

Stroller's Column.

A number of men were standing on Tom Chisholm's corner yesterday when the subject of weather came up, and one gentleman remarked:

"Old timers tell me that such chilly weather as we have had for some time past is unprecedented in this locality at this season of the year."

"Reckon the critter wot told you that was one of them tenderfeet wot calls hisself a sour dough but wot ain't been here more'n sixteen years at the outside."

As one man the crowd turned to look at the speaker and there leaning against a telephone pole with his three legged



"ME AND LIMPIN' GROUSE ROMPED AROUND THE COUNTRY."

dog lying at his feet, was the sourest of all doughs. He looked disgusted at the weather talk he had heard but a little encouragement caused him to draw on his storehouse of Yukon knowledge as follows:

"It gives me lumbago to hear upstarts talkin' 'bout what is unprecedented in this country and what ain't. I think it was on the 24th of August in the year 1868, anyhow it was the fall afore the heaviest fall of blue snow I ever seed, an' I have seed lots of it, that me and Limpin' Grouse poled our boat 'bout fifty mile up the Klondike to a p'int whar Chief Ike's pap had tole us thar were plenty of high bush cranberries. We wanted a pascel of berries to make sass to eat on iceworms the follern winter, an' let me tell youse right here that iceworms with high bush cranberry sass is 'bout as delicate eatin' as is ever tackled in this country."

"Wall, we reached the berry patch all right and found it so nice and pleasant thar that we worn't in no hurry 'bout comin' back. After gatherin' wot berries we could fetch down in our boat, me and Limpin' Grouse jest stayed for a few days and romped around the country. One mornin', I think it was about the last day of August, we wuk up but found we could not turn over under the bar robe that kivered us. At first we 'lowed as how we was under a landslide, but bimeby we realized that it was only a heavy snow wot had fallen the prev'us night. That snow was jest 4 feet 8 inches deep, for it was jest 4 inches above Limpin' Grouse's head, and she stood 4 feet 4 inches in her bare feet as she was then."

"Wall, from that day until the 10th of the next June the ground warn't bare of snow, but nearly all the snow that fell that winter was blue as ary patch of sky I ever seed. That is the year iceworms grewed as big as ridge poles and st nearly half the ice in the river."

"Who was the person you speak of as Limpin' Grouse?" asked a stranger who had listened to the recital of the old man's experience.

"Limpin' Grouse," said the old man with an air of pride, "was my squaw, and a better and more devoted female woman never chawed spruce gum. She warn't no better lookin' than she mout aben, and to tell you the God's honest truth she warn't no smarter than she mout aben, but when it came to thawin out a fruz man or making a healing salve from biled roots, moose blood and iceworm oil, I reckon she couldn't be beat betwixt Tagish and St. Michael."

And as it was a crowd of chechacos to whom the old man had been talking they sauntered off one by one without leaving with him even the price of a drink. The sourest dough looked after them and bitterly remarked to his dog: "I hope them dammed ejots will git ketched in a snowslide afore they git outen the country."

A man whose surname is Jack and who homeports at the Twelvemile roadhouse, came to Dawson a few days ago and purchased a lot of supplies which he placed in a sack and left at a certain saloon until he was ready to start for his home. Then he began to steam around town with the re-

sult that he cultivated a strong and vigorous jag. Occasionally he would call to see that the sack of supplies was safe, then he would go out for another round of the paint stores. A few fellows decided to play a trick on him and placed about forty pounds of rocks in the sack. Late that evening and wearing a lurid that would provide him with a chestnut brown taste for a week, Jack called for his sack, shouldered it and struck out for the Twelvemile roadhouse. The trip consumed the greater part of the night, but he struggled manfully along, debating in his own mind as to which his interior or exterior load was the heavier.

After reaching his home and taking a short rest he proceeded to empty the sack, and then it was that he learned he had actually packed forty pounds of rock the entire distance from Dawson.

The last heard of Jack he was out butting his head against the end of a log barn.

In the dead of winter when mercury lingers in the 60's, when cabins with beer bottle windows and no wife or babies are cheerless, it is not uncommon for a man to pay fifty cents to get into a theatre, locate himself near a light, draw a book or paper from his pocket and sit and read until midnight, wholly oblivious to what is taking place on the stage or around him. He does this to save light and fuel at his home and when he becomes sleepy he closes his book and drops out and goes to his chilly bunk.

Last night a man was seen at a theatre where a comedy was being produced. He was seated in the bald-headed row and was oblivious to all that went on about him. He was not reading but he was sound asleep and the way he sawed gounds (a southern provincialism) and he-hawed was a terror to all present.

Either the comedy did not strike a responsive chord in the man's heart or else he had poured deeply of the slumber brand of home-brew.

"I never have any callers at my house," remarked a lady in the presence of the Stroller the other day, "for the very good reason that I do not want my old friends to find me in such a cramped up place as our cabin. But I invite every old friend I meet down



"I LIVE BACK HERE IN A CABIN."

town to call on me. They very naturally ask me where I live and I invariably reply:

"Back here in a cabin. Call any time. You can't miss it."

"Now I know very well that 'back here in a cabin' is such indefinite direction that they would never come within four blocks of finding the place, so you can see I have the reputation of being sociable and friendly without being troubled with callers. There are several thousand people in Dawson who live 'back here in a cabin.'"

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NON-UNION WORKMEN

Will be Taught the Trades of Skilled Men.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 29.—Officials of the mills of the United States Steel Corporation that were closed by the strike of the amalgamated association, stated today that they are receiving many applications from former employees for work. The announcement that the company would start their mills nonunion has, the officials believe, caused a weakening in the ranks of the strikers, and many are seeking cover. The amalgamated officials, however, assert that their ranks are unbroken, and as strong as ever.

One of the steel officials said today that a general mistake was being made regarding the time it would take to train inexperienced men and make them capable of operating mill machines. This has been believed to be the case so long that few have taken the trouble to prove it otherwise. It is now determined, he said, to have new men placed in positions that will give them a chance to learn the skilled work, and any of the men who held menial positions in the union mills are to be taught skilled work, with which they are in a measure familiar, through long association with the workings of the mills. It is confidently asserted that before many months pass it will be possible to produce many new men and plenty to man all the plants that are now idle, and which union men have refused to take hold of. The strikers say it will take years to accomplish this.

Reports from all the mills of the corporation show that steady gains are being made in the force of nonunion men. The strikers say they induced six nonunion men to desert the Star mill today and shipped them back to Chicago, whence they came. On the other hand Superintendent Piper, of the Star plant, announces that the company is nearly ready to start up the other mills in the plant, and the men are now waiting for the improvements to be completed in the first mill. At the Painter mills the work is progressing smoothly and no desertions are reported. New men are being secured, though the company officials say that on Sundays the strikers make an active effort of the homes of the men at work and seek to induce them to remain away from the plant. The last two mills in the Painter plant were to have been started today, but it was found impossible to have them ready, and the starting was postponed for a few days. Pickets about the Lindsay-McCutcheon plant in Allegheny say they turned back a new man today who was bound for the mills. Other than this there were no changes in the Allegheny plant.

The only significant action in Lawrenceville today was the successful start up of the Guide mill, in the lower union mills of the Carnegie company. The start was made, according to the officials, with a full crew, and the mill will be run without interruption. Regarding the rumor that the steel workers' strike would affect the opening of the window glass plants this fall, a prominent manufacturer today said the reason given for this was absurd. The building trades, he said, have not been affected by the strike in the least, as was asserted. The structural steel mills have not been stopped at any time and buildings have been carried up without interruption. If there is a delay in starting the glass factory fires they say it will be from other causes. There was little of interest about headquarters of the amalgamated association today. The cause of the absence of Assistant Secretary Tighe was intimated in a report from Chicago, which says he is engaged with ex-President Davis in organizing a new amalgamated lodge in South Chicago, which will take the place of the one expelled by him two weeks ago. It is said that 14 members have been secured for the new lodge out of the membership of the former lodge.

The American Tinplate Company has announced that it will start the Demmeler plant of the company next Monday. Police protection has been asked from Mayor Black of McKeesport.

Officials of the amalgamated association will not discuss the report of injunction being issued against their members at Canal Dover, Ohio, until they hear officially from their district officers. It is believed by many of the members of the association that some effective way will be found by which injunctions can be circumvented.

Reports tonight from outside points indicate no change whatever in the strike situation. Much interest is being taken at McKeesport over the announcement that the Demmeler plant will surely be started on Monday, and the strikers say every possible effort will be peaceably and lawfully made to prevent the company from making a success of its venture.

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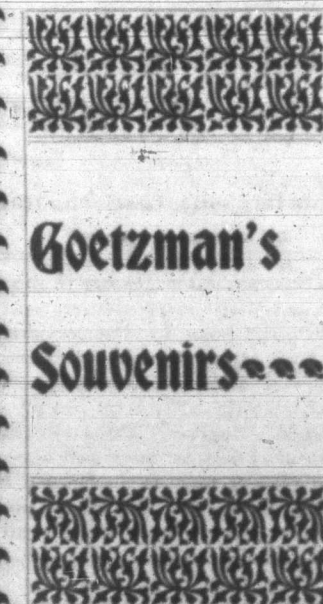
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