

Amblight Stories for Winter Saturday Nights

Mr. Skiddings pilots THE ONADEKA SQUAWS

By L. H. BICKFORD

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Pork Skiddings had been four weeks late getting back to Clark street. Matty Morse, of the Chin Yon Chop Suey House, usually looked for him when the post-season baseball games started. This year the games were won and lost and October lengthened into November, when late one morning, just after Morse had settled with his Chinese partner, a wanderer entered wearily and leaned over the cigar case.

"Here now, you," Morse began, "this is no—"

And there he stopped. Behind the stubble of beard he recognized his friend. Clicking the cash drawer, he led the way down the decorated room toward a screen in one corner, gave Pork a chair, and took a seat opposite.

"Now then," he asked, "how did it happen?"

Pork looked warily about.

"It was last May, when I thought it was about time for the summer lay that I answered the ad. for the bright young man who knew something of the country, and who was wanted to take charge of a novel touring proposition at a good salary and all expenses paid; must be sober, reliable, and of good address—my very picture. So we met.

"I liked the tone of your letter," says she, "for it showed refinement and was right to the point, although, of course, I

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President of the newly-organized National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies of Canada. Mrs. Hamilton now lives in Toronto, but she is a former resident of both Vancouver and Winnipeg. The

women of Canada are showing a wonderful interest in the suffrage question, she says. Inquiries for literature both for the purpose of debate and in the interest of organizing societies are pouring in upon her.

at Miss Sadie Delaney.

"It seems," says she, "that this town is somewhere near an Indian reservation, and that in writing here for a date I got hold of the wrong party. We are not to play the Ranger Brown, champions of Chinchilla County, but a real club from the agency, and even now the committee is hammering at the back door of the car asking for an interpreter. But nevertheless you must meet these gentlemen and see us through while I get the ladies ready. Sadie Delaney was never bluffed yet."

"On the car steps I met three parties bearing a sign reading thus: 'Baseball Today. The Onadeka Squaws versus the Navajo Reds. The Most Unique Ball Game Ever Played. See Emancipated Indian Womanhood Play Their Former Lords and Masters.'"

"And if a train had come down the other track just then, Pork Skiddings, the celebrated interpreter, would have gone on his way and this adventure would end right here."

"Up and down the tracks were camped the noble red men and their wives. The Squaws were priming for the afternoon, and I relate to Miss Sadie Delaney, 'I am afraid the Indians are suspicious,' I says, 'and if you take my advice you'll play this game in double-quick time and hike for the train. I'll leave an order to have the car backed down to the depot to be shoved right onto the five-five the minute it gets in.' But Miss Sadie Delaney didn't seem fazed a bit. 'All I ask of you,' she says somewhat coyly, 'is to keep the plate, and the Onadeka Squaws came sober.' And with that shot she turns to

on Sadie Delaney for a two-base hit, and this put her so far up in the air that she passed the next two men. Here were the bases full and nobody out, and Miss Mazie Magoon hopping about the infield and only keeping her mouth shut by her marvelous self-control. Well, here it happened. The next batter up was Lone Crow, their second sacker. He lifted a high pop over toward my little friend, Wind-of-the-Prairie. It came down right into her mit, the easiest proposition ever—and she dropped it. The ball rolled out into the field, and the Navajos went hastily around the diamond until it was discovered that Lone Crow had cleared the bases and made a home run on a bum error. But that was not all. As Lone Crow went floating on his way he ran into Miss Mazie Magoon and spiked her left foot.

"Right here Miss Magoon tore loose and talked New York."

"You great big, awkward, pig-footed slob," says she, following Lone Crow down to third and then on home, "you unspeakable brute; I've a notion to hand you one in your ugly face," and with that, while Miss Sadie Delaney looks on horrified, she lets fly at the son of the prairie and then takes him by one ear and twists him around until he writhes with pain. He was very much astonished. Up to that time the Navajo Reds had been going ahead minding their own business in stolid Indian fashion and taking advantage of the Squaws' errors, but they had shown no feeling. This attack on their noble brother settled it. They started toward the plate, and the Onadeka Squaws came in to meet them. The cowboys turned



"Knocked Down Her Fourth Navajo With a Left Jolt to the Stomach."

loose their guns, and right there came the riot.

"I heard a yell and then saw Miss Mazie Magoon's fake hair seized by the Navajo catcher, and pretty soon there were screams and Lone Crow was wandering up and down with Rippling Water's wig at the top of his bat. All the time the mix-up at the plate was getting worse, and Miss Sadie Delaney was laying about her with her good left arm, sending Navajo braves to the dust and calling on the police to stop the outrage. Right in the middle of this, however, she seemed to find but to stop and grab me and demand the receipts, which I was carrying around in my right hand, done up in a buckskin wallet. 'If you'd been tending to your business—she hissed at me—as she grabbed the proceeds and knocked down her fourth Navajo with a left jolt to the stomach—but I didn't catch the rest. I got in the way of somebody's fist, and the whole horrible picture was blotted out.'

Pork Skiddings looked around at the gaudy adornments of the restaurant. He seemed to be lost in thought, and Matty Marsh respected his silence for five minutes before he asked:

"But the end—after that?"

"That," said Mr. Skiddings, "is indeed the end. That is where the curtain falls. I learned afterward that the Onadeka Squaws fought their way to the bus and made the five-five train. With that they passed out of my life. The people at the hospital were kind to me—but, say, New Mexico is a long way from Clark street. (THE END.)

GERMAN SLUMS.

In an account given by Charles Reade at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London of German town planning, he emphasized the extent to which land speculation has gone in Germany and the utter inadequacy of the old ideal of town planning which made wide streets, vistas, and green squares its be all and end all.

Mr. Reade dealt in turn with Cologne, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Munich and Berlin, and of each of the same tale was told, with mere variations of detail. Fine, straight streets and avenues are there to impress the stranger who does not penetrate through tunnel entrances to the airless "lacks."

In other words, in Germany town planning is divorced from housing. Thus we find such scandals in Berlin as a

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Rents generally are higher and accommodations worse in Germany than they are in England. Speculation has inflated land values in many cases to seven and eight times what they would be here. Consequently, along with congestion, there may be large plots of vacant land on which the speculator cannot afford to build until rents rise still higher.

Mr. Reade asked land reformers to note that the exceedingly ease of land transfer in Germany is only an aid to speculative dealing. It is significant that leasehold is practically unknown.

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