

The Daily Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1885.

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KILLED BY WHITE MEN.

Murder of Chinese Hop Pickers Near Seattle.

The Seattle Chronicle of the 9th has an account of a murder of the Chinese hop pickers at Squak, King county, W. T., last Monday night. The first account of the affair was that Indians had done the shooting. It is evident that white men are the guilty parties.
The Chronicle says: Wold Bros. had entered into contract with Wah Chong & Co., of Seattle, for the services of 67 Chinamen to pick their hops. On Friday 37 of these pickers arrived from Seattle, and went into camp on Wold Bros' ranch. On Saturday 30 more Chinamen crossed over to the valley and had reached a point about one mile from the hop field when the Indians engaged in picking for Geo. W. Tibbits rushed into the lane ahead of the Chinamen, and though unarmed and harmless made such a demonstration as to frighten them back to Newcastle. They retraced their steps in hot haste, while the Indians laughed among themselves over the success of the ruse. This episode added fuel to the flame of objection which many of the white residents had to the employment of Chinese. It was bruited about that Wold Bros. had refused employment to white neighbors. Mr. Tibbits relates that a woman came weeping to his store with the tale that she and her family must suffer because Chinamen had been engaged to do the work they relied on for support. Many outrageous and unreasonable tales were doubtless set floating through the community, and the people became incensed against the Chinese. It was claimed by neighbors that there were pickers enough in the valley to handle the total 70-acre crop, and that the Chinese were not needed. The Chinese were to receive 90 cents per box, while the Indians were receiving but 75 cents, but the boxes used by Wold Bros. are one-fourth larger than the standard, and about equalized the price. On Sunday this anti-Chinese sentiment ran high, though there was as yet no talk of violence. On Monday, according to stories now related by several parties, there was incendiary talk such as "I will furnish the coffins for the last Chinese in the valley," and "Yes, and I'll furnish the ground to bury them in," etc., and on Monday night this feeling of enmity culminated in the attack upon the Chinese camp at half-past nine o'clock.
When the officers and reporters arrived at the Wold Bros' ranch they were guided at once to the scene of the affray. It was just across the orchard, some two hundred yards from the house, and on a little peninsula formed by a sharp bend in the creek. There was not more than one-half acre of ground in this peninsula, and upon it were placed sixteen "A" tents of the size usually found in Chinese camps, and they were arranged in a ragged semi-circle. Thirty-seven humans occupied these tents. Across the neck of the peninsula, and some twelve feet distant from the first tent, was the orchard fence, and it was across this fence that the assailants reached the camp. Their approach was so stealthy that none of the Chinamen who were lying in the tents, most of them asleep, were aware of it until the volley of death dealing shots which opened the assault. We are forced to take the story of surviving Chinese for an account of what followed. They say that the assailants numbered six or seven, were white men, and advanced from tent to tent, shooting down upon the sleeping occupants. One Chinaman described the volleys as being "alle same as Chinese new year," and the appearance of things at the camp rather bears him out in the statement. We counted seven shots in one tent, and the dead bodies testify that the bullets must have been flying thick. One body has four wounds, another three, and another one. The assailants stood close to each tent and fired upon and shot downward upon the recumbent occupants. As described by the Chinese, there was a sudden scattering immediately following the first volleys. The assaulted plunged over the creek banks for protection, and sought means of escape in that way. The assailants traversed the camp before retiring, and peered into the tents to see if any Chinamen were remaining. Several of the Chinamen testify that they heard a voice shouting through the firing: "Kill the sons of b---s!" and "Don't let any get away!" All of the Chinamen agree that their assailants were white men. It is the universal opinion of the people of Squak that the Indians had nothing to do with it. One Chinaman testifies that after the shooting was over the party assembled near the first tent, when some words passed between them, and one gave orders to fire the camp. The first tent was set on fire and burned, but the flames did not spread to the others. The assailants then left, passing northward through the orchard. As soon as they dared, some of the Chinamen returned to the camp, when they found Ying Sun and Ah Get, stark in death, while Fung Woo lay on the bank a few feet down moaning in pain. He died within fifteen minutes. A little further away were found three wounded Chinamen, one shot through the side, another through the hip and arm and another through the hip. It is believed that all three will recover. A special car

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will be attached to this afternoon's train from Newcastle to bring the three dead and three wounded to Seattle.
Shaving the reports of the Chinamen down to reasonableness, it is likely that forty shots were fired. Some tin ware which was perforated by the bullets shows that guns or pistols of different calibre were used. In several instances the guns were held so close to the tents as to powder burn the cloth and the skin about the wound of one of the dead was noticeably blackened. The dead Chinamen as they lay there in the rain with their gore about them, presented a ghastly sight. The bodies had not been cared for, as only two trembling members of the Chinese party had remained in the valley, and their fears kept them away from the scene of blood.
On Tuesday morning Justice of the Peace Geo. W. Tibbits summoned a jury and held an inquest upon the bodies of the dead. The testimony was unsatisfactory so far as it attempted to fasten the crime upon anybody. The Chinamen told their story very much as related above and nothing was developed warranting more than a suspicion as to who the perpetrators are. The verdict was as follows:
SQUAK, Sept. 8, 1885.
We, the coroner's jury summoned by George W. Tibbits, justice of the peace of Squak precinct, to hold an inquest on the bodies of three Chinamen—Ying Sun, Ah Yet and Fung Woo—killed on the farm of Wold Bros., find that the Chinamen came to their death by gunshot wounds inflicted by parties to us unknown.
A good many stories are afloat, and it is the intention of the officers to remain upon the scene until the affair is cleared of its mystery, if ever it can be. It is the present intention of Coroner Dawson to hold another inquest this afternoon, and to sift the testimony to the bottom. There is not much likelihood of ferreting out the perpetrators at the present time. Those of the people who are not in sympathy with the crime know nothing calculated to assist the officers. As a conclusion, we may say that cowardly murder has been committed. Decent men would hesitate to kill a litter of pups in the sneaking manner adopted by these Squak persons. There was no reasonable cause for the murders. When the Indians desired to rid themselves of the Chinese they went hunting, but unarmed, out into the road in broad daylight, and the Chinese left. But when the whites—the high-bred, humane, law-abiding, whites—wanted to accomplish the same result they did it by shooting down like dogs some helpless human beings. There would be the same logic in killing the horses which draw the plow because you felt it your inalienable right to hoe in that ground. We believe the better people of Squak will bitterly curse the day when the murder was used to accomplish what a lusty club or even the word of mouth would have secured as well. If the people had quietly marched the Chinamen out of the valley their presence was polluting we could not help but endorse them, but cold blooded murder can find no justification here.

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Dairymen's Meeting.
It has been decided by the executive board, to hold the next meeting of the Northwest Coast Dairy Association, on the state fair grounds, at Salem, Or., on Thursday, Sept. 24, 1885. The hour for the meeting will be announced on the grounds that day. We consider it a very good plan to hold the September quarterly meeting at the state fair, because it will give large numbers an opportunity to meet with the society who could not otherwise do so, and it should add a considerable number of members to the roll. This meeting should be the most interesting of the year, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance. It is also proposed to have a called meeting on or about October 15th, at Portland, during the progress of the fat stock show and the Mechanics' fair.

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