

CLASS SETS!

Workingmen of San Francisco (ORIGINAL)

We have met here in San Francisco to-night to raise our voice to you in warning of a great danger that seems to us imminent, and threatens our almost utter destruction as a prosperous community; and we beg of each and every citizen of the State, without distinction of political party, depending on their own labor for the support of themselves and families, to hear us and to take time to examine with the utmost care the reasons and the facts we will give for believing a great danger to be now confronting us....

The danger is, that while we have been sleeping in fancied security, believing that the tide of Mongolian immigration to our State had been checked and was in a fair way to be entirely stopped, our opponents, the pro-China wealthy men of the land, have been wide-awake and have succeeded in reviving the importation of this servile slave-labor to almost its former proportions. So that, now, hundreds and thousands of Mongolians are every week flocking into our State....

To-day every avenue to labor, of every sort, is crowded with Chinese slave labor worse than it was eight years ago. The boot, shoe, and cigar industries are almost entirely in their hands. In the manufacture of men's overalls and women's and children's underwear they run over three thousand sewing machines night and day. They monopolize nearly all the farming done to supply the market with all sorts of vegetables. This state of things brings about a terrible competition between our own people, who must live, if they live at all, in accord with American civilization, and the labor of a people, who live like what in fact they are, degraded serfs under masters who hold them in slavery. We should all understand that this state of things cannot be much longer endured.

Source: The document above is a speech to the workingmen of San Francisco on August 16, 1888.

Document A: List of Chinese Businesses Burned in Tacoma During Anti-Chinese Unrest, 1885

[In Chinese with handwritten translations] On side of document: These buildings all burned.
[Chinese indicates that some were burned and others lost.]

New Tacoma W.T. Near the wharf

Shue Hing Lung Store Quong Mon Chong Store Chong Lung Store Quong Sun Store

Yee Chong Vegetable Store Jam Kee Chong Laundry [sic] Sing Lee Family
Quong Wo Jai Butch[er] Shop Yuen Mone Family

Quong Chong Yuen Store

Mau Lung Store

Quon Lee Store

Yon Fong Low Chinese restaurant Mee Mone Low Chinese restaurant Wing Sing Laundry [sic]

Hop Lee Butch[er] Shop Tai Wo Tong Drug Store Yuen Wy Family
Up in town.

Sam Hing Store

Yee Lee Store

Mee Wah Laundry [sic]

Duck Lee Laundry

Jam Kee Laundry

Hong Lee Laundry

Quong Hing Vegetable Store Sun Chong Store

Wing Lee Laundry

Duck Kee Laundry

Tai Lee Laundry

Yuen Lee Laundry

Gam Kee Tailor Shop

Old Tacoma

Hong Sing Laundry

Burned - Bing Chong Laundry

Burned - Foo Tai Laundry

Hong Yuen Tong Boarding House for all Labor Working in mill...

[Source: Governor Squire files, Special Collections, University of Washington Library]

Document B: Affidavit of Mow Lung

United States of America, {Territory of Washington, County of King}
In the matter of the expulsion of Chinese from Tacoma, Pierce County Washington Territory.
Mow Lung, being first duly sworn on his oath deposes and saith:

My name is Mow Lung, I am a subject of the Chinese Empire, but now live in Victoria British Columbia, where I have lived since the expulsion of the Chinese from Tacoma. I came to Tacoma in the year 1875 and was engaged in business there continuously from that time until the Chinese were expelled from that city on the 3d day of November 1885. I was in Tacoma on the 3d day of November 1885, and saw the people of Tacoma drive the Chinese out from that place on that day. I was then engaged in selling Chinese merchandize [sic] in Tacoma.

Mow Lung is the name of my mercantile firm. My place of business was near the wharf in Tacoma, and I had been living and selling goods at that place for five years previous. I owned nine houses there, which I had built on land, which I had permission from the Northern Pacific Rail Road Co to occupy and for which I paid ground rent monthly at the rate of 20.00 per month. I let six of these houses to my tenants for which I was then receiving rent at the rate of 210.00 per month. I occupied three houses myself, having one house for my family residence, one for my store, and one for storage. On the 3d day of November at Tacoma I saw a mob of several hundred men on the street. They came to my store and kicked off the door. They took hold of the Chinese that were in these houses, some of whom were Chinese women, including my wife and pulled them out of the doors. The mob drove the Chinese off towards Lake View. Some persons in the mob pointed pistols at the Chinese but did not fire any pistols. The Mayor of Tacoma Mr. Weisbach was there at the time, with the mob. He came into my house and said I must go. This was Monday. Afterwards, that day, he said I might wait till Wednesday, and on Wednesday I saw the Prosecuting attorney, Mr. Campbell, and he said I might stay several days longer. The mob forcibly took some of my goods away on the 3d of November, I do not know the value of the goods they took from me November 3d.

On Thursday the 6th day of November 1885 my buildings were all burned and all my goods in them were destroyed. The fire took place about half past ten a.m. I was inside my office at the time the fire was started, in a Chinese Restaurant near my houses and the fire spread from that to my houses. I saw a good many white people there before the fire started. Many persons came to see it and some tried to keep the fire from burning the rail-road timbers by making connection with the water pipe by means of hose. I did not see any fire engines nor firemen on the ground at any time, and no one tried to put out the fire in my houses. My loss in goods at the times and from the causes I have herein stated was \$3,624.75, and my losses therefrom in buildings and wharf or piling is \$7,500.00. My losses therefore in uncollected accounts is \$8000.00. My losses in household furniture and clothing is \$800.00. Loss of Joss House, \$1,500.00. The entire amount of my loss by reason of the unlawful acts of the people of Tacoma in expelling the Chinese and in seizing and appropriating my goods, and in the burning of my houses furniture and clothing on the dates named, amounts to the sum of \$21,424.75.

Source: An official affidavits submitted to the federal government to determine a reparations claim to China for treaty violation. A total of forty affidavits were submitted, six of these from Chinese claimants and witnesses. From "Affidavits relating to the 'Expulsion at Tacoma Washington Territory' forwarded to the State Department, Washington D.D. July 1886."

Document C Poem by Brewerton, 1893

Poem by Col. G. Douglas Brewerton, in J. Hawthorne, *History of Washington*, vol. 2, 1893, p. 396, and reprinted in Hildebrand, *Straw Hats, Sandals, and Steel*, p. 59.

Filthy in food as birds of prey,
Or beastly dens in which they lay, Selfish and careless of their kind,
In morals famed for vulgar mind. Their sole ambition wealth to earn, Then to their native land
return,
And in that Flowery Kingdom find The graves of those they left behind. Tacoma fiercely drove
them forth, To them the terror of the North;
For 'velly well' those heathen know, 'Me sabe' Chinaman must go.

Source: Poem by Col. G. Douglas Brewerton (1820-1901) published in 1893.

Notes: Col. G. Douglas Brewerton (1820-1901), assisted Julian Hawthorne with the *History of Washington* (1893). This poem was printed at the beginning of the chapter on the anti-Chinese movement. Brewerton had been a journalist and published *The War in Kansas* in 1856. He wrote other books and became best known as a landscape painter.

“the flowery kingdom” was one of several names for China derived from a translation from the Chinese. Chinese merchant Pun Chi explained in his appeal to Congress, ca. 1860, “The central part of the earth is styled by its inhabitants the Middle Flowery Kingdom. That is the country of the Chinese.” [available at: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6618/>]

“velly well” and “me sabe” are typical imitations of the pidgin English and pronunciation attributed to Chinese at the time.