

NOTES OF TRAVEL:

And Reminiscences of a Pleasant Tour

L. C. MORRIS.

CHAPTER XIX.

AT BUTTE, MONTANA—WE DESCEND TO THE MINES.

Nestled among the mountains of Montana lies the neat and well planned city of Anaconda, and some thirty miles distant stands the capital city of Butte. These are truly cities of the West; but they have long passed that stage of western life which was spoken of as "the wild and woolly west." Butte is a fine city, and presents many splendid buildings, and has a population of one hundred thousand. Montana is not only noted for its mountains; but its copper mines are world renowned, and its smelting plant is one of the largest in the United States.

The city of Butte is really built upon a huge copper bed, and the excavations which lie under the city are deep and winding. We went down these depths, and saw for ourselves the operations of the mines. The miners work under difficult conditions, but everything is done for their

safety which can be done; and they get good liberal pay, and they seem well satisfied with their condition. They work on eight hour shifts, and the operations continue all the time, day and night. The pay is seven dollars a day, or shift; but sometimes the men do piece-work, and thus make bigger wages. Our descent to the lowest pit was three thousand, two hundred and twelve feet; and the sensation while descending was something to test the sturdiest nerve. The drop was speedy, and the darkness dismal, and one wondered what would happen next; but such is the price of learning things, even on a holiday.

The borings and lodes of the mine run far under the city, and the ore is of the best quality. We went through many of the passage-ways, and followed our guide like "pilgrims of the night." The men and women of our party were all dressed alike, as the

company supplies visitors with water-proof suits, and hats, and also with lamps. At some places the mine is lighted with electricity, but at other places the use of lamps is necessary. A company of people under such conditions as these, is more like a pilgrim band, or a party of exiles, than anything else. There is the dampness of the mine, and the darkness of the tunnels, and the uncertainty of the step, and the weirdness of the situation on one hand; and then there is the timidity and the suspense of the party on the other hand. With lamp in hand each one follows in the wake of his companion; and when an open space or a traverse is crossed, there is a sigh of relief, and then a pleasant interchange of thought. Gone are all the fears, past is all the dread, and everybody feels brave as a lion, and wonders why they felt timid in the darkness, or why they preferred being on the surface.

As for the miners they all appeared to be quite happy, and they impressed us as being a very strong and athletic class of men. We spoke to some of them in passing, and shook hands with those near us. Ours it was to ascend to the surface, and laugh about exploits, but to those strong men tell the task of toiling in the darkness, and of perspiring amid the chilliness of those underground

chambers. We asked ourselves why such conditions were necessary, but we could not answer the query; for it is only by such toil and endurance, that commerce, trade, and science, have gained the foremost position which they to-day hold; and although machinery has greatly lightened the burden of toil, there must ever remain that initial portion of it, which can only be performed by bare-armed labour. Those strong men delving in the copper mine underneath the fair city of Butte, in the mountainous state of Montana, afforded a magnificent illustration of the essential value of labour to the realm of commerce.

Our descent to the mine taught us a few good lessons, and made us feel thankful for the blessings of the open air, and the bright sunshine, in which we daily walk. We may not appreciate fully these common blessings, but they represent a lot, though their value may not be known. Thousands delve in mines, and thousands spend their days under cramped and unsanitary conditions, in order that the comforts of home life be brought to the millions. Our daily wants are supplied to us, but someone paid the price of production; and among those who produce, the men who dig in coal mines, or drill in iron mines or delve in copper mines, or excavate in silver mines, or bore in gold mines, should rank among the most deserving; for upon the production of their labour, the operations of the vast commercial fabric largely depends.

It was in this respect that we looked at the miners of Montana; and now when we sit around, and enjoy the comforts of a modern home, we lend a kindly thought or two, to the men who dig, and to the men who delve—the miners.

(Continued on Thursday.)

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Saints Defeat Collegians.

The Collegians went down to defeat before the Saints in last evening's football game, the score being 3 goals to 2. Although the high wind made accurate shooting difficult the game was very good right through. Mr. Fred Brien was referee and the line-up: Saints—Goal, Lush; backs, Tait, Carmichael; halves, Burridge, Elton, Foster; forwards, Young, Quick, Munn, Irvine, Quick. Collegians—Goal, Volsey; backs, Chancey, Jones; halves, Parsons, Benson, Pike; forwards, Squires, Kendrick, Macklin, Smith, Coulas.

The line-up in this evening's game will be: Felldians—Goal, Rev. E. Fletcher; backs, G. Hunt, R. Chafe; halves, R. Martin, E. Chafe, A. Martin; forwards, M. Winter, T. Payne, E. Jerrett, A. Andrews, E. Ewing. Highlanders—Goal, Moore; backs, Cofield, Rose; halves, Reid, Adams, Paterson; forwards, Butler, McNeil, Watts, Halyard, Spry.

Stafford's Drug Store, Theatre Hill, is open every night till 9.30.

War Veterans Meet To-Night.

The Great War Veterans' Association meets in the C.C.C. Hall to-night for the purpose of continuing discussion of the Government's action in reducing pensions and allowances. Every city member will be present, while many from nearby outposts will also be there.



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Deserter Costs Nfld. Skipper a Tidy Sum.

North Sydney, June 15.—The schr. Stella, Capt. Pink, arrived from Burgeo with a Roumanian gentleman named Theodore Sarol as a member of the crew. Theodore is a skillful scene shifter and, in fact, has shifted himself off the scene entirely, much to the discomfort of the captain, who, though he arrived pink may depart blue. But, as Kipling says, thereby hangs a tale, which may be related for the guidance of sea-faring men. Theodore aforesaid is an alien, and as the captain took the responsibility of signing him on as a member of the crew, it was up to him, also, to see that he did not make a landing in Canada and get away.

According to the captain's version,

the vessel came into port and anchored in the stream. The commander with the other members of the crew, took the ship's only boat and rowed ashore, leaving the Roumanian to look after the vessel. On returning, the captain alleges that the foreigner had disappeared with his trunk and all his belongings. The captain did not state whether he swam ashore with the trunk on his back or not.

Immigration Officer J. J. Dooley was about as well satisfied with this explanation as any other gentleman of business acumen would be. Consequently, the captain was not permitted to clear for Sydney till he had come over with the amount the law provides—a fine of five hundred dollars. The police have been notified, and if the man is secured and restored to the ship the captain gets back his five hundred bucks. If not—well, he loses out. The absent one has practically no knowledge of English and

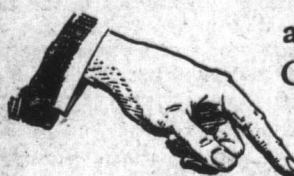
in all probability has made his way to Sydney to sink his identity among foreign laborers around the steam works.

DEAFNESS

AND NOISES IN THE HEAD

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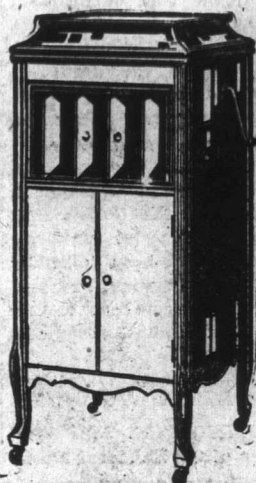
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MUTT AND JEFF—

SPEAKING ABOUT "SOB-STUFF," HERE'S A CHUNK OF IT.

By Bud Fisher.

