Participation of Chinese Pioneers in British Columbia Salmon Canneries 1880s to 1920s

華裔先民參與卑詩省沙文漁業的早期歷史

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摘要

卑詩省沙文漁業不能缺少華裔勞工

- 罐頭加工需要大量人手
- 勞工卻短缺
- 沙文漁因加工不及而腐壞

探究沙文魚罐頭業

- ✓華裔勞工的經濟貢獻;
- ✓華工合約的商業價值;及
- ✓華裔工目(判工)姓名,史實,樹建及對加國的經濟貢獻.

1870年代: 卑詩省沙文漁業起步

• 1870年 - 菲沙河溿始建兩間漁廠

Annieville 安尼圍, (1870) by Alexander Loggie & Co. 駱奇公司 Sapperton 什巴頓, (1870) by Stamp & Co. 士擔公司

• 迄1879年 - 更多漁厰在菲沙河建立

New Westminster 鳥埠, (1873) by Lane, Pike & Nelson

Deas Island 地史, (1875) by B.C. Canning Co. Ltd.

Lion Island 拉仁, (1876) by Ewen & Co.

Brownsville 巴冷士窟, (1878) by English & Co.

Delta 勺打, (1878) by Delta Canning Co.

Haigh's 核氏, (1879) by Benjamin Haigh & Co.

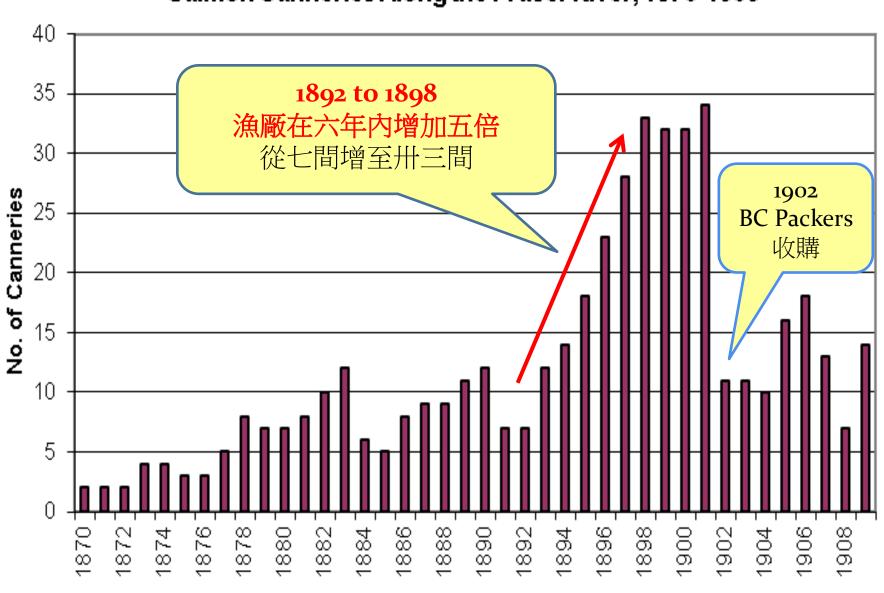
Annieville Cannery, ca 1905, Gunderson Slough

-Courtesy of Delta Museum & Archives Society 1980-52-171, Ken Young Collection

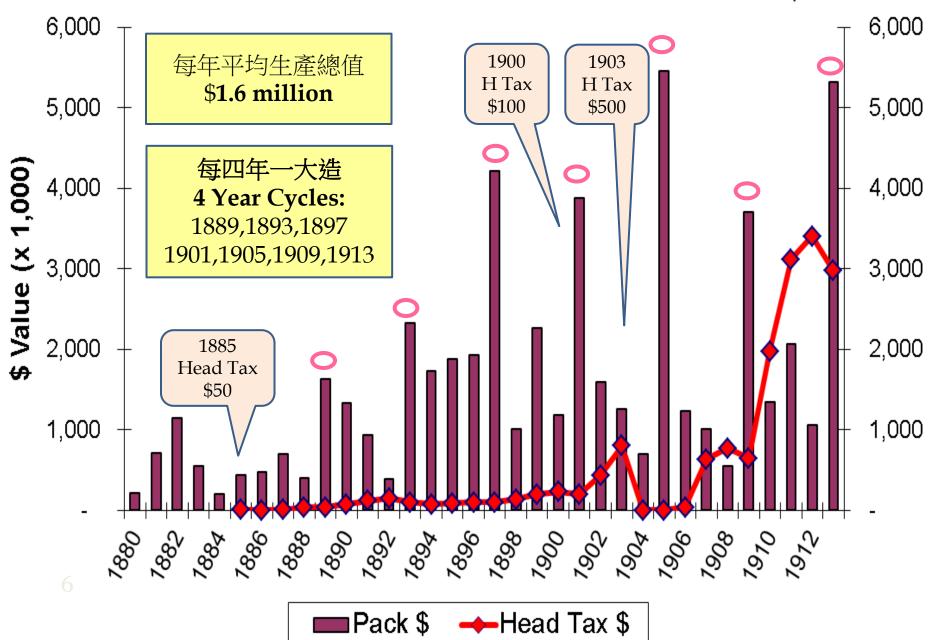


位於 根拿臣坑的

Salmon Canneries Along the Fraser River, 1870-1909



1880-1913: Value of Salmon Pack vs. Head Tax \$



1881年全加人日調查 卑詩省省府 二埠 卑詩省沙文漁業的發源地

1881 Census		Population	Chine	ese
SD 187 B	North	3,003	263	9%
SD 187 A	South	1,540	219	14%
Total		4,543	482	11%

在1882年鐵路華工抵加前一年

- ▶ 華裔佔二埠人口十份之一
- > 每十個居民便有一位是華裔先民

1881年全加人口調查 二埠 華裔漁民

1881 Census		Fishermen	Chine	ese
SD 187 B	North	116	76	66%
SD 187 A	South	2	0	0%
Total		118	76	64%

- > 二埠漁民共有一百一十八人,華裔佔七十六名
- ▶ 華裔漁民佔百份之六十四
- > 這七十六位華裔漁民在二埠北區居住

Canadian Census 1881: Sub District 187 B

City of New Westminster

這七十六位華裔漁民是誰?

- ❖平均年齡: 卅歲; 從十五至四十六歲, 以卅五歲者居多
- ❖ 一半已婚,只有一人與家眷同居
 - ❖ 76人在四間房屋內居住
- 1) Kai Gum, 40歲, 與38歲夫人Ah Chong(亞莊),女兒 Tai Gum(大金(20歲),及Ah Yung (亞容3歲)同居
- 2) Chun Joy, 30歲, 居于Wah Nuy (華女) 的224號住所,與 House No. 243,温金有父親 Won Ling Sing (温齡盛?) 家人為鄰.
- 3) 32 華裔漁民 在Ah Kee (亞基) 宿舍寄宿
- 4) 工目李衢與 42 名華裔漁民 在Wou Don (胡)為首的265號屋居住

Canadian Census 1881 二埠 勞工人數

1881 Census		Labourers	Chine	ese
SD 187 B	North	73	16	22%
SD 187 A	South	246	190 77%	
Total		319	206	65%

- > 65%勞工是華裔
- > 大部份華工在二埠南區居住(鄰近漁厰)

Canadian Census 1881

Sub Districts 187 A & B

City of New Westminster, North & South

華裔

雖然只佔二埠人口百份之十一

但百份之六十四的漁民是華裔

及

百份之六十五的勞工是華裔

- ▶在1881年,菲沙河有九間漁厰
- > 華裔是推進二埠漁業的主要經濟動力
- ➤ Chinese Pioneers were the Major Economic Driver of the Salmon Canning Industry in the Royal City

Canadian Census 1881

Sub District 187 D, Division 3

North Coast of Mainland

Nass, Port Essington, Skeena, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, & Alert Bay

* Population of 295

First Nations numbered 142 (48%), Chinese at 101 (34%)

* Occupation

- 21 Fishermen, 6 were First Nations (29%)
- 107 Labourers, 101 were Chinese (94%)
 - They worked for 3 Canneries

Nass (Est. 1881), 27 Chinese, total crew of 36 (75%)

Aberdeen (Est. 1878), 32 Chinese, total crew of 40 (80%)

Inverness (Est. 1876), 42 Chinese, total crew of 50 (84%)

North Coast of Mainland Estimate 236 Workers Produced 29,260 Cases in 1881 Per Capita Output of 124 Cases per Worker-Season

Catch Salmon		No. of V	Cases/			
Area	Pack (48 lb Case)	Caucasian	Chinese	Local	Total	worker
Nass River	7,700	9	27	30	66	116.7
Skeena River	21,560	16	74	80	170	126.8
Season Total	29,260	25	101	110	236	124.0

Canadian Census 1881 North Coast of Mainland

1881 Pack Valued at \$146,885 \$5.029/case x 29,260 cases

Cases/ worker- season	Full Workdays/ Season	Cases/ worker- day	Month/ Season	Pay @ \$32/ month	Total Pay for 236 Workers	% of Pack Value
124	50	2.48	2	\$65	\$15,340	10.4%
124	60	2.07	3	\$96	\$22,656	15.4%

Paid \$65 to \$96/season The 236 Workers received only 10% -15% of Pack Value

1881 North Coast Salmon Pack Wage Disparity

The Canadian Preserved Fish Sector (Mainly Atlantic Salted Cod, Herring, & Squid)

• Paid Labour: 26% of the Pack Value

The North Coast Canned Salmon Sector
Paid Labour: only 13% of the Pack Value on average

Chinese & First Nations Workers were paid half the national average for their Skilled Labour Input

Canadian Census 1881 Labour Cost Analysis: Fish Sector

Cost Breakdown		\$	\$/Worker
Material (Salted Cod)	42 %	1,128,062	
Labour	26%	707,462	> \$83.70
Overhead/Profit	32%	850,337	
Total	100%	2,685,861	8,453 Workers

1881 North Coast Salmon Pack, 236 Labourers

Worker-Season	@ \$32/m	Wages	Pack Value
Labour, 2 months	\$65	\$15,340	10.4%
Labour, 3 months	\$96	\$22,656	15.5%
Salmon Pack	29,260	\$147,149	Ave Wage @ 13%

Wealth Creation

The 1904 Canned Salmon Pack 465,894 cases at \$5.40/case Added \$2.5 million to the B.C. Economy

1904 Canned Salmon Production

Value A Per Capit	Contract Price @ \$0.50/case				
Fisher	20%	503,911			
Labour	70 %	1,763,688	232,947		
Management	10%	251,955			
Value Added		\$2,519,554	9.3%		

At 70% per capita input the Chinese & First Nations crew contributed \$1.7 million to the B.C. Economy

Challenge of Salmon Canning

- Salmon runs: highly variable (cycle years of 2, 4, or 5)
- Production planning: difficult (volume/time/supply)
- ➤ Remote Locations: high transport cost
- Labour supply: inadequate in remote areas
- > Short season: skilled labour difficult to retain
- Time: a race against spoilage
- Quality: swell cans (botulism) a major cost factor
- ► High Capital cost: idle capacity

High Risk Venture

Risk Management Critical

Chinese Contract System Business Case Analysis Michael Doyle Notes 1904 Nass Harbour Contract

- Contractor to prepare for 12,000 cases
- Company only to guaranteed 8,000 cases of talls at \$0.50/case, &
- > 1,000 ovals to be put up by day labour
 - For the price of 8,000 cases company was insured for A 50% overage of 4,000 cases at No Cost

漁濕合約 商業價值分析

1904 Nass Harbour Contract 以四千元代價,厰商將 生產風險及製作成本 轉嫁與華裔工目

- □生產風險
- 1. 漁穫收成不定
 - Ⅱ. 勞工短缺

- ■製作成本
- 罐頭產量及製作管理
 - 1. 質量檢控
 - III. 增產四千箱 必需後備人手

Human Faces of Chinese Cannery Pioneers

Kwong On Wo Company 廣安和 in New Westminster

- Supplier of goods and services to the Chinese community
- Agent for Onderdonk & the Chinese recruits in 1880s

Yip Sang 葉永生,字春田, 1845-1927

- Left San Francisco for B.C. in 1881
- 1882, Kwong On Wo agent for Onderdonk's Chinese crew
- 1886 Established Wing Sang Co. in Vancouver
- Started his own cannery contracts
- Ticket agent for Canadian Pacific Steamships Co.

Human Faces of Chinese Cannery Pioneers Lam Tung (aka Lam Tong) 林棠(?)

- Native of Singapore
- 5 ft. 4^{1/2} tall, pork marked, gold upper front tooth
- Arrived in Victoria on steamship in 1885
- Started the New Westminster Cannery in 1896
- Cannery absorbed by B.C. Packers in 1902

Lee Yine & Lee Poon Kai Kwong Man Tai Company

• 1901 Kwong Man Tai purchased Colonial Cannery (1897), absorbed by B.C. Packers after one season

Human Faces of Chinese Cannery Pioneers

Lee Coy 李長衢,字祐樞 1855-1927

- Native of Sartuey Village 沙堆, Sun Woy County 新會縣
- Landed in Victoria in 1876, at age 22
- 5 ft. 7 tall, very stout, face pitted with small pox
- 1881 Census: "foreman", living among 42 Chinese fishers in New West North
- 1891 Census: merchant Lee Coy, age 36, & his 20 year old wife were lodging in a 2 story bungalow of Kwan Ah Loy, with 5 other residents in New West South
- 1904 earned \$2,400 bonus for "breaking the unions"
- 1904 managed 12 cannery contracts

Human Faces of Chinese Cannery Pioneers

Lee Coy 李長衢,字祐樞 1855-1927

- Lee Coy was the contractor for Gulf of Georgia Cannery
- Which produced swell cans in 1905
- 800 cases had to be destroyed (~ \$4,000 lost)
- 1906 Lee Coy bought the Gulf of Georgia Cannery
- Kept operation until ~1909
- Lee Coy celebrated his 70th birthday, February 1926
- Passed away on October 22, 1927, age 72
- Mrs. Lee Coy passed away at age 60, on Sept. 2, 1931
- Both were laid to rest at the Mountain View Cemetery

Notice To Apprehend

To Whom It may Concern:

Please take Notice that Lee Wan of Sunwoy County, Sar Duey Village, age 30 plus, requested last winter to stay at my store [in Ladner] on credit for room and board. He promised to repay his debt with the cash advance for working at the Cloverleaf Cannery this season. Considering that he is a fellow Lee, I consented to his request. Lee Wan has negated on his promise and left for Vancouver, leaving an unpaid debt of \$46.35 for food. Should any contractor hire him, please hold back the money he owes and have it returned to me at the Wo Yeun Store.

Lee Wan shall be apprehended until the debt is paid.

This dated May, 1921

Lee Coy

弟定 特字通告啓者今有李環乃新會沙堆南邊里人年約三十 **巡食前营私自返出云埠立心實有意圖** 之項携往和源取囘 通告四方親朋如有魚濕頭出禾花于他者煩 勿謂言之不先 之日以至於今共欠伙食銀四十六元三毫九 槐 **薔蔵年底到來燉埠小店住足求弟相信伙食言明** 花冚雇工然後扣除 他 扣 留以 也 憑照 **免虧缺血本言出必行毋爲自惧特此** 接據方可請他雇工如若不然臨 第念在同宗順情應允計 達故不 化 得 仙 已登於 誰 扣除 Ė 他 開 料 到 春

一九廿一年 五月 日

邦李祐樞披露

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SIX MONTH PRISON TERM

The Chinese Times, May 8, 1919

Lu Yeun was sentenced to a 6month prison term defrauding hundreds of dollars of cannery pay advances from Lee and other contractors. After serving his 6 month prison term, Lu Yeun must repay the money he owed. Failure to do so will result in charges against him for delinquent debts.

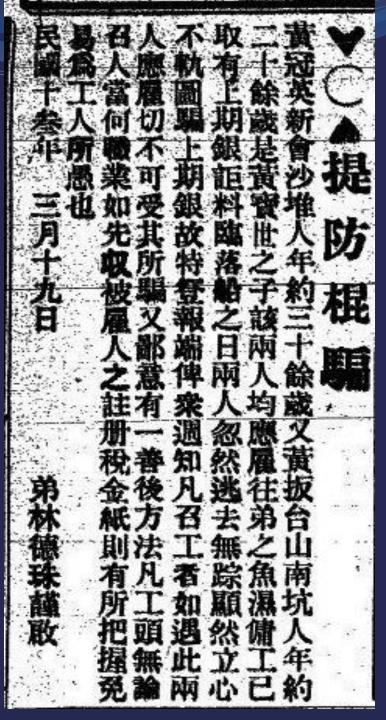
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More Pay Advance Defrauds

The Chinese Times, April 17, 1924

Wong Goon Yin age 30's, of Sun Woy Sartuey, and Wong Ban age 20's, of Toisan Namhung, the son of Wong Bo Sai, both defrauded on advance paid to them for working at my shop. They skipped boarding on the day of sailing and disappeared. Contractors should take note and not be deceived by them again. To prevent future defaults, employers should retain the Head Certificate of all workers.

March 19, 1924 Lum Tak Gee



More Defrauds

The Chinese Times, Aug. 3, 1929

Mah Wing Tun (馬榮騰) was out of pocket for \$300 because his trusted recruiter, Yen Dick Gong (甄廸光) took off with the advance, refunded by 3 workers who had a change of mind.

Mah offered a reward of \$50 for information leading to the apprehension of Yen.

August 3, 1929 Mah Wing Tun

侀 告 備

Chung Nye,蔣奈,字經可,ca. 1867-1928

- •Chung Nye, age 16, left Moy Kwok Village 梅閣鄉, Sun Woy County 新會縣 for the Gold Mountains.
- •He received an advance of 12 silver dollars, which he left with his widowed mother to take care of the family.
- •He and his friend landed in Victoria in April 1882. The time of arrival coincided with the 2,000 men Onderdonk recruited from China to lay tracks along Fraser Canyons for the Canadian Pacific Railroad Co. (CPR).
- •Chung Nye probably settled in New Westminster around 1886. By 1888-89 he was recruiting cannery workers.
- •He was credited for bringing his family clan to B.C.
- •In 1906 Nye Canning Co. started operation in New West. It lasted only one season. Was Chung Nye the operator?
- Chung Nye's story will be featured in the next presentation

Charlie Chang Suey, 1873-1946 曾瑞,字毓和,號雲峯

- Charlie Suey was a major recruiter of skilled workers for Northern canneries in the 1920's
- He challenged fellow Sun Woy contractors to donate \$5 for every 10,000 cases of their pack to the Kong Chow Association (雲高華埠岡州總會館) building fund
- He donated \$202.50 for his 1924 pack of 405,000 cases
- He served as director of the Kong Chow Association
- Charlie Suey celebrated his 71st birthday, March 1943
- He passed away at age 74, on December 12, 1946.

Cannery Contractors Pleaged \$325,50 Kong Chow Benevolent Association Building Fund

Contractor	Name	Cases	\$
Charlie Chang Suey	曾瑞	340,000	170.00
		65,000	32.50
Chong Mae	蔣美	48,000	24.00
Chung Sat	蔣述,字國多	20,000	10.00
Chong Yaw	蔣有,蔣寬有,字容可	18,000	9.00
Lew Lung &	廖龍	20,000	10.00
Lee Chong Hang	李祥亨		
Woo Sai Ding	胡世定	130,000	65.00
Woo Won Kam	胡允襟	10,000	5.00
The pledge accour	651,000	325.50	
1924 pack of 1			

Chong Dot, 蔣炳達, 字安鰲, 1892-1965

- Chong Dot landed in Vancouver at age 19, on May 15, 1910
- \$500 H. Tax exempted, son of merchant Suey Ho Chong
- Chong Dot continued the B.C. Packers contract at Imperial Plant after his elder brother Chong Yat retired
- He donated \$20 to the Vancouver Chinese Public School (雲埠華僑公立學校) in 1933
- To honour the returning Chinese Canadian Volunteer Troop, Dot raised \$106 at the Imperial Plant in Sept. 1951
- Chong Dot & wife Lin Tai Lim (林蓮娣) donated \$10,000 to the Mount Saint Joseph Hospital (聖約瑟院醫) for beds & furnishings in 1956.
- Chong Dot passed away at age 73,00 December 23, 1965 Mrs. Chong passed away 3 year later on December 16, 1968. Both were laid to rest at Forrest Lawn Cemetery

Chong Tee Poy, Woy Hor, 1889-1968 蔣池沛, 字會可

- Chong Tee Poy was a long time resident of New West
- He would head north to Port Edward each season
- He made generous loads to friends on the promise of repayment from cannery advances
- Born June 23, 1889, Tee Poy passed away on December 20, 1968, age 79.
- His grandson Melvin Chong (蔣盤炎) worked with him in Prince Rupert during the 1950s.
- Melvin Chong became charge hand for the Tulloch Western Fisheries on Commissioner Street and later the Seafood Products Cannery in Port Hardy.

Chung Sat (aka Deung Soot) 1882-1961

蔣述,字國多

- Deung Soot came to Vancouver at age 14, on April 29, 1896.
- He paid the \$50 Head Tax. His career spanned the Fraser, Burrard Inlet, and North Coast canneries.
- He donated \$10 to the Kong Chow building fund with his pack of 20,000 cases in 1924.
- He was a member of the Chinese Reform Party.
- Chung Sat passed away in Prince Rupert on July 2, 1961.
- His son Harold Chong (蔣俊豪) lead the Chinese crew at the Cassiar Cannery until his retirement in late 1970s.
- Willie Chong (蔣俊偉), the 3rd son, volunteered for the Canadian Army and served in Burma during World War II.
- Willie was a successful salmon and shrimp fisherman.

Danny Chung 蔣章霖

- Danny Chung enjoyed long associations with the Nelson brothers. His contract with the Port Edward Cannery in 1959 was the last signed in B.C.
- Danny continued to lead the Chinese crew at Port Edward until his retirement.
- Danny & his father On Shun (蔣北強,字安順) were career contractors.
- His younger brother Wayne Horne Chong (蔣榮漢) retired from the Home Plant of Canadian Fishing Company at the foot of Gore Ave in Vancouver.

1916

Free Congee Servings

評選罪忍不用今 八企冚盤季湯廣蔣捌西明陳元鄧蔣聯 干判爾狀心憐救者九而停筆爲同我施 厘尾臻秉義聚奈元婦一登 雪 械昌 _ 炳隆 血 卑元 _ 蔣一 元銀 _ 五一 _ 元振厘 _ 九進元 除支項 僑聯合會全人啓 二甄李吳元心 二硯 理喜 毛香盛會二捐四九五九一元九 指月婦仙毛毛元五元一十 教 # 於 + 之告種非物同訖

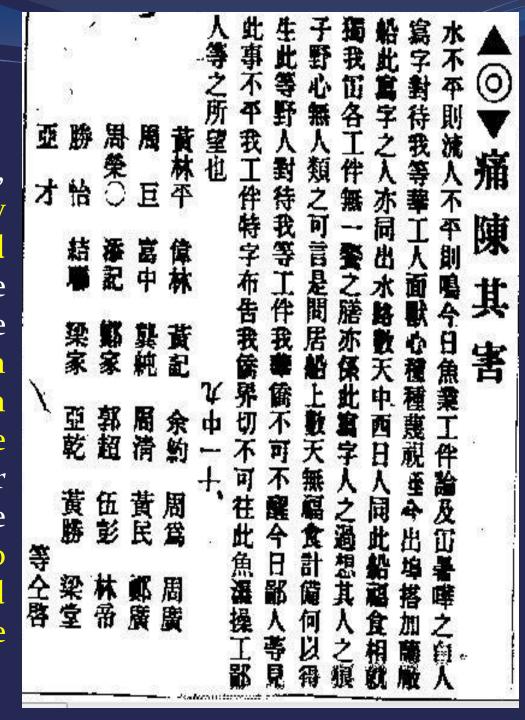
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香土芳名及進支數目

CRUEL TREATMENTS

The Chinese Times, Nov. 12, 1918

At the Cumshewa Cannery, the Chinese crew was badly treated by a Caucasian named Sergie. At season's end, Sergie left on the same boat with the Chinese. Sergie denied them of any meals, starving them the entire journey, over the course of several days. Other Chinese and Caucasians were feed. The crew vowed never to return again, and warned others to stay away from the Cumshewa Cannery.



Lue Mong (aka Lue Shon How), 1880-1954 劉望,字崇厚

- Lue Shon How of Moy Kwok Village, was a hard working and frugal cannery man. He felt ill and passed away in 1954, at age 75.
- His entire family was perished when the Japanese invaded his village. He wanted to return home after the War but was held back by the chaos at home.
- Mr. Lue left his estate to charity, shared among the Kong Chow Association, the Lung Kong Association, & the hospital.
- Kong Chow Association acknowledged the receipt of \$350 from his estate on December 10, 1954.
- Mr. Lue 劉 was an exemplary Canadian.

The Facts 1881 New Westminster

- 1 in 10 Residents of the Royal City was Chinese
- □ 64% of the salmon fleet was Chinese
- □ 65% of the Labour Force was Chinese
- □ 華裔先民是卑詩省沙文罐頭業的主要經濟動力

North Coast of B.C.

- 94% of Out of town cannery labour was Chinese
- □ 華裔先民與原住民的工資佔生產價值百份之十三; 只及加國漁產加工業之平均工資的一半.

Conclusion

The 1904 Salmon Pack

- > 465,894 cases at an average price of \$5.40/case
 - > added \$2,519,554 to the B.C. economy Labour was a Scarce Resource
- At 70% "Per Capita Input" the Chinese & First Nations crew contributed \$1.7 million to the B.C. Economy
 - They Received \$232,947
 only 9% of the Pack Value

Chinese Contract System Business Case Analysis

"金字塔式轉嫁"

厰商 轉嫁 牛產風險 而無需支付 招預算增產量 之成本及風險費

因難以預計 而要添加 勞工人數 華裔工目 被強迫承受

Lue Mong 劉望,字崇厚 Remembered 1880-1954

師 헰 吳 事 Ħ 扶 略 撣 餔 再 柩 讀 自 Ð # 至 對 欸 友 經 X 君 ø -行 昨 亂 玆 鄉 車 回 相 吞 noř ٥ ø O ø 勤 厚 在 院 歸 謝 膊 B 餌 足 餘 料 可 9 Ķ 人 勞 垄 士 AX. 世 楚 圈 øĵ 問 O ø O 節 午 詛 B 析 游 Ť 蕺 許 祖 狗 业 末 Ξ 逝 不 約 髙 多 拝 由 噿 情 D o 梅 觀 卒 得 時 戥 景 尝 묆 世 何 đ 鲁 ø Q. 因 早 別 墳 景 甘 則 學 换 U O ð 如 Ó 享 藥 撄 由 假 舗 親 稵 益 推 坞 存 有 Ą O 楚 述 石 给 因 串 托 駲 0 暗 阻 岡 О O. 9 向 H 耙 其 蝿 知 李 魔 業 翁 蚏 崇 拾 老 生 南 囊 Q. 0

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by UBC Asian Library & Multicultural Canada

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