

1881.
 VICTORIA.

C H I N E S E .
 (INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.)

DESPATCH FROM THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
 THE COLONIES RELATIVE TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE INTERCOLONIAL
 CONFERENCE RESPECTING THE INTRODUCTION OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS
 BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

Victoria.—No. 35.

MY LORD,

Downing street, 11th May 1881.

I have had before me the representation of the Intercolonial Conference held at Sydney in January last on the subject of the introduction of Chinese immigrants by the Government of Western Australia at the public expense.

I am well aware of the strong objections which are entertained generally in the Australian colonies to an extensive Chinese immigration, but, in the peculiar case of Western Australia, which comprises an enormous tract of country, more than a third of which lies within the tropics, strong evidence of injury already sustained, or likely to be sustained, by the neighboring colonies would be necessary to justify Her Majesty's Government in interfering with the arrangements sanctioned by the Legislature (two-thirds of which is elective) for the very limited immigration now proposed.

It does not appear to be alleged that any of the Chinese hitherto introduced into Western Australia have passed into the other colonies, while, on the other hand, each of those colonies already contains a much greater number of Chinese than Western Australia will have after the new immigrants have arrived.

I should not, of course, desire to see a large Chinese population introduced into Western Australia, and I shall carefully watch the results of the small immigration to which my attention has been called by the Conference; but, under the circumstances as at present known to me, I am not prepared to interfere with the action of the West Australian Legislature.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) KIMBERLEY.

Governor the Most Honorable the Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G.,
 &c., &c., &c.

[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, Nil; Printing (776 copies), £1 13s. 0d.]