BRILLIANT SPEAKERS POINT OUT THE DANGERS OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA'S SHORES

OPENING ADDRESS BY MAYOR PHELAN

Author of Exclusion Act Chosen to Preside Over the Big State Gathering.

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ago, when, by a plebiscital referendum, it was determined that ninety-nine per cent of the population were against immigration, it must have an effect such as we design to make upon the minds of our brethren in the East.

We are the warders by 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. Hence our meeting here to-day.

The only man who is in favor of Chinese immigration in this city, so far as I know, is he who believes that labor must be regarded simply by its capacity for work; who regards production as more important than the character of the population; and who, when told, as I have told them, that the influx of unlimited immigration would overwhelm this country and destroy our civilization, give the answer, "Well, that is a long time off, and after me the deluge." They take none but that narrow view, and we are here in a charitable spirit to enlighten their conscience, to impress upon the people of the East the importance and gravity of this question, and to memorialize Congress.

There will be read or delivered before you addresses by gentlemen who have carefully studied the various aspects of this question, its commercial side. Why, our commerce with China has increased since 1880, when exclusion became effective, from twenty-six millions, the total of our exports and our imports at that time, to over thirty-six millions, and we stand second to Great Britain alone, according to the latest consular reports, in the volume of our trade with China. In spite of our exclusion policy, therefore, our commerce and trade have advanced, and our diplomatic relations have actually improved, because it was due to the magnanimity of this country that China was allowed to come out of the recent war with an undivided territory. (Applause.)

In view of all those circumstances, I believe that great good will come from this convention if these gentlemen who will address you will confine themselves to facts and to arguments. We have men here representing trade, commerce and labor; we have them representing the mines and the orchards; we have them representing skilled and unskilled industry; but, above all, we have them here as American citizens representing our institutions and our civilization. (Applause.)

Various Aspects of Question.

I have taken simply, for your information, a brief view of the several aspects of the question. That is, I regard it as a labor question; I regard it as a race question; I regard it as an international question, and, above and over all, a question involving the preservation of our civilization. That leads you perhaps to imagine, from the inviting prospect, that I will exhaustively discuss these various phases of the question. That I will not do. But I cannot impress too strongly upon the convention the importance of bringing out, as will be done, these several views.

The operatives in the cotton mills at Shanghai are paid upon an average of 20 to 34 cents a day in silver, being from 10½ to 18 cents daily in gold, the workmen boarding and lodging themselves. That is a sufficient argument, I think, on the labor side of the question to show the wages which they receive, as I have gathered them here, and will submit them to the gentleman who has that phase of the question in charge. It runs down the line in all the industries of China, showing the very low wages which are paid. We know in this country that the Chinese came here under the Burlingame treaty and worked for very low wages, and the scale has steadily advanced until they get now very nearly what is paid to white workingmen in the various industries in which both engage. That is because the Chinese population in California has diminished, it has gone down, due to the migration of these people to other States. In New York in 1880 there were about 150 Chinese. To-day there are 7500. And so in other States. California has made her contribution of Chinese to other States, and that is the only reason why she should suffer at the hands of other States and their representatives. But the Chinese are free to move when once they come into this country, and they have, fortunately for us, emigrated to other States.

A great argument has been made that it is the productiveness which would come from the employment of cheap labor that would give this country an economic advantage in the markets of the world. That can be easily answered, when we remember that the productive energy of the American people to-day is greater per capita than the productive energy of the people of other countries (applause); that machinery which is due largely to American invention has been the cause to a great extent of that productiveness, and that if we progress as we have progressed in that direction certainly we will have all we can do to take care of our surplus products to prevent overproduction and stagnation.

There are in this country to-day, you know, about 76,000,000 of people. If we increase at the rate of 12 per cent per decade, which is reasonable, we will have nearly 230,000,000 of people in the United States in one hundred years. Our inventive genius and constant improvements being made in machinery will greatly, therefore, improve our per capita productive capacity and enable us to increase our wealth and hold our own in the markets of the world. We certainly are doing it now, and no doubt can continue to do it and at the same time preserve the character of our population. That is the great question, towering above even the question of labor—the race question.

It has been said that the South will vote against us on the question of Chinese immigration on account of racial difficulties there. But the South has had its lesson on the race question, and will it inflict another race question upon the country? It would be accusing the South of a lack of interest in the success of the American republic to say so. They are solving their race question as best they may. Their solution of it may not be a good solution; but they are afflicted, as the result of slavery in the early days of its development there, with a great evil, which certainly every well-wisher in this land desires that they be relieved of. They are suffering the consequences of that sin, it may be said, which has been transmitted to us when the easy conscience of our forefathers permitted African slavery. This Chinese question is to-day almost, and it must be regarded as, a question of slavery, because the Chinese do not come voluntarily. They are slaves in every substantial meaning of the word, because they come here under contracts, and it has been said that if the Six Chinese Companies of San Francisco should go out of business there would be no Chinese immigration. These people do not move voluntarily. They are attached to their native land, and they come here under contract. The people East are resisting now, through immigration laws, the importation of a servile or an inferior race. From every country come men who are sent back from Castle Garden to the old lands because they come, if you please, under contract, or can show no means of support. They on the Eastern coast are struggling with a question compared to which the Chinese question is of so much importance that when that fact is presented they will certainly yield to our demands.

It seems to me perfectly idle, were I not familiar with the conditions in the East, to argue this question, but the newspaper reports during the last two months from almost every center bring news printed in their columns and editorial expressions, showing a condition of the mind of the East which is inimical to the interests of this country on this question of Chinese immigration, and it is our duty to address ourselves, politely but firmly, to these gentlemen and create a public sentiment which will certainly reach the halls of Congress. It is the most potent instrument we have in this free country of creating a sound public sentiment, and I know of no better way than through this convention, called here by official authority and representing in its composition the best interests of the State of California, the State most familiar with the question and most exposed to its dangers. (Applause.)

It is now in order for this convention to effect a temporary organization. I may say that no arrangements have been made in that respect. There are many distinguished gentlemen who have come from all parts of the State who, no doubt, are eligible to service, and nominations will now be in order for temporary chairman.

GEARY MADE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONVENTION

Author of Chinese Exclusion Law Tells Why It Should Be Re-enacted.

After the conclusion of Mayor Phelan's address nominations for temporary chairman were declared to be in order. Mayor Snyder of Los Angeles was placed in nomination. Thomas Geary, author of the exclusion act, was named and the nomination was received with cheers. Mayor Snyder in withdrawing his name said there was only one man who should preside over the body and that man was Tom Geary. This announcement was also greeted with hearty applause. A representative of the Stonecutters' Union nominated Mayor Phelan, but the latter gracefully declined in favor of Mr. Geary.

Upon motion the nominations were declared closed and Mr. Geary was selected temporary chairman by acclamation. Mr. Geary took the platform amid enthusiastic cheering and was introduced to the assemblage by Mayor Phelan.

Mr. Geary's address of acceptance follows:

Fellow-citizens of California: I am deeply grateful to you for the honor you have shown me. I feel that it would be idle for me to attempt in words to thank you or to show my appreciation for the honor you have conferred upon me.

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. These people have been deceived to think we have undergone a change. Because for several years the State has been saved and freed from a needless agitation of this question was not evidence that we had undergone a change of sentiment, but that we appreciated the fact that the evil we had been complaining of was being remedied, and we were satisfied. 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 (cheers), not only by preventing the introduction of the products of the cheap man, but will prevent the introduction of the cheap man himself. (Renewed cheers.)

It is not necessary, in my opinion, to make a speech upon this question to this convention or to any assemblage of Californians. From the experience of the past we know the lesson too well to need its repetition to us. But to the people in the East, providentially saved from the experience that we have been given, we owe it them a duty that we shall give to them the lesson, that they may be warned in time to avoid the danger that we have been combating for years. We owe it to those people that we shall place before them a fair, reasonable, candid, temperate statement of what we know about this race during the time it has sojourned in our midst. There is no room here and this is no place for abuse or vituperation. We must recognize conditions as we find them. Throughout the Eastern States we shall find in many sections bitter opponents of this class of legislation, and those people honestly believe that they are right and we are wrong, and we must labor with them and convince them of their error before we can have their assistance and support. (Applause.) We shall find there organized combinations anxious to defeat exclusion from selfish motives. With them we can do nothing. But they, happily, represent but a small portion of the people of the United States, because I believe throughout all sections of the East there is that careful regard for the rights of American labor that you need but show them that this exclusion is necessary to secure it.

Our position on the Chinese question some of these people would represent as being purely peculiar to California. There never was a greater error. Our experience has been the experience of every other portion of the earth where the Chinese have gone in numbers. Australia, all of the British possessions, have passed exclusion laws as we have. All of the republics to the south of us have complained about the presence of these people. In the same year that the act which is now about to expire was passed far-away Brazil passed a law upon the same lines. All classes of people, in all climes, recognize the undesirability of the Asiatic as a citizen or a laborer.

We are not, in my opinion, going to have an easy contest, no matter how easy it may be made to appear now. We must prepare for the greatest battle, in my opinion, we have ever had, in order to preserve the advantages which we now possess, because conditions that have presented themselves have altered the situation during the past year and give excuse for argument that we will have to meet and combat. I have no fear but what the California delegation in Congress to-day is as effective and as earnest and will do as able work for their people as any delegation ever did in the past; but we must help. It is not fair to expect them to do it all. And on this convention will devolve the work of aiding our representatives so that exclusion may be made certain.

Last night over the wires came really the first promise of substantial assistance that we have ever received in this campaign, the promise that the distinguished President of the United States (great applause) would recommend to Congress that the bars be not let down, but, if needs be, made higher. (Applause and cheers for the President and cries of "Good boy, Teddy.")

Your Mayor spoke about the commercial aspects of this difficulty which we must meet. I am not a pessimist in the matter of trade expansion, but from the knowledge I have of the Chinese people and Chinese industry I cannot unite with these people who fancy that in the future China is to be a great market for American products. Before any people can be great customers they must have something to exchange, and at the present time China, locked up in the conservatism of centuries, unwilling to develop her own material advantages, offers no market to the white people at all. But this argument will be used and most substantially, that in order that our commerce may have expansion we must make concessions to the Chinese; in other words, for commerce we must betray the happiness and the welfare of the white American laborer. Commerce at that price costs too much. We will have our share of the commerce of China, but we will get it without sacrificing the happiness or welfare of one single white American toiler in this land. (Applause.) Labor has no opposition to the expansion of commerce. No people in this country are more interested in enlarging the trade of the United States than the men who toil in field and farm, in factory and in shop, and create the things which are to be the instruments of commerce or carry on exchange. Every market opened for the product of the American factory or farm is an increase of the advantage to the American laborer in its production. So when these people try to make us understand or believe that there must be an antagonism between labor and commerce they mistake the fundamental principle that without labor there can be no commerce.

We have followed an industrial policy for many years which had as its cornerstone the protection of American labor, in the firm belief that if protected long enough against the products of cheap labor the world over we would reach such a state of efficiency that even with paying better wages, with greater advantages to our labor we would find so much greater productive ability that we could overcome the disadvantage of the cheap products of cheaper lands. The industrial supremacy that we may rightly claim to-day is the result of a policy which protected labor during all these years. This is not the day to change the industrial policy of the nation and sacrifice our labor for any purpose or any object. (Applause.)

We will go on as we have commenced until we become the commercial mistress of the world. We will load our ships in the ports of San Francisco and New York and our numerous other ports, ships built by American labor; we will load them to the hatches with the product of American looms, American factories and American farms, and we will send them out into the highways of the world, there to challenge the products of all other people, confident that in the superiority of our production, in the intelligence and integrity of our laborers, in the increased efficiency, the immense difference in the product, we can conquer all other peoples who oppose us, industrially or otherwise. (Applause.)

You are going to have a whole lot of speeches and I don't like to take up any more of your time. (Cries of "Go on; go on.") It is getting late and there are a lot of other gentlemen to address you. I thank you again for the honor you have conferred on me and only hope to merit the confidence you have shown by my conduct in presiding.

SOME OF THE MEN WHO TOOK MORE OR LESS PROMINENT PARTS IN THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION CONVENTION AT THE METROPOLITAN TEMPLE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AS SEEN BY A CARTOONIST OF THE CALL STAFF.

TWO SECRETARIES ARE CHOSEN FOR CONVENTION

Temporary Organization Is Perfected After Some Wrangling Among the Delegates.

Despite cries to go on, Chairman Geary declined and said that the next order of business was the nomination of temporary secretary. Edwin E. Leake of Woodland nominated H. S. Mason for the office. Charles B. Schaeffer of Santa Clara was nominated. To avoid delay Supervisor Braunhart moved that both men be elected temporary secretaries. This was done by the convention.

G. A. Cutler of San Francisco made a motion that a committee on credentials be appointed. His motion was declared to be indefinite in that it did not state the number to be selected. Ex-Governor James H. Budd offered an amendment to have a committee on memorials, resolutions and platform consisting of five from the State at large and three from each Congressional district.

An objection was made to the amendment by a delegate, who moved that the rollcall presented by the secretary of the convention be accepted as the rollcall of the convention. The motion was lost, as was also Governor Budd's amendment. The original motion presented by Mr. Cutler as amended to have five delegates appointed a committee on credentials was adopted.

While Chairman Geary was debating on his selections F. E. Johnson of Napa made a motion to have fifteen appointed to act as a committee on permanent order of business and organization. The motion was declared out of order.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee on credentials: G. A. Cutler, G. E. Rosenberg, C. A. Dunbar, Kirk Hall and E. J. Emmons.

Mr. Johnson renewed his motion to have the committee of fifteen appointed and another storm of disapproval followed and it was lost. Governor Budd renewed his motion to have a committee on memorials, platforms and resolutions appointed. Certain delegates evidently feared that there was a movement on foot by certain persons to secure control of the convention. They therefore objected to the motion. Despite their protests the motion prevailed.

CALIFORNIA UNITED ON QUESTION OF EXCLUSION

Senator George C. Perkins Urges the Convention to Do Its Duty Fearlessly.

While the committee on credentials was engaged in examining the list of delegates Chairman Geary called upon Senator George C. Perkins to address the convention. The Senator was warmly received and spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and fellow-citizens of California: Your chairman came to me and said, "We are old friends, Perkins, and I am in a dilemma. I want you to say something to encourage me and engage the attention of the convention while I am selecting this very important committee." Having served in Congress with him, and knowing his genial and good-hearted nature, how could I do otherwise than favorably respond to his request? And yet in doing so I am very good to myself, because I have the pleasure of meeting here to-day so many representative citizens of this glorious State of California, coming from every county in the State, representing every industry, coming here without collecting any mileage, as all of your Congressional delegations collect it, paying your own expenses, because you are patriots, because you believe in California, because you believe in your homes. And you are here to show by your voice and your acts that you believe in American institutions and the dignity of American labor. (Applause.) So it is to me a great pleasure and satisfaction to be present here to-day.

It is not necessary for me to tell you how I stand upon this or any other public question that has been so long before the public as the Chinese exclusion act has. I have grown up in California, and I have always been on the side of the Caucasian race, because they are the best people God ever made (Applause); and therefore, if we are not true to ourselves we are not true to our country and our homes.

Friends, this is not a political nor a partisan question. I would like to coin a new name for this splendid assembly of representative men, and I think the name that suggests itself to me is, American ideas of government. American ideas of government; that means patriotism, it means love of republican institutions, it means that our forefathers, the grand old citizens of this country, crushed out human slavery, and they said that no longer shall servile labor, contract labor, which is worse than slave labor, come in here to compete with the dignity of labor. (Applause.) The American idea of government means the greatest good to the greatest number. It means in this convention that we are opposed to the importation of Asiatic and Mongolian labor because it pulls down and degrades the dignity of labor. (Renewed applause.) It means that the Chinese are a non-assimilative race, that they come here, get what they can, and go away with it. They have no family, no home, they do nothing to benefit our country; therefore they are a disease upon the body politic, and we would not be true to ourselves, true to our country and our State, if we did not take this action. And I want to thank the authorities of this great city, this great metropolis of the West, for having inaugurated the plan of calling together this representative convention of people from every part of our State. Your Congressmen, your Representatives in Congress, have only one vote, only one voice that we can use there in presenting your wants. And already there is an undercurrent of sentiment coming to us that the extension of this Chinese exclusion act will not be smooth sailing for us. There are great interests in this country, there are interests in the Hawaiian Islands that are crying out for servile contract labor, and it is our duty by this very act which you are doing here to-day to say, "No, you shall not come into this country to compete with free American labor."

I have received any number of letters, even in California, in which the writers say, "Perkins, we are opposed to Chinese coming in," and I want to say this parenthetically, they are not going to attack the extension of the Chinese exclusion act and advocate the incoming of the Chinese into this country; they are going to move in an insidious, underhand way by saying, "No, we are opposed to Chinese immigration, they all go back home; you say they have come here as contract laborers under one of the Six Chinese Companies; they make a contract that they shall be taken back home again, and that if they die their bones shall be taken back to China. So we say let this law rest for two years, and then they can come in for that time, there will only be a very few of them here; let them come in, and they will not come back again, and two years hence we will re-enact the law." That is one of their plans.

Another plan is to put the limit at 200,000 Chinese, and when it reaches that number no more shall come in. Then they have another plan that will appeal to our Eastern friends who are friendly to us and who are opposed to Chinese immigration; that is that adopted by the Dominion of Canada, by British Columbia, which places a head-tax of $100 upon every Chinaman coming into British Columbia or Canada, and prohibits any vessel from bringing more than one Chinaman for every fifty gross tons of that vessel. That looks feasible; it looks easy. Why should any one object to bringing in such a few Chinamen as that number would be in these vessels? And then we would get $100 tax for each.

But, my friends, to-day the Japanese have one of the finest marine steamship companies afloat, and they are bringing immigrants from the Orient into British Columbia, and will bring them by the score into California and the ports on the Atlantic. There are Chinese building ships, and they will bring that people here. And to-day there are American ships that are working the Chinese in their firerooms as firemen and as coal passers, in their stewards' department, paying them but from $10 to $15 a month, as the maximum, when our Americans, who have their families here, who have their homes here, who pay taxes here, are receiving, as they ought to receive, from $35 to $50 a month. (Applause.) How can we compete against that class of labor, that class of navigation?

And so I want to say to this committee whom Governor Budd has suggested so properly should be selected from the different Congressional districts of our State, that I hope that in their memorial they will take up and consider all these phases of this great question, and not be misled when a few orchardists who have an individual interest say, "Our fruit is going to decay because we can't get labor to preserve it." I want you to get on a higher plane and say that we don't want fruit cured or dried or put into the market or canned or sold unless it is canned by American boys or American men. (Applause.) It is our people that pay the taxes that have built up our splendid institutions, and we should draw the line further, only this is not the time nor the occasion—I would permit no one to come into this country unless he felt as he approached 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 speaking is, "Unless you love freedom, unless you believe in the free public schools, you can't come into this country. (Great applause.)

I want to carry this message back to my colleagues in Congress and say to them that the people of California to-day stand just where they did twenty years ago, when, through the Legislature which provided the referendum, it was left to the people to give an expression on this question of Chinese immigration, and there were but 883 votes cast in favor of admitting the Chinese immigrant into this country, and there were 154,386 against it. (Applause.) That is the sentiment of the people to-day, and your delegation in Congress stands shoulder to shoulder to carry out the wishes of the people of this great State. But we want your help, we want your co-operation; and I know the memorial and the resolution you will adopt will supply it, because the electric wires will send it across the continent, and it will say to our friends in the East that the people of the great Pacific Coast States are a unit in this question. They are the power in the land and we can no longer hesitate, but we will stand in with them and re-enact the Chinese exclusion act. (Applause.)

I will not weary you, my friends. We have our Congressmen and others here who wish to speak. I only want to say again and again to you that we are the same after election as we were before it. We said then that we only wanted to be the servants of the people, to do that which would meet with your approval, to carry out your wishes, and if we do that the highest encomium any one can receive is the approval of his fellow citizens.

REMOVAL OF CHINATOWN URGED BY A. SBARBORO

Strong Address by President of Manufacturers' and Producers' Association.

The next address was delivered by A. Sbarboro, president of the Manufacturers' and Producers' Association. He presented the issue as it affects the people of San Francisco, and particularly urged the removal of Chinatown. His address in full was as follows:

Mr. President and Members of the Convention: Once more we are called on to take measures to defend our State from the threatened Chinese invasion. Every important county in California is here represented by delegates chosen from its legislative, commercial and industrial organizations. California is vitally in earnest over this question of Chinese exclusion, for California knows better than any other part of the country the seriousness of unrestricted Chinese immigration. The citizens of this State are determined that the blighting experience of the past shall not be repeated, if effort on our part can prevent it.

The Chinese began coming to this country upon the discovery of gold in California with other peoples from all parts of the world. It was not long before it was found out that the Chinese were an undesirable race. I remember taking part in the formation of anti-Chinese clubs in every district of San Francisco as early as 1860. For thirty years this agitation against the admission of the Mongol was kept up and the people of the Pacific Coast almost unanimously appealed time and again to Congress for a relief from the inpouring of the Chinese to California. Finally Congress listened to our prayers and passed the Geary exclusion bill, which, although it did not entirely keep out Chinese laborers, served to limit them to such a number as to modify the harm to our people, and let me say right here that the State of California owes Mr. Geary an unpaid debt of gratitude for the most valuable services which he rendered to the State and to the Pacific Coast.

The force of this bill will soon expire and unless the next Congress re-enacts this measure we will soon again be flooded by hordes of Chinese, a disaster of terrible menace to the peace, harmony and happiness of the people of California.

All the evils which caused the passage of the Geary bill exist to-day and they exist more strongly than ten years ago. We have had now fifty years of experience with the Chinese among us. The more we know of them the more we see the necessity of excluding them from our shores. Other speakers will enumerate the many reasons why we object to Chinese immigration. Let me point out only a few of them. The Chinese, as has been proved by decades, take back with them to China all the property accumulations which they make in this country and leave us only their vices and diseases.

They dwell among us in filth. They have made in the center of this fair city a district the very name of which is synonymous with disease, dirt and unlawful deeds. They defy our laws, they gamble in hundreds of barred dens; they make a business of murder and they give us nothing but evil habits and noxious stenches.

Dr. Williamson, in his annual report to the Board of Health, says that Chinatown should be removed. I fully agree with him. He says further:

"Chinatown, as it is at present, cannot be rendered sanitary except by total obliteration. It should be depopulated, its buildings leveled by fire and its tunnels and cellars laid bare. Its occupants should be colonized on some distant portion of the peninsula, where every building should be constructed under strict municipal regulation and where every violation of the sanitary laws could be at once detected. The day has passed when a progressive city like San Francisco should feel compelled to tolerate in its midst a foreign community, perpetuated in filth, for the curiosity of tourists, the cupidity of lawyers and the adoration of artists."

Dr. Williamson is an authority on these matters. He has devoted years and serious study to them.

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.

We know the curse that the Chinese have brought among us, but unfortunately our fellow citizens residing east of the Rocky Mountains, not being inflicted with any large number of Chinese immigrants, do not understand the detriment that these Chinese laborers are to the country in which they settle and therefore do not sympathize with our cause. It is owing to this lack of knowledge of the facts that we are in danger of losing the protection given to us by the Geary bill.

I understand that many of our Eastern merchants labor under the false impression that by the renewal of the exclusion bill their trade with China will be materially decreased, or that its growth would be stunted. In answer to this argument I have prepared a few statistics which I trust will convince this business element of the East of its error.

The Chinese Minister, Wu Ting Fang, in a recent address made in Philadelphia, said:

"Since the opening of my country to foreign commerce fifty years ago China's trade with the United States has been steadily increasing. Go back no further than 1891 (one year before the date of the passage of the Geary bill), you will find that the volume of trade has increased rapidly every year. Gratifying as these figures are they will not stop here, but the commerce between America and China will continue to advance every year."

From the monthly summary of commerce of the United States in the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, under date of June, 1901, we learn that the principal exports from the United States to China are drills, jeans, sheetings, flour and kerosene; that two of the largest imports into Hongkong are from the United States, namely, flour, 100,000 tons, which is an increase of 41,000 tons over the previous year, and kerosene, 67,000 tons, which has held its own since 1890 against the determined attempts of Russia to capture the market with a cheaper and inferior article.

We further learn from the same authority that the imports from the United States to China in 1882 were $4,400,000. After 1882 there was no marked increase until 1891 and 1892 and thereafter, following the passage of the Geary act.

In the year 1897 the value of the imports was $9,700,000, and in 1899 $16,000,000. In 1900, notwithstanding the heavy falling off owing to the war, we exported $11,700,000 worth of goods, against an average of one-half that amount previous to the passage of the Geary bill.

Certainly this showing should refute any assertion that the re-enactment of the Geary bill would interfere with the commerce between the United States and China. Gentlemen, as a business man, I am free to state my belief that the merchant, be he from China or from any other part of the world, does not exist who will not purchase from the people of the country where he can obtain the best article at the lowest price and who will not sell to the people of the country which will pay him the best price for his wares. Furthermore, we buy a great deal more from China than China buys from us, so that, even if such a thing as sentiment in trade was possible, the Chinese merchants would still remain our customers, as they have far the best of the bargain.

I sincerely hope that our Eastern brethren will see that they have nothing to lose by aiding us in the passage of this bill. By helping us with it they will not only advance their own interests, but they will cement still more strongly the bonds of friendship which now exist between the people of the East and the people residing on the border of the great Pacific.

The State of California wants immigration; we need more people. Here we can maintain 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 inhabitants, while we are barely 1,500,000 souls. But, gentlemen, we want people who will help to upbuild the States; no coolies who are a detriment to every country they invade.

We want our own countrymen from the East to come here among us and to enjoy the bountiful blessings which God has spread over this fair State. We want the Scotchman, who is full of enterprise and who is as strong in his business integrity as the giant rocks of his highlands. We want the Englishman, who brings with him capital, industry and enterprise; the Irish, who build and populate our cities; the Frenchman, with his vivacity and love of liberty and his keen knowledge to develop our viticultural industry; the Swiss freemen, who are supreme in butter and cheese making; the industrious and thrifty Italians, who cultivate the fruit, olives and vines—who come with poetry and music from the classic land of Virgil, and who bring to us the best from their native soil; we want the Teutonic race, strong, patient and frugal, to develop the productions of our soil and the inexhaustible opportunities. We want the Danes, the Swedes, the Slavs and the Belgians; we want all good people from all parts of Europe.

If these immigrants and their children, with their diversified industries, who have made this country in a remarkably short period of time the greatest and most prosperous on the face of the globe.

To these, Mr. Chairman, we should never close our doors, for although when the European immigrant lands at Castle Garden he may be uncouth and with little money, yet soon by his thrift and industry he improves his condition; he becomes a worthy citizen and the children who bless him mingle with the children of those who came before him, and when the country calls they are always ready and willing to defend the flag, to follow the stars and stripes throughout the world.

Can you recall any battles in which the Chinese have raised their hands in defense of Old Glory? Can you point out examples of patriotic Mongols dying for the flag of our country? Did they rally in the ranks of the patriots who lowered Spain's pride?

No; they do not fight, except when with hatchet and revolver they lay low the members of their tongs who offend them.

Gentlemen, when our lamented President McKinley called for men to defend the flag of our country the California boys were the first to answer the call and to carry that flag to victory in the Philippine Islands. Our San Francisco mechanics sent the Olympia to destroy the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay and sent the Oregon to wipe out of the ocean the grand armada of Spain at Santiago de Cuba. (Applause.)

Mr. chairman, members of this convention, the good people of the State of California at the election last year gave their enthusiastic approval to the Republican administration by voting for the protection doctrine of our late beloved President McKinley. Now, in return we most earnestly pray, nay, we demand, that the present administration and every Representative in Congress do protect California and the Pacific Coast from this threatened disaster of Chinese invasion.

SENATOR PERKINS SOUNDS A WARNING

Arguments in Favor of Exclusion Are Heartily Cheered by the Convention.

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would result in the degradation and destruction of American labor. The Senator went on to say that he would draw the line on all immigration to this country, and say to the newcomers that they were on sacred ground, and that if they did not believe in freedom, our public schools and all of our institutions, they should not be permitted to land on our shores. He was followed with a strong speech by A. Sbarboro, in which the removal of Chinatown from the heart of San Francisco was earnestly urged. Mr. Sbarboro's remarks were punctuated at intervals by warm applause.

Thanks to the President.

Numerous telegrams from Governors of Pacific Coast States and other officials were read by Secretary Mason. These were from Governor T. T. Geer of Oregon, Governor J. R. Rogers of Washington, Governor R. Sadler of Nevada, Governor Henry T. Gage of California, Congressman Julius Kahn, now on his way to Washington, and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. Following the reading of a telegram from Congressman J. C. Needham, announcing that President Roosevelt would urge the re-enactment of the Chinese Exclusion law in his message to Congress, the convention decided to send a telegram to the President, thanking him for his firm stand in the matter.

An excellent speech was then delivered by Congressman Frank H. Coombs, in which the subject of Chinese exclusion was carefully treated. His remarks were greeted with applause, and when he concluded the convention took a recess of thirty minutes in order to enable the selection of a memorial committee, one each from the various congressional districts. This work having been completed, the convention adjourned to meet again at 10 o'clock this morning.

ELOQUENT ADDRESS OF CONGRESSMAN COOMBS

Californians Should Raise Their Voices in Appeal to Congress.

Congressman Frank L. Coombs was introduced by Chairman Geary and when the applause subsided he delivered the following address:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the United Chinese Convention: I congratulate you upon assembling in order that you might make manifest through your voices the sentiment of the people of the Pacific Coast, and I hope that it will re-echo the sentiment of the people of the United States upon the Chinese question.

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.

I have read in the papers and heard here discussed to-day considerably the question of commerce. It has been set forth that a restriction of Chinese immigration might operate to the disadvantage of the great commerce for which the grand Pacific opens up a splendid and glorious vista. Upon that subject I desire to say that it seems to me, and it has always seemed to me, that the question of human slavery, as evidenced by the Chinese in the past, does not tend to promote nor does it tend to hold back commerce and its development. It is regulated by an entirely different proposition, by entirely different motives, by entirely different international communications and privileges. Yet above it all, my fellow-citizens, it is to be found

Continued on Page Five.

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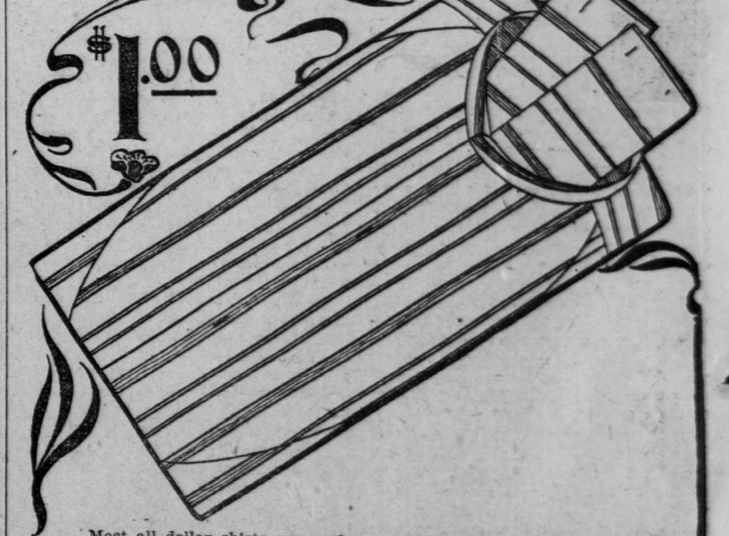

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