

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATED MONDAY

The Chinese World Then Begins Its Annual Celebration--Portland Orientals Will Keep Open House for Days.

The Chinese New Year celebration will begin in Portland next Monday. The setting of the date is the outcome of astronomical discoveries of a period which antedates by many years the first published records of Confucius, when order was to a great extent brought out of the chaos of that period. The method of the race in computing time in the application to present and recent events is practically the same as that of other races.

The first of the year dates from the full moon in February, when its power is stronger than at any other time of the year and its effect on the tides is the greatest. In writing a letter today, the Chinaman would date it, year 29, month 13, day 30. The year 29, representing the time the present king, Kwong Sui, has occupied the throne. When he dies the year will start with his successor's reign. History is dated from a certain year in the government of a certain king, in a measure the same as occurring during the reign of Solomon or some other ruler. A record of the past is kept, and from this the student of history can learn. The average Chinaman is, however, not interested in the remote past, and leaves these researches for the scholars. Neither does he speculate about the events after this life. He lives in the present and cares for the past and future take care of themselves.

In the lunar reckoning of time the Chinese gain a month every three years. Their longest month is 30 days and most of them 29. This gives a chance to accumulate the extra month, and start off right in the calendar calculations. The extra month is designated as the second February, March or whatever month it falls on.

All over the world the natives of the Chinese empire are observing their New Year. In the aggregate 400,000,000 people have for one day put aside the routine duties of life, and devote the time to the extending of mutual felicitations. They that have given liberally to their less fortunate brothers, and the lowliest of the race are greeted with the same brotherly consideration as the man whose wealth entitles him to the wearing of the red tassel on the black cap. Everyone salutes with a gracious smile and wishes that "Happy will be the New Year, and plenty of money for all Chinese."

The interior of even the humblest houses, and the exterior of all places occupied by the children of the Flower Kingdom, are decorated with grotesque figures and dragons and fantastic creations in bright colors. Choice fruits, candles, nuts, edibles daintily prepared to please the tastes of the Chinese epicures, and rare wines and gin are temptingly displayed, where all may help themselves to the spread. All are welcome to partake, and no greater indignity can be heaped on the head of a Chinaman than to on this day offer to pay for the hospitality extended. On the first day all financial transactions are barred, and to spend money or to offer to pay a bill is an insult which can only be wiped out by a fight. On the last day of the celebration, which generally extends over a period of from ten to ten days, according to the desire of the individual, the individual to continue, everyone is expected to square all accounts and start in with the new year free from debt.

In the Lunar Year.
The exact significance of the Chinese New Year is shrouded in considerable mystery. It dates back thousands of years to the first astronomical discoveries by Chu Kong, the inventor of the compass. The new year starts with the new moon, and the date of the year, which is thought by the Chinese to be the appropriate period, in accordance with the lunar system, for the winding up of the year. The records show that this custom has been observed since the days of Confucius. Tradition has it that Chu Kong was the tutor of Confucius. Also that the latter took 72 of the brightest children of his time and educated them in all the arts and literature of the time. After this had been completed they held counsel and wrote the book of philosophy and wisdom that has lived for ages. Tradition exists concerning many of the events in the early history of the empire. The building of the great Chinese wall, where stones weighing hundreds of tons were placed in position, is thought to have been performed by a system that has never since been rediscovered. Some of the writings handed down, say that Chu Kong, the Solomon of the Orient, could, by the striking of a huge block of rock with a switch, cause it to place itself on the top of a wall.

Confucianism Philosophy.
In the main, the truths taught by Confucius are still followed by the race. The Confucianism philosophy was essentially compiled for the education of the student of the five cardinal principles. The relation of the people to the prince; of parent and child, husband and wife, brother and brother, friend and friend. In addition to this the religion also embraces the creed of Taoism and Buddhism. This applies wholly to the spiritual. Shang-ti represents the Supreme Ruler, and provides that the emperor must worship on behalf of the whole people. The dignities and high officials must worship the spirits of the ancestors represented in the wind, rivers, mountains and the fruits. The whole philosophy is mapped after the teachings of the ancient kings, Yoo and Shun, who ruled 2,300 years B. C. These wise old men are given credit to have, by force and virtue, removed evil, poverty and ignorance from the land. Kong sought to remedy the degeneracy of his time, and to secure for the people peace and prosperity by the inculcation of virtue and by the spread of learning.

Joss and Dragon.
The monstrous dragon, suggestive of the barbarity of a bygone age, is the national symbol, the same as the eagle of the American and the lion of the British. The dragon is the most powerful of creatures and the sign of force was adopted far back in an age when monsters that were fierce and terrible were believed to exist. It is the emblem of the whole kingdom to which subjects are pledged by the creed of Confucius. To this they are loyal no matter what internal dissensions they may have. On gala days it waves from every doorway and window, and a great variety of articles are decorated with the joss and dragon. But few people have a right conception of the joss. They think that the figures are a form of idolatry or heathen worship. The fact is that the carved idols represent some great man in war or letters of the past. The joss is an insult to that practiced by this nation in the erection of statues to heroes. They, however, have a composite figure which is a conception of both worldly and spiritual greatness and purity. This is held sacred and is the medium through which a deity is worshipped, and bears the same relation to the worship of a supreme being as the cross does in some creeds. The practice of placing food near a joss is a mark of respect and homage to the memory of the dead, and is performed in the same spirit as the placing of flowers by other races. By the Chinese food is considered more of a sacrifice than flowers, as its offering means a self-denial that is more appreciated by the spirit, than flowers or gifts which carry no element of personal sacrifice.

Rock, their eggs being larger than the general average.

If Oregon hens can keep up this record actors would make a wide difference when they came near the stage.

The general tone of the stage would be greatly elevated if the actors could be produced from these eggs in half the time that it takes from eggs of the present standard. In fact the possibility of gain by the attainment of the size of eggs is so great that it is deemed advisable for the poultry fanciers now in convention at the poultry show to take this matter up at once.

chase of the candy, the handwriting of Mrs. Botkin on the box and in the note and other facts were accumulated. Upon the evidence Mrs. Botkin was tried, convicted and sentenced to prison for life.

A new trial was obtained on a technicality. The date for the trial has been postponed innumerable times and a consequent advantage to the accused has resulted. Though the Delaware witnesses have signed their willingness to come their testimony will be greatly weakened by the death of ex-Congressman Pennington, who was one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution. There has also been a mixup in regard to the candy which indicates that it can no longer be used in evidence with any potency. In view of these facts it is generally regarded as probable that Mrs. Botkin may soon be a free woman.

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DOESN'T IT NICE

to know you can go house-hunting right at home?
All you've got to do is read
THE JOURNAL want ads.

RATES FOR Classified Ads

SITUATIONS WANTED—
(Male or Female): To the extent of 25 words **TWO TIMES FREE; over 25 words, 1-cent a word.**

FOR RENT, BOARD, ROOMS
and all other classifications—
5 cents per line, of 7 words, each insertion.

NOTICE

The undersigned will receive sealed bids for a stock of merchandise and store fixtures at Oregon City, Oregon, of the invoice price of about Ninety Thousand Dollars up to 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, February 18, 1904. The stock consists principally of gentlemen's clothing, shoes, hats, etc., and is located at 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, February 18, 1904. The stock consists principally of gentlemen's clothing, shoes, hats, etc., and is located at 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, February 18, 1904. The stock consists principally of gentlemen's clothing, shoes, hats, etc., and is located at 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, February 18, 1904.

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