

THE CHINESE QUESTION AND ITS IMPORTANCE

BY A WORKINGMAN

(Continued from last week.)

It will be the purpose of this letter to lay before the reader the substance of our past and present treaty relations with the empire of China, in so far, at least, as they bear upon the question in hand. In 1844 we entered into a "treaty of peace, friendship and commerce" with that country, and in 1858 we negotiated with her another of the same kind. But there was nothing said in either of them about the right of the Chinese to come to or reside in our country. What the effect of that silence was is not material to the purpose of the discussion here proposed. Hence it will be passed by, for the present. We next come to the treaty of 1868, popularly known as "the Burlingame treaty," on account of one Anson Burlingame having participated in its negotiation. The fifth article of that treaty runs in part thus: "The United States of America and the emperor of China cordially recognize the important and inalienable right of man to change his home and allegiance, and, also, the mutual advantage of the free immigration and emigration of their citizens and subjects respectively from one country to the other for purposes of curiosity, trade or permanent residence. The high contracting parties, therefore, join in reprobating any other than an entirely voluntary emigration." The remainder of the article consists of an agreement on the part of both governments to pass laws prohibiting any emigration other than what should be "voluntary."

The sixth article is in these words: "Citizens of the United States visiting or residing in China shall enjoy the same privileges, immunities and exemptions, in respect to travel or residence as may there be enjoyed by the citizens or subjects of the most favored nations; and reciprocally Chinese subjects visiting or residing in the United States shall enjoy the same privileges, immunities and exemptions in respect to travel or residence as may there be enjoyed by the citizens or subjects of the most favored nations. But nothing herein contained shall be held to confer naturalization upon the citizens of the United States in China nor upon the subjects of China in the United States." The seventh article provides for the people of each country enjoying certain privileges of public education under control of the government in the other country. It also gives the people of each country the right to establish and maintain schools in the other country. These are the provisions of the famous Burlingame treaty, so far as it is necessary to take them into consideration here. After the anti-Chinese agitation had broken loose and gone on for some years, these provisions of the Burlingame treaty above referred to were somewhat modified by the treaty of 1880. The modifications effected by this last-named treaty are to be seen in its first and second articles, which are as follows:

Article 1. Whenever in the opinion of the government of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States or their residence therein effects or threatens to affect the interests of that country, to endanger the good order of the said country or of any locality within the territory thereof, the government of China agrees that the government of the United States may regulate, limit or suspend such coming or residence, but may not absolutely prohibit it. The limitation or suspension shall be reasonable and shall apply to Chinese who may go to the United States as laborers, other classes not being included in the limitation. Legislation, taken in regard to Chinese laborers, will be of such a character only as is necessary to enforce the regulation, limitation or suspension of immigration; and immi-

grants shall not be subject to personal mistreatment or abuse.

Article 2. Chinese Subjects whether proceeding to the United States as teachers, students, merchants or from curiosity, together with their body, or household servants, and Chinese laborers now in the United States, shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will and accord, and shall be accorded all the rights, privileges, immunities and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nations.

The third article relates to the matter of protecting those then here and entitled to remain here in the enjoyment of their rights.

By a still later treaty, dated December 7, 1894, it is agreed between the two governments that "the coming * * * of Chinese laborers to the United States shall for a period of ten years thereafter be absolutely prohibited," save as to certain instances where such laborers having left the United States are given the right to return again. This last-named treaty, however, does not enforce itself or provide the means for doing so. Hence we shall need a re-enactment of our exclusion laws for that purpose, as will be shown in my next letter.

In these several provisions, then, we find the substance of present existing treaty relations, so far as they bear upon the right of Chinese laborers to migrate to and establish a residence in our country, a right which may be stated thus: The right to come here and to stay here, subject to such reasonable regulation, limitation and suspension as our government may see fit to impose. To what extent have we seen proper to regulate, limit and suspend? The answer to this question will be forthcoming in our next letter.

Patient then be, whatever your station, Until you shall learn the law of the nation.

J. T. MORGAN.

(To be continued.)

STRIKING TELEGRAPHERS.

President Dolphin's Statement of the Cause of the Trouble.

The following is the cause of the strike of the telegraphers on the Santa Fe system as detailed by President Dolphin, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers and published in the Pueblo Courier:

"The telegraphers' strike on the Santa Fe system of railroad is to secure humane conditions of service and against proposed reduction in wages on the gulf line. This strike was the only alternative, arbitration having been refused by the company officials. The proposed reduction of wages on gulf lines and annulment of wage schedule is the beginning of a systematic effort to reduce wages of all employees and abolish schedules.

"The trouble was precipitated by a request from the general committee of the telegraph operators on the Gulf Colorado & Santa Fe, which comprises the Santa Fe lines in Texas, asking for a conference with the Santa Fe management, to revise the schedule on that line.

"The difference between us at the conclusion of the negotiations were the instance of the management to take fifteen or twenty stations out of the schedule and reduce the salaries thereof, to which we could not agree.

"We object to any reduction of salaries, which are already too low, especially in a season of unparalleled prosperity like the present. Telegraph operators are required to work twelve hours per day with the exception of meal hours and every day in the week and year. Railway companies require the highest degree of experience, efficiency and character in their telegraphers, who are required not only to do

telegraphic and handling train orders, but to perform the thousand and one duties incident to general office work, for which service they begrudge us the poor salaries they pay and seek at every opportunity to reduce them. There is no department in the railroad service where men are required to work as long hours at as close confinement as is the telegraph operator."

The following resolutions were adopted by the Pueblo Trades Assembly:

"Whereas, The present condition of the striking telegraphers upon the Santa Fe railroad has been called to the attention of this assembly; and

"Whereas, The strike has been brought about in the cause of higher wages and better conditions of employment; and

"Whereas, The Santa Fe company has refused to grant the demands of the telegraphers and are hiring students of telegraph schools to take the places of their striking workmen; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this assembly condemns the Santa Fe company for its treatment of its faithful employees, and extends to the striking telegraphers sympathy and support in every way whatsoever that can bring aid and success to their cause, and further that the assembly pledges moral and financial support to the telegraphers and the members of any other railroad organization who will aid the telegraphers in their troubles by refusing to longer run trains or handle business for the Santa Fe company; and further

"Resolved, That this assembly warns the traveling public against either traveling or sending business during the strike over the Santa Fe road, as the incompetency of student telegraphers is both dangerous to life and property."

TIMELY WARNING.

San Francisco Building Trades Send Out the Following Circular.

The following circular has been sent out from the headquarters of the Building Trades Council of San Francisco, Cal.:

To the Officers and Members of the District Council of Carpenters—

Greeting: The Millowners' Combine locked out its union employees on the 13th day of August, and has since that time persistently refused all overtures tending toward a settlement. The Building Trades Council expressed its willingness during the second week of the lock-out to submit the whole controversy to the Merchants' Association for arbitration, but the combine evidently was afraid to risk its side of the case with an impartial body, and consequently refused even this offer. The fight has now lasted over three months, and the Planing Mill Association has been losing ground ever since it started. Its obstinate members have sought help in all the states and territories between the Pacific and the Atlantic, and a number of men have been induced to come here through misrepresentation and false promises held out to them by members of the combine.

In order that others may not be trapped by these labor hunters, we take this method of warning you.

To carpenters, millmen, woodworkers, machinists, sheetmetal workers and members of kindred trades, we say: Stay away from San Francisco!

It is of the utmost importance that you bring this notice to the attention of all your members and give this matter as much publicity in your locality as possible.

By order of the Building Trades Council of San Francisco. Fraternally,

P. H. MCCARTHY, President.

O. A. TVEITMORE, Secretary.

More than eighty labor unions and societies of various kinds have endorsed the boycott against the Philadelphia "Demokrat," whose German compositors are on strike.

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