

Great Falls Tribune (1901-1912)

October 1st, 1901

Smuggler of Opium Caught

Customs Department Arrests a Chinaman Who Has Been Wanted for a Long Time for Violation of the Laws of This Country and Canada

Mar Joe, a Chinaman wanted in many parts of the United States and Canada and for whom the authorities have been looking for the past two years, was arrested at 11 o'clock Sunday night by Chief Customs Inspector Ernest Ringwald, after an exciting chase, at Fort Benton.

Saturday Chief Ringwald received word that Joe was at Benton and he took the train for there. He was wanted at this office for bringing Chinamen and opium over the boundary line. However, since his arrest it has been learned that the Canadian authorities want him on a much more serious charge.

There is no more wily criminal than a Chinaman, and no matter how bad he may be, he always has those of his own nationality who are willing to take chances and help him out. All that was known of him here was that he was in the United States without any authority and that he was well educated in English.

As soon as Chief Ringwald arrived at Benton he hunted up the man wanted. He explained that he would like to see his papers, authorizing him to remain in the United States. Before this time every avenue of escape had been closed and so when Joe informed Mr. Ringwald that he had his papers at a restaurant and would produce them as soon as he had something to eat, the officer said all right. When the time came for the second interview a Chinaman, wearing the same clothes as had Joe and looking like Joe, every inch, came to see the officer. Mr. Ringwald was struck that there was something wrong and began to question the Chinaman. Oh, yes, he knew the officer and said the last time he had seen him was two months ago. That settled it with the inspector. He raised the Chinaman's hat and was at once convinced that the man before him was not Joe, the man whom he had interviewed in the afternoon. The second man had papers and it was the purpose to pass Joe through in this way.

The real Joe did not show up. However, Officer Ringwald appeared to be satisfied and said he was going to be satisfied and said he was going to his hotel and to bed. On the way to the hotel he noticed he was followed by a Chinaman and that was just what he wanted, so, taking off his coat at the hotel, where he could be seen on the outside, he settled down in the office.

Evidently the Chinaman who was doing the shadowing thought the matter was all settled and so reported to Joe and the friends where he was cached.

At 11 o'clock Mr. Ringwald, having an idea where the man he wanted was in hiding, asked a friend to take a walk with him. The two started out together and made their way toward the place where it was expected the Chinaman wanted would be found. The friend was asked to go to the front door and in a loud voice ask for mar Joe. Inspector Ringwald went to the back door of the shack and he got there none too soon. The friend did as requested and was at once invited in, while the assembled Chinamen began to tell him all about it. In the meantime there was a rustle in the rear of the room. The Chinamen talked long and loud, while Joe, from the rear, was making his escape. Out of the back door he rushed and over a six-foot fence like a dog, but as he dropped to the ground, into the arms of Inspector Ringwald he fell.

"I give up, I give up," he cried, and "I guess you will," was all that the inspector replied.

Joe was taken to the jail, where he was lodged for the night. Yesterday morning he was arraigned before United States Commissioner Jere Sullivan. Joe requested that the case be put over until Oct. 10, which was done. Inspector Ringwald returned to the city yesterday afternoon and will go back to Benton for the hearing. It is believed that in Joe one of the most important captures, that has been here for a long time, has been made.

October 2nd, 1901

Chinamen Want to Practice Medicine

Two Celestials, Graduates of Medical Schools Appear Before the State Board for Examination—One Applicant is Caught “Cribbing.”

The state board of medical examiners, with President John A. Sweat of Great Falls presiding, met today. There were 27 applicants for examination; among them two Chinaman. One of them, Wah Jean Lamb, a graduate of the medical department of the University of California. He can speak excellent English, and he was allowed to take the examination. The other, Ching Po, is a graduate of Montana Wesleyan university at Tantsan, China, and he is compelled to have the aid of an interpreter. It has not been decided whether he will be allowed to proceed.

1912

There Are No Chinese in Great Falls.

Every Chinaman in the Flowery Kingdom who does not know this becomes aware of the fact, I suppose, about the first thing after landing in the U.S. One week is the longest that any representative of the celestial empire has been able to cling to terra firma in this town, and his career wound up with a ducking in the Missouri. Other Chinamen have come here since with intentions of remaining, but have invariably found life in Great Falls too interesting.

‘I remember well the first Chinaman who came here, but I would not swear now whether his name was Ah Foo or Kling Ling. It was in the fall of 1886 when there were 400 or 500 people residing here. Kling had been operating a laundry at Sun River Crossing, twenty miles up the Sun River, but decided that Great Falls offered a more remunerative field. So one day he entered the town with nothing but little bundle over his shoulder and a determination to earn an honest living.’

‘Now there happened to be here at that time an old lady, a very worthy person, who earned a good living by washing the clothes of the young bachelors in town. When Kling began to cut into her business, the boys thought it was a shame and one morning they went to Kling and told him he had better move on. Kling did not see why, as he was doing very well here, and that evening a bunch of the boys called at his shack and bundled him and his belongings off to the river bank. Kling protested in a fine flow of ‘pidgin English’ but he was too frightened to resist.

‘He was placed in a rowboat in which, two of the boys went as an official escort across the river. It was the intention to land the Chinaman on the other bank from which spot he might journey in any direction he chose. But they had not got half way across the river when the young fellow at the oars said, ‘I’m tired of rowing’, and with that he gave the boat a sudden tip. The slant-eyed passenger went overboard before he had time to yell. When he struck the water, the Chinaman was above where the present railroad bridge crosses the river and also above the rapids. When he touched the ground again he was below the rapids and still on this side of the river.

‘He had not walked far along the shore before he met the clerk and recorder of Cascade County. The poor Chinaman in his dripping clothes was half frozen. When, with chattering

teeth, he told what had happened, the latter guided him to a little boarding house still standing on First Avenue South between Park Drive and Second Street, conducted by a young woman. She took pity on the Chinaman and allowed him to dry his clothes as he poured out his tale of woe.

‘Melican man come to me and telly me to go,’ he said. ‘Me go but Melican man take holy colly dlag me and dlop me over. Me been American nine years, but no Melican man ever fooly me that way before.’

‘Different here, John,’ answered the young woman.

‘The net morning the Chinaman was taken across the river by other arties and returned to Sun River Crossing. That broke up the Chinese laundry business for a while; since then every Chinaman who had been passing through the town has not as a rule dared to appear in the streets.’