

STATEMENT OF A REGISTERED CHINESE LABORER ABOUT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES WITH THE INTENTION OF RETURNING THERETO.

MADE in compliance with the treaty between the United States and China, concluded and signed March 17th, 1894, ratified December 8th, 1894, and proclaimed by the President of the United States December 8th, 1894, and the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to prohibit the coming into, and to regulate the residence within the United States, its Territories, and all territory under its jurisdiction, and the District of Columbia, of Chinese persons and persons of Chinese descent", approved April 29th, 1902, and the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury in conformity therewith.

I HEREBY DECLARE That I am a Chinese Laborer, duly registered as such under the Act of Congress approved November 3, 1893. My Certificate of Residence is attached to this Statement. It was issued to me by the Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Illinois, at Chicago in said district, March 19th, 1894; and it is numbered "5909".

HEREUNTO ANNEXED is a true photographic likeness of me now; and my PRESENT DESCRIPTION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

NAME:- YEE LEE.

AGE:- Forty-two (42) Years.

HEIGHT:- Five Feet, Five ^{three quarters} Inches (In Shoes). 5-3 ³/₄

RESIDENCE:- With "Sing Lung" Co., No. 309 Clark street, Chicago, Ill's.

OCCUPATION:- Laundryman.

EYES:- Dark Brown. COMPLEXION:- Dark. MARKS:- Pits About Face; Small Black Mole Right Side Lower Lip.

I CLAIM TO POSSESS THE PROPERTY AND DEBTS BELOW:

PROPERTY:- None, except the Debts below and Money in hand.

DEBTS:- Payable by one ^{Wong Dong,} ~~HOP FONG~~, Laundryman, Residing with the "Sing Lung" Company, at No. 309 South Clark street, Chicago, Illinois, for Money Loaned, the sum of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00).

Payable by one HOP LEE, Laundryman, Room 12, 3d Floor, No. 321 Clark street, Chicago, Illinois, for Money Loaned, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

Said Debts aggregate at least One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). They are unsettled and unascertained, and are not covered by promissory note or notes, or other evidence of ascertained liability.

I HEREBY AGREE That none of such Property and Debts shall be diverted, collected or transferred during my absence from the United States; and that the above-described property and Debts shall remain as they now exist until my return to the United States.

I intend to depart from the United States at the sub-port of Portal, North Dakota, ~~within~~ one month from the date hereof, or as soon hereafter as I may, and to return to the United States at the same sub-port of Portal, North Dakota, within twelve months thereafter.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request a Certificate of my right to return to the United States.

Dated, at Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., October 22, 1906.

Yee Lee

Subscribed and sworn to, by the above-named YEE LEE, at the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, this 22 day of October, A.D., nineteen hundred and six, before me.

L. P. Hume
Chinese & Immigrant Inspector.

Department of Commerce and Labor

See letter dated Nov. 5, 1906. For
in Lee Sing's file No. 447.

CHICAGO

October 29, 1906.

Case of		: L. T. Plummer,	Examining Inspector.
YEE	LEE,	: Wong Aloy,	Interpreter.
	Lab. Dep.	: D. Arthur Plumly,	Stenographer.

Applicant, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

Q What is your name?
A Yee Lee.
Q What is your full Chinese name?
A Yee Bak Lee.
Q What is your boyhood name?
A Yee Bak Lee is my boyhood name.
Q What is your marriage name?
A I am not married.
Q Is Yee Bak Lee the only name you have?
A Yes, sir, but Yee Lee is the name I am known by.
Q What is your business?
A I am not doing anything now, but I am a laundryman by trade.
Q Where was the last laundry that you owned?
A No. 6120 S. Halsted St., Chicago.
Q On what do you base your right to a return certificate?
A On the ground that I am registered, and also that people in this country owe me money.
Q Who owe you money?
A Hop Lee and Wong On.
Q How much does Wong On owe you?
A \$600.00.
Q What for?
A He told me he wanted it to send to China but he didn't tell me why.
Q When did the loan take place?
A K.S. 32, 1, 20.
Q What did he want of the money in China, did do you know?
A He didn't tell me.
Q How long have you known him?
A I have known him in Chicago a little over 6 years.
Q What is his business?
A All I know is that I met him in the store of Sing Lung & Co.
I don't know what his business is.
Q What has been his business since you have known him?
A All I know is that last year he has had a restaurant in Chicago.
Q Did he give you a note for the money?
A No.
Q Did you put it down in your book?
A No.
Q Why not?
A I can remember it very well; that is why I didn't put it in my book.
Q Didn't he have any money of his own at the time he borrowed this money of you?
A I don't believe he had any or he wouldn't have asked me for the loan.

- Q Where did the loan take place?
A At the store of Sing Lung & Co., No. 309 S. Clark St., Chicago.
Q How do you expect to ever get this money back if you don't know what this man's business is?
A He is my good friend; that is why I trust him.
Q If he is a good friend of yours why is it that you don't know what his business is?
A Before he opened this restaurant in Chinatown he was always down in Chinatown on Sundays and that was the only time I saw him.
Q Was he working at that time?
A I only knew him on Sundays. I don't think he worked on Sundays.
Q Where did you get the money that you loaned him?
A I always kept a laundry and I deposited my money at Sing Lung & Co., and I got this money from Sing Lung and gave it to him.
Q What is Hop Lee's name?
A His Chinese name is Tuey Ging Thuey.
Q How long have you known him?
A I knew him since last year.
Q Haven't you known him more than a year?
A It is true I have only known him since last year. I knew him in China before but I only knew him in Chicago since last year.
Q When did this loan take place?
A K.S. 31, 10, 1.
Q How much did you lend him?
A He borrowed \$500.00 from me.
Q What did he want of it?
A He told me he wanted it to send to China.
Q Didn't he have any money of his own?
A If he had had any he wouldn't have borrowed from me.
Q Did he give you any note for this money?
A No.
Q Did you put it down in your book?
A No.
Q How does it happen that you would lend a man as much money as this without anything to show for it?
A I remember it; that is why I didn't put it down in my book.
Q But when it comes to making these men pay you, what have you got to show that they owe you?
A They told me that when I come back from China they will pay me.
Q What is Hop Lee's business?
A I know that he sometimes works in laundries for other people.
Q Are both of these debts honest, true debts, or are they only made up to enable you to go to China?
A They are true debts. I really loaned this money to these men.
Q You understand, don't you, that you could be sent to prison if these debts are not true debts and you swear that they are?
A I understand that.
Q Then are you still willing to swear that these debts are both genuine debts?
A Yes, sir.
Q Suppose when you come back from China these men won't pay you. What will you do?
A They all agreed to pay me.
Q But what will you do if they do not pay you?
A I have to trust to their honesty.
Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy? A Yes, sir.

Applicant signed his testimony in English:

(Signed) YEE LEE,	Applicant.
(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER,	Inspector.
(Signed) WONG ALOY,	Interpreter.

Witness, WONG ON, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

- Q What is your name?
A Wong Don.
Q What is your full Chinese name?
A Wong Lung Don.
Q What other name have you?
A My marriage name is Wong Sing Lup.
Q Are you registered?
A Yes. (Produces certificate No. 5805, issued to Wong Ding, at Chicago, March 12, 1894.)
Q Do you know this man (showing photograph of applicant)?
A Yes, I know him; his name is Yee Lee.
Q How long have you known him?
A I have known him 5 or 6 years.
Q Here in Chicago?
A Yes, sir.
Q What is your business?
A My trade has been laundryman. I formerly had a laundry of my own and since then I have worked for somebody else.
Q When did you last own a laundry?
A A little over two years ago.
Q Do you owe Yee Lee any money?
A Yes, sir; \$600.00.
Q What do you owe him that money for?
A I borrowed it to send to China.
Q What did you want of it in China?
A To build a house with.
Q When did you borrow this money?
A If my memory is right it was this year, K.S. 32, 1, 20.
Q Did you put it down in your book?
A No, sir, I have not.
Q Then how do you expect to trust your memory a year from now?
A He trusted me and I borrowed the money of him. I will certainly remember that.
Q How much money did you send to China that time?
A When I borrowed this money from this man I sent \$1,000.00 Mexican to China and afterwards I sent \$500.00 more.
Q Where did you get this \$500.00 that you sent afterwards?
A When I sent this \$1000.00 to China the first time I had some left over, and afterwards I had some little money of my own and got it together and sent \$500.00 more to China.
Q Why did you borrow more than you needed the first time to send to China?
A In the first place I intended to send \$1500.00 Mexican to China, and afterwards when I borrowed \$600.00 I saw I didn't have enough and so sent \$1,000.00 Mexican instead; and afterwards I got some more together and sent \$500.00 more.
Q You owned a restaurant on Clark St. a while ago, didn't you?
A Yes, that is right. I closed it up and you (speaking to the Interpreter) know it, too.
Q When did you close it up?
A I can not remember exactly what month. I think it was the first or second month this year, Chinese.
Q Did you lose money in that restaurant or make any?
A I lost money.
Q When you closed up that restaurant did you owe any money or did you lose your own money?
A Most of it was my own money, but some of it I borrowed and I lost it.

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- Q Why would you borrow money on top of your losses in that restaurant to send to China?
- A I had not closed the restaurant then.
- Q When do you think you will be able to pay this man?
- A I can't pay him now, but I am looking for work and I will pay him when he comes back.
- Q Is this a true debt or have you made it up?
- A It is a true debt.
- Q Are you a gambler? Is that your business?
- A No.
- Q Would you be willing for me to go into court and swear to what you have said to me if this man should sue you after he comes back?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q Do you know that you might be sent to prison if this debt is not a true debt and you swear that it is?
- A I understand that.
- Q Are you willing, then, knowing that, to swear that this is a true debt and that you actually owe him this \$600.00 as you state?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q You are?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy?
- A Yes, sir.

Witness signed his testimony in English:

(Signed) WONG DING, Witness.
(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.
(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

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Witness, TUEY GING THUEY, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

- Q What is your name?
A Tuey Ging Thuey.
Q Are you registered?
A Yes. (Produces certificate No. 15510 issued to Hop Lee, Helena, Montana, March 14, 1894.)
Q What is your business?
A Laundryman.
Q Do you own a laundry?
A I have no laundry. I work for somebody else when I can.
Q When did you last own a laundry?
A I used to own a laundry at No. 401 57th St., but I sold it out.
Q When?
A Five or six months ago.
Q Do you know this man (showing photograph of applicant)?
A Yes; his name is Yee Lee.
Q How long have you known him?
A Going on two years.
Q Did you know him in China?
A Yes, we lived close together in China.
Q Do you owe him any money?
A I owe him \$500.00.
Q What for?
A I have known him a long time. I borrowed this money to send to China to build a house with.
Q How much money did you send to China at that time?
A I sent all I borrowed of him.
Q Did you have any money of your own at that time?
A I had a little money of my own but I had to borrow this to send to China.
Q Was it before or after you sold your laundry that you borrowed ~~xxi~~ this money?
A Before I sold it.
Q When did this loan take place?
A K.S. 31, 10, 1.
Q Then when did you sell your laundry?
A I sold it six months ago.
Q Why didn't you have money of your own to send to China after you sold your laundry? Why was it necessary to borrow this money?
A I had bought a half interest in that laundry on credit, and afterwards I found that I couldn't make any money there, and so I turned my interest in the laundry back to the former owner, and so I didn't get any money out of it myself.
Q How much money have you sent to China in the past year or two?
A Altogether I sent \$1200.00 Mexican to China.
Q What did you send that money to China for?
A To help to build a house and ~~xx~~ also to help my son get married.
Q What are you doing for a living now?
A I work in a laundry wherever I can get a job.
Q When do you think you will be able to repay Yee Lee?
A I can not pay him now but I will try to pay him when he comes back to this country.
Q Is this a true debt? Do you actually owe this man the amount of money you say you do?
A It is a true debt.

- Q Don't you think it is pretty poor business for him to lend you so much money without any security on your part, or anything to show for it except your word and his?
- A It is not poor business. All he cares for is for me to pay him back when he returns. If he is good enough to let me have the money I will be good enough to pay him.
- Q Your intentions may be good, but what certainty is there that you will be able to pay him back when he returns?
- A I expect to get work and I will get a share in the loan association and when he comes back I will get that and pay him.
- Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy?
- A Yes, sir.

Witness signed his testimony in Chinese:

(Signed) TUEY GING THUEY, Witness.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.