

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

KEEPING FEDERAL OFFICIALS AT WORK.

Rumors From Cuba — Chinese in Transit and the Regis- tration Act.

The Chinese, their friends and their affairs kept the Federal officials very busy yesterday. The result of a correspondence between Consul Bee and the Chinese Minister at Washington on the methods used in sending Chinese in transit to Cuba from San Francisco has been a letter to Collector Phelps from the Secretary of the Treasury requesting a report and an opinion on the matter. The Collector will report to the Secretary that, on grounds of humanity and of expediency, the law placing such rigorous surveillance over Chinese in transit should be annulled. Unless it should be the Collector thinks that the country will be flooded by Chinese who will come across the northern border, which is very inadequately guarded.

The Collector also received information yesterday, but of quite a different nature, respecting the Chinese and Cuba. Advices from New York say there is a wholesale exodus of Chinese from Cuba to the United States. It is said that Chinese in great numbers have secured from the Chinese Consul at Havana spurious merchants' certificates similar to those used by the American Consul. It is also maintained that an organized company, with agencies in Havana and in this city, is at work in the matter. Collector Phelps does not attach very much importance to the statements, but will make a full investigation.

Chinese arrivals on the Oceanic yesterday numbered 238. Of these seventy-eight are for this country and sixty for Havana. Those desiring to land here without certificates claim to be either prior merchant residents or natives of the United States. On the departing vessel City of Peking 130 Chinese sailed.

T. D. Riordan, attorney for the Chinese Consulate, made a second attempt yesterday to bring about a consideration of the legality of the Chinese Registration act. The action was commenced in the Circuit Court and is directed against the Southern Pacific Company by Gee Chong Tone, who demands \$10,000 damages for the refusal of a railway ticket agent to sell him a ticket to Sacramento.

United States Marshal Fricke left El Paso yesterday with five Chinese en route for China. They were captured by the United States authorities while trying to cross the line from Mexico without legal right.

A United States Marshal left Seattle yesterday with twenty-three Chinese who came across the Canadian boundary without certificates. These, as well as those from El Paso, will be shipped aboard the steamer Oceanic, which will leave this port on the 22d inst.