

so Chinese gamblers, would appear to throw a shadow of doubt on the oft-repeated assertion of Chief of Police Shepherd, that Victoria was remarkably free, if not altogether so, from gambling. If the chief of police, it appears to me, devoted a little more attention to ferreting out the locations of gambling houses in this city than to interesting himself in the former habits of men, who were "nothing more than common drunkards in Ireland," he would be nearer fulfilling the duties of his office. That gambling has and does exist in Chinatown is beyond a doubt, and that white men and women do worship with shameless assiduity at the shrine of the blind goddess is more than a subject for speculation. I do not know who is responsible for the recent arrests of the Chinese gamblers, but I do know that the fruit was overripe for plucking, and should have received the attention of the police long ago.

The war at present raging between China and Japan has stirred up quite an ill-feeling between the representatives of these two nations, who are unfortunately to be found in large numbers in this city. Our local Japs and Chinese fight with their eyes and tongues. No doubt both languages are very expressive; but then neither are particularly effective in a war of words waged between the subjects of the Emperor and those of the Mikado in an English speaking country—the Jap does not understand Chinese, nor does John know how to appreciate the beauties of the Japanese tongue. But they appear to have hit upon a plan to give expression to their feelings. Passing through Trounce Avenue the other evening, I happened to see a Jap and a Chinaman approach each other—the one was coming in the Government street direction and the other was heading towards Broad. As they drew near, there was fire in their

almond eyes, and simultaneously they saluted each other with an expression which sounded to me very offensive. It was all the English they knew. Another demonstration of the ill-feeling between the two races I witnessed at the corner of Cormorant and Government streets. The enterprising proprietor of the Prince of Wales saloon is evidently a subscriber to the *London Illustrated News*. A recent copy of that paper contains a number of illustrations of military engagements between the Japs and the men they are after. To one side of the entrance was such a scene depicted—at the other side was a picture of the landing of King James of England, I believe it was, somewhere or other. Around the pictures was quite a crowd of Chinamen, who were evidently talking war—for they looked it. A couple of Japs came along, and their curiosity was also aroused to that pitch which brought them within the inner circle of the crowd. How those two unfortunates managed to escape I know not. They were pounced upon by the Chinese, and very roughly handled. The Japs are evident believers in the saying that discretion is the better part of valor, and as soon as they got a chance they took to their heels. I predict that there will be a big row between the two races on such neutral grounds as Victoria affords.

The City Council are looking to the Local Legislature for certain amendments to the Municipal Act, which will confer greater powers on the aldermen and councillors in dealing with civic affairs. To the report of the special committee appointed for this purpose I have no objection, but to certain changes proposed by the minority finding, I must enter a strong protest. While not at all wishing to detract from the merits of the present or past councils, I would not like to see a power placed in the hands of the

mayor and aldermen which would be capable of abuse. Hence, when it is sought to have the appointment or dismissal of police officers under the control of our city fathers, I do object. Our local police force is now dealt with by a board of police commissioners, composed of a Supreme Court judge, the mayor of the city for the time being, and the police magistrate. In better hands the department could not be. Why, then, are the aldermen so anxious to have the power of appointment handed over to them? I would not make the bold assertion that in days gone by, when this power was exercised by them, the force was selected purely with an eye to the fitness of the men. Political pull and personal influence is said to have had quite a lot to do with it. It would be positively dangerous to have the members of the police force under the control or influence of individual aldermen, for this would simply mean to deprive the men to a more or less extent of their independence, by introducing fear, favor, and affection. I simply hope that in this respect, at least, the Municipal Act will not be amended.

If Postmaster-General Caron is wrecking the Conservative party in Victoria, Mr. William Marchant is going him one better by completely annihilating the Liberals. The school system of Canada has been remarkably free from political interference, and by many our superior educational facilities are directly attributed to the fact that no matter what party was in power, the school should be kept entirely free from politics. Electors voted for trustees independent of party affiliations and trustees in their turn left politics severely alone. If Mr. Marchant has his way, there will be a new order of things. School trustees, instead of looking after the advancement and perfection of our school system, and the competence