

# THE ANTI-CHINESE CRUSADE AT PUGET SOUND.

Persecution of Chinese at Puget Sound has reached a stage where it is sure to attract national attention. In and around Seattle and Tacoma there is a class of men, vicious, violent and lawless, who are bringing disgrace upon the community by their outrages upon the Chinese, and the community is suffering in reputation, from its own indifference to their outrageous conduct. Nay more; its industry and business will speedily suffer, too. If a people cannot be moved by a regard for justice and humanity to suppress violence and punish murder, they ought at least to see that when they permit such outrages to pass into an organized system and continue from week to week, with the avowed object of driving out a class of working people who are here under treaty and entitled to the protection of the laws, they are permitting a blow to be struck at the very foundations of their industrial prosperity.

Several Chinese have been murdered already; others have been assaulted, grievously wounded or otherwise maltreated, and an organization of lawless whites is permitted to form, with the avowed purpose of driving all Chinese out of the country, or of killing them if they remain. The proceedings reported at Seattle are extraordinary. They could take place only in a frontier community, governed like a mining camp, under a very primitive civilization. In saying this we do not mean the words to imply that the people there are all, or nearly all, of this description. On the contrary, we know well they are not. But in this matter the lawless and violent element has taken the lead; it has the sympathy to some extent of others who do not join in the excesses, and even perhaps deplore them; while others still, who recognize fully the outrageous character of the whole lawless and wicked proceeding, who deprecate it, and are ashamed of it, are intimidated, as is usual in such cases, by the aggressive action of the violent class, and are silent, partly because they don't like to participate in turbulent proceedings, and partly because they don't know just what to do.

Of course, the well known and responsible citizens of the Puget Sound region are not taking part in this lawlessness and outrage. The names of those who participated in the meeting at Seattle which warned the Chinese to leave, or threatened them with butchery if they did not, are men of no note or character. It is said that the mayor of Tacoma presided. It is a shame to Tacoma that she should have chosen such a man to be her mayor. Suppose now that the Chinese do not go; will this mayor of Tacoma and his fellow-ruffians carry out their implied threat of wholesale butchery? The responsible citizens of Seattle and Tacoma owe it to themselves and to the credit of their cities to call counter meetings at once, for the purpose of utterly condemning this ruffianly conduct, with its suggestions of violence and horror.

Then, too, this is a situation that ought to receive the instant attention of the president of the United States. The Chinese are ordered to leave, under menace of a common massacre. The murders that have already been committed are precautionary of a general danger. The Fourteenth Infantry, now at Vancouver, ought to be ordered by the president to Puget Sound, without a day's delay. Display of force is the only argument that can affect those who move on the low moral plane occupied by men capable of this outrageous action. If the killing is to go on it ought at least to be distributed, in due part, among those who invoke it.

The press at Puget sound is largely responsible for the present situation. It has not spoken with promptitude and force against this demonstration of ruffianly madness. It has not appealed to the best public sentiment to rise up in condemnation of disorder, injustice and violence. A press that is not strong enough to be courageous, or courageous enough to be strong, can render a community no real service.

It is absurd and false to say there is a general sentiment at Puget Sound against employment of Chinese labor. If such sentiment really existed the Chinese would not be there, because they would find no employment. They are here in response to a demand for labor for development of the country. They work not only at the coal mines and sawmills, but in numerous small employments. People of small means, themselves working people, employ them to do many things for which it is impossible to pay high wages. The ruffians who persecute the Chinese therefore do not represent the industrious, law-abiding and worthy class of the working white population. There, as in many other places, the leading spirits in turbulence and outrage belong to the vicious, liquor-guzzling, unthrifty class, who want to work as little as possible, and who insist on conditions that will enable them by working perhaps one or two days in the week, to loaf around the liquor shops or spend the remainder of their time otherwise in idleness, or worse. No doubt the Chinese are in the way of this class of men. But to imagine that they can be in the way of any honest, industrious and intelligent citizen, in a region like that of Puget Sound, where the resources offered by nature are as yet almost untouched, and where free land in unlimited quantities waits him who is willing to take his subsistence from it, would be to offer an insult to the most ordinary intelligence.