

ORGANIZED CELESTIAL CRIME.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24, 1893.—One of the most interesting men in the United States at the present time is the Hon. John C. Quinn, the United States collector of internal revenue for the southern district of California. He is the man who has been making the fight in California for the restriction of Chinese immigration and who, had Secretary Carlisle not withdrawn the provision that the Chinese must register themselves by photograph, would by this time have practically stopped the immense amount of smuggling which is continually going on by the organized Chinese of America. Probably no man in California knows as much about the Chinese as Mr. Quinn, and certainly no one heretofore has had the nerve to enter into a day and night fight with them for the preservation of the American laws.

I had a long chat with him the other day about these people and the wonderful power that they hold on the Pacific slope. Said he:

"The people east of the Rocky mountains do not understand the Chinese question as it exists here. This is the battle ground of the races of the Occident and the Orient, and San Francisco is the head of the government of the Chinese of America. It is here that their rulers live and it is here that they look for law and punishment. They have no respect for American laws and they do as their Chinese rulers dictate. They are by no means a poor people. Right here in San Francisco the Chinese own property which is worth more than \$75,000,000, and of the ready cash in circulation on the Pacific coast they control at least \$15,000,000. They furnish more than one third of all the labor we use, and they have so woven themselves in and out through our industries that we are almost dependent upon them. When the Geary act compelling the Chinese to register themselves was passed it was my duty to enforce the provisions of the bill. I saw that we had to keep the Chinese that were now here, for a time at least, and at the same time keep out the hundreds of thousands of coolies who were trying to get in. As soon as the act was published a cry went up from the sand lots, or the hoodlum element, that the Chinese must go. At the same time there came word from the vineyards and fruitgrowing districts of California that the wholesale deportation of them would ruin all such industries. The result was the problem how to keep out the coolies and keep in the present laborers."

THE CHINESE AS FRUIT GROWERS.

"I should think that you could have gotten outside laborers for the vineyards," said I.

"The thing has been tried," replied Mr. Quinn, "but no workers seem to be as good as the Chinamen. Down in Fresno not long ago three thousand negro men and women were brought from Tennessee and Alabama to work in the vineyards there. The Chinese were discharged and the negroes put in their places. In less than a month there was not a negro able to work, and the raisin growers having lost thousands of dollars, fell back again on the Chinese. The picking of grapes in California is by no means an easy job. The sub-irrigation of the soil and the hot sun, which runs as high as 103 degrees in the shade, makes the work

so terrible that only coolies can stand it, and it wilted the negroes. It is the same in the orchards. Train loads of boys and girls were sent to the country to take the place of Chinese fruit pickers, and in two weeks the orchardists had houses full of sick children and the Chinese again at work among their trees. On the deserts in southern California and Arizona the railroads have to use Chinamen as section hands, as white men cannot stand the terrible summer sun. The Chinese know that there is a certain class of work here that they alone can do. They are not fools and they ask and get as high wages as white laborers."

HOW THE AMERICAN CHINESE ARE RULED.

"What are the Six Companies, Mr. Quinn?" I asked.

"The Six Companies," was the reply, "constitutes the most wonderful organization I have ever heard of. It rules the destinies of every Chinese in America with an iron hand. It has defied for years and is now openly defying the United States government. During this present trouble it raised \$125,000 in contributions of one dollar each from the Chinese in less than thirty days, and this money was asked for and given with the understanding that it was to be used to defeat the operations of the Geary law."

"When were the Six Companies formed," I asked.

"No white man knows," was the reply. "And I doubt whether very many Chinese could tell you. You can't find the records of the companies and no one but their presidents and secretaries know where they are. Their books are kept in a cypher which can be read only by themselves and all their work is done in secret. The Chinese in America, you know, come from six different districts of China. They are in reality six different people, having no more points in common than the different Indian tribes. I am told that the Six Companies were organized at first to carry on the business between the different tribes of Chinese in this country to settle their disputes without recourse to the courts, punish the offenders, take care of the sick, and above all, send bones of the Chinese who died in America back to China. This they do today, but they have grown from a small organization to a great power and great wealth. They have the power of life and death over the Chinamen here. Were I to tell you that the Six Companies have sentenced not one but twenty men to death, and that the sentence in every case has been executed, I would tell you only what such men as C. B. Harton, a newspaper reporter who has made work among the Chinese a specialty for ten years, has time and again published over his own signature."

MILLIONS FOR CHINA.

"How do these Six Companies stand in China?"

"They are recognized by the Chinese government as the real power of that empire in this country. The Chinese consul general is an ex officio member of their executive committee and counsels with their president. These companies have for years taken charge of the moneys of the Chinese of the Pacific slope from Alaska to Guatemala and of the United States, and they have constantly on deposit an enormous amount of money here. Their deposits in the

banks of San Francisco often run up as high as three millions of gold coin, and within the last forty years they have shipped out of this country to China the enormous sum of \$225,000,000 in gold. This money was made up of the savings of Chinese laborers and the profits of Chinese merchants, and if today the Chinese were sent out of the United States they would carry away with them more than \$50,000,000 of money. My figures for these sums are from the banking houses of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, and from the offices of the Six Companies. They are an under estimate rather than an over estimate."

ORGANIZED CRIME IN SAN FRANCISCO.

"How do these companies work?" I asked.

"They do their work openly to a great extent," replied Mr. Quinn. "They act as a court for the Chinese, and the Celestials come hundreds of miles here to San Francisco to have the presidents of these companies settle their troubles. There is no appeal from them. The Chinamen who refuse to obey them will certainly 'disappear,' and no one but the Six Companies will know what has become of them. As to their business there is no doubt but they have been engaged for years in smuggling opium, the importing of Chinese women for immoral purposes and the importing of Chinese laborers in defiance of the exclusion act. It is estimated that a handsome Chinese girl of twelve to fourteen years of age is worth when landed in San Francisco clear of the customs officers \$3,500. White men are hired to perjure themselves in swearing that these girls were born in America, return to China for an education and then come home again. Hundreds of women have been brought in this way and the Six Companies pay the perjurers and hire the lawyers to defend the cases. The reporter Harton, to whom I have already referred, ran two white men to the earth about six months ago. They had just landed a Chinese girl aged only ten years. The men were arrested and the girl was found at a disreputable place where she had been taken immediately after being landed. The perjurers and the girl were bailed out of jail by money furnished by the Six Companies and a lawyer was paid by the same organization. It is estimated that it cost the companies between five and six thousand dollars to land this girl and the companies stick to their own people to the last. They spare no expense to accomplish their ends and they are honest in carrying out the most immoral of their contracts."

THE GREAT CHINESE LOTTERY.

"How about the Chinese lottery?" I asked.

"This is one of the greatest sources of revenue for the companies. They run lotteries in every city and town in the United States, Canada, Mexico, British America and Alaska. The lottery is honest as far as the drawing is concerned. It is a Chinese affair and a man can win if he happens to mark the right number of spots on his ticket, ten thousand dollars for the first payment of twenty-five cents. A drawing is held twice a day, morning and evening, and it is estimated that the Six Companies make \$20,000 a day out of it. This lottery is corrupting San Francisco. The whites as well as the Chinese engage in it. The police have tried to break it up