

VOX POPULI.

Opinions of the People on the Chinese Bill.

The Chinese Consulate and the Sand Lot in Accord.

Kearney and Consul Bee Agree in Their Opinions.

The Democrats Think it a Master Stroke of Policy.

The Republicans Have Many Theories and Hopes.

How the Pacific Mail Company Regards the Bill.

No action of Congress for many years has created so profound a sensation in San Francisco as the passage by the House of the Willis anti-Asiatic bill. In order to obtain a general expression of opinion from the different classes of our citizens on this subject, reporters of the CHRONICLE were detailed to wait upon representative men in political and commercial circles. The result of these different interviews may be found below. It will be evident to the reader that the opinions which exist upon the Chinese question are various, and generally more or less influenced by the surroundings of the parties giving expression to them.

THE WORKINGMEN.

The Views of President Kearney and His Erethren.

With the object of ascertaining the opinions of the prominent members of the Workingmen's party in reference to the Chinese Immigration bill passed by the House of Representatives on Tuesday last, a CHRONICLE reporter was yesterday detailed to interview the leading Workingmen of the city. He found President Denis Kearney comfortably seated before a coal fire in the new headquarters of the party, at 861 Market street, holding in his hand and carefully conning a volume of the statutes of California.

"Mr. Kearney," inquired the reporter, "what are your views of the bill restricting Chinese immigration, which has just been passed in the lower House?" "In the first place, the bill is unstatesmanlike. Granting that it was adopted with the object of really solving the Chinese problem, it is still entirely inadequate to effect the desired result. If the representatives of the nation had been actuated with a good object, and everybody knows they were not, even in that case they would deserve not a particle of credit for what they have done. It would have been only their duty, and nothing more. The mere fact that the servants of the people do not generally do their duty, would not have entitled them to praise simply because they had proved an exception to the rule. In my

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT HAYES

I told him that we demanded our rights—that we had not a single favor to ask of him or anybody else, and if our privileges were granted us we would try to obtain much thereby and corruption exists in office nowadays that when the usual custom is departed from and the nation's servants perform their simple duty the people rise up from one end of the country and thank them for it. I don't believe in praising men for simply doing as they ought to do, but I don't admit for a moment that the House of Representatives has done its duty in passing the bill. It's a mere political dodge to catch the California vote at the next election. But it won't have the wished-for effect, as the Workingmen's party of this State intend to vote for a third President.

"Do you think that the bill will pass the Senate?" "Oh, yes; I feel certain it will—in fact, there's no doubt in my mind about it."

"What is your opinion in regard to the sufficiency of the bill—are you confident of its being adequate to effect the desired result?"

As far as that is concerned the bill is a dead letter and won't have a particle of effect in preventing Chinese immigration. Various ways in which it could be evaded suggest themselves at once. What could be easier than to ship coolies by the thousands to British Columbia and employ any of a number of vessels to land them on American soil, each one carrying fifteen of the Mongolians at a time? Why, in that way

THEY COULD LAND 100,000

Of the Asiatics on our coast in a single week. The same course could be adopted in other localities. They could be landed in Mexico in countless hordes and taken across the line into our territory by tons of thousands without violating a single section of this wise bill or incurring any penalty, for ship-masters alone are punishable for bringing them here. They could be sent to Cuba and transported from thence to Key West by the thousand. In fact, they could be brought directly to San Francisco, and the fine \$100 for each coolie, carried in violation of the law, could be paid by the Six Chinese Companies. In short, the bill is a failure from beginning to end, and we can never expect a better. But when the Workingmen gain the control of California they will take care of this Chinese question, and in a lawful manner. We will enforce the laws of the State against them in all their rigor. We will fill our jails and prisons with Chinese criminals and ship them off. We will make it so hot for them that they will be glad to go. Here it is, in California, and here alone, that the Chinese question will have to be settled.

concluded Mr. Kearney, "may be briefly characterized as a sprint to catch a mackerel."

Secretary Moore Despises It.

H. M. Moore, the Secretary of the Workingmen's party, said he considered the bill as inadequate to the emergency. He had the poorest opinion in the world of the motives which prompted its passage. The whole thing was the merest political clap-net, a sugared bait prepared by the legislative fishermen with which to catch the vote of California, an election dodge, a trick and a shame. It was a big gun, and made a loud report, accompanied with lots of smoke; but, unfortunately for California and luckily for the Chinese, the ball had been omitted in loading the gun, and consequently the noisy discharge was deprived of all effect. On the whole Mr. Moore concurred with Kearney in his opinion of the bill, and thought that if it ever became a law it would merely increase the number by one of the swollen and deplorable streams which exist to-day as a standing illustration of the stupidity and rascality of our legislators. In conclusion, he said that the bill was weak, insufficient, unseizable, insincere and contemptible.

Secretary Smith Sees a Democratic Artifice.

J. J. Smith, Financial Secretary of the party, said that the bill, in his opinion, was evidently a mere artifice, intended to deceive and conciliate the workmen of California. "But we are not," continued he, "to be caught in any such manner. They are far too sharp for that. Instead of benefiting the Democratic party, the bill will ultimately be a positive injury to it, and when the mass of the people realize, as they undoubtedly soon will, what a ridiculously transient fraud the measure is, they will become even more disgusted with the Democratic party than they are at present, and instead of gaining voters it will find its ranks thinned by the desertion of many of its present members. In California this will be the inevitable result of the bill, and even in the Eastern States they think that the knowledge of the fraud attempted to be palmed off on the nation as a beneficial measure by the Democrats, will have the effect of making the people suspicious of its good intentions." In conclusion Mr. Smith asserted that it was one of the worst and blindest attempts at deception that he had ever seen resorted to by a great political party.

Treasurer Donnelly Says it is a Filthy Scheme.

Thomas Donnelly, the Treasurer of the party, had but little to say in regard to the bill, but that little was very much to the point. He thought that the four next Congressmen from California were what the Democrats wanted, but in his opinion they had chosen the wrong method of getting them when they employed such a filthy scheme for the furtherance of their purpose. It was decidedly transparent, and if the Democrats thought that the Workingmen's party of California was not competent to see not only clear through it, but for some distance on the other side, they were decidedly mistaken, as events would most certainly prove.

The Ward Presidents.

P. H. Murphy, President of one of the Twelfth Ward Clubs, said that he considered the bill a put-up job to catch the conservative vote. If there was any good point in the bill at all, he thought that Mr. Kearney was to be thanked for it, and not the present Congress. He also thought that the bill was inadequate.

Ben Kearney, President of the Fifth Ward Club, considered the whole thing as a miserable fraud, intended to catch flies with.

F. Russen, President of the Scandinavian Club, believed that the bill was only intended for the purpose of creating political capital. The Democrats wanted to catch the votes of the Workingmen of California, but would fail in their attempt.

KILL HALF OF THEM.

Louis Wright, President of the Lone Mountain Branch Club of the Twelfth Ward, thought that the framers of the bill had, either intentionally or otherwise, left too many holes for coolies to crawl through. The bill in a weak way tried to prevent Chinese immigration, but failed to grapple with the "Chinese-must-go" question. His individual opinion was that the most effective way to rid the country of the Mongolians was to kill half of them. If that were done, and he felt that it sometime would be, the other half would pack up and leave of their own accord.

J. Kaufman, President of the Tenth Ward Club, said that he had already reached the conclusion that the bill was a fraud and a failure. The people had been gulled and given by legislative politicians that they had grown suspicious and dissatisfied. "Had such a bill as this been passed three years ago," said he, "the entire Pacific coast would have been lighted up with bonfires and the people would have been wild with joy, but now, as you see, the whole thing falls flat to the earth, an ostentatious failure, unappreciated and despised."

WILLING TO FIGHT.

James Matthews, President of the Sixth Ward Club, thought there was no necessity

there land their Chinese passengers and return to San Francisco. The Chinese could easily cross from the British Possessions into Washington Territory, and from thence be shipped to this city without violating the provisions of the bill. He regarded the measure as of very doubtful utility and an attempt of certain politicians to secure the support of the sand lots.

John F. Swift's Belief.

John F. Swift said that he thought the gentlemen who voted in favor of the bill were as honest as men generally are, but that no doubt their belief that such action would be wise from a party standpoint inclined them to decide as they did. The tone of the Senate is the same as that of the House, and he had no doubt but that the Senate would act favorably upon the bill. It would be a matter of personal, not party feeling in the Senate that would induce them to vote affirmatively, although he expected that both political parties would claim to have been the prime movers for its success. The defeat of the bill will have the effect of driving all people who agree on the Mongolian question, whether they differ with Kearney or not, into the Workingmen's party.

DEMOCRATIC DECLARATIONS.

Enthusiastic Indorsements of the Action of the House.

The reporter called upon Dr. Wm. L. Swift at his residence and asked: "What is your opinion of the Anti-Chinese bill?" "I approve of it heartily. It will have the effect of breaking down Chinese immigration."

"Will the bill pass the Senate?" "In my opinion it will, but probably in amended form, but not of such a character as to prevent acceptance by the House. The amendments, if any, will be made by the Republican side of the Senate."

"Will the bill be vetoed by the President?" "It will be approved by him. The law will pass as to Chinese immigration and Chinese agitation. The whole business could have been accomplished long ago. The present administration could have placed a veto on Chinese immigration long since. Grant could and should have done it. In forty-eight hours the President of the United States could have put an end to the whole thing."

"What will be the effect of the passage of the bill on the politics of this State?" "I do not care to discuss that question. I am out of politics and the subject is above politics."

"What effect will the bill have at the East?" "The people may make some fuss, but in time it will pass away. The people of this coast are entitled to protection from the Chinese. They are locusts and grasshoppers eating up the substance of the land and drink away."

"What will be the policy of the Republicans in the Senate?" "They may or they may not amend the bill. Just now the Democrats have the inside track, and the Republicans may try to neutralize this advantage by passing the bill as it is received from the House. Mr. Booth has now a fine opportunity, but he will lose it. He is too slow."

In the course of a desultory conversation which followed Dr. Gwin said that it was a stern act of duty of every man on this coast to do all in his power to put an end to the Chinese influx. He would not say that the Chinese must go, but they must not come. They would soon disappear. The action taken by the joint Democratic Congressional caucus was the first smart thing that the Democrats had done in a long time. They acted with unanimity and wisdom.

Mayor Bryant's Positive Opinion.

Mayor Bryant considered it a good, solid bill, and that Congress has a perfect constitutional right to enact such a law, as in that body alone is vested the power to control the commerce of the country, except in quarantine matters, where the State has the controlling power. He thought California would reap incalculable benefit if the bill became a law.

PACIFIC MAIL NOTIONS.

It is a Political Movement, and Totally Unsettled For.

Henry B. Williams, of the firm of Williams, Blanchard & Co., agents of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, was called upon at the Company's wharf by a CHRONICLE reporter and interrogated as to his ideas in regard to the anti-Mongolian Immigration bill. Mr. Williams was somewhat averse to expressing an opinion on the merits of the bill, as it had yet to pass the Senate and receive the President's signature before becoming a law. As soon as it became law, he said, he should have taken a decided opinion and so peremptorily willing to express it. He thought that the Democrats had outgeneraled their Republican brethren by the action of their caucus. He had been considerably amused at reading the report of Luttrell's remarks on the bill as telegraphed to the Chronicle, and felt convinced that he simply gave voice to the preannounced edict of the leaders of the party on this coast. During his connection with the Mail Company, Mr. Williams said the departures had been considerably in excess of the arrivals from Chinese ports. He believed that the law of supply and demand would regulate Chinese immigration, and that today there were not nearly as many Chinamen in the State as there were ten years ago in proportion to the population. He referred to the great change in public sentiment in regard to the Chinese which had taken place within the last few years, and felt that the Chinese population had taken a prominent part in public celebrations, and on the Fourth of July in each year the bias-eyed Celestial kept step with the Irish-American, and the tum-tum beat Mail Columbia in unison with the Yankee drum. He thought that the Chinese would be a political asset of California for a new party which would revive the almost forgotten tradition of the Know Nothing order.

GREAT BRITAIN WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

John A. Read, corresponding clerk of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and a gentleman who, from his long connection with that corporation and his large acquaintance with the question, is well qualified to speak, thought that the agitation of the evils of Chinese cheap labor was uncalled for. He had examined the statistics of the arrivals and departures of Chinamen by the steamships of the Mail Company, and found there was a steady but certain increase in the latter over the former. If this bill became a law, a great many American citizens, who had built up lucrative businesses in Hongkong and other Chinese cities, would be compelled to leave the country and be pecuniarily ruined. He was of the opinion that any such action on the part of our Government would be considered disgraceful by the European Powers. After he had made extraordinary efforts to obtain commercial concessions from the Chinese Government and had welcomed the first arrivals of the subjects of the Flowery Kingdom with open arms, it appeared strange that we should now want to drive them away.

A SHIPPING MERCHANT'S OPINION.

Frederick W. Macdonald, of the firm of Macdonald & Co., shipping merchants, had not given the subject much attention, but he believed that the Chinamen now here were united in the opinion that it was more advantageous to them that Chinese immigration should be restricted. Of course, the bill had not yet passed the Senate or received the approval of the President. The constitutionality of the law would also have to be tested, and he believed there was good ground for concluding that the Courts would not sustain it. As the greater portion of Hongkong has been ceded to the English, and all residents there are British subjects, he could not see how any law which the American Congress might pass could restrain them from emigrating to this country. Mr. Macdonald was certain there was a steady decline in Chinese immigration to the Pacific coast. When 200 or 300 landed here it was noted, but no attention was paid by the press when an equal or greater number took their departure.