900 amounted to 84,210,553 feet. Of this large amount the Chemainus mills contributed 38,365,833 feet, the Hastings mills 23,873,782 feet, Moodyville mills, 19,312,482 feet, the Royal City mills, New Westminster, which are under the same management as the Hastings Mills, 1,312,100 feet, the Canadian Pacific mills, Port Moody, 687,353 feet; and the Northern Pacific Lumber Company, Barnet, 659,003 feet. It will be seen that three mills contributed about 97 per cent of the total export.

EXPORT FROM PUGET SOUND.

There was a total export from Puget Sound mills of 156,857,489 feet.

STATEMENT of Shipments of Lumber from British Columbia and Puget Sound, 1900.

(Exhibit 40, referred to in the evidence of R. H. Alexander).

Destination.	Hastings Mill.	Moodyville.	North Pacific Lumber Co., Barnet.	Canadian Pacific, Port Moody.	Royal City Planing Mill, New Westminster.	Chemainus.	Total Exports from B. C. Mills.	Puget Sound Mills.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
N. K. and continent	9,850,860	2,809,813				12,382,940	25,045,613	8,473,614	33,517,227
Australia	4,698,580	7,230,490	659,003	687,353		20,661,347	33,936,773	63,612,563	97,549,336
Oceania								5,041,866	5,041,866
Africa	2,149,018					3,738,367	5,887,385	12,298,256	18,185,641
Peru	831,236	3,723,114					4,554,350	14,847,020	19,401,370
Chili	890,660	1,461,692				1,506,478	3,858,830	16,616,052	20,474,882
Other South American ports	327,995						327,995	3,738,965	4,066,960
China and Japan	4,064,028	4,087,373			1,312,100		9,463,501	20,332,514	29,796,015
Siberia								1,413,817	1,413,817
United States Atlantic ports	1,061,405						1,061,405	1,261,969	2,323,374
Mexico						76,701	76,701	9,220,853	9,297,554
	23,873,782	19,312,482	659,003	687,353	1,312,100	38,365,833	84,210,553	156,857,489	241,068,042

The Hastings Mill employs 512 men, namely, 257 in and about the mills, and 255 in the camps. Of the men employed in and about the mills 164 are white men and 93 Japanese. No Chinese are employed. Of the 255 men employed in the camps, 245 are white men, and 10 Chinese, employed exclusively as cooks and their helpers.

The Moodyville Mill employs 110 men, of whom 60 are white men, 40 Japanese, and 10 Chinamen.

The Chemainus Mill employs in and about the mills 58 white men, 55 Chinamen, and 56 Japanese, and in the camps, 128 white men, 19 Chinamen, and 30 Japanese.

It will be seen from the above that the mills who do the principal export business employ comparatively few Chinese.

Edmund James Palmer, manager of the Victoria Lumber Company, at Chemainus, said: I have been connected with the company for twelve years. We have in the mill 58 whites, 55 Chinese, and 56 Japanese. The Chinese have been employed in the mill since February, a year ago, and the Japanese about the same time. Before that white men only were employed.

In the woods we have 128 white men, 19 Chinese, and 30 Japanese. Sixteen Chinese are employed as water carriers in the woods. I never employed Japanese in the woods until three months ago. I let them a contract for grading a road. The total number employed by the company is 347, of whom 186 are whites. We have doubled the capacity of our mill. Our business is entirely export. We have to compete with mills on Puget Sound. We have three mills, the Hastings, Moodyville and our mill, doing an export business. We are the largest exporters in British Columbia. I think we exported as much as all the rest put together last year. We have never carried on our business by white labour exclusively. It is simply impossible; we cannot do it. I think there are sufficient Chinese here at present to supply all demands. I think there are plenty of Japanese here.

I do not think any business man or employer of labour, throwing all sympathy out of the question, but would be willing to pay a white man $2 a day rather than a Chinaman $1. I have never found any difference of opinion as to this; that it takes three Chinese to do the work of two white men, and sometimes it takes two Chinamen to do the work of one white man in any heavy work, if not more than that.

Q. Then, do I apprehend you aright when I note you as saying you think we have enough Chinese here now?—A. Yes, I do think we have enough of them here now.

Q. And speaking of your industry, you say no serious inconvenience would arise if no more Chinese came here?—A. I think not. White people would then move in with their families, and it would be a benefit to us. The change would take place gradually. It would not take place all at once; and there would be no injury to business or any inconvenience to speak of....

Q. You are satisfied if no more Chinese came in, white men with their families would gradually come in, and the question of labour would adjust itself?—A. Yes, I say so.

Q. Do you think the presence of Chinese here has a tendency to prevent white immigration?—A. Yes, if there were no more Chinese coming in white labour would soon come in this direction. That would be a positive benefit to the Province. The Chinese will never become citizens or assimilate, nor is it desirable.

Q. Looking at the matter then from the standpoint of the interest of the country, and not being forgetful of your own interests, what do you say? There is no question about it disturbing present conditions?—A. I would say that all further immigration of Chinese or Japanese should be prohibited. What we have here now I think quite sufficient, and I think we can gradually work white labour in until we would soon have sufficient white labour in the country to answer all demands.

Q. Can you compare the standard of living of the Chinese and of the white people?—A. There could be no comparison between the living of the two nations. White people could not possibly live as the Chinese do. Very little of the money earned in this country by the Chinese is spent here. They send all their spare money, and that is more than two-thirds of their earnings, to China. We never do one dollar's worth of business in a month with Chinese. They come in on the last of the month and get their books and their money, and they trade entirely with their own people. The Japanese are different.

We pay Chinese and Japanese from $1 to $1.25. The lowest rate of wages paid to whites for mill work is $2. It ranges from $2 to $8. There is one paid $8, one $6.50 one $5, one $4.50, six at $3.50, four at $3.25, three at $2.25, two at $2.50, and the balance at $2. Lowest wages paid whites in the woods is from $2.25 and up to $3.75. When not on contract the Japanese get $1 a day. Chinese get $1.25 a day.

I know of the Port Blakeley Mill, the Port Gamble Mill, the Ludgate Mill, the St. Paul and Tacoma, and the Bellingham Mill Company on the Sound. With the exception of the Blakeley Mill, all the other mills employ whites. The Port Blakeley Mill is the only mill that employs Japanese. Last year, owing to the excitement as to the Nome gold mining, they put in 300. They have 340 working in the Port Blakeley Mill now; they have Japanese on the carriers, on the trimmers, and everywhere. These are the principal mills we have to compete with. They do not employ Chinese.

There is a difference of one shilling and three pence to two shillings and six pence on freight rates between all Puget Sound points and British Columbia in favor of Puget Sound. It does not make any difference whether we are shipping to India, China or the Cape; they make that difference in the rate per one thousand feet. They claim the cause of it is extra pilotage charges on this side, the extra cost of supplies on this side from what they cost on the other, and sick mariners' benefit. That applies to the rate on sailing vessels. They have to pay extra pilotage, they tell us, and sick mariners' benefits on this side. The pilotage would not amount to $50 on one million feet. The bulk of the ships carrying lumber are owned in California, and they have used that as a leverage to force the ships over there.

Q. What are your other disadvantages?—A. The freight rates, then they have a market, a home market that is very wide, they can ship lumber that we cannot ship. They can ship anything that is five or six feet long to the eastern market that we have to burn up as we cannot find any market for it here. We have no market for lumber less than sixteen feet long. Their machinery costs them considerably less. A large portion of the machinery we use is American machinery. They have also a preference of from thirty-six to thirty-seven cents a thousand feet by freight vessels.

The average cost of towing on Puget Sound is forty cents, on this side it is $1, but we have an advantage being nearer the raw material.

The Americans have a market for everything they cut, no matter how short it is or how inferior it is. The strongest competition we have is from the State of Oregon. Their labour is white; their common labour gets $1.75 a day without board, their lowest class $1.65 a day. Living is cheaper over there, at least fifteen per cent lower than here. In Washington the general run of labour is $1.75 for common ordinary labour around the mill. Men sometimes only get $1.50 a day; boys cleaning up, $1 a day.

Q. What proportion of your hands will be employed in the manufacture of rough lumber?—A. At the present time I have none. We have two or three cargoes and not a bit of rough lumber in them. European cargoes take more rough lumber. South Africa takes nothing but rough lumber; Melbourne takes rough lumber; Adelaide takes ten per cent manufactured and ninety per cent rough lumber; Sydney varies from ten to twenty per cent of rough lumber; China takes a small percentage of dressed lumber. They take a great deal of rough lumber. In a cargo of one million feet they will take twenty thousand feet of dressed lumber; while the countries of South America take quite a percentage of dressed lumber. It would depend on the cargoes ordered whether we run the planers or not.

The witness further dealt with the labour aspect of the question as follows:

I would rather take white labour and pay them twenty-five cents a day more and take my chances of competition with the other side. If I could get white men to come with their families and stay here I would rather have them than any Chinese or Japanese.

Q. Would it be possible to get white labour in the east to supply your demands?—A. I am not familiar with the labour market in eastern Canada, but in Wisconsin and Michigan our Company are operating quite a number of mills. In the summer time the men work in the mills and in the winter time they work in the woods, and they stay

there with our companies year in and year out. They live there because they have steady work and they are generally men with families, but here the white labour who operate the mill, at least at Chemainus, are a floating population. They have run away from ships or have been unsuccessful in mining, and they come here to make a little start again. As soon as the fishing opens on the Fraser they will leave to go and catch salmon. They expect to make more money, whether they do it or not. They leave us with very little warning. I would not take a contract and depend upon them.

Swedes and Norwegians are employed in a number of mills on the other side. You cannot bring them over here, at least I do not think they would come. If the Chinese were not allowed to come in any more I would take chances of getting steady and satisfactory white labour. We are an export mill and largely dependent on our shipping facilities. One ship will make a passage in 21 days and another will take 90 days for the same passage, and there are times when we are out of ships and we have to close down. Whenever we had to close down the white men would leave us. In January something like $4,411 was expended simply in holding my skilled labour together. I do not think there would be any difficulty in getting married men to come here if there were no Chinese or Japanese here. I think it is the proper way to solve the problem. I think that bringing white men and their families here would finally lead to the exclusion of the Chinese and Japanese. I do not claim that Chinese is cheap labour. We have no great advantage in having the Chinese. . . . . .

The remedy I suggest is stop the Chinese coming in and offer some inducements for the surplus good white labour of the east to come out here. If I had my choice I would have Norwegians and Swedes with large families. We cannot pay more than $2 a day and compete with the mills on the other side. We would be better able to compete if we could sell all the lumber we produce, short and long. If we could get them to stay for a little while and get married and get to raising vegetables for themselves, they would soon stay with us.

If we could not get cheap labour we would have to close down, but I do not think that is likely to occur. I think we could get white labour to supply the demand.

If it were generally known throughout the east that this was not a Province devoted exclusively to Chinese cheap labour, if it was understood there was a prohibition on Chinese labour coming into this country, I am almost certain enough of white labour would come in. I do not know positively that it would come in, but if there was a call for labour the railroads would offer cheap rates, and white people would then come to the coast. It is a serious problem. There are quite enough Chinese here. I can get all I want without any difficulty. I apprehend no danger at all from there not being enough Chinamen.

The wage has got to be regulated by the price of the manufactured product. Everything is more prosperous when you are paying big wages and getting more for your product. If they have a good market in the United States they are not likely to compete with us over here. I employ Mongolian labour from interest. Chinese and Japanese will never take the place of white men in cutting timber. They are no good in the woods.

If you want to improve the stock in a country you import good stock from the east or from other countries. If you are figuring to settle up a community and open up the country Japanese are no good. In the east eighty per cent of the men are married and have their families with them.

We will say for instance we want to employ thirty on the wharf. I have got to have thirty men for the work before I can go on at all. No white man will work with Chinese. We have got to put in all Chinese or all white men. If we had a class of labour coming in here who would not consider it a degradation to work at menial work there would be no difficulty. At the present time the demand for white labour is far in excess of the supply. We do not want a servile class here. There is a dignity in all kinds of honest labour.

The American lumber trade has not been injured as a result of the exclusion of the Chinese. They seem to be able to compete with us right along, although we have the benefit of low-priced Chinese and Japanese labour. White immigration from the east

has come in and taken the place of Chinese and Japanese labour over there. At the time they had trouble with the Chinese, the export of lumber did not amount to more than fifteen million feet, and to-day that has increased to two hundred million feet. Exclusion certainly would do no harm here. I think it would be of great benefit. I am in favour of total exclusion. I think we have enough of the Chinese here now.

Richard H. Alexander, manager of the Hastings mill owned by the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Co., says: We employ all together in and around the mill and in connection with it, 257 hands, and in connection with the camps, 255, total 512; in the mill 164 whites, no Chinese, 93 Japanese. The whites' duties are in connection with the operation of the machines and marking. The Japanese are employed in and about the mill trucking lumber and piling it. Japanese are paid from ninety cents to $1.25 a day. White men run from $40 to $45 a month. Five sawyers from $4 to $5 a day; and filles, there are five of them, paid $7 a day. Some other men are paid from $3.25 to $3.50. Of the men in camp 245 are whites, the rest are Chinese cooks, ten altogether; no Japanese. Average wage for white $2.25 to $2.50 per day; overseers a good deal more; Chinese cooks possibly $40 or $45 a month.

I may say in connection with the mill there is another matter that can be fairly included; when we have three vessels at the wharf we generally employ about fifty stevedores. They do not figure on our pay rolls because we do not employ them directly, although they are as much a part of the business as the others. They are one-third or one-fourth Indians; the others are whites.

The Japanese are all in inferior positions with the exception of the lath mill, at which there are six or seven of them at the cut-off saws and trimmers. We first engaged them twelve years ago. We have always had in the mill a certain proportion of cheap labour. In the early days we had Indians. They gradually got off from working in the mills and we replaced them by Chinese. On account of the strong feeling against the Chinese we discontinued them, and we have since been using the Japanese, but we have always had a proportion of inferior or cheap labour in and about the mill. The Indians were not crowded out by either the Chinese or Japanese. They worked for less but they got their board, and that would make their wages equal to $1 a day. At that time we had an Indian ranch close to the mill, and the Indians all found work in the mill. That ranch was removed and they went and lived on the other side of the Inlet. Another reason may have been that during the construction of the railway they could get more profitable work with the contractors. There is this difficulty about the Indians, you cannot have them steadily; you cannot get them to work steady.

Japanese are steadier than the Indians and they are stronger in some cases. A Chinaman will go along like a machine and do the same work every morning until night at the same rate, steady as a machine, but the Japanese has got more spirit, and if he sees the machine crowding him he will put on a spurt and keep the machine clear. The Chinaman will let the machine block up and will want another man to help him. The Japanese is better for the work than the Chinese in the way I mention.

I have resided in the country 40 years, over 31 years here. In 1862 there were Chinese in the country, most of them had come from California. They worked in laundries, market gardens and in domestic service. A great many of them were engaged in placer mining up the river.

Q. Speaking of the Chinese exclusively, do you think there are sufficient in the country now to meet the requirements, or to meet the demands?—A. I do not desire to say anything about them. My desire is to confine myself to my own business, what I know.

Q. Are you in favour of further immigration of the Chinese?—A. I think that information should come from some person who employs them.

The question is that we have always had a certain amount of cheap labour in connection with the operation of the lumber industry. It is quite possible that white labour would be generally profitable if we could get it under the same conditions, but as I understand the question of restriction, the object is to replace oriental labour with white labour.

As it is at present the white men cannot work at the rate of wages that the Japanese do. Now if the Japanese were replaced by white labour at a higher rate of wages, on the industry there can be but one result; we would either have to raise the price of the article produced or shut down the manufacture altogether. In our case the article manufactured has to be exported. It has to meet competition in the markets of the world with the same commodities of other places; and not only that, but in the operation of your trade there must be sufficient remuneration to pay interest on the capital invested. We find we have not even our own domestic market to ourselves. We find owing to the present state of the industry that we are subjected to the competition of lumber coming in from the United States, which comes into Canada free of duty. In the United States they manufacture lumber under conditions which are better than ours. We have to pay duties on our supplies, on all that we use; machinery and tools, whilst they do not pay any duty, and we have to come into competition with lumber produced there under cheaper labour. We may have a little cheap labour here, such as the Japanese give, but against that we have to put the cost of transportation and other advantages we do not possess. It is not in our power to increase the price of lumber. We cannot obtain the white labour at such a low rate of wages as would enable us to compete. We have to look very carefully for the white labour we want. The Japanese supply the want of the proportion of cheap labour that is necessary to compete in the markets of the world. The point is this: we have always had a certain proportion of cheap labour, and in order to compete successfully we must have it, and having that cheap labour we are enabled to employ white men in the higher branches of the industry.

Allow me to impress on the Commission again that if the Japanese are replaced at a higher rate of wages in the manufacturing of lumber there can be no other result but one: we would have to raise the price of the article produced, or go out of the business.

Of the total number of men employed, 512, there are in round figures eighty per cent. of whites as against 20 per cent. orientals, and if you include the fifty men I have spoken of in the loading of ships, the proportion of whites will be still greater. Of the percentage stated the whites received eighty-eight per cent. of the wages and the orientals not twelve per cent. The proportion, you will see, is about one Japanese to four white men and the four men get seven-eighths of the wages.

In connection with our business at the Hastings mill, the total wages paid last year was $277,376.15, out of which the whites received $245,369.35 and the orientals $31,806.80, and, as I have already said, if you include the men working in the ships it will be still more for the whites. Every ship will average more than a million feet, and at that average the wages paid will be more than $1,000 on every ship. It seems to me it is for you gentlemen to judge whether it be advisable by doing away with this factor of cheap labour to risk the stoppage of the industry, and not only hazard the large amount of money there is invested, but hazard the employment of the white people. Whether for the sake of excluding one Chinese or one Japanese you would run the risk of throwing out of employment four white men with all the families dependent on them, and they pay more money away for supplies. It is with no feeling of hostility at all to the white men that I state this. I do not think the subject has ever been fairly placed before the intelligent workmen of this province. It is all very well for those who do not know anything about the industry to say there will be no injury to any trade or calling by the exclusion of the Japanese, and that no industry would be inconvenienced if the Japanese were replaced by white people, and that the industry should be allowed to go rather than that Japanese should be employed in it, but I do not think they understand what they are saying, with all due candour.

You may ask me if there is not sufficient margin to allow high wages to be paid. I will just give you an example of that from a letter that only came to me yesterday. I got a letter dated April 19 from a prominent lumber purchaser, who writes saying that his firm is about buying a cargo at $8.50 on the American side, less two and a half and two and a half, or about $8.09 net; that is the cost they tell me on the American side. The vessel we should use, should we secure the contract, for carrying the lumber would have to get one shilling and threepence extra for coming to this port, coming to

our mill, so the writer of the letter sets forth; deducting this, say 30 cents from $8.09, leaves $7.79 that the lumber can be purchased for on the American side. The writer of the letter says: 'If you will sell us this cargo at the same price, say $7.79 per thousand, we will give you the preference.' Now there is the true position of the lumber industry at the present time.

Now, the logs to-day at the different camps are held at $5 a thousand; the towage will be 75 cents a thousand. I may say that is low. The Government get a royalty of 50 cents a thousand; throw that all together and it makes $6.25; taking that from $7.80 it leaves $1.55. Now, then, that gives you an answer to the question whether the industry is able to pay more, is able to increase the cost of manufacture. Now, if you take the 93 Japanese that we at present use in the Hastings mill and replace them with white labour, it would necessitate an increase in the cost of production of $93 a day; if you divide that by the amount produced per day it will raise the cost of production on the average 70 cents per thousand feet. Now, there is no mill in British Columbia that under present conditions could afford to increase the cost of production 70 cents per thousand feet and operate successfully financially.

Q. You have not given us the cost of the management of the mill?—A. Well, I am not going to give away our business to the public.

Q. What kind of lumber was that?—A. It is an ordinary merchantable cargo of lumber.

I am not at liberty to state the name and authority of that letter. It is a private letter. The writer cannot be obtained to give evidence; he is not in the country. I will show it to the Commissioners and convince you that it is a *bona fide* letter. It is from a perfectly well-known man, from a real purchaser, and the quality of timber is the ordinary timber sold in the market, not a low quality, not at all. We cut a higher grade as well. We cut the lower grade also. It is piled up in our yards and we cannot get rid of it. . . .

(The letter referred to was shown to the Commissioners.)

We ship lumber as far east as Nova Scotia, and we can only ship the better class, the higher grades, as it is the only lumber that we can afford to pay freight on for the east. There one of the great competitors that we have is the pitch pine that comes from the Southern States, which is manufactured by the aid of cheap labour of the negroes in Georgia and Carolina. We have to pay $20 a thousand between here and the eastern provinces, and we have got to compete with that lumber produced in the east by labour secured at very low wages. If we send to South Africa or Australia we are brought into competition with lumber from the Baltic, manufactured under much more favourable conditions as to cost than we can possibly command. In Sweden or Norway they pay a sawyer 4 kroner a day, equal to $1.05, the ordinary labour 54 cents. These figures I got from a Norwegian captain. A man with a family can live very comfortably there on from 40 to 54 cents a day. Then, again, I see in the mercantile reports that from the Baltic to Melbourne a vessel will get 65 shillings per thousand feet. In South Africa we will be on something like equal terms.

I think we exported out of the province last year about thirty million feet, including what went east, and exported out of the country twenty-four million feet. It may be a coincidence and nothing more, but you will find that the mills employing the largest number of orientals did the biggest export trade. We had to refuse business continually last year because the price offered was too low for us to sell our lumber. I do not think the oriental question is a matter of sentiment at all, it is a matter of interest. In order to employ a large number of whites we have to employ a large proportion of cheap labour wherever it comes from, whether white, black or yellow. Our principal foreign markets are Europe, Australia, China, Chili, Peru and Africa. For the last year there has been very little business done with Africa. There is a very weak demand in the foreign markets at the present time. The producing capacity of the eldest lumber mills to-day is largely in excess of the demand.

Principally rough lumber is shipped to China. The trade is increasing with Japan. The Japanese are going into ship-building and they are importing sizes of lumber that they cannot get anywhere else but on this coast. Their trade is well worth cultivating

There is less competition in China and Japan than in any of the other countries. The only competition we have there is with our friends on Puget Sound. They ship more than we do. The things that enter into the cost of production of lumber to-day we pay higher for here. We pay higher for all mill supplies. All our supplies to our camps we pay more for. We have railroads with regular locomotives on regular standard track, and we use what are called donkeys for hauling out timber by a wire rope on a drum, using for that purpose steam power. At one camp we had four and a half miles of railroad, at another we had three miles. These rails are being lifted up and put into other places as the camp is worked out. We have all the modern means at our command, both for getting out logs and for manufacturing lumber at the mill. Our waste of lumber is not greater than on the other side. They get their supplies cheaper and they have a market for all they produce, which we have not, which makes a very material difference.

I do not think there is a mill in British Columbia as advantageously situated as ours; at the present time we have access to the sea, and we have good railway communication. The railway runs into the yard.

I do not agree with Mr. Palmer's statement that he would be able to continue business even if they had to employ white labour exclusively.

The question of freight rates is an intricate one. A very important matter that is taken into consideration by vessels coming from the Baltic, is, that if there is a possibility of securing a return cargo to Europe they will take a very low rate to bring lumber.

The head offices for vessels are in San Francisco and they work it up as against British Columbia. If a man wants to load a vessel in British Columbia he would want one shilling and threepence to two shillings and sixpence more than he would want on the other side. The only remedy that I can see for that is by the government facilitating the building of vessels on our own side. There is a subsidy paid by the United States, a bonus for their vessels. I think it is one and a half per ton for the first 1,500 miles, and one per ton for each additional 100 miles; that is on the registered tonnage.

You say how did we compete with the Americans in the years gone by. There is this difference in the freight and the duty and other things that act against us that we cannot get the same prices for the lumber. The mills over there have come to some arrangement between themselves as to prices.

Q. Does the Canadian Pacific Railway give as low rates to the east as those given by the American railroads to the mills on the Sound?—A. I think they do to given points.

We are barely living now, barely making a profit. When there was excitement in Vancouver about the Chinese and the men objected to them, we got white cooks in the camp at English Bay, and in a few days the men ran them out.

If it did not increase the cost of production we would rather have white men. I do not approve of these people coming in here as citizens. I would prefer to see our country peopled by our own race, from a national standpoint.

If you want to know my opinion from a political aspect I say personally I should rather prefer to have white men as citizens. I would not like to see the Chinese and Japanese obtain the franchise. I would not like to see our country governed by them. I should not like to see any further immigration of them to enter into competition with white men. They could not adapt themselves to our political economy. From the standpoint of sentiment I would prefer our people to the orientals.

Q. Do you think there would be an increase of wages if there was practical exclusion,—increase of wages to the Chinese and Japanese themselves?—A. I do not think immediately, but I think it would have that result before very long. I do not think it would be brought about immediately, but as the number gradually decreased and there were no more coming in, those here would ask for more wages.

I have objection to the Chinese and Japanese becoming citizens. I would prefer if it were possible to have all the work done by white labour, by our own people. I should not like to see the Chinese assimilate. That would not apply possibly with equal force to the Japanese.

I really think the mill men in British Columbia would be perfectly willing to compete with United States if our lumber was permitted to go in there as their lumber is permitted to come in here.

There has always been an objection from the earliest time in British Columbia to the Chinese. People do not like them; that is the amount of it. The Japanese do assimilate to a greater extent than the Chinese.

I produce a statement of shipments of lumber from British Columbia and Puget Sound to the various points mentioned in it. It is made up from the figures in the *Trades Journal*, which I think will be found to be correct. I may say the markets in Sandwich Islands are not included in that, and the California market shipments, which would increase it a great deal more.

John G. Woods, superintendent of the Moodyville Sawmill Company, Vancouver, says: We employ 110 men 60 white and about 10 Chinese and 40 Japanese. We pay whites $30, $40 or $50 and up to $140 for foremen per month; Japanese 90 cents a day and their board, and from that up to $1.25 a day. Their board by the year costs 33 cents per day per man.

Five or six of the Chinese are engaged as cooks and in gardening, the other five Chinese are at contract work, doing the lathwork and the pickets. They work the machine just as well as whites. We have a Japanese edger man, and the Japanese run the trimmers; formerly that work was done by white men. When Japanese leave we put on white men. There is no absolute rule about having whites or Japanese to do the work. I think that is all. Japanese will do as much work as whites at less wages.

I see no reason why the Japanese will not be able to do any work a white man can do where cleverness is required.

I would very much prefer white men if the conditions were equal. Sometimes the Japanese leave us; during the fishing season they will pull out and leave us short-handed.

I have not gone into the question of immigration sufficiently to give you an opinion worth anything. To my mind there is no fear of the Japanese encroaching on the industry and getting the work from the white men. I think their proportion is about right now. I do not think there is any fear whatever of the lumber industry going into the hands of the Japanese. We would shut the mill down before that came about. The Japanese are only engaged in the lower class of labour, just the cheap labour. There are not many white men hunting for work who want to work. If we had not Chinese I guess we could fill all the positions in the mill with white men, we could get them here.

Q. Why not get them now?—A. Because we could not run the mill, unless we could do it and lose money. For positions filled by Japanese at $1.25 a day we would have to pay a white man perhaps $15 a month more.

I think if we had to pay $750 a month more than now, the mill would be shut down, or the white men would have to scale down their wages.

The price of logs eight or nine years ago was just about the same as they are now.

For the last five years the Moodyville Mill has just about held level without the owners getting one cent of interest. Previous to that the mill lost largely. It is not in as good a position for the foreign trade as the Hastings Mill, because they have local trade as well as foreign trade. We work for the foreign trade. There are about forty cargo mills on the coast.

It may be here noted that the three witnesses above referred to represent eighty-one and a half millions of the total export of eighty-four millions. The further evidence bearing upon this branch of the trade is very short. The evidence of the witnesses here quoted will be given at greater length when we come to deal with the local and eastern trade.

Robert Jardine, local manager of the Royal City Planing Mills, New Westminster, says: There are a great many export mills on the Sound. The lumber from those mills, not suitable for the foreign market, is disposed of in California, Hawaii and Alaska. From the reports from there I understand they are making money; making good profit all along the line. We could produce as cheaply in this country if there was

no tariff entering into the cost of production. Our timber is as easily gotten out as it is on the other side. I would prefer to see the Americans throw down their tariff wall; that would be more important than the difference in the cost of production.

Q. If that condition prevailed would you be able to dispense with oriental labour; that is if you were put on the same footing as American lumbermen?—A. If we had white people here to fill their places, no doubt it would have a tendency in that direction.

As to the export business, we have shipped a few cargoes from here. At the present time we employ 266 men in the mill, shingle mill, factory, steamboats and logging camps, and in the machine shop and sash and door factory, 180 white, 57 Chinese and 29 Japanese. We find white men more adapted for the work in the woods. Chinese and Japanese have never been employed in the mills in what you call skilled labour, except as shingle sawyers and packers. We employ Chinese in packing shingles exclusively.

Henry Depencier, manager of the Northern Pacific Lumber Company, situated at Barnet, nine miles up the Inlet from Vancouver, says: We employ 91 men at present, of whom 45 are white and 46 Japanese. We do not employ Chinese; we never employed them. I think two good white men will do as much work in a day as three Japanese will do. I prefer the white men. I have been engaged in business 34 years, formerly in the Ottawa Valley.

We have shipped two vessel loads to Australia, and we have shipped some lumber to Ontario and some to Quebec; they come to us for lumber they cannot get there. I am manager for the Maclaren Ross Lumber Company on the Fraser River. It has a capacity of 150,000 feet a day. It only ran for a few months and put out a few cargoes. It was shut down because the market was not good, and they thought they could not run it profitably.

Q. Not even with Chinese or Japanese labour?—A. I don't think they could at all.

Q. It was not the labour question at all?—A. Not at all.

J. A. Sayward, of the Sayward Lumber Mills, Victoria, says: Our market is principally local. We have exported lumber to Australia, China, Japan, Great Britain and Scandinavia. We are in competition with the United States in all the places I have mentioned. We have not continued shipping, because we have enough trade at home.

Andrew Haslam, Mill owner of Nanaimo, says: If no more Chinese or Japanese were permitted to come in I do not think it would cause any injury to my own business individually; as I am situated now it would not cause me any injury I think. If I had to go into the foreign trade and had to compete with the low wages of other countries it might hamper me. I think we have enough of Chinese here now. As far as my knowledge goes as to other industries in the province, I think they could get all the labour they required for any length of time, but they will be better able to speak for themselves; but the largest exporter of lumber I find is not in favour of allowing any more of the Chinese to come in. There is enough here to supply all demands for some time to come. I think I am in touch with the other lumbermen in the country. I think I know the conditions under which they do their business. I do not think it can be considered a profitable business at the present time; there is no particular reason but the dullness of trade. I have tried to make clear what reasons I have; the increased cost of everything that comes into the production of lumber, and apart from that is the excessively high freights. Freights from British Columbia to any foreign port are very high, and in addition to the general high freights there is a specific charge made on lumber from every part of British Columbia of sixty cents per thousand feet of lumber, giving the Puget Sound men an advantage to that extent. The ship owners contend that the harbour dues and the pilotage and customs dues are higher in British Columbia than they are on Puget Sound, and that it is worth sixty cents per thousand to make the freights equal to the ship owners. They have a large field of their own for lumber; they have a large number of vessels of their own, and a great many of the charters are made through San Francisco people, and I have understood and I believe it is a fact that our dues are higher, and to start with, we must pay sixty cents more per

thousand in order to get a vessel at all. Apparently the shippers or. Puget Sound control the shipping at present. There is an attempt to blame the people of British Columbia that the charges are higher than on Puget Sound. There is a great deal of lumber at the present time cannot be shipped at all, owing to the excessive freight rates.

If all the mills employed exclusively white labour at the present rate of wages I do not believe there would be a cargo shipped out of British Columbia profitably in a year. With a foreign trade, where you are competing with the lumber and the cheap competition of other countries, of course you are governed by the cost in those countries. If we are allowed an open market to purchase our supplies it would be even more effective than a duty upon American lumber. If they allowed me to have the articles in free of duty I will guarentee to employ nobody but white men about my mill and in my camp.

John V. Cook says: I was tally man and inspector in the Hastings Mill, of which Mr. Alexander is manager, up to last Saturday. Have been thirty years in the lumber business, eleven years in this country and prior thereto in the province of Quebec. I have worked seven years at the Hastings Mill. The Japanese have increased at the Hastings Mill. The Chinese and Japanese take the place of white labour. There would be sufficient white labour to replace the Japanese and Chinese. I judge this from the amount of white labour I see applying at the Hastings Mill and refused. I have seen as many as ten or fifteen a day apply, and some days only one or two for common labour, more especially during the last eighteen months, but more or less all the time I was there. The last two or three days before I left they applied to the mill foreman. There are a great many white labourers unemployed.

I favour further restriction of the Chinese and Japanese. My idea is the Japanese are more dangerous to the white man than Chinese in the lumber business. I don't think the $100 prevents the Chinese from coming in very much. I would exclude more coming in of the working class, because I think we have enough white labour to do the work they are doing. If we had not enough I would still exclude them. I would try to get white labour from other countries. I don't think they are a benefit to the country. I would not like to see the Japanese and Chinese mix with the whites. As far as I can see it is not true that mills cannot run without cheap labour. I think the mills can run altogether with white people. You can employ Japanese at $1 and whites at $1.50 a day. I think sufficient whites at $1.50 could be employed and the difference in work would compensate a great deal. Two whites will do as much as three Japanese, or perhaps four, in handling lumber. I have heard it said that if they did not employ Japanese, and they left the country, the whites would get saucy and go on strike, or something of that kind; that is what some of the mill men told me. I had nothing to do with engaging the men. They came to me first; I was tally man and handy to men coming into the mill, and I sent them on to the foreman. There seems to be a good many idle men. For two months in the summer not so many come for a job.

I was in the mill business on my own account in the province of Quebec. I had a large experience. I paid from $1 to $1.10 a day.

From what I can figure out, from their own admissions, they must have considerable of a profit; I refer to the statement of Mr. Alexander. I read the account that Mr. Alexander gave us to the cost of logs got out for the Hastings Mill; that amounted to $6.25 a thousand. Then Mr. Alexander went on to show, to figure up the cost of production, and the whole amounted to something like $7.80 a thousand. He figured that the margin between $6.25 and that was very small, but he forgot to say he would get 25 cents a thousand from the government rebate. I know that up to the first of the year they got a rebate of 25 cents a thousand from the government. Some say they get it now, and some say they do not. That is what I understand. I simply take Mr. Alexander's figures, what he is reported to have said, and draw my conclusions from that. At the same time, when he read from a letter to the Commission something about $7.80 being offered by some firm on the other side for a cargo of lumber, he forgot to tell you that that was for the cheapest kind of lumber in the cargo, and at the same time there would be a large quantity shipped in that cargo that would bring over $20 a thousand. They would be well paid for sawing, that is, with a rebate. He figured that the logs cost him $6.25, now you can figure it out for yourself; it is a very

easy calculation. That would leave a margin of $1.80 on that particular class of lumber, which is the lowest class of merchantable lumber. Now, the selected lumber he would get a much higher price for, and there is a quality of lumber that is superior to what is called 'selected lumber,' and he would get a still higher price for that. I am figuring on what you would get for the lowest class of lumber; the margin on that would be as I say, $1.80. As to the cost of cutting the log into lumber, I would say it costs about $1.10 from the time you take the logs into the mill and have it cut into lumber and put on board the ship; that would leave a margin of profit on the lowest class of lumber of 70 cents a thousand feet; that would be the profit on the lowest class of lumber put out by the Hastings mill. In vessels loading at the Mills I understand the captain makes a bargain with the stevedores for loading and he pays for the loading. The lumber is supposed to be taken on the wharf; it goes right out of the mill on to the wharf. If there is no vessel there to load, the lumber is piled on the wharf. They ship merchantable, select, and clear lumber—three classes of lumber. Merchantable is sound rough lumber, sound knots; in merchantable lumber some few knots are allowed and perhaps a little sap and a little waney. In select lumber but very few knots are allowed, and no sap is allowed and no waney. Clear lumber is lumber that has no knots and is not affected by sap in any way. They ship lumber from 16 to 40 feet in length, sometimes under. They would not ship as short as 6 feet. They would not ship much short lumber in a year, that is for the foreign trade. There might be a hundred thousand feet of lumber shipped, in lengths of from 6 to 8 feet, and then there would be quite a quantity shipped in lengths of from 12 to 15 feet; most ships take a good deal of that. The most of the lumber shipped would be merchantable lumber, the next would be select lumber, and the smallest quantity would be clear lumber, and the prices would go up accordingly. I should say there would be $8 a thousand difference between merchantable and select lumber. I have allowed quite enough in $1.10 for labour and cutting; I did not figure on the cost of machinery separately. The proportion for repairs would be so small I did not figure on that. There is a proportion to be charged for wear and tear of the machinery, and so on, but in the working of a large mill like the Hastings Mill that proportion is very small.

As to interest on the money invested, the $1.10 ought to cover all that, and there is the cost of office work and management so-called, all that has to be taken into account to get at the cost of production of the lumber ready for shipment. The Company get their logs as cheap as any other Company, they run camps of their own, they run their own stores, have their own tow boats, and everything else. I made out the price of the outside prices given by Mr. Alexander. I think they can be taken as very outside figures at that; that is, they are working figures, no mistake about that. There is towage to be added perhaps. They have insurance. I think 70 cents is too much to cover incidentals in what we call rough lumber. He figures, if he did not employ Japanese, on an increase in the sawing of his lumber of 70 cents, I cannot see how he can possibly make that out. He admits he employs 93 Japanese at an average of $1. Another mill man has admitted that two white men do as much as three Japanese on an average. We will replace those 93 Japanese with 70 white men at $1.50 a day, the amount would be $105. The difference between 93 Japanese at $1 and the 70 white men at $1.50 a day would be $12. The mill turns out 140,000 feet a day, so my figuring out is, if he employs white men he would only raise the cost at the outside, 10 cents a thousand feet. There should be no off days. That would include accidents that are not paid for by the insurance. The mill was idle by reason of fire once for nine months.

As to the lowest grade of lumber, I know what the others are sold for, I know of another cargo of lumber where the average price was $8.50, for 16 to 24 feet lengths of rough lumber. I do not wish to give you anything but what you can rely on. From 16 to 32 feet, $8.75, from 33 to 40 feet $9.25, that was all merchantable lumber. Select lumber in that cargo was $12. There was no clear lumber in that. That was in the month of March last month. That is not hearsay, I saw the figures. That was the Moodyville Sawmill Company, I tallied the ship. It was for the foreign market and was shipped on board the vessel. The price of lumber does not vary very much in the local market, it may vary a good deal in the foreign market. I have not seen the prices of

any other cargo. I tallied the ship in the month of March. I cannot give you the name of the ship just now. I expect to work at some of the mills again, and perhaps if I get too particular I will not get a job.

Q. What was the name of the ship?—A. The *Tregethoff* I think. The cargo was for South America.

I did not quit the mill of my own accord. I had some misunderstanding with the mill foreman, not with regard to wages or with regard to this matter.

Q. Although you tallied the quantities of lumber put on the ship, how did you know the prices?—A. I saw the prices after I tallied the ship. I made up a statement in the book. The prices are put down in the book, and the quantities multiplied by the prices, the whole was carried out in the book. I have that book in my possession all the time. The bookkeeper puts the prices in these.

I worked myself in the Royal City Mill eleven years ago, trucking around the yard, piling lumber, trimming, and all kinds of roustabout work, and I got $47 a month.

Q. The prices you gave for the cargo shipped on the *Tregethoff*, was that free on board?—A. I do not know anything about that. I gave you the prices as I got them from the bookkeeper. I do not know whether the mill had to pay for the loading or not. The cost of loading comes out of the freight; as a rule the loading comes out of the freight.

Q. What percentage is culled?—A. We do not send culls to the yard, but we make fire wood out of the culls.

Q. What percentage out of the 140,000 feet would be culls?—A. Very small; we are not supposed to put culls in that. Were we to put in the culls it would make a great difference. The log measurement or the measurement as it comes from the saw would tally about 160,000 feet; 140,000 feet of that would be what we could sell as sawn lumber of different grades and qualities; sometimes there would be 20,000 feet to go to the wood pile and sometimes less. I cannot very well say the percentage. Five per cent of the 140,000 would be 7,000; well, perhaps that would be a fair estimate. The price of culls is from $3 to $4 a thousand. They cut the culls into firewood and sell the firewood at $1 a cord. I do not think the mill men are speaking by the truth.

To Mr. Cassidy:

Q. And so you do not believe Mr. Alexander's evidence?—A. I think he gave it in his own favour. I do not say Mr. Alexander lied by any means.

CHAIRMAN—Mr. Alexander did not favour us with any information as to what he sold at.

A. Mr. Alexander puts it in the best light that he possibly could for the lumber interest; he said they were not able to get along without employing a certain amount of cheap labour in the mill—oriental labour. My idea is that we can do very well without the oriental labour, and make a good profit at the same time.

Mr. CASSIDY—Your idea was Mr. Alexander was wrong?—A. Yes.

Q. And that he did not know his own business, and that he was coming here and was telling us something that was not so?—A. Will you please be good enough not to put words into my mouth; my idea is we can get along very well without oriental labour.

Q. Would you like to put it, he came here and was disingenuous and did not know his own business?—A. What I say is, you have the figures, and figuring in the way I have done, which is plain I think to you, we could do without oriental labour.

I have never tried running a mill of my own in this country; I had nothing to do with the management of the business at the Hastings Mill.

Q. Do you mean to say you made a calculation of the whole cargo?—A. That was a very easy thing to do; there were so many thousand feet of 16 to 24 at such a price, so many thousand at 26 to 32 at such another price, and so many thousand feet at 33 to 40 at such a higher price.

Q. And you made a calculation as to what was the whole amount?—A. I simply put the figures in the book as I was instructed to do. I did not do any more than I was obliged to.

Q. You did not actually calculate what the price of the whole cargo was?—A. No.

Q. The price of different kinds of lumber vary a good deal, and the value of the cargo will vary a good deal according to the kind of lumber that it is composed of?—A. Certainly; part of the cargo generally sells a little higher than the merchantable lumber. If it is cut to particular sizes it will sell a little higher than a general cargo would.

I had a copy of the order; the bookkeeper gave me a copy of the order; the prices were not on it; the prices were put on by the bookkeeper, and I had to make up a statement that the different qualities of lumber were taken into the ship. There were certain sizes in the specifications; when I would fill a certain size I put it into the book until the whole shipment was completed.

I do not know whether there was any discount; I should judge there would be. If I read Mr. Alexander's evidence aright, in the $7.80 there would be a discount of 2½ per cent and 2½ per cent. So I suppose the same thing would be carried out over there.

In the Hastings Mill the Japanese run the wood-saws. In the old mill there was not a Japanese upstairs outside the stampers, unless a shortage of white men. In the new mill a certain number of Japanese are employed. There used to be five white markers, now there are three Japanese markers. The Japanese can with experience run the big saw. I think in time they will employ them in higher positions. The Japanese instead of boys, being employes, our young men have not got the chance to learn. In the east boys are taken into the mill; they start in as boys and become engineers, foremen, sawyers and the like. In father's mills the boys started at wheeling sawdust and worked up. The Japanese tend to prevent that class of labour from coming in to the coast. I have advised them not to come. I have written to at least a dozen in the last two years not to come, because Chinese and Japanese are here.

There is no lull in the industry except that they could not get ships. I think they make a profit. They may sell a little cheaper than local mills. I think the additional trade, if whites were employed, would compensate for all loss. There is no benefit to me by my evidence rather the contrary. I will take my chances. These people do not compete with me. I have eleven children, seven boys. I think the outlook is gloomy for my boys. I have no ill-feeling against these companies. I suppose you may say I was dismissed last Monday.

I think they can do without Japanese labour. I am in a position to judge. I don't merely think; I am sure I can replace 93 Japanese with 70 white men. If he gives me two days I will put up security that I will get 70 white men at $1.50 a day to do the work of 93 Japanese. I tally; I see that the orders are filled, and that it is properly graded. Mr. Alexander's offer that he mentioned was a very cheap offer.

The Japanese have not families. They rent a house, and a whole lot of them live together.

I think the logs do not cost any more today on account of using a different scale than when they paid less for the logs. The price of lumber to-day is higher than formerly in the local market. I have seen rough lumber sold at $6 and $6.50, now it is $9 per thousand. Dressed lumber sells for all prices, the cheapest is $10 to $12 up to $20 and $22.50. Forty per cent goes to the ship, sixty per cent goes to the yard. Sixty per cent of the sixty per cent goes to the interior. The whole of this is finished lumber that goes to the interior. The remaining forty per cent of the sixty is not finished.

It was a private dispute between the foreman and myself that caused my dismissal.

Robert James Skinner, Timber Inspector for the province of British Columbia, says: I think the occasion of the depression that took place in the lumber industry in 1891 was the first thing that reduced the rates of wages for the production of bolts and things of that sort; not so much the depression in the country, as the fact that the foreign market for our products dropped away to a very low rate.

Q. Does the foreign market control the prices in the local market?—A. In a way, yes. When the foreign market is good the effect is to raise the value of the logs in the hands of the different logging companies. It creates a demand for them, and therefore

the prices raise. The mills here then have to pay for the logs. Of course, increased demand creates better prices, and as the lumber put on board ship represents a great deal of labour, it is spreading a great deal more money through the industry generally. With foreign competition lumber has to be put on board the ship at a low rate.

I do not know of a single mill that is making money. They cannot compete I think with Puget Sound Mills and Baltic Mills with that cheap labour. The shipping of Baltic timber affects the market in Australia, South Africa and Europe. I think the labour conditions in the Baltic have something to do with it, and freight rates also.

The chief market for British Columbia lumber is Great Britain I think, and Australia comes next. Probably from one-sixth to one-fifth of our total export is to China. It has not improved lately. It was improving up to the time of the present disturbance over there. The Japanese trade is not much yet. I think the possibilities for the lumber trade in China would be very favourable as soon as peace is declared. To China I think the proportion of planed lumber is small.

I do not think the mills with their present business can exist, can live, if they are put to any further expense in the cost of manufacture. I am in favour of the exclusion of Chinese and Japanese personally. From an individual point of view I am of opinion that it would be the best thing for the country, and now is the best time I think to introduce it; I mean total prohibition, for both Chinese and Japanese. I am not prepared to say that is the best move for the general prosperity of the country, but that is my opinion. At the same time I want to say there are people of our own race in the country to do that work, the work the Chinese and Japanese do, and there are people from European countries who would do that work, who will ultimately become British subjects and good citizens of our country. The contingency of the industries closing down by being compelled to employ white labour is too remote to be considered here. To exclude the Japanese and Chinese altogether I judge would be the best thing for the province. Matters would soon adjust themselves to the new condition of things. I think it would be a great pity to go so far as to close the industries down; it would be a dangerous risk, but as I say, that contingency is a very remote one. There are two sides to the question. The whole question resolves itself I think as to the difference between employer and employee as to the rate of wages to be paid. It is largely a wage question.

I do not see how in doing the lumber business the price of wages, or rather the price of work is going up, unless at the same time you can induce people in other parts of the world to pay you more for your lumber. There has been a great change in the market abroad within the last eight or ten years. You will remember there was a great financial panic in Australia, and that business to the extent of something like one hundred and twenty million pounds sterling failed. That acted on our industries here very severely and we have not yet recovered from that. Logs are higher than they were in 1891 and 1892; the facilities for putting the logs in the water are not so many as they were then. I think the difference between the price of logs and the price of lumber is narrower now than it was then.

Ever since March, 1888, rebates on the royalty have been allowed. Last session the rebates were removed; that is the condition of affairs now; rebates are not payable on exported lumber since the 1st of January, this year. The rebate was one-half of the royalty paid, providing the timber had been shipped beyond the limits of the province. It was intended to encourage the export trade, granted by the legislature in Victoria.

AMERICAN EVIDENCE.

W. Sherman, of the Bellingham Bay Improvement Company, Washington, stated: We employ about 350 men; no Chinese or Japanese. We export lumber to South America, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan, and also ship to San Francisco, and east of the Rockies. The average wage paid to unskilled labour is from $1.75 to $3 per day, and to skilled labour up to $4 a day; average $2.50 to $3.75. There is no difficulty in getting labour. We buy our logs. There are no Chinese or Japanese employed on the Bellingham Bay and British Columbia Railway.

A. S. Martin, secretary of the Puget Sound Sawmill and Shingle Company, Fairhaven, Washington, says: Our principal product is dressed lumber; our market the middle states; none sold in Canada. We employ 265 hands. We get out our own logs. We have 110 employed in logging camps. We never employed Chinese or Japanese. Chinese and Japanese are not generally employed on Puget Sound, only at one mill, at Port Blakeley.

Minimum wages for unskilled labour is $1.50 per diem; there are only about ten men working here for that wage. At present $2 is our minimum. Wages run up to $5 and $6; average $3.33⅓ per diem. The lumber mills at Puget Sound exporting are: the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company, of Tacoma; the Port Blakeley Mill Company; Pope & Talbot, of Port Gamble; Bellingham Bay Company; the Tacoma Mill Company, of Tacoma. These mills practically do all the export business. They export principally rough lumber.

The sentiment here is opposed to both Chinese and Japanese. If the matter were put to a popular vote, not a Chinaman or Japanese would be allowed in town. There are no Japanese here. There are not fifty Chinese in the county outside the canneries.

Mr. Stetson, a partner in the Stetson and Post Mill Company of Seattle, who is engaged in the lumber business in that city, says: We employ altogether 125 men; we get all the men we want; we employ no Chinese or Japanese, and have not employed them within the last 15 years.

The average wage paid is $2 a day for unskilled labour; it ranges from $1.75 to $2.25 and $2.50. Sawyers are paid from $3.50 to $4 a day.

The question of the abrogation of the Exclusion Law never comes up. The question is settled. We were in business here when the Exclusion Law came into force. No industry has ceased because of it that I know, but I can hardly answer the question offhand, because the law has been in force, and its action has passed out of recollection. I do not remember it having any effect. I know of no desire on the part of business men or on the part of men having capital invested in different industries to abrogate the law so far as regards the Chinese. Our chief market is at home; we do not export a great deal of lumber to foreign markets.

The Port Blakeley Company, I understand, employ a great number of Japanese in and about their mill. I have a natural preference for our own people. We buy all our machinery here in the city.

William H. Perry, assistant general manager of Moran Brothers, Seattle, said: We operate a sawmill in connection with our plant, and employ about one hundred men in our lumbering department. We do not now and never have employed either Chinese or Japanese. Our trade is principally local.

We pay a minimum wage of $2 a day. Men who operate the planers are to a certain degree skilled labour; we pay them $2.25, $2.50 and $2.75 a day. Neither Chinese nor Japanese labour is employed in the lumber mills in the city of Seattle or in the neighbourhood to my knowledge. We find we have to compete, however, with mills where they do employ Chinese and Japanese labour, at Port Blakely, twelve miles across the Sound—the largest mill on the west coast.

Q. Is there any desire among what may be called the capitalistic interest to abrogate the Exclusion Law?—A. I think they are satisfied with it and desire it to continue.

The employing class in this district are in favour of Chinese exclusion as a rule, although there are some small sections where they might favour the Chinese, where they think they require low-priced labour, some men who think they might get along better with low-priced labour, but I think the number is very small.

The feeling in the city and in the state is overwhelmingly in favour of the exclusion of the Chinese. They are not considered a desirable element in the community, for the reason that they do not and will not assimilate with us, and I do not think it would be desirable if they would assimilate. They do not take any interest whatever in our laws or institutions.

If you had to choose between an immigration of the one or the other, I would prefer the Chinese, that is if it was immigration of the better class of Chinese; but

taking the class of the two races that come here, I would prefer the Japanese; we find them inclined to follow our methods and customs, and become good citizens, and take an interest in our affairs, and as a rule they are law-abiding. We find that the Japanese whom we have here, try to build up trade relations between this country and their own. The same objection applies to the labouring class of the Japanese that applies to the labouring class of the Chinese. We have not had many Japanese labourers in the city, and I do not know much about them. The Exclusion Act was in 1894; the high tax was in 1884; the last Act became law in 1894. I do not believe it was felt. I do not believe it was noticed. I do not believe that one per cent of our business community knew when it became effective. Of course there had been years of preparation for it—a high head tax. The suggestion was then made that total exclusion would come in time.

Theodore Ludgate, lumberman, of Seattle, says: I have been engaged in the lumbering business here about a year. I came from Peterborough, Ontario. I employ 140 men in my mill, exclusive of teamsters; in all from 150 to 155. I buy my logs in the open market. I do not employ either Chinese or Japanese. The lowest wage we pay is $1.75 a day to roustabouts, men who are here to day and are to be found some place else next week. We pay $2 a day to a great many; $1.75 a day is our cheapest labour, and it runs from that up to $5 a day. The filers get $5 a day, the planer foremen get $3.50 a day, and planer feeders $2.50 a day.

Q. Do any of the mills with whom you come into competition employ either Chinese or Japanese labour?—A. Not in the city or its neighbourhood; the only mill employing Japanese is the Port Blakely Mill, nine or ten miles across the Sound from here. Their trade is very largely, if not almost entirely, foreign. We export very little. Our trade is chiefly local.

It was my intention at one time to locate on the Canadian side and to employ white labour exclusively. In fact, in order to get at work up there, and get the position we wanted for our lumbering, we offered to give a bond that we would not employ either Chinese or Japanese, either in the mill or outside the mill, in our business. I was quite willing to go into competition with the lumber mills already established there and employ white labour altogether. I inquired into the condition of the lumbering industry there, spent a good deal of time looking it over, and I was satisfied I could carry on lumbering there without employing either Chinese or Japanese. As I said, I spent a good deal of time in inquiring into the condition of trade, as to the procuring of logs, as to the price of machinery and the cost of labour, and I came to the conclusion I could carry on the lumber business there profitably, employing exclusively white labour. If I were building a mill there to-day I would not be afraid to employ all white men and come into competition with the mills where they employ Japanese and Chinese. That is how I regard white labour; that it is the best, and in the end comes the cheapest.

The Chinese and Japanese are not desired here at all. I think if the conditions here were as extreme as they are on the Pacific coast of British Columbia to-day, there would soon be a remedy applied, and these people would be shut out, and white people as citizens of the country would have the protection that they ought to have. Public sentiment only requires to be wakened up to have this thing rectified. There is everything in favour of the lumbering industry being carried on in British Columbia profitably without the aid of Chinese or Japanese.

I do not want to go into much conflict with the people engaged in the lumbering industry up there. Of course, not having carried on operations there, it is possible there might be some obstacle that would be experienced that to a man who had no experience in active operations on the ground would not at first be apparent, but apart from that I am perfectly satisfied if I had a good mill up there to-morrow, I would not be afraid to compete with those already in the business in British Columbia. Lots of mills are being run to-day by labour of the Chinese and Japanese, which is supposed to be cheap labour—and I question if it is cheap labour—that should be run by steam. Some of the mills have been equipped with machinery in years past and modern machinery has got ahead of them. I would not be afraid to go there and equip a mill

with up-to-date machinery and make a profit, and a good profit, out of lumbering operations, and in operating employ only white labour, and pay them good wages. I am a British subject.

I have seen all the mills up there; I have been through most of them. The Hastings Mill was in process of construction last time I saw it. The Brunette sawmill in New Westminster is a fairly good mill. Prior to the fire in the Hastings Mill I thought the Chemainus the best mill in British Columbia.

Q. Most of the mills up there are in pretty fair shape to do work?—A. I do not think they are.

We have done a little export business right along; as soon as we get rightly into shape we can do a good deal more. We find it very good. I am speaking of the export business to Hong Kong and Japan. Vessels are coming here all the time, and another steamship company are going to build docks just outside of here. They are calling for tenders for construction just now.

We pay from $4 to $7 a thousand feet for logs; $6 would be a fair average for a good run of logs per thousand. Spruce costs from $6 to $6.50.

The mill owners in the city are associated together for mutual protection and benefit; that is for the local trade. Rough lumber is sold at an extremely low price, to compete with mills outside, who only manufacture rough lumber. We sell our rough lumber along with our better class lumber, and thus we are able to even up in the local trade. We would not sell rough lumber at association price unless the buyer agreed to take something else with it. We are engaged in the shingle business in a small way for local trade. Our capacity is forty millions. We are now making about fifteen millions. The shingle market is in good shape. Our market is Seattle and its neighbourhood; we do not ship into Canada. I do not know of other mills who do. They are busy enough endeavouring to supply local trade the same as ourselves. We do not fear competition with British Columbia because of the duty. It may be lumber can be manufactured cheaper here to-day than in British Columbia, for the simple reason that living is cheaper over here, and I think that first-class mill machinery is a little cheaper here than in British Columbia. The cost of labour is a little less. A man can get logs cheaper at the mills here. The loggers here are more continually occupied than in British Columbia; they go into it more extensively.

The Government here does not collect stumpage dues as in British Columbia. The Government here sell the land, timber and all. I think the stumpage tax is higher in Canada than the land tax is here.

We have an extensive market here. There is a great amount of rough lumber sent east. The market is improving in Japan for good lumber, but not much to speak of * * * Neither Chinese or Japanese cooks are employed in the lumber camps, nor in getting out logs or shingle bolts, or about the shingle mills. They cannot work with those fellows at all. Wages are not controlled by the union; they are controlled by the demand. I have found white labour reliable and I have always found all the labour I wanted.

The fact that this is the starting point for the North-west keeps labour well supplied here, but the men do not settle here; they are generally looking for something better.

In Seattle there is generally a good demand for labour, but we have generally been able to get all the white labour we want without difficulty. There is very little agitation against the Japanese here, because they are not employed in the mills, except in one case that I know of.

Q. Can you compare the difference in the cost of machinery here and in British Columbia?—A. American machinery of course would cost more laid down there, than if it was laid down on this side.

Q. Is the Canadian machinery suitable for the lumbering here, the machinery manufactured in the east?—A. Yes, I do not see why a man could not use Canadian machinery for manufacturing lumber. I have not compared the cost, but I think that a good deal of the machinery there would compare favourably in cost with the machinery here.

Do you know the difference in the price of machinery such as you have in the e, and the same machinery on the other side?—A. Well, I was greatly interested de careful inquiries there a couple of years ago, so as to ascertain the difference, in the cost of machinery for a mill between the Canadian manufacturer and the States manufacturer, and I came to the conclusion that it was practically For heavy boilers and engines and heavy machinery for working in the mill I he difference is practically nothing between the Canadian manufacturer and the an manufacturer. At the same time, I think there is a large amount of Ameri- chinery going into British Columbia, but that may be accounted for by the fact e manufacturers here are turning out a large quantity of mill and other machi- nd that certain parts of mill machinery are manufactured almost exclusively by firms, and the workmen get more expert, and the machinery turned out by these supposed to be better than that to be obtained in the open market. There are actories making one thing, making one machine, and their energy is being l to the improvement of that. They turn out a better machine than the manufac- ho is engaged in general machinery work. Then they have a large market and n afford to sell their products much cheaper.

should say that common white labour is higher in British Columbia than here; a ng man can buy more for a dollar here than he can in British Columbia. All I r is, that when I tried to go to work there I could get all the men we wanted at y; here we pay $1.75 a day. We were then in good shape to get all the men we for $2 a day.

What is the price of lumber in Hong Kong?—A. We sell it f.o.b. here or deliv- the vessel's side.

Are you at liberty to state what it is worth here?—A. Nine dollars and fifty cents ina.y common lumber and for flooring $16 or $17 a thousand; that is for green flooring $16 or $17 a thousand.

om the report of the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle for the year 1901 it is that the cargo shipments of lumber from the State of Washington in the year ggregated 492,765,000 feet and rail shipments 284,280,000 feet.

e lumber cut of the State of Oregon is over 500,000,000 feet.

SUMMARY.

e export of lumber last year from British Columbia to foreign countries was over ,000 feet; of this, three mills—the Chemainus, Hastings and Port Moody—ex- about 97 per cent.

e Chemainus, which exported 38,000,000 feet, employ 186 whites, 74 Chinamen Japanese. The Chinese have only been employed, except as cooks, within the ghteen months. The manager says: We have doubled the capacity of our mill. d prefer to pay double the price for white men. We use no Chinese or Japanese woods, except for grading and carrying wood and water. If I had my way I have Norwegians and Swedes with big families. I am in favour of an exclusion We have enough of them here.

he Hastings Mill exported 24,000,000 feet. They employ 512 men, of whom 93 panese and 10 Chinese. The Chinese are employed exclusively as cooks. The l manager of this large concern thought harassing enactments a mistake, and as Japanese the arrangement should be by treaty, and added: I don't approve of s citizens. There is no chance of their becoming citizens. This applies to both ese and Chinese. If they were excluded, wages would not increase immediately. ht have that effect.

he Moodyville Mill export about 20,000,000 feet and employ 110 men, of whom 0 are Chinese and 40 Japanese. Of the Chinese, five are employed as cooks and contract work at so much a thousand, running a machine for pickets and staves. t none at this mill are employed in the export trade.

he North Pacific Lumber Company employ 91 men, of whom 45 are whites and panese. No Chinese are employed.

So that the only exporting mill that employs Chinese, except as cooks, is opposed to their immigration; the others do not employ them except in the limited way above mentioned, and are, therefore, not deeply concerned in the question so far as their exporting trade is concerned.

The largest exporter stated that the lack of white labour here will only be remedied by the exclusion of the Chinese, when the change will take place gradually; white people will then move in with their families until we would soon have sufficient white labour in the country to answer all demands. We agree with this view.

The wages in British Columbia for unskilled white labour varies from $35 to $45 a month. On the American side for the same class of labour, white labour commands from $1.75 to $2 per day. In most cases, so far as our inquiry went, $2 was the regular wage for permanent hands. This applies exclusively to unskilled labour; so that our investigation would seem to show that so far as this particular element entering into the cost of production is concerned, the advantage seems to be with the Canadian mills. Upon the other hand there is undoubtedly a better supply of white labour on the American side.

The cost of logs seems to be about the same. Most mills on the American side buy their logs. The large exporting mills on the Canadian side have lumber camps and get out their own logs. The cost of logs on the Canadian side we find to be $6.35 a thousand at the mill. On the American side the average was stated to be from $6 to $6.50 per thousand.

The mill owners stated that pilotage and freight rates are slightly higher on the Canadian side; that most of the ships carrying lumber are owned on the American side, and charters are more difficult to obtain, and that they suffered under the further disadvantage that their machinery costs more, and that they are not protected in their home market; and that upon the whole the cost of all mill supplies, which in any case is limited in comparison with the wide American market, is greater than on the American side; and that under present conditions, cheap labour of some kind is necessary in order to enable them to carry on their business at a profit.

Chinese are not employed on the American side in any of the lumber mills, and Japanese are only employed in one mill, having been taken on about a year ago during the gold excitement at Nome, when a number of their men left.

It is clear from the evidence that so far as this branch of the industry is concerned it does not depend to any considerable extent even now upon this class of labour, and the exclusion of further Chinese immigration would not appreciably affect it.

(The question as to how far this industry is dependent on Japanese labour will be dealt with when treating of Japanese immigration.)

CHAPTER XIII—THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

LOCAL AND EASTERN TRADE.

The following list shows the principal mills engaged in the local and eastern trade, l the number of whites, Chinese and Japanese employed therein respectively:

Name of Mill.	Whites.	Chinese.	Japanese.
ward Mills, Victoria	60-70	30-40	0
nsie Mills "	10	17	0
" " in camp	25	0	0
slam Mills, Nanaimo	39	13	9
" " in camp	125	0	0
rth Pacific, near Port Moody	45	0	46
bertson & Hackett, Vancouver	80	0	20
yal City, Vancouver	79	11	60
nnette Mills, New Westminster	168	10	78
yal City "	180	57	29
eld's Mills, Kamloops	30	3	9
le-Columbia Mill Company (mills at Robson, Nacusp, Cascade, Roche Creek, Deadwood)	200	†3-4	0
llyer's Mill, Nelson	40	0	0
chanan's Mills Kaslo	‡10-50	0	0

† As cooks. ‡ According to season.

The export mills already referred to produce a large amount of lumber, which mes in competition with the mills that supply the local and eastern trade, and there e a number of other mills throughout the province not included in the above list, but e above are sufficiently representative to fairly represent this trade.

Joseph A. Sayward, engaged in the lumbering business in Victoria, says: I employ om thirty to forty Chinese and from sixty to seventy white men. The Chinese are nployed in carrying and piling lumber, and in the mill, as well as attending some of e machines. They are all ordinary labourers except one. I pay the Chinese from $1 $1.50 a day; white men $2 up to $4.50. I have employed Chinese for fifteen years. y father operated there for forty years before that, but we never employed Chinese up that time. The reason for introducing Chinese was that it was impossible to get her labour. We formerly employed a good many natives, Indians, here, whom we aid from $1.25 to $1.50 a day. The Chinese took the place of the Indians, and in some ses the place of the white men. I prefer Indians to Chinese. The Indians go to the nneries. The difference in wages was not the cause of the change. The Chinese are od workers and reliable. I am in favour of restriction. I do not believe we ould have any more Chinese coming into the country. I think what we ave here is sufficient. I think the gradual change would cause no serious in- nvenience. Speaking of my own trade, I would favour restriction. It would e to the general interests of the country. I think the Chinese are detrimental every way, in their mode of living, and in keeping whites from coming in here. White labour could not exist under the same conditions. If we were paying $2 a day labourers we would be obliged to raise the price of lumber. Cheap labour is necessary t the present time; if we had to employ white labour it would mean the closing of the ills. I would restrict this class of labour, because I think the business would natur- lly seek its own level. We would get the same labour as the Americans get to-day, which e are not getting at the present time, I mean Swedes. I do not know any reason why

we could not introduce such labour now. I think if I could get Swedes as they have on the other side I would be perfectly willing to allow the Chinese to step down and out. I would expect to pay them something more, because I could get a good deal more work out of them. I think I could get along with fewer men. As I said before, the Chinese are here and we have never been placed in a position to ask for that class of labour,—the Swedes. We naturally employed the Chinese and never asked for any other labour.

Q. Now, if they, the Americans, can get Swedes there, why isn't it possible for you to get the same class of labour here?—A. Owing to the fact that the Chinese are here.

Q. And the Swedes would not be disposed to come here under these conditions?—A. That is the idea. Labour has had a tendency to decline a little compared with ten years ago. I think the Swede would do half as much more, and in some cases twice as much, as the Chinaman. He is stronger and better adapted to the work. The $1 Chinese would be employed moving timber about the yard. I think we would be able to pay the Swede from $1.75 to $2 a day. A white man with a family of three would be able to live respectably on $1.75 a day. I rent cottages at $4 a month at Spring Ridge; one at $2.50 a month, that is a four roomed house. I should think from $8 to $10 a month a fair thing for a workingman's house. I think there are sufficient Swedes and Norwegians on the American side now to come in and take these positions. I think French Canadians would come here and work at $1.75 a day.

William Munsie, of Victoria, lumberman, and engaged in the sealing business, says: I employ fourteen Chinese in the mill at from $1.25 to $1.75 a day, and three in the yard at from $1 to $1.25 a day. The cook gets $30 or $35 a month. I employ 10 white men in the mill and 25 in the camp. I pay the white men in camp from $30 to $125 a month with board; $30 a month for ordinary labourers, and $125 a month for foremen; intermediate wages $40, $50 and $65 a month.

If no further Chinese were permitted to come in I do not think it would make any difference in our mill; I think it would naturally find its own level. It might be a temporary inconvenience. I prefer to exclude any further immigration. I do not like our country to be invaded with foreigners of the type of Chinese and Japanese. The white man with the present cost of living here could not live on the same wages that a Chinaman can. I would not like to see white men brought down to that level. There are different classes of labour we could get if no more Chinese came in,—Swedes, Norwegians and French Canadians. It would take some little time to get that class of labour; it would gradually find its level. I do not think there would be any difficulty. The change would take place gradually and matters would settle themselves,—equalise themselves.

The class of white labour we have now is skilled. I would be willing at any time to exclude the Chinese and take our chances of getting white labour; it would right itself in time. It might inconvenience us a little temporarily, but in time it would regulate itself.

Q. Has there been a scarcity of labour in general for the last three or four years?—A. I do not think so. We have always been able to find labour. We should first of all protect our own people, give the labour to our own people, and when it comes to a time that there are not sufficient of our own people to meet the demands, then it is time to bring in foreign labour. I wish to restrict further immigration. As the country goes along and progresses there will be sufficient coming in here of our own people to meet all demands. I would consider the French Canadians coming here with their families much more desirable than the Japanese.

Andrew Haslam, lumberman, of Nanaimo, says: I employ 26 white men in my mill at an average rate of wages of from $1.85 to $4 per day, and 13 boys ranging from 62½c. to $1.45 a day, averaging $1; 13 Chinese from $1 to $1.25 a day, averaging $1.04; 9 Japanese from $1 to $1.15, average $1.02; that is at the mill and factory. In the logging camp I employ 125 men at from $2.25 to $4 a day, average $2.78; one white boy at $1.85 per day, and a Chinese cook and Chinese helper at $1.75 and $1.40 a day.

The total wages per month $3,845 for white men, $363 to Chinese and $140 to Japanese. The men pay for board at the camp $5 a week.

o not employ Chinese in the woods, they do not understand the work. I pay te men more because they are worth more. I think the difference in wages s the difference in value; that is of course altogether depending on the work e at.

n my mill for seventeen years with white labour exclusively, until nearly two go. The profits got so small we could not afford to pay white men on this work, that is work outside the machines. There is an increased expense in timber out of the woods, and an increased expense in everything that enters production of lumber. The price is somewhat less than four years ago. Every- ntering into the production of lumber, machinery, food supplies, tools, everything s entered into the production of the lumber has raised in price. Owing to the t American lumber comes in here free of duty, we can only raise our lumber to price as they cannot sell at. Our principal market is local, Nanaimo and the ate vicinity. The Americans do not bring lumber into this town. They com- th other mills and those mills drop into a trade I would probably get if they ot here. If we were allowed an open market to purchase our supplies it would n more effective than the duty on lumber. I have a list here showing the ce between us and Puget Sound. Horses 20 per cent higher in British Colum- n Puget Sound, wire rope 25 per cent higher, logging engines without additional 25 per cent, axes 25 per cent, saws 30 per cent, mattox 50 per cent, shovels 35 t, cant-dogs 50 per cent, steel rails 30 per cent, additional freight $2 a ton, tives 25 per cent, potatoes 30 per cent, butter 25 per cent, beef 35 per cent, 5 per cent, flour 13 per cent, eggs 25 per cent, mill saws 32 per cent, planers with ty and freight costs 30 per cent more, saws with freight and duty added costs 32 t more, these are mill saws. The first saws I mentioned were the saws for the Then the general machinery used in the mill on an average I would say costs 30 per cent over the price on Puget Sound. There is only one article we have p here as there, that is the bull chain with which we haul the logs into the mill. y that in England; it is a heavy shop chain and it comes in here at 5 per cent

. Is it the duty that makes the difference?—A. Well, I think there is the freight; rse that goes in the same direction. In the first place the wants of British bia are not large enough to justify the Canadian manufacturer building machinery lly for the timber that grows here. The general class of machinery that they is not suited for the timber here.

. What is the remedy you propose?—A. Admitting those articles free of duty, or g it on the lumber, but I think it would be the better remedy—the mills would ter satisfied—to have the articles come in free. If there was duty on American r it would not act so effectively I think as letting the articles I mentioned in

There is as much profit to the mill owner on Puget Sound at $7 per thousand feet have here at $10. The cost to the manufacturer of lumber over there, according own exact figures, is 17 per cent less than the manufacture here.

. Would that enable you to employ white men?—A. Yes; if they allowed me to he articles in free of duty I will guarantee to employ nobody but white men about ills or in my camp. I am certainly in favour of employing white men. My own eads me to that. I do not wish to employ either Chinese or Japanese if I can do ut them. There is this in favour of the Chinese and Japanese, they are very le and they have done their work well; but on the other hand, when I employ men the money they earn—the money I pay them—is spent in the country, and usiness would be benefitted by more white people being here; the more white e, the more demand for labour; more money would be kept in circulation in the ry as well.

From a higher standpoint I certainly consider it is in the intereats of the country it should be peopled with white people. The Orientals do not assume our customs bits, nor the rights of citizenship, nor anything of that nature that I know of, not y extent. If no more Chinese or Japanese of the coolie class were permitted to

come in, I do not think it would cause any injury to my own business individually. As I understand it now, it would not cause me any injury I think. I think there ought to be a restriction placed on them. Confining my opinion exclusively to my own trade, I think we have enough Chinese here now.

Q. What is your view as to any more coming in?—A. From my own individual requirements there are enough of the Chinese here now, and as far as my knowledge goes as to other industries in the province, I think they could get all the labour they required for any length of time, but they will be better able to speak for themselves; but the largest exporter of lumber I find is not in favour of allowing any more of the Chinese to come in. I say there is enough here now.

I should say thirty per cent of the lumber I manufacture is dressed lumber.

Henry Depencier, manager of the North Pacific Lumber Company, near Port Moody, says: We employ 91 men at present; of these 45 are white and 46 Japanese. We have only been started a few months. We do not employ Chinese. We never employed them at all. I am a Canadian, born in Ontario.

As to restriction, I prefer not to answer. The French Canadians who come here are much better men than the Japanese. We could afford to pay them fifty per cent more. They are not worth fifty per cent more at machine work, but at the ordinary work around the mill they are worth that much more than the Japanese.

James W. Hackett, of the firm of Robertson & Hackett, who employ eighty white men and twenty Japanese, and are engaged in the sash and door factory business, says: The whites are our customers. We sell very little to Japanese or Chinese. We tried to run our mill without Japanese. We found it was necessary to have a certain amount of cheap labour. We had to compete with others who had cheap labour, besides cheap white labour is very unsteady. You can get labour for $1.50 a day, but they won't stay with you. If others had employed exclusively white, we would. We don't employ Chinese. They are not required for our business. I think there are more Chinamen in the country now than can be profitably employed. I observe a number who are not at work. I don't think the $100 will keep the Chinese out if there is profitable employment for them. I have tried to keep clear of them. We had a white man wheeling saw-dust, and the rest of the men called out, 'That is a job for a Chinaman.' I don't want Chinese here. I have not a Chinese cook in the camp. We have a white man, and he is satisfactory. We pay him $2 a day and his board. Our men are a very sober class of men.

(See further evidence of this witness in part relating to Japanese.)

Robert Charles Ferguson, manager of the Royal City Lumber Planing Mills, Vancouver, who employ 150 men, of whom 60 are Japanese and 11 Chinese, says: If no more Chinese and Japanese were admitted I would be satisfied for the present time, but I don't think we could do in the future. . . . . I do not know whether I would favour restriction or not. It may be well to restrict for a time, but a man has to be governed by the wants of his business. The French Canadians who come here are all good and steady when they come out here. If we had them here they would be better than either the Chinese or the Japanese.

(See further evidence of this witness under part of the report relating to Japanese; and under chapter relating to shingle business, where the eleven Chinese above mentioned are exclusively employed.)

A. Lewis, manager of the Brunette Sawmill Company, New Westminster, that employs 168 white men, seventy-eight Japanese and 10 Chinese, says:

Q. Are you in favour of any restriction on the Chinese coming in?—A. I do not want to give an opinion on that because it does not concern me. I think I could get along without the Chinese. I am speaking from a mill standpoint. Of course, some Chinese are as important to other mills as the Japanese are to us.

(See further evidence of this witness relating to Japanese.)

Robert Jardine, the local manager of the Royal City Planing Mills at New Westminster, said: We turn out all kinds of lumber and shingles. Employ 266 men, of whom 180 are white men, 57 Chinese and 29 Japanese. Pay out $160,000 in wages, of which 87¾ per cent is paid for white labour and 12¼ per cent to orientals. Chinese are

85 to $1.35, average $1 ; Japanese, 85 cents to $1 10 per day. White men from $35 to $125 per month. Other wages are as follows :—
, $3.40 a day ; sawyer, $3.00 ; re-sawyer, $3.50 ; edgerman, $1.75 ; gang-saw, om men, $1.75 to $2.00 ; machinists, $3.50 ; apprentices, $1.00 ; blacksmiths, lper, $1.35 ; carpenters, $3.00 to $3.25.
number of men above mentioned include those employed not only in the saw-shingle mill factory, but also on the steamboats and in the logging camp. The mployed in and about the mill is 197, of which 109 are whites, 2 negroes, 57 and 29 Japanese. The Japanese came in in 1897. Prior to that Chinese were n 1897 we had a number of white men employed that filled the positions now Japanese, and they left and went fishing, and we were compelled to get what-ur we could ; probably eight or ten left, and more gradually left. It is not the e in wages, but the difficulty in getting men that we employ Japanese. We heap labour and the Chinese is the kind we have. We have to have cheap r shut our business down, because two thirds of our cut is shipped east, to the st Territories, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and as far east as Halifax. If o employ all white labour at from $35 to $40 a month, it would amount to month or over. We would have to pay 60 per cent more. We don't feel the ion so much in the local trade. We have a price list between the different It is not always adhered to. I don't imagine that the Chinese that are here e off so suddenly as to affect us very materially. The Chinese are very steady. t a good man we keep him. I see no reason to think we would not keep those cannot say if further Chinese did not come, whether it would or would not affect e. We have got to have a certain amount of cheap labour ; it does not matter s, whether Chinese or Japanese, under existing conditions. We only use 29 . I prefer whites.—The Chinese do not adopt our mode of living. They learn the bad habits of white men. I don't think they are as beneficial to the coun-hite men. I suppose the employment of Chinese and Japanese, and that white as to compete with them, does keep white labour out to a certain extent. Pos-t class of labour could be induced to come from the east if orientals were left ey have not been coming, and I don't expect they will while there is abundance al labour.
For a moment disassociate yourself from your business ; do you see any means ing a large settlement of white people except by the exclusion of the orientals ? ell, I do not know. When the lumber business is quiet, you would be compelled shut down entirely or run half time, and of course we only pay our men for s they work. Under such a condition it would be very difficult for a white man orking only half time.
Does that arise from over-production ?—A. It is the case of supply and demand. een it here three or four years ago when lumber was selling for actual cost. I n lumber sold here at $6.50 a thousand ; that was at a loss.
No cheap labour could save you from that condition of things ?—A. No, but if all white labour the loss would have been much heavier. We would have been ed to shut down entirely.
r cannery business runs from $30,000 to $60,000 a year. Last year our total was $240,000.
e can't compete with any of the mills east in any lumber they can manufacture. lumber they cannot get there. It is practically an order which cannot be filled ast.
gs are about the same price in the state of Washington as here, but all supplies the mills and the logging camps and provisions are very much cheaper over machinery, belting and everything in connection with the running of a sawmill er over there.
Would it make much difference to you if everything that enters into the cost of ion of lumber were admitted free ?—A. I would prefer to see the Americans down their tariff wall, then we would like to sell to them over there. That would important than the difference in the cost of production.
e further evidence of this witness referred to in shingle business.)

Alexander Shields, manager of the Kamloops sawmill, said they employed 42 men, of whom 30 were whites, 3 Chinese and 9 Japanese. Have employed Chinese and Japanese nine months; they work outside the mill. Prior to that they employed all whites. The average wages to whites is $2.60, including office staff, Chinese $1.12, Japanese $1.10; excluding the office staff the average wages would be $2.30. He says: We had some difficulty in keeping whites. We shut down for a while, and the men were then discharged, and when we started we brought in Japanese. The whites were not invited to come back.

The management is in favour of further restriction. I would restrict it so no more would come in. I think there are enough here.

In the logging camps we employ about one hundred men, all white. We prefer them. We would not have Japanese or Chinese. I think the Japanese are more desirable as a class than the Chinamen. I don't think any serious loss would result if no more came in. In the sawmill business it is necessary to have cheap labour. Our market is in the North-west and local. We come into competition with the coast mills. Our management would favour no more coming in.

John C. Billings, secretary of the Yale-Columbia Company, that have mills at Robson, Nakusp, Cascade, Roche Creek and Deadwood, and have places of business at Rossland, at the different mills, Greenwood and Phœnix, says: We employ two hundred men; all are white men except three or four Chinese as cooks in the camps and at the mills. The market is local, the C. P. R. principally, and the mines. The company don't desire any more orientals to come in. None of the other mills in this district employ Chinese. We have to compete with American lumber. Competition is very keen. I have no use whatever for the Chinamen. I think the Japanese are better men. The average wage of labourers is $40 a month and board in camp, and piling lumber, or $2.25 a day and board themselves. There is no trouble in getting men—fairly well supplied.

Charles Hillyer, of Nelson, employs forty men in and around the mill and sash and door factory. He says: All are white men—every man. I pay unskilled labour $2.25 and $2.50; skilled labour $3, $3.50 and $4 a day. My market is local in shipping to the mines. I compete with the coast, Vancouver, Tacoma, Portland and Spokane. Competition is keen. The Chinese question affects me in this way: I have to pay men here—working men can't live here less than $1.50 or $2 a day, and with family $2 to $2.50. The unions are strong here, whereas my strongest competitor (mills at the coast) can get labour for two-thirds of what I am paying in the city of Nelson at the present time. I have one of my strongest competitors close to me, the Sayward Company of Victoria. They have a branch here. They do not employ Chinese or Japanese here. They bring lumber from the coast, sashes and doors. We buy most of our logs from loggers, and most from the American side. Not one Chinese or Japanese is employed in the camps by loggers from whom we buy. Have resided in the province seventeen years. I favour further restriction. I am talking as a manufacturer. I would exclude them entirely. If any restriction can be put on it ought to be done. In fifteen years there will be very few white men working in the sawmills. If I compete with the coast mills I'll have to put my white men out and put in Chinese. I could not do business here if I did so, because the white men will not trade. This is the most strongly union section of the whole Dominion. If Chinese and Japanese came in freely for twenty-five years, the white man would be the slave and the Chinese would be boss. I mean the Chinese and Japanese would supersede the whites in the labour market. White labour will have to seek some other kind of employment. I will have to put in Chinese and Japanese within two years. The Chinese have increased about four hundred since I have been here. There are about six hundred Chinese here now. All are British subjects in my mill. You can put a Chinese in any position a white man is in, and he will do anything a white man can do. Inside of twenty years some of the Chinese will be presidents and managers of the mills.

More rough lumber and sashes and doors are shipped in here from the American side than from the mills of the coast of British Columbia.

George O. Buchanan, proprietor of the saw mill at Kaslo, says:—I employ from ten to fifty men according to the season. The logging camps are in the winter when the

mill is not running. I employ no Chinese or Japanese except occasionally as cooks. I don't think the Chinese are affecting us in Kaslo to any extent. I am not in favour of putting restriction upon anybody as far as I am concerned. I do not know that the tax paid when coming in is altogether unjustifiable. We are all liable to pay taxes, and there may be nothing wrong in the Chinese paying a tax when coming in. I think it is probably enough as it is. The Chinese are human beings, and I do not believe in the oppression of any race of men, even an inferior race. I don't think they should be admitted to the franchise. I do not think they could assimilate or take part in our laws or institutions. I think all kinds of men should be free to come and go and make their homes anywhere it suits them. I don't think them a desirable class to come into the country. 'God made of one blood all the nations of the earth.'

Stephen Jarrett, superintendent of the Vancouver Sash and Door Company, who employ thirty men, all whites, says: We employ only skilled labour—only three or four unskilled workmen. We pay unskilled, $1.50 to $2; skilled workmen, $2.75. We start young lads, two every year at $1 a day, and they advance 50 cents every six or eight months. I have been here twelve years. I never found any difficulty in getting men. If I want two men I have twenty applicants, both skilled and unskilled. I don't think there is sufficient whites to supply all the demand. I would be in favour of a heavy head tax, say $500 each. I think if no more came in, no inconvenience would result to the industry here. I wanted five skilled men this week; already I have fifteen applicants.

We cannot ship our product into the Kootenay country in competition with the mills of Tacoma. The freight rates are cheaper from Tacoma. Our duties on doors and windows, I think, is 30 per cent. Our machinery is about 20 per cent higher than on the other side.

William C. Dickson, book-keeper and yard-foreman at the Royal City Mills, Vancouver, said: The great objection is to work side by side with a Chinaman. I have seen white men turn away rather than do it. There is not much sentiment in it. There is a principle involved. This should be a white man's country. (See further evidence of this witness in the part relating to Japanese Immigration.)

Truman S. Baxter, has resided in Vancouver since 1890, says: I am studying law at present. I am president of the Vancouver Liberal Association and ex-alderman of the city. When I came here I commenced working in a sawmill. I got $26 a month and board. Wages were paid in the city a year ago last winter at $17 a month and board. In 1890 all of the labour around the sawmills was white, except a Chinaman or two taking care of slabs. To-day the Japanese and Chinese handle all the lumber in the yards, and in the mill, running saws. It has been stated before the Commission that the wages here are higher than on the American side. Last year I had occasion to go to Seattle to find out the condition of labourers there, and the figures I give are taken from the Seattle Lumber Company, and I saw the cheques, so that I know the figures were paid. The foreman was paid $6.00 a day; sawyer, $5.00 a day; filer, $5.00 a day; yard foreman, $100 a month; planing mill foreman, $3.50 a day and men on carriage, $2.50 a day. The lowest wage paid anywhere around this mill was $1.75 to two or three new men. Two dollars is the ordinary wage for unskilled workmen. Our mills here pay the 20th of the month, for the previous month. There the men are paid every Monday night, receiving wages up to the previous Saturday night. There are no Chinese or Japanese at all. I also went to Ballard. At Stinson's Mill five hundred men are employed—not a Chinaman or a Japanese among them. The lowest wage was $1.75 and the highest wage was $2.50 a month. At this mill there were eighteen edgers or knot sawyers at $2.50 each. That work is all done here by Chinamen. Ballard is three or four miles from Seattle. At Kellog's Mill I found conditions the same; it is also at Ballard. The Seattle Cedar Lumber Company employ 125 men, 14 knot sawyers there, getting $2.50 a day. All these mills make shingles except the first. I also visited Carey's Mill at Seattle, Stinson and Post's and Morran Bros. wages being the same, and not a Chinese or Japanese employed anywhere in connection with them. I asked one of the Morran Bros. where the Japanese were, and he said if there were any there he would throw them over the wall. As a proof that lumbering can be done here without

Chinese or Japanese labour, I refer to the offer of Mr. Ludgate, to erect a mill and employ no Japanese or Chinese. There was no bonus. He offered to put up $10,000 as forfeit if he employed Japanese or Chinese.

I favour the exclusion of Chinese. I was deprived of my job by a Chinaman and left the business. The lumbermen took up great lumber limits, and this keeps them poor. The mill men are interested parties. For instance, one of the chief witnesses refused to state what the head men get. I believe if this had been given it would have shown they could employ whites. In Seattle the managers are there on the ground. The managers here don't do that way. The same cry was raised in the United States when they tried to shut them out. I believe in the exclusion of Chinese and Japanese alike. I think by treaty or by enactment they can greatly restrict or prohibit altogether both the Japanese and the Chinese. Do it by diplomatic action if possible, if not do it anyway. I'd bar them out anyway. I am not associated with any labour organization. I was representing Mr. Macdonnell, and he is acting for the Trades and Labour Council. I went over to ascertain the facts, as alderman, in regard to a certain by-law. I put myself forward as the champion of what I believe is in the interests of British Columbia and Canada.

If you go into the bank after the canning seasons, you will see the number of Chinese and Japanese asking for drafts. I think it would be suicidal to give them the franchise. I suggest the most unobjectionable law would be the Natal Act.

SUMMARY.

The market in this line of business is largely local and eastern. Chinese are not employed in the interior of British Columbia, either in the mills or in the camps. Japanese have recently been introduced in one mill at Kamloops, but with that exception only white men are employed in the lumber industry in the interior. On the coast, Chinese are not employed to any large extent, but Japanese, constituting an equivalent, are largely employed.

THE RELATIVE RATE OF WAGES.

The rate of wages in the Hastings Mill for unskilled labour is from $40 to $45 a month; in the Royal City Mills and Brunette Mills at New Westminster $35 a month, averaging about $1.50 for common labour and running up to $1.75 and $2 a day for semi-skilled labour, such as edgermen, gang saw and boom men. The Chinese and Japanese are paid for common labour 85, 90 cents and up to $1, and for semi-skilled labour as high as $1.25, and in one or two instances $1.50, the average being about $1 a day. The Japanese and Chinese pile the lumber, take care of the refuse, cut it up into wood, pile it, &c., and the more skilled generally run the cut-off saws, the lath and picket saw, and in many cases are engaged as assistants on planers. Very few white men are employed on this class of labour.

On the American side the wage paid to unskilled labour is higher. At Whatcom the lowest wage paid to unskilled labour is $1.75 a day; at Fairhaven from $1.50 to $2 a day. In Seattle the Stetson and Post Company pay from $1.75 to $2.50 for unskilled labour, the average being $2 a day. Morran Brothers pay a minimum wage of $2 a day. The lowest wage paid by Mr. Ludgate is $1.75 a day to 'roustabouts;' $1.75 is their cheapest labour.

SKILLED LABOUR.

Semi-skilled labour in the British Columbia mills ranges from $1.75 to $2 a day, and skilled labour from $2.25 to $3.50 a day. In the export mills higher wages are paid in a few instances—five sawyers in the Hastings Mill being paid from $4 to $5 a day, and filers as high as $7 a day. The average wage for white labour in this mill is from $2.25 to $2.50 a day. In the smaller mills, however, the earlier statement more nearly represents the average wage. Take the Royal City Planing Mills of New West-

minster, under the same control as the Hastings Mill, and engaged both in the export, local and eastern trade, their schedule of prices would approximately represent the average wage on the coast in British Columbia for semi-skilled and skilled labour. It is as follows: edger men $1.75, gang saw $1.75, boom men $1.75 to $2, sawyers $3, re-sawyers $3.50, filers $3.40.

The average wage at Fairhaven, Washington, for white men was $3.33⅓ per day, wages running up to $5 and $6 a day; at Whatcom for skilled labour up to $4 a day, averaging from $2.50 to $3.75. At Seattle sawyers are paid from $3.50 to $4 a day. At another mill planers are paid from $2.25 to $2.50 and $2.75 a day, planer foremen $3.50 and filers $5 a day.

The rate of wages for unskilled white labour in this industry is higher in Washington State than in British Columbia, and for skilled labour it is about the same, except possibly in one or two instances in the two larger export mills. Some mill owners claim that the American mills have the advantage in a larger local and practically unlimited home market, and in the fact that there is a duty on Canadian lumber entering the United States, while certain classes of American lumber enter Canada free of duty; and one witness stated that the cost of machinery, food supplies, tools and other lumbering supplies are from twenty to thirty per cent higher on the Canadian side than on the American side, and added that 'If we were allowed an open market to purchase our supplies it would be even more effective than a duty on lumber.' The evidence of a witness who has a mill at Seattle, and made inquiry with a view of ascertaining the cost of supplies in British Columbia did not sustain this view, but we think there is no doubt that certain lines of machinery and certain of the other supplies are higher on the Canadian side.

Some of the employers took the view that there was no advantage or saving in wages by employing Chinese or Japanese instead of white men, having regard to the amount of labour done by each, but that white labour could not be obtained under present conditions. The majority of the employers who gave evidence were emphatic in their opinion, that no more Chinese or Japanese should be admitted; that the supply for the present and for a long time to come was adequate, and that if no more Chinese or Japanese came in white labour would gradually take its place, without loss or inconvenience to the industry, and with great benefit to the country. All were agreed that this class of immigrants are undesirable as citizens, and all that were willing to express an opinion favoured higher restriction or exclusion.

On the American side Chinese labour is not employed in this industry, and American employers are in favour of their present exclusion laws.

It is quite clear that the Chinese are employed but to a limited extent in this branch of the trade and are not essential to its prosperity.

(The regulation of Japanese labour to this industry will be dealt with under that heading.)

CHAPTER XIV.—SHINGLE BUSINESS.

The shingle business rests upon a somewhat different footing from the lumber business, and as it has become a very important industry, it deserves separate treatment. A few quotations from the evidence will indicate the scope and condition of the business.

The following list shows a large proportion of the shingle mills of the Province:

Mill.	Whites.	Chinese.	Japanese.
Pacific Coast Co., (nine mills)..	210	105	300 (in camp)
Spicer.....	20	30	5
McNair.....	159	27	42
Heaps	56	21	27
	445	183	364

James C. Scott, the mayor of New Westminster, and the manager of the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, and who handles the output of eight or nine other mills, namely, one at Port Moody, two at Hastings, one at Cloverdale, one at Ruskin, and the rest at Vancouver, says: The shingle business began when I came here. There are two shingle mills here, and one at Harrison, not included in the arrangement. There was a large over-production. There was considerably more than twice the capacity that the market called for, and the consolidation of the several mills was the way taken to control it. We organized in November last year. The heaviest consuming market is, first, Ontario; second, Manitoba; and third the Territories. We have no home market just now at all. We don't sell in the States, the duty keeps us out. The home market would not take more than 5,000,000, and one mill would produce that in a month. There is a certain small trade with the States of eighteen inch shingles, the usual size being sixteen inch.

The Chinese are used for pulling bolts from the water surface to the mill, cutting them up in sixteen inch lengths, and piling them on tables convenient to the sawyers. The sawyers are white men. The packers are usually Chinese. The packing is done by contract. When I came here first I had a prejudice against them, and I used white labour till July or August 1893. I felt that I had to employ Chinese. My cost was greater than others. I made it a hobby to try and get white boys to do the packing the same as we used to do in Ontario. I succeeded in getting two separate white contractors to undertake it, and they both confessed failure. The boys said they did not want that job, it was Chinaman's work. We had no trouble in Simcoe County, Ontario, in getting boys at 75 cents to $1 a day to do the work. We pay here more than we did there. We paid 5 cents a thousand there and 6 and 6½ cents per thousand here. It appeared they regarded it as degrading because it was Chinese work. It is true that boys and men and girls do not like work where Chinese are habitually employed. It is unfavourable to the community. Chinese have taken the place usually given to boys and they have got into indolent habits No Japanese are employed in the shingle factories.

If no more Chinese came in it might bother us for a time. It would regulate itself in time. If they were not here at all we could get some labour to take their place. If they were cut off at once we could get boys or others in their places. I cannot answer the question in any other way than that it is unfortunate for the country that they are here at all. They are not assimilative. I do not think it would be desirable if they did assimilate. It is apparent to me it would be difficult to clear land, but if they were not here other labour would come. I certainly think their presence has a tendency to keep that labour out. It is not desirable that labour should be kept out. It is a difficult problem to think out. The difficulty will increase with the numbers. They build a few houses near the mill and herd together. There is no home life. Very few have wives here. Although this might be a temporary inconvenience—this is too nice a country to live in to have Chinese as the labourers of this country. I say this against my own interest. I do not think the $100 will have any material effect whatever on the numbers coming in. If as much as $500 were put on it might have some effect. It might cripple us for a time. I would be willing to take my chance with the rest of us rather than have this thing go on. It is quite possible that we over-estimate the trouble, and that it might not be as bad as we fear. I have engaged a few Japanese. The Japanese are more ready to pick up work and adapt themselves quicker to work. I regard the Japanese less undesirable. I do not think I class them in the same category. They are decidedly more desirable than the Chinese.

The business is fairly profitable for the last two years. The cost of production would not vary to the extent of five cents (i.e. if oriental labour not employed). There is no duty on shingles coming in. We experience competition at Sarnia, Goderich, Windsor, Chatham, etc, also from Washington State.

I consider there is material right here in the boys in this town to do all the work. If we got men instead of boys we would have to pay one-third more, or a difference of $3 a day with that crew. They produce 100,000 in ten hours, that is $3 on 100,000, or three cents per thousand. The Chinese or Japanese are employed in making bolts.

They get $1 a cord. They work most of the year except in the canning season. We produce from 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 per year. It is a Canadian industry depending on the Canadian market. I think it desirable to run the industries employing oriental labour rather than to stop them. In the interests of the country a $300 tax is more desirable. I have never experienced a scarcity of Chinese or Japanese. The city employs exclusively whites. The general sentiment is against Chinese and against the immigration of orientals. A white man cannot live on what a Chinese or Japanese lives on. The Japanese, from the standpoint of the labourer is as dangerous as the Chinamen.

A man looks to see what labour is available, and he finds a mixture of Chinese and white labour employed, and an unsettled condition of affairs indicated by the present Commission, and that unsettled state of affairs leads him to wait to see the result. I would agree with Mr. Palmer, of Chemainus, that while we could not get on now without Oriental labour, yet if no more came in it would not seriously affect my interests, and I would take the chances.

H. H. Spicer, manager of the Spicer Shingle Mill Company, of Vancouver, says: All shingle mills employ Chinese labour more or less. We pay in wages about $2,000 a month—65 per cent to white, 35 per cent to Chinese. We used to get $2.00, $2.25 and $2.50 per thousand; now there is no fixed price. They sell to local trade at $1.40. There is competition. The tendency would be to get a better price if American shingles did not interfere. The market is ridiculously small for the number of mills here. We make the price and we don't cut till we have to. The total market in Canada is 225,000,000; 165,000 is a car load. We ship considerable to the United States; no success in shipping to Australia or Africa. It would be bad for the shingle business if we could not get Chinese. I do not know, but I am inclined to think that an exclusion law, if it resulted in no more Chinese coming in, would act very strongly in shutting our mill down in the future. They seem better adapted than Japanese. We ship into the United States as a dumping ground for the surplus. The duty is 30 cents per thousand. Mongolians work the same number of hours as other men. American shingle mills are chiefly run by white labour. We could not pay as much to white men unless we had that cheap labour. If Canada had a population of 30,000,000 we might not have to employ Chinese at all, but our market is limited.

James A. McNair said: I am engaged in the shingle and lumber trade. We employ a total of 228 men about the mills and logging camps—159 whites, 42 Japanese and 27 Chinese. The average pay of whites per day is $4.10, Japanese $4.6, and Chinese $4.5.

We tried white labour instead of Chinese three years ago. We gave instructions to the contractor to use white men and to test the matter we gave him the contract, and in three months' time he had Chinamen. It was the same price to white men and Chinamen. He could not get sufficient white labour at the price. I have three shingle mills on the other side. I employ 138 men there; all are white men. We pay there for packing eight cents per thousand for five butts to two inches, and 7 cents per thousand for six butts to two inches. White labour is generally employed over there. Some of the shingle mills there have Japanese, one at Sumas, one at Lake Whatcom, and one at Carroll Siding. Our market there is the middle and eastern states. Our market here is British Columbia, North-west Territories, Manitoba and Ontario. We have no difficulty in getting men, except in the fishing season. We would have to have cheap labour or shut down. The Chinaman never changes. I should prefer to employ whites, and we do as much as we can.

The only way we can ship into the United States is by shipping in larger shingles. We got part of our machinery from the United States, and paid duty,—on boiler and engine 25 per cent. We did a little better than their price plus the duty—just a trifle. We produce shingles a little cheaper on the other side—just a shade. We have not built extra mills here, and we have built two over there. The total capacity of the shingle mills in British Columbia is something like 650,000,000 to 700,000,000 per annum. We can go there and ship into the United States or Canada as we choose. There are 360 shingle mills in Washington and Oregon. They ship some thousands of cars a day. Some mills have a capacity of half a million a day. Of the 31,132,000

sold in Canada from the United States, British Columbia took 11,360,000; Manitoba, 12,721,000; New Brunswick, 860,000; Quebec, 141,000, and Ontario, 5,846,000, the North-west Territories, 135,000; Yukon, 69,000. Business won't stand higher wages all round. Take the extra cost of machinery and everything, you would have to reduce the higher wages if you had all white. We get a little better prices in the United States than here for our product.

The bolts cost 50 cents more a cord here, a difference of 8 or 10 cents a thousand between price of shingles here and there. We have got to pay more for material and for all provisions, horse feed and all that sort of things.

The duty is a much larger consideration with us than the exclusion of Asiatics would be. If we had the market here covered by a duty it would help us a great deal in doing without Japanese. If we had our own market then we are not more crowded than they. It is partially true that in our business what we save from the cheap labour we give to the white labour. It is a toss up as to who can save more—our men or the white men on the other side. If orientals were taken out we would have to scale down the white labour.

E. H. Heaps, manager of the Heaps Company, Vancouver, says: We paid wages for March, 1900—to whites, $1,681.30, Japanese $711.70, Chinese $540. We run night and day, two shifts of three men each. An ordinary sawyer earns $2.75 a day. He can earn $3.50 if exceptionally good. We have three machines idle for want of a sawyer. There is a scarcity of skilled labour. We employ in the camps on contract about eighty men in getting out bolts. We let the contracts to Japanese, Chinese and whites. The Japanese contractors employ Japanese; the Chinese contractors employ Chinese; the white contractors employ Japanese and Chinese. Ninety per cent of the bolts are got out by Japanese and Chinese. You can depend on them for this work. We pay $5,000 a month for say eight months, $40,000, besides the factory wages. The division of wages would be the following:—

Japanese and Chinese for bolts	$ 36,000
" " in the mill	8,000
Total	$ 44,000
Whites in the mill	$ 10,000
" for bolts	4,000
Total to whites	$ 14,000

It is not cheaper to employ Japanese and Chinese for bolts. I think if we have protection all through, the men ought to be protected, too. I think the restriction on Chinese is quite sufficient. At present we have enough Chinese. The work they are engaged in seems to suit them. It is under cover; it requires quickness of hand and eye, and it is not hard work, and they earn high wages. As a rule they are steady and reliable, and you can depend upon their being there. The oriental labour is a necessity for our business. In the shingle mill we have more whites than when we first started. Boys can learn to run the saws. We make a special point to try and get white sawyers and boys to learn the trade, and when they learn they go to the Sound.

Cedar is getting scarcer; it has to be hauled longer distances to the water. Horses are dearer, wages are higher, and machinery is higher now.

C. Uchida, Japanese contractor, says: I contract to get out shingle bolts. I get $2.05 per cord delivered on the scow. I pay $2 per cord and get 5 cents and what I make on supplies. I take out about 3,000 cords. We employ all Japanese. We send in rice, flour, salt meat, vegetables, sugar, and fresh meat once a month. It costs them $10 or $11 a month for board. They hire a cook—two cooks for 36 men. I have wife and children at home. There is only one family out there. I buy groceries at the wholesale stores. I keep a store, and buy $2,000 a month; $360 a month goes into camp. I supply them with overalls and working clothes. I buy some from white men

and some from Chinese. The white men do not get cut shingle bolts. The 36 men in the camp are not naturalized. I am not a British subject.

Arthur C. Gordon, contractor for cutting shingles, says: The work is done for me by Chinese. The Chinese do the packing, jointing and cut-off. They make about $1.25 a day. I have known white men do it. They do it faster. A good white packer would pack 40,000, while a Chinese packs only 20,000 or 25,000. I pay seven cents a 1,000. This work has always been done by Chinese for twelve years. There are more mills now. In Washington a white man averages 40,000 a day. I never had a white man, a packer or jointer, apply for work. A white man could make $2.80 a day. I let all the work to one Chinaman, and he hires his own men. I employ eleven Chinese and two whites—no Japanese. I don't know one white packer here. I favour restriction. I think we have enough Chinese now. I favour exclusion. I think as whites increase they should decrease. We have four Chinese packers. Two white men could do the work of the four Chinese packers. There are no white packers offering. I would like to see white men in the country. I am just making wages. I might as well work by the day. I took two white sawyers this spring and broke them in myself. The Chinese have always been working around getting skilled.

Stephen Ramage, says: I am a saw-filer in Heaps' Shingle Mill, Vancouver. Have resided here since the fire. There are many more Chinese in the mills than formerly. They are increasing steadily. That applies to all the mills. The Japanese are on a greater increase than Chinamen. I think it would be a benefit if more restrictions were put on. It would tend to stop the immigration. There are sufficient here now to supply the demand for some years to come. The Japanese are a greater menace to whites than Chinese. They are abler-bodied men. They adopt our mode of living more readily. The Japanese and Chinese deter men from coming here. Very few of the Japanese and Chinese have a family. My principal reason would be to save the country for my own race. I would not object to Europeans. I object to Asiatics. I hope they will not assimilate with our people. I think not. The shingle mills are working on shifts—double time just now, since the spring trade has opened up. To jump from one to the other, it might be difficult to carry on the business with white labour. There is white labour that don't get employed on account of the Japanese being employed. I think white people are kept out of employment. I was foreman of a saw-mill for local trade. The price of lumber has gone up. In the depression lumber was lower two or three years ago. There was keener competition four years ago than now. There is a better agreement now as to price—not so much cutting. Wages are no better. The price of logs is a little higher now. I would rather keep out the Japanese and let the Chinese come in with a head tax as at the present time. The Japanese are more of a menace. They are more capable men and do their work as cheap as Chinese. They dress like a white man, but don't eat like a white man. They live in aggregations as much as Chinese. Their diet is principally rice. They would not be as great a menace as the Chinamen if they lived up to our standard,—that is the average Canadian doing their class of labour.

The Heaps mill started with three shingle machines. There is now a factory a saw-mill and a machine shop all attached to it. McNair Brothers went into business ten years ago. They started cutting shingle bolts. Kirkpatrick started by renting power. He now owns two plants. The mills here have not as modern machinery as the Americans. The tariff might benefit some people. They would not dismiss the Mongolians on that account. I think the present time is as good as any for change.

The Japanese can learn to run the saws, and they will be employed at this higher work. No European nation is as objectionable as the Japanese and Chinese.

Some of the plants are as modern as the Americans, and some are not. The large export mills average well with the American mills. We can manufacture shingles as cheaply as the Americans can. Eighty per cent of the machinery is Canadian. I think we could do without more at all. They do without Japanese and Chinese on the other side. If a change was made at once it would take some few days to get white men. The mills on the other side run without Asiatic labour. I don't think it is true that when labourers come in they go off to something better, not more so in this country

than in any other. The general wage is about $1.50 a day. I was in the Royal City mill for five years. I daresay Cook could get enough white men to run the Hastings mill in two days. The average Japanese gets $1 a day. Wages are worse to-day than they were some years ago. There is just as much trouble with the Chinese and Japanese going fishing as the whites. I would tell unskilled labour not to come here. We have Chinese packing and Japanese cutting bolts. There is no way of getting in white labour to learn the saw—it is the Japanese and Chinese. The Japanese are apt to learn. Filers get $4 a day; band saw filers get $6 to $7 a day. Wherever the Japanese enters he cuts wages in two.

SUMMARY.

This important industry employs over one thousand men, of whom less than half are white workmen. The following probably does not include all, but fairly gives the proportion:—

Whites	445
Chinese	183
Japanese	364

The Chinese are employed principally in bringing the bolts from the water surface to the mill, cutting them up into sixteen inch lengths ready for sawyers (and recently as sawyers themselves in some mills) and in packing, for which they are exclusively employed by Chinese contractors. They have become expert packers, and are deemed specially suited for that work. Although white packers in Washington and Oregon, where no Chinese are employed, are found to do the work much more rapidly and on the whole as cheaply. The white men and boys have not been trained to the business and cannot now compete at the same price, and refuse to work at it because 'it is Chinese work.' No Japanese are employed in the factories.

The output of nine mills are now controlled through one company. Large quantities are sent east. The manager of this large concern says that 'if no more Chinese came in it might bother for a little while; it would regulate itself in time. If they were not here at all we could get some labour to take their place. If they were cut off at once we could get boys or others in their places. I cannot answer the question in any other way than that it is unfortunate for the country that they are here at all. The business is fairly profitable for the last two years.'

This witness makes a further most important statement:

'I consider there is material right here in the boys in this town to do all the work.' He then shows that if white men were employed it might increase the cost of production by three cents per thousand.

'I agree with Mr. Palmer, of Chemainus, that while we could not get on now without oriental labour, yet if no more came in it would not seriously affect my interests. I would take the chances. The general sentiment is against Chinese and against emigration of orientals.'

The representative of another company that employs 228 men in their lumber and shingle business, of whom 159 are whites, 42 Japanese and 27 Chinese, stated that their average wage per day to whites was $4.10; to Japanese, $4.6; to Chinese, $4.5. This included the lumber business as well as the shingle business. This company tried white labour instead of Chinese, but in three months' time found that they could not get white labour at the same price paid to Chinese. The company have three shingle mills in Washington State, where they employ 138 men in the shingle business alone, all whites. White labour is generally employed there.

There are 360 shingle mills in Washington and Oregon that ship thousands of cars a day, some of the mills having a capacity of half a million a day. Of the thirty-one millions sold in Canada from the United States last year British Columbia took over eleven millions, Manitoba nearly thirteen millions and Ontario nearly six millions. They get a little better price in the United States than here for the product. He stated further: 'If we had our own markets then we are not more crowded than they.'

It is partially true, he states, that what they save from cheap labour they give to white labour. 'If orientals were taken out we would have to scale down the white labour.'

Another employer stated that he paid out to whites for March, 1900, $1,681; to Japanese $711, and to Chinese $540; that he employs about 80 men in getting out bolts, and lets contracts to Japanese, Chinese and whites. Japanese contractors employ Japanese; Chinese employ Chinese, and white contractors employ Japanese and Chinese. Ninety per cent would be Japanese and Chinese. In eight months they paid out for bolts $40,000 besides the factory wages, as follows:—

Japanese and Chinese for bolts	$ 36,000
To whites for bolts	4,000
Japanese and Chinese in the mill	8,000
To whites in the mill	14,000

This witness thought restriction quite sufficient and stated that at present they have enough Chinese. He found them steady and reliable. He declared oriental labour a necessity for their business.

A white contractor who employs Chinese for packing, jointing and cutting off, stated that a good white packer would pack forty thousand, while a Chinaman packs only from twenty to twenty-five thousand. He pays seven cents a thousand. He states that in Washington white men average forty thousand a day, and this was confirmed by evidence on the American side. Chinese have always been employed in packing. He had never had a white man apply for work. A white man could make $2.80 a day. This contractor lets all the work to one Chinamen and he hires his own men. He employs eleven Chinamen and two whites. He did not know of a single white packer. This witness favours exclusion. He thinks as whites increase Chinese should decrease. He declared that two white men could do the work of four Chinese packers. He took two white sawyers on this spring and taught them himself.

Why is it, then, if white men can do so much more than Chinese, and therefore working by contract can earn $2.80 a day, they do not eagerly seek employment? The answer, we think, is simple. Chinese have always been employed in this business. They have become expert. The white man at first is unskilled. He would earn very low wages at first. The work is done by contract. The skilled Chinese are there ready to do the work. It is more convenient to sub-let the contract to a boss Chinese contractor who will employ Chinese on his own terms, than for the white contractor or the owner of the mill to train a staff competent to do the work, even although when trained, the work could be done as cheaply and the white man earn good wages.

In the east this work is largely done by boys who are trained to the business from an early age. There is no reason in the nature of things why this might not and ought not to be the case in British Columbia, except the presence of the Chinese and Japanese. While they are there in such numbers they will be employed to the exclusion of white labour, because if not cheaper, it is more convenient.

In the mills in Washington and Oregon no Chinese are employed and yet the work is done very nearly, if not quite, as cheaply. There is only a shade of difference, according to the witness, who thought he could not get on without this cheap labour. According to one calculation, even if men were employed instead of boys, it would only make a difference of three cents a thousand. If it is further taken into account that neither white men nor boys will work if they can avoid it at what is called a Chinaman's job, a satisfactory explanation is given as to why it is. The Chinese practically control this branch of the industry.

The conclusion reached is that neither Chinese nor Japanese are essential to the success of this business, but being available and conveniently employed by contract, they have become a part of the machinery of production which would for a time be thrown out of gear if they were discharged. They are at present more convenient, but not essential. There is a supply for many years to come, and if no more came in no permanent injury would result. The stability of the business does not depend upon them.