

MRJR/BW.

June 4,

14.

W. D. Scott, Esq.,

Chief Comptroller of Chinese Immigration,

Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the following as my report of Chinese Immigration work at the Vancouver Office during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1914.

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I am enclosing herewith a tabulated statement comparing the Chinese Revenue and Immigration statistics for the year just closed with that of the preceding year, from which you will note that our revenue has increased some \$270,000.00, and I am further pleased to be able to add that our exempts have decreased 37, the total being only 105 as compared with 142 for the year before. This is still more gratifying when it is considered that since 1910-11 many thousands of Chinese have entered British Columbia, and it goes without saying that the bona fide mercantile houses have increased in number to supply the additional demands made by the increased number of Chinese settlers, resulting in the opportunity of a greater number of claims for exemption. Also this fact means that we have more difficulties to contend with to-day than were experienced in the past.

The adopting of the system of personal inspection of all Chinese stores, even as far East as Winnipeg, has worked out very satisfactorily. In many cases, according to papers produced by the Chinamen, they are prominent

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citizens, bona fide merchants, and well thought of generally. Some of the leading officials of the city, very often the Mayor, Chief of Police, bankers, or others, would sign a document to the effect that the party in question was a bona fide merchant. On investigation it was found that the business was simply a cobbler's shop and peanut stand or such like; and the gentlemen who had signed the document in question did so under the impression that they were only doing so to assist the man on his return from China, not knowing that the real intention was to bring in one or more exempts. Then again, as you are aware, in a country district, the citizen, knowing everyone in the village, many reputable people would sign the document to be of assistance to the Chinaman, they knowing him personally. However, a good many cases were found to be absolutely fraudulent on personal investigation, and I have only to refer to one particular case to shew the wiles and tricks of this race. Inspector Wilson visited a small town in Alberta, and on his way to lunch casually glanced into a Chinese store he was to inspect; it was a combined store and restaurant. On his return from lunch he discovered the restaurant stripped of all its goods, the same being transferred to the store, resulting in quite a respectable shewing of merchandise. In fact I am under the impression that where time has permitted, through the large extent of ground to be covered, alleged merchants have shipped in a dray load or two of goods in order to swell their stock. Very often it was also found the major portion of the so called merchandise was nothing more nor less than Chinese liquor,

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or in other words the merchant was running a "blind pig". Again on enquiry from the Chief of Police it would be found that the alleged merchant was running the store as a blind, the true occupation or calling being that of gambling or opium smoking.

A system of fraudulent registration was also unearthed, in fact at the present time there are 120 cases which we have recorded. These men on their return will be compelled to pay the head tax.

Another important point which was carefully watched was the registrations of partnership. Unfortunately, under the British Columbia Partnership Act, the number of partnership registrations against one firm is unlimited. For instance, take any Chinese firm; they have a genuine partnership list filed, and there is nothing to prevent there being five or six other lists filed for this same firm, but comprised of different names, doing the same business at the same address. In other words, the Registrar would be compelled to register all of these if the lists were handed in, and according to the Act the only people who could raise an objection to the additional lists being registered would be the original firm themselves. From this you will see how strict and thorough the investigations have to be in order to prevent fraudulent entry.

I would further point out that one of our main difficulties in this connection is that whilst there might be ten or more partners registered to a firm, there are only two or three who are actually engaged in the

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business; the others work around the town as cooks, laundrymen, &c., and in the event of one of the active members proceeding to China on a visit, another who was not active in the firm steps in and takes his position. In other words there is an endless chain in this connection, and immediately one man gets his family into the country as exempt, he practically drops out of the partnership, takes an outside position, whilst another man on the list steps in and endeavours to bring in his family as exempts. The stipulation, however, that a merchant must be engaged in no other business, occupation or calling, has caused an elimination of many fraudulent cases.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm. R. J. Reid

Comptroller of Chinese Immigration.