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CHINESE LABOR IN AMERICA.

The United States may as well look the subject of Chinese labor squarely in the face, and make timely provision to absorb and utilize this new accession to our population.

Some are bitterly opposed to their coming. This opposition is based upon groundless prejudice. The policy of the Government has hitherto opened the doors of immigration to people of every race and clime. Shall we now close it upon the Mongolian, and if so, why?

We have hitherto spoken of the intelligence, industry, frugality, and order-loving disposition of the Chinese. That our views in this regard are correct, is proved by the testimony of the bitterest opponents to their immigration. Thus the Hon. Eugene Casserly, in his recent speech at San Francisco, says:

It is the duty of every class of men to unite to prevent the introduction of the Chinese. If they come in contact only with the common laborers to-day, to-morrow they will be in competition with the mason, the bricklayer, the carpenter, and the machinist, for they are the most frugal, industrious, and ingenious people on the face of the earth. Look at the splendid granite building occupied by Wells, Fargo & Co., the stone of which was cut in China, and was built by Chinamen. Men who can do such work for less than half the price paid white mechanics were an injury to the State, and he would unite with any party that would use energetic means to keep them out of the country.

Now it may be the duty of American citizens to drive out and to keep out the Chinese, but, as yet, we have only Mr. Casserly's assertions, and those of others like him to prove it.

It would seem that John Chinaman has the principal qualities that have made the bee and the ant famous among insects; and which induced the wise Solomon to select the ant as a fit instructor for the indolent. If industry, frugality, ingenuity, and thrift are bad qualifications for citizenship, let us clear the workers out of the hive, and cultivate drones. The Indian is the reverse of the Chinaman in these qualities, and it is well known what kind of a citizen he makes.

But while we assert that the Chinese character possesses, in an eminent degree the qualities we have ever been taught to regard as the elements of citizenship, we do not see how it is possible, with any show of consistency, to attempt, either by persecution or legislation, to shut our doors against them. One thing is certain, if they do not come here, they must go elsewhere. The tide of population has been so long dammed up within the limits of the Celestial Empire that it must soon burst its bounds. But let us not condemn the Chinese without good reason. Let us not imitate the conduct of the wolf in the fable, and accuse him of soiling the stream when it flows from us toward him. Let us not make his virtues a plea against him. A land that is constantly importing vice by wholesale must stand in need of a little virtue. Our Atlantic cities are deluged with the very offscourings of humanity. We see in the Mongolian tide setting in upon our Western shores, an addition to our population, which will tend to neutralize the evils which must, unchecked, arise from the dirty stream now pouring in through our Eastern seaports. The *New York Sun*, in an able article on this subject, in its issue of July 15th, says:

The fact is, there is not such a widespread prejudice against the Chinese as Eastern people have been led to believe existed in California. The large majority of the respectable people of both parties consider their presence a blessing. The lower class of foreign laborers oppose their coming, and persecute them whenever opportunity occurs. The Irish are their worst enemies, but Irish capitalists who employ labor are glad to obtain their services.

Politicians, or rather the unscrupulous demagogues among

politicians, have caused most of the trouble. To secure the support of the most reckless and vicious portions of the population, they have framed unjust laws, and winked at outrages and abuses which are a disgrace to the State. Against all this, John, by his skill, patience, exemplary conduct, industry, and moderate charges for labor, is slowly but steadily working his way.

Do we need labor? If yes, then let us select the kind we want, and permit it to enter the country in just such proportion as our necessities demand. It is admitted that labor is needed in many parts of the country. Then, are the Chinese best qualified to furnish this labor in proper kind and quality? The answer to this question must decide the main question, whatever false side issues may be raised in regard to it. Now, all who have had dealings with the Chinese, or who have had them in employ, unanimously concur in the praise of their good qualities as laborers, and, for the most part, unite in the opinion that they will furnish just the kind of labor of which we now stand most in need. There can be, it seems to us, only one conclusion in regard to this matter. The Chinaman wants to work for us, and we want him. Then let an end be speedily put to the disgraceful treatment he has hitherto received, a blot upon the history of the "Golden State," which makes humanity blush. Let us welcome him, with all the rest of the oppressed and suffering who now find refuge here, confident that, by the process of assimilation, we can absorb, and render homogeneous the mixed races which are destined to people this continent.

WORKING OUT AND PATENTING NEW INVENTIONS.

Inventors, especially those of little experience in working out new ideas, and obtaining patents, are likely to be led into some errors which they might easily avoid.

A common one is the supposition, that ill-built machinery will do to demonstrate a principle. Experimental machines are often so poorly constructed, that instead of satisfying the mind of the experimenter, they make him skeptical of success by their imperfect working. The principle may be perfectly sound, and would prove so, if properly tested, yet the idea is either abandoned, or a new and more perfect machine has to be constructed, and the money already expended thrown away. It is an old maxim that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well; and nowhere is the truth of the saying more strikingly demonstrated than in the performance of an experiment. An experiment is utterly valueless unless performed with care, and under all the conditions ultimately to be fulfilled.

Tinkering should be, by all means, avoided; and nice and good workmanship secured, whenever possible to attain it. It costs more at first, but it is more economical in the end.

A second mistake is the supposition, that almost any one possessed of some legal knowledge can properly prepare specifications, and claims for a patent. This is one of the most fatal mistakes inventors make. The proper preparation of the papers for an application requires not only knowledge of the patent laws, but matured judgment, based upon large experience. To claim more than can properly be claimed, is to insure the rejection of the application. To claim less is to force the client to obtain by reissue what he might have obtained at first. Even the most skillful and experienced men may err in judgment on this point; how much more likely to blunder is one who has had little or no experience.

Some inventors attempt the prosecution of their own claims. Most of these come to grief. Not that the Patent Office willingly refuses to recognize their claims, but that all legal procedure is, and from its nature must be, attended with the observance of technicalities, to neglect which is to jeopardize their rights and cause the applicants much annoyance.

A third mistake on the part of those inexperienced in obtaining patents, is the supposition that, because a patent is rejected on the first application, it is a gone case. Now, the fact is, that perhaps one third of all the patents issued are rejected on first application, and yet, upon amendment of claims, or, in some cases, argument to show that amendment is not needed, are subsequently allowed.

This ought not to discourage the inventor from proceeding with his application, but it frequently does discourage him. Many a good thing has been dropped in this way for want of pluck to prosecute claims on which an excellent patent might have been obtained.

THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF FIREWORKS.

The catastrophe which occurred in Chatham street on the evening of July 28th, is another serious lesson teaching the insane folly of permitting the indiscriminate use of fireworks. Seven persons were all badly, and some mortally burned, while the running away of the team, scattering fire in all directions, endangered the lives of the multitude that at that hour always crowd the thoroughfare in which the accident occurred.

The present restrictions upon the dangerous pastime of exploding and burning all sorts of fireworks, are almost worthless. Though the general practice is limited to the National holiday, and to illuminations, processions, etc., it is never safe to permit their use in the immediate proximity of buildings or in crowded thoroughfares.

In the case alluded to, a party of intoxicated roughs bent on making a splurge on their return from an excursion, smoked their cigars and ignited lucifer matches in a wagon containing dangerous explosives. The punishment for their recklessness, which probably would never have been meted out to them by the city authorities, was swift and terrible. Few will shed tears, and some will even be inclined to recommend the distribution of fireworks among this class of men, provided they would blow themselves up, away from respectable people, and where property could not be endangered.

The sale of poisons is made the subject of restrictive legislation, and the law is pretty generally enforced. But poisons subserve a useful purpose, and it would be unwise to prohibit their sale. Fireworks, on the contrary, are of no general utility, and their sale should be totally prohibited, or their indiscriminate sale ought to incur severe penalties.

AN ARRANT HUMBUG.

Our attention has been called to the following recipe which our correspondent informs us has been sold largely in the section where he resides, but not used to a very large extent through fear of explosions:

Recipe and Directions for Manufacturing the Sun-Light Oil—To make one gallon, take 3 quarts of Benzine, 1 ounce pulverized Alum, 1 1/2 ounces Alcohol, 2 ounces Cream Tartar, 2 ounces Sal Soda, 1 pint of Potatoes (cut fine), 2 table spoonfuls of fine Salt, 2 drachms Oil of Sassafras, 4 drachms of Gum Camphor. Dissolve the Alum in the Alcohol as much as possible, then add the Gum Camphor, stir for a few minutes, then add to one pint of the Benzine, stir it well for ten minutes, then add all the other ingredients except the Benzine, stir well until it foams, then add the remainder of the Benzine; leave it open and exposed to the air; shake it occasionally, and in two hours' time it will be fit to use, although it should stand if convenient, for 48 hours before using.

This is the proportion for one gallon, and the person who purchases the ingredients of a retail druggist for a single gallon will be charged much more in proportion than if he bought in larger quantities, and must expect that by some druggist he will be charged two or three times the wholesale price for a single gallon of Benzine, as many retail druggists often buy but a few gallons at a time and have to pay about twice the wholesale price.

You are to use Benzine of 65 or 72 gravity, which costs but 12 1/2 cents per gallon in New York, Chicago, or Cleveland, and but 8 cents in Pittsburgh.

The ingredients used in one gallon will answer for ten gallons by adding 8 1/2 gallons of Benzine, one quart Potatoes and one pint fine Salt. The Sun-Light Oil should always be used with a patent or Sun-Light Burner.

Any individual detected making or selling the Sun-Light oil without a right from us will be prosecuted as an infringer.

This recipe contains a large proportion of hydrocarbon oil of a highly inflammable character, in which certain substances are dissolved, ostensibly, to make it a safe material for consumption in lamps, for illuminating purposes. The public may rest assured that they cannot either use this or any similar mixture with safety, and we warn them against imposition from men, whose only excuse for making such compounds, if they have any excuse at all, is their ignorance.

Let any one who wishes to try the following experiment put a little of this oil into a watch-glass, in a room heated to about 90°, or into any other shallow vessel, and hold a lighted match over it. If the vapor takes fire, it is dangerous. On the contrary if the match can be smothered out in the oil without igniting it, it is safe. All good kerosene should stand this test.

No oil is explosive in and of itself, it is only when the vapor arising therefrom becomes mixed in the proper proportions with air, that it will explode. There should be no inflammable vapor from any oil used for burning in lamps at ordinary temperatures. A volatile oil is unfit for the purpose, and men who would, knowing the nature of their wares willfully peddle through the country such vile and dangerous compounds, deserve the fate of other incendiaries.

We have understood that this or similar oils are sold in different parts of the country by the gallon at a price ranging from seventy-five cents to a dollar. Any one can figure for themselves from the data given in the above recipe, the large profits made upon the sale of the villainous stuff. When these people wish to sell you such compounds in future, show them the door at once.

WHEN DOCTORS DISAGREE WHO SHALL DECIDE?

This knotty question, the puzzle of wise-heads for generations, has lately been decided by Judge Blatchford, in the case of the Rumford Chemical Works vs. Lauer, a report of which we publish in another column.

It appears that Prof. Eben N. Horsford, the distinguished chemist and savant, formerly of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., after long research and experiment, discovered a method of manufacturing the acid phosphates in such a form as to render them useful in the making of bread.

There is no cereal so well suited to the wants of man as wheat. Among its mineral constituents, highly necessary to the nutrition and building-up of the human system, are phosphates of potash, lime, magnesia, and iron. But in the bolting processes employed to produce the fine white flours which the public demands, these important minerals are more or less sifted out and lost.

The object of Prof. Horsford's improvements were to restore these missing ingredients to the flour, and also to furnish a more convenient and better leaven than yeast for bread making.

One of Prof. Horsford's preparations consists of a fine, white, dry, acid powder, containing the necessary phosphates, which is mixed with common flour and baked in the ordinary manner. For leavening purposes, bicarbonate of soda is combined with the phosphate and the flour, and when the mass is wetted carbonic acid is liberated, which leavens the dough perfectly, thus dispensing altogether with yeast.

The improvements of Prof. Horsford were duly patented, and the patents were purchased by the Rumford Chemical Works of Rhode Island. The manufacture of the phosphate preparation has become an extensive business, and other parties are now seeking to take it up. It was to restrain one of these infringers that the present suit was brought.

On the part of the defense, the learned Benjamin Silliman, Jr., Professor of General and Applied Chemistry, of Yale College, George F. Barker, Professor of Physiological Chemistry