

SEATTLE'S CHINESE ARE IDEAL CITIZENS

Progressive and Intelligent,
They Have Proved Fine
Business Men.

KING ST. MODEL DISTRICT

City Has Chinese Money Kings
Among Oriental
Population.

By JAMES C. BURLOCK.

When the Chinese exclusion act was made a law and the "yellow peril of the working man" was told that he was no more welcome in the confines of the United States some one may have lost, but they are not to be found on this side of the Pacific ocean. The "American laboring man" was protected from future cuts in wages, and John Chinaman was unconsciously benefited. That



Chiu Keay
Secretary to Chinese Consul.

is, the John Chinamen who were here at the time were benefited to an extent they little realized at that time.

Chinese in More Ways Than One.

In the days when "coolie labor" was a curse to the white man, the days before the Chinese exclusion law was in force, the days when the incoming boats from the Orient unloaded thousands daily, Chinese or the "Chinks," as they are and were called, were looked upon with the greatest contempt.

But like all things that are the more highly prized on account of scarcity, the Chinese inhabitants of the Pacific coast are today looked upon as one race who have a particular niche in society to fill and this, or more properly speaking, the several different niches that they are the best suited to occupy are going unfilled in many instances, or are paying the despised "Chink" more money in a month to fill his niche than his earnings in a year before the "no land" law, as the Chinese call the act, was passed.

The exclusion of the rank and file of the Chinese immigrants caused a scarcity of unskilled and skilled Oriental laborers that soon became apparent in all parts of the United States, caused the wage scale, which up to this time had been ridiculously low, to soar skyward, with the result that at the present time it is next to impossible to secure a good Chinese servant at any price within reason. Like his white brother, John was quick to take advantage of a "short market" and put his prices up accordingly. As a servant in a family he is supreme, and is eagerly sought after by hotel and restaurant keepers as a cook.

There are, properly speaking, five classes of Chinese—the "coolie," the servant, the farmer, the laundryman and the up-to-date Chinese business man. Of the coolie class there are few that are employed now in the large cities, the larger portion within the confines of the United States being employed in the canneries of Alaska. Here he is at his best as a skilled laborer, doing practically all of the work of the cannery. The Alaska canneries are largely at the mercy of the Chinese labor contractors, as all of the work of preparing the fish for the cans is done by coolie help. They are more skilled than any machinery yet invented, and as fast as human beings can be. The fishing is done by the native Indians, but the actual preparing of the salmon is left to the expert hands of John Chinaman.

As a farmer, either on a large or small scale, there is no race on earth that equals the China boy. He is a



Mar Dong
Young Chinese Merchant Prominent in
King Street Circles.

born gardener and with a little coaching and experience soon develops into an orchard or staple products baron. The Pacific coast, and particularly the southern part of California, is to a great extent dependent upon the efforts and successes of her "excluded" Chinese.

And the lessons taught by the humble and heathen John are peculiarly progressive and modern, in that they apply as much to the business operation of the farm as to the art of securing a heavy yield to a small acreage.

Take the Chinese company farms around Seattle, for instance. Here the common Chinese laborer has as much opportunity to become an independent farmer and ultimately a capitalist as have his brothers before him, who have started and prospered in the same manner. This system of the Chinese companies attracts by its very simplicity, which makes it attractive to the simple-minded field hand.

Another notable feature of the company farming system, which the Chinese have brought to such a flower of perfection, is the accounting end of the



CHIEN GEE GOW
Chinese Jeweler, of King Street

business. Every Chinese camp shack, no matter how dilapidated it may look to the Caucasian visitor, has a set of farm books that are kept with an accuracy and wealth of detail that would shame the average large American farmer, kept with a brush pencil, and looking like a decorated Oriental piece of bric-a-brac, the book of records misses nothing, and for very wealth of detail excels the usual bank cash transaction book.

Then, too, the follower of Confucius has another side that makes him a living wonder to all who come in contact with him. This is most apparent in the farmer, and, by some who have taken careful observation claim that it is a sixth sense, and by which he forecasts in his own mind the future of the produce market, knowing apparently what the season is going to be short on and from which he plans accordingly in planting.

Again, he seems to be able to force or retard his plants at will and as a consequence is always found well stocked with whatever vegetables or grain brings the highest price and at the most advantageous time.

That the Chinese are far-sighted as business men and well able to care for themselves in a financial crisis is well known to all who have had dealings with them.

As one local broker said: "The Chinese have an uncanny knowledge of market futures, and seem to be able to tell to the minute when to hold or sell