

## A CHINESE RIOT.

### Theater on Second and Alder Streets Almost Destroyed Last Night.

A riot broke out in the Chinese theater, at the corner of Second and Alder streets, last night at about 10 o'clock, that would probably have had a serious, if not fatal, ending, had it not been for the timely arrival of officers. Word was sent by telephone to police headquarters that a riot was in progress at the place mentioned, and immediate assistance was asked for. Knowing the desperate nature of riots that break out in Chinese theaters, Detectives Griffin and Simmons and Officers Parker and Collins were dispatched to the scene. Upon arriving there they found the street in front of the theater entrance crowded with excited Chinamen, while upstairs there was an uproar that indicated that a battle of some kind was going on. The officers succeeded in working their way through the crowd, and getting on to the second floor of the building, where the trouble was. They found over 100 Chinamen there, most of whom were fighting and endeavoring to demolish all of the furniture in the room. A display of police stars and clubs brought the fracas to a termination, and then a general scramble for an exit took place. Two of the leaders of the riot were pointed out to the officers, and they were arrested and taken to the station, where they gave the names of Tow Dong Chue and Don Bow. The other Chinamen were allowed to go, but they followed the officers down to the jail, and for two hours afterward Second street in the vicinity of the station was crowded with not less than 500 jabbering Mongolians.

Joe Shue, proprietor of the theater, came to the station shortly after the arrests were made and preferred charges of disorderly conduct against the two men. He stated that the trouble arose from his employing an actor who was distasteful to some of the others. Chue and Bow are both actors, the former being a female impersonator. They declared that the new man should not go on the stage, and when the curtain rose they gave a signal and the riot began.

Friends of the prisoners, however, tell a different story. They say that Joe Shue is several weeks in arrears with salaries. Several of the actors struck last night and declared that unless money was forthcoming there would be no show. When the manager tried to go on, they adopted the American plan of resorting to violence. They succeeded in breaking up the show and wrecking the interior of the theater. Several men were injured in the melee, but none seriously. The fight had just fairly commenced when the officers arrived and put a stop to it. All the benches were torn up, broken and thrown out into the hallways, and the scenery and stage fixtures ruined.

The loss will be heavy on Joe Shue, but he stated last night that he would patch up the place and resume business at the old stand.