

AMENDMENT OF THE GEARY ACT.

Mr. Geary in His Speech Opposing Severely Criticizes the Attitude of the Administration.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—The house to-day began a discussion of the McCreary bill to extend the provisions of the Geary act for six months under a special order providing it shall be considered until disposed of. Only two speeches were made—by Mr. McCreary, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, and by Mr. Geary, author of the old law, in antagonism. Both speakers were accorded marked attention.

The speech of Mr. Geary was really a brilliant effort, eliciting frequent applause. His violent attack on the officers of the administration, especially Attorney General Olney, for not enforcing the Geary laws, and his charge that the original Everett bill contained the unmistakable earmarks of Mongolian diplomacy, created something of a sensation.

Mr. McCreary, the author of the bill, explained that the bill provided that the act of May 5, 1892, be so amended as to extend the time six months in which Chinese persons may register and obtain certificates of residence; and also amended said act so as to require "one credible witness other than Chinese" that an applicant for certificate was a resident of the United States on the 5th of May, 1892, instead of "one credible white witness."

The bill also amended the act by providing that the words laborer or laborers shall be construed to mean both skilled and unskilled manual laborers, including Chinese employed in mining, fishing, huckstering, peddling, laundrymen, or those engaged in taking, drying or otherwise preserving shell or other fish for home consumption or exportation.

Referring to the decision of the supreme court affirming the constitutionality of the Geary law, he said that that decision had not been rendered until ten days after the time had expired in which Chinese persons could register and obtain certificates of residence. It seemed that the Chinese should have an additional time in which to register and obtain certificates of residence. If all the Chinese who are not now registered should be transported to China the cost to the government would be about \$7,000,000. He wanted to act in accordance with civilization, Christianity and morality.

Mr. Gerry, in opposition to the bill, said if he believed that through the operation of this bill, if enacted into law, the Chinese would comply with the law, he would vote for the measure. He denied that the bill which bore his name was any violation of treaty stipulations. Within the past thirty years \$500,000,000 had been taken from the Pacific coast to foreign lands. Gentlemen from the East expressed their wonder that the people of California did not like the Chinese. How would they like a foreign colony located in their region?

He then went on to denounce the competition of cheap Chinese labor with free American labor. American labor could not be protected by a tariff against the products of foreign pauper laborers, while the pauper laborer was allowed to come here himself. He ridiculed the statement that it would take \$7,000,000 to deport the unregistered Chinese. It would not, he declared, involve an expenditure of \$1,000,000. He criticized the action of the administration in not enforcing the laws. He was a Democrat and loved the Democratic party, but if that party permitted the men of its selection to violate the laws it had no right to ask for a continuance of public confidence. It was the duty of the attorney general to enforce the law. The attorney general had no right to say:

"I will discriminate between this class of criminals and that class of criminals."

Democrats owed it to their party that a public officer who refused to enforce the laws should not escape denunciation. The president did not escape his (Mr. Geary's) criticism, and he raised a laugh when he said that the Chinese minister, the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general had put their heads together in order to get up the McCreary bill.

The speaker announced the appointment—Wilson (Dem., W. Va.) and Mr. Dingley (Rep., Me.) as directors for Columbian Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

Mr. Hunter asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a joint resolution providing for a recess of congress from October 14 to November 1st. Mr. Outhwaite objected and the resolution was referred to the committee on rules.

Mr. Cummings (Dem., New York), from the committee on naval affairs, reported a resolution calling on the secretary of the navy for information as to amount of premiums paid to the constructors of warships, which was adopted.

The bill to remit penalties on the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius was taken up. The amount involved in the bill is \$39,000,000.