

THE RESTRICTION ACT.

Comparative Statistics of Its Workings Since Adoption.

It is now four years and a half since the Chinese Restriction Act went into effect, and in view of the new treaty negotiated some of the results of the present Act may prove interesting. According to the records of the Custom-house there have been issued from this port under the present Act 52,155 certificates entitling the holders to the privilege of returning to this country. Of this number 23,720 have been returned and have been canceled by the Custom-house. There were 4002 certificates issued upon application of Chinese, but who failed to appear at the steamers upon their departure. The certificates consequently were canceled. From these figures obtained at the Custom-house it would appear that the excess of departures over arrivals is 24,433. In other words, there are 24,433 Chinese still in China, unless dead, who are entitled to residence on American soil. These figures, however, do not include the departures of Chinese without certificates nor those admitted by order of the Federal courts without certificates. Up to July, 1885, Surveyor Morton estimated that the number of Chinese departing without certificates on regular steamers was 4253.

Consul Bee's figures are somewhat in excess of the Custom-house records. His books show that the arrivals since the Restriction Act went into effect are 24,708, and the total departures 58,411, leaving a total excess of departures over arrivals of 33,703. He explains the discrepancies between his figures and those of the Custom-house by the statement that the latter do not include, as stated, the Chinese departing in steamers without certificates, merchants on passports and those leaving by tramp steamers. He estimates the first-named class at about 5000, those on merchants' passports 900 and those by tramps at from 1500 to 2000.

Compilations from the records of the Court are somewhat difficult to procure. As nearly as can be discovered, however, the number of writs of habeas corpus issued to Chinese passengers refused landing by the Custom-house is 1743. Of those issued about 1420 have been discharged and the petitioners allowed to land. The 323 remaining comprise the number either remanded and sent back to China or those whose cases were withdrawn without coming to trial. Since July, 1885, the number remanded is fifty-one, and the cases withdrawn fifty-nine. Consul Bee himself estimates that not 100 altogether have been sent back to China. Those whose cases were withdrawn generally re-embarked for Victoria and other ports, and probably crossed the border.