

CHINESE EXCLUSION CONVENTION OPENS FIGHT IN DEFENSE OF AMERICAN LABOR

PRESIDENT WILL URGE RE-ENACTMENT OF EXCLUSION LAW.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 21, 1901.—Hon. James D. Phelan, San Francisco, Cal.; I have seen the President. I have the best authority for saying that he will not only recommend in his message the re-enactment of the Geary law, but will go further and urge that it be made stronger.

J. C. NEEDHAM.

CHINESE QUESTION ONE OF RACE

WE are the warders of the Golden Gate; we must stand here forever in the pathway of the Orient, and if there is any danger or trial it is for us to sound the alarm. I regard the Chinese question as a race question. I regard it as an international question; and above and over all, a question involving the preservation of our civilization. The State of California, with its seven hundred miles of seaboard facing the Orient, is entitled to speak on this question for the people of the United States.—Excerpt from Mayor James D. Phelan's address at the Chinese Exclusion Convention.

WILL REMOVE ERRONEOUS IDEAS

THIS convention, meeting at this peculiar time, is to my mind the most potent instrument that could have been chosen to manifest to the people of the East that the story that California has changed her mind upon the question of Asiatic immigration is at least erroneous, if not absolutely false. California, through this convention, will tell the people of the East that she is as loyal as she ever was to her laboring population, and as determined as ever to protect them against the cheap man from the East.—Excerpt from Chairman Thomas J. Geary's address at the Chinese Exclusion Convention.



Leading Citizens Gather to Urge Re-enactment of the Geary Law.

IT was a distinctly representative gathering of business, professional and laboring men that packed Metropolitan Temple yesterday afternoon when Mayor Phelan called the Chinese Exclusion Convention to order. Nearly every seat in the large auditorium was taken, the lower floor being devoted to the use of the delegates from all parts of California, while the gallery was given up to the general public. All present seemed to be animated by one impulse, that of doing their utmost to secure the re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion act and thereby prevent the threatened invasion of Mongol hordes to the peril and degradation of American labor.

The gathering was of that character which lends weight to any public movement and the conclusions of which are accorded respectful consideration in legislative halls. The convention was not the outgrowth of political or partisan sentiment, but of the fear of the people of the State that the danger which menaces their advancement and prosperity might, unless strong measures were taken, be actually realized. In order that the people of the East might understand how the communities on the Western confines of the continent feel concerning the unrestricted immigration of Chinese into their midst, the convention was decided upon, and it is needless to say that the memorial which is to be adopted to-day will prove to be an unanswerable argument to those of the East, who, without the slightest knowledge of the blighting characteristics of the Chinese, have declared open sympathy for the coolie hordes which are only awaiting the expiration of the exclusion act in May next

in order that they may without molestation invade the United States.

Convention Begins Crusade.

Of the 3000 accredited delegates from all parts of California fully 2500 were present at 2:15 o'clock when Mayor Phelan rapped for order. The hall presented a scene of animation, which the hearty enthusiasm of the delegates as well as spectators served to heighten. The hall was decorated with the national colors, while over the platform was suspended a large sign bearing the words, "Chinese Exclusion Convention. For Country, Home and Civilization." Pinned to the lapels of the coats of the delegates were badges of white silk suitably inscribed. Side by side with the former sat representatives of State, national and county governments, all animated by the one great desire to protect American labor against the Oriental competition which must inevitably follow the refusal of Congress to re-enact the Chinese exclusion law. On the stage were Mayor Phelan, Mayor N. P. Snyder of Los Angeles, Senator George C. Perkins, Lieutenant Governor Jacob H. Neff, Congressman Frank Coombs, Rev. William Rader, Assistant United States District Attorney D. E. McKinlay, ex-Senator A. P. Williams, Congressman S. D. Woods, A. Sbarboro, president of the Manufacturers' and Producers' Association; Supervisors J. P. Booth, L. J. Dwyer, Samuel Braunhart, Charles Boxton, Supervisor-Elect William Wynn, H. A. McCraney and others.

The issues of the hour were presented by Mayor Phelan in a strong opening address. He was received with warmth and his allusions to the determined stand taken by California on the Chinese ques-

MAYOR JAMES D. PHELAN ADDRESSING THE DELEGATES TO THE BIG CHINESE EXCLUSION CONVENTION, WHICH HELD ITS INITIAL SESSION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

tion were loudly applauded. The people of this State, he said, had a right to speak for the people of the entire union. He aroused enthusiasm by a vigorous denial of the story that the sentiment of the residents of California concerning Chinese immigration had changed. Were it possible that advantages might be gained by the general admission of Chinese into the United States the people of California and of the Pacific Coast would be the first to recognize and advocate them. The Mayor declared that the question was a national one and that the whole people should rise up against the danger of a Mongol invasion.

Geary Chosen as Chairman.

The convention began business without delay after the Mayor had finished his address. The matter of selecting a chairman was brought up, and Thomas J. Geary, author of the Chinese Exclusion

act, was placed in nomination amid a considerable display of enthusiasms. The name of Mayor Snyder of Los Angeles was advanced for the honor, but that gentleman respectfully declined, and took occasion to second Geary's nomination. Mayor Phelan was also placed in nomination, but declined the honor with thanks. Geary was then chosen by acclamation, and when he advanced to the platform he was given a hearty ovation. In his speech of acceptance he referred to the anti-Chinese exclusion sentiment prevalent in the East, and expressed the conviction that the convention would do much to remove the erroneous impressions concerning the Chinese which had been formed in the territory east of the Rocky Mountains. His reference to the strong attitude of President Roosevelt in the matter of the re-enactment was hailed with wild cheers, and cries of "Good boy, Teddy!" He held that the advancement of American commerce was subsidiary to the advancement of the welfare of American labor. The fundamental principle, he argued, should be recognized that without labor there could be no commerce.

Temporary Organization Perfected.

At the conclusion of Chairman Geary's address, the work of temporary organization was begun. The idea seemed to prevail among a portion of the convention that politics backed the exclusion movement, and when H. S. Mason was placed in nomination for temporary secretary, Charles B. Schaeffer of Santa

CHINATOWN'S REMOVAL IS ADVOCATED

THE taxpayers of this city will soon be called upon to vote millions of dollars for schools, hospitals and other improvements. Gentlemen, there is no betterment that this city can procure which is more an urgent necessity than the removal of Chinatown to the southern end of San Francisco.—Excerpt from B. Sbarboro's address before the Chinese Exclusion Convention.

Clara was nominated in opposition. In order to prevent an election which must have engendered feeling and cause an unnecessary waste of time, the election of both as secretaries was agreed to. A committee of five on credentials was then appointed after numerous motions were made and amendments offered. The committee on credentials retired and after some minutes reported in favor of adopting the list of 3000 names in the hands of the secretaries. The report was adopted unanimously.

Senator Perkins was then introduced, and in a brief address he expressed his gratification at the patriotism displayed by all classes of citizens of California in the matter of the exclusion law. The failure of Congress to re-enact the law

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Strong Addresses in Behalf of the Laboring People of the Coast.

WHEN Mayor Phelan called the Chinese Exclusion Convention to order yesterday afternoon every seat in the body of the hall and in the gallery was occupied by delegates and spectators.

After calling the convention to order Mayor Phelan delivered the following address:

Personnel of Convention.

Fellow Citizens of the State of California: It is my honor as Mayor of this city, pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Supervisors, to call this convention to order. It is made up of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, the officials of the State, the counties and cities of California, of the labor and trades organizations and of civic society. This is, in the judgment of the Board of Supervisors, called a representative body, a body which, when it speaks, will be listened to with consideration and respect.

The State of California, with its seven hundred miles of seaboard fronting the Pacific, facing the Orient, is entitled to speak on this question for the people of the United States. (Applause.) We may speak, as it were, as experts. We have had a long familiarity with this question, and I contend that it is only those who are ignorant of its true meaning and significance who would hesitate to endorse the position which California has always taken as a steadfast and patriotic opponent to the further immigration of Chinese coolies.

It has been said in the East, where a propaganda against the re-enactment of the exclusion laws has been carried on, that the sentiment of the country has changed; that even in California, where, by the way, the Chinese population, due to the beneficent effect of exclusion, has fallen from 76,000, according to the census returns in the year 1890, to about 46,000 in 1900, it has been said that on that account

and on account of the opening, as it were, of the Pacific by the victory of Dewey at Manila Bay (Applause) that the people of the State of California have also changed their views; in other words, that the proponents of Chinese immigration have taken advantage of the effect of the exclusion law and of the interest that we all have in the opening of the Pacific, to insidiously, with the assistance of the Imperial Minister of China at Washington, Minister Wu, and the Imperial Consul General at San Francisco, Mr. Ho Yow, impress upon the minds of our Congressmen and of our editors throughout the broad extent of country east of the Mississippi that it would be diplomatic, that it would be in the substantial interests of this country, and would be conducive to greater trade to let the exclusion act, which has been in force for twenty years, die by legal expiration. When we in San Francisco observed that a systematic campaign was being made for the purpose of undoing all the work for which we had struggled for twenty years, we deemed it necessary to call this convention; and I am sure that none of you will resent the fact that San Francisco, your commercial emporium, has taken the leadership in this matter.

Our Commercial Emporium.

San Francisco is a commercial emporium. It is like all commercial cities, perhaps, when it comes to a matter of trade, unsentimental; and it must impress itself upon the people of the East that if there is any advantage in Chinese immigration we would not oppose it. If it brought commerce to our warehouses and to our marts there would be a very considerable element of our population that would be active in the demand which every commercial city makes for trade and more trade. (Applause.) Therefore, I say, when San Francisco takes a stand as it took twenty years

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SENATOR PERKINS WOULD GO FURTHER.

IT is our people who pay the taxes that have built up our splendid institutions, and we should draw the line further, only this is not the time nor occasion. I would permit no one to come into this country unless he felt as he approaches these shores as Moses did when he approached the burning bush—that he stood upon sacred ground; and the voice coming out of that bush from the American people is "Unless you love freedom, unless you believe in republican institutions, unless you believe in the free public schools, you cannot come into this country."—Excerpt from Senator Perkins' address before the Chinese Exclusion Convention.

FRANK L. COOMBS VOICES HIS PROTEST.

AS I understand it, it is because we have thought that there might prevail in the East some idea or suspicion that the people of this country were not united as they were ten years ago that we have called this convention. And it is your office now, echoing the voice, the sentiment and the majesty of the people of this State, to send in clarion tones to the capital of the nation your protest, as it was your protest of old, against the admission of Chinese further into the State of California and into the nation.—Excerpt from Congressman Frank L. Coombs' address before the Chinese Exclusion Convention.