

AH WING'S MURDER.

KILLING OF A CHINESE AT POKER FLAT.

The Murderer Exonerated by a Coroner's Jury—H. J. Burns' Account of the Affair.

The circumstances of the murder of Ah Wing, a Chinese miner, at Poker Flat in Sierra county on June 8th as related to a CHRONICLE reporter yesterday by ex-United States Deputy H. J. Burns, show that the taking of human life in that section of the State is a very slight matter in the estimation of the people. Mr. Burns, who is now an inspector in the Health Department of this city, was sent to Poker Flat by Consul Bee to ascertain the particulars of the murder, which seemed to be a most mysterious one.

"When I got to Downieville, twenty miles from Poker Flat, a week after the murder," said Mr. Burns, "I found that the killing of Ah Wing had created very little excitement. It appears that Ah Wing located a claim at Poker Flat about ten years ago, and had it recorded by James Alexander, who is now living at San Jose. Alexander received for this service a one-half interest in the mine. Alexander worked the claim for a while and then sold one-half of his interest to a man named Goodall. The claim did not pay for years, but a short time ago a rich streak of mineral was found. Goodall and Ah Wing were working the claim at the time of the discovery, and the latter, fearing that he would not be honestly dealt with, insisted that he work with Goodall as a recognized partner. Goodall objected to this and told Ah Wing to work on another part of the lead. Ah Wing refused to do so, and Goodall traveled to Downieville and bought a Winchester rifle. He returned on the following day and, on his own testimony at the Coroner's inquest, fired eight shots into Ah Wing, killing him instantly. He then finished the job by throwing the body into the shaft hole, where it was found several days later by J. Z. Hoag in a putrifying state."

Mr. Burns further stated that at the inquest held on June 14th a verdict was rendered by the jury that the killing was justifiable. This verdict was reached in the face of Goodall's testimony that he had deliberately shot the Chinese eight times, and that the deceased was an inoffensive person.