
ORDER IN COUNCIL

Calling the attention of the Dominion Government to the immense influx of Chinese into the Province.

By Command.

W. J. ARMSTRONG,
Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
18th January, 1883.*

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 19th August, 1882.

The Committee of Council advise that the attention of the Dominion Government be again called to the immense influx of Chinese into this Province, consequent upon the Railway Contractor importing large numbers from Asia, and to the following facts:—

That the employment of Chinese, as carried on, is practically establishing a system of slave labour in the Province.

That at the present time there are about twelve thousand Chinese here, and that more than one-half of that number are employed on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

That Chinese being largely employed, drives white labour away from seeking work thereon.

That Chinese, as a class, are injurious to a young community, as they trade almost exclusively among their own people, send all their earnings to Asia, introduce loathsome diseases and demoralizing habits, put the authorities to constant expense in endeavouring to suppress crime among them, and in granting charitable aid to their sick and infirm.

That they manage to evade punishment for crime, and payment of their taxes.

That they are a non-assimilating, alien race; and that the Australian Colonies of Great Britain, and the States and Territories of the United States of America, are protected from their presence.

That British Columbia is the only portion of the American Continent on the North Pacific, above Mexico, where Chinese now have the unrestricted right to land.

That the Congress of the United States have passed a law, which came into effect on the 5th of August, 1882, which prohibits all skilled and unskilled Chinese labourers from coming into the United States unless having certificates from the Collector of an American port that they resided in the United States previous to August, 1882. Government officials, merchants, or privileged classes are permitted to come, provided they are entered on a separate passenger list, but they are not allowed to land until examined by the United States Collector or deputy. Chinese labourers cannot travel through the United States or touch at any ports thereof on their way back to China, unless in case of distress. The penalty for the violation of this law is the absolute forfeiture of the ship.

