

THE CHINESE INHABITANTS OF PORTLAND, OREGON

The Chinese inhabitants of Portland number about 3,500, but at the present time a considerable number are working at the salmon canneries on the Columbia river, Puget sound and Alaska. Of this Chinese population there are probably 200 children and about 75 women.

There are about ninety mercantile places in the city where may be found wares of every description, but mostly imported goods of Chinese manufacture, which cannot be purchased elsewhere.



MRS. SEID BACK

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Among the places of interest in the Chinese quarter may be mentioned two Chinese restaurants, two theaters, but one of which is now running, one principal joss house, located at 64½ Second street, and several minor ones. The joss house is the place of worship of the Chinese public and there may be found many costly idols. A Chinese hospital is conducted by the Jung Wah Company and here many strange herbs and medicines may be found.

As is the custom of the Chinese in the different cities on the Pacific coast and elsewhere, in Portland they occupy the central

portion of the city and they have built up for themselves a distinct city on leased grounds.

They as a rule maintain their home customs and they may be seen in their daily life attired in the costume of their mother country. Their place of business is also their residence and it is a common sight to see the



MR. SEID BACK, well-known Merchant and Capitalist

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little children toddling about the floor of their father's store.

A small percentage of the Chinese of Portland have become thoroughly Americanized, having adopted the American style of clothing, and living in private residences in the residence portion of the city and in other

ways taking kindly to the American manner of living.

They are very industrious, and without exception tend to their own affairs, being law-abiding to a marked degree in their intercourse with Americans and Europeans.

They are very economical in their daily living, but on holidays, particularly on the Chinese New Year, they spend great sums of money in merry-making. At such a time the Chinese quarter is in an uproar with the bursting of firecrackers and with music, and



MR. MOY BACK HIN
Portland's Chinese Millionaire

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the Chinese homes are thrown open for the dispensing of unstinted hospitality. They are generous, and many local American charities are benefited by their offerings.

Some of the leading merchants of Portland have acquired considerable wealth. The great number of the Chinese, however, are employed as laborers, where they, by honest toil and frugal living, soon become independent, so that they are enabled to take a trip to China