

THE HOP FIELDS OF THE PUYALLUP

No view of the Puyallup is complete without a few words relating to the hop pickers. With good weather, and everything favorable, it needs about five pickers to every acre to pick the hops inside of three weeks.

Most of them have a greater number. Thus the three largest hop yards each have from 150 to 175 pickers for the season.

Almost one-third of these are Chinamen, the rest Indians. There are at least 2500 all told in the valley. They come from all parts of the Sound country. The Indians in canoes, and the Chinamen in gangs from Tacoma. Besides the salt chuck Indians, are great numbers of Klickitats, who cross **Natchess Pass** with the ponies.

Frequently there will be three or four times as many ponies to pasture, as Indians to work. The Klickitats carry themselves very haughtily, are not always either courteous or polite, frequently warning the whites that they possess the strength of numbers and should be the real masters, &c. Contrary to their usual custom, they are careful to spend as little as possible of their earnings.

These pickers devote Saturday and Sunday both to racing, gambling, &c. The people of the valley are very temperate and among them there is very little use made of intoxicating liquors, yet at these races many disreputable characters from Seattle and else where come with liquors, and do what they can to produce a perfect pandemonium.

It would be very difficult to stop these races, yet those persons, who will persist in bringing liquors, where they might be the means of the wholesale destruction of life from a single drunken row, cannot be too severely dealt with by the citizens of the law. Here is very badly needed an illustration of the wholesome severity of Judge Lewis in such matters.

It is a matter of surprise, that among so great a mixing of strange savage, and motley characters assembled to carouse two days out of every week often to the number upwards of 1500, and where liquors are freely distributed, no serious trouble has ever taken place.