

Missoula and Cedar Creek Pioneer, 1869-1872

Montana Pioneer, 1872-1873

Missoula, MT

September 22nd, 1870

A Chinese newspaper is now being published in Helena, says the Gazette. The Johns have also a post and express office of their own at that place.

September 22nd, 1870

Advent of Celestial Cyprians

Several almond-eyed damsels of the Chinese persuasion passed through town last week on their way to Cedar Creek. They were, we believe, the first Johnnesses who have yet made their unwelcome appearance on this side of the range and it were a consummation devoutly to be wished that they may be the last.

October 4th, 1870

Cedar Creek

The companies owning the ground included in the above numbers have erected over-shot wheels, and Chinese pumps, and are otherwise using all the modern appliances for successfully testing the ground.

November 10th, 1870

Down on Chinaman

We learn that a meeting of miners as held at Louiseville for the purpose of taking measures to drive off every Chinaman on Cedar Creek. The result of the deliberations will likely be known before long. We are no friend to Chinese labor, but since they were allowed to purchase ground on the Creek without being warned of the consequences; would it not be well to let those who are at present there remain, and pass resolutions to the effect that no more of the varmints be permitted in the camp?

November 17th, 1870

From Cedar Creek

The recent anti-Chinese meeting at Cedar Creek, we understand, resulted in no particular or active measures being taken in regard to coolie ownership of, or labor in, the mining ground of the vicinity. A resolution was introduced to the affect that Chinamen at present holding claims by purchase should be left in undisturbed possession of the same, but that white men hereafter were to be interdicted from selling ground to Chinese. There being no great number in favor of this measure, it was not adopted. The true state of the case seems to be that, although all classes to the locality took upon the Chinese with the same feelings of aversion, yet, the merchants and other interested parties to whom the Chinese are in debt for merchandise and mining claims, do not relish the idea of summary action against the latter. Under the advice of the head men of their respective companies, the coolies will have nothing to do with a piece of ground, unless they purchase it in a regular and strictly legal manner, obtaining a bill of sale for the same from the former claimants. They appear determined to rest the strength of Melican law to protect them, by hedging every transaction in which they engage with legal guarantee.

November 24th, 1870

The War in China

That our Celestial brethren are on the high road of progressive development none will dare to deny. A few years of civilized influence, a brief sojourn in the mountains and valleys of our country, is sufficient to make quite a different animal of the original Chinaman. He has not quite overcome his prejudices against our mode of dressing, but we see him already clad in a picturesque mixture of his past and our present costumes; he smokes a cigar on high occasions; he drinks whisky; he wears his queue in graceful circles around his superbly angular head; --yes, he even plays poker, and consequently, sometimes gets into a regular white man's row. All this was exemplified on Friday last, down in Frenchtown, by a little money difficulty, originating in the social game of draw poker, between a tall, powerful Chinaman, who answers to the name of Sam Lee, and a countryman of his, whom, for short, we will call Lam See. Sam expostulated with Lam in the sweetest sounds his flower, mother-tongue is capable of, and, having exhausted his vocabulary and patience, adopted a more convincing argument in the shape of bone and sinew. Little Lam See resisted as well as he could the rather severe pulverizing process he was subjected to. This induced Sam to end the matter in a more decided manner, and, with a knife, kept handy for such occasions, he inflicted a long and ugly-looking gash upon the little one's arm, knocked him down and kicked him out of the cabin. The row had by this time raised a respectable pandemonium among the other moon-eyed denizens of the town. The precious blood which slowly trickled down poor Lam's body cried loudly for revenge, and, with wrath in their bosoms, his friends, endeavored to storm the carefully blockaded door of Sam Lee's cabin. After a hastily-constructed ram had not effected a breach in the stronghold, the wounded victim recovered his strength as to load a shot-gun and stand prepared to give his enemy, a free ticket to the other world when his friends should succeed with the ram. Sam, however, foiled this piece of strategy by evacuating the cabin through some rat-hole or other, and ran towards the river at the top of his speed. He was closely pursued by about twenty of his loving compatriots, armed with clubs, knives and rocks, and we have never seen a more exciting race for life than that which Sam led his enemies. There was but one way left open for him to save his life, and the means of escape presented itself, not a moment too soon. He jumped boldly into a slough close by, and this brought his pursuers, and some dozen or so of dogs who had joined in the chase to a sudden halt. But the water and Sam did not agree, and to save himself from drowning, he managed to drag himself under the thick willow bushes which fringed the banks. After his pursuers departed, he emerged from the hiding place and came up to Missoula, where he arrived just in time to fall into the hands of a sheriff's deputy who had also been out hunting him. Notwithstanding his bold resistance to this fresh ill-luck, he was lodged in jail by his captor. Next morning he was taken to Frenchtown, found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, fined \$50 for the offence, and \$56 costs. He has now started in to pay off both sums, at the rate of \$2 per day in the county jail.

December 8th, 1870

The miners of Pioneer held a court-martial over a John Chinaman last week who had assaulted an old man residing there. Sentence, thirty lashes applied to parts unmentionable.

December 8th, 1870

Robbery and Assault of Chinawoman

Between the hours of 11 and 12 Sunday night last a so-called white man, whom nobody here knows or has ever seen, but who is said to have lately come from Cedar, entered a Mongolian *maison-de joi* on the north side of town and threatened to murder the inmates if they did not produce all the money in their possession for his appropriation. A moon-eyed female, who appears to have been the treasurer of the establishment, protested to the ruffian in the most heart-rending guttural that there is not a cent in the house.

Disregarding her frantic denials, the burglar gave her a blow on the forehead with a pair of brass knuckles, knocking her senseless on the floor of the room. He then studied her clothing and obtained the sum of \$37.25, with which he hastily made away. A series of unearthly yells announced his departure and brought local officer McDonald to the scene of the outrage. Although the latter arrived almost simultaneous with the first cries of the victim, no traces of the burglar could be discovered, owing to the prevalent darkness.

The woman, however, describes him as a 'longe pieced man; facee lilly white; hair hab got; no sabbe Melican talkee.'" From this we infer that the perpetrator who did the dastardly outrage was a tall foreigner or half-breed, wearing a goatee or mustache.

Though unremitting in his endeavors to ferret out the burglar, officer McDonald has as yet been unable to find a clue that will lead to his arrest.

February 15th, 1871

A Chinaman on His Travels

Jiu Lee, by name, a Chinaman by birth, and a 'washee man' by right of business, concluded the other day that he had made money enough to live on the fat of the land. Acting under this idea, behold him seated astride of a fiery, untamed, blind, cayuse, who threw himself into a first-class epileptic-fit, at every few steps, by the wheezing noise he made, and looking like a peripatetic advertisement in some bone-yard. Jiu having the possessory title to 'several' of Chases' pictures, bestrode the beast as happy as a Connecticut clam at high water. His ostensible errand was to Stevensville, for the purpose of investing in hen fruit. Arrived at his destination he strolled into a saloon, where a social game of 'freeze-out' was going on. Jiu having no fear of the precepts of Confucius before his mental vision, imagined here was his chance to make a pile. He, in the smiling innocence of life's young dream, thought that all Chinamen were smarter than Bill Nye, "and with a smile that was childlike and bland" he took a hand and bet on four queens. Bill raised Jiu; Jiu called Bill, and Bell went for that, "Heathen Chinese," with the story of the four kings, bound in pasteboard and Celestial greenbacks, "which the same I am free to maintain." After losing, the Chinaman deplored his luck thusly: "Me no shabbee; Melican man heap smart; he too muchee catch, him Billee Nyee, he catch him my six monthee washee; me no catch him sripes now, me likee Bille Nyee catch him hot stove; damn.

March 23rd, 1871

From Quartz Creek

From the mouth of the creek to no. 6 above discovery, in the lower district, the claims are nearly worked out and Celestial John has found a footing on 2, 3, 4, and 5.

May 11th, 1871

An Alleged Imposition

We have heard complaint made that some parties, whose names we are unable to learn, have repaired an old trail leading from Quartz Creek to the Mouth of Cedar, and are now taxing Chinese pedestrians 25 cents a head for traveling the same. We are told that if the poor wretches are without money to satisfy the demand, their blankets are appropriated by violence, on the part of the self-constituted toll-collectors, as satisfaction for the tax thus imposed. If such outrageous proceedings are really true, they should be immediately stopped, and our next Grand Jury called upon to investigate the matter. The citizens residing in the vicinity can at any time petition the County Commissioners for the creation of a road district in the locality mentioned. The provision of the road law would then compel the taxpayers to keep the highway, and all necessary bridges and ferries, in constant repair. All sorts of people, of all sorts of colors, would thus be enabled to travel cheaply and safely through that portion of the county referred to.

May 25th, 1871

John Martelle, recently tried in Deer Lodge City for shooting a Chinaman at Blackfoot, was acquitted of the charge at the former place on the 18th inst. The Independent says the verdict was received with approval by ninety-nine out of every hundred citizens of Deer Lodge county. Not being informed of the reason for the endorsement, that paper leaves the inference that the people of Deer Lodge approve of shooting Chinamen for a pastime.

May 25th, 1871

The *Northwest* says 100 Chinamen have come to Blackfoot this spring already. They are buying all the good ground they can get and paying higher prices than anybody else.

August 24th, 1871

The flume in German Gulch was robbed on the night of the 6th, last, it is supposed by Chinamen, to whom it had just been sold.

September 21st, 1871

A number of Celestials left on Friday last for Kootenai, Good riddance.

December 23rd, 1871

Once More

The Hon. Seth Bullock, member of the Council from Lewis and Clark, has introduced a bill regulating the tenure to mining property in the Territory....we take it for granted that the Chinese are to be excluded from its benefits. That its purport and object is to exclude all Chinamen from acquiring any right, title or interest in mineral lands, by discovery, possession, purchase or lease, within the limits of the Territory....Both parties are pledged to legislation upon this subject—legislation that shall place our placer mines beyond the reach of the Chinese.

January 6th, 1872

The Alien Bill

The bill introduced in the House by the Hon. W.W. Dixon of Deer Lodge, to prevent aliens from acquiring title to placer mining lands in the Territory, is a measure that calls for the support of every member of the Legislature. We have not been favored with a copy of this bill, but judging from a synopsis of its provisions as given in the *Montanian*, we are satisfied that it covers the entire ground, and at once and forever places our placer mines within the reach of those only whose rights in respect to this species of property—the public sentiment of the Territory demands—shall be protected to the exclusion of all others. Under the provisions of this bill, no one but the citizens of the United States or those who may become such by complying with the provisions of the naturalization laws, can acquire title or interest in placer mines. That the object of the bill is to place this species of property beyond the reach of the Chinese—not only to prevent them from acquiring title by discovery, possession, purchase, gift or lease, but in the end to compel them to abandon the Territory (for this will be the effect of the bill), will be apparent to any one who will take the trouble to examine its provisions. Mr. Dixon, who framed the bill, is a ripe lawyer, second to none in the Territory, for many years a resident of the State of Nevada, where he had ample opportunity to witness the baneful effects of Chinese emigration. For the past six years a resident of this Territory, and although devoting his entire time and energies to his profession, he has not failed to note the ‘blighting curse’ this Chinese ‘occupation’ has inflicted upon our Territory. Neither has he failed to note the growing discontent and the spirit of mob violence that everywhere pervades our mining communities, and that has recently cropped out in the hanging of Chinamen at Henderson, Pioneer and Helena. In the interest of humanity, order and law, Mr. Dixon takes the earliest opportunity to allay this feeling of discontent and to protect the Chinamen from mob violence, by introducing this bill, which protects the citizen and those who may become such in their ‘rightful heritage,’ and removes *the cause* which has led to mob violence and summary execution of Chinamen.

So long as Chinamen are allowed equal privileges with the citizen and those who may become such, in the enjoyment of profits and benefits, arising from the discovery of placer mines, in our Territory, so long will this spirit of mob violence pervade our mining communities, and, however, much this spirit may be deprecated by those of our people who see and feel but remotely its effects, and however, zealous and vigilant the courts and the officers of the law may be to put down this spirit, and enforce obedience to law and order, they will be utterly powerless to repress this spirit of mob violence, so long as the primary cause is permitted to exist.

This bill is general in its provisions; it applies alike to all aliens; it provides that in all prosecutions in the courts, against aliens holding mining claims for forfeiture to the Territory, such prosecutions may be dismissed, by such alien declaring his intentions to become a citizen of the United States, under the naturalization laws, and paying all costs that have accrued in such prosecution. This it seems to us is imposing but a slight burden on those who desire to reap the benefits of our placer mining lands. For why should they be protected in such benefits unless they are willing to impose upon themselves all the duties and responsibilities of the citizen?

We predict that the enactment of this law, will be followed by the quiet exodus from the Territory of our Chinese population, almost *en masse* and our mining communities and

the people of the Territory generally, will have just cause for congratulation, that in the present Legislature wisdom and determination has wrought for them, a bloodless solution of this 'vexed question.'

January 13th, 1872

John Chinaman in Trouble

Thursday night about 10 o'clock a Celestial rushed up to night-watchman Barmester, and informed him that a white man was trying to break into his house for the purpose of stealing a bottle of pickles, whereupon Billy informed him that he had better go home and give the man the pickles and stay proceedings in the case. He complied, and the trouble ended.

January 20th, 1872

Mrs. Ching Foo, a lady (?) from the Celestial Empire, contributed fifty dollars to the school fund last Wednesday. This was done at the request of his Hon. Judge Bancock, before whose court she was taken and found guilty of having feloniously, and with malice aforethought, appropriated a razor, the property of our townsman, MR. Welcome. Thirty-seven dollars and a half were added to the amount to liquidate the costs incurred, all of which was promptly paid and the prisoner discharged. Rather an expensive razor speculation.

July 6th, 1872

Daring Robbery

One of the most daring and successful robberies that has ever been perpetrated in this country was successfully accomplished at Forest City on Monday night last. The store of Mr. John Caplice, was entered by a window, the door opened and a small iron safe carried off. A son of Mr. Caplice and another man were sleeping in the store at the time, but the thieves succeeded in getting away with the booty without arousing either of them. The safe was taken about a half mile from the store where it was broken and \$4,000 in money taken from it. There was about \$300 in exchange and checks in the safe which were not taken. It is not known who the perpetrators are, but suspicion points strongly to some Chinamen who disappeared from the vicinity that night. Men have been scouring the country in every direction, but at this writing (Thursday) have found no trace of the burglars. It is sincerely hoped that they will be captured and brought to justice, and the money restored to its rightful owner. Mr. Caplice was absent from home at the time attending the Convention at Deer Lodge and did not receive the news of his loss until his arrival here on Wednesday evening on his way home.

July 20th, 1872

Mr. Horace Hyde, Radical candidate for County Commissioner, looked in at us on Monday. He tells us that Ed Warren and two other men were in pursuit of the Chinamen that are supposed to have robbed the safe of John Caplice, Forest City on the night of the 30th of June. Ed and his party intercepted the Chinamen on an old trail in the Cour d'Alene mountains on Wednesday or Thursday night of last week about 12 o'clock at night. The Chinamen refused to surrender, whereupon Warren and his men fired upon them wounding one of them severely but in the darkness of the night they all escaped into

the mountains. They followed them the next morning, trailing them by the blood. It is believed that the whole party, three in number, will be either killed or captured, as they are in a region of country from which escape is almost impossible. We earnestly hope that they will be captured and the money recovered.

July 27th, 1872

Robbers Captured

We learn from Monroe Fulkerson, of Stevensville, who has just returned from a flying visit to Cedar Creek, that, Pat McGraw, and Ed Warren returned to Forest City on Saturday evening last, having followed the Chinamen that robbed the safe of John Caplice on the 30 of June to the Cour d'Alene Mission on the west side of the Cour d'Alene range, where they overhauled them in camp. The Chinamen were ganged in washing their clothes at the time, and were in a state of nudity. As soon as they discovered their pursuers they fled to the Mountains leaving money, clothes and every thing behind them. One of the Chinamen grabbed his boots and attempted to carry them in his flight, but stumped his toe, and fell, or words to that effect. McGraw and party made no effort to capture the flying Chinamen or to bring them back, believing they would be less trouble for the people here after if they left them where they found them, or thereabouts. They recovered all of the stolen money and turned it over to Mr. Caplice's Son in Forest City. Mr. Caplice, with a small party has gone in the direction of Lewiston and Wall Walla with the hope of intercepting the robbers, before they reached Rail Road or River communications. Messrs. McGraw and Warren deserve the thanks of the community for the indomitable energy displayed in pursuing the robbers and recovering the stolen money, and will receive from Mr. Caplice a handsome reward for their timely and successful efforts. Everybody feels good over this happy termination of the affair. Even the subjects of the Burlingame treaty, will learn from the termination of this affair, that the rights of property can not be invaded with impunity.

January 18th, 1873

Sam Hang

Missoula City, M.T.

Does all Washing and Ironing

Entrusted to him on the shortest possible notice, and will carefully attend to all reasonable repairing of the clothes of his patrons.