

CHINESE PROBLEM

A DIFFICULT ONE

**How to Exclude Laborers and
Admit Others Is the
Question.**

TRADE RETALIATION FELT

**Secretary Taft's Declaration Indi-
cates That President Intends to
Relieve Chinese Merchants
From Humiliation.**

How to keep Chinese laborers out of the United States, yet to admit Chinese merchants, students, travelers, teachers and other intelligent subjects of the Celestial Empire, is a problem before the American Government, for on account of the harsh operation of the exclusion law, Chinese are about to shut out trade from this country, thus to retaliate on vendors of American goods, for humiliation of their countrymen.

In consequence, diplomacy between China and America has been strained for several months, and American traders are becoming alarmed. The uneasiness is felt in Portland commercial circles as much as anywhere on the Pacific Coast. Exporters of wheat, flour and lumber are raising a clamor for better treatment of high-grade Chinese.

Aim of Exclusion Law.

The policy of exclusion has become so firmly rooted in American public sentiment that few or no residents of Portland expect to see it displaced, but there is a widespread demand for amendment of the law so as to make access to this country easy for intelligent Chinese, especially of the commercial classes, and yet not let down the bars against coolie hordes.

This is the aim of the exclusion law as it stands, but on account of the system of enforcement and the numerous frauds attempted by Chinese laborers to gain entrance under the guise of merchants, high-grade Chinese are subjected to detention at the ports of entry, humiliating examinations, and sometimes arbitrary and insulting treatment at the hands of immigration inspectors.

The exclusion laws enacted since 1852 have been "re-enacted, extended and continued, without modification, limitation or condition," by an act of Congress of April 27, 1894, and by the same act those laws were applied to the "Island territory under the jurisdiction of the United States." Those laws prohibit Chinese immigration from such territory to the mainland of the United States. Exclusion from the Hawaiian and the Philippine Islands has incensed the Chinese against Americans still more.

Chinese Diplomats Busy.