

Chinese in Omaha-- Some Prominent Men

One of the most exclusive sets in Omaha is its Chinese colony. The desire of the hundred or more natives of the Flowery Kingdom who reside in the city is to be let alone to their own peculiar devices. They have no interest, generally, with the community in which they reside further than to be paid for the work they perform. When they have received their wages they retire behind the real or assumed indifference of ignorance, and it is a persistent American who can draw them into conversation. The present trouble in China has increased their natural reserve and today there is but one Chinaman in the city who will converse with an English-speaking citizen on equal terms.

There is but one place in the entire city where the Chinese character can be studied and that is in the Sunday school which meets Sunday afternoon during the fall and winter at the First Presbyterian church. This institution was established in the old Buckingham home in September, 1885, by Mrs. A. P. Wood. It remained in its first home but a short time, when it was transferred to its present meeting place, where it is now maintained under the supervision of Mrs. John C. Morrow. In the Sunday school the taciturn become communicative and the exchange of ideas between the pupils and the teachers is sometimes very interesting, especially for the teacher, who from time to time is cornered by some question of Oriental casuistry or has some of her fondest hopes shattered by some point-blank statement from one of her most promising pupils.

This Sunday school is not primarily a place for the dissemination of religious ideas, but that phase of the work comes up incidentally. The first effort of the teacher is to instruct the pupil in the rudiments of the English language. For this purpose books have been printed with English and Chinese text and from them the teachers, many of them with no idea of the Chinese language, are very successful in the work.

Clannish in Their Home Life.

The Chinese in Omaha are practically all from the city of Canton, and coming from one place are all the more clannish in their home life. Generally they are peaceable, quiet and law abiding, their only appearance in the courts being caused by the national habit of opium smoking, and even this is falling into disuse with many of the Omaha colony.

Of the members of the Omaha colony the recognized leader is Joe Lee, or Joe Wah Lee, as he is known in private life. Joe is the best interpreter in the city and has a sound knowledge of the English language. He is one of the few Chinamen who will discuss affairs relating to his race with

became a messenger in that office. The superintendent was attracted to the young Chinaman because of his interest in the work and secured his promotion to the position of storekeeper, which place he filled at Pocahontas and at Ogden. He then branched out for himself and had charge of the Chinese construction gangs on the Rio Grande and Union Pacific. During the world's fair at Chicago Sling thought to get rich and invested his savings in Oriental goods. There he lost money and went back into the service of the railroads.

Many Celestials in Deadwood.

At the time of the last registration of Chinese in the internal revenue collection district of Nebraska there were 502 natives of China in the district. At that time Deadwood, S. D., had the largest Chinese population, while Omaha was among the towns having a small colony, eighty-one persons giving their address as this city.

Of the Chinese registered at the Omaha office, many have left the city, but their places have been taken by others. Twenty or more of the pupils of the Chinese Sunday school have returned to China. Many of them correspond with their former teachers and claim to be following the teachings of the western light.

The principal occupation of the members of the colony in Omaha is laundry work, and a characteristic scene is given herewith. The marks on the bundles of clean linen, duplicates of which are in the pockets of the patrons, are "good luck" mottoes. With his other superstitions the Chinaman is a believer in spells and incantations. Not every house uses them, but many of the houses give their patrons not only clean shirts, but a Chinese blessing for their money.

The chief reliance of the Chinese accountant is his frame of beads. From laundrymen to merchant prince each man of accounts has one of these frames within easy reach. Problems of all sorts are solved by the aid of this simple-looking machine, which, like the square in the hands of an architect, is not as simple as it looks. The machines are of different sizes, but the smaller ones permit the rapid addition of numbers of six digits, while with the larger ones the computations may run up into the millions. Primarily an adding machine, oriental ingenuity has made it possible to indicate the process of all arithmetical calculations and the more experienced accountant will solve with ease algebraic problems.

Many of the laundrymen are members of companies which assist them in starting in business. This company is not in business for mere benevolent purposes. The rates of interest paid by those who are supplied with money is enormous. It costs



JOE WAH LEE—RICHEST CHINAMAN IN OMAHA—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.



TYPICAL OMAHA CHINESE LAUNDRYMAN—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.

very little for a Chinaman to exist. If he fails to pay the money he is required to work for the company until the debt is paid. If he pays it he is on the road to success, for any business that will produce the interest demanded by the company will make the proprietor of it rich.

Told Out of Court

"Yes," the witness declared, "I could give further evidence against the prisoner; but, as Kipling says, 'That's another—'"

"Never mind what Kip Ling says," interrupted the magistrate, "the Chinese can testify for himself when his turn comes."

Chaquette, who was recently tried at Rutland, Vt., for murder, and defended under an insanity plea, had been a thrifty man, had saved \$1,500 or \$2,000, and was therefore able to hire a number of lawyers for his trial, including a well known St. Albans practitioner. When the trial was ended and the bills came in, however, Chaquette objected to them with great vigor as exorbitant, and somebody reported the fact to the St. Albans lawyer.

"What is that?" he asked.

"Why, Chaquette says that the lawyers' bills are simply outrageous."

"Is that so?" exclaimed the St. Albans man. "My! my! after all that has been done that man goes and has a lucid interval!"

The supreme court of Tennessee has decided that a lawyer has the right to shed tears to influence the verdict of a jury, and, in fact, says that if he can bring tears to his eyes at will he is derelict if he neglects to do so. The case was one in which the defendant had appealed on the ground that the weeping of the attorney for the plaintiff had unduly influenced the jury. The court found that the point had never been raised before and asserted that the manner of defense must be left largely to the judgment of attorneys. "Some," said the judge, "deal wholly in logic and argument without any embellishment. Others use rhetorical and occasional flights of fancy and imagination. Others rely upon noise and gesticulation, earnestness of manner and vehemence of speech. Others appeal to the passions, prejudices and sympathies of the jury. Others combine all of these modes." He declares that no castiron rule should be made, but that tears have always been considered legitimate arguments before a jury.

Encampment of Fifty- First Iowa Regiment

(Continued from Fourth Page.)

by Major William J. Duggan of Creston, composed of Companies A and H of Des Moines, D of Knoxville and F of Oskaloosa. Second, commanded by Major John T. Hume of Des Moines, composed of Companies F of Shenandoah, C of Glenwood, L of Council Bluffs and M of Red Oak; Third, commanded by Major Sterling P. Moore of Villisca, composed of Companies G of Creston, I of Bedford, K of Corning and B of Villisca.

On February 9 the Second and Third battalions co-operated with other troops in occupying the town of San Roque. On February 18 the First battalion was ordered to the front in command of General Over-shine. During March the Second battalion was relieved of its duty at Cavite and joined the First at the front, the Third still remaining at San Roque and vicinity. Shortly after the whole regiment was ordered to the front under General Hale's command.

Began to Do Real Fighting.

From this time on commenced the history of the regiment's real fighting until the capture of San Fernando on May 5. During May, June and July the regiment was stationed at San Fernando. On August 9 it occupied the town of Calulut, where it remained until August 17, when it returned to San Fernando. On September 5 the regiment was relieved from the firing line and sent to Manila. On September 22 it boarded the transport Senator and October 23 disembarked at San Francisco, where later it was mustered out of the service. On November 6 the regiment reached Council Bluffs, where it was tendered a magnificent reception and the several companies left for their respective home towns. When withdrawn from the front the regiment had but 218 men fit for duty out of the 1,929 enlisted men and fifty officers. Seventy-one men and two officers re-enlisted, leaving 769 men and forty-nine officers to return home.

The band of the Fifty-first regiment, under the leadership of George W. Landers, served through the entire campaign and was mustered into the new regiment of the Iowa National Guard. The band belongs to the town of Centerville, which has every reason to be proud of it. Not only is it a first-class musical organization, but every member showed himself to be a fighter. The members of the band had a fashion of getting out on the firing line and taking part in the fighting. The band boys were orderlies and oftentimes officers charged and fumed because "orderlies" were not on hand when needed. They soon learned, however, to look for them on the firing line. The band expects to make a tour of the state this fall and will be in Council Bluffs at the time Company L formally opens its new armory.

Company L of Council Bluffs.

Company L of Council Bluffs, organized May 4, 1887, was formerly known as the Dodge Light Guards, having been named after General G. M. Dodge. It was mustered into the new Fifty-first regiment, Iowa National Guard, on January 18 last. Its present officers are: Captain, M. Tingley; first lieutenant, James E. Mather; second lieutenant, C. P. Jamison. All three of these officers served through the Philippine campaign and are most popular with the rank and file. The present company numbers forty-five men, of whom nineteen are veterans of the Philippine campaign. Old Company L, when it left Des Moines for San Francisco, was seventy

men strong. The present company has a handsome armory in the Dohany opera house block and promises this winter to be one of the factors in the social life of the city.

The twelve companies comprising the Fifty-first regiment, Iowa National Guard, are as follows: Company A, Des Moines; Company B, Villisca; Company C, Glenwood; Company D, Knoxville; Company E, Shenandoah; Company F, Oskaloosa; Company G, Creston; Company H, Des Moines; Company I, Bedford; Company K, Corning; Company L, Council Bluffs; Company M, Red Oak. The officers are: Colonel James Rush Lincoln of Ames; Lieutenant Colonel Jesse Clark of Red Oak; Major Widener of Bedford; Major Bennett of Des Moines and Major Mentzer of Knoxville. Major Fairchild of Clinton is surgeon, with First Lieutenant Don Moore of Council Bluffs first assistant and Lieutenant Conklin of Des Moines as second assistant. First Lieutenant John Quincy Anderson of Council Bluffs is adjutant of First battalion, First Lieutenant George Gerten of Des Moines adjutant of Second battalion and First Lieutenant George Beeson of Oskaloosa adjutant of Third battalion. Lieutenant Brown of Des Moines is commissary officer and Captain Lane of Red Oak regimental quartermaster and ordnance officer. Cavalry Troop A of Des Moines is attached to the Fifty-first regiment. Its officers are: Captain, H. H. Polk; first lieutenant, B. F. Kaufman; second lieutenant, A. M. Swigert.

Reflections of a Bachelor

Contentment is ambition's undertaker. The only thing that can cure a man of love is to have it had enough. Women have more ways of loving than a man, but men have the most love to love with. Love, with a woman, has no rival. It is always either the biggest thing or the smallest thing in life.

Down in her heart every woman thinks a man ought to begin proposing to her by apologizing for daring to fall in love with her.

The world will forgive a woman for everything except what she can't help. After all, love is nothing but a game of solitaire between you and yourself.

When a man leaves his heart in the hands of a woman he always finds it again with callous spots on it.

When a girl lends a book to a man to read she always marks the things in it that she thinks look the deepest.

Tell a man a woman loves him and the first question he asks is, "Who?" Tell a woman a man loves her and the first question she asks is, "Which?"

Alaska's Clear Waters

About one-half of southern Alaska is water. The inlets and bays are so numerous as to be one of the wonders of the world. Both the salt water and fresh water are remarkably clear. Fish and other marine animals may be seen to the depth of twenty and thirty feet beneath the surface of the water. There are no sandy beaches and no tide flats. The timber comes down to the water's edge. The waters are so cold that fish, as well as shellfish, are good throughout the year.



CHINESE RESTAURANT IN OMAHA—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.

Americans. He is reputed to be the richest and one of the shrewdest Chinamen in Omaha. He runs a restaurant on East Douglas street and as chef is said to be one of the best men in the west. He is an applicant for a position as interpreter in the government service and expresses a desire to be sent to China with the army.

Leo Mun, head of the Quong Wah company, is credited with being the best educated Chinaman in his native language in the city, being able to read at a glance all of the 40,000 characters of the Chinese alphabet. He is deeply learned in the theology of his native land, but is very reticent because of his ignorance of English.

Another Chinaman connected with the Omaha colony, but now making his headquarters at Chicago, who is realizing in his own person some of the possibilities of the United States, is Hong Sling, or Henry, as his Christian name has been translated. H. Sling, as he writes it, is a passenger agent for three railroads, the Union Pacific, Northwestern and the Southern Pacific. He has grown up in the service of the Union Pacific. He came to this country as a common laborer, being a section hand on the Union Pacific. He studied the language and while W. B. Doddridge was division superintendent at Evanston, Wyo., in 1874, Hong Sling



JO SING TAKING CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION AT OMAHA—Photo by Louis R. Bostwick.