

CHINA WOULD BE LOSER.

It is reported from Washington that the Chinese government has concluded to sever all diplomatic and trade relations with the United States in case the Geary law is enforced. If this government believes in the Geary law it can do nothing better than to accept the Chinese ultimatum and see by a few years experience what comes of it.

Americans as a people do not like the Chinese. The Chinese as a people do not like the Americans. If we exclude the immigrant from China and restrict the subjects of the Emperor who are already here, we can not expect anything better from the Mongol government.

The Geary law is not legally faulty in any of its features, but it involves a principle that offends the dignity of the Chinaman. Regulations surround immigrants from other countries, and the principle is the same, though they are not as rigid as those provided for the Chinese.

If China drives Americans from the country and closes her ports to our ministers and traders, that nation will be the loser. China sends to the United States three times the amount of goods this country sends to Eastern Asia. America is a great market for the principal articles of commerce offered for sale by the Chinese. There is small reason to believe that the Emperor of China, in the face of the native love for gain, will cut off one of the best customers of his nation.

The whole Chinese question hinges on the right of the Six Companies to do business in

the United States. If that organization is driven out or made to conform to our laws, the burden of looking after the regular Chinese immigration will be slight. The Six Companies make a business of smuggling Chinamen into this country to the extent that they are a menace, just as paupers from any country of the world would be a menace.

It is to offset the work of the Six Companies that the Geary law was framed. Under it the Chinese residents of the United States must register, and by so doing show that they are here legally. On this point the San Francisco *Examiner*, a paper that ought to know every phase of the question, says:

There was no intention of harassing those Chinese who were legally here, and the process of registration was made as easy for them as possible. That the Geary law has made trouble for the resident Chinese is due solely to their own stubborn and stupid defiance of it. The Geary law is all right, and the Chinese who were here before its passage would have been all right, too, if they had had sense enough to obey it.

Chinamen who have their wits with them will comply with the Geary law and go about their business. Those who have no right in America will be sent home with the lesson that the only law to obey in the United States is that of the government.