

THE SCENES IN THE UNFOLDING OF A CHINESE DRAMA OF FRAUD

wisdom of the Collector points out the...
When the Chinese "native sons" arrive inspectors, interpreters and stenographers of the Chinese Bureau attached to the office of the Collector of the Port go down to meet them in all state. The "natives" tell the story to the Collector, interpreted, taken in short hand, transcribed and reproduced in long hand. The "native" employs his counsel, the Chinese friends of the Mongolian "citizen" give their testimony, the inspector of the Bureau announces his judgment to the Collector of the Port, who must then take action in the case. The Collector of the Port may admit the "native son" or defer action or deny admission, in the latter case forcing the applicant to go into the courts on a writ of habeas corpus. In court the greatest publicity is given, witnesses are examined regularly under oath and orderly and every opportunity is given for the detection of fraud. Every Collector of the Port except Colonel John P. Jackson has sent these "native sons" to the courts. Colonel Jackson has preferred to exercise his own discretion and land them at the rate of over 100 a month for the thirty-four months during which he has been in office.

In the wholesale admission of Chinese "citizens" under the administration of Colonel Jackson and by his authority several deeply significant facts deserve prominence. In the first place, the vast overwhelming majority of returning "native sons" left this port before June 6, 1882. By some remarkable coincidence they were born in this city, remained here with their parents for a few years of their tender youth and then left here on ships which departed before June 6, 1882. They forgot the English language if they ever knew it. They forgot everything in San Francisco except the street and number of the house in which they were born. They forgot everything else except the day they left, and that day was before June 6, 1882. They left all their families behind them, their brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers, upon their return here.

They return now full grown men, qualified under the laws and constitution of the United States with a vote, for they have been away at least eighteen years from their "native" land. Being away so long, having left so early in life, they know nothing of our customs, nothing of our language or our manners, but they are apt scholars and will learn quickly. They are simply coolie laborers, who never saw the shores of California until they glanced at the coast from the deck of the incoming ship that they were to leave full qualified, perfectly endowed citizens of the United States.

They had forgotten everything, it is said, except their birthplace and the date of their leaving this port. For children of their tender years they possess a remarkably retentive memory to have retained in their brains so long a recollection of the day, the month and the year upon which they sailed. But they remembered something more of even greater significance to them. While they remember nothing of San Francisco, which they left so long ago as children, while they know nothing of our language, they have not been forgotten. There are two of their countrymen waiting here to recognize each one of them after the long separation.

For every "native son" there are always in this city two Chinese witnesses ready to take oath that the claims of the "native" are absolutely the truth. Eighteen years have not made old men of these witnesses. They are as young as the men for whom they swear. The witnesses are examined and upon their testimony alone Collector of the Port Jackson makes his Chinese citizens at the rate of more than 100 a month. In previous administrations it was a custom of Collectors to refuse these precious "natives" a landing and force them into the courts if they wanted to come into the United States; but now the courts are idle in Chinese cases. Collector Jackson has no use for them. The simple, uncorroborated testimony of two Chinese is enough to make a native a Californian and a Californian a native a voter and citizen of the United States.

In the admission of Chinese the frauds are almost exclusively committed in those classes admitted under section 6 of the act of 1884 and in the admission of native sons. During the administration of Collector of the Port Jackson the admission of Chinese under section 6 of the act of 1884 has increased from 50 per cent and the admission of native-born citizens from 50 to 90 per cent. Yet this alarming increase, coupled with the startling fact that the vast majority of "native-born citizens" now being admitted left this port before June 6, 1882, has excited absolutely no comment.

It has struck no one that there was a reason why these men left this port before that critical day. The reason is simply that after June 6, 1882, the United States Government has a record of identification of every Chinese who left on any vessel from this port, and before June 6, 1882, the Federal Government has no record that is worth consideration. Every Chinese who left after June 6, 1882, can be traced therefore without the shadow of a doubt. Every Chinese who left before June 6, 1882, is lost in an official haze. It is not so remarkable, consequently, that the vast majority of the great army of "native sons" which is filing into this city through the hands of Collector of the Port John P. Jackson and a little coterie of favored attorneys were born in this city many years ago and left this port before June 6, 1882.

The gigantic fraud becomes palpable almost at a glance. If these "native sons" had not left San Francisco until after June 6, 1882, they could be traced. Their fraud would be apparent. The bureau of information, which is established in Hongkong, would be a useless expense. The constant visits which favored attorneys make to the residence of Ho Yow, the Chinese Consul General, would be lost labor, for even the most neglectful of officials must expose the fraud. The traffic would be valueless. Chinese merchants of this city would have to look elsewhere than to China for their needed laborers and the coolies which are passing through the Golden Gate.

While entire official responsibility for the landing of Chinese at this port rests with Collector Jackson, the immediate and preliminary supervision of the organized business is in the hands of the Chinese Bureau, an elaborate arm of the service, which, in its individual members, is, with one exception, new to this coast. The inspector in charge is familiar with the Chinese and their affairs only from what he has learned on this coast. The interpreters, assistant inspectors and others are under the direction of their chief. This elaborate service was created during the term of Colonel Jackson and all that may be said of it is that it has not prevented the landing of Chinese and has done no more than a perfunctory service which in no sense has been investigation. When a stray, densely stupid Mongol becomes tangled in an absurdity, which is very rarely the case, he is returned to China and learns the lesson over again. This bureau has allowed 10,000 Chinese slaves to pass through its hands into this city.

ORGANIZING THE RING TO MAKE CHINESE CITIZENS.

BEFORE Collector of the Port Jackson assumed office, in June, 1897, the wretched business of landing Chinese coolies at this port was in the hands of certain attorneys who had worked the matter for years. When Collector of the Port Jackson began his administration, the business of placing Chinese laborers in this city as merchants, students and tourists and of making out of the

dress of China voters of the United States and native born citizens of California passed into entirely different hands. The traffic became and is now a monopoly enjoyed by a few men who, until the coming of Collector Jackson, knew nothing of it, had nothing to do with it and probably had no notion that miracles of wealth were possible at this late day in San Francisco.

The members of this clique of favored and influential attorneys are interesting from several points of view. They are associated by bonds of social, political and incidentally professional life. They constitute a little ring that controls and handles the landing of Chinese

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"native sons" and "merchants." They hold daily sessions and conferences at the Custom-house, in the very office of Collector Jackson, while a Chinese steamer is in port and "citizens" are to be received from the steam of Mongolian pariahs and are to be elevated to the dignity of American citizens. These attorneys are in themselves a little group of interesting men. They visit Chinese merchants in company. They confer with one another on the policy of campaign that is to be followed at the approach of each China steamer. Some of them even plan to meet incoming steamers and make their preliminary arrangements for the manufacture of "citizens" and the creation of "merchants," "students" and "tourists" who come here to become shrimp catchers, cooks and washmen.

These attorneys have social duties which they observe in common. They are honored guests in Chinatown and are on terms even of conviviality with Chinese to whose premises returning "native sons" hasten like cattle in wagon loads after the pen has been opened at the dock of the Pacific Mail Company, and the "mer-

chants" and "citizens" flock forth to take their places as representatives and ornaments of Western civilization.

But the little clique of attorneys which controls the terrible business of making citizens out of coolies enjoys still greater privileges, social and professional. They have two powerful friends—Ho Yow, the Chinese Consul General at this port, and John P. Jackson, Collector of Customs for San Francisco. Some of these interesting lawyers have frequently played poker with Ho Yow at a downtown club and at a Montgomery street hotel, and it is said that Ho Yow has found the pastime expensive. But the little diversion of poker is only an incident. Ho Yow and the little ring of lawyers are bound by ties more stable than a deck of playing cards. And the bond between the lawyers, who never had to try a Chinese case, and Collector of the Port Jackson is still closer and more powerful. To explain that bond the names of the attorneys are necessary.

They are George H. Pippy, Frank V. Bell and George A. McGowan. These three attorneys, who never try a Chinese case where a right to residence in this city is

the vital issue, control the vast bulk of Chinese business under the administration of Collector Jackson. Pippy enjoys a double distinction, won by his own boast. He is the legal adviser of Ho Yow, whose friend and associate left this city two years ago for Hongkong to establish an agency for the admission of "merchants," "students" and "tourists" of the Oriental kingdom to the United States.

Shortly after the appointment of Colonel John P. Jackson to the position of Collector of Customs for San Francisco, Colonel George H. Pippy had the pleasure of being introduced to Ho Yow, the Consul General for China at this port. Ho Yow has had a varied and pleasant experience with Caucasians and he accepted the opportunity of meeting a distinguished American in the person of Colonel George H. Pippy. The introduction was given and accepted at the Palace Hotel rooms of the Union League Club. Colonel Pippy is secretary of the Union League Club, of which Colonel John P. Jackson is a valued member. It may perhaps be remembered that Colonel George H. Pippy insisted that his friend,

Collector of the Port John P. Jackson, be made chairman and welcoming host of the reception recently given to United States Senator Thomas R. Bard. And it will be remembered also that Colonel Pippy, in order not to neglect his other friend and associate, Yo How, insisted that the Chinese Consul General be a guest at a dinner recently given to William H. Metson by that gentleman's friends. Metson did not invite Ho Yow, but Colonel Pippy insisted. The happy relations existing between Ho Yow, Collector of the Port Jackson and Colonel Pippy should be encouraged and it was just as natural for Pippy to enjoy the company of Ho Yow at dinner as it is for the versatile colonel to enjoy his evenings at the Sutter-street home of Colonel Jackson after the heat and worry and labor in the Chinese Bureau is over for the day.

It might have been expected his introduction to Ho Yow from Colonel J. P. Jackson, but this was not the case. The honor of introduction was to be dispensed by another of Colonel Pippy's friends—Joseph S. Spear Jr., who is Surveyor of the Port, and the intimate associate and friend of Colonel J. P. Jackson, Collector of Customs. The meeting between Ho Yow and Colonel George H. Pippy developed into close acquaintance and then into friendship, but this development probably had nothing to do with the fact that Ho Yow was scheming to land as many of his countrymen as possible in this city and that Colonel Pippy is a friend of Colonel Jackson, at whose discretion over ten

thousand Chinese have been landed in San Francisco in less than thirty-four months. After his acquaintance with Ho Yow, Colonel George H. Pippy entered the lucrative business of landing Chinese. He was uniformly successful and he has a superb record to his credit. When one of the inspectors of the Chinese Bureau finds the papers of an incoming Chinese "native son" and remarks that "that is one of Pippy's men" it means that a new "native-born" voter of California is to go into Chinatown and that the alarming and disgraceful records of the Chinese Bureau are to hold the name of another coolie voter of the State. This business, which means a menace to California and her people, has been going on for thirty-four months.

Colonel Pippy has never been called upon to try his cases in court. As a matter of fact he does not practice in the United States courts. He practices only before Collector of the Port John P. Jackson, who tempers his judgment of Chinese "native sons" with startling mercy. But Colonel George H. Pippy is not the only one who lands "native sons" and creates coolie citizens. A large share of the traffic is enjoyed by Frank V. Bell, a gentleman with a history, who possesses the friendship and shares much in common with Charles H. Jackson, the son of Colonel John P. Jackson, Collector of Customs for this district.

Bell has also been released from a trouble of trying any of his Chinese cases in court, although his frequent consultations with Charles H. Jackson, who is a lawyer, would suggest that he would not

be lacking in competent advice of the proper method to land a Chinese "native son" at this port.

It should not be understood that these three men are the only men who are engaged in the traffic of landing coolies. Others enjoy some practice, but it sinks into insignificance in comparison with the ring of "landing" lawyers, other men upon whom the Chinese look as men of influence, whose word and activity mean a residence in Chinese parlors and camps, are Pippy, friend of Ho Yow and Charles H. Jackson; Bell, friend of Charles H. Jackson, the Collector's son, and McGowan, friend of Arthur Spear. The group is an interesting one from many points of view.

The necessity for an agency at Hongkong, at which port the agent of local merchants is now operating, is apparent. Coolies that want to get into the United States as "merchants, students and tourists" under the act of 1884 must have certificates which falsely characterize them as represented, and then they must be coached to give their story upon landing without break or contradiction. The supplying of the certificates and the coaching are the duties of the Hongkong representatives of the conspiracy. As already indicated, several local Chinese merchants met and the Chinese Consul General was apprised of the purpose of the meeting. He gave his consent, and two years ago one of his personal friends, Jare Kan, a wealthy Chinese, was sent to Hongkong to act as the agent for the importation of Chinese coolies. He is acting there now, with what remarkable success the records of the Custom-house here show.

The gigantic conspiracy, which has been traced in such minute detail because of its frightful menace to this city and State, has brought forth astounding results. In the last thirty-four months thousands of coolies have streamed into this port from the Orient. Month after month the terrible hordes came and were admitted. The hundreds increased into the thousands, until the records show that in thirty-one months of his administration Collector of the Port John P. Jackson has admitted 972 Chinese, thousands of whom the Collector of the Port has admitted as native born citizens of this State, with an actual or a prospective right to vote.

Such a fearful record of the admission of Chinese coolies to this city has no parallel in the history of Chinese immigration since the exclusion act went into operation. It should not be understood that all of these thousands of Chinese were never in the State before. A few of them and a very few were returning merchants and had a right to land, but they cut no figure in the terrible record which has been made while the public looked on, ignorant of what was being done. Thousands after thousands of coolies that never were in San Francisco before, never saw the American shores before, have been landed by Collector of the Port Jackson, and George H. Pippy, Frank V. Bell and George A. McGowan have acted as the attorneys for the Chinese hordes.

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