

# NO ONE IS BLAMED

## INQUEST ON THE BODY OF "TOM"

The Coroner's Jury Says That the Chinese Cook Died of Heart Failure, and Exonerates Detectives Griffin and Holsapple.

Coroner River's undertaking rooms presented a lively appearance yesterday. The occasion was the inquest on the body of Wong Chung Kong, the Chinese cook who died in the city jail on the night of April 18. Coroner River postponed the inquest from time to time to enable the Chinamen interested in the investigation of the case to procure the presence of Colonel F. A. Bee, the Chinese consular agent at San Francisco. The Chinamen seemed to entertain the idea that the inquest could not be held without his presence, and as he finally arrived, they were ready to go ahead with the investigation.

The circumstances of Wong Chung Kong's death are yet fresh in the minds of the public. He was a cook, and familiarly known by the name of Tom. He was arrested by Detectives Holsapple and Griffin for creating a disturbance, and died in his cell about an hour after reaching the jail. He gave the officers considerable trouble while being taken down, and as they had to use some force in order to get him along without the aid of the patrol wagon, his friends set up the claim that he died from the effects of injuries inflicted by the officers.

The autopsy held on the body showed that Tom had died from heart failure. Not satisfied with this, the friends of the deceased sent for an Oregon City physician and had another examination made. As the result of this examination only corroborated the findings of the Portland physicians, the Chinamen were still dissatisfied. Nothing would do then but to have Colonel Bee present. Coroner River very considerably postponed the inquest until yesterday.

The inquest began at 10 o'clock, and was not concluded until about 3. The morgue was besieged by a crowd of Chinamen of high and low degree and idle spectators. The jury-room was filled with witnesses, interpreters, attorneys and others interested in the case. Coroner River conducted the investigation. Deputy District Attorney Hunio appeared for the state and Colonel Bee and Colonel F. V. Drake, of this city, were there in the interests of the Chinamen. The testimony was taken down in shorthand, to be transcribed in full. The following jurors were sworn: W. G. Cole, William C. Chatten, G. Heltkemper, D. Zinsley, D. L. Povey and A. Lobsenz. Numerous witnesses were examined.

The jury reported as follows: "That Wong Chung Kong came to his death from heart failure caused by over-exertion in resisting arrest, and it is our opinion that the officers used no more force than was necessary, and are exonerated from any criminal intent." This is substantially the same as the report of Dr. Rand, who held the autopsy in the presence of Dr. James Dickson. He concluded that death resulted from heart failure caused by violent exertion or excitement. He found all the organs, with the exception of the heart, in a normal condition. The heart was abnormally enlarged and undergoing a fatty degeneration of its walls.

Some of the testimony adduced at the inquest was contradictory in details, and it also appeared from the preponderance of the white testimony that some of the Chinamen did not adhere strictly to the truth. The two officers charged with the death of the Chinaman told a straightforward story, and although they admitted that they used force in making the arrest, they denied that they used more than was absolutely necessary.