

WING SING IN MONTREAL

[NOTE—Wing Sing is the pen name of a well-known Americanized Chinese merchant of this city. He recently left Los Angeles to make a visit to his old home in China, going by way of Montreal. Before starting he promised The Express to write a series of articles in his own untrammelled style, telling of his travels. Appended is the eighth contribution.—Ed.]

MONTREAL, March 3.—[Special Correspondence of The Express.]—Two moons now gone by since I left Los Angeles and the Canadian climate so agree with me that I think I stay here one moon more. Then I go to New York and after I see that most stupendous city and all my cousins there I be plenty refreshed to come back to my business in Los Angeles.

Now I tell my countrymen in Los Angeles about my countrymen in Canada. Canada, Montreal, but it more than Montreal. Canada mean many cities and places, but the first of all the cities and places is Montreal. There be many big banks here and plenty insurance company for the fire and for the life business, but the people they live to very good age and not too many house or business fire up. I think that very good sign.

I hear that in Canada from Vancouver to Montreal there be about 17,000 Chinese. The most part of them live in British Columbia. The part of Canada that is called Eastern Canada, it has not many more than 2,000, and in the city of Montreal I learn there be about 800. Most of the Chinese engage in the laundry work. That is, because it is a business that requires but little capital—beside it is a business that the Chinaman is allowed to go into. The white man he keep the Chinaman out of the millionaire business. There also good number Chinese merchants.

There is some gambling and some opium smoking in Chinatown, but not

very much. The Chinaman gets fun out of life in other ways, too. The Canadian Chinaman he like very much to learn to speak the English and the French language and to learn the English and the French religions. Some Chinamen here they be Protestant and Catholic both. Song Long he go to six Sunday schools—Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Reformed Episcopal. He keep up the Chinese religion, too. I think he be what the American people call very liberal man.

There is more of the tribe of Lee in Montreal than any other tribe, but there also Wus and Wongs and Sings and Tongs, and those of our countrymen who have had wives sent to them here have taken them from villages not their own as is proper in China.

As in America there is great difficulty in bringing female relatives to this country and it is harder than ever for a Chinaman to have his wife with him. If this state of things be, how can a Chinaman make his home here? It is not for the Americans and the Canadians to blame him if he save his money to send back to China or to take with him there.

If the Chinese woman could come to this country without too much trouble the Chinaman would spend his money here. It is not sensible to want to give the Chinaman religion and not want to give him a home, for what does the good religion teach if it teach not the love of home?

WING SING.