

Chinese Immigrants.—Oriental immigration to the Pacific Coast of North America appears to have commenced with the coming of Chinese immigrants about the time of the discovery of gold in California in 1849, and British Columbia is thought to have received its first Chinese immigrants some time before 1870. The original occupations of these immigrants were laundry workers and domestic servants. As early as 1872 Chinese were employed in the coal mines of the Province and the Legislature was already considering the imposition of a poll tax on Chinese, the same proposition coming up later in the Dominion Parliament with the design of preventing the employment of Chinese labour in railway construction. A Royal Commission was appointed by the Dominion Government in 1884 to investigate Chinese immigration and this Commission recommended the imposition of a head tax of \$10 upon Chinese entering Canada, together with registration and special legislation regulating the entry of Chinese domestic servants. This led to the passage of legislation in 1885 (48-49 Vict., c. 71) providing that thereafter Chinese of the labouring class should be required, as a condition of entering Canada, to pay a head tax of \$50 each. On Jan. 1, 1901 (63-64 Vict., c. 32), this tax was increased to \$100, and on Jan. 1, 1904 (3 Edw. VII, c. 8), after another Royal Commission had reported on this matter, the head tax was further increased to \$500. This tax was paid by all Chinese immigrants except consular officers, merchants, clergymen and their families, tourists, men of science, students, and teachers. In spite of this restrictive legislation, the number of Chinese enumerated at the decennial censuses rose from 4,383 in 1881 to 17,312 in 1901, to 27,774 in 1911, to 39,587 in 1921, and 46,519 in 1931. Of this last number, 43,051 were males and only 3,468 females. Over 58 p.c. of all the Chinese in Canada, viz., 27,139, were residents of British Columbia.

16.—Totals of Revenue Receipts and Registrations for Leave of Chinese Immigrants, 1886-1900, by Decades 1901-30, and Fiscal Years, 1931-39.

Year.	Paying Tax.	Exempt from Tax.	Percentage of Total Arrivals Admitted, Exempt from Tax.	Registrations for Leave.	Total Revenue.
	No.	No.	p.c.	No.	\$
Totals (1886 to 1900, inclusive)	28,637	394	1.36	15,853	1,454,239
Totals (1901 to 1910, inclusive)	20,645	2,850	12.13	25,453	3,885,204
Totals (1911 to 1920, inclusive)	29,476	2,768	8.55	38,899	15,198,518
Totals (1921 to 1930, inclusive)	3,623	1,949	33.00	58,857	2,422,705
1931.....	Nil	Nil	-	5,783	28,846
1932.....	"	"	-	4,387	11,584
1933.....	"	1	100.00	3,626	9,152
1934.....	"	2	100.00	2,156	7,237
1935.....	"	Nil	-	2,103	6,506
1936.....	"	"	-	2,138	6,501
1937.....	"	1	100.00	2,059	9,893
1938.....	"	Nil	-	792	2,359
1939.....	"	"	-	817	2,959

The Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 (13-14 Geo. V, c. 38)* limited the entry to or landing in Canada of persons of Chinese origin or descent, irrespective of allegiance or citizenship, to the following classes:—

* R.S.C. 1927, c. 95.