

ANTI-CHINESE MEETING.

Sydney Mail, 21 December 1878

A public meeting was convened by the Mayor 'to take into consideration the present state of affairs, re the seamen's strike.' The theatre was crammed, and hundreds were unable to gain admission, although it was raining heavily.

The chair was the Mayor (James Merriman). The resolution was 'That this meeting protest against the importation of Chinese as detrimental to the interests of this community - socially, morally, and politically - and call for immediate action on the part of the Legislature to prevent its further increase.' (Cheers)

The intricacies of the position had been multiplied by the strike between ASN and their workmen; and there were men who seemed only too willing to forsake reason and argument. He and all intelligent advocates of restricting Chinese immigration thoroughly deprecated violence. (Cheers)

We were within twenty days' sail of a country whose population numbered nearly one third of the population of the globe; and the most degraded class could be drawn upon for cheap labour or other purposes in order to undermine our nationality. (Cheers)

This was more than a strike. Here the men had taken up a cause which the national heart would respond to. (Cheers) They were justified in getting the coal-miners to strike, too, if they could. (Cheers) He asked them not to be downhearted, whatever might happen, for the whole of the people of Australia were with them.

Mr. D. Buchanan seconded the resolution. He had come at the invitation of the Secretary of the Seamen's Union.

Mr. O'Connor, M.L.A., said that Chinese ought to be kept out altogether. (Cheers) We had a grand mission to perform when we resolved not to admit a Chinaman or the small-pox at any price - (cheers) - and the seamen must be sustained in their struggle. (Cheers)

The resolution was put and carried unanimously with loud cheers.

The Chairman received a memorandum from Newcastle: 'The steamer Ocean is still alongside the wharf waiting coal. The miners, much to their credit, have determined not to work for the supply of coals to any of the steamboats belonging to the ASN Company. (Tremendous cheering, and three cheers for the miners.)

Mr. Garrard moved the resolution: 'That this meeting deploras the action of the ASN Company in reference to the seamen in their service, and desires to express its earnest sympathy with the seamen in the deprivation of employment through their manly resistance to Chinese labour.'

Mr. Goldie seconded the resolution. The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.