

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1885

THE NEW SLAVERY.

ABOUT three hundred of the Chinese recently expelled from Rock Springs, Wyoming, have been put to work under the protection of six companies of United States troops under Lieut.-Col. Chipman. The department is under the command of Gen. Howard, who is well known as a sentimentalist—who may be described as a man who gets his opinions rather from emotions and intuitions than from facts. It is not likely that he has had occasion to penetrate the disguise in which the coolie has been so industriously enveloped. He, perhaps, looks upon him as a suffering man and brother, who is the subject of an unreasonable prejudice. Most likely he has no idea of the invisible chain which binds the coolie slave, and extends all the way to his native land.

It will be admitted on all hands that it is due to the dignity of the United States that peace and order should be maintained in the territories, which are more directly under its control. Protection to life and property should be extended to all persons, desirable or not, within our borders. But the incident suggests some new phases of the Chinese question which politicians should carefully study.

The Chinese returned to the mines under the escort of United States troops are coolies held to contract and labor. They were hired in San Francisco and forwarded to the mines in question. They have been worked for less than the white miners have heretofore been receiving. Being without wives or families they can be worked for still lower figures. It is hopeless for white miners to compete with them. There is no alternative for them but to leave. They can be expelled in the same manner from every other industry in which they may engage. They cannot contend with the coolie on one hand and the United States troops on the other. There is nothing for them to do but to migrate. It cannot fail to be seen that this turn of events surrenders the territories to coolieism. It will be useless hereafter for the American workingman to proceed to these places. In the states where the federal government cannot interfere until it is invited they may have some show. But the territories are practically closed against them. Washington territory can, under this process, be wrested from the sturdy pioneers who have built it up and turned into a slave region. The same fate, under the new aspect of things, awaits all the other territories. They can be so transformed that none but slaveholders and slaves can occupy them.

The significant political fact is that the mailed hand of the United States has once more been bared in the territories against free labor. It is more, perhaps, than a coincidence that that position was last taken when James Buchanan was president of the United States. He used the military arm of the government to maintain slaveholders in Kansas. He acted apparently in defense of law and order. He protected slavery, which meant the expulsion of free labor. But his bayonets could not do it. Kansas was reclaimed to freedom in spite of all his efforts. Now the same question, but only in a slightly different aspect, has come up once more. The United States is again arrayed against free labor in the territories, and the troops appear on the scene in obedience to the orders of President Cleveland, who after an interval of twenty-four years, succeeded Mr. Buchanan. It is the man-dealers of Canton who have won the day now instead of the man-owners of Missouri. The policy in both cases is identical. The Rock Springs incident closes

the territories to American labor. None need go there any more, but those who are able to hire large gangs of coolies. The Americans who now labor with their hands in them must retire.

No one who can view these threatening possibilities with the eye of the statesman will take ground that the troops should be withdrawn and that the two different kinds of labor should be left to fight it out. In that case there would not be room for any doubt as to what would be the issue of the conflict. Peace manifestly should be maintained with all the force at the command of the government. But, on the other hand, the cause which threatens that peace should be removed. That cause is the constant influx of coolies in spite of the restriction sought to be placed on their coming. The territories of the United States can only be secured to free labor by the rigid exclusion of the new and insidious form of slavery. If this remedy is not employed the army of the United States, as now constituted, may not be large enough to uphold coolieism. It was not strong enough to suppress free labor in Kansas. On the contrary, in a brief space of time, it underwent a most extraordinary metamorphosis, and swelling into millions, bore no banners but those of freedom. It would be a curious repetition of history if President Cleveland should be borne down by causes identical with those which laid out Buchanan. Of course coolieism can never attain the gigantic proportions of the place of which it is seeking to take. It will be eliminated in much shorter time, but it is potent enough as it is, to destroy a half-dozen administrations.

AMERICAN EXPOSITIONS.

THERE is to be a flood of American expositions on the other side of the water next year.

Besides the permanent display of American manufactures and products to be opened in London, another of the same kind, or rather series of them, are to be inaugurated in Rome and the other principal cities of Italy. These are to be conducted under the auspices of the minister of agriculture, industry and commerce, the purpose being to give the Italians some idea of American products, so as to develop a trade between this continent and Italy. The American manufacturers are also invited by Germany and by other European powers to make displays in their permanent trade exhibitions.

The general interest in this continent thus shown by the European powers does not need much explanation. There is a great desire on their part just now to arrange closer relations with America, not with the United States alone, but with Mexico and Central and South America as well. They recognize the fact that the trade of these two continents is immensely large and profitable, and growing faster than that of any portion of the world. When one or two problems are solved, such as a transit route over the isthmus and the pacification and development of Central and South America, as Mexico has been pacified and developed, this growth will be far more rapid than it is to-day. The foreign trade of America constitutes about one-fourth of the total trade of the world to-day; it was only one-eighth thirty years ago; it will be one-half in another thirty years.

Europe appreciates this, and is holding out all manner of inducements to the countries of America. England, Italy, and Germany all want American exhibitions, and want to attract American trade. We will hold before these others an American exposition which will be devoted somewhat to these same purposes—to securing for the United States the trade of Latin America, to keep it at home instead of letting it fall into the hands of Europe. It is evident, in these expositions and from many

other facts, that there is to be a warm commercial fight for the trade of the Americans. The United States is the first in the field; and if it utilizes the North, Central, and South American exposition to good advantage, by showing our products and manufactures to all the countries south of us, and by learning something of their resources, we will secure an advantage which cannot be offset by these other expositions. It is a grand field to fight for, and on our victory here depends much of the future prosperity of the country. It is to be hoped that the people of the United States recognize this, and appreciate the very able arguments used by the management of the new exposition, showing how necessary it is to secure the trade, and how much can be done through the coming exposition.

COTTON is fully half a cent a pound lower than it probably would be but for the war on silver. A crop of 6,500,000 bales yields about 3,100,000,000 pounds, which at 10 1/2 cents per pound will have a value of \$327,500,000, and from which a fall of half a cent takes off \$15,500,000. This promises to be the tax which the cotton-growers of the south will have to pay for the war upon silver. New England leads in this war. She may well do it. It tends to enable her cotton-spinners to buy their cotton at whatever they may choose to pay, and to sell their goods at whatever they may choose to ask.

The Eugene City Register spells "negro" with two e's.

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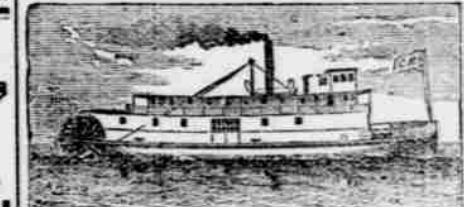
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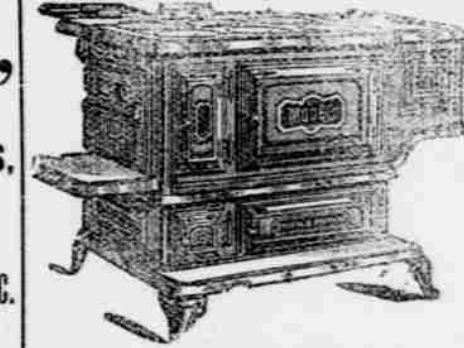
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