CHEE CHARKO AND SOUR DOUGH.

A Discussion Over Affairs in the Claim Recorder's Office.

Sour Posts his Friend on How it is Done—Recorder Shows his Hand by Claiming the Ground was Already Applied For.

"Well, I'm glad once more to meet you," said Mr. Sour Dough, heartily, as he greeted Mr. Chee Charko, after an absence of a month on Dominion. "I suppose you heard the news while you was over the divide?"

"No, I didn't hear anything. What's new?"

"Why, you must have heard that Thomas Fawcett's successor is on his way down the river?"

"No, I hadn't heard it. I suppose things will be better now in the gold commissioner's office."

Sour, looking a trifle indignant, said: "You *suppose* things will be better?"

"Well, I mean I *guess* things will be better."

"So now you *guess*. Don't you know as well as I that if there is any change at all it must be for the better?—it couldn't be worse," and Sour spoke sharply and seriously.

"Keep cool, old fellow; I didn't know you felt so strongly about the gold commissioner. Of course things have got to be better—but I didn't know either that you ascribed all the ills which have afflicted you to that unfortunate and overworked man."

"The devil take it—and you too! Who told you that I did? Do you think I'm a blooming chump? What's the matter with you? There are men in office worse than he ever dared to be. The trouble with you is that you take it for granted that a fellow says something he never said. You're like a good many more 'chee charkos.' If you'd hear a fellow out you'd know what he said," and Sour pulled his cap further down on the back of his neck, and proceeded over the crisp snow in the direction of the Phœnix. Chee knew full well that his friend's irritability was but the result of long years of solitude and so followed him into the hospitable presence of Pete McDonald without a word. Several attempts at conversation were balked by the irascible Sour; but, after a few generous applications of Pete's best—and Pete's best is always good—Sour's face gradually relaxed and the wrinkles smoothed from his forehead. Finally his teeth were uncovered by a smile, and, turning to Chee, he said:

"That was a funny case about 186 on lower Dominion, wasn't it?"

"I didn't hear of it" said Chee drawing up closer to his friend to catch his half whispered tones.

"Well, I suppose you know of the 'gang' that is operating through the information secured from the recorder's office?"

"Why—er—I've heard about it but I haven't had time to look into it and I don't know whether the office can be directly connected with these cases."

Sour smiled more broadly than ever. "I fancy 186 will connect 'em all right. You know Riordan—Jack Riordan, don't you? Well, he's a pretty square fellow and he got the tip that he could get a Dominion creek, claim by signing away a three-quarter interest in advance. He signed the document and was told to proceed at once to Dominion and stake the upper half of 186 as it was subject to relocation. On his way there he met a young fellow named Bernan and when he got there he found this Bernan had staked that upper half. He came back to town and—what do you think?" and Sour commenced to rub his sides in enjoyment of the situation.

"Why, he found Bernan had recorded ahead of him."

Sour chuckled a minute in silence and then with an effort proceeded: "That's the funny part of it. You see, Riordan had never been near the office."

"Well?"

"And yet when Bernan went to Recorder Craig what do you suppose the recorder told him?"

"Why, that the claim was not yet open for relocation;" said Chee with a complacent grin at his own sagacity.

"You're a little off, but it's just as good if not better. He told him the claim was already applied for by Jack Riordon who had never been near him to apply for anything:" and Sour chuckled until his face grew red and Pete had to be called on to afford liquid relief.

"I don't quite see the point yet," said Chee.

Sour straightened up quickly, and his brow contracted with an impending storm. "You're not 'next,' eh? Tell me how the recorder knew Riordan was traveling over the hills to stake that claim unless he was in 'cahoots' with the men who had sent him."

"Do you think he told a lie, and that Bernan was simply being given a 'great big bull' con'?" and Chee gazed with surprise upon his friend who was standing perfectly quiet, with one finger across his closed lips. "I suppose I mustn't talk so loud, eh? I don't see yet why Riordan didn't know who he was dealing with, for you say he signed away three quarters before he started. Couldn't he see who got the three quarters?"

Sour laughed softly at his friend's greenness. "I really believe you're the softest thing out of bed. I'm afraid you're not yet properly weaned. I think I'll have to get a guard an appointed, for you're such a real nice boy, too.'"

"O, come off," replied Chee. "You don't suppose I'd sign away an interest and not see whose name was above mine!"

Sour went into a spasm of delight at his friend's innocence. "I really believe you're the softest thing in feathers I ever saw. Why, can't you understand the deeds are left blank until after the signer is through?"

"Oh, it was blank, eh?"

"Yes, it was blank."

"And that's the point?"

"Yes," and the friends proceeded to liquidate again to fortify themselves against the falling thermometer.

Biddle and His Badge.

Peter, the well-known jeweler, has completed a Miners' Association badge for Mr. J. Biddle, which is a perfect gem and is, probably, the handsomest badge yet turned out in Dawson. The design adopted by the association some months ago was followed out but every letter and figure and leaf is raised in high relief, with a diamond in the center of the pendant.

Biddle is an ardent association member and was its first secretary. He displays the badge with a becoming degree of pride. The crossbar shows a beautifully worked pick and shovel, with the raised letters "M. I. Y. T." The pendant from three links is a northern star with rays and in the center the midnight sun. The elaborate working out of the authorized design makes the particular badge more expensive than the samples hitherto displayed but several duplicates have been ordered already by admiring members of the association.

Dawson Club.

At a general meeting on Tuesday five new members were elected. Sub-committees were formed to attend to finance, stock, music and games. It was decided to hold a "smoking" concert on Wednesday, at which members could invite their friends. A whist tournament has been in progress during the week and the crack whist players are coming to the front.

Fire Brigade.

Mr. Hegg has succeeded in taking some good photos of the members of the fire brigade who attended the parade last Saturday and will be glad to show them to those interested.

There was a call to the McDonald building, on Second street last Wednesday night; but Chief Fletcher ascended to the high roof with a bag of salt and put out the fiery flue which had become red hot and was throwing out a stream of fire which fortunately fell on the corrugated iron roof. Chemical No. 2 turned up, but was not wanted. Ladders fixed to buildings would be a great help in case of fire.

OUTSIDE BREVITIES.

Latest reports from Louisiana, Missfsippi and Tennessee show that the outbreak of yellow fever was not yet under control.

The United States has 55 new war vessels under construction which, when completed, will make her the third naval power on earth.

Stolen gold ore to the amount of $110,000 was recently found hidden in a cave in Leadville, Colorado. The different character of the ore proved it to have come from a number of different mines.

The German emperor is to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and to insure his safety through the hostile countries he must traverse, large military contingents will be placed at intervals along the route or will accompany him on the journey.

Troops have been called into the field to meet the uprising of Indians in Minnesota. A forewarning of the outbreak was given by the Indian agent in time to have prevented trouble had the information been deemed important by the proper officials.

Howard Gould, son of the dead railroad magnate, has estranged his family by his marriage contrary to their wishes with Miss Viola Catherine Clemmens. The ceremony was informal and occurred at the Holland house, New York, on October 13th.

The gold output for the eight leading countries of the world for 1897 was as follows: United States, 60 million; Africa, 56 million; Australia, 53 million; Russia, 25 million; Canada, 11 million; Mexico, 9 million; India, 7 million and China 6 million.

Since the signing of the protocol by the United States and Spain, the latter country has liberated from their African penal colony "Vanigoes," or Cuban criminals. It is the general supposition that this move was intended to harass their late enemies, as the convicts will undoubtedly avail themselves of the first opportunity to return to the scene of their crimes.

The "scab" miners at Virden, Ill., have been defeated after a conflict with the union miners which resulted in the death of five men and double as many wounded. The affair was the culmination of a strike and the new men had just been brought in under arms. Who fired the first shots will not be definitely known until after the coroner's inquest. National guards are in possession at the present time and wordy war alone is being indulged in.

The Monte Carlo.

Cavanaugh and Newman are to be congratulated upon the public interest they maintain in their house. The inimitable Breen disappointed his friends the past week by contracting a bad cold; the same with Georgie Newman, but the balance of the excellent company is in as good trim as ever, and the stage people are playing to large houses nightly.

Tivoli Theatre.

The Tivoli is playing to large houses nightly, and Manager Blei is sparing no expense to maintain a good show. Amongst the new people who have become such popular favorites must be mentioned the Brocee sisters in their neat double song and dance act. The Mulligans and Rodolphes are still there with a host of lesser talent, and there is no lack of interest from the rising to the going down of the curtain.

A Good Map for 50 Cents.

The Mine Exchange Map of the Klondike Gold Fields, should be in the hands of every miner. For sale at the NUGGET office. Price 50 cents.

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For your relatives and friends manufactured by us, will be sent to the outside and any part of the states free of charge, through our Seattle office, 116 Cherry street.

JOS. MAYER & BROS.

Opposite Monte Carlo Theatre, Dawson.

FROM GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAINS

To the Land of Eternal Sunshine and Flowers.

Corporal Richardson Out With Official Mail and Dispatches—Piper for Thistle—Carroll and Cronin Fix a Date for Their Scrap.

Mr. Joseph Biddle and party started from the NUGGET office for the outside on Monday afternoon at 2:15. With him were Messrs. James Biddle, a brother, John Neale and W. D. Duncan, though the latter is only going part way up the river. The gentlemen are all from Birmingham, Alabama, and propose returning to Dawson over the ice in ninety days. They represent a company of Alabamans and go to report and re-stock. They take with them some pretty samples from various claims and expect to be able to sell more or less of their property in the town where they are known so well.

They are taking 600 pounds on three sleds in the shape of bedding, etc., but expect to return with big loads. The party was given three hearty cheers as they set out on their great trip and while their friends will be mighty pleased to hear of their safe arrival at the coast, the lads are stout hearted and "husky" and leave no cause for anxiety.

Detached for Thistle Creek and the Coast.

Constable Piper has been detached to serve at the station designated as the "Half way" post, situated upon the right bank of the Yukon some 15 miles above where Thistle creek enters the main stream. The recent discovery of gold and the consequent influx of population to that stream calls for an increase in the police force at that point.

Corporal Richardson started out on Tuesday with official mail and dispatches for Ottawa. He will obtain relays of dogs at the various police posts and is expected to reach the coast in from 24 to 30 days. Reports from up river show the Yukon to have frozen up this year in an exceptional manner which will make fast time to the coast the rule and not the exception this winter. The floe ice came to a sudden stand-still without jamming to any great extent, thus leaving the edge ice free from piled ice and frozen obstacles. The result is an exceptionally smooth trail inviting a trial of speed from everyone. Unless the river should break up again there will be some remarkable records made to the coast this winter and Richardson's may be but a starter.

Will "Pull Off" at the Monte Carlo.

Carroll and Cronin have perfected arrangements to "pull off" their 20-round "go" at the Monte Carlo theatre on the evening of Thanksgiving day. The principals are in dead earnest as the articles of agreement on file at this office make no provision at all for the loser and a decision must be given. It means a handsome purse for the winner and a month of training for nothing for the loser. The men are working conscientiously to get into condition and are already showing up remarkably trim and strong.

Captain Jack.

Captain Jack's entertainment of story and verse on Sunday night at Pioneer hall was an unqualified success. The captain was at his best and his picturesque and graphic descriptions of Western phases of American life were applauded, as is always the case when that popular gentleman appears in public. As was natural, the large audience was perceptibly American, and they were unanimous in declaring themselves refreshed and invigorated by this breath from the prairies and plains. Captain Jack was chief of scouts in many a border and Indian affair and served in the war of the rebellion as a soldier. With an excellent memory and a keen perception of the beautiful, the humorous or the pathetic in human nature, he has stored his mind with the thousand-and-one events of an active career. These scenes and incidents are brought before the eye of the audience with a self-taught eloquence which breathes from end to end the freedom from all restraint of the plains. Campfire stories and gems of pathetic verse is a synopsis of the entertainment; similies from the hills, the mountains and the corral; the dictionary free modes of expression of the pioneers of civilization; pictures of the fast-leaving days of a frontier population of untramelled humanity living in a state nearest akin to nature—all this and more occurs to one as Captain Jack holds forth. People foreign to frontier conditions may scoff at what they conceive to be exaggeration, but the entertainer of Sunday evening is endorsed by every frontiersman on the continent of America.

Pioneer Dance.

Saturday night witnessed the largest gathering of dancers ever in Dawson before. The occasion was a social dance given in their own hall by the Y. O. O. P., and admission was strictly by invitation. This is the first affair of the season for which the Pioneers are responsible and the evident readiness of all to avail themselves of invitations, stamps the affair with the seal of public approval at once. Indeed, for a part of the time the hall was too crowded for comfort, but after refreshments at midnight the crush became less and less and the dance ran along until morning.

The endorsement of the public should convince the management that they are supplying a long-felt want and we hope to have more of these invitation dances.

The Pioneers were present in force and all wore the customary regalia of the order.

Staple and Fancy Sundries. Complete stock Kelly & Co., Druggists, Front street.

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