

## SOUR DOUGH HAS HIS SAY.

Chris Sonnicksen Tells About Weather That Was Cold.

Too Many People Claim to Be Sour Doughs—Would Divide Klondikers Into Four Classes.

From Thursday and Friday's Daily, Dawson, Jan. 15.

Editor Nugget: Dear Sir—As it now appears that we may have a few days of cold weather, and as there has been a continuous dig at the old timers through the papers and by the chechakos about the cold weather of old, I hope that you will allow me space to say a few words in defense of the real sour dough.

First, let me say that very few people are entitled to be called sour dough—that word arose from the fact that everybody carried their sourdough pot, it being the only means of raising their bread. And I would suggest for future reference that we have four different classes in the Yukon history to date, as: Sour dough, baking powder, hop-yeasters and chechako. Sour dough to mean anybody here before the first A. C. Co. steamer Arctic was built; baking powder to mean from the Arctic's time to Circle City's boom, when we could get baking powder and salt; hop-yeasters to mean from Circle City to Igor, as in that time we could get all we wanted of all kinds; chechako to be from the first of the year.

I hope that you will all understand the above.

Knowing that cold weather would come sooner or later and convince the people that it does get cold here, I simply took my medicine and said nothing whenever I read the sour dough cold stories, intended more or less to slur and ridicule the old timers.

I have no use for cold weather, but have often wished that it would get sufficiently cold to freeze up the manufacturers of ice worms, liquid air, solid fire blazer, and though the public know generally that they are manufactured stories, they have to some extent an ill effect, and have made people believe that every year is like the last few years, and it does not get cold. It may be that if the present temperature holds for about two weeks some of them will freeze up.

It would be far better to believe that it does get cold and prepare accordingly, and then if you don't freeze you are no worse off; on the other hand, the idea that it does not get cold has already cost many people their lives. To encourage the reception of sanatoria within reach of the people, and the passing and enforcing of sanitary laws. To take means to arouse sufficient interest until governments, municipalities and people are brought into such systematic co-operation as to make full provision for the whole of the people.

Hard on the Old Man. There are divers manners of forming resolutions for the new year that are always put into practice, and all have their devotees, even if the turning over of a brand new leaf only lasts a week. There is one system of starting the new year, however, that has lost at least one devotee for all time in New Orleans. About 2 o'clock last New Year's morning after the usual ushering in of the new year and as the family was about to retire, the head of the house told of an old custom that was in vogue when he was a boy. He explained that in his boyhood everybody would open the Bible at random on the first of the year and the first text his eye should rest on would be a guide for his conduct during the coming year. The custom found ready acceptance, and one young hopeful produced a Bible, and, letting it fall open, his fingers fell on the following text from Zachariah, chapter 1, 2: "The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers." It is needless to say that no other member of the family was coaxed to try the old custom.—New Orleans Time-Democrat.

All Games Off. Owing to the prevailing cold weather the hockey and curling rinks are deserted and no contests will be held at either place until there is a material rise of temperature. Both are cold weather games which can be played only on the ice; but the weather can go to extremes even for ice games.

Seriously Ill. Alex Matheson in the employ of the Dawson Water Co., was taken to St. Mary's hospital yesterday, suffering from pneumonia. He was reported this morning to be in a critical condition, but with a chance in favor of his recovery.

While I am at it I will say a few words about the spring break up, which may be worthy for some people to consider. Generally the snow evaporates and the ice gets rotten before going out, and very little jamming occurs, owing to the ice being worn out, but in the spring of 1894 it kept cold, it was like an even struggle between frost and sun, for what frost did at night the sun had all it could do to undo it in the day time, and they

kept that up to about the 18th of May, and then it became so warm that the thermometer pointed to 70 and 80, with very little less at night, and the waters from the melting snow were pouring into the river from every bluff, bank or flat so fast that on the 22d the river was nearly bank full, and the water carried the solid ice like one body and striking and carrying all before it.

It ran for five days, off and on. Of course the longer the ice traveled the more broken up it was, and I believe that such another break-up would be very dangerous to the warehouses and steamboats in Dawson, for when the high water and the solid ice moving with it comes and acts together, it is hard to conceive the power it has and the damage it may do. It was that spring that cleaned some of the islands above White river of their timber, the ice going right over them and completely ruining their timber growth.

As a last I will say that if the conditions were as of old, that is if you wanted to get warmed when traveling, you could do so, but had to first make a place clear of snow, cut wood and start a fire yourself, instead of now going into warm houses every few miles, and even at this present moderate temperature and the large population, the fatalities by cold would be something fearful. Hoping that no fatalities will be reported, I remain,

CHRIS SONNICKSON.

Debating Society. The Klondike Debating Society, Salvation Army Cabin, Klondike river (left limit), below ferry.

Editor Nugget: It may interest some of your readers to now that the above society has been formed, and held its first meeting on the 8th inst. The debates take place at the above address on Tuesdays at 7:30 p. m. All lovers of debate are cordially invited to attend.

The resolution for next Tuesday's (22nd inst.) discussion is as follows: "Resolved, That Socialism is the Offspring of the Present System." Thanking you, etc. I am yours faithfully, R. GREENBAUM, Secretary.

Much Needed Organization. The Canada Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, of which Dr. J. N. E. Brown of this city, is the vice-president, forwards to him a letter from provincial general secretary of the association at Toronto, accompanied by the draft of a constitution which is submitted to the doctor for his opinion. The object of the association is best described in the preamble of the constitution, which is as follows:

Generally to combat and prevent tuberculosis in the Dominion of Canada. To enlighten and educate the public with regard to the disease and the principle of cure and prevention. To encourage the reception of sanatoria within reach of the people, and the passing and enforcing of sanitary laws.

To take means to arouse sufficient interest until governments, municipalities and people are brought into such systematic co-operation as to make full provision for the whole of the people.

Hard on the Old Man. There are divers manners of forming resolutions for the new year that are always put into practice, and all have their devotees, even if the turning over of a brand new leaf only lasts a week. There is one system of starting the new year, however, that has lost at least one devotee for all time in New Orleans. About 2 o'clock last New Year's morning after the usual ushering in of the new year and as the family was about to retire, the head of the house told of an old custom that was in vogue when he was a boy. He explained that in his boyhood everybody would open the Bible at random on the first of the year and the first text his eye should rest on would be a guide for his conduct during the coming year. The custom found ready acceptance, and one young hopeful produced a Bible, and, letting it fall open, his fingers fell on the following text from Zachariah, chapter 1, 2: "The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers." It is needless to say that no other member of the family was coaxed to try the old custom.—New Orleans Time-Democrat.

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## COURT HELD AFTERNOONS

Only Until Marth 1st on Account of Cold Weather.

From 1:00 until 6:00 p. m. Will be the Working Hours in the Territorial Court.

On account of the extreme cold weather experienced during the past few days, there was rather a concerted movement on the part of the bar yesterday at the close of the Woodworth-O'Brien suit, in Justice Craig's court, to get a vacation pending a change in the weather.

Attorney McCall addressed the court in support of the proposition, but the justice thought that in view of the fact that there were many cases on the calendar awaiting trial, and that there had been considerable comment of late upon the slowness of the courts, that it would be hardly fair to the public on one side, and the government on the other to close the courts altogether so long as it was possible to keep them open. He would meet the gentlemen of the bar as nearly as possible, however, by agreeing to begin each day's sitting at 12 o'clock and sit until 6.

Crown Prosecutor Wade then took up the question and asked for fewer hours, and it was finally decided to open court at 1 p. m. each working day from now on till the first of March, and sit till 6 p. m.

Justice Dugas is confined to his home by illness, and Justice Craig had to leave the bench during the afternoon on account of a violent headache.

Before he left, however, Attorneys McCall, Davies and Stackpool had ranged themselves opposite to Attorneys Wade, Smith and McKay at the long table, and the \$32,000 damage suit of T. S. Wilson against the C. D. Co. was taken up by the argument of Attorney McCall for leave to change the defense.

The case is one growing out of failure on the part of the defendant to deliver goods shipped from Victoria last year, according to contract claimed by the plaintiff.

The goods were shipped by one H. J. Pitts, a grocer of Victoria, to the Canadian Bank of Commerce with certain drafts attached to the bills of lading. These drafts were payable by Wilson, and the defense argued by Mr. McCall contends that until duly notified of their arrival and payment of the drafts by Wilson, the goods were not his.

Mr. Wade replied in opposition, and after some argument Justice Craig decided to allow the change in the defense, but granted the plaintiff the right to a new commission for the taking of further evidence in Victoria. Nearly all the evidence before the court now in the case was taken on commission in Victoria, which is rather expensive, and will pile the costs up for some one, should the plaintiff avail himself of the right granted. When the foregoing point had been decided court adjourned till 1 p. m. today.

Kissing the Cattle.

Peasants of the mountains of Montenegro have a peculiar Christmas eve custom. After the Yule log has been lighted the head of the house and the son who acts as the shepherd of the sheep flock go to the stables and with candles and light each corner of the interior alternately. Then they return to the door, and as each holds his candle high the animals are driven in one by one. The household wife then sprinkles a little wine over the oldest female of each of the different species of live stock and, having done this, kisses the animal on the head. This is a unique Christmas practice, and anti-quarians have been able to find no reason for it nor have they been able to set the time when it began.

The kissing ceremony over the family "clucks" like a hen and "cheeps" like a chicken. This is said certainly to insure a plentiful increase of the fowls during the coming year.

It should have been said that before the fire is lighted the iron shovel and the poker are hidden away. The Christmas fire must be stirred only with a piece of wood. As soon as a piece falls from the end of the burning Yule log one of the sons of the family picks the bit up in his teeth and at the imminent danger of being burned carries it thus into the yard and there drops it. Now of a certainty no witches can get in during the Christmas festivities.

The carcass for the Christmas feast—sheep, pig or goat—is roasted whole. In carving it no rib of the creature must be broken. Otherwise a dire ca-

lamity is in store for the family. A cake is baked on the hearth, and as soon as the spot where it was cooked is cool each member of the family puts his bare foot on the place and is thus insured against blistered feet for a year.

When writing of Saxon Christmas legends and odd Christmas ceremonials one writes in the past almost wholly. In the Black mountains region the old time customs are the customs of today, and time seems to have been unable to change their infinite variety.—Ex.

Egyptian New Year.

The Egyptian year began with the rising of the star Sirius, and consisted of 365 days. There were 12 months of 30 days each, and at the close of the year five days were intercalated. All reckoning was by this year; the festivals were celebrated by it, and as a consequence, like the Roman festivals of later times, circled around from one season to another on account of the omission from the calendar of the quarter day. Notwithstanding this omission the Egyptians seemed to have known that the addition of a quarter of a day each year was necessary in order to keep a correct measurement of time, which they called their "Sothic cycle." This cycle was a period of 1461 vague or 1460 true years, and was called "Sothic" because its beginning was fixed at a date when the dog star, known by the Egyptians as Sothis, rose with the sun on the 1st Thoth, which was the commencement of their year. This rising of Sirius and the sun on the 1st Thoth took place in the years B. C. 2782 and B. C. 1322 and also in 138 A. D.—Ex.

CREEK NOTES.

Capt. Scarth and friends were guests at the Magnet last Sunday.

Many claims on Bonanza and Eldorado have closed down on account of the severe cold weather of the past three days.

Mr. Grant, of King Solomon's Hill, was taken to Grand Forks where he is confined to his room by sickness caused from overwork.

Mr. Geo. Archer, who is with Kinsey & Kinsey on Gold Hill, was laid up several days, being struck by rock falling from the roof of the mine while putting in points.

Mr. Tom McElroy, the genial mixologist and tonorial artist of the Magnet roadhouse, has been laid up the past two weeks with a severe attack of pneumonia.

Billy Leak, of 30 Eldorado, and his brother Chas. R., left Skagway on January 1 for Dawson on bicycles. The boys got as far as lower Leaburg where they abandoned their wheels and came by the C. D. stage, arriving at Dawson on the 12th inst.

Mr. J. H. R. Ketcheson, of Adams Hill, had a narrow escape last Tuesday. While working in the drift a large quantity of gravel suddenly dropped from the roof almost covering Mr. Ketcheson. He escaped with several severe bruises, which will lay him up for a week.

McArthur Bros. and Bishop purchased a claim on Gold Hill on the fifth tier last fall. It was generally supposed that nothing would be found so far back, but the boys went to work with a will and are now taking out good pay, \$2 to the bucket being an average. One half day's rocking produced \$84. We noticed a party sinking a shaft away back at the foothills last Thursday, and it is the belief of some of the miners on the hill that good pay will be found in places all over the hill.

John J. Peterson, windlass manipulator on 1 below on Last Chance, had one of his thumbs badly frozen on Monday, but was ignorant of its condition until after quitting work in the evening, he removed his glove, when the thumb was found to be solidly frozen. In thawing out it split open to the bone. It is thought amputation will be necessary, but in any event the unfortunate man is incapacitated from work the remainder of the winter.

C. J. Dunbar Recovering.

Out in the Harper street private hospital, bolstered up by pillows, his hands swathed in linen, and lying helplessly by his sides or extended stiffly before him, his face covered by a white medicated mask, lies C. T. Dunbar, the victim of the fire of Monday morning.

It was feared at the time of his mishap that Mr. Dunbar had inhaled the flames or air sufficiently hot, to result fatally, but beyond a slight cough, now nearly cured, and the burns, he is none the worse. At the time, his suffering were materially increased by his having fallen in the snow immediately after being burned, thereby setting up a counter irritant and chilling himself to such an extent that it was exceedingly painful to either remain away from the fire or go near it.

He is doing nicely now and his ultimate cure is only a question of a short time.

Slorah's Application Refused.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon Judge C. A. Dugas delivered a decision refusing to grant to James Slorah, convicted and sentenced to death on the charge of murdering Pearl Mitchell on the 24th of last October, a new trial. Slorah is condemned to be hanged on the 2d of March. An appeal to the minister of justice will probably be taken.

## A SOUR DOUGH ODDITY

The Teeth of His Hair Comb Chattered With the Cold

The Potatoes Shed Tears and Flames Froze Solid in the Stove — The Sour Dough Dead.

"Cold enough for me? Well I should say it was," said the sour dough addressed, who is a curiosity, inasmuch as he is positively known to be the only one living who will admit that the weather is not like a drowsy summer day as compared with what it was when he came to the country.

"Last night," said he, laying his hand upon his mad dog pick handle, so as to be in readiness for the first sign of incredulity on the part of his hearer, "I waked up and although the fire appeared to be burning brightly, I noticed that it made no noise, and it was awful cold in the room."

"Unable to understand this, and suffering with the cold, I hopped out of bed and made an examination which showed that the flames had frozen solid, retaining their shape and color exactly. I was awakened from the trance of pure astonishment which this threw me into by a peculiar sound, or combination of sounds from the other room, and opening the door I discovered a queer state of affairs.

"The knees of the table legs were knocking together, and from the eyes of half dozen chechako potatoes were streaming tears of silent misery. My hair comb was making a peculiar noise, and upon examination I found that the poor thing's teeth were chattering in a heartrending way.

"A bottle of Perry Davis' pain killer sat on a shelf groaning and uttering the direst threats imaginable concerning the breaking of the bottle if the cork were not removed.

"I went back to bed and froze solid."

"Say," said the long suffering chechako, who had heard every form of sour dough perpetration concerning the weather and thieving dogs, during the past year, "If you were frozen solid how comes it that you got out of it all right?"

"I didn't," replied the sour dough solemnly. "I froze then and am dead now."

"These are piping cold times," said the chechako, as he ducked through the door, just in time to avoid the mad dog pick handle which whizzed past his head.

The Norseman's Calendar.

The ancient Norsemen reckoned by winters, and the beginning of their year was probably dated from the 16th of October. The festival in honor of Thor was held in midwinter, about our Christmas time, and in fact was the origin of the Christian holiday merry-making. We get the names of at least three, if not four, of the days of the week from the Norse gods of the Odin religion. Tuesday is from Tir or Disasday, on which the offerings to fate were made and the courts of justice held; Wednesday is from Woden or Odinn, one of the Norse trinity; Thursday is from Thor, the chief of the trinity, and Friday is from Frigg, another of the minor deities of the trinity.

School Attendance Light.

This morning the public school attendance was lighter than at any previous time this winter.

In Miss McRae's room a careful count of juvenile noses showed that an even dozen seekers after knowledge, most of them little girls, had braved the rigors of the frost king and were in school.

In the room below stairs there were 24 who had also chanced frost bites and were at work.

Thus far no accidents have been reported as resulting from attending school either from mad dogs or freezing, although the teachers are of the opinion that there should be a vacation during such weather.

Sign of Cold Weather.

There is a general belief among the "hop yeasters" that the thermometers in Dawson have not been within many degrees of accurate during the cold spell of which the present is believed to be the tail end, the impression being that it was very much colder than indicated by the thermometers. The only argument advanced in support of the above theory is that Curly Monroe was seen wearing a fur coat, and when a man passes from shirt-sleeves to a fur coat without gradually passing through the sack and three-button cutaway stages, it is a sure indication of severe and sudden cold.