

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1885

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

THE employment of Chinese occupies present prominence here as elsewhere. In Astoria and on the lower Columbia the question assumes a different phase, a more important bearing than any other locality on the coast. For it is said that the canneries cannot run without Chinese labor: that with the canneries men it is not a question of choice, but of necessity: that they have either to employ Chinamen to put up the fish or close their canneries.

If this view of the case be accepted as correct it would be useless to agitate the matter as far as Astoria is concerned. The average Chinaman earns a dollar a day in the fishing season. There are about 2,000 Chinamen employed in Astoria and vicinity. It is argued that a white man could not be got to work for a dollar a day, or, if he agreed to do it, could not be got to do the work for a dollar a day that a Chinaman could or would.

If this be conceded, the matter simply amounts to this; no Chinamen, no canneries, no canneries, no industry, for without the canneries Astoria cannot present a very cheerful business outlook, and as the most of us are not here for our health, the future prosperity of the place is bound up in the success or failure of the salmon business.

This is why the Chinese question is a serious one to Astoria. It is a matter of business. It concerns every merchant, storekeeper, business man, and directly or indirectly, every citizen of the place.

As a business proposition THE ASTORIAN calls the attention of the community to the matter.

We are all pretty well agreed on one point, that the Chinese are unwelcome, that none of us want anything to do with them except as a necessity, that the country would be better off without them, that they are a foe to society, to civilization, Christianity, the family and all that. This has been said over and over again. It is all so. Repeating it can't make it any more truthful.

But they are here, and the question is what is best to do. Wild talk, inflammatory denunciation of everything and everybody will do no good. Frothing at the mouth and talking nonsense isn't going to help matters. The question is not what might be done under different circumstances, but what can be done, things being as they are.

THE ASTORIAN is of the opinion that wise policy, common prudence and the dictates of business success suggest that in general all who have the employment of men should not employ a Chinaman in any case where it is possible to employ a white man.

It believes that they should stretch a point in this matter and in every case possible should refuse employment to Chinese and give it to men of their own race even when it would seem that the employment of a white man would cost a few cents, or a few dollars more.

If there is any one thing that is settled it is that the Chinese must go off this coast. This is what THE ASTORIAN and a good many other newspapers on this coast want to see: that is what we are working for. We in Astoria and Oregon and Washington can never be truly prosperous till the cursed Chinese are gone and white men and white women have the control of the labor market in their hands.

But we do not expect to see this this year, nor next. This is going to be a long, weary fight. The Chinese have possession and must be dislodged. The way to dislodge them is by refusing to employ them. As long as we make

it an object for them to stay they will be with us. Whenever we cannot give them employment they will go. We must freeze them out. If anybody knows any other way, legally, we should be glad to hear from him. Violence won't do it. The man who advocates violence is doing all he can to defer the day when the Chinaman can be got along without. The man who makes a noise with his mouth and demonstrates his ignorance to the immediate knowledge of his hearers, is working for the Chinamen to stay here and is putting off the day when white men will be preferred.

We repeat it, that the way to make the Chinaman go is to refuse to employ him. That, with proper legislation, which we may reasonably expect from congress, is the only way to solve the vexatious problem. There is no glory in this thing, no notoriety in or out of the newspapers: no hurrah or impulse. It is a plain matter of business, of duty on the part of everyone, to see that a constant, persistent pressure be brought to bear to work the Chinamen out and the white man in.

We confess to share in the belief that the day may come when on this coast our boys and girls, our growing successors can step in to an Astoria cannery and get an honest day's work. If there is anything on God's green earth that will save the boys and girls of Oregon and keep them from going to perdition across lots, it is to give them something to do, some honest work. Idleness and folly will ruin any one, no matter how good the family or the natural bias. Labor, honest work, lie at the foundation of success in all communities. The man or woman who doesn't work isn't worth noticing. It is here that the Chinese come into competition with the good of the place.

How much better in every way to have a thousand young men and young women earning fair wages in the great salmon industry of the Columbia, than as it was and is and must be till patience and legislation can change matters. "But would you have us discharge the Chinamen or refuse to employ them and take our chances with a lot of green hands who would strike as soon as they thought they could get away with it?"

By no means. As things are it wouldn't be business to do that or to take the chances on being left with a lot of fish some day and no one to put it up. What we say is that whenever possible employ a white man or a white boy. If you can find room for three in your establishment put in three: if but for one, employ one; one is better than nothing.

Said a well informed man to us a few evenings ago, "I claim to know all about the salmon business. I was superintendent and general 'boss' of a large cannery here for several years. I got \$150 a month. My orders were 'employ no white man.' I obeyed instructions. What was the result? I took green Chinamen and showed them the business. The next year I was 'fired out,' and a Chinaman whom I had taught was put in my place—at \$40 a month."

THE ASTORIAN desires nothing but justice in this matter. It has no sympathy with demagogues on one hand nor Shylocks on the other. No one, canneryman or fisherman, made any money here last year. What we would like to see is common prosperity, a busy season and every honest worker doing well. Perhaps a little plain talk on this question now may save trouble farther on.

A CHICAGO drummer brought suit against a Milwaukee newspaper which had referred to him as a "maser." When a kind friend explained the meaning of the offensive word, he ordered his lawyer to withdraw the suit.

When the news got to Chicago, the drummer was forthwith offered a score of positions as traveler for wholesale millinery houses, and thus again was the power of the press vindicated.

BORN. In Astoria, Dec. 21st. to the wife of J. Arvid, a son.

DIED. In Astoria, Dec. 22, of typhoid fever, Jas. Melinna, a native of Nova Scotia, aged 28 years.

GRAND CONCERT AND MASQUERADE BALL! AT ROSS' OPERA HOUSE DECEMBER 31st, 1885.

BY OUSHING POST CORNET BAND. Concert From 8 to 9 O'clock. DANCING BEGINS AT 9 O'CLOCK.

M. STUJZINSKI, Finest Selection of Jewelry in Solid Gold and Silver.

Most Suitable Holiday Presents! Offered at Very Low Figures. The Quality of Every Article Guaranteed. Astoria and Seaside BAKERIES, ED. JACKSON, Proprietor.

Found. A TWENTY-FIVE-FOOT FISHING boat, painted white outside, pink inside. Inquire of G. A. NELSON, At Scandinavian Cannery.

CITY BOOK STORE, Come and See Us, A FULL STOCK. Awaits Your Inspection. Plush Goods, Christmas Cards, Toys, Fancy Goods, etc.

GRIFFIN & REED. Money to Loan ON APPROVED SECURITY. COUNTY Orders bought. Apply at the office of F. D. WINTON.

JUST WHAT YOU WANT! BUSINESS MEN. And others who want to keep an exact copy of correspondence, bills, etc., can be accommodated at

The Astorian Job Office. WE PRINT IN Copying Ink. Bills of Lading, Manifests, Letter and Note Heads, Memoranda. Low Rates as Ordinary Work.

"THE OLD CORNER," D. L. BECK & SONS, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Cannery & Fishermen's Supplies AND Staple and Fancy Groceries, Provisions, Goods Sold at Lowest Cash Price.

EMPIRE STORE. CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS and SHOES, DRY GOODS, FANCY GOODS. W. T. PARKER, Manager.

SHUTE & CO., FINE IMPORTED CIGARS. You can rely on getting a Good Cigar at Shute & Co.'s CIGAR AND TOBACCO STORE, Opposite D. L. Beck & Son's.

G. HANSEN OF THE DIAMOND PALACE! Has Just Received a Fine Stock of CHRISTMAS GOODS. Consisting of DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVER WARE, CLOCKS, SPECTACLES, ETC., Which he offers at Bedrock Prices. All Goods Warranted.

IN NEW QUARTERS! Having Consolidated My Business with the Astoria Furniture Co., I now offer the Largest and Most Complete Assortment of Fine and Plain Furniture, Bedding, Carpets, Oil Cloth, Window Shades, Pictures, Moulding, etc., At Portland Prices, and Invite a Call of Everybody in Want of Goods in My Line, Guaranteeing Satisfaction in Every Respect. CHAS. HEILBORN.

Holiday Announcement! CARL ADLER'S STOCK this season embraces a Much Larger Assortment and Greater Variety of Articles suitable for Holiday Gifts than he has ever offered before. His Assortment of Precious Stones, Watches, Silverware, Jewelry, Decorated China, Bronzes, Cut Glassware, Art Metal and Brass Work, Ivory and Leather Goods, Opera Glasses, Hall, Mantel, Traveling and Fancy Clocks is Very Complete and Attractive. His Importations being Direct and Constant, he presents the Latest Styles of American and Foreign Manufactures. His rule of Marking All Goods in Plain Figures and Low Prices, is Maintained. Carl Adler's Crystal Palace

Groceries Cheap for Cash! Tea, Tea, Tea. CASH F. L. P. CASH FRANK L. PARKER. H. B. PARKER, DEALER IN Hay, Oats, and Straw, Lime, Brick, Cement, Sand and Plaster. STEAMER CLARA PARKER Eban P. Parker, Master. JOHN A. MONTGOMERY, DEALER IN Tin, Sheet Iron, and Copper Ware. A general assortment of Household Goods. RANGE STOVES AND RANGES, THE BEST IN THE MARKET. Plumbing goods of all kinds on hand. Job work done in a workmanlike manner. Plumbing, Gas Fitting and Cannery Work attended to promptly On Reasonable Terms. Chenamus Street, Next to C. L. Parker's Store, Astoria, Oregon.

HOLIDAY GOODS! AT The New York Novelty Store! We have now on Exhibition THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE STOCK OF HOLIDAY GOODS and NOVELTIES Ever offered to the People of Astoria. Come One! Come All! The Public are Cordially invited to Call and Examine our Carefully Selected Stock, comprising articles for Old and Young alike and within the reach of all. Heretofore We have Always Led in Making Prices for Our Competitors, And now We Propose to Lead Where They Cannot Follow!! As Anything and Everything will be offered at The Lowest Possible Living Margin of Profit. NEW YORK NOVELTY STORE, Opposite the Parker House. Main Street, Astoria, Oregon.

United States Restaurant On Main street is now open, and AT ONCE TAKES THE LEAD In every particular it is the Finest fitted up —And— Best in the city. JEFF IS A Good Provider He cannot be beat on the coast. Meals 25c. BOARD \$20 per month PRIVATE ROOMS For Families OR PARTIES PAYS CASH, THAT SETTLES IT!