

IMMIGRATION FILE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

No. 451

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

14-204

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION SERVICE,  
CHINESE BUREAU,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., October 29, 1903.

Mr. L. T. Plummer,  
Chinese Inspector in Charge,  
Chicago, Ill.

Sir:-

I have the honor to return herewith the papers in the case of Chin See, alleged merchant of Chicago applying for certification of his status in order to depart from the United States with the privilege of returning thereto, transmitted to this office under cover of your letter of the 23d instant.

It is noted from your communication acknowledged above that the applicant came to the United States in the year 1891 as a merchant, landing at San Francisco. These papers are returned to you in order that the exact date might be ascertained of that landing; the name of the boat on which he came; and the character of identification papers upon which he was landed.

As to your inquiry whether or not I consider the list of questions attached to the certificate under consideration as sufficient if properly answered, I would say that question 13 in the list can hardly be said to conform with the requirement of Treasury Decision 21039, which governs this class of applications. You will notice that the language of this decision is "It will not be enough to have witnesses testify that an applicant, for at least one year before his departure from the United States, was not engaged in



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the performance of any manual labor except such as was necessary in the conduct of his business as such merchant, but the testimony should show specifically the kind of work the Chinaman has done during the entire year, and, after detailing the character of such work, should say that he has not performed any other labor than that specifically set forth." This language calls for more positive answers than would be given to question 13, which commences with the words, "Are you satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt..... ."

As to whether it would be possible to give a positive answer to a question formulated upon the requirement of the above decision is not a question it seems to me for executive officers, but one strictly to be left with the Department.

I notice the statements made to you by the witnesses in this kind of cases were sworn to before a notary public. If you are an immigrant Inspector as well as Chinese Inspector, you have authority to administer the oath yourself, if I may be allowed to suggest.

Upon the completion of your investigation please return all papers to this office.

Respectfully,



Chinese Inspector in Charge.

C/T  
Encl.



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