

Shall the Chinese Enter?

Mrs. Helen M. Gougar has written with respect to "Chinese Exclusion" the following:

Like the mushroom that springs up in a night has grown the demand that the Chinese exclusion act shall except from its operation in the United States the intelligent classes which are enumerated as professional men, commercial agents, bankers, lawyers, priests and journalists. This demand has recently received the endorsement of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, the Merchants' club of Chicago, and many of the leading newspapers of the country.

The proposition is sufficiently before the people to deserve that all sides of the important issue be considered.

One of the leading religious journals of the east puts the whole situation in a nutshell in the following editorial comment:

"According to the Singapore dispatches the boycott of American goods has sprung up again in that city stronger than ever before. It is further stated that the situation there is critical. Chinese merchants that have persisted in handling American products have received threatening letters from the men behind the movement. On the other hand, we are told that the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, in its annual report, demands the enforcement, to the letter, of the Chinese exclusion laws of the country. Of course there is no selfishness in such an attitude! It remains to be seen whether between congress, the president and Secretary Root, the coming winter will see some statesmanlike act recorded which will redress the wrongs of the cultivated, professional Chinese, while properly keeping the lower order of laborers out of this country as at present. As the matter now stands an arrangement ought not to be difficult. For it is understood that China is willing that the laboring classes shall be excluded, but asks that all other classes shall receive the same treatment here that is accorded similar classes from Europe. The request is a reasonable one. Certainly no good reason can be offered for the exclusion of Chinese professional men, and particularly traveling commercial agents. Chinese merchants are admitted at present, but the exclusion law is interpreted strictly, and a commercial agent can not enter as a merchant. The exempted classes as the law stands are not numerous and it is difficult to understand why a Chinese banker, lawyer or journalist should be excluded while students and teachers are admitted. We want the best of all nations to see us and know us, and it is to be hoped that this will

be made possible before the Ides of March shall have come and gone."

Who constitute the laboring classes that are already excluded and that seem to be willing to be excluded? Those who toil with their hands, the real wealth producers of every land. They are poor and it is a strange commentary on the industrial conditions that those who do the most and hardest work are the poorest! Those who demand the exclusion only of those laborers must hold that labor and poverty are twin disgraces and by such exclusion are willing to increase the misery of those who toil with their hands and produce the wealth of the world. Rather a peculiar doctrine for a religious journal to endorse.

Why should laborers be excluded from a country that has such wealth of undeveloped resources as America has and allow only the parasites of wealth, such as merchants, bankers, lawyers, priests and professional men to come in hordes, as they will come if an exception is made in the exclusion act in their favor?

Resolutions appear very just and liberal, to the casual observer, that ask for an open door for these favored classes. But what will be the result upon America's young business manhood? The commercial life of the Orient gives warning answer.

It is true that the cultivated Chinaman is a charming specimen of the human family; he is keen of intellect, tireless in energy, honorable to an eminent degree, a skilled money-changer, a law-abiding citizen, a cheap employe, a poor home-maker, superstitious in religion, holds woman in supreme contempt, possessing the right of life and death over his wife or wives in his own country, brutal in his punishments and if he comes here he comes with all these qualifications as a citizen. He can vote the same as any other immigrant after a few years of residence. He soon becomes a commercial, social and political power to be reckoned with in our already complicated body politic. Shall he come? Is there no danger because he is intelligent? The answer is found in his conduct and influence in the Orient. He is the money changer in banks, railway and steamboat offices, hotels, the comprador for contractors and syndicates and wherever trustworthiness is needed there is the intelligent Chinaman; he is the merchant and tradesman and is so successful that few can compete with him. Should these "intellectuals" be permitted free ingress they would work the greatest injury to the ambitions and opportunities of young educated, capable and aspiring American men; commercialism is quick to recognize ability that hires itself at a small wage.

I am emphatic in the assertion after witnessing the almost universal employment in the Orient of the educated Chinaman that his presence in this country would be most detrimental and dangerous for the Anglo-Saxon-business man, the college educated man, the American banker, professional man, commercial agent, lawyer and journalist would be driven into the background, would be overwhelmed by these Goths and Vandals of the commercial world.

The Chinese merchant is in San Francisco. What is the result? The answer is found in the crowded, filthy, immoral quarter of that city known as "Chinatown."

To allow the Chinese "intellectuals" to come to this country would mean a Chinatown to augment the slums in every city in the United States, for the Chinaman is never sufficiently cultivated to live decently according to American ideals.

As a commercial factor the intellectual Chinaman is a dangerous rival as citizen of this republic. The intellectual American should be the most

earnest in opposing his admission to this country. He would do far more harm by lowering the standard of living than the coolie or laboring classes would do. Of the two the intellectual is a more undesirable immigrant than the coolie; the latter may undermine us with his shovel but the former would knock us in the head.

The quotation from the religious journal suggests that the resolution by the Knights of Labor is inspired by selfishness. Be it so, it is a most commendable selfishness. It is the selfishness of self-protection and the preservation of American ideals of home-life.

It is no unkindness to tell the intelligent Chinaman to stay at home; he is needed there to improve his corrupt government, to educate his ignorant hordes, to widen the streets and drain his filthy cities reeking with disease, to treat women like human beings, to banish his joss houses and level his temples with tawdry goods, to plow up his graveyards, and develop his millions of rich acres that are waiting for the application of enterprise and intelligence to give ample comforts to the Chinese millions that are living in squalor and filth in crowded cities, not for want of room but for want of better ideals. Great primeval forests wait the ax and saw of the millions of coolies and their ambition to build homes; rich mines of gold, silver and other precious metals, great coal beds and stone quarries invite the brain of the intellectual and the labor of the coolie to remain at home to better the conditions of the race instead of gaining entrance into this country, through a sentimentalism that does little credit to the patriotism, common sense or commercial spirit of Americans. Let China boycott our trade if she will; she will soon tire of this; we can get along better without her trade than we can with her intellectuals in our country.

If, as suggested, congress, the president and secretary of state so modify the Chinese exclusion act as to admit the dangerous classes known as intellectuals, then as an American woman, I want the same congress and president to precede this act by submitting the sixteenth amendment to the constitution which millions of the most intelligent men and women of the United States have demanded for years. That American women may have political power to protect the interests of American womanhood and home-life from the encroachments of the intellectual Chinese heathen.

We have had to stand back for all classes of white men, negroes, Indians, Chinese and Japanese coolies, but we will not stand back tamely and see the procession already before us augmented by Chinese "intellectuals" the proposed new and dangerous invaders.

There is but one way to settle the vexed problem of Chinese exclusion and incidentally foreign immigration. Put not less than \$500 poll tax on the head of every immigrant not of Caucasian blood. We would not only protect ourselves from the "yellow peril" but from the "brown peril" of the Orient.

Let ours be an Anglo-Saxon civilization wrought successfully as the world's example.

Under such non-discriminating law China and the Orient would have no occasion for complaint and America's welfare and safety would be conserved.

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