

LI DONG BONG.

El Paso, Texas, May 10, 1907.

Statement made by Li Dong Bong, Chinese arrested in a box car in the joint freight yards at El Paso, May 10, 1907.

Questioned by Assistant Inspector in Charge F. W. McFarland, interpreted by Harry K. Faung, reported by Stenographer R. Denny.

You will be given an opportunity to explain how you happened to be in that box car, and if your story is satisfactory to the officers you will be allowed to go, but if not, you are warned that what you say now will be used against you later on in court.

How old are you?

27.

When did you last leave China?

11th month, sixth day last year.

Did you sail from Hong Kong?

Yes.

On a steamer belonging to the Chinese Commercial Company?

Yes.

Do you know Ng Hok Fong?

I do not know him personally, but I have heard of him, and that it is said he started this steamship company.

Where did you land in Mexico?

Salina Cruz.

Where did you go from there?

To Mexico City.

When did you reach Juarez?

Just a few days ago.

Did you come up to Juarez with Chow Chan and Lee Gee?

Yes.

Where did you all stay in Juarez?

At Yee Long Gung's ~~house~~ place.

What kind of a place does he keep?

He is a gardner and this house in which we staid was in his garden.

How close to the river?

Just a little ways.

How long were you there?

Fifteen or twenty days.

Waiting all that time for an opportunity to cross?

Yes.

When did you go into the box car in which you were found?

Yesterday afternoon about this time or a little earlier (7:30 or 8)

Who suggested and assisted you in getting into the car?

Nobody.

How did you happen to know that that car was coming to this side?

Because, when we were out we saw this car running back and forth several times. We did not intend to come over here, but because a Mexican chased us into this car and locked us in there.

Who told you to tell that story about the Mexican?

Nobody, we were really playing with this Mexican, throwing mud at each other near the ditch.

How many Mexicans were there?

One.

One Mexican chased four of you into this box car?

Yes, we did'nt wish to fight with him because we were strangers.

Have you any relatives in the United States?

No!

Is this your first trip away from China?

Yes.

Where is your mother now?

At home.

Was your mother ever in the United States?

I don't know, I am an adopted son, But I heard that she had been to the United States before.

Do you know who your own mother was?

No.

Where were you born?

I don't know, I was sold when I was a small boy.

Did you ever hear anybody say where you were born?

No.

Where have you lived in China ever since you can remember?

Yun Sun Village, Ching Low Province, Sunning District.

How long have you lived there?

I don't know, I only remember I have lived there since I was a small boy.

Do you make any claim of the right to remain in the United States?

I don't know anything about the laws of this country?

Was your father ever in the United States?

Yes.

Is he living now?

Yes, he is living, but he is paralyzed in China.

How long has he been back to China?

Four or five years.

Where did he live in the United States?

He was in New York and Los Angeles, and other places.

Why didn't your father bring you to the United States when he was here?

Perhaps he did take me, I don't know; people called me a foreign boy.

Do you know your own mother's name?

No.

Do you remember anything about her, remember seeing her?

No.

Who was your foster mother?

Tah.

What is your father's name?

I don't know.

What is the name of the father who bought you?

Li Kai Wing.

Is there anyone in the United States that you know now?

No.

Do you expect to try to remain in the United States by claiming to have been born here?

Yes.

What proof have you to offer to show that you were born here?

None, because I never knew anything about it, because I was a small boy.

Did you ever see any one in China who had gone back there from the United States?

Yes, some old men.

What are their names?

Li Sen Li.

Where is he now?

He went back to China.

Is there anybody else you can think of?

No.

Did you ever hear whereabouts in the United States you were born?

No, because I was a small boy.

Since you have grown up have you ever heard anyone talking about you being born in the United States?

No.

What people call you foreign born?

The people in our village.

Did your foster-father ever say you were foreign born?

No, he never called me that, he used to call me by name.

Did either your foster-father or foster-mother ever talk to you about you having been born in Mexico or the United States?

No.

Have you any money?

None, except that \$5. bill, American money.

How do you know it is American money.

I know it.

When did you get your Mexican money changed to American money?

That was given me in change for the money I paid for some things I bought in Juarez.

If you did not intend to come to the United States at that time, how is it you accepted American money?

I intended to come to the United States.

Did'nt you state that when you got into that box car you had no intention of coming to the United States?

Yes, but I had intended to come to the United States just the same, even when I entered the car, and although I had no intention of coming at that time, I would not object to be taken to the United States in the car.

Why did'nt you apply to the proper immigration officers if you thought you had a right to come to the United States?

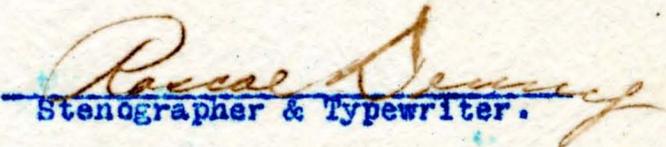
Because I could not speak English..

Do you swear that the statement you have made is the truth and the whole truth?

Yes.

Witness signs notes in Chinese and is regularly sworn.

I certify that the above testimony is a true and correct transcript of my stenographic notes taken in this examination this 10th day of May, 1907.


Stenographer & Typewriter.

A There is no river crossing from San Francisco.

Q Were you in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake last year?

A No.