

# Windsor's Chinese Laundries

Transcribed and curated by Chris Willmore

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## Early Days

### “Smuggling opium”<sup>1</sup> (1894)

Another alleged opium smuggler is in the toils of the American officers. She is Florence Lee, the American wife of Hop Lee, a Windsor Chinaman. Wing Lee, of Chicago, who had a laundry at 418 State street, was also arrested, charged with purchasing smuggled opium. The woman crossed over from Windsor Sunday afternoon and landed at the Grand Trunk depot in Detroit. There she was met by a man who handed her a 1,000-mile ticket. This transaction was noticed by officers at the depot, and Chinese Inspector James Downs and Special Inspector A. J. Kennary were notified.

The woman left for Chicago on the 10:30 train and the officers also boarded it. Finding her valise in the baggage car and opening it, they discovered that it contained forty-six cases of opium. When the train reached Chicago Mrs. Lee was followed to Wing Lee’s place on State street. As she emerged from the laundry, several hours after she was taken into custody.

Wing Lee was caught in the act of stowing away the opium, which he had just purchased. Mrs. Lee says she received the opium from one George Hartman, of Windsor, who had it brought across the river Sunday afternoon. Wing Lee gave her \$171 for the opium, half of its value, and the money was found in her possession.

### “Mrs. Florence Lee”<sup>2</sup> (1894)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

The woman Florence Hop Lee, arrested in Chicago for opium smuggling, is the American wife of Hop Lee, formerly a Windsor Chinaman. Hop Lee is at present serving time in the Toronto penitentiary for robbery. Up till about a month ago Mrs. Lee was living with “Mushy” Pratt, a young Canadian on Howard avenue, but had not been seen around recently.

Mrs. Lee is a comely young woman, 26 years of age, who married the Chinaman, Hop Lee, ten years ago, and is a girl of reasonable parentage. After her marriage her family became reconciled to the fact, because Hop Lee was a prosperous laundryman, although a little “off color.” She is in communication with her brother, who writes a very good letter and is supposed to be a man of good education.

Hop Lee and his “Melican” wife lived together in Louisville, Ky., for six years. From there they moved to Nashville, Tenn. Hop did not do as well in Tennessee as he had done in Louisville, and became interested in the seductive game of fan-tan. The passion for gambling took all his money and he then became a bad Chinaman. After living in Nashville the couple moved to Windsor, where Hop made more money

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1 From SMUGGLING OPIUM. (1894, March 27). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

2 From MRS. FLORENCE LEE. (1894, March 28). *Evening Record*, p. 4.



smuggling Chinamen than he could washing clothes. The couple had been in Windsor but a short time before Hop Lee was arrested for stealing. He was tried and sentenced to Toronto penitentiary, where he now is. Mrs. Lee then took up with "Mushy" Pratt.

While Hop Lee and his girl wife were living together a son was born to them. The boy is a good looking little chap, although he bears the marks of a Mongolian strongly upon his face. He is bright and Mrs. Lee has great hopes of the boy and thinks that he will eventually be an honor to the two races that he springs from.

### **"Gross outrage night after night"<sup>3</sup> (1895)**

For some time three Chinamen, keeping a laundry at the corner of Church and Sandwich streets, have been subjected to gross outrage night after night by a band of hoodlums, both young and old. Last night matters reached a culmination, when a town tough<sup>4</sup> went in and cleaned out the establishment, severely beating one of the Celestials. The Chinamen have borne their wrongs in silence and have never complained to the police, but last evening news of the nightly circus had reached police headquarters by slow and easy stages. Some people think there is a big field for vigorous home mission work in behalf of the local heathen product, which out-heathens even heathendom itself.

### **"A lively family row"<sup>5</sup> (1895)**

The Chinese laundrymen at the west end had a lively family row this forenoon, but nothing suffered excepting the atmosphere, which was unusually agitated with the din. There were several good clinches but no falls and no blows. The broil appeared to furnish much amusement to a crowd standing outside, but people of the Orient have just as much right to indulge in a family row as the people of the Occident.

### **"Returns to his father"<sup>6</sup> (1896)**

Lee Wing, who has been in the laundry business in the western part of the city for some time past, has sold out his business to Frank Lee, one of his employees. Lee Wing, who is now advanced in years, will return to the home of his father and there spend the remainder of his days. He will start for Canton, China, his destination, in about two weeks.

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3 Local Heathen Product. (1895, August 15). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

4 "The name of the man who committed last night's outrage at the Chinese laundry is I. E. Collins, a South Essex man now living in Detroit. Officer Mahoney was hot on his trail but Collins showed a clean pair of heels and is still at large. "Watch me do the Chinamen up," he said, and he suited the action to the word." CITY SIFTINGS. (1895, August 15). *Evening Record*, p. 4.

5 From CITY SIFTINGS. (1895, August 30). *Evening Record*, p. 4.

6 From Returns to His Father. (1896, November 10). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

# The Rise and Fall of Charlie Louie

## “A novel and pleasant event”<sup>7</sup> (1899)

The Sabbath school room of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian church<sup>8</sup> was the scene of a novel and pleasant event last evening, when the Chinamen of the city entertained their Sunday school teachers, ten in number, and about fifty invited friends to a genuine Chinese feast.

The selection of the different articles of food, the preparation of the dishes and the spreading of the table was done by the Chinamen unassisted. When the guests were ushered into the banquet hall surprise was expressed on every face at the artistic arrangement of the table. Most of the dishes were imported from China and were cooked in Chinese style, Lee Sam acting as chef. The dishes included steamed boneless chicken, duck and turkey, bird’s nest soup, lotus nuts, water chestnuts, flat fish abalone, lychee and rice. The soup was eaten by the aid of spoons imported from China and the rice was conveyed to the mouth with chop sticks. The use of the chop sticks created much amusement, but with a little practice the majority became quite expert.

Charlie Louie acted as head waiter and also received the guests at the door. He was greatly assisted by Fred Wah, Lee Tung and Tom Poone, all of whom are members of St. Andrew’s church. There were present fourteen Chinamen.

At the close of the supper, R. F. Sutherland, on behalf of the teachers, thanked the Celestials for their kindness and liberality. In response the Chinamen sang a Chinese song and “Jesus loves me” in English.

The teachers of the school will entertain the Chinamen tonight.

## “All was not right”<sup>9</sup> (1899)

For several months the Chinamen of Windsor have held Sunday gatherings at the laundry on Sandwich-st. west, owned by Frank Lee, and the police have been suspicious that all was not right. At their gathering last night they were having an unusually noisy time when Sergt. Nash and Officers Giles, Jackson and Elliott raided the place in the hopes of discovering the character of the meetings, and learning something of the practices of the Celestials.

When the police entered the place the inmates were having a noisy time, but being unacquainted with their language the police could tell little of what was going

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7 From NOVEL BANQUET. (1899, September 22). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

8 “Among the candidates received into membership of St. Andrew’s church last evening were Charlie Louie, Fred Wong and Lee Long, three well-known Chinese residents of this city. Charlie Louie intends leaving soon for Hong Kong, where he will study to become a missionary.” LITTLE LOCALS. (1899, September 16). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

9 From HILARIOUS CHINAMEN. (1899, October 2). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

on. As one officer expressed it, “We didn’t know whether they were swearing or praying.”

That the inmates were “hitting the pipe” was plainly evident, as all the paraphernalia used by opium smokers was found and seized by the officers. The outfit consisted of several pipes, a lamp for cooking the opium and a small quantity of the drug. Nothing else of a suspicious nature was found by the police.

A well known Chinaman says that before the police appeared the Chinamen were gambling, playing their favorite game of dominoes, and considerable money changed hands. He says the Chinamen of Windsor, and some from Chatham and Essex, gather every Sunday night and gamble and “hit the pipe.”

On Sunday night there were thirteen Celestials present, two of them being from Essex and one from Chatham.

Early in the evening a notorious woman from Detroit was present, and she also joined in the festivities, smoking opium until she became intoxicated and disorderly. She had left before the police arrived.

The laundry has changed hands recently, Sing Lee of Essex, being the new proprietor. It is alleged that at Toronto Sing married a white woman, but they are not living together now.

Frank Lee left last night for Vancouver, from where he will sail for China.

### **“A Chinese blowout”<sup>10</sup> (1900)**

The 26th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of the Emperor of China will be celebrated by the Chinamen of Windsor tomorrow night, when a feast will be held at the shop of Charlie Louie on Ouellette-ave.

The preparations for this grand event have been made on an elaborate scale, and the Celestials are looking forward to a rare treat. All the delicacies contained in the Chinese cook-book have been secured, some choice dishes being imported from China.

The most noted visitor at the feast will be Jim Jee, a recent arrival from Toronto. Jim is the son of a wealthy tea merchant in Canton, China. He speaks English fluently and says he is in Canada to receive an education.

### **“Chinese New Year”<sup>11</sup> (1900)**

The beginning of the Chinese new year was celebrated by the Windsor Mongolians yesterday afternoon when a feast was held at Charlie Louie’s laundry on Ouellette-ave. The shop was gaily decorated with gaudy lanterns of fantastic design. The feast served consisted almost entirely of Chinese dishes imported from their native land, and served in Chinese style.

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10 From A CHINESE BLOWOUT. (1900, January 29). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

11 From CHINESE NEW YEAR. (1900, January 31). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

After the dinner a service was held at which a sermon was delivered by Charlie Louie. Several Chinamen from outside points were present.

One feature which marks the closing of the Chinese year is the desire to pay all debts, as a Mongolian considers it a great disgrace to enter the new year in debt.

### **“Returned from China”<sup>12</sup> (1900)**

Frank Lee, the well-known washee-washee of Sandwich-st., has returned here from a trip to China. Frank left Windsor last September to visit his home in Canton and also enjoy a rest. He sailed on March 10 for Vancouver and has arrived here this week. He says great changes have been made in China since the empress dowager assumed the reins of government. Li Hung Chang is not the powerful ruler he once was. There is also imminent danger of war with Russia, and the Japs are looking for trouble.

### **“A costly lesson in warfare”<sup>13</sup> (1900)**

The Chinamen at Frank lee’s laundry on Sandwich-Ost. west had a costly lesson in warfare last night. The washee-washee rooms were raided by a gang of roysters about 11 o’clock. A fierce combat waged for a time and the Celestials were put to route, without casualties.

The attacking party was composed of several members of the 21st bugle corps, who were disappointed when Sergt. Paddon did not arrive. They vowed that there must be some excitement before the night was over, and decided to do battle with the Chinamen. The boys “got their habits on” rather plentifully before the raid. Then they succeeded to open hostilities. The Chinamen were invited to come out on the street, but the wily Celestials discretely refused. The vaunting bullies threw cobble stones through the windows and tore the screen in the door. Frank Lee was severely injured on one hand and another Chinaman was cut on the arm by falling glass.

Officer Livingstone arrived on the scene and the mob hastily dispersed. Informations were laid against W. Northwood, R. and A. Buchanan, C. and R. Brickman. The trial will be held on Thursday.

### **“Disgraced their uniforms”<sup>14</sup> (1900)**

A large number of spectators were present at police court this morning when the gay youths who caused havoc around Frank Lee’s laundry Monday night were brought before Magistrate Bartlet. Those who appeared were Arch. Buchanan, Willis Northwood and Clarence Brickman. They admitted tearing the screen door but said the Chinamen threw a pail at them through the windows. They were willing to repair

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12 From Returned from China. (1900, April 27). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

13 From TOO DEMONSTRATIVE. (1900, August 28). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

14 From DISGRACED THEIR UNIFORMS. (1900, August 30). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

the damage, and the case was adjourned until Tuesday<sup>15</sup>. Col. Guillot told His Worship that he had reprimanded the youths for disgracing their uniforms.

### **“A Chinese supporter”<sup>16</sup> (1900)**

The Liberals in this riding have a Chinese supporter. Charlie Louie is a regular attendant at the committee rooms, and, having been naturalized, will mark his ballot for Sutherland.

### **“Paid for the lights”<sup>17</sup> (1900)**

Roy Paine, Vernon Cornwall and Willie Forbes, the boys who broke the light globes in Charlie Louie’s laundry, paid for the lights and the charge against them was withdrawn.

### **“Charlie Louie Banqueted”<sup>18</sup> (1900)**

Charlie Louie, one of Windsor’s laundrymen, had such honor and distinction paid him last night as never before fell to the lot of any Chinaman in Canada or the United States. But Charlie is no ordinary “washee-washee.” He is the only Chinaman in America who is privileged to go back and forth from Canada to the United States. This unusual privilege was obtained for him by his Presbyterian friends through the United States Consul Morris of this city.

The dinner given for him last night in the Presbyterian church was prepared by E. L. Thompson’s Chinese cook, and several ladies of the church assisted in serving it. On the menu were: Birds’ nest soup, beanstick salad, roast turkey and roast chicken, fruit jelly, candies, fruits and nuts.

After dinner there was a deal of speech-making. U. S. Consul Morris explained how Charlie is enabled to enter the States without paying the \$500 levied on Chinamen entering that country. Dr. Samson spoke very highly of Charlie as a model citizen. Magistrate Bartlet referred to the protection the Chinese enjoy in the city of Windsor.

Charlie Louie is a naturalized British subject. He is going home to China<sup>19</sup> to see his parents and intends to return to Windsor. Dr. Samson hinted that perhaps he would bring back a wife.

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15 “Willis Northwood and Arch. Buchanan, two members of the bugle band who damaged Frank Lee’s laundry, were let go this morning by Magistrate Bartlet on payment of costs. His worship said the boys were sufficiently punished for their misdeeds and the washee-washee colony was satisfied when the damage was repaired.” LITTLE LOCALS. (1900, September 4). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

16 From PRACTICAL POINTERS. (1900, October 16). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

17 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1900, October 24). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

18 From CHARLIE LOUIE BANQUETED. (1900, November 16). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

19 He had left for China as of November 20, when his departure was noted in the paper, and he returned by June 11, 1901: “Charlie Louie returned this morning from China, where he has been

## **“The appearance of a congress of nations”<sup>20</sup> (1901)**

St. Andrew’s Sunday school room presented a very interesting appearance last evening, having more the appearance of a congress of nations than a Chinese dinner party, which the Chinese colony tendered to their Sunday school teachers. Rev. J. C. Tolmie acted as chairman and in a few remarks, which were of a complimentary nature, to the assembled Celestials, stated his pleasure in being present at such an elaborate spread of such a foreign nature.

One of the distinguished guests present was J. E. Alli, a Mohammedan from Lahore, India.

The repast served was prepared by Lee Wing and Frank Lee, whose cooking ability cannot be excelled in these parts. The menu consisted of turkey, oysters, ham, salad and liasce [lychee?], a Chinese fruit. Upon speaking to one of the yellow men this morning a Record reporter was informed that he had a good time and that the cook, Lee Wing, and his assistant, Frank Lee, were good cooks. The rest of the Chinamen evidently enjoyed themselves, as this morning work was practically suspended in the different washee-washee places, and from the amount of shorthand dialect thrown around, they were discussing the event in a very complimentary manner.

The Chinamen who represent Windsor’s colony and who were present last night are Si Ching, Ah Ching, Peing Bing, Ah Bivo, Lee Wing, Frank Lee, Lee Wah, Lee Chew, Lee Hing, Lee Chong, Lee Guy, Lee Toi, Lee Ying, Jim Gee, [and] Li Gar.

Judging from the amount of Lees present, the name must be a universal standby in the Flowery Kingdom. At the close of the evening Si Ching, on behalf of his fellow tea-drinkers, said: “I wish on behalf of my fellow countrymen to thank the teachers for the interest they take in us and for the little acts of kindness to each of us so that during the week we look forward to the Sunday school with pleasure. We hope you have all spent a good evening.”

## **“A sumptuous repast”<sup>21</sup> (1901)**

The Chinese colony of the city celebrated yesterday, the event being the Chinamen’s New Years. It was celebrated in a fitting matter at the headquarters of Frank Lee on Sandwich-st. A sumptuous repast was served, [at] which some thirty of

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spending the last six months. Rumor said that Charlie would bring back a moon-eyed wife, but he denies having perpetrated matrimony.” LITTLE LOCALS. (1901, June 11). *Evening Record*, p. 5. On his return, he considered expanding his business to a neighboring town: “Charlie Louie, a Chinaman who has just returned from China, was in town [Leamington] on Monday. He is well known in Windsor and Chatham. It is said he intends to start in business here. If he would go into partnership with the News it would assuredly improve the appearance and elevate the tone of that establishment. The connection might hurt Louie, though.” LEAMINGTON. (1901, June 22). *Evening Record*, p. 3.

20 From CHINESE COOKS. (1901, February 6). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

21 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1901, February 19). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

the city's yellow men partook of the goodies. The musical programme consisted of several sections on a Chinese violin by Lee Tung and a vocal solo by Lee Guy.

### **“Object to paying taxes”<sup>22</sup> (1901)**

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM, RACIST SLURS]

Considerable difficulty is experienced in collecting taxes from the Windsor Chinamen. Each of the Chinese laundries is assessed at \$100 and the taxes are about \$2.40 each. Although the Chinamen are fairly well educated and Christianized, they cannot understand why they should be asked to pay bills for which they have received nothing.

“When are you going to pay your taxes?” said Capt. Cheyne to the Chink in charge of Charlie Louie’s laundry yesterday.

“What for?” innocently enquired the Celestial.

The tax collector spent half an hour in explanation, but to no good.

“Too muchee; too muchee,” said the Chink, who refused to part with his hard-earned pennies.

“Sam Lee, the Goyeau-st laundryman, thought he struck an easy way of dodging his taxes,” said Assessor Alex. Black. “When I made the assessment he gave his name as Lee Sam, and when the tax collectors came around he had changed his name to Sam Lee, and for a time it puzzled us how we would collect the taxes.”

### **“A piece of dried seal”<sup>23</sup> (1901)**

Patrons of Charlie Louie’s Chinese laundry will be treated by his Chinese helpers tomorrow, as they have received from Charlie in China a piece of dried seal, which they propose to make soup of. Be sure and call.

### **“A dispute over laundry”<sup>24</sup> (1901)**

The Chinese colony was well represented in police court this morning. The alleged assault case of Lee Hing against Geo. Insell was on the docket. Frank Lee, one of the leaders of the colony, was sworn by the magistrate as interpreter.

Lee Hing was the first witness called and, through his interpreter, told the magistrate all about the laundry business from the spitting on shirts to the throwing of flat irons. After hearing the evidence of Lee Hing’s witness, an almond-eyed individual named Chop Louie, or something that sounds like that, the magistrate adjourned the case until Monday.

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22 From OBJECT TO PAYING TAXES. (1901, March 21). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

23 From ADDITIONAL LOCALS. (1901, May 2). *Evening Record*, p. 4.

24 From THAT CHINESE ASSAULT. (1901, August 14). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

The assault is said to have grown out of a dispute over laundry, resulting in the “checkee man’s” getting a bad beating from Insell, who, after the affair, had a sprinting match with an angry crowd of citizens who were attracted by the noise made by the frightened Chinamen.

### **“Through the laundry window of Charlie Louie”<sup>25</sup> (1901)**

Yesterday afternoon the big umbrella sunshade of Drayman Dick Jackson was lifted by the Hicks gate and carried through the laundry window of Charlie Louie, on Ouellette-ave. The affair led to a clinch and exchange of blows between one of the Orientals and Jackson, and for a time there was much excitement, which was allayed by the arrival of Officer Elliott on the scene. Hicks, the weather man, seems the only person responsible and may be asked to repair the damage.

### **“Charlie Louie will branch out as a tea merchant”<sup>26</sup> (1901)**

Besides running laundries in Windsor and Leamington, Charlie Louie will branch out as a tea merchant. He is negotiating for the rental of the store at the corner of Ouellette-ave. and Chatham-st.

### **“Destroyed by fire”<sup>27</sup> (1901)**

Charlie Louie received word from China that the large tea plantation owned by himself and his father was destroyed by fire. Charlie’s sister and about 300 tea pickers and sorters were burned in the conflagration. Mr. Louie’s father is also missing. Charlie was intending starting a tea agency in Windsor in the near future, but it is quite likely he will not do so now. He went to Windsor Monday to get further particulars. We all feel sorry for our oriental friend.

### **“The Chinese oath”<sup>28</sup> (1901)**

Two Windsor washee-washee Celestials are taking up the white man’s burden and are before the court at Sandwich with a veritable Chinese puzzle. Si Ching says he lent Charlie Louie \$600 when he went to China last year, and which Charlie refuses to return. To this soft Celestial impeachment Charlie says nix. Charlie says he hired Si Ching to run his laundry during his absence and [was] paying him \$25 a month. All over this wage and the costs of the laundry was to be placed in the bank.

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25 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1901, September 25). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

26 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1901, October 16). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

27 From LEAMINGTON. (1901, October 23). *Evening Record*, p. 3.

28 From THE CHINESE OATH. (1901, December 3). *Evening Record*, p. 8.



When Charlie returned, he says there was \$200 of a surplus in the bank, but as it had been deposited in Si's name, Si drew it out and kept it.

Other Chinamen say that Si gave Charlie \$400 to take home to China for his father.

Persons traveling up and down on the cars to Sandwich since the court opened have wondered why one of the Chinamen carried a basket of live chickens up and down. The explanation came out today.

Judge Falconbridge told Mr. Clarke to find out what form of oath would be binding on the Celestials. Mr. Clarke rounded them up last night to get the required information.

It was Si Ching's crowd that had the basket of chickens, and they explained the mode and binding effect of the chicken oath upon Chinamen. He explained that all the witnesses adjourn to the court-house yard. There they get in a circle, each witness with a live chicken under his arm. One of the party then reads the oath in Chinese and the solemn obligation is taken by each cutting the head off his own chicken.

Charlie Louie objects to this form of oath, claiming that he is a Christian.

Nothing but the chicken oath will satisfy Si Ching. He says Charlie's Christianity is only skin deep and that inside he is bad. He says the chicken beheading oath means that if Charlie swears to a lie his head will be cut off like he cut the head off the chicken.

There are now two Chinese parties in Windsor, the Ching and Louie partizans.

The general opinion is that Charlie and Ching will not find it as profitable washing their own dirty linen before the court as it is washing other people's dirty linen in their laundries.

The case is down for this afternoon.

## **“Si Ching won”<sup>29</sup> (1901)**

### CHING VS. LOUIE

This case came up yesterday afternoon as expected. All the Chinamen were on hand with their basket of chickens.

Mr. Cowan, for the plaintiff, Si Ching, told Judge Falconbridge that he was instructed by the plaintiff to say that if [the] defendant, Charlie Louie, and his witnesses would take the Chinese chicken oath he would accept his oath as to their dealings and offer no evidence.

Mr. Sutherland, who is acting for Louie, consulted with his client but two of his witnesses refused to take the oath in that way. Louie contended that breaking a saucer was the proper form of oath.

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<sup>29</sup> From SI CHING WON. (1901, December 4). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

John Kee, a Chinaman from London, Ont., who acted as interpreter, said the chicken oath was the only one he ever saw administered in China. He was familiar with the courts in China.

He produced a piece of paper about two feet long and a foot wide upon which, in Chinese characters, was written an oath. The course to pursue was for the oath to be read over to the witnesses and then each should sign their name below the oath, afterward killing the chicken.

Judge Falconbridge decided upon this form and the work of swearing the witnesses began.

The oath was read by John Kee and each signed his Chinese name, including Charlie Louie. Two of his witnesses, however, refused to sign. The signers then retired to the jail yard accompanied by their respective counsel and a big crowd. A box was provided and a basket of chickens placed beside it. The oath was read again and each witness taking a live chicken from the basket laid it upon the box and cut its head off with a small cleaver. Some person facetiously remarked that they should be Shanghai or Cochin China chickens.

A question then arose as to how the paper oath should be disposed of. Louie contended that the paper should be deposited with the court, and Kee and others said it should be burned. An adjournment was made to the court room, where, after hearing the parties, Judge Falconbridge decided that the paper should be burned. Another trip was made to the jail yard where the paper oath was duly cremated, the smoke, as Si Ching said, ascending to heaven.

In the meantime the seven or eight headless chickens were bobbing about the yard until gathered in by Gailer Sparks.

When Charlie Louie was cutting off the chicken's head he didn't take it off at one stroke and Si Ching objected to a second blow, so he had to take a new chicken and do the beheading act in a proper way.

The swearing having been done to the satisfaction of all concerned, the case commenced.

Si Ching, the plaintiff, was the first witness. He managed to speak English fairly well. His story was that he sold his laundry on Goyeau-st. last year and agreed not to start another in Windsor for five years. Louie came to him and said he wanted to go back to China to get married. He wanted Ching to buy his laundry. Ching said he could not and finally it was arranged that he would lend Louie \$460 and take the laundry in security until Louie came back, when, if he gave him back his money, he would get his laundry back. In the meantime it was to be given out that Ching was the manager for Louie. Ching said he was to get all he could make while Louie was away.

Louie wrote him from Vancouver asking for money to get back with. Ching sent him a ticket and \$5. Louie arrived at Windsor and being asked to return Ching's money said he had none. He promised to return the money when he could earn it. He asked to be advanced money to start another laundry. Ching gave him some money and paid several bills around town of Louie's. Louie went to Leamington and started

a laundry. He wrote Ching from Leamington acknowledging the debt. Afterwards he denied owing the money.

The Chinese case continued this morning. Pang Bing, who was working in the laundry with Ching, saw the latter pay over the \$460 to Louie. A. bow was in a back room and Louie came in and said Ching had lent him the money. Pang Jim, who lives in London, saw Louie on his way to China and he said Ching had lent him the money to go.

Charlie Louie, the defendant, denied getting the money and said that Ching was managing the laundry for him at \$25 a month.

This morning judgment was given the plaintiff, Si Ching, for the whole amount, some \$625.

### **“Charlie Louie in the Toils”<sup>30</sup> (1902)**

Charlie Louie, the leader of the Chinese colony in this city, was arrested last night by Officer Lister on the charge of the larceny of a \$62 draft from Si Ching. His incarceration has caused a consternation amongst those who have been teaching the Chinese in this city to be Christians.

Charlie has been in hot water for some time and only yesterday the pot boiled over and he was doused. The crime for which he was arrested is alleged to have been committed the 20th of last September at the laundry of Si Ching, on Ouellette-ave.

Si Ching avers that he had sent Chinese money to the amount of \$130.69, equal to \$62 in Canadian money, to New York, to have a draft made out payable to a tea merchant in Hong Kong, and that this draft was sent to him to address. On receiving the draft Si claims he told Charlie of the matter and then put it in his coat pocket until the next morning. When Si awakened in the morning he discovered that the draft had been taken from his pocket.

At that time he did not blame Charlie, but claims to have written to the tea merchant in Hong Kong advising him of the matter, and in a short time was advised by the tea merchant that a similar draft had arrived from Charlie Louie with advice to pay the amount to Charlie’s father, a missionary.

Si Ching, through the advice of his attorney, M. K. Cowan, gave Charlie until yesterday afternoon to square matters, and his failure to do so was the cause of the arrest.

Louie appeared in police court this morning and was remanded until tomorrow morning. He was successful in securing bail.

Si claims that Charlie wanted to settle matters<sup>31</sup> this morning by giving him \$35 in cash and a note for the balance, but that he would not accept these terms.

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30 From CHARLIE LOUIE IN THE TOILS. (1902, January 21). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

31 “Charlie Louie, the young Chinaman who was locked up by the police on the charge of stealing a \$62 draft from Si Ching, made restitution yesterday and was allowed to go on suspended sentence.” LITTLE LOCALS. (1902, January 22). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

## “Opium joint in operation”<sup>32</sup> (1902)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM, RACIST SLURS]

“Don’t say velly muchee,” pleaded a wizened-face Chinaman as a Record representative began his exploration of an opium den in the laundry occupied by Frank Lee, on Sandwich-st. west. The dimly-lighted apartment was redolent with the reeking fumes of the poppy.

Carrying a small lamp, The Record man stumbled up the little narrow stairway. Arriving at the top, a motley and jabbering group of Chinks following, the newspaper scribe was astonished to find several Chinamen lying on the floor, apparently dead, but they were only dreaming of the Flowery Kingdom, in all the exultation of the full benefits of the drug.

“Him sleepy,” said a frightened little fellow. “Him dleam of China,” said another. Then the pandemonium of voices that ensued was enough to wake the dead, but the prostate forms of the sleeping Chinamen never moved.

The Chinamen of this city are in the habit of going to Frank Lee’s laundry and “hitting the pipe,” and yesterday several of the familiar faces that are in attendance at the weekly Sunday school class were to be seen with pipe in mouth and senses temporarily paralyzed.

The little Chinaman who collects the laundry for Frank Lee pleaded in broken English not to have an expose made.

The attic of the little laundry resembled a San Francisco dope shop, the apartment being equipped with all the modern pipes and conveniences for a good, quick smoke. One of the dreamers was so fast in the arms of Morpheus that walking on him did not disturb him in the least. In fact, when his face was stepped on, he only smiled.

“John,” as one of the Chinamen calls himself, was asked for some information regarding the feeling of the effects of the drug. Shaking all the bones in his dried-up little body, he said that it was “altee ite,” but that was all he would divulge. As The Record man turned to go he noticed a bundle of bed clothing rolled up in the corner, and, on stepping over to it was intercepted by one of the Chinamen, who said in abbreviated language that it was only a pile of old clothing.

It was turned over and underneath, almost smothered, was the form of a young Chinaman, whose appearance in this city was only recently made. He, as well as the other, had been indulging in a friendly smoke, and was already out of business. Judging from the twitching of his limbs he must have imagined himself chasing butterflies over the poppy fields of China. His eyes had the glassy stare of a frightened animal and his fingers held a vice-like grip on the opium pipe.

The Record man explored all the mysteries of the laundry and returned to the dope room, as the sleeping apartment is termed. Here the lamp that he was carrying was suddenly extinguished by one of the Chinamen. The hurried movement of the scribe towards the stairway at this juncture was the fastest he ever had made in his

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32 From OPIUM JOINT IN OPERATION. (1902, January 21). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

life. On the road to the door he stumbled over several of the sleeping individuals, and between the jabberings of excited Chinamen reached the ground floor.

It is a surprising fact to know how fast a Chinaman can move sometimes, for as soon as the reporter reached the ground floor, there stood one of the men that had been with him at the time the light was blown out. His face radiated with a smile that reached from ear to ear, and he nearly doubled up with laughter as he asked who blew out the light.

A box of cigars was offered the scribe by the wiley Chinamen to keep the matter out of the paper, but as the scribe was not a cigar smoker the offer was declined with thanks. As a further inducement the scribe was offered a pull at the pipe, but this he also declined, and quietly took his departure.

The ravages of opium are plainly visible on the faces of the majority of Celestials in this city. Their cheeks become yellow and their teeth protrude. The opium-smokers can generally be detected by the unusual yellow tinge of their countenances.

### **“Another depredation”<sup>33</sup> (1902)**

Si Ching, accompanied by a brother Celestial, whose name in an abbreviated form is given as Ah Bow, called upon Magistrate Bartlet yesterday, and in chop-stick language told the magistrate of another depredation that Charlie Louie is alleged to have committed.

Si produced an unintelligible letter and endeavoured to enlighten the magistrate on the meaning of the hieroglyphics written on the paper. As nearly as could be ascertained it appeared that when Charlie Louie was about to make his “trip to Chinatown,” Ah Bow gave him a letter containing a ten-dollar bill, which was to be given to his wife when Charlie reached Hong Kong. Now Ah Bow, through his mediator, Si, would like to know what Charlie has done with the “ten spot,” as the letter which Si produced is alleged to state that Mrs. Ah Bow never received it.

To further complicate matters, Charlie is also accused of having the nerve to charge \$1.50 commission for the presumed delivery of the money.

The magistrate decided that he could do nothing in the matter, unless witnesses were brought from China, and the Celestials repaired to the office of Alex. Black, who is supposed to have good influence over Charlie Louie, and he was requested to ask Charlie to refund the money to Ah.

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<sup>33</sup> From MODERN NEMESIS. (1902, February 11). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

# The leadership of Lee Wing

## “New Chinese leader”<sup>34</sup> (1902)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACIAL SLURS]

The local Chinese colony has just chosen a new leader. Lee Wing, proprietor of the West Sandwich street laundry, has succeeded to the title as a result of Charlie Louie’s fall from grace and disappearance from the city<sup>35</sup>.

Lee Wing is not the genteel, educated and “smooth” chink that Charlie Louie was; but he is the prince of peacemakers in the local Chinese district. He is the pioneer member of the colony, and the fact that he has the largest of all laundries operated by his fellow-countrymen gives him a strong claim to the leadership. He came to Windsor six years ago from Toronto.

Much sympathy is felt for Charlie Louie by his Chinese friends. They say that he brooded over his defeat in the suit instituted against him by Si Ching, who claims that Charlie borrowed \$635 from him to pay a visit to his home in China and that he never returned the money. After the verdict Charlie opened a new laundry in Windsor, Si Ching having got possession of his old business, but he failed to work up any trade. He then tried his luck at Leamington. Here he failed again. He is now trying to get a footing in Hamilton, Ont.

For a time many of Charlie’s friends, including the ladies who teach the Chinese at St. Andrew’s Sunday School, were of the opinion that he was being persecuted by Si Ching; but that belief vanished when he acknowledged the theft of a \$60 draft from Si.

“Charlie turned out a different young man than we expected he was going to be,” said Miss Carrie Patillo, the superintendent of the Chinese department of St. Andrew’s Sunday School. “He was an apt pupil and we had every reason to believe that he was a Christian. We now think that he was shamming.”

Windsor is said to have the largest Chinese colony of any town its size east of the Mississippi. The numerical strength of the colony is 188 at present. This is the greatest number that the colony has attained. The majority of them are middle-aged men, the others being mere boys. For the most part it is a moving population, but there are two or three members who have been identified with the colony since it made its first appearance some seven or eight years ago.

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34 From NEW CHINESE LEADER. (1902, April 4). *Evening Record*, p. 3.

35 Two years later he was arrested in Toronto. “A Toronto despatch says: When Detectives Forrest and Wallace went to 90 Major street yesterday to arrest Chas. Louie, a young Chinaman, they found him lying on the floor with an emptied laudanum bottle beside him. He was taken to the Emergency and will recover. Louie is wanted on charges of fraud preferred by Samuel Bulley of the Planet bicycle works, from whom he ordered a \$60 wheel, tendered a cheque for \$85 and received \$25 in cash. The cheque was no good. J. W. Johnston, jeweler, lost \$20 in a similar way, and David Williams is one of several other complainants.” CHARLIE LOUIE IN TOILS AGAIN. (1904, June 14). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

The Chinese live in splendid isolation. They dress after the occidental fashion and live on the fat of the land, chicken being one of their favorite dishes.

Every Sunday afternoon, rain or shine, they march in a body, each with a bible under his arm, to St. Andrew's Sunday School. After taking their seats in the auditorium of the church, the teachers open the services with a hymn, which many of the pupils can sing from the English print. Then the Lord's prayer is repeated, and every Chink, if he doesn't happen to be a newcomer, can say it without a skip. Afterwards each pupil is given an individual teacher, if all the teachers are present, and he is taught the meaning of simple words in an Anglo-Chinese book. These words are printed in English and on the opposite page the same are given in the Chinese characters. Simultaneously with this instruction the word of God is imparted to them.

They all say that they believe they are going to heaven when they die.

"What kind of a place do you think heaven is?" Si Ching was asked.

"Oh, good place," he replied. "Not like this place; no bad up there."

The teachers are indefatigable and enthusiastic in their work and they are satisfied that the Chinese attend the Sunday school for religious instruction as well as worldly benefit. No other church has ever done anything to enlighten the heathen "Chinee" in Windsor.

### **"She would not leave China"<sup>36</sup> (1902)**

Frank Lee, the well-known Sandwich-st. Chinese laundryman, has arrived home from China, where he has been for the past ten months on a visit to his wife. Frank went to the "Flowery Kingdom" ostensibly for the purpose of bringing his wife to this city. She would not leave China and Frank was compelled to return alone. During his stay in Hong Kong, Frank bought a large number of the curious things of the country and has at his laundry a large assortment, which he is showing to his friends. It was Frank's intention of starting his wife up in business selling curios<sup>37</sup> in the city, if she had consented to have come along, but all his fond hopes were rudely shattered by her refusal. Frank says that China is once more at peace with itself and that the uprising in the country really did it some good.

### **Frank Lee's business expands to Essex<sup>38</sup> (1902)**

Noble Craig sold out his laundry business this week to Frank Lee, of Windsor. Mr. Lee also bought the interests of the Chinese laundry already here, therefore Essex will have one laundry after this, and that a Chinese one. Mr. Craig has not decided where he will locate. Lee takes possession on Tuesday.

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<sup>36</sup> From RETURN OF FRANK LEE. (1902, August 1). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>37</sup> "Oolong Tea And Lai Gee (Chinese Nuts.) Imported by Frank Lee Direct from China. FOR SALE BY GEO. H. NAIRN & CO., The Reliable Grocers, Sandwich Street West." Oolong Tea [Advertisement]. (1902, December 20). *Evening Record*, p. 9.

<sup>38</sup> From ESSEX ECHOES. (1902, August 30). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

## “What has become of Lee Wing?”<sup>39</sup> (1904)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

“What has become of Lee Wing?” The foregoing question has been asked a hundred times since the recent disappearance of the one-time head of Windsor’s Chinese colony of over one hundred Chinamen. Ask a white man and he will tell you to ask a Chinaman; ask a Chinaman and he will smile and gurgle his unintelligible gutturals until his almond optics glitter with a light of cunning and innocent glee mingled. To attempt to locate Lee and ascertain what business he is engaged in would be as hopeless a task as to deprive a Chink of his “pipe and pull.” His countrymen in Windsor evidently know where he is and what he is doing, but their knowledge is exclusive.

Ask the white man who frequents the little ramshackle boat houses and dilapidated docks along the front, who knows when and where to land a boat load of the Celestials on the American shore, and he will venture that Lee is in the “Chinese business” and that he is operating in this vicinity but on the American side.

There is in Windsor and its suburbs a number of men who make a business of getting Chinamen into the United States in violation of the Chinese Exclusion Act. This is a pretty well-known and widely-accepted fact, and more than one of these men have been implicated in charges concerning the smuggling of the saffron-hued Orientals, although they are seldom convicted.

There is now engaged in a legitimate business pursuit in this city a man who commands the utmost respect of his fellow citizens, who was until a few years ago a successful smuggler of Chinese. He confided to *The Record* on promise that his name not be mentioned, the modus operandi of the smugglers. This man is still familiar with the movements of the Chinamen who come to Windsor unheralded and who mysteriously disappear between two days [have passed,] never to be seen here again.

At present the Orientals are taken across the river from a point between Windsor and Sandwich, and landed near Delray. Then they are piloted afoot to a small Michigan town near Dearborn and loaded into the first empty box car en route to Chicago. Sometimes they are accompanied in the car by one of the smugglers, but oftener they make the trip alone with enough food to last two or three days in case they are sidetracked at any inconvenient point midway.

The first precaution that is taken after the boat with its load of human contraband is pushed off from the Canadian shore is to provide each of the Chinamen with a certificate of citizenship, which is forwarded from Chicago to the smugglers here. The certificates are genuine, having been issued by the United States federal authorities and emblazoned with various stamps and seals. The documents were originally issued to Chinamen who were residents of the United States before the Exclusion Act went into force, and it is the most difficult thing imaginable to prove

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<sup>39</sup> From CHINESE SMUGGLERS AND REPUTED LEADER. (1904, January 16). *Evening Record*, p. 8.



that the holder of the certificate, be he a new importation or an old-timer, is not the man to whom it was originally issued. All Chinese names look and sound alike, and the feigned stupidity of the Chinamen and their absolute refusal to talk, as per instructions, prove stumbling blocks to the officers if the latter are fortunate enough to catch the wily Chink off his guard. These certificates are used time and time again, and "One Lung" and "Tin Pan" masquerade under the certificate of "Long Tung."

Once in Chicago and introduced into the Chinese quarter, the new-comer's identity is lost and he "hits the pipe" and indulges in the gambling games of his nationality unmolested.

This is where Lee Wing is said to be making his headquarters and directing the movements of the smugglers and his friends from the Flowery Kingdom. Lee was a pretty shrewd Chinaman. He built up a good "washee-washee" business in this city, was a judicious advertiser and successful gambler. He is said to have amassed a comfortable fortune as Chinese fortunes go, \$260 being considered a very large bank account.

When Lee left Windsor he told his friends he was going to China. Chicago is the headquarters for the middle west, and persistent crusades against the Chink in the Windy City have availed nothing toward driving them out. The vicious habit of opium smoking is rapidly spreading to the whites, and there are hundreds of little laundries which serve merely as blinds for the dens, furnished in luxurious Chinese style, in which the practice is carried on.

## Temporary leadership by Si Ching

### “Celebrating their New Year’s Day”<sup>40</sup> (1904)

Windsor’s hundred Chinamen are today celebrating their New Year’s Day. A big supper was held last night at Frank Lee’s laundry on Sandwich street west and another will be held tonight, while the washee-washee men are holding receptions to their customers at the various laundries. Chinese nuts, candied sea food, yokems and other Chinese delicacies are offered the man who takes his laundry to a Chinese plant today.

With the Chinaman, New Year’s is what Christmas is to the Canadian. He celebrates with all the vim and vigor there is under his yellow skin. In China all accounts are settled before New Year’s and tradesmen who cannot pay their debts usually give up their belongings for the benefit of their creditors. On New Year’s Day calls are made upon friends, greetings are exchanged in the streets, paper prayers are offered in the temples, fireworks are burned, gongs beaten and a general hubbub prevails.

Windsor Chinamen are not celebrating so auspiciously, but a visit to any of the laundries today would convince anybody that there was “something doing.” Frank Lee’s place will be the scene of another blow-out, and if the customs of their home land are adhered to there will be some tall gambling after the feast.

### “Si Ching, the leader of the local Chinamen”<sup>41</sup> (1904)

The annual Chinese dinner to the Sunday-school teachers of St. Andrews Presbyterian church took place last night in the Sunday-school room of that place. The Chinamen prepared the dinner and served it in their capable manner. There were ginger sticks and Chinese nuts, while the rest of the menu consisted of the viands of American manufacture.

About twenty Chinamen and thirty guests were present, including some of the church officials. Speeches were delivered by R. F. Sutherland, K. C., M. P. and Mr. Shaw, and remarks by Miss Pattulo, the superintendent of the Chinese department and Mrs. Maxwell.

Si Ching, the leader of the local Chinamen, and one of the advanced Sunday school pupils, read an address from the Chinese members of the school, in which he thanked the teachers for their kindness to them during the year, and also expressed a wish that they would benefit from the teachings they had received.

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40 From CHINESE NEW YEAR’S. (1904, February 15). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

41 From CHINAMEN ENTERTAIN. (1904, February 26). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

## “Happy New Year”<sup>42</sup> (1905)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACIST SLURS]

“Co-ha-fit-toi,” said Frank Lee, the Chinese laundryman, to his brother F. Y. Friday morning as he rolled off his couch and winked his other eye.

“Kumei Suing Ming,” replied the brother.

Happy New Year was the meaning in plain Anglo-Saxon. While the Chinese New Year proper began at the stroke of twelve Thursday midnight, Windsor Chinks won’t celebrate until Sunday. The Celestials differ from Canadians in the date of their new year just as they do in nearly everything else. They change the date every time an emperor “kicks the bucket.”

Did you notice the buoyant spirit and sunny expression on your laundryman Friday or today? He was happy. All his sins were forgiven, grievances forgotten and debts settled. He was happy, to be sure.

In Windsor Sunday will be the great day. Tonight fifteen natives of the land of the rising sun will be seen hiking for Windsor. They come from Tilbury, Chatham, Bothwell, Thamesville, Wallaceburg, Amherstburg, Essex Centre and other points in this peninsula.

If your Chinaman is nervous when you call for your laundry tonight don’t worry, and if he forgets to return the change please forget. He is thinking of the good things in store for tomorrow. There will be rice, oh, my! Chop suey, fish, chicken, wine and fruit. Ling-chee nuts, those puff-ball, raisin-like wonders of the east, will be eaten in plenty. The tea will cost just a little more than the average, \$20 or so a pound.

Today your Celestial wears a smile like Sunny Jim. But Monday it will be different. It is a smile that will come off and the Chink will settle down to nurse his digestion and rub his old washboard.

The local Chinese colony of thirty, with the fifteen from outside places, will usher in the New Year at F. Y. Lee’s laundry, 77 Sandwich street, east. The celebration lasts all day Sunday.

## “Another laundry”<sup>43</sup> (1905)

Si Ching wishes to announce that he will open up another laundry<sup>44</sup> at 91 Sandwich street west on Monday, April 17, 1905. All orders promptly and well filled.

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42 From CHINESE CELEBRATION OF NEW YEAR’S STARTED. (1905, February 4). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

43 From NOTICE. (1905, April 15). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

44 The West Side Laundry, located at 91 W. Sandwich St. This laundry advertised its open-air drying and pick-up and delivery services. Si Ching would not run this business for long, as he left Windsor by October of 1906.

## **Frank Lee's lingering leadership**

### **“Another change has taken place”<sup>45</sup> (1907)**

Another change has taken place in the ownership of the Home Laundry. Frank Lee has disposed of his interest to the following: S. J. Hogan, Charles Madill, Norman Simpson and William Ridley.

Messrs. Simpson and Hogan will be the outside managers, Mr. Madill will be the superintendent and Mr. Ridley will have charge of the books and office.

The laundry has had a checkered career since it was started. Roy Barrett came here from Hamilton and established the business. He was succeeded by Jack Watts who in turn gave way to Eddie Lawrence. Then Alfred McGrath took charge, being followed by Harry Howard. Mr. Howell, of Goderich, was the next owner, but ran the laundry for two weeks or so before he sold out to Frank Lee. Now comes the quartet ownership, of which much [is] expected, as the new proprietors are all men of experience in laundry management.

### **“Running a gambling place”<sup>46</sup> (1908)**

[CONTENT WARNING – RACIAL SLUR]

Wah Yen, a Chinaman, was in police court Tuesday morning, charged with running a gambling place at a Chinese laundry on Ouellette avenue. He was taken into custody by Sergt. Reid and Officers Maitre and Livingstone, who raided the place Sunday night and found a little game in progress. Eight Chinks in all were let go on paying \$3.75 costs, but the arch offender was fined \$50, including costs.

### **“To be erected for Frank Lee”<sup>47</sup> (1908)**

Watt & Crane will shortly award contracts for the addition to the Giardot Wine Co. plant in Sandwich. It will be 22 feet by 132 feet. This firm of architects is calling for tenders for a 20x48-foot building to be used as a laundry, to be erected for Frank Lee at Pitt and Ferry streets. It will be of pressed brick with stone trimmings and hardwood finish throughout.

### **“Swooped down upon Frank Lee's premises”<sup>48</sup> (1909)**

Officers Livingstone and Jones swooped down upon Frank Lee's premises on Sandwich street at an early hour Monday morning and captured four Chinamen, all

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45 From CHANGES HANDS. (1907, June 11). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

46 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1908, May 26). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

47 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1908, July 16). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

48 From GAMBLING CHARGE AGAINST CHINESE. (1909, January 11). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

deeply absorbed in a game which looked like dominos. The quartet were brought before the police station, and arraigned before Magistrate Leggatt Monday morning.

They gave their names as John Wing, Sam Sing, Lee Sang and Wah Lee. The four are charged with gambling, and Wah Lee is also facing another charge, which is of keeping the place for the purposes of the game.

The four luckless Celestials presented a woe-begone sight when lined up in the prisoner's box. They were dressed in pajamas when the raid was made but were allowed to don overcoats before being taken to jail.

A. H. Clarke appeared for the prisoners. It was decided to lay the case over until Wednesday and bail was admitted to the extent of \$200. There was some difficulty about arranging bail, but Frank Lee finally managed to put up security.

The officers seized the paraphernalia and about \$20 in money.

### **“The fines were paid by Frank Lee”<sup>49</sup> (1909)**

Wah Lee, owner of the Chinese laundry which was raided by the police, was convicted as the keeper of a common gambling house and fined \$25. The other three Chinamen were fined \$25 each as frequenters. The fines were paid by Frank Lee, the head of the local colony.

### **“Caught in the bonded car”<sup>50</sup> (1909)**

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

The two Chinamen who were caught in the bonded car were arraigned before Magistrate Leggatt Saturday morning, charged with being found in a bonded car. Through Charles Way, Chinese government interpreter of Detroit and Toledo, the two Celestials pleaded guilty to the charge.

“There is really no offense committed,” said the magistrate. “The men who opened the bonded car and put the Chinamen in are the ones guilty of an offense. Therefore I can do nothing but discharge them.”

However, the magistrate warned them through the medium of the interpreter that if any more Chinamen were caught in cars they would be dealt with severely.

Every effort was made by the local police and the Detroit authorities to discover from the Chinamen who the white men were that put them in the car. Thomas M. Ross, government Chinese inspector for the Detroit district, representing the United States government, and Sergt. Reid of the local police force, made the Chinamen undergo a rigid cross-examination through the interpreter. The two Chinamen protested they did not know the names of the white men implicated in the deal, but declared that they could identify them if they were brought before them.

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49 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1909, January 14). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

50 From CHINKS WERE FOUND IN BONDED WAY CAR. (1909, February 13). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

“There is without question an organized local band making a practice of smuggling Chinamen over the border at this point,” said Inspector Ross. “We are assisting your government all we can to combat with the evil, and we are bound to break up the gang or know the reason why.”

When the two Chinamen were informed that they were free from the arm of the law, they showed their pleasure by wide grins. They were ordered to pay the cost of the court, amounting to \$4.50, which they cheerfully did. Hop Lee settled with a twenty-dollar gold piece.

One of the Chinamen came from Toronto, and the other came directly from the coast.

Coupled with the arrest of the two Chinamen, who were taken from an east-bound freight car in the Windsor yards of the Grand Trunk Friday, is the discovery of a new scheme for smuggling Chinese, which leads the authorities at the border to believe there is an intimate connection between the operations of the underground route at the Niagara and Detroit frontiers and that Windsor is really [the] headquarters for much of the smuggling done at Niagara Falls.

The facts which have come to light in connection with the case point in a general way to the conclusion that some of the Chinamen who are brought to Windsor from eastern Ontario towns and for whom a close watch is maintained on the Detroit side, really are sent into the United States by way of Niagara Falls, the plan being to break the seals of cars which are sent across from Detroit in bond while the cars are lying in the Windsor yards waiting to be made up for New York, load the Chinamen and then replace the customs seal as carefully as possible.

Early in the morning a car checker in the Grand Trunk yards, while inspecting a train that was being made up for Niagara Falls, discovered that the seal on one of the bonded cars had been tampered with and, hearing sounds inside the car, notified the train crew.

Looking through a small opening, the conductor made out the forms of four Chinamen and another man, who appeared to be the “drover”. The conductor barred the door with a stick and notified the Windsor police.

Patrolmen Cunliffe and Cade hurried to the yards, but before they arrived, the guide had made his escape with two of the Chinamen. The policemen were just in time to capture the other two, and took them to the station where they gave their names as Gee Lee and Hop Lee, and confessed that they were on their way to the United States.

### **“Stealing two showcases”<sup>51</sup> (1909)**

Harry Pierce was arrested by Officer Giles Monday morning on an information sworn out by Frank Lee, king of the local Chinese colony, on the charge of stealing

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<sup>51</sup> From LITTLE LOCALS. (1909, March 15). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

two showcases, which he is alleged to have afterwards sold to John Bain, the second-hand dealer. Pierce will probably be arraigned before the magistrate this afternoon<sup>52</sup>.

### **“Broke one of the windows”<sup>53</sup> (1909)**

Charles Wing, the proprietor of a Chinese laundry on Sandwich street west, has complained to the police that a young lad broke one of the windows in the establishment a few nights ago. The police will investigate.

### **“She had lost her ticket”<sup>54</sup> (1909)**

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

Eva Cantelli, a buxom and attractive Italian woman, living on the Huron line, rushed up to Officer Wigle Thursday morning as he was standing on the corner of Ouellette avenue and Sandwich street, and in the excitable manner of her race explained that the Chinamen with whom she left her laundry refused to produce the goods because she had lost her ticket.

The officer accompanied her to the establishment of Frank Lee on Sandwich street east. “No ticket, no washee,” smiled Frank as the officer’s burly form appeared in the doorway, and it was not till Wigle’s fist came down on the counter with a bang that made every pig-tailed inmate of the place squeal and jump with fright did Frank “shell out.”

The blushing copper was forced to extricate himself forcibly from the profuse expressions of gratitude which the lady in the case showered on him.

### **“Disturbances at Frank Lee’s restaurant”<sup>55</sup> (1909)**

Following a raid by the local police on a Chinese restaurant on Sandwich street, 19 Chinese, including Frank Lee, king of the Windsor colony, will appear in police court in a few days to answer to charges of gambling.

The police have received complaints recently from Sandwich street people about disturbances at Frank Lee’s restaurant. Late Sunday night a raid was made by Sergt. William Reid, with Officers Langlois, Maitre, Jones and Livingstone. The officers entered from front and rear and say they broke up a game in which about two dozen Celestials were deeply interested. Their appearance was followed by a

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52 “Harry Pierce, the young man who stole two showcases belonging to Frank Lee, the well-known Chinaman, appeared before the magistrate Tuesday morning. After making arrangements for restitution he was released on suspended sentence.” LITTLE LOCALS. (1909, March 16). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

53 From LITTLE LOCALS. (1909, May 3). *Evening Record*, p. 8.

54 From “I LOVE MY LANDRY BUT OH, YOU COPPER” (1909, August 27). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

55 From GAMBLING RAID MADE. (1909, September 7). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

stampede. Coins were swiftly swept up from the table, a few of the party making their escape.

Most of the Chinamen spent the night at police headquarters, but were released on their own bail Monday.

### **“Insufficiency of evidence”<sup>56</sup> (1909)**

The case against Frank Lee, the local Chinese laundryman, was dismissed in police court Tuesday morning because of insufficiency of evidence. Lee claims that he and the other Chinamen who were arrested were merely holding a meeting of a Chinese lodge, of which all are members, and that the gambling outfits which the police confiscated were in a different room from where they were sitting.

### **“Long Wing has skipped out”<sup>57</sup> (1909)**

[CONTENT WARNING – RACIST SLURS]

Frank St. Louis is the new proprietor of two Chinese laundries because the owner of them, Long Wing, has skipped out. Wing owed Ald. Trumble an old bill for rent, and when seizure was made the Chink lived up to his name and did the aeroplane stunt by the light of the moon Saturday night. Unless Long Wing “wings” back some money his plant will be auctioned off Wednesday. A white woman, supposed to be married to either Wing or one of his assistants, has also disappeared.

### **“Ten cases of Chinese whiskey”<sup>58</sup> (1910)**

Windsor police last night raided the Chinese laundry kept by A. On Kee, on Ouellette avenue, near London street. Ten cases of Chinese whiskey were seized, but none of the dozen inmates, who seemed to be quiet Chinamen, were arrested. Complaint will probably be made against the proprietor only.

### **“Started up a laundry”<sup>59</sup> (1910)**

A Chinaman by the name of Hop Lee has rented a room in the Currah apartment house, corner of London and Pelissier streets, and has started up a laundry.

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<sup>56</sup> From Lee is Disharged. (1909, September 21). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>57</sup> From In Laundry Business Now. (1909, October 19). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

<sup>58</sup> From Laundry Is Raided. (1910, September 14). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

<sup>59</sup> From LITTLE LOCALS. (1910, October 6). *Evening Record*, p. 7.



## **“Fined for assault”<sup>60</sup> (1911)**

Harry Thom, the Chinaman accused by Louisa Pelch as being responsible for a discolored optic, pleaded guilty this morning and was fined \$5.25. Louisa and Harry had an altercation in Steven’s hotel last week, and Harry became so excited that his hand slipped and came in contact with the aforesaid optic. Harry Lee, head of the local Chinese colony<sup>61</sup>, paid the fine.

## **“Plastered plasterer plastered by judge”<sup>62</sup> (1911)**

A most interesting plastering case was heard before Magistrate Leggatt in police court this morning. Jim Hop Lee, proprietor of a laundry, laid information against Moses Chambers, colored, a plasterer, with having plastered him over the eye during a squabble over the plastering work then being done on Jim Hop Lee’s laundry. A week ago Chambers was arraigned before the magistrate on two charges, one laid by Chief Wills for appearing plastered on the streets, and the other by Lee. On that day Chambers pleaded guilty to the charge of being plastered and was remanded until this morning. He pleaded not guilty to plastering the Chinaman and was also remanded on that charge.

Lee took the stand this morning and stated that when tearing down the plaster on his building, Chambers, the plasterer, came along plastered and asked if he could have the job of plastering the building. Lee said no and Chambers plastered him over the eye, knocking him to the ground, where he became plastered with mud. Lee arose and chased the plasterer some blocks when they again met and after plastering each other a few blows, Chambers, followed by Lee, went to the Walker house on McDougall street, where the plasterer and plastered again met in argument.

Chambers denied that he plastered the Chinaman first, and said that the trouble arose over the fact that he was trying to show Lee where he could improve on the plastering work.

Magistrate Leggatt decided, however, that the plasterer when plastered had no business plastering Lee and plastered him with a \$9.50 fine. He was let go on suspended sentence on the charge of being plastered.

## **“Breaking his window with stones”<sup>63</sup> (1912)**

Sixteen youths, ranging in age from 9 to 16 years, were arraigned before Magistrate Leggatt this morning in police court on the charge of molesting Hop Lee, a Chinaman, and breaking his windows with stones. The whole gang, with one

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60 From “Chink” Fined for Assault. (1911, October 24). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 3.

61 The writer has possibly confused Harry and Frank Lee. I’ve found no other mentions of Harry Lee as leader of the colony.

62 From Plastered Plasterer Plastered by Judge. (1911, December 18). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

63 From CITY BRIEFS. (1912, June 1). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

exception, stuck together and pleaded guilty to the charge and were forced to pay \$1 each. Most of the parents were in court and were very wrathful when the sentence was imposed. They will possibly ease their wrath on the heads of their offspring when they get them as far as the wood shed.

### **“At the head of the smuggling trade”<sup>64</sup> (1914)**

George LaTour, of Windsor, who pleaded guilty in Detroit to Chinese smuggling and was sentenced to three years, stated in an interview that there is an organized gang in the business and that a “Windsor Chinaman is at the head of the smuggling trade in this part of the country.” He claims the proprietors of many Chinese laundries in Windsor are engaged in the traffic. He claims there is big money in the game, but there are many risks.

### **“Found with four Chinese in opium den”<sup>65</sup> (1914)**

Fines amounting to \$85 were paid in police court Friday morning as the result of a raid conducted Thursday night by Sergt. Mortimer Wigle and Officers Cade, Jones and Vanderlinder on the premises occupied by Frank Lee, recognized king of the Chinese colony, who owns and operates the Dominion café at 59 Sandwich street east. When the officers raided the place four Chinamen and one white girl were arrested and locked up. Lee was taken into custody and later released on bail, as was the girl.

The police were watching the place for some time and Thursday night the girl, who gave her name as Cora Dixie and address as Jones street, Detroit, was seen entering the building. After placing men at the front door to prevent an escape, Sergt. Wigle and Officer Jones went up a flight of stairs in the rear of the building to the floor where the Chinamen were found.

When the door was opened Frank Lee and the girl were sitting on a couch. Lee had a pipe in his hand and was smoking. The girl also had a pipe in her hand and was cooking opium over a lamp. The other men were sitting around the room.

When they were brought into police court this morning Lee pleaded guilty to a charge of keeping opium in his place for other than medicinal or scientific purposes. The magistrate fined Lee \$50 and costs or the option of spending 20 days in Sandwich jail. It was Lee’s second offence for the same charge and the court told him that if he was caught again he would be given six months in Central prison without the option of a fine.

The four Orientals, giving their names as Yon Kee, Wing Hin, Lee Hong and Lee Sing, were then brought before the court and pleaded not guilty to a charge of frequenting a place where opium is smoked. The court allowed Frank Lee, proprietor

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<sup>64</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1914, April 3). *Evening Record*, p. 10.

<sup>65</sup> From GIRL FOUND WITH FOUR CHINESE IN OPIUM DEN. (1914, May 15). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

of the place, to act as interpreter and on taking the evidence of Sergt. Wigle and Officer Jones the four men were convicted of the charge and fined \$8.80 each, which included costs of court.

When Cora Dixie appeared she pleaded guilty to frequenting a resort where opium is smoked. The magistrate allowed her to go on suspended sentence on condition that she stay away from this city in the future. She willingly agreed.

“It is a fine thing for a white woman to frequent such places as the one conducted by Lee. I am going to discourage this practice and if you are found over here again in such a place I will send you to jail,” said Magistrate Leggatt.

In the raid two pipes and a quantity of opium was seized. Lee put up the excuse that he was sick and smoked the opium to “make him feel good again.” He said the girl came over to rub his back, which was the cause of his illness, and not to smoke. He said she never smoked in the place.

### **“Enticed to come to this city”<sup>66</sup> (1914)**

Through a story told by Elsie Saint, an 18-year-old Brantford girl, whom he enticed to come to this city for immoral purposes, Charles Wong, a Chinaman who lives in Chatham, was convicted Friday afternoon in police court on a charge of bringing a woman to this city for immoral purposes. The Chinaman was remanded until Monday for sentence. Six other Chinamen were charged with being frequenters of a house of ill-fame and Frank Lee, king of the local Chinese colony, was charged with keeping a house of ill-fame. Evidence was taken in the charges and Magistrate Leggatt reserved his decision until Monday.

The girl told a story of having left her home when she was 15 years of age. She said she had worked in Brantford, Sarnia and Chatham. Two weeks ago she claimed Wong wrote her and told her to come to Windsor and she could “earn” lots of money. She came to the city and Wong took her to a house on Goyeau street, where Lee has a Chinese boarding house. She lived at the place until the time of her arrest.

Magistrate Leggatt ordered the girl held for a few days, and efforts are being made to have her go home to her parents.

### **“Given 6 months term”<sup>67</sup> (1914)**

Charlie Wong, the young Chinaman who was charged with bringing Elsie Saint, a young Brantford girl, to this city for immoral purposes, was arraigned before Magistrate Leggatt on Monday morning for sentence. Despite the pleas of Barrister T. Mercer Morton, the court said that he meant to teach the Celestials in Canada a lesson and let them know that they could not traffic in girls of any kind. “I give this man six months at hard labor in Kingston penitentiary,” said the magistrate.

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<sup>66</sup> From CHINESE HELD ON GIRL'S STORY. (1914, August 8). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>67</sup> From CHINAMEN GIVEN 6 MONTHS TERMS. (1914, August 10). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

Charlie Lee, who was charged with keeping a disorderly house at 59 Sandwich street, where he keeps the Dominion Café, was let go with a warning by the court. The five other Chinamen who were charged with being frequenters of the house were also let go.

### **“Chinese forget to call out the fire department”<sup>68</sup> (1914)**

With the inside of the building a mass of flames, several Chinamen employed by A. On Kee, proprietor of a laundry in the building at the corner of Ouellette avenue and London street, owned by the John Curry estate, risked being burned to death in an effort to save some personal effects that were in the building. Instead of calling the fire department, the Celestials, in their excitement, kept carrying goods out of the building. Persons passing the store saw the fire and turned in an alarm. When the department succeeded in extinguishing the flames about \$5,000 damage had been done. If the Chinese had thought to summon the department the damage would not have reached \$200.

The origin of the fire could not be learned by Chief Murray owing to the inability of the Chinese to talk English. It is thought to have started from an overheated stove, which is used for heating irons. The interior of the Chinese laundry is a total loss, while a fruit store owned by L. J. Peters, next door, was damaged by smoke and water. The offices of the Dovercourt Land & Building Co. were also damaged.

The loss will be swelled owing to the fact that many people had taken their laundry to the Chinese on Monday. Had it not been a holiday in the city twice the amount of laundry would have been destroyed and the loss much greater. From the appearance of the inside of the building, those who had goods there will not need to call.

The flames shot through the rear window and scorched the home of Game Warden Peter Chauvin slightly. The loss will be distributed as follows:

Peters & Co., \$1,000; building, \$2,500; Dovercourt Land and Building Co., real estate company and laundry, \$1,500. The home of Victor Chauvin on East London street was scorched.

### **“A menace to the public health”<sup>69</sup> (1914)**

“I suppose that place on Ouellette avenue where once there stood a Chinese laundry is due to stay in that filthy condition for a few months or more,” said Grump Friday. “The place is a menace to the public health of the people who daily pass the building. Old rubbish and food of the Celestials has been left there to rot, and already

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<sup>68</sup> From CHINESE FORGET TO CALL OUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. (1914, May 26). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>69</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1914, May 30). *Evening Record*, p. 7.

a very disagreeable odor arises from the place. It seems bad enough to have such a building in that neighborhood without leaving it in such a disreputable condition.”

### **“Mr. Timms is very proud of the gift”<sup>70</sup> (1914)**

Harry Lee, who has returned from a trip to China, presented a carved bamboo walking stick to Robert Timms, his landlord, as a souvenir. The stick has a metal cap, which, when unscrewed, lets out an extension fishing rod, made on the telescope style. Mr. Timms is very proud of the gift.

### **“Police raid alleged joint”<sup>71</sup> (1915)**

Saturday night Officers Maitre and Vanderlinder, under the direction of Detective Sergeant William Reid and Sergeant M. Wigle, raided rooms on the second floor of 57 Sandwich street east. As a result, eight Chinese alleged to be opium smokers were arrested, and three complete opium outfits and more than a pound of the drug seized. The same place was raided some time ago and Frank Lee, known as “king of the Chinese colony,” was found guilty of keeping the drug and also rooms in which it could be smoked, and was fined. It is said that three of the Chinamen were caught smoking and that one other was under the influence of the drug.

After the eight were taken to the police station, Frank Lee was arrested on suspicion of being a partner in the place. Two of the Chinamen were released on \$100 bail, each. Monday morning Magistrate Leggatt enlarged [sic.] the case until Wednesday morning. Wee Sing attempted to escape by crawling out a window and sliding down a water pipe. He was caught, however.

### **“An old-time offender”<sup>72</sup> (1915)**

“Hitting the pipe” in China or Chiantown, San Francisco, may be all right and the smokers may get away with it, but it is different in this country. Frank Lee, proprietor of rooms on the second floor of 57 and 59 Sandwich street east, can vouch for the above assertion as he found out in police court Wednesday afternoon that he could not conduct an opium “joint” in the city and escape the law.

Frank, known as the “king of the Chinese colony,” and an old-time offender, was convicted of keeping the drug in larger quantity for other than a medicinal use; also of keeping a disorderly house where the drug could be smoked. Magistrate Leggatt fined him \$100 and costs, amounting to \$21.10, or six months in jail.

The fine was the result of a raid of the building rented by him, by Patrolmen Vanderlinder and Maitre, headed by Detective Sergeant Wm. Reid and Sergeant Mort. Wigle last Saturday night about 6.15 o’clock. Sergeant Detective Reid and

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<sup>70</sup> From Chinese Souvenir. (1914, June 17). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 9.

<sup>71</sup> From POLICE RAID ALLEGED JOINT. (1915, February 22). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>72</sup> From “HITTING THE PIPE” EXPENSIVE LUXURY. (1915, February 25). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

Sergeant Wigle, armed with a search warrant and backed by their men, entered the building. Sergeant Wigle ascended the rear stairs, accompanied by Vanderlinder. After reaching the second story and making their way through many dark passages, they finally opened a door of a room where they discovered a number of the Celestials, two of whom were indulging in a "little painkiller."

All the tales of "dreamy, dreamy Chinatown" were forgotten by the officers. It is said that the deep inhalations of the drug render the smoker immune to all that is going on around him, and that he is conscious of only the deepest peace and oblivion. The concoction must have been weak or the smokers had not had a chance to get enough of it, for they were the liveliest and most wide-awake bunch of persons imaginable, according to the testimony of Sergeant Wigle. "Mort" said that two of the almond-eyed men were on a bench smoking with the utmost comfort when he entered, and before he could intercept them they had dropped their pipes and fled through a door in the opposite side of the room. If they were not awake, but walking in their sleep, they sure did not throw away any spare moments in making good their exit. Officer Vanderlinder was immediately ordered to block off a retreat by means of the door at the stairway and was just in time to intercept all but one of the men, rounding up six of them. Wee Sing, who almost made good his escape, was caught and Mort "nailed" one of the men before he had a chance to get out of the room.

A thorough search of the place was made and no drugs were found other than the tins that were found in the "den" with the two smoking sets. T. Mercer Morton, acting for the Chinese, after the evidence had been given, wanted to know how the officers who had given evidence knew that the mixture in the jars exhibited was opium. Dr. Doyle, of Essex, who happened to be in the court room, upon examining the contents of the jars announced that opium mixed with some other substance constituted the contents.

Lee was put on the stand after the evidence for the crown had been taken. He swore that he was ignorant of the fact, that the rooms that he claimed he rented to the "boys" for sleeping quarters were used as a "joint." When asked if he had ever been convicted of keeping a disorderly house before, he said that he did not remember. Crown Attorney Rodd refreshed his memory and informed him that he had been convicted of keeping such a place last summer and fined \$50; also that he was up during August, 1913. When cross-examined as to where he had been in his stocking feet and shirt sleeves as found by Sergt. Reid, who made a search of the second floor of number 59, he said that he had just been in to see the "boys."

"Are you in the habit of running from your quarters at number 59 to the rooms in number 57 in your stocking feet?" asked the crown attorney.

In answer Frank said that he had just been in the place for a few minutes previous to the visit by the officers and that he was not in his stocking feet but had slippers on. He said that he had made a hurried exit but maintained that he had slippers on in spite of the sworn statement of two officers that he did not have.

When one of the Chinese was brought into the court room from the corridor to be identified by a witness, Magistrate Leggatt worked in a hearty laugh for the spectators by labeling him "exhibit one." Chess Lee and Wee Sing were also fined,

they being charged with being frequenters of the place and smokers. The others were allowed to go on suspended sentence. Lee paid \$28.75 including costs, and Sing a total fine of \$18.75.

### **“Bail money was used to pay the fine”<sup>73</sup> (1915)**

When Frank Lee and his brother, Chess [sic.], were fined in connection with the opium case, part of the bail money was used to pay the fine. The total bail put up was \$450, of which Charlie Stephens claims he advanced \$250 to Teddy Jean. Charlie is trying to find out where he is “at.” It is claimed the police turned over the bail money to Barrister T. Mercer Morton, who acted for the Chinese in court. Mr. Morton says there are already two or three claimants for the money and he intends to return the balance to Chief Wills to figure out the dispute.

### **“An excessive quantity of liquor”<sup>74</sup> (1915)**

Frank Lee, a Chinese, proprietor of the S. S. Frank Co., appeared in police court Tuesday morning on the charge of having an excessive quantity of liquor on his premises, 59 Sandwich street east. Magistrate Leggatt reserved judgment until Friday.

Last Thursday License Inspector Gaspard Pacaud, assisted by Provincial Officers Nash and Smith, searched the place used by Lee as a grocery store. They found 36 bottles of Chinese wine under one of the counters of the store and 12 cases in a dark passageway. Lee claimed that he imported the wine from his homeland for the rest of the Chinese colony, but did not sell it to them.

### **“Laundries which white girls are said to frequent”<sup>75</sup> (1915)**

Two young Windsor girls, whose names are withheld by the police, were found in a Chinese laundry operated by Hop Lee and his son, on Pelissier street, early Saturday morning, when the place was raided by the authorities. The young women were taken to the police station, where they are now held. They will be arraigned along with Hop Lee and his son, who were also taken into custody Saturday afternoon and charged with a serious offence. Several other Chinese laundries which white girls are said to frequent are under the surveillance of the police department, and more raids are looked for.

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<sup>73</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, February 26). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>74</sup> From Judgment Reserved By Magistrate in Chinese Livuor [sic.] Case. (1915, December 28). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>75</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, July 24). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

## **“Thirty-two cases of Chinese wine”<sup>76</sup> (1915)**

Frank Lee, owner of the S. S. Frank Grocery Co., was fined \$300 and costs by Magistrate Leggatt, Friday morning, on the charge of keeping an excessive quantity of liquor on his premises. The complaint was made by License Inspector Gaspard Pacaud, who raided the store at 59 Sandwich street east. Thirty-two cases of Chinese wine [were] confiscated.

## **“Cannot be located by authorities”<sup>77</sup> (1916)**

Huey Sam, Ah Sing, Lengo Ah, Lee Longe, Foh John and ten other Celestials with chop suey titles were arrested in a spectacular raid conducted by Sergts. Reid and Wigle and Patrolmen McCarthy and Watson in the Chinese grocery store owned by Frank Lee, Sandwich street east, Sunday evening. Nearly a dozen others managed to make their escape.

When the police entered the building there was a wild scramble on the part of the “Sunday school class” to get out. Windows on the second floor of the building were thrown open, and several Chinese risked their lives when they slid down the frail drainpipes leading to the roofs or jumped to neighboring buildings.

Money, which was on the gaming table, was picked up by the police when the captives were corralled in one room. Several decks of playing cards, fan-tan outfits and a large number of lottery tickets were found and confiscated. They will be used as evidence against the men arrested. Bail was provided for the prisoners, and they were released until Monday morning. They appeared before Magistrate Leggatt and were remanded for a week for trial.

Magistrate Leggatt is in a quandary as to what can be done with the men. Chief Wills admits it will be a difficult task to prove the men were gambling. Under the Canadian statutes, “skittles, football and other noisy games on the Lord’s Day” are prohibited.

It is admitted by the police that the Chinese were not playing skittles or football, and the outcome of the case hinges on the noise which was being made while the play was in progress.

Frank Lee, who owns the store where the men congregate each Sunday afternoon, was not present at the time of the raid and cannot be located by authorities.

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<sup>76</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, December 31). *Evening Record*, p. 3.

<sup>77</sup> From CHINESE STORE IS RAIDED BY POLICE, 15 MEN CAPTURED. (1916, January 17). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.



## **“On the charge of gambling”<sup>78</sup> (1916)**

Frank Lee, head of the Windsor Chinese colony, appeared in police court, Thursday morning, on the charge of gambling on Sunday. Lee pleaded not guilty to the charge and was remanded until Friday morning for trial. It is said that at the time a raid was made on his store, Sandwich street east, two weeks ago, Lee was overlooked, but later a warrant was made out. Sixteen Chinese were fined \$20 and costs by Magistrate Leggatt at the time of their appearance in court.

## **“Fined \$20 and costs”<sup>79</sup> (1916)**

Frank Lee, king of the Chinese colony in this city, was fined \$20 and costs by Magistrate Leggatt on the charge of gambling on the Sabbath day. Lee should have appeared with the other 14 Celestials who were fined a short time ago, but his name was overlooked by the police.

The gambling was going on on the premises of Lee, but no charge was made against him for running the game.

## **“Police probe of Chinese places”<sup>80</sup> (1916)**

Steps may be taken by President McNee and Inspector Hackney on behalf of the Children’s Aid society to have a police investigation of conditions respecting alleged immorality in certain Chinese laundries.

Inspector Hackney discovered a girl 13 years old who had been frequenting Chinese places and was suffering from a loathsome disease. The girl was taken in charge and is now under hospital treatment costing \$45 a week.

President McNee and others connected with the society feel justified in having a thorough investigation made. They have some shocking reports under consideration.

## **“Resorts of the worst kind”<sup>81</sup> (1916)**

Attention was called to the immoral character of certain Chinese laundries by members of the Children’s Aid society, and Judge Dromgole assured the members of the delegations that the police would investigate such places if sufficient information to justify such steps was turned over to him.

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<sup>78</sup> From “KING OF CHINATOWN” ARRAIGNED IN COURT. (1916, February 3). *Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>79</sup> From King of Chinatown Fined for Allowing Countrymen to Gamble. (1916, February 4). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

<sup>80</sup> From POLICE PROBE OF CHINESE PLACES. (1916, February 23). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>81</sup> From Makes Serious Charge Against Former Police Force Member. (1916, February 29). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.

“We are not criticizing the police department as a whole,” said Mr. McNee, “but it is common talk that the city is infested with resorts of the worst kind. When a man on the street can hear such talk, members of the police force must know about it, because they are in a much better position to hear the rumors and see the actual effects of such places.

“Raids are sometimes made, but arrests are seldom made, the assumption being that someone aware of the intentions of the police, have ‘tipped off’ the pending police action.”

## **“The Chinese Nationalist League”<sup>82</sup> (1916)**

Chinese of Windsor expressed their loyalty to King George V. and their belief that the cause of the allies in the present war is a just one at a meeting attended by nearly 200 Celestial residents of Windsor, Chatham, Toronto and other cities, held in the rooms of the Chinese Nationalist League on Sandwich street east, Sunday afternoon.

The Windsor branch of this league is one of the 170 branches scattered throughout the United States and Canada, and has for its object the re-establishment of a republic in China and the adequate punishment of Yuan Sai Kai and others who assisted him in the upsetting of the democratic form of government established several years ago.

The headquarters of the league is in San Francisco, and the American membership numbers tens of thousands. The local branch was recently formed, and to observe the occasion of the first meeting the hall was decorated with flags of the allies as well as the new Chinese republic flag, which has broad stripes of black, white, blue, yellow and red.

A banquet of Chinese dishes followed the addresses made by speakers from out of the city, among whom were Ing Suey, of Toronto, the president of the branch in that city.

The local officers are: President, King Lee; vice-president, Frank Lee; second vice-president, Jen Jung, and secretary-treasurer, Harry Lee.

## **“Fined for keeping opium den”<sup>83</sup> (1918)**

Frank Lee and A on Kee, “kings” of the local Chinese colony, were each ordered to pay fines of \$20 and costs Monday morning in police court for keeping an opium den at 59 and 61 Sandwich street east. A second charge of operating a disorderly house was dismissed.

The case grew out of a raid made three weeks ago by Sergt. Frank Cade and a squad of officers. A quantity of “dope” in jars, which was identified by Dr. Menard as

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<sup>82</sup> From WINDSOR CHINESE ORGANIZE TO AID NATIVE COUNTRY. (1916, April 10). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>83</sup> From Chinese “Kings” Fined For Keeping Opium Den. (1918, May 6). *Border Cities Star*, p. 8.

opium, two pipes and a couple of “cookers” were seized in rooms on the third floor of the building.

### **“Denies all knowledge”<sup>84</sup> (1918)**

King Lee took the witness stand in his own behalf in his trial this morning in police court on a charge of having opium in his possession and attempting to export it to the United States, and denied that he knew anything about the traffic in opium.

He said that a short time before arrests were made in the case, a strange Chinaman came to his café and had supper. He explained that the stranger, who gave his name as Charlie Ling, talked with James Richards, who admitted taking 25 cans of opium across the river, and that afterwards Richards was in the café and inquired for Ling. He also testified that Mrs. Catherine O’Donald, daughter of Richards, went to his café and inquired for the strange Chinaman after her father had been arrested. He declared that two or three days afterwards she returned and wanted to borrow \$50, saying that she would give him her watch and rings as security. He said that she told him her father was in trouble and that she needed \$300 but she had only \$200. He told her he didn’t have any money but finally loaned her \$20. She offered a ring as security but he returned it to her on the suggestion of his wife, he testified. He explained that she left then saying she would get all the money she could from Frank Lee.

### **“Several pipes and a quantity of opium”<sup>85</sup> (1918)**

Ah On Kee and Frank Lee, Chinamen, pleaded guilty this morning in police court to charges of having opium in their possession in a Chinese store over 59 Sandwich street, following a raid by the police when it was suspected that the Chinamen were running a disorderly house.

Several pipes and a quantity of opium were found. The prisoners were fined \$50 and \$18 costs each. They were in court before on similar charges. They appeared together in May of this year and Kee appeared in May of last year.

The raid was made by Sergt. Jones and Officers Fitzgerald, Deacon and Pero. At the time of the raid it was not suspected that opium would be found.

### **“To use in his tea”<sup>86</sup> (1919)**

Frank Lee pleaded guilty Tuesday morning in police court to having opium in his possession and was fined \$25 and \$28.50 costs.

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<sup>84</sup> From KING LEE DENIES ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THE OPIUM TRAFFIC. (1918, October 9). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

<sup>85</sup> From POLICE RAID DISCOVERED OPIUM PIPES. (1918, October 23). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>86</sup> From OPIUM USER FINED FOR HAVING DRUG IN HIS POSSESSION. (1919, January 28). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

Gene Fong pleaded not guilty to a similar offense, but was convicted and assessed the same amount. The opium was found by Provincial Officers Smith and Hanna, when they searched the premises of S. Frank & Co., 61 Sandwich street east.

According to the explanation made in behalf of Fong he had the opium to use in his tea and was trying to break off the habit of smoking the drug.

### **“As a result of a raid”<sup>87</sup> (1919)**

Frank lee and Gean Fong, two Chinamen, appeared in police court Monday morning, as a result of a raid at 61 Sandwich street east Saturday night by Provincial Officers Smith and Hanna, assisted by High Constable Smith and County Constable Pillon, when a quantity of opium was found in a bag.

Lee was charged with running an opium joint, and Fong faced a charge of having opium in his possession. They were remanded a week for trial.

According to the officers, many Chinamen were found in the place when it was raided. Frank Lee was convicted last October 23rd of keeping an opium joint, and was fined \$50.

### **“Out of consideration for their parents”<sup>88</sup> (1919)**

The four youths who assaulted and robbed Lee Fong, a Chinese laundryman, at 12.30 a.m. on May 22, were each fined \$50 and costs in the police court Saturday morning and were ordered to jointly make good the \$50.50 stolen from their victim.

The total to be paid by each of the offenders is \$90.90. In default of payment they will be sent to jail for one year.

In letting the youths off with a fine, Magistrate Miers said he did so only out of consideration for their parents.

### **“Tax dodgers before court”<sup>89</sup> (1919)**

When Dave Cheyne, assistant tax collector, presented his first instalment of “statute labor tax dodgers” to Magistrate Miers in Windsor police court, three Chinese laundry workers were brought before the bench.

Misunderstanding of the English language when cash is the demand was given as the excuse by the Celestials.

The fine of \$5 and costs was split, the tax department getting the fine and the court the costs.

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<sup>87</sup> From Chinese Remanded One Week for Trial On Opium Charge. (1919, January 20). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

<sup>88</sup> From ASSAULT AND THEFT PROVE QUITE COSTLY. (1919, May 31). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

<sup>89</sup> From TAX DODGERS BEFORE COURT. (1919, November 4). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

“Expect more, your honor,” added Dave, as he went in search of his next consignment.

### **“It would tend to relieve the pain”<sup>90</sup> (1920)**

Frank Lee, Chinese, 61 Sandwich street East, was arraigned before Magistrate Miers in Walkerville police court Tuesday on a charge of having opium and pipes in his residence.

Dr. F. F. Bell, Windsor physician, testified to the court on behalf of Lee. He stated that he had been Lee’s medical advisor for at least fifteen years, and during that period Lee had been subject to frequent attacks of erysipela.

Lee was ordered to stop using the drug but after a time he had another attack and upon investigation the doctor decided to allow Lee the use of opium in small quantities, as it would tend to relieve the pain.

### **“Opium valued at \$50,000”<sup>91</sup> (1921)**

What is believed to constitute the largest seizure of opium in the history of the Border Cities was made by the Windsor police department early Saturday evening in a raid upon a Chinese laundry at 457 London street. Opium to the value of probably \$50,000, which police believe was the main source of supply to Detroit customers, was seized in the raid conducted by Detective Sergeant Brumpton assisted by several members of the Windsor police force. Upwards of 300 pounds of opium were taken in the raid.

### **“Get out of the border cities”<sup>92</sup> (1921)**

Lee Gin was found not guilty by Judge Coughlin at the general sessions of the Peace in Sandwich early Thursday evening of robbing Jean Sam, Ford laundryman, of a pocketbook containing \$2.20 on Edna street, Ford. The case was to have been heard before a jury but on application of J. Walter Curry, K.C., Toronto, counsel for the accused, George Urquhart, crown attorney, consented to it being heard without a jury.

During the trial, a mild sensation was caused when a letter, presumably written by local officials of the Chinese Nationalist League, which was sent to Gin while he was in jail, was read. The letter ordered Gin to get out of the Border Cities because he had made some insulting remarks about the league. A heavier sentence

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<sup>90</sup> From Doctor Says Opium Smoker Needed Pill. (1920, September 29). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>91</sup> From Opium valued at \$50,000 Seized by Police Officers. (1921, February 21). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>92</sup> From WARNS LEE GIN TO GET OUT OF BORDER CITIES. (1921, June 18). *Border Cities Star*, p. 13.

than banishment from the Border Cities would have been imposed, the letter stated, if one of the local officials of the league had not asked for clemency.

On the witness stand in his defense, Lee Gin said that he had never made any remarks about the league and that he was not a member of it. He testified that during a conversation with King Lee, well known Windsor Chinaman, King Lee had accused him of making insulting remarks about the league and had given him no chance to repudiate them.

The letter, a translation of which was read in court, Gin said he received while in prison.

The robbery with which he was charged occurred on the night of April 21. Jean Sam said that he was walking along Edna street, near Drouillard road, Ford, with Lem Sam, another laundryman, when Gin rushed up behind him, hit him in the back, reached into his pocket and took his pocketbook. After chasing Gin for about a block down Edna street, Jean Sam said the accused fell and he held him until two men came along. Lem Sam corroborated Jean Sam's evidence.

William Suprennant also testified [at the] station. Suprennant said that he saw three men running down the street and one jump on another and cry "robber." He then pulled Jean Sam off Lee Gin's back and started to take Gin to the Ford police station and on the way met Constable Fred Rivers.

After taking the accused to the station, Suprennant said that he and Constable Rivers and two or three others returned to where he first saw the two Chinamen on the street and found Jean Sam's pocketbook. Gordon Elsie, another witness, corroborated Suprennant's statements.

Frank Lee, proprietor of a store at 125 Sandwich street east, admitted that he had seen the letter which Gin had stated was received by him in jail. He said that a man whose name he did not know came to his store and showed him the letter. Frank Lee admitted that he was treasurer of the local branch of the Chinese Nationalist League last year, and that he is a member of the Chinese Masonic Order.

Lee Gin objected to a notice posted in Frank Lee's store which required all members of the Chinese Masonic Order to pay their dues to a Toronto man, and said that it should be torn down, Lee told the court. Questioned by Mr. Curry, Lee said that he did not know whether or not there is any animosity between the Chinese Masonic Order and the Chinese Nationalist League. Lee said that Jean Sam was a member of the League.

An entirely different version of the affair on Edna street was given by the accused. He said that he was walking peacefully along the street when Jean Sam and Lem Sam attacked him and he started to run and fell, Jean Sam falling on top of him and shouting "Robber." He denied that he had made any attempt to rob Jean Sam or that he had hit him.

## **“Plead guilty to smoking opium”<sup>93</sup> (1929)**

Two Chinese, arrested last night by a squad of Windsor police officers in charge of Sergt. Joseph Pero, in a raid on an alleged opium joint at 119 Sandwich street east, were fined a combined sum of \$110 and costs, when they pleaded guilty before Magistrate D. M. Brodie in city police court today.

They were Ho Sing, who admitted he was smoking opium when the officers raided the premises, and Frank Lee, said to be well-known in the local Chinese community. Sing was fined \$100 on a charge of smoking, and Lee \$10 for being a frequenter of an opium joint.

In response to an inquiry made by Gordon Fraser, who represented the two, Magistrate Brodie drily said he understood Lee had derived a “certain amount of exhilaration from the smoke made by the smoker’s pipe.”

One opium pipe and some drug residue was confiscated.

## **“Lonesome and separated”<sup>94</sup> (1929)**

Every now and then you read that the police of some city or other have raided some Chinese restaurant, laundry, store or clubroom and that eight or ten Chinamen have been arrested for playing their national game, fan tan. The mere fact that these men are several thousand miles from home, that they speak a strange language, that they have few friends among Canadians, that they are lonesome and separated from their families and that, to them, fan tan is quite on a par with baseball, golf or any other Canadian sport, seems to mean nothing. Somebody must be raided and the Chinese are the victims. In the same city, perhaps, where the Chinamen are being paid such careful attention by the authorities, leading citizens may be playing poker for high stakes, handbooks may be operating freely and blind pigs running high, wide and handsome.

Administration of the law sometimes has queer angles. And, as Burns so well put it, “man’s inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.”

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<sup>93</sup> From Plead Guilty to Smoking Opium. (1929, May 2). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>94</sup> From Just a “China Boy”. (1929, July 11). *Border Cities Star*, p. 4.

## “Frank Lee, one time leader”<sup>95</sup> (1930)

Sought by provincial and mounted police since a dope seizure was made some months ago at 119 Sandwich street, east, Frank Lee, one time leader in the Windsor Chinese colony, was arrested yesterday afternoon, and will be arraigned in police court today.

It was alleged at the time of the raid that Lee, who is 63 years of age, was implicated in the dope traffic here, and a breach of the narcotics act will likely be laid against him by [the] Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Lee was noticed yesterday afternoon by Windsor police and was taken into custody. This morning, pleading guilty through Le Dean to a charge of being in possession of an apparatus for smoking narcotics, he was assessed \$50 and costs.

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<sup>95</sup> From Chinese Arrested On Narcotic Charge. (1930, November 5). *Border Cities Star*, p. 12.



## Later Years

### “We must fight Japan”<sup>96</sup> (1931)

Words hammered forth in staccato Chinese by gesticulating orators kindled the war spirit of 400 Chinese at a mass meeting in the Kuomintang headquarters, 63 Sandwich street west, yesterday, until they rocked the room with violent applause at every declaration of hatred against Japan.

“We must fight Japan,” cried Lee See Yuen, one of the war committee.

“We will fight!” came the answering roar.

Cheer after cheer, violent and sharp, greeted each fighting utterance, and the intensity of feeling that ran electric through the hall reached its height in unanimously approving of a resolution urging the Chinese Government to declare war upon Japan at once.

A second resolution officially confirmed the boycott against Japanese goods already in effect. The Windsor Chinese agreed that they would cease trade relations with Japanese merchants forever and would oppose the Japanese in every possible way. However, since there are practically no Japs in Windsor, there is little likelihood of their bitter feeling toward Japan being vented locally.

No further action was taken in connection with the plan to purchase and arm four planes here for shipment to China. The gathering signed its willingness to raise the necessary \$25,000 and then left the matter in abeyance until war was actually declared.

Notices in the windows of Chinese restaurants, laundries and stores here which read: “China and Japan are on the Verge of War and the Border Chinese Associations Are Holding a Mass Meeting. Closed 2.30 to 4.30.” gave the Windsor public its first personal idea of how determined local Chinese are in their opposition to Japan. Hungry diners found front doors locked and impatient laundry seekers fumed in vain. All was quiet.

All was not quiet on the Western Sandwich street front, however.

In an assembly hall up a flight of dingy stairs at number 63, four hundred Chinese leaned forward in their seats and gave rapt attention to the burning words of their leaders. Multi-colored bulbs overhead, a rugby football in one corner of the room and a punching-bag swivel not ten feet from the speaker’s table gave an oddly western touch to the scene.

The drama of war throbbed in the room.

“We must unite against the common enemy,” cried Yuen. “China needs the help of every man in this room. Your country calls you. You cannot forsake your homeland! We must fight together! Down with Japanese Imperialism!”

A roar of applause shattered the tense hush in which his words were being received. At every mention of the words “fight Japan” would come another storm of cheers and applause.

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<sup>96</sup> From Fight Japan, Is War Cry. (1931, October 16). *Broder Cities Star*, p. 7.

Several pretty Chinese women in the room joined in the demonstration. Youths, apparently playing truant from school in order to attend the meeting, clapped violently. The battle fever raced in every Oriental brain.

Another demonstration greeted the resolution declaring the boycott upon Japanese goods, and the meeting wound up with a mass recitation of the Chinese national anthem, which is not set to music.

A battlefront touch was given the meeting by occasional blinding glares from photographers' bulbs and explosions of flashing powder. Stinging smoke spreading over the room added to the illusion.

Word had not yet been received, when the meeting was held, of Japan's statement that she would not wage war upon China under any circumstances. The attitude of the meeting, confirmed later by officials in an interview with *The Star*, was that it was hopeless to negotiate with Japan for peace in view of the failure of the League of Nations. Because of this the assembly urged that war be declared at once.

J. W. Chong, teacher of the Chinese children's school and secretary of the Chinese Anti-Japan Association, was another fervent speaker. He traced the history of China and pointed out how Japan had been oppressing her in recent years.

"Now is the time for us to fight for our rights. We do not wish war, but Japan is making it inevitable," he declared.

His views were received with vociferous approval.

Upon a beam overhead was a framed copy of the copy of the constitution of the Chinese Nationalist League. It read as follows: "No. 1. To maintain the Political Unity. No. 2. To expand Local Self Government. No. 3. To Enforce the Assimilation of the Race. No. 4. To adopt the Best Policies of Socialism. No. 5. To Maintain the International Peace."

No definite date for another meeting has been set.

"We are waiting for further developments, and when war is declared we will take action at once to raise sufficient funds to send planes over," stated Lee Dean, local Chinese leader, following the meeting. "Meanwhile all arrangements are being left in the air."

Some 50 young Chinese are disappointed that the Central Government does not feel the need for their services, but hope to reach China, in event of war, by paying their own expenses. This angle of the situation will be gone into more thoroughly if war breaks out, Mr. Dean said.

King Lee acted as chairman of the meeting.

### **"Really very attractive"<sup>97</sup> (1932)**

At 315 Park street west, is a Chinese laundry. Now, when I mention that, there, no doubt, comes to your mind the picture of the usual Chinese laundry – old

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<sup>97</sup> From Thibaudeau, W. H. (1932, August 18). *Border Cities Star*, p. 25. Written by Wesley H. Thibaudeau (1887 – 1960).

frame house, tipped over at an angle, badly in need of paint, and with a pretty much deserted and dilapidated appearance. But, in this particular case, the proprietor is willing to pay sufficient rent to be located in a good, well-kept up, brick building. With such a location, he has continued over a period of several years to keep his double windows full of well cared for, and really very attractive, plants, so that one gets quite a pleasant pick-up when passing. [...]

The man of some means and social position is compelled by public opinion, if no other impulse, to keep his property in a respectable condition. I am, therefore, much more impressed when interest in beauty and fine things is exhibited by a member of a class from whom little is expected.

I have been glad at times to stop and remark on the appearance of this chap's windows, which has always appeared to greatly please him, but a word of commendation from your paper would, no doubt, encourage this member of a class we are too apt to belittle, if not despise, and would possibly prompt others of his race to take more pride in their premises, and would possibly shame some of our Canadians into like action.

Take a look at this chap's windows, and see if you do not think the fellow deserves a word of encouragement, particularly when the saying of it might have a good effect on others, as well.

### **“Keeping liquor for sale”<sup>98</sup> (1950)**

A trans-Pacific explanation for the presence of 11 cases of beer and six bottles of liquor in a Chinese laundry didn't save Yeun Lee [sic.] from a two-month jail term today.

Lee, after a trial enlivened with numerous snatches of Chinese which left the courtroom in a dither, was convicted by Magistrate J. A. Hanrahan of keeping liquor for sale at 994 Maisonville street.

Through an interpreter, Lee told the court the large quantity of liquor found at the laundry had been gathered to celebrate the arrival in Canada of his wife and daughter from China.

A letter from China was produced to back up the story. The interpreter offered to read the letter in Chinese, but Magistrate Hanrahan, Mrs. Edith Ross, court reporter, and defence counsel, Gordon L. Fraser, K.C., decided, in a single voice, that an English translation would suffice.

St. George Browne of the morality squad and Constable Irving Snyder told of the raid and observation on the east side premises. In about two hours, one Sunday, 17 people entered and left the place. On the day of the raid, 11 men and a woman entered in a period of two hours.

Part of the crowd, defence attempted to explain, was looking for an iceman, who, according to police evidence, seemed to bounce in and out of the laundry every few minutes.

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<sup>98</sup> From Sought Iceman in Laundry. (1950, July 5). *Windsor Daily Star*, p. 3.

The rest were said to have been bringing laundry or picking up laundry. According to police, only one person carried a parcel.

The man with the parcel, entered with a folded paper bag. He came out with the bag bulging. A woman with him was quoted by police as saying with a laugh: "Be careful with baby, dear."

W. H. MacLeod, who acted for the Crown in the case, vigorously cross-examined Lee. At times Lee, who said he had been living in Windsor 32 years, seemed to understand the questions. Usually the interpreter came to his rescue.

Sometimes Lee would answer a question with a single word in Chinese, which would be translated by about 50 English words. Other items, a long spiel in Chinese by Lee, provided the court with a "Yes" or "No" from the interpreter.

Charges of unlawful consumption of liquor were laid against five foundins [sic.] who each gave a different reason for being at Lee's place.

One man said he was looking for his cousin. Another went for ice; another for laundry; and still another to visit Lee. None had bought, drank, or seen any liquor until police arrived.

Sgt. Brown testified a refrigerator had nothing in it but beer and a bunch of asparagus. Lee explained he didn't keep food in an ice-box like other people do. He ate only dried Chinese food which he kept in a cupboard.

In addition to the jail term, the premises were declared public for a year.

## **"No future for Chinese laundries"<sup>99</sup> (1964)**

HALIFAX (CP) Donald Lee says there's no future for Chinese laundries in Halifax.

"Automatic washing machines have ruined my business," Lee said Monday as he announced he would shut the doors of his laundry here later this month. "I can't make enough there to live."

The 34-year-old launderer said young people coming from Hong Kong to Canada no longer set up laundries. "They all go into the restaurant business."

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<sup>99</sup> From Would Rather Cook. (1964, June 2). *Windsor Daily Star*, p. 16.

# Chinese Laundries and Windsor's City Council

## “A white man's country”<sup>100</sup> (1910)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

Editor The Record: In your issue of the 31st ult. You stated “that in one important respect Chatham is away ahead of Windsor.”<sup>101</sup> This in no doubt is quite true, but did it not occur to you that this is so in more than one respect? Chatham not long since very wisely imposed a license of one hundred dollars per year upon all laundries operating and actually conducting a laundry within the city limits. The city had become overrun with Chinese laundries (just as Windsor is at present) to the detriment of citizens who otherwise would be doing such work.

There is a feature of this thing appeals to the man or woman who has the proper idea of citizenship, which is that these people work night and day, and subsist upon little or nothing, and finally take about 75 per cent of their earnings back to China, while if this work were done by our own people it would be done during proper working hours, and at a proper wage, and their earnings would be employed in procuring and maintaining their homes, which would ultimately form a substantial part of the town or city they lived in.

No doubt this is the view the Chatham fathers took of this matter when they imposed a license of \$100, which seems to have had the desired effect, but unfortunately their action was not in the interest of Windsor, for since then our swarthy faced population has increased to an alarming extent until there seems to be no chance for a white man's laundry to exist here.

Why do we find just the opposite of these circumstances exist in Detroit? Because it is a white man's city, while we overlook these things and allow them to go by default. Evidences of it can be seen in every direction you may turn.

Why is it that we are so lax in matters that concern us as a whole? When are our organized labor going to do their duty and stand for the principle they presume to advocate? And lastly, why does our city council not profit by the wise and citizen-like example set by the city of Chatham?

Our motto should ever be if we are loyal to ourselves: “Canada for Canadians; all others look out for themselves.”

G. W. FREEMAN.

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100 From Freeman, G. W. (1910, June 3). A White Man's Country. *Evening Record*, p. 4. Written by George W. Freeman (1852 – 1929), painter and one-time secretary of the Builders and Contractors Association.

101 “In one important respect Chatham is away ahead of Windsor. There a citizen going to or from a railway depot or from one part of the city to another may be carried anywhere in the corporation at the cost of 25 cents – here the city is in the grasp of a livery combine and pays what they exact. In Chatham a dozen taxicabs flit about the city, working at the same tariff as the horse vehicles – Windsor has no such institution.” In one important respect. (1910, May 31). *Evening Record*, p. 4.

## **“Alderman Keogh’s proposal”<sup>102</sup> (1910)**

If Alderman Keogh’s proposal comes to a head, the number of Chinese laundries in Windsor will be lessened to a great extent, and some of the best business locations which are now being occupied by Chinamen, who are satisfied with any kind of a shack, will be opened up, and the general appearance of the city considerably improved.

This proposal, which Mr. Keogh purposes to bring before the council at its next meeting, is to exact a substantial license fee for each place, leaving it to the city council to grant or refuse licenses. He suggests putting them on the same basis as a billiard room, charging them a fee of \$50 a year for each place. Such regulation, the alderman believes, will have the desired effect.

There are at present 15 or 20 Chinese laundries in Windsor, and the number has been greatly increased of late by an influx from Chatham, where a licensing regulation was put into effect some time ago. Some of the best locations in the city are now being rented by Chinamen, and many of them, it is alleged, are lodging houses for birds of passage seeking entrance to the United States. The latest complaint along this line has come from residents on Goyeau street, who have been informed that a house at the corner of Goyeau and London streets is to be occupied by Chinamen and probably turned into a Chinese laundry.

## **“Signed by every Chinese laundry proprietor”<sup>103</sup> (1910)**

A petition, signed by every Chinese laundry proprietor in the city, was presented to Lawyer Henry Clay, Thursday, protesting against the imposing of the \$50 license fee proposed by Alderman Keogh, and asking that he plead their cause when the council takes up the matter at its next meeting.

The Chinamen claim that they are being done an injustice, as they are obliged the same as other business men to pay the regular business tax, which is rated according to the value of their property, and if they are occupying some of the best business locations in the city, they pay higher taxes accordingly. As all their work is done by hand, they claim that the imposing of such proposed license fee would be nothing else than a tax on labor, which is contrary to the laws of the country.

Henry Clay, who has decided to take up their side of the question, doubts whether the council has the power to impose such a license fee under the circumstances, as it is contrary to the law to impose a tax on labor. However, the citizens of Toronto have taken up the matter, and they have imposed a \$5 license fee on Chinese laundries in their city, and in Hamilton the licence fee is \$2.

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102 From MOVEMENT TO TAX “CHINKS” LAUNDRIES. (1910, September 7). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

103 From CHINAMEN HAVE RETAINED LAWYER. (1910, September 16). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.

The following is a list of the Chinese laundry proprietors who signed the petition: Sam Wah, Harry Lee, Lee Hong, Sam Sing, Jim Lee, Sam Sing [sic.], Sing Wing, Tom Lee, A. On Kee, Frank Lee, John Wing and Jim Hop Lee.

### **“Not only unjust but unreasonable”<sup>104</sup> (1910)**

Editor The Record: I wish to say a few words on Mr. Keogh’s resolution which he means to bring before the council, asking that body to pass a city ordinance, or what he means to call it, placing an extra tax or license of \$50 per year on all Chinese laundries, which I think is not only unjust but unreasonable, in addition to the regular city tax, which is high enough now, goodness knows.

Then what about the many washer-women in this city who earn a living just as the Chinamen do? Does the alderman with his beautiful brick residence on London street mean to include or exclude them? To do the latter would be unfair to the Chinamen. The former would be a sad blow to many overworked washer-women.

I don’t think the alderman can be serious about this scheme. You know, Mr. Editor, it is nearly Mr. Keogh’s handshake season. If there were 400 or 500 Chinamen in the alderman’s ward entitled to vote at the coming election for 1911, Mr. Keogh would be around among them shaking hands and telling him that he himself has a little Chinese blood in him. He is after a little cheap advertising, that is all.

A CONSTANT READER.

### **“Unsanitary conditions”<sup>105</sup> (1910)**

Medical Health Officer Ashbaugh, accompanied by Sanitary Inspector Hillier and a Record reporter, made a tour of inspection of the down-town Chinese laundries this morning, and found conditions far from satisfactory. Dr. Ashbaugh made a careful inspection of each place, and warned the Orientals that they must clean up their premises immediately or prosecution will follow.

The first stop was made at the place of Jim Hop Lee, 77 Sandwich street east. Untidiness, disorder and uncleanliness prevailed through the establishment. Dirty and foul-smelling dishes and cooking utensils were scattered on tables and in the sink, while the odor was far from pleasant. In the sleeping quarters of the slant-eyed men in this laundry five beds were tucked in the small and badly-ventilated room. The bed linen needed an introduction to soap suds. In the rear of the premises a collection of garbage was heaped up, and Dr. Ashbaugh gave orders that it must be removed at once.

Conditions at the laundry of Jim Lee, 29 Pitt street, near the Herenden hotel, were no improvement on the other laundry visited. In fact, they were somewhat

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104 From A CONSTANT READER. (1910, September 19). (CHINESE SPECIAL TAX). *Evening Record*, p. 4.

105 From Chinese Laundries are In Unsanitary Conditions. (1910, September 20). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

worse. This laundry was about the most ill-smelling, untidy and dirty place visited by the health officer. At this place one of the inmates was found huddled in a chair “hitting the hop.” Dr. Ashbaugh, Mr. Hillier, and the reporter walked to a room in the rear of this laundry and just as they got into the room they glanced around and discovered a Chinaman smoking the “hop.” He had a pipe about two feet long in his thin hands, the end of the dope stick resting on the floor. He was almost bent double and seemed lost to the world. The visitors tapped him on the shoulder and he straightened up and placed the pipe in a corner. He was a young fellow about 22 years of age. The sleeping quarters in this place were also congested and foul-smelling, while the linen had lost its original whiteness long ago. The conditions here were extremely unsanitary. They were told to get busy immediately and clean up the joint.

The cleanest and most business-like place visited this morning was the establishment of Sam Sing, at 19 Pitt street west. Here the Chinamen evidently paid much more attention to cleanliness than did the other places in the city, and they seemed to be a more healthy and better looking lot than the occupants of the other laundries in town.

At Frank Lee’s place, 55 Sandwich street west, conditions were fairly good. There are but three Chinamen in this place. All the other laundries have from five to eight Chinks in them.

Other places visited in the down-town section were A. On Kee’s and Wing’s, on Ouellette avenue.

Dr. Ashbaugh’s visit gave the Orientals an awakening, and they gave promises to start house-cleaning immediately. The health officer will see to it that they live up to their promises or prosecutions will follow.

## “Undesirables”<sup>106</sup> (1910)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM, RACIST SLURS]

Editor The Record: Your columns of a recent date contained a reference to Ald. Keogh’s “Chinese bylaw” in which the writer attempted to belittle the Alderman’s sincerity in the matter. I submit that whether Alderman Keogh is in earnest or not, Windsor should not be a dumping ground for all the undesirables that have been driven out of our sister cities and towns to the east of us.

Windsor was at one time a haven for a very undesirable class of people, but owing to the improved condition of treaties between countries, Windsor does not look so healthy to them now. Windsor no doubt is overrun with the pigtailed tribe at present, but who is to blame for it? Why, the people of Windsor, who would be offended if you were to tell them that they are not good citizens, for instead of patronizing our own people who make a living in the laundry business they send their work to be laundered to such filthy dens as the health officer has just exposed.

If our people would show that they are not good citizens in name only in this respect there would be no necessity to pass a bylaw to drive the chinks out, but when

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106 From CITIZEN. (1910, September 27). Windsor’s Washee Washee Colony. *Evening Record*, p. 4.



we do not take sufficient interest in these things, any alderman should be commended for bringing it forward as Ald. Keogh is doing.

CITIZEN.

## “Merely sojourners and birds of passage”<sup>107</sup> (1910)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

Editor The Record: The expediency and propriety of subjecting the laundries of the city of Windsor to a license fee of \$50 per annum is now engrossing the attention of the city council, inasmuch that Alderman Keogh has given the regular notice that he will introduce a by-law for that purpose.

By way of review it may be said that the owners of the Windsor laundries, with a few exceptions, are aliens, who are not now, and by indication never will be, regular citizens, but merely sojourners and birds of passage, in fact, picking up a few dollars as best they can, and when a competence is accumulated they secretly take their departure in a shroud of mystery for the “flowery kingdom” of their forefathers, while others of their kin take the places thus vacated, and so ad infinitum.

They generally occupy some cheap, undesirable premises in which to ply their trade, making the same building both a shop and a dwelling, much in conflict with the requirements of modern sanitation.

As may be reasonably inferred, those exclusive people contribute but little to the commercial progress of the city, and nothing whatever to any social, educational, or other enterprise intended to promote the general welfare of the people at large.

Indeed, so obnoxious are their methods in the United States and Australia, that they are debarred by law from entering those countries. The Dominion of Canada imposes a tax of \$500 on each of these exclusives when he lands on Canadian soil.

Then, again, so inadequate are these so-called laundries to the general requirements of the city of Windsor, that when Ungar Williamson’s laundry was destroyed by fire, hotel keepers and others having large quantities of flat work were obliged to send it to Chatham, London, Detroit, or elsewhere, inasmuch that the local laundries could not or would not do that class of work at reasonable rates since they only catered to the personal trade, which is much more remunerative and entails less effort for the money.

Many precedents may be cited showing that aliens are frequently taxed for the benefits accruing to them by some exceptional condition or privilege found in a foreign country that does not exist in their own home land. On this phase of the subject let it suffice to say that all foreigners, many Canadians with the rest, were obliged to pay a poll tax of \$4 per month over and above the fees charged citizens of the United States for the privilege of prospecting and mining in California during the rush in the fifties.

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107 From OBSERVER. (1910, September 28). He Favors Keogh’s By-Law. *Evening Record*, p. 4.

Then, reasoning by analogy, why should these laundrymen, the most exclusive class in the world, be exempted from paying a license fee when they are permitted to participate in all the opportunities afforded by Canadian enterprise?

It is safe to assume that on the average, when we consider the danger attending the mining operations in the early days, that those very laundry operatives take more hard cash out of the country than the gold mines realized.

The argument becomes infinitely stronger when we find that a poor peddler who sells a few small wares from even a hand-basket or pack is obliged to pay a license fee, despite the fact that one of these alien laundrymen would make more money in a day than he would make in a week.

Let it be said, in conclusion, that those alien laundrymen carry on their business in a poor class of buildings, which pay little taxes; that they desert the city as soon as they accumulate a competency; that many enlightened nations do not consider them desirable citizens; that for certain classes of work their sundries do not fulfil the requirements of the city, and that many countries impose a special tax on aliens for any special advantages enjoyed by them.

It is devoutly to be wished that the aldermen of Windsor will impose a license fee on the alien laundries.

OBSERVER.

### **“Two sides to any question”<sup>108</sup> (1910)**

There are always at least two sides to any question and the rule does not fail on the Chinese laundry question. Today is presented the other side of the case, and it is ably and kindly done. As the writer says, granted the laundries are not as clean and sweet as they might and should be, there are other plague spots in the city that seem to escape the eye of the sanitary department. The health inspector must seek a reputation for impartiality.

### **“Defense of Chinese laundries”<sup>109</sup> (1910)**

Editor The Record: I have read the recent articles and letters in your columns touching on the Chinese laundries, and have waited for these to appear, as I expected they would, after the proposal of Ald. Keogh to impose a fine on the Chinese laundries. Apparently the thought uppermost in the minds of those who have expressed their views in your columns is the undesirability of the Chinese as citizens in general, and the local laundrymen in particular.

One writer refers to the Chinese as “the pig-tailed tribe,” as though wearing a queue were a crime. Nature gave it him, and why should he not wear it if he choose, neatly braided and wound round his head?

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108 From There are always. (1910, October 3). *Evening Record*, p. 4.

109 From A CHINESE FRIEND. (1910, October 3). Comes to the Defense of Chinese Laundries. *Evening Record*, p. 4.

It is evident the Chinese have few friends in the country, and very many averse from their presence. There may be good reasons for such antipathy, but to ridicule the characteristics or peculiarities of a class of people and dub them as “chinks” and “washee-washee men” should be beneath one of good principle.

Granted that the Chinaman is not a good citizen, he certainly pays dearly for the privilege of trying to be one. Five hundred dollars is exacted from him to enter the country, and all the abuse and insult he has to endure wherever he goes. When permitted to open a laundry he has no exemption from water rates, but pays special rates, besides usurious house rent. His expenses are considerable, as he must use fuel constantly the year round, and with machinery to work with, food and clothing, laundry supplies, living honestly after years of hard work to be able to save a few dollars is rather to his credit than otherwise.

He cannot help being a Chinaman, and should not be blamed for saving his money when earned in a legitimate business which contributes no small share of comfort to his patrons. As regards the unsanitary state of premises, has not Windsor a salaried M. H. O. and sanitary inspector to see that such conditions do not exist, and are not most of the laundries situated in the business section and on the main thoroughfares of our city, where they may be easily looked after?

All things considered the Chinaman is about as good a citizen as the average foreigner with the amount of encouragement he gets.

Levying a tax, however high, will not make him less undesirable or a better citizen. If permitted to enter the country by paying the price demanded from him, he is under British protection and should be entitled to British fair play. There are other conditions permitted in this city that are even more repulsive than a Chinese laundry and affect a larger number of citizens and oftener, namely, the spots surrounding the municipal garden seats by the post office. Ladies and children are fortunate if they escape a mouthful of tobacco juice alighting upon their garments as they pass up or down the street, and underfoot is far from being sanitary or pleasing in appearance. I am quite agreed that laundries should be cleaned and kept clean, also that other unsanitary conditions be dealt with, and no discrimination be made of class or color.

Unsanitary shacks should be removed and landlords compelled to comply with sanitary regulations, tenants not being the offenders only.

Perhaps I have rambled a trifle to cover the ground, but I should like to see justice done to those who cannot defend or reply for themselves.

A CHINESE FRIEND.

### **“A license fee on Chinese laundries”<sup>110</sup> (1910)**

On the motion of Alderman Keogh, seconded by Alderman Trumble, it was finally decided to introduce a by-law to impose a license fee on Chinese laundries located inside the city limits.

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110 From CITY COUNCIL HELD VERY LONG SESSION. (1910, October 11). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

As first proposed by Alderman Keogh, the fee was placed at \$50 per laundry, but under protest he withdrew and accepted the next best, which provides a tax of \$5 for any laundry employing one and not more than three hands; \$10 for employing four and not more than ten hands; \$15 for employing eleven and not over twenty hands, and anything over that the fee to be \$20 per laundry.

Henry Clay was given an opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the Chinamen and he stated their case in an appealing manner, saying that the imposing of as high a fee as was first mentioned would be a prohibitive tax and not a license tax. He pleaded their cause earnestly, stating that the Chinamen were handicapped by being foreigners, and were not able to look after their own rights, while many of them were poor and could not stand for the imposing of a high license fee. On his conclusion, Alderman Keogh arose and stated that the Chinamen around here were not so poor as might be imagined, as he saw one Chinaman send \$17,00 to his home in China recently.

It was also proposed that the chief of police be instructed to investigate and see that the Chinamen lived up to the requirements of the board of health by keeping their premises in a sanitary condition, and that on their failing to do so their license be canceled. The motion to pass the by-law carried, and it will take effect from Monday, Oct. 10th.

### **“A careful inspection”<sup>111</sup> (1911)**

Chief of Police Wills, who was appointed laundry inspector for the city some time ago, has made a careful inspection of all the laundries in Windsor, and presented his report to the council last night.

The following Chinese places were in a fairly good sanitary state, but the chief recommended that paper and paint be applied to the interior of these laundries: John Sing, 100 Goyeau street; Tom Lee, 75 London street; A On Kee, 62 Ouellette avenue; John Wing, 56 Ouellette avenue; Sam Lee, 2 Goyeau street; Frank Lee, 55 Sandwich street, and Sam Sing, 15 Pitt street. The chief recommended that all these places be granted their license.

The laundries of Henry Lee, 158 Wyandotte street west, the Windsor Steam Laundry, and Hop Lee’s place at 4½ Pelissier street, were in good shape.

### **“In a sanitary condition”<sup>112</sup> (1911)**

On recommendation of Chief Wills, laundry inspector, it was decided to allow John Wing, Chinese laundryman, corner of Chatham and Ferry streets, to hold his present location. “Residents in that vicinity complained of the inconvenience caused

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111 From INSPECTS LAUNDRIES. (1911, January 17). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

112 From CHIEF OF POLICE IS INSTRUCTED TO ABATE THE SMOKE. (1911, June 6). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

by a Chinese laundry being established there, but a few since have withdrawn their objections and the premises are in a sanitary condition,” said the chief.

## “The scourge of this city”<sup>113</sup> (1912)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

Editor The Record: I beg the privilege of the use of your columns to again draw the attention of our city fathers to the necessity of putting a check upon the scourge of this city, which has become a dumping ground or haven for the semi-human beings called Chinamen. I have been opposed to these conditions from the beginning, and the readers of your columns will no doubt concede that I have a good cause for a renewed objection, and, furthermore, I am quite safe in saying that I am not the only parent in Windsor who has cause for regret that such conditions prevail. I may also add that my wife, who is an invalid, is not the only mother in Windsor, who has shed tears of sorrow over an erring son from this very cause.

Why should such conditions be permitted to continue when we have such evidence that it is a menace to the proper citizenship of our boys? I have performed the part of a parent to the very best of my ability and have endeavored at all times to guide the footsteps of an only son in the paths that lead to good citizenship, and after having done so it is very humiliating and depressing to realize that he has become a prey to the allurements and inducements held out by those vermin that infect our fair city.

I thought at one time when Alderman Keogh moved to put a prohibitory tax on these dens that we were at last going to take pattern from other cities and drive them out, but unfortunately there were too many aldermen of weak knees and supple spine to give the necessary support.

Try it again, friend Keogh! If you do not have the support sufficient to carry it through successfully, you will at least have the good will and gratitude of the parents who have sons, and if you are successful you will undoubtedly be the cause of preventing many mothers from shedding tears of sorrow over wayward boys.

If a prohibitory tax were put upon all Chinese laundries, it would force them out of business, and at the same time remove the dens that harbor and secret those creatures, whose aim in coming here is to gain access to the United States via the Detroit river, and which proves such a stumbling block to the honesty and integrity of our boys. There are temptations enough with this one, and I sincerely trust that the aldermen will take this matter up and effectually remove this scourge from among our midst and thereby assist the fathers and mothers of Windsor to make the right kind of citizens of their sons.

G. W. FREEMAN.

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113 From Freeman, G. W. (1912, February 26). Check on Chinamen. *Evening Record*, p. 4. Written by George W. Freeman (1852 – 1929), painter and one-time secretary of the Builders and Contractors Association.

## **“Making a formal objection”<sup>114</sup> (1914)**

Mr. Thomas Turnbull, who lives in close proximity to the proposed location of a Chinese laundry on London street west, near the M. C. R., is making a formal objection to the granting of a license by the city, his chief complaint being against the unsanitary conditions.

## **“Three applications”<sup>115</sup> (1914)**

Three applications for laundry licenses came before the city council Tuesday night but were held up. Ald. Mitchell thought there were too many Chinese laundries in the city now and favored restrictions on the number. Mayor Howell advised that the applications be referred to the city solicitor, which was done. The council will ascertain what powers it has to restrict the number of laundry licenses.

## **“A civic and national scandal”<sup>116</sup> (1915)**

The Chinese question in Windsor is a civic and national scandal, and [...] the wage earners of the city should wake up to the fact. Every Chinaman in the city was adjudged an undesirable before he saw Canada, and was fined five hundred dollars for the privilege of landing. [...] Half of our landlords without enterprise enough to tear down an old shack and put up a decent building in its place to help make a town, will rent it to the first Chinaman that comes along, to start a laundry or an eating house, where his friends who will be with him next week can live and work. [...]

Twenty years ago there were two Chinese laundries in town, employing six or eight operators. There are now more than thirty of these places, employing a hundred and fifty Chinamen, working 18 hours a day and earning among them from twenty-five hundred to three thousand dollars a week, two-thirds of which goes straight to China and will not return to us in a century. Somewhere not far from a hundred thousand dollars of Windsor money reaches China every year, and we have in the city today from seven hundred to a thousand women who would be glad to work in a laundry at a dollar a day. And not four of these hand laundries out of the thirty are places fit for the business they are engaged in. Cooking, eating, sleeping, boiling clothes, ironing, drying clothes, sweating and wallowing in the heat all summer in some old place all huddled full of everything that shouldn't be there at all – this is where three-fourths of the laundry work of the city is done, and this is the one thing in our lives we should be the most particular about; and the money paid for it all is going to a steady stream to China to bring out another stream of fresh arrivals, each

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<sup>114</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1914, March 18). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

<sup>115</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1914, October 14). *Evening Record*, p. 5.

<sup>116</sup> From Samson, J. (1915, January 14). EVIL EFFECTS UPON CITY AS CHINESE CENTRE. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1. By James Samson (1843 – 1924).

to leave five hundred dollars of our cash at Vancouver, and then come to Windsor. [...]

And all this time Windsor has two of the finest steam laundries that can be found in Canada, furnished with all the best appliances known to the business. The two cost \$87,000 and were built by Windsor men. According to sworn statements the two paid out last year in wages alone more than \$36,000, and every dollar of this great sum was paid to Windsor people, who needed this work, and who spent every dollar of it in the city. Yet it humiliates me to have to say to the people who read this, the decent citizens of an up-to-date city, that neither of these splendid laundries earned profit enough last year to buy its president a hat. So much for the encouragement our people extend to home enterprises.

### **“No. 1 with a star”<sup>117</sup> (1915)**

I think Dr. Samson must have listened to hearsay evidence about the status of some of the Chinese laundries, those who run them and the manner in which they are conducted. Undoubtedly there are some laundries in buildings that were never planned for the mysterious doings attending the proper getting up of a pearly-bosomed Sunday go-to-meeting shirt, and also the festive four-in-hand collar, that adds so much to the tout ensemble of the Beau Brummels that are the life and joy of even Windsor’s 400. Nevertheless there is some “balm in Gilead” even in this prosaic business of the Chinese laundryman, for cut among the bright lights – the white way – on Wyandotte street and Langlois avenue, is a laundry building that unites in itself newness of structure and complete appointments for the laundry business. And although it may not be a replica of its near neighbor, the White laundry, still it has light and air and square feet of floor that makes it a No. 1 with a star in the archives of the health department in the city hall. In addition the laundryman, Harry Lee, has the flat adjoining for sleeping purposes. The same “hands” have been there for years, and in the matter of charges I think they get “all the traffic will bear,” so laborites can’t object on the score of the price cutting. I own the building. Harry pays his rent in advance, for which St. Peter will give him a cushioned seat behind the pearly gates. The boys live on chicken and other good eats, are never seen before Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Leggatt, are quiet, orderly, never fight over the back fence with fists or tongues, and altogether have some good qualities that should count in analysis by the public of Windsor.

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<sup>117</sup> From Timms, R. (1915, January 21). Chinese Laundries. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 4. Written by Robert Timms (1851 – c. 1942).

## **“Not sanitary but the site was suitable”<sup>118</sup> (1915)**

Chief Wills reported on the petition for a laundry license in favor of Harry Lee at 27 Glengarry. The chief said the house was not sanitary but the site was suitable. The finance committee will decide whether or not to grant the license.

## **“Wants a laundry license”<sup>119</sup> (1915)**

Jean Chong sent a petition to the city council for a laundry license at 14 Ouellette avenue. Assessment Commissioner Black reported there were 24 property-owners within 200 feet of the premises and that 15 had signed. Jean Kee wants a laundry license for 173 London street. There is also an application for a Chinese laundry on Wyandotte near Ouellette. Chief Wills reported that the premises were not in a sanitary state and asked for a week to investigate and report on the suitability of the site. Another Chinaman wants a license for a laundry on Glengarry.

## **“A laundry license to Harry Lee”<sup>120</sup> (1915)**

On motion of Ald. Eansor, with Ald. Walker as seconder, it was decided to grant a laundry license to Harry Lee at 27 Glengarry avenue. The petition was before the assessment commissioner and the premises found to be sanitary by Inspector Wheeler. Chief Wills reported the site suitable.

Chief Wills recommended against granting licenses for Chinese laundries at 173 London street west and 14 Wyandotte street east.

## **“Against Chief Wills’ advice”<sup>121</sup> (1915)**

Barrister E. A. Cleary addressed the council Monday evening on behalf of a Chinaman who has made an application for a laundry license in a building at 173 London street west, next to the M. C. R. Ald. Mitchell was opposed to granting the license owing to the proximity of the Cameron avenue school.

“I wouldn’t allow any child of mine up to twelve years in a Chinese laundry,” declared the alderman.

Instead of the laundry being a menace to the children, Mr. Cleary argued that the children were a menace to the laundry, as they had broken glass in the building.

Chief Wills reported against this location for a Chinese laundry. Some of the aldermen thought the board of health should be asked to make a report also, but an

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<sup>118</sup> From Laundry License Held Up. (1915, February 2). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 6.

<sup>119</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, February 16). *Evening Record*, p. 6.

<sup>120</sup> From “REFERRED BACK” WAS FATE METED BY COUNCIL. (1915, March 2). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>121</sup> From Laundry License is Granted Against Chief Wills’ Advice. (1915, March 16). *Evening Record*, p. 1.



amendment to grant the license was carried, those opposed being Ald. Mitchell, Weber, Wilson and Walker.

### **“Protesting against the council’s action”<sup>122</sup> (1915)**

A strong petition is being circulated and largely signed by west end residents protesting against the council’s action in granting a Chinese laundry license at 173 London street west without a supporting petition and against the adverse report of the chief of police.

### **“A menace to children”<sup>123</sup> (1915)**

Chinese laundries were again under discussion at the meeting of the city council Monday night when an effort was made to reconsider the license granted at a previous meeting for an “open door” policy at 173 London street west.

Barrister T. Mercer Morton was on hand, along with Mr. Thomas Turnbull, to oppose the re-opening of a laundry at that place. There was also a letter from Secretary Courtenay of the board of education, objecting to the location, as the board considered Chinese laundries in close proximity to a school were a menace to the children.

The license had been granted without a petition and against the recommendation of Chief Wills, inspector of laundries. City Solicitor Davis was asked as to the legality of the license without a petition. He stated that there was a resolution passed by the council last year, requiring a petition, but the bylaw was not so amended. He wouldn’t like to say the license was void, but that it was contrary to the spirit of the council procedure.

The motion to reconsider was lost for lack of a two-thirds majority. [...]

Some objection was taken to a clause in the report of the finance committee respecting a Chinese laundry on Glengarry avenue for Harry Lee. There had been a petition for and one against this laundry. The committee’s recommendation as that no further action be taken in view of the advice of the city solicitor that, having granted the license in accordance with a favorable report from the inspector and also by the board of health as to sanitary conditions, the city might be held liable for damages if the license were revoked.

Mr. G. Jeffers and Mr. G. Meisner were in the audience, both being opposed to the laundry. Mr. Meisner outlined objections, referring to the names on the petition and the sanitary conditions of the neighborhood, which included a hide and tallow plant. He argued things were bad enough for the residents without a Chinese laundry.

The council passed the report of the committee, however.

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<sup>122</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, March 26). *Evening Record*, p. 13.

<sup>123</sup> From CHINESE LAUNDRIES GRANTED LICENSES. (1915, March 30). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 3.

Ald. Mitchell gave notice that he would have the bylaw amended to restrict the granting of any more Chinese licenses.

### **“Stormy debate in city council”<sup>124</sup> (1915)**

Ald. Eansor had an interview with Assessment Commissioner Black Tuesday morning in respect to the petition for the laundry license of William Lee on Wyandotte street. It is stated the commissioner found on going over the names again that the petition was not sufficiently signed and [they] will report accordingly, in which case the counsel will probably cancel the license.

Mayor Jackson exercised masterful control of a difficult situation Monday night when objections were interposed to taking a vote on a main motion to grant William Lee a laundry license to operate on Wyandotte street between Dougall and Church.

There had been a lengthy discussion, an amendment to the motion and an amendment to the amendment. Ald. Eansor fought hard to have the license refused, first endeavoring to get the clause in the finance committee report, recommending that the license be granted, referred back to the committee. Some of the aldermen wanted to “settle it” right there and then. Ald. Eansor said this was agreeable to him, and he moved that the clause be stricken out.

It was Ald. Eansor’s contention that the counter-petition, signed by six property-owners within a distance of 250 feet of the proposed laundry, represented a majority opposed to the laundry.

Ald. Howell, chairman of the Finance committee, answered that a petition in favor of granting the license had been reported by the assessment commissioner as sufficiently signed, and this was what the committee went by. There was also a favorable report by the sanitary inspector.

Ald. Eansor claimed that Major Tolmie and Dr. Labelle, who had signed the petition to grant the license, were outside the area of 250 feet and that the assessment commissioner was in error in reporting favorably on the petition.

“We don’t want any more Chinese laundries,” declared Ald. Winter, who took objections on general grounds.

This prompted Ald. Brooke to criticize Aldermen for not attending the committee meetings. He took a dig at Ald. Winter for missing the meeting at which the laundry license was threshed out.

Ald. Winter resented the criticism and stated that he had missed only one meeting of the finance committee so far this year.

Later Ald. Brooke apologized for any personal reflections on Ald. Winter, which calmed the troubled waters.

The discussion was continued by Ald. Eansor, who stated the neighborhood was up in arms against the location of the proposed laundry.

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<sup>124</sup> From STORMY DEBATE IN CITY COUNCIL OVER CHINAMEN. (1915, August 17). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

“I’ll never vote for another Chinese laundry so long as I am a member of this council,” declared Ald. Eansor.

After an amendment by Ald. Lanspeary to refer back had been defeated, and an amendment to strike out the clause in the report was lost, and before the vote was taken on the main motion, Ald. Eansor objected to calling the ayes and nays, addressing the mayor: “I have asked you to produce the petition against this license and you won’t do it.”

The excitement at this stage was intense, the disturbance rivaling the raging elements on the outside of the building.

“You are out of order,” retorted the mayor.

“I say Mr. Black was in error,” shot back Ald. Eansor.

“You had every opportunity to discuss the question before we started to take the vote, and I can’t allow any further discussion,” declared the mayor, who called the vote which resulted as follows:

Ayes – Howell, Lanspeary, Baum, Brooke, Meretsky and Walker.

Nays – Laing, Winter, Weird and Eansor.

“I take objection,” shouted Ald. Eansor. “This is absolutely illegal and I warn you, Mr. Mayor, and the Finance committee not to issue the license.”

A moment later Ald. Eansor said there was “crooked work done.”

Ald. Howell took exception at once and Ald. Eansor quickly explained that what he meant was there was crooked work done in the circulation of the Petition, not in the council vote.

### **“A new petition will be necessary”<sup>125</sup> (1915)**

Chinese laundries [...] were some of the subjects discussed at the city council meeting Monday night. [...]

E. A. Cleary, barrister, appeared in support of a license for a Chinese laundry on Wyandotte street, between Dougall and Church. He claimed the petition was sufficiently signed, that the sanitary inspector had granted the license, afterwards revoking it because the assessment commissioner found he was in error over one or two names, whose property was outside the 250-foot limit.

The council declined to take action until the petition, properly signed and vouched for, came up in the regular way. This will mean that a new petition will be necessary.

### **“Not sufficiently signed”<sup>126</sup> (1915)**

Judging by the number of applications there is money in running Chinese Laundries. Charles Frank applied for one at 241 Goyeau but it was not entertained

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<sup>125</sup> From ELUSIVE \$21,000 STIRS OTHERWISE QUIET MEETING. (1915, November 9). *Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>126</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, December 7). *Evening Record*, p. 3.

because the petition was not sufficiently signed. Chee Lock wanted one at 114 Mercer, but this was thrown out because it was too close to the Mercer avenue school. Harry Lee was after one at 179 Langlois avenue, but he failed to present a petition. Charles Lock nearly succeeded in getting a license for Wyandotte street, east. The mayor declared it on a tie vote and referred the application to the finance committee.

### **“Without the proper license”<sup>127</sup> (1915)**

Chee Lung appeared in the police court Friday morning on the charge of operating a Chinese laundry at the corner of Wyandotte street and McDougall street without the proper license. Lung was also charged with placing a sign out over the sidewalk which is against the city bylaw. Magistrate Leggatt ordered the sign removed and remanded him for eight days on the other charge.

### **“Objection to Harry Lee’s place”<sup>128</sup> (1916)**

Mayor Jackson intimated to the council that the renewal of Chinese laundries for the current year had been held up because of the opposition that developed last year to Harry Lee’s laundry on Glengarry and Jean Kee’s establishment at 173 London street west.

He thought the council might decide not to grant these licenses for 1916. The objection to Harry Lee’s place was that it was located in a residential district. The opposition to Jean Kee was based on the proximity to the Cameron avenue school.

Ald. Eansor declared he was opposed to all Chinese laundries, but he desired fair play. After hearing Ald. Winter’s statement on the objection of those in the vicinity of Jean Kee’s laundry, he was prepared to cut off the license for that place, but he wanted to know what reasons there were for not renewing Harry Lee’s license in the usual way. He asked if there had been any complaints by the sanitary inspector or anyone else, but none had been filed.

A motion was submitted to withhold Harry Lee’s license until he presents a petition according to the bylaw requirements, not to renew Jean Kee’s license and to have the sanitary inspector submit a report on all the laundries.

Ald. Walker moved an amendment that all licenses be held up for two weeks, but this was defeated and the motion carried.

### **“Harry Lee is making every effort”<sup>129</sup> (1916)**

Harry Lee is making every effort to have his laundry license renewed. He sent a letter and an affidavit to the council that he had spent \$800 in improving his

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<sup>127</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1915, December 10). *Evening Record*, p. 6.

<sup>128</sup> From GAS BYLAW IS RELEGATED TO COLD STORAGE BY COUNCIL. (1916, January 18). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>129</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1916, February 2). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 5.

premises on Glengarry avenue, that it was in a business district and that he had made a five-year lease. Barrister A. B. Drake wrote a letter that Harry was the most deserving of his race in the city, that he had conducted his laundry in a clean manner and had assisted in making collections for the patriotic fund. His case was referred to the finance committee.

### **“Defends Chinese laundry”<sup>130</sup> (1916)**

How easy it is, and with what little thought, if given the power, to put a man out of business, even though it may turn machinery into scrap – half a cent a lb. – and put him on the list of the unemployed! This is not mere parish chatter, but truth, as witness what a few aldermen did to Harry Lee, whose only crime was owning a shop where soiled clothes were turned out “spotless as the driven snow.” Yet he was granted a license to run his clothes cleaning shop by last year’s council, and spent his money for machinery; but because a neighbor didn’t like a mere “heath Chinee” in the environment, energetic canvassing soon got a petition protesting against the clothes cleaning parlor. Justice Caron of the Windsor police court of early days, declared that a petition really had little value as an exhibit in court. “Why,” said he, “I could get signatures any day to hang my next door neighbor, exemplary man as he may be, for the average man and especially the average woman dearly loves to sign a petition.”

Some business men, too, voted to throw Harry out into the cold air of a none too warm February. Not much fellow-feeling there, is there? Of course, their trades are not so objectionable as mere washing and ironing clothes! But these men say his clothes cleaning emporium was in a residential district, hence the bylaw must be enforced. It depreciates property. A Chinese laundry, they say! That’s rich. The back part of the lot has been devoted to preparing hides and skins for years – a tannery, so to speak. Ever smell a tannery in hot weather? Wow-! Keep the tannery, but swipe the clothes cleaners! Better get another excuse. I’ll give one: The white laundries want the Chinamen cleaned out so they can have a monopoly! Ever read Windsor laundry “ads” about the inoffensive Chinamen? Then a few feet away is the Ideal Manufacturing building, with a big plumbing establishment opposite, with half a dozen stores and pop works, etc., within hail, the aldermen surely were taken in on the “residence street” cry! Outside you see a sign “laundry,” that’s all; next door is a store, behind, the hides and skins building. “Exclusive residence district!”

These Chinamen are honest, they pay their debts, their rent; never lay in the ditch drunk; never knife each other; tend to their own business; may play fan tan, be hauled up for it, too. Forty-six of our first young men were hauled up the other day, weren’t they? They pay their way, they do good work, they charge good prices, so no wash ladies can complain of cut rates. But the white laundries feel their competition.

If white men were running these laundries, would the aldermen harry them as they do? If honest, why not license wash ladies up McDougall and other streets? “To

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<sup>130</sup> From Timms, R. (1916, February 10). Defends Chinese Laundry. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 4. Written by Robert Timms (1851 – c. 1942).

----- with the Chinese!” is the cry. It’s wrong. They’re men, if they are Chinese, and should be treated as such, for they fill a long felt want.

### **“Lee prepared a counter petition”<sup>131</sup> (1916)**

No action was taken by the city council Monday night on the new petition for the granting of a laundry license presented by Harry Lee, a Chinese. When licenses were issued at the first of the year, Lee’s application was refused because several residents on Glengarry avenue petitioned against it, alleging that conditions in the vicinity of the laundry were not sanitary.

Lee prepared a counter petition, signed by several who attached their names to the first petition, setting forth that he recently invested \$800 in improvements to the building now occupied by him, upon which he has a lease which has yet five years to run. The new petition was referred to Assessment Commissioner Black and will be considered at the next meeting.

### **“Harry Lee claims injustice”<sup>132</sup> (1916)**

Harry Lee, who has conducted a laundry at 27 Glengarry avenue, is exhausting every effort to have his license renewed. He points out that he has invested \$800 in fixing up the premises and has a five-year lease of the place. He also has his papers to show he is a British subject, being naturalized in Montreal, and has a card showing membership in the Church of England.

At the time of the patriotic campaign last November, he went around and collected upwards of \$500 from the Chinese residents to help in the cause, and made a contribution for himself of \$50.

Inspector Wheeler has examined his premises on different occasions and has pronounced them satisfactory.

One of the objections raised is that his laundry is in a residential district, but he points out that it is only two doors down from the Ideal Mfg. Co., and close to the Windsor Brass Co. Directly in the rear is a place where hides are kept. Across the road are Purser’s plumbing shop and a pop factory. There are also grocery stores in the immediate vicinity.

Another objection is that the laundry harbors flies, but he answers this by saying flies do not frequent any place where steam escapes.

A statement was circulated attacking his moral character, but those responsible will be prosecuted for slander, it is stated.

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<sup>131</sup> From CHINESE LAUNDRYMAN PRESENTS NEW PETITION. (1916, February 15). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>132</sup> From Harry Lee Claims Injustice in Holding Up His License. (1916, February 23). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

## **“Renewal of laundry licenses for Harry Lee”<sup>133</sup> (1916)**

Barrister F. C. Kerby sent out letters pertaining to the renewal of laundry licenses for Harry Lee on Glengarry avenue and Jean Kee on London street. Assessment Commissioner Black reported that the petition for Harry Lee’s license was insufficiently signed, unless the names secured in the Sepner petition were considered as acquiescing in the application. The council referred the letters and report to the financial committee.

## **“Harry Lee has finally lost”<sup>134</sup> (1916)**

Harry Lee has finally lost out on the renewal of his laundry license for Glengarry avenue. Robert Timms addressed the council Monday night on his behalf, but the recommendation of the finance committee that the application be not entertained was adopted, the petition not being sufficiently signed. Harry is talking of appealing to the courts.

## **“Running a laundry without a license”<sup>135</sup> (1916)**

Harry Lee was fined \$5 and costs in the Windsor police court Thursday for running a laundry without a license at 27 Glengarry avenue. A damage suit is pending as a result of the police court case.

## **“City named in suit for damages”<sup>136</sup> (1916)**

The city of Windsor, through its solicitor, F. D. Davis, was served on Thursday, with a writ by Sheriff John Eugene d’Avignon, on behalf of Harry Lee, for unstated damages, alleged to have been caused by the city refusing to continue the laundry license of Harry Lee.

F. C. Kerby is solicitor for Lee.

The city has ten days to reply.

Lee, who enjoyed the privileges of a license through 1915, was refused a renewal this year.

His “business as usual” brought him into the police court where last week he was fined \$5 and costs.

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<sup>133</sup> From Laundry Licenses. (1916, February 29). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.

<sup>134</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1916, April 11). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>135</sup> From CITY BRIEFS. (1916, May 25). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 2.

<sup>136</sup> From CITY NAMED IN SUIT FOR DAMAGES. (1916, June 9). *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 1.

## **“Centres for the dope traffic”<sup>137</sup> (1922)**

That Chinese laundries are not always used for washing clothes but are often a blind for carrying on illegal business was the opinion expressed by Ald. E. Blake Winter, Tuesday night, when he suggested that the City Council refuse an application for a laundry license.

Ald. Frank J. Mitchell expressed the belief that Chinese laundries were used, in some cases, as centres for the dope traffic. He drew attention to the number of Mongolians who appeared in police court upon charges of peddling narcotic drugs. He thought it would be no great loss if all Chinese laundries were eliminated.

The license was refused.

## **“A night of surprises”<sup>138</sup> (1923)**

That many Chinese laundries are centres for dope traffic and gambling was the opinion expressed by Ald. Mitchell Monday night, when the question of granting a license for an Oriental “washery” at 39 Wyandotte street east came before the City Council.

A petition against granting the license was sent to the council by property owners along Wyandotte street. Ald. Mitchell thought the matter should be referred back to the committee.

“I would be in favor of making it twice as hard for Chinese to get laundry licenses,” said Ald. Mitchell. “They are centres for dope and gambling.”

Ald. Howell moved that the petition to establish the laundry be granted.

“I am surprised at Ald. Howell trying to force such a thing upon people who don’t want it,” exclaimed Ald. Mitchell.

“I am surprised at Ald. Mitchell’s attitude, in view of the fact that he is fathering a move to establish a Chinese laundry at 1005 London street,” said Ald. Roach.

Ald. Mitchell glanced hastily at the order paper, and expressed indignation when he found his name as sponsoring the application for a laundry license.

“As chairman of the committee, my name goes there as a matter of form,” he replied.

“This is a night of surprises,” said Ald. Howell.

Ald. Mitchell’s move to block the laundry license was supported by the majority of the council.

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<sup>137</sup> From DOPE DANGER. (1922, December 6). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>138</sup> From Sees Dope Traffic Danger In Laundries of Chinese. (1923, April 24). *Border Cities Star*, p. 7.



## **“Tuson’s name on petitions he opposes”<sup>139</sup> (1923)**

A recommendation from the Finance Committee that a license be granted to open a Chinese laundry at 39 Wyandotte street east was hoisted for reconsideration by the City Council Monday night, upon a vote of six to five.

Ald. Tuson opposed the application upon the grounds that the residents in the vicinity of the proposed washery had petitioned the council against acceding to the request.

Ald. Mitchell, chairman of the committee, said he was against granting any more licenses to Chinese for laundries, but as a sufficiently signed petition had been filed by people along the street, the council had no option but to grant the application.

While he admitted that some Chinese laundries might be objectionable, Ald. Roach said he had investigated this particular case and found that the applicant was a very good Chinaman.

“The site of this proposed laundry,” said Ald. Howell, “is at the rear of the church I attend. While I was in church last Sunday morning I learned that cleanliness is next to godliness. If that is a fact I see no objection to an additional laundry.”

Ald. Tuson again voiced his disapproval of the application, and Ald. Roach created a sensation by announcing that Ald. Tuson had signed the petition in favor of granting the license.

“I have no property on that street,” said Ald. Tuson, with a look of amazement. “My name cannot be there.”

“Yes it is,” replied his aldermanic colleague, waving the petition triumphantly. Ald. Tuson said no more on the subject, but he voted against granting the license.

## **“Consider changing the law”<sup>140</sup> (1923)**

Following up opposition expressed in the City Council to Chinese laundries locating in residential districts of the city, Ald. Mitchell said today that he would ask the council to consider changing the law pertaining to licenses.

“Before people living upon a street can obtain local improvements, two-thirds of them must sign the petition,” said Ald. Mitchell. “It seems to me that it would be a good plan to extend this arrangement to application for Chinese laundries.”

At the present time, a majority of residents 200 feet from both sides of the proposed site of a laundry can either block or endorse the application for a license.

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<sup>139</sup> From Tuson’s Name on Petitions He Opposes, Roach Claims. (1923, May 8). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>140</sup> From MORE RESTRICTIONS ON CHINESE ASKED. (1923, May 12). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

## **“Laundry ban move is lost”<sup>141</sup> (1923)**

Ald. Mitchell lost out Monday night in his fight to make it harder for Chinese laundries to start in business in Windsor.

He submitted a resolution, supported by Ald. Strong, which, if it had been approved, would have made it necessary for a Chinese proposing to establish a laundry to secure two-thirds of the property owners for 200 feet on either side of the projected site.

Ald. Cleary questioned the legality of such a step, describing it as discrimination.

“I am opposed to rushing such a measure through the council without legal advice,” said Ald. Roach. “I think it should be referred to the city solicitor.”

Ald. Howell thought it would be well to give the matter further consideration. He admitted that so many Celestials were starting in the laundry business that it was hard for regular steam laundries to compete with them.

“I think Ald. Cleary’s point is well taken,” said Ald. McTavish. “It might well be considered discrimination. There is also the possibility of one man owning considerable property in the section affected. That would give him the deciding vote.”

Ald. Mitchell saw no use in sending the question back for consideration. He wanted a vote upon it at once.

“It seems to me,” he said, “that some aldermen find it mighty convenient to evade committing themselves by the convenient process of slipping out the back door.”

The resolution was voted down.

## **“Too many Chinese laundries”<sup>142</sup> (1924)**

Too many Chinese laundries in one district led the Windsor city council Monday to refuse an application for another, as presented by Ping Lee. The Oriental wanted to open an establishment at 71 Pitt street west, closing an alley.

A. D. Bowlby, as a property owner, opposed the request, together with James H. Clark, solicitor. The lawyer acted for Sam Sing, whose laundry business, at 63 Pitt street west, would be harmed by Ping Lee’s shop, he pointed out.

“We ought not to do anything do depreciate the property of these people,” said Ald. C. R. Tuson, in reference to Mr. Bowlby’s argument. The latter expressed other property owners as well as himself, it was explained.

Ald. Howell spoke a good word for Sam Sing, whose work was first-rate, he said.

Charlie Ping, another laundryman, secured permission to open a place at 623 Langlois avenue.

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<sup>141</sup> From LAUNDRY BAN MOVE IS LOST. (1923, May 22). *Border Cities Star*, p. 11.

<sup>142</sup> From IS REFUSED LEAVE TO OPEN LAUNDRY. (1924, July 8). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

## **“License plea to get consideration”<sup>143</sup> (1924)**

Petitions for and against granting a Chinese laundry license at 515 Erie street east were sent back to committee for consideration Monday night by the City Council.

James H. Clark, Windsor solicitor, was present and made an earnest plea for his client, the Chinese laundryman. He told how the man had left a good stand in the business section of Windsor, and claimed that he would be a heavy loser if the city refused to grant him a license at the Erie street location.

Ald. A. W. Strong made an aggressive attack upon the Chinese in general. He said it was about time that Asiatic competition was eliminated to some extent, and Canadians were given a chance to earn a decent living.

“One of these days,” said Ald. Strong, “Mr. Clark will be crowded out of his profession by a Chinese lawyer; doctors will be supplanted by Mongolian physicians, and the mayor will be ousted from his chair by a Chinese politician.”

## **“License refused”<sup>144</sup> (1924)**

Notwithstanding a touching plea made by James Clark, Windsor attorney, before the finance committee of the City Hall last night, application of his client for a Chinese laundry license was rejected. The location for the proposed laundry was on Wyandotte street between Howard and Lillian avenues. Residents in the vicinity objected.

## **“Neighbors hate laundries”<sup>145</sup> (1925)**

Hop Lee, a Chinese laundryman, is the centre of an odd dispute among Windsor city councillors.

Hop conducts a laundry at 312 Pelissier street. His patrons say he is a good workman and a good citizen; so a few days ago when the Oriental found himself obliged to move out of his basement quarters into some other location, they signed a petition favoring his removal to 316 Pelissier street.

Meanwhile, however, Hop found that the move was being opposed by a counter petition, and so the point was referred to the city council.

Hop has been a resident of the city for almost a dozen years. He and his Chinese wife, who was born in Vancouver, and his family live in the basement of No. 312 Pelissier street, where the laundry is located, but Hop is said to be anxious to move on account of his wife’s health. Accordingly he planned to establish himself and his family in a cottage nearby, but some of the property owners in the block are

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<sup>143</sup> From LICENSE PLEA TO GET CONSIDERATION. (1924, September 30). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>144</sup> From LICENSE REFUSED. (1924, October 11). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>145</sup> From Hop Lee Casts Longing Eyes on New Home; But Neighbors Hate Laundries. (1925, May 2). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

unfavorable to the scheme, arguing that property values in this section of the city's downtown section have depreciated already because of Hop's laundry business.

Last night Col. E. S. Wigle, K.C., who acted for the Celestial, and Frank W. Wilson, M.L.A., who represented the property owners unfavorable to the location of the laundry, laid the respective claims before Ald. A. J. McTavish, and the members of the finance committee. These voiced various opinions.

Ald. A. W. Strong was strongly opposed to Hop's plan.

"There are too many Chinamen in the city now," he declared.

Eventually the committee passed the buck to the Board of health, and a letter, asking this department to pass upon the suitability of the cottage as a combined laundry and dwelling, was drawn up. Upon the board's report final action will be taken.

### **"Must paint first"<sup>146</sup> (1926)**

Lee Thompson, a Chinese laundryman, has been authorized by the Windsor city council to carry on a business at 209 Pelissier street, but before he is given the necessary license he is required to paint the premises and clean up the place to the satisfaction of the board of health.

The Oriental applied for a license last night when the council was sitting in regular session. "Let him put in the improvements first, and then we'll give him the license," advised Ald. C. D. Fraser.

### **"Aldermen debate laundry question"<sup>147</sup> (1926)**

Why white people patronize Chinese laundries was a subject that occupied the attention of Windsor city councillors Tuesday night.

The aldermen, comprising members of the fire committee, were at the time discussing an application for a license to operate a laundry at 209 Pelissier street. It was made on behalf of Lee Thompson, an Oriental. At the last city council session the council voted to withhold the permit until the premises were cleaned up and the building put in proper shape.

Since then no steps had been taken to repair the structure, according to George Wood, building inspector, who recalled that no one had applied for a building permit from him in that respect.

"Hold up the laundry permit until they put the place into shape," advised Ald. W. T. Wessgate. "It's got to meet the satisfaction of the board of health and the building inspector's department. Then, when the premises are remodeled satisfactorily, we'll issue the license."

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<sup>146</sup> From MUST PAINT FIRST. (1926, September 21). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>147</sup> From ALDERMEN DEBATE LAUNDRY QUESTION. (1926, September 29). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

From this point the aldermen debated the whys and wherefores of Chinese laundries, and Chief Clarence J. De Fields remarked that the Orientals usually picked out the most dilapidated buildings in the city to carry on business. "They operate in the worst old holes imaginable," he observed.

"It's strange why people patronize them," remarked Ald. Wesgate.

### **"Until the premises are cleaned up"<sup>148</sup> (1926)**

Backing up the action of the finance committee in refusing a Chinese laundry the permit at 209 Pelissier street, the Windsor city council has stipulated that the permit will not be granted until the premises are cleaned up to the satisfaction of the fire chief and the board of health.

### **"Inspector orders repairs"<sup>149</sup> (1926)**

Repairs which will cost approximately \$500 are ordered made to a frame two-storey dwelling at 209 Pelissier street by George Wood, Windsor building inspector. The fire committee, supporting the instructor's action, is withholding permission for the operation of a Chinese laundry license on the premises until the repairs are carried out.

The building is located immediately south of the Meretzky and Gitlin furniture store. Fire Chief Clarence J. De Fields wants the council to order it torn down.

### **"Unfit for human habitation"<sup>150</sup> (1926)**

Under the orders of the Ontario fire marshall, a frame house located on Pelissier street, in the rear of Meretsky and Gitlin's furniture store, has been condemned as unfit for human habitation. Some weeks ago a Chinese laundry firm endeavored to obtain the premises, but the council failed to grant the necessary permit unless the building was repaired at a cost of about \$600.

### **"Why should we worry about them?"<sup>151</sup> (1927)**

Windsor has enough Chinese laundries as it is, without any new ones, so Ald. E. Blake Winter observed Friday night when the finance board received petitions for two new establishments of this kind.

Both petitions were properly signed. The laundries sought licenses to operate on Wyandotte street west. Both were recommended by the committee upon the

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<sup>148</sup> From Local News. (1926, October 6). *Border Cities Star*, p. 6.

<sup>149</sup> From Inspector Orders Repairs to Building. (1926, October 13). *Border Cities Star*, p. 6.

<sup>150</sup> From Local News. (1926, November 22). *Border Cities Star*, p. 4.

<sup>151</sup> From THINKS CITY HAS ENOUGH LAUNDRIES. (1927, June 18). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

suggestion of Ald. Garnet A. Edwards, who remarked that the recommendations might pave the way for counter petitions on the part of neighborhood ratepayers, unfavorable to the laundries.

"These petitions here," said Ald. Winter, "ought to be accompanied by affidavits."

"We've never required them," required Ald. A. J. MacTavish. "Anyway, if the people of the neighborhood signed the petitions in favor of the laundries, why should we worry about them?"

"We've got enough Chinese laundries," put in Ald. Winter.

"I think so too," agreed Ald. C. D. Fraser, chairman of the finance committee. The laundries, unless counter petitions develop, will operate in the vicinity of 221 Wyandotte street west.

### **"Laundries are delayed"<sup>152</sup> (1927)**

So as to give residents along west Wyandotte street a chance to lodge protests over the proposed location of two Chinese laundries, the Windsor city council has held up the laundry permits for two weeks.

This action was taken by the aldermen Monday night when the council was asked to give the Orientals the right to operate establishments at No. 219 and 220 Wyandotte street west. A letter of protest from W. H. Fellows, who owns property nearby, at 505 Victoria avenue, informed the aldermen that a number of residents in the neighborhood were strongly opposed to the locations.

Both applications were supported by petitions properly signed. The applicants are Chen Bros. and the O. K. Laundry.

"I think it's only fair to hear these residents," said Ald. C. D. Fraser, finance head, whose committee, in a report, recommended the licenses. One of his colleagues, Ald. A. J. McTavish, explained that when the applications had come before the committee, and it was found that the petitions supporting them were in order, it was felt that the recommendations ought to be made to bring the question before the rest of the council.

"As far as I am personally concerned," remarked Ald. T. J. Eansor, "I don't want to see any laundries around here. But the bylaw says that if the petitions are properly signed for the required distance roundabout, and that everything is in order, what can we do?"

"Does the bylaw say we 'may' or 'shall' grant them?" queried Ald. C. R. Tuson.

"Shall," replied Ald. G. A. Edwards, offhand.

Ald. Robert Weber and Ald. C. E. Henri meanwhile had moved to refer the application back to the committee. "My idea," explained the former, "is to allow these objectors to put in a counter petition."

While the council voted the petitions back, Ald. Fraser looked up the bylaw and found that it stipulated "may" instead of "shall."

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<sup>152</sup> From 2 LAUNDRIES ARE DELAYED. (1927, June 21). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

## “Laundries get permits”<sup>153</sup> (1927)

Licenses for two Chinese laundries on west Wyandotte street had the approval of the Windsor City Council today following a debate in which Alderman W. T. Wesgate and E. Blake Winter opposed the permits and took the stand that the city was already well supplied with such establishments.

It was a hectic sort of argument. No section of the council voted with the above Solons against the licenses; but others favored a permit for one laundry and the rejection of another, and eventually the aldermen reached the stage when no less than three questions faced the chair. Three outside speakers were heard, each offering different advice.

James Lee, proprietor of the O. K. laundry, and Chen Brothers, are the rival laundry firms. The former seeks to do business at 220 west Wyandotte, and the latter at 219 west Wyandotte. Petitions favoring them both, properly signed, reached the council, together with a counter petition presented by W. H. Fellows, Victoria avenue, and others.

In support of the Chen Brothers petition, A. St. Aubin, of the legal firm of Furlong, Awrey, Furlong and Riordan, urged the aldermen to grant his client a license and reject the O. K. application. Chen Bros. were the first of the two firms to apply for the license, and anyway, he explained, those who had signed the O. K. laundry's application had withdrawn their names.

“I can understand you opposing both,” said Ald. C. E. Henri, “but I can't understand you supporting one and opposing the other. It looks as if there's been some buttonholing done.”

“I don't think either of these petitions should be granted,” argued Ald. Wesgate. “There are too many of these laundries being established in opposition to our own honest to goodness firms that deserve our patronage.”

“These petitions look rather odd to me,” put in Ald. C. D. Fraser. “They were both taken out by a member of a real estate firm.”

W. H. Fellows, who owns property in the immediate neighborhood of the laundry sites, urged the council to reject the petitions.

“Wyandotte street is one of our main thoroughfares,” he said. “It's equal to Ouellette in the amount of traffic. Would you allow Chinese laundries on Ouellette? Wyandotte street is the only through cross-town street in the city, outside of Sandwich, and the residents nearby certainly don't want the laundries there.”

Opposing this view, John D. Shelton, of Essex, owner of the site at 219 west Wyandotte, appeared before the aldermen and submitted that he was entitled to get what he could in rentals from the property.

On the heels of a motion by Ald. T. J. Eansor that only the license at 219 be granted, Ald. A. J. McTavish offered an amendment to grant both of them. He reviewed the history of the cases, and recalled that property owners had the right to

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<sup>153</sup> From 2 LAUNDRIES GET PERMITS. (1927, July 5). *Border Cities Star*, p. 5.

get as much revenue from their properties as they could. Both petitions had been properly signed, he said.

“But those laundries are going to depreciate property values in the neighborhood,” protested Ald. Wesgate. “I don’t think that the council should grant either license, but at the same time I would sooner vote to grant them both than one, if that’s the case.”

Ald. Henri pointed out that Chinese laundries were located on Wyandotte east and yet property along that thoroughfare had not depreciated in value.

Scanning the two positions, Ald. Winter disclosed that the signers in many cases were not residents in the immediate vicinity, even though they were property owners. “In my opinion,” he said, “we should not grant any more Chinese laundry licenses. It isn’t fair to regular laundry firms, who are heavy tax-payers. In this case it’s a crime to issue these permits – they’re undesirable in that section of the city.”

Thereupon, Ald. Winter and Ald. Wesgate moved to reject the applications, but when the vote was taken they received no support. With Ald. Eansor and Robert Weber, however, they voted against the McTavish motion, authorizing the two permits, but the line-up stood only four to eight in favor of the McTavish motion and the applications of both laundries were granted.

### **“A business thoroughfare”<sup>154</sup> (1928)**

West Wyandotte street, Windsor, once a residential street, has now assumed the full status of a business thoroughfare, in the eyes of the Windsor finance board.

Last night the board recommended the granting of a laundry license to Chan Chong Lum, at 912 Wyandotte, although a petition supporting the Oriental’s application is termed insufficiently signed by the city’s assessment department.

A petition opposing the license is also in the hands of the board. This contains 14 names; the other petition contains 11. Ordinarily, Chinese laundries are barred from residential sections of the city.

### **“Council stands pat on laundry”<sup>155</sup> (1930)**

Windsor City Councilors this morning inspected property at the corner of London and Goyeau streets and decided to stand pat on the license which they recently granted Woo Lee for the establishment of a Chinese laundry at 43 London street east.

The use of these premises for laundry purposes was protested yesterday by Mrs. Rose Abrash, who owns the property on two corners of the intersection, and represented other property owners there in declaring that a Chinese laundry would lower real estate values.

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<sup>154</sup> From IS BUSINESS STREET. (1928, November 10). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.

<sup>155</sup> From Council Stands Pat on Laundry. (1930, February 14). *Border Cities Star*, p. 3.



Commissioners Clyde W. Curry, O. E. Fleming Jr., and Charles E. Henri went over the various properties in the vicinity this morning accompanied by City Engineer M. E. Brian and found no reason to alter the previous decision of the city council to grant Woo Lee a license.

Lee had previously been operating a laundry at 240 Wyandotte street, east, and therefore the license was not really a new one.

### **“Must fix old home by April 16”<sup>156</sup> (1959)**

A Chinese laundry operator with a weekly income of \$25 has been given until April 16 to decide whether to repair his dilapidated home or have it demolished by the city.

At a special appeal against the minimum housing standards bylaw, the three-man board under Judge Joseph Legris denied a six-month extension Friday.

Fred Lee, of 1491 University Ave. W., owner of the property, was warned by the city in 1957 to repair his house to building standard requirements or await the wrecker’s hammer.

Since then, according to the city officials, he has done nothing to renovate the premises which the city claims is a danger to the occupants and the general public.

Luther C. Clarke, counsel for Mr. Lee, in an emotional appeal against too much authoritative legislation for building by-laws said he was against anything that could infringe on the civil rights of anyone.

Mr. Clarke said the bylaw gave the building commissioner too much power when it authorized the official to demolish buildings.

He told the appeal board meeting in City Hall that his client earns \$25 weekly and must care for a daughter who is ill.

Evidence submitted by the city showed the former laundry and living quarters has a poor foundation and rotten footings.

He asked for a six-month extension to undertake the heavy financial burden of either repairing the building or finding new quarters, which he said would be difficult because the man was Chinese.

“He can’t go everywhere because of social restrictions...”

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<sup>156</sup> From Must Fix Old Home By April 16. (1959, March 7). *Windsor Daily Star*, p. 5.

## Appendix: Ads by the Windsor Steam Laundry

### “Good family washing”<sup>157</sup> (1912)

Good Family Washing is only possible by the process used by an up-to-date model Steam Laundry. Our methods are exact, scientific, hygienic; there is absolutely no possibility of your clothing being other than sanitary when returned from this plant, and this is well worth consideration. The safety from having your clothes handled by careless, unclean hands, amid unsanitary surroundings is worth more than the slight extra thoughts over those unsanitary so-called Chinese laundries. More than that, we do the best work, best services, a trial will prove it.

### “A golden rule for the laundry”<sup>158</sup> (1912)

A Golden Rule For The Laundry: “WE DO UNTO OTHER PEOPLE’S CLOTHES AS WE WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO OURS.” We do not use Caustic Soda or Potash in our plant, therefore we do not injure your linen. It is only hand and Chinese laundries that use Caustic Soda, as they have no steam, and must use it in order to get the dirt out, thereby rotting the clothes at the same time. That is a good reason why you should send your laundry where it is washed better, with much better and brighter color, where your laundry will smell sweet when returned to you, and finished right up-to-date. You are proud, then wear up-to-date laundry, and say “Good Night” to the old style Gloss, as it should have left the city long ago. A month’s trial will prove this statement is true. Phone us, or send a card and the driver will call any day you say.

### “Send them to us”<sup>159</sup> (1912)

Wear Negligee or Pleated Shirts With Cuffs? If so, you should send them to us for laundering. We will wash them whiter and cleaner than any Chinese laundry could possibly do it, and they will have a fresh and sweet odor when you open your bundle. Why? Because we have clean surroundings, a building with lots of windows – not an old shack. We dry our clothes by steam – not in a bedroom. A fair question: Why is it you can always tell where a man sends his laundry when you meet him on the street? Why – well, if it is grey and yellow, it is Chinese laundry work; if it’s a nice clean white, it’s a steam laundry. Just notice this point; it doesn’t cost any more, and you have the best work. Try it and you will be pleased. Also remember this is the

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157 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, March 18). GOOD Family Washing [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

158 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, March 18). A Golden Rule For The Laundry [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

159 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, March 27). Wear Negligee or Pleated Shirts With Cuffs? [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

time to have your dry cleaning and pressing done. We guarantee our work the best in the city.

### **“We do the best work”<sup>160</sup> (1912)**

Men’s Shirt’s, Collars, Underwear and Family Washing; we do the best work; why not try it; a trial this week; remember we purify the clothes, there is no CHINESE LAUNDRY that can, as they have no possible way in purifying them; and doing work in an old building where it is not even fit to live in. If that is where you are sending your laundry make a change for your own good and get better work for the same money. Now is house-cleaning time, let us help you with curtains, Drapes, Carpets, etc. Also remember, we do all kinds of dry cleaning; a trial will prove our work is the best.

### **“Not a Chinaman”<sup>161</sup> (1912)**

It’s Worth While. A man came to this city a few months ago; this man is at the head of a big industry, where white people work; the thought came to him, “why don’t I get all the White folks’ laundry?”

A few reasons why he should: In the first place your laundry is collected by a white man, who speaks French or English, same as you do, not a Chinaman, with a blue bag on his back that you cannot understand one half what he says, then take your laundry to some old building (really unfit for a glue factory), no windows, no ventilating, no steam, no fresh air, just an old shack. Did you ever smell your clothes when you get them from a Chinese laundry? Why such odor? They have no way in letting fresh air in, so must wrap up the foul air and carry it away in the bundle; “it’s no joke.”

Start next week and get fresh, sweet smelling laundry by sending it to us. We do the best work and the price is the same. A trial will prove it. Our Dry Cleaning is great.

### **“So many Chinese laundries”<sup>162</sup> (1912)**

There has been much discussion about why there are so many Chinese laundries in Windsor, when there is a good up-to-date Steam Laundry, in which white people are employed, that does better work, cleaner, whiter, sweeter smelling, and

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160 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 1). WANTED IN THE LAUNDRY [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

161 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 6). It’s Worth While [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

162 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 9). There Has Been Much Discussion About [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

better services all around. The price is no more than you pay for the yellow, grey work from a Chinese laundry. Be up-to-date; wear up-to-date laundry, not that old Gloss finish, which is away behind the times. Try our work and see if this statement is true. Remember, we do the best laundry and dry cleaning work in the city, and also best services.

### **“None of them is sanitary”<sup>163</sup> (1912)**

Best Hand Laundry. What a joke! “All-ee-like.” Why? Well, all hand laundry or Chinese laundry are alike. Why? Because none of them are sanitary. Why? Because it is impossible in old buildings, where there are no windows, and if there are one or two window they are always closed; no fresh air; no filtered water; no pure soap – they have to use caustic soda – nothing like it to eat up the clothes. They have no steam to boil the clothes.

How can they be disinfected or sterilized? Now, good people, just think this over for your own good, then send your clothes to a steam laundry, from which place they will be returned in the best condition. A trial will prove our work is the best in the city.

### **“There is a reason for that”<sup>164</sup> (1912)**

“Everybody’s Doing It.” What, sending their laundry to a Sanitary Laundry, as soon as they found out that the Chinese Laundry they had been sending their work to was so unfit, no windows, no ventilating, just an old “shack” of a place?

Why, good people, we have just doubled the business in five months, surely there is a reason for that; must be good work and service. A trial will make you a customer, like it has made many others. Our work is the best in the city. Remember, also, our Dry Cleaning has no equal, it is just the best. “Try it.”

### **“The good white people of Windsor”<sup>165</sup> (1912)**

Way Out in Front. Loud, long and fervent are the thanks and praises of those hundreds of homemakers who have taken advantage of our good laundry work, and we have more than doubled our work in five months’ time. There must be a good reason for that. The good white people of Windsor are getting wise to the fact that they can get much better work here, which is whiter, cleaner and sweeter and not

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163 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 11). Best Hand Laundry [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

164 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 15). “Everybody’s Doing It” [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

165 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 20). Way Out in Front [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

that old yellow, grey gloss finish that they get from the Chinese laundries, where the work is done in an old shack ready to fall down.

Young men, be up-to-date with your laundry as well as with your clothes, hats and shoes; send it to a steam laundry and get the latest style of finish. That is what the Windsor Steam Laundry is doing – the best and latest style of work. Be one of their new customers next week and you will be pleased. A trial will prove our work is the best. It's a fact, no joke.

### **“Send it where it belongs”<sup>166</sup> (1912)**

If you want good, clean and sanitary work on your shirts and collars, in fact all your laundry, then send it to the Steam Laundry. Why, good people, just come any time you have a few moments to yourself and bring your friend if you wish, and visit this plant and see for yourself just how we do the work, and see how well aired [it is], and its sanitary conditions; and then go in any of these (old shacks) or so called Chinese Laundries and see for yourself its condition. I am sure you will say to yourself, “Well, I never will send my laundry to that (old shack) again. Why, I never knew that a Chinese Laundry was such a place.” Then, my good people, begin with your next lot of laundry and send it where it belongs; for the good of your own health get the Best work for the same money. A trial will prove our work is the best. A phone call or post card will bring a wagon.

### **“A few facts”<sup>167</sup> (1912)**

Have you ever thought it over, my good people, just what a good laundry means to your city? A few facts: This laundry pays to its employees over \$23,400.00 per year. Do those Chinese leave that much among your people? Its building and equipment cost over \$40,000.00 Can you show me a dozen Chinese laundries, or “(Shack)” that is worth one-fourth of that? Now you can still double that pay roll by sending your work just where it belongs for your own good. Many of you business men like to be right up to snuff in your every day dress but yet stick to that old Chinese laundry and spoil it by wearing a yellow gloss collar; it's easy to spot those that like the Chink as their friend. Our work is the best and don't cost any more; why not have it? A trial will please you, I am sure. Don't forget our Dry Cleaning is great; we do everything in that line.

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166 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, April 26). Is and Can Be Just One Thing [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

167 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, May 9). “I Am Going to Tell You Something You Didn't Know” [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

## **“Can’t turn out a white collar”<sup>168</sup> (1912)**

You gotta quit throwin’ your firm aroun’ on the point, then why don’t you send your laundry to a steam laundry? Then folks won’t make remarks because you’ve got a yellow collar on instead of a white one. Don’t you know that the Chinese laundry (or shack) can’t turn out a white collar? Why – because their so-called (oh, anything but a laundry) is so dark that it would be impossible for anything to come out real white, as they have to dry their clothes in bedrooms with gas stoves. Try the Steam Laundry, not for fun’s sake, but for your own good; you will be pleased. Why – because you will get better work for the same money. Try it.

## **“Time passes”<sup>169</sup> (1912)**

Passing the Time. It is the problem of many. You will find the time passes and will look back to regret the time passed and waited when you will learn the fact of how much better you can get your laundry done at the steam laundry than by sending it to those so-called Chinese laundries (or old shacks) and have the laundry return a grey yellow color (and such a smell). Now, try the right place; it will please you. Also our dry cleaning is fine; try it.

## **“I have lost laundry”<sup>170</sup> (1912)**

What is all that noise about? Well, I took some collars in this Chinese Laundry a week ago and I can’t get them; I lost my check, and they say I have “(no checky, we giva no wash)”. Now that is twice in six weeks’ time that I have lost laundry; I can’t see how they are allowed to do business in that way, as when you tell them you lost your check, but can tell them what was in the bundle; then about nine out of ten don’t understand English. Now, my good people, why don’t you send your laundry to the steam laundry, where you have white folks to deal with, and it is a square deal every time, where the best work is being done? A trial will prove it. Also try our Dry Cleaning. We just do the BEST WORK, THAT’S ALL. Do you want it?

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168 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, May 16). You Gotta Quit Throwin’ Your Firm Aroun’ [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

169 From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, May 27). Passing the Time [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

<sup>170</sup> From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, May 29). What is All That Noise About? [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

## “What we do for you”<sup>171</sup> (1912)

You know that the demand for better, later and improvement is urgent and constant, that they are more appreciated than old articles and that they ought to be in your hands; that is why I say send your laundry to the Steam Laundry; they are better and a bit improvement over those (“OLD SHACK”) or so called Chinese laundry “DUMP” (not jealousy), but telling it for your own good. We do better work on your shirts and collars. Three questions to answer: Why do you buy the latest style clothing? Is it to be in style? (Sure); Why do you buy the latest shirts and collars, to be in style? Why do you send your laundry to the Chinese laundry, to be behind the style? That is sure as they can not finish collars in the latest style you wish. You need a trial of our work; that’s all.

## “How could I tell?”<sup>172</sup> (1912)

99 out of every 100 men want to look well dressed when he is dressed up. Business men, of all classes and standing, why do you wear poor laundry work when you can as well have good work for the same price as you pay for the poor work? Why do you wear OLD GRAY, YELLOW GLOSS Collars, that you get from the (CHINK LAUNDRY), when you can get a nice clear, pearl white, with a clean smell to your laundry, when it costs you no more to have it?

The writer of this ad could stand on the corner of Sandwich and Ouellette streets and point out every man that sends his work to those so called (Chinese Laundries). How could I tell? Just by the gray, yellow gloss that is on the collar. Yes, and I could tell it ten feet away. The knocking lies at your door. Why not have good work? We guarantee our work the best, that’s all.

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<sup>171</sup> From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, August 17). What We Do For You [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.

<sup>172</sup> From Windsor Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning. (1912, December 9). WANTED --- Well Dressed Men, This is For You to Read. [Advertisement]. *The Windsor Evening Record*, p. 7.