

monopolize any branch of industry or the production of any article of merchandise. The license should be subject to revocation if the conditions are afterwards violated. It should be made unlawful for such a corporation to use the mails, the telegraph lines or the railroads outside of its own state until the license is granted. Such a system would confine a monopoly to the state of its origin, and even New Jersey would soon tire of a monopoly under such conditions. This is the remedy suggested in the democratic platform; if the republicans have a better one let them produce it. They are in power, and are responsible for the continued existence of every trust. They have the president, the senate, the house, the attorney general and the courts. They can destroy every trust if they desire to do so.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

The Chinese Exclusion Act expires in 1902, and the American people must prepare themselves to pass upon the subject of oriental immigration.

Those who are opposed to the introduction of cheap labor from across the Pacific, are urging an extension of the existing law, and those who look with favor upon the employment of Chinese in this country are not idle. The *Portland Oregonian*, in a recent editorial, assumes that the labor agitator is the only one who is alarmed by the "yellow peril," and presents the usual argument against exclusion. It says:

Elsewhere is noted at some length the question of cheap labor immigration, suggested by Senator Inman's joint memorial to Congress. A word might also be said concerning the local aspect of the matter. What basis of fact exists for this terror of Chinese and Japanese competition in Oregon? What American mechanic is kept out of a place by any Chinaman or Jap in the city of Portland? The Chinese are mostly house servants, vegetable peddlers, and laundrymen. Now, where is the representative of organized labor that hankers to cook in the kitchen or wash undershirts or get up at 4 o'clock to load his wagon with vegetables? The Japs are generally railroad hands or do menial work about the house. It is hard for the railroads to get the section hands they need, and American mechanics are not looking for chances to scrub porches or wash dishes. It is a common remark that these "heathen devils" are "keeping poor white girls out of work."

It is a pitiful falsehood, for the fact is that, with all the Chinese and Japanese servants available, domestic help is next to impossible to obtain. Equally baseless is the cry that the Asiatics spend no money. They spend about as much as the thrifty American. As their position rises, they wear good clothes, ride in street cars and indulge the luxuries Chinatown affords. They do not work for starvation wages, as is sometimes alleged, as the efficient Chinese cook or butler is frequently able to command higher figures than American girls in the same line of work. Perhaps the most despicable of all the outcries against the Chinaman is that he saves his money and sends some of it home to his relatives. If he earns his money, what business is it of Mr. Labor Agitator what he does with it?

It will not be surprising if this editorial is re-echoed in republican papers throughout the country. The same sentiment was whispered ten years ago, but the corporations are bolder now.

Let us analyze the question. We had reached a point where it was necessary to decide whether the Chinese should be allowed to come without limit or whether restrictions should be placed upon them. The re-appearance of this question will compel the American people to consider the subject of immigration. Certainly a welcome should be extended only to those whose coming will, all things considered, prove beneficial to the country, and only those should be allowed to come who come voluntarily. Laws have been made to prevent the importation of contract labor and the justice of these laws is universally recognized. Laws have also been made to prevent the dumping of paupers and criminals upon our shores, and no one will dispute the wisdom of these laws. But for those who are not in the prohibited classes above mentioned, two general tests may be suggested. First, only those should be admitted who come because of love for our institutions and who will add to the nation's productive strength in time of peace and to its defensive strength in time of war. Second, only those should be admitted who come to cast their lot with the American people and who are capable of amalgamation with our people.

The Chinese do not comply with either condition. They do not come here because of their admiration for our form of government; they have no thought of becoming a part of our civilization, and amalgamation is desired neither by them nor by us. If the gates are opened to the Chinese they will drive our own laboring men into the streets, and they will not only be unfit for military

duty but by being the cause of race riots will be likely to involve us in international complications. We have already had some experience in this line and would have had more but for the exclusion act. Race prejudice is a social factor which must always be recognized and reckoned with. When there is a fair demand for labor, the Chinaman can slip in unnoticed, but whenever industrial depression lessens the demand for work, it will be difficult to prevent men who are hungry and idle from attacking foreigners, who work for lower wages, live on a lower scale, and are exempt from many of the burdens of government which rest upon citizens.

Home life, the center of all patriotic, purifying and civilizing influences, is almost entirely wanting among the Chinese who are temporarily abiding here. They huddle together in the cities and transplant upon American soil the vices of the Orient without accompanying virtues.

The *San Francisco Call*, speaking of Chinatown, says: "Gambling, lottery, slavery, are all there, mingled indistinguishably with the malign pus of Asiatic life, planted as an exotic in a western community."

The presence here of a race permanently separated from us by color, dress, customs and habits of thought, is a thing to be deplored. If there are only a few such, the evil can be tolerated like any other small evil, but without an exclusion act there is every reason to expect such an influx from the overcrowded provinces of China—an influx stimulated by the "Six Companies" and encouraged by corporations seeking cheap labor—as to compel prompt and rigorous restrictive measures. Prevention is better than cure. The dangers are real and will upon investigation be apparent to any one who takes a comprehensive view of his nation's welfare.

There has been a recent increase in the immigration of Japanese laborers for service along Western railroads. Many, though not all, of the objections urged against the Chinese apply to Japanese laborers, and there is no doubt that opposition will grow in proportion to the number that come. It has been intimated that the Japanese government is willing to remedy this—it will be satisfactory if it will—but whether the remedy is applied by diplomacy or by law, it is better to attend to the matter at once than to invite irritation and ill feeling by delay.