

LEONG HANG TSANG

An Alleged Theft of \$300,000.

Chinatown's Sensational Episode.

The Chinese Consul-General in Trouble.

He May Be Recalled and Then Put to Death.

A Big Law Suit Against the Official in the United States Courts.

Leong Hang Tsang, the Chinese Consul-General, who is stationed in this city, is charged by his countrymen on the Pacific coast with all manner of crookedness. He is to be made defendant to-morrow in a suit for \$24,000 to be instituted in the United States Circuit Court by Moy Bock Hing, a Chinese contractor from Portland. The Chinese Consul-General arrived here three years ago from Canton. He had charge of the distribution of moneys paid by the United States Government to recompense the sufferers by riot and fire at Rock Springs, Seattle, Eureka, Truckee, Hodding and other points. The United States Government, by various acts of Congress, agreed to indemnify those Chinese in this country who suffered at the hands of mobs and rioters, and during the past three years something like \$100,000 has been appropriated for that purpose. The Chinese Consul-General, who had in charge the work of distributing this money, it is alleged, has paid over only \$100,000 to the proper persons, while something like \$300,000 remains unaccounted for. Prominent merchants in Chinatown make other serious charges against him, and complaint has been made to the Emperor of China of his actions. Should the money-making diplomat be recalled, and the charges be proved against him, the punishment for his crime will be nothing short of death, and a terrible death at that, for he will be beheaded by the ax of the chief executioner.

A CONTRACTOR'S SUIT.

Moy Bock Hing's Claim Against the Consul-General.

Some weeks ago Moy Bock Hing, a good-looking middle-aged Chinese, arrived here from Portland. He is a railroad contractor and builder, and employs thousands of Chinese in his railway camps up north. In November, 1885, in Washington Territory, 551 of Hing's laborers were compelled to flee by an angry mob, and loss of life and property resulted. Each man was afterward awarded an indemnity claim of \$50 by the Government. This money has never been paid over to the men, and their boys now seeks to recover the amount in the courts. On Tuesday, through his attorneys, Mastick, Becher & Mastick of 520 Montgomery street, Moy Bock Hing will commence suit in the United States District Court against Leong Hang Tsang, the Chinese Consul-General, for the amount said to be due to his 551 laborers. Each man filed a proper claim asking for reimbursement for his blanket and bedding. The claims were duly audited and allowed by Congress, the money turned over by the United States Government to Leong Hang Tsang, but the 551 laborers have not received their money.

ROCK SPRINGS CLAIMANTS.

Seventy Thousand Dollars for the Wyoming Riot.

After the terrible killing of Chinese at Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1886, the United States Government allowed \$117,738 for losses sustained by Chinese residents. There were some twenty-eight Chinese killed and some fifteen seriously injured in the riot, and for the friends of each the Government paid over \$200. The former Chinese Consul-General, who was succeeded by the present diplomat, paid all of the damage claims in full. The friends of the killed and injured, however, did not receive their money, and the amounts due them were turned over to the present Consul-General. Since ascending the throne in Chinatown Leong Hang Tsang has been a tyrannical sort of individual it is said, and has refused to satisfy the claims. In his native land no complaint can be entered against a public official, and the Chinese subjects are not even allowed to talk with one another as to the thefts or misdoings of men in office. However, in this country, matters are vastly different, and the suffering subjects of China can not only discuss their affairs, but can have redress in the courts when they are made the victims of robbery and plunder.

In addition to the amounts due from the Rock Springs and Washington Territory indemnity cases, \$140,000 was awarded three years ago for damages at Truckee, \$74,717 for similar losses at Eureka and \$8000 at Redding. Some of this money has been paid about 70 per cent of it—and it is said that the Chinese Consul-General retained 30 per cent for his fees. In all he has been the recipient of something like \$400,000, while it is alleged he has paid out to the victims about \$100,000. The remainder, the claimants say, he has refused to pay, consequently numerous suits will be commenced against him in the Federal courts. In addition to this complaints have been made and serious charges laid before the Emperor himself and the Chinese Government. In all probability the Consul-General will be recalled, and should the charges be substantiated his punishment will be death. Leading Chinese merchants who were interviewed by a CHRONICLE reporter said last night that, in their opinion, Leong Hang Tsang would be beheaded.

THE CONSUL'S DEFENSE.

He Claims to Have Paid Senators and Congressmen.

Leong Hang Tsang is a very shrewd individual, but not shrewd enough to realize that he is living in America instead of China. Colonel F. A. Bee, the Chinese Vice Consul, has argued in vain with him, and is thoroughly disgusted with his wrong doing. Only a few days ago the Consul-General and Colonel Bee had a terrible war of words in the Consulate building on Powell street. Since then Colonel Bee has not spent much of his time at the Chinese Consulate.

Leong Hang Tsang's friends claim in defense of his action, as regards retaining 30 per cent of the amounts paid out, that he used the money, amounting to about \$55,000 in paying lawyers,

bribing Congressmen and Senators, and for other expenses necessary to secure the indemnity from the United States Government.

About three months ago several hundred claimants from out of town placed their claims in the hands of one Kong Wee, who was to collect a total of \$30,000 from the Chinese Consul-General. It is charged that Kong Wee was not the most honest of men, and when a proposition was made him, it is said that he readily accepted. He was paid \$1000 in cash for his own use, the claimants say, and told to take the steamer the next day for China. He did so, the balance of \$16,000 remaining, presumably, in the hands of the Consul-General. When the claimants clamored for their money they were shown Kong Wee's receipt in full for the \$30,000.

Not long ago a Chinese who was entitled to \$2500 called at the consulate and humbly asked for his money. It was the duty of the Consul-General to notify all claimants that the money was ready, but he had failed to do so. When this particular victim asked for his money, he says that the Consul-General took his receipt, gave him just \$300 in cash, and sent him adrift.

An effort was made by a CHRONICLE reporter to interview Leong Hang Tsang last night, but the coolie at the door of the consulate said it was Sunday and no one could be admitted, consequently the Consul-General's defense could not be obtained.

AN ILL FEELING.

Chinese Merchants Call the Consul-General Names.

A CHRONICLE reporter called on a score of the leading merchants of Chinatown last night. They were a unit as regards their opinion of Leong Hang Tsang. Some of them were not over-communicative, saying that although the alleged thefts of the Consul-General were subject of common rumor on the streets of Chinatown, it was most too serious a matter to discuss in the newspapers. Even the editor of the Chinese newspaper, while



Leong Hang Tsang.

he admitted the facts, declined to become a party to making charges. He said he had suppressed the matter in his own newspaper.

Scarcely a man could be found in Chinatown last night who had a kind word to say for Leong Hang Tsang. Leading merchants called him bad names, accompanying their remarks by a volume of American swear words. The general opinion prevailed that the Consul-General would not only be recalled, but that he would be put to death as a punishment for his crime.

IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

The Chinese Troubles in Seattle.

The coming suit against the Chinese Consul-General in the United States District Court is the result of the Chinese troubles in Washington Territory in 1885. In Squak valley three laborers were killed and three injured. At Cone creek the Chinese quarters were burned. An anti-Chinese congress was held in Seattle and a public meeting was held in Tacoma. Committees were organized to expell all Chinese from the Territory. On November 3, 1885, in Tacoma, a mob of several hundred men compelled all the Chinese to leave the town without ceremony. The following day a large number of Chinese houses were destroyed by fire. During the next week the Chinese were removed from Sumner, Puyallup, Carbonado and Snohomish.

About four years ago the Chinese were driven out of Eureka after having killed a prominent citizen. All the Chinese houses were burned and two Chinese were killed. Similar action was taken against the Chinese at Truckee and Redding.

THE ROCK SPRINGS RIOT.

Graphic Account of the Wyoming Trouble.

On Wednesday, September 3, 1885, all the Chinese in Rock Springs, Wyo., to the number of about 600, were driven out of the camp by the white miners. The feeling against the coolies had been getting stronger all summer. The fact that the white laborers were seeking work in vain, while Chinese were being shipped in by the carload, strengthened the feeling against the Celestials. On Wednesday morning, when a white miner named Whitehouse started to work he found two Chinese occupying his room. He ordered them out, but they would not leave what they thought was their workroom. High words followed, then blows. The Chinese from other rooms went rushing in, as did the whites, and a terrible fight ensued, with picks, shovels, drills and needles for weapons. The Chinese were badly worsted, four being wounded and one killed. A number of white men were severely bruised and cut. An attempt was made to settle the matter, but the men were too excited. The whites went out, armed themselves with rifles, shotguns and revolvers, to protect themselves from the Chinese, they said, and started up town. After passing through Chinatown they left their guns behind them, marched down the main street and dispersed about noon.

In the mean time all was excitement in Chinatown. The dragon flag was hoisted as a warning, and the Chinese gathered in their quarters from all parts of the town, being gently urged by fragments of coal and brickbats from a crowd of boys. After dinner all of the saloons were closed and a majority of the men from all the mines gathered in the street. Most of them had firearms, although knives, hatchets and clubs were in the hands of some. It was finally decided that John must go then and there. A small army of seventy-five men, with as many stragglers, went down the track toward Chinatown. On the way they routed out a number of Chinese section men, who fled from Chinatown, followed by a few stray shots. The crowd then sent forward a committee of three to warn the Chinese to leave in an hour. Word was sent back that they would go, and very soon there was a running to and fro and getting of bundles that showed that John was preparing to move out. But the men grew impatient. They thought John was too slow in moving out and might be preparing to defend his position. In about half an hour an advance was made on the Chinese, with much shooting and shouting. The hint was sufficient. Without offering any resistance, the Chinese snatched up whatever they could lay their hands upon and started east on a run.

About forty houses in the Chinese quarter were burned; Chinese were chased out of nearly all the burning buildings. All the night long the sounds of rifle and revolver were heard, and the surrounding hills were lit by the glare of the burning houses. Joe Young, the Sheriff, went down from Green River to Rock Springs in the

evening, and guards were stationed throughout the town.

Thursday afternoon a passenger train arrived at Rock Springs bearing 200 armed soldiers. Closely following was a freight train loaded with 650 Chinese. They disembarked and hurried to the smoking ruins of their houses. They began digging in the cellars, and soon unearthed a large amount of money. Over \$600 in gold and silver were dug up from a single cellar. Some of the Chinese looked bold and defiant, while others were evidently fearful of being attacked, but no demonstration was made against them. The bodies of twenty-five of the victims of the riot were gathered and buried in a section of the burned district.

AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

The Government Investigates the Rock Springs Riot.

Ten days after the massacre, Cheng Tsao Ju, the Chinese Minister at Washington, instructed Consul F. A. Bee of this city by telegraph to proceed at once to Rock Springs, Wyo. T., and fully investigate the affair. Colonel Bee was accompanied by Huang Sih Chuen, Chinese Consul at New York, and Tsang Hoy, interpreter.

Three Government directors of the Union Pacific Railroad, E. P. Alexander, M. A. Hanna and James W. Savage, arrived in Rock Springs on September 15th to investigate the circumstances of the outbreak. The directors made the following report to Secretary Lamar:

"The undersigned, Government directors of the Union Pacific Railway, pursuant to law, report that we have made an investigation upon the spot into the alleged outrages recently occurring at this place. We find such a condition of affairs here as, in our opinion endangers the property of the road, jeopardizes the interests of the Government and calls for prompt interference. We, therefore, deem it important, that full authority should be given to the proper officers to afford ample assistance to the managers in their efforts to protect the property of the company and conduct the business of the road."

The Grand Jury of the county failed to find any indictments against any of the people engaged in the riot. On September 19th, some 559 of the Chinese laborers employed at Rock Springs, addressed a memorial to the Chinese Consul at New York, in which the riot was fully described, together with a list of killed and injured, and the loss sustained by each resident. The total value of the property destroyed was about \$147,000, this being an average of only \$300 to each Chinese resident who sundered at the hands of the rioters.

THE CHINESE CLAIMS.

Action of the Government in the Premises.

In November, 1885, two months after the riot at Rock Springs, Cheng Tsao Ju, the Chinese Minister at Washington addressed a long communication to Secretary Bayard. He reviewed in detail the events of September 3d at Rock Springs. He claimed that the attack upon the Chinese by the white miners was wholly unprovoked, and that for a period of twelve hours rioting, robbery and arson continued unrestrained. He urged in the name of the Emperor and Government of China that the guilty persons be punished and that the Chinese subjects be fully indemnified for all the losses and injuries sustained. He cited the fact of the United States having been paid in 1858 the sum of \$735,258 by the Chinese Government as indemnification for losses sustained by American citizens in China by mob violence and robbery.

Secretary Bayard did not reply to Cheng Tsao Ju's communication until February 18, 1886. In the mean time the matter had been carefully considered by the President, in whose annual message to Congress in December was fully recognized the responsibility of the United States Government to observe in letter and spirit the duty of friendship between the United States and China.

In March, 1886, President Cleveland sent to the Senate and House of Representatives a message relative to the Chinese treaty stipulation, which was duly referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed. In his message the President said: "While the United States Government is under no obligation, whether by the express terms of its treaties with China or the principles of international law, to indemnify these Chinese subjects for losses caused, and under the admitted circumstances, yet in view of the palpable and discreditable failure of the authorities of Wyoming Territory to bring to justice the guilty parties, or to assure to the sufferers an impartial forum in which to seek and obtain compensation for the losses which those subjects have incurred by a lack of police protection, the Executive may be induced to bring the matter to the benevolent consideration of the Congress, in order that that body in its high discretion may direct the bounty of the Government in aid of innocent and peaceful strangers, whose maltreatment has brought discredit upon the country."