

# CHINESE MUST GO TO COLORED SCHOOLS

Supreme Court Rules That  
White Schools Are For  
Whites Only

## TAFT WRITES OPINION

Says Federal Govt. Can't In-  
terfere With States

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A Chinese citizen of the United States is held not to be denied equal protection of the law when classed among the colored races and furnished facilities for education equal to that offered to all whether white, brown, yellow or black.

Mr. Chief Justice Taft delivered the opinion of the court.

The controversy arose out of the fact that Martha Lum, a nine year old Chinese girl, was excluded from school by the board of trustees of the Rosedale Consolidated High School, in Boliver County, Miss.

### Not White

She was excluded solely on the ground that she was not a member of the white race.

The petition alleged that Martha Lum was entitled to attend the public school, that she is not a member of the colored race, nor is she of mixed blood, but that she is pure Chinese.

### A Taxpayer

Martha's father, also, declared in the petition that he was a taxpayer and helped to support and maintain the white school.

The Mississippi State Constitution provides that separate schools shall be maintained for children of the white and colored races.

### Two Races

The court held that this provision of the Constitution divided the educable children into those of the pure white or Caucasian race on the one hand and the brown, yellow and black races on the other. And therefore, Martha Lum, of the Mongolian or yellow race, could not insist on being classed with the whites under this Constitutional division.

If the plaintiff desires, the court says, she may attend the colored public schools of the district, or, if she does not so desire she may go to a private school. The compulsory school law of this state does not require the attendance of the public school.

### The Petition

"Had the petition alleged specifically that there was no colored school in Martha Lum's neighborhood to which she could conveniently go, a different question would have been presented, and this without regard to the state Supreme Court's construction of the State Constitution as limiting the white schools provided for the education to the children of the white or Caucasian race, but we do not find the petition to present such a situation." The courts adds,

"That the right and power of the state to regulate the method of providing for the education of its youth at public expense is clear."

### Equal Protection

A number of cases were cited by the court in its opinion to prove that a Chinese citizen of the United States is not denied equal protection of the laws when he is classed among the colored races.