

CHINESE, OPIUM, FILTH.

secured by wiping out this nest of corruption. I believe if cholera should strike Boston it would find a breeding place on Harrison av., as those houses now are."

Investigation of Chinatown Last Night.

Done by Police, Members of City Government and Reporters.

Shameful and Disgraceful Condition of Affairs on Harrison Avenue.

A trip to Chinatown was made last night by members of the city government and newspaper reporters.

The worst parts of Chinatown on Harrison av. were seen in full blast, and the result of the investigation will be that later an order will be introduced into the government for the extinguishment of those wretched quarters.

Gambling and opium smoking were being carried on openly and in one place a number of white men were hitting the pipe.

A party of 15 gentlemen met at station 4, Lagrange st., at 8 o'clock last night. Among them were Councilmen William O. Parker of ward 10, John F. Fitzgerald of ward 6, Charles E. Clark of ward 17, representing the committee appointed Dec. 1 to investigate the condition of the Chinese in the city of Boston; Councilman J. F. Hurley of ward 5, E. W. Harnden, official stenographer of the city government, with his assistant, F. A. Chisholm; the mayor's stenographer, James A. McKibben; John W. O'Neill, and half a dozen newspaper men.

The party broke up into squads of five and THE GLOBE man was with Chairman Parker's party under the guidance of Sergt. Pearo.

The first place visited was 23 Harrison av. The police led the way through the front store, and in a rear room was found a group of 15 or 20 Chinamen around a high, square table, and a game of fan-tan in full swing.

As if by preconcerted signal the crowd of Chinamen fled. The proprietor of the shop, with the assistance of one or two others, gathered up his coin, put it in a cloth bag, and left the room, turning out the gas on his way.

The party went down a very steep and narrow stairway to the cellar and then through a long dark passageway, on either side of which were more opium couches in tiers of two.

The passageway led to a larger room near the front of the building, and in there were over 50 Chinamen talking and smoking.

Two were lying together smoking opium, their faces dull and expressionless.

Two flights up rickety stairs were next climbed to the apartments of Wing Hong, Hing & Co., at 10 1/2 Harrison av.

In a back room were found four Chinamen, some of whom were smoking. One man was partly under the influence of the narcotic, but the appearance of the police officer brought him to consciousness and thoroughly frightened him. He moved quickly to different parts of the room, then back to his couch, and finally fled.

A basement kitchen at 30 1/2 Harrison av. was next visited. This the officer said had been the first Chinese opium joint in Boston and is now used as a lodging-house for the poorer class of Chinamen and also as an employment office. The air was laden with the peculiar odor of the opium.

There was no ventilation except what was furnished through the street door. In the kitchen were a number of pans and pails of a vile smelling liquid of a brownish color.

From the stove extended a funnel about 40 feet in length, which served as a heater, and in some places the funnel rested dangerously near the woodwork.

Part of the basement was partitioned off for smoking purposes, where a Chinaman could come, hit the pipe and go to bed. There were also the usual gaming tables.

From the filth and poverty of that basement the party climbed to the gorgeousness and richness of the Chinese Masonic Temple.

The air of this room was sweet with the incense of burning sandal. On one side amid the splendors of carved images in gold, red, blue and black was the painted Joss, and before him, like the "ever-glowing spirit," burned the fire that burns forever.

The party was allowed to peep into a rear room, where some half dozen Chinamen were enjoying the pipe within the sacred confines of their own home. One of their number apparently was telling a most exciting tale. The eyes and the tongues of the visitors, however, proved too much for the story teller's temper, and he ended the view by viciously slamming the door.

The entrance to 32 Harrison av. was examined. This house has been raided many times by the police, and in days of yore was a notorious gambling resort. Between the outside door and the stairs were four remarkably heavy doors. The first two were of strong two-inch plank, the next one was iron barred, and the last was five inches thick. From this house Chinamen have jumped out of the window to escape the minions of the law.

It was a peculiar condition of affairs which was found on Oxford pl., a narrow private way leading from Harrison av. and branching out like the letter T.

The place was in a horrible condition, mud and filth filling the street to the depth of several inches.

At No. 8 a visit was made to Chin Cue. He has apartments up two flights in marked contrast to the miserable surroundings. For the past five years he has lived happily with his white wife. The rooms were in the best of order, the evidences of the neat housekeeper being apparent on every hand. On the walls were pictures and mottoes, among the latter being that favorite one of "God Bless Our Home."

At No. 6 Oxford pl. lives another happy family. It consists of a Chinaman, his wife, a colored woman, and their four children. The couple were married 15 years ago at the home of the bride in Chelsea. The husband is an industrious tailor.

The last place visited was 38 1/2 Harrison av. The house is about the same as the others in that neighborhood, very much out of repair, and yet it is said that a rent of \$2000 and one-half the taxes is annually paid for the use of it.

The basement of the house was like several others that had previously been visited, with the usual opium couches and gaming tables. Four or five Chinamen were lounging around smoking. An effort was made to get into an apartment in the rear, where voices could be heard dreamily discussing "Habs in the Wood."

Serjeant Pearo knocked a number of times on the door, but no one answered his call. Through a broken window could be seen some three or four young white men lying on a couch smoking opium. The air was blue from their puffing. These were the only white men seen in that debauched state.

Councilman Parker, chairman of the investigating committee, said:

"My ideas of the terrible condition of the Chinese in Boston have been confirmed, and as soon as possible I shall offer an order in the Common Council which will tend to remedy this disgraceful condition of affairs. It is absolutely necessary for the business interests of Boston that Harrison av. should be widened, and a two-fold object can be