

HABITS OF BOERS AT HOME.

Their Character Like Their Houses Is Primitive.

Education Looked Upon by Them as Useless—They Marry Young and Are Prolific.

(From Friday's Daily.)

A residence of several years among a large Boer population of the most enlightened description has given me material, says a writer in the Cornhill, on which I may perhaps construct a fairly correct estimate of the character of the average Boer—not the educated and progressive Dutchman who is beginning to make his influence felt, and will do so more and more, let us hope, with every year; but the ordinary, uneducated farmer, the "man in the veldt," the herder of goats, who can hardly write his own name and cannot read his own or any other language; the man whose courage, tenacity, and skill in certain methods of warfare have excited our admiration and astonishment, while his treachery and brutality have too often revolted all our best feelings.

Familiar to my eyes is the typical Dutch homestead—I see it as I write—four roomed, dilapidated, dreary and unsavory, erected, perhaps, by the present owner's great-grandfather, and surrounded by a wilderness of his own creation, for the Boer always cut down every tree, and every bush of any size, growing within half a mile radius of his homestead. The reasons for this proceeding I have never yet been able to fathom; but there can be little doubt that this wholesale destruction of trees has contributed to the terrible rainlessness of some parts of the country, which seems to increase as years go on.

Familiar are the typical figures that haunt the homestead—the tall, gaunt, loose-limbed, hairy farmer, active on occasion, yet immeasurably lazy; big-boned and strong, yet not with the healthy strength of an athletic Englishman; and his ponderous, muscular woman, almost, if not quite, as strong as her husband, often equally capable of counting the goats and holding the plough; the sons, like half grown colts, all length of limb and unkempt hair; the daughters, more slender as yet than their mother, sometimes very pretty, in a rather rude style; and the whole family, as a rule, have remarkably little to say for themselves.

The character of these Boers, like the place of their habitation, is primitive—primitive in its virtues as also in its defects. Like the Kaffir, whom they despise, they are both courageous and superstitious, both child-like and cunning, both hospitable and treacherous, both active and indolent.

The Boers, as a rule, marry very young, between the ages of 16 and 20; and as the Dutch church in its wisdom has ordained that they shall not marry until they have been confirmed, and that they shall not be confirmed until they can sign their names and repeat certain answers in the Dutch catechism, it therefore follows that, when they want to get married, they forthwith learn, not to write, but to form mechanically, and in correct order, the letters composing their name; and they also learn, not to read, but to acquire mechanically, and in correct order, the letters of the catechism which it behooves them to know, and in later life, for want of practice, even this amount of useful knowledge is frequently forgotten.

This, of course, is the lowest stratum. Above this is a very superior class, who go to school for one year, or even two, and are then pronounced "volgelernt," or, in English phrase, "finished." These are the educated Dutchmen who read "Ons Land" and similar publications, and digest the marvelous fictions therein contained; and of these is the Boer, henceforward famous in history, who said that "he did not mind Lord Salisbury, and he could even put up with Mr. Chamberlain, but he could not stand that Mr. Franchise, and was determined to have a shot at him directly he got the chance!"

Two marked characteristics of the Boer, which have strongly appealed to the sympathy of many people not otherwise favorable to their cause, are his attachment to the soil and his love of independence, the latter quality being marred by the circumstance that he does not willingly concede independence to any one else.

Huntington's Vast Estate.

What a futile thing, after all, seems this building up of a great fortune, which the man who builds it has no capacity of finding any good use for! Mr. Huntington's estate is more than \$50,000,000, and may be \$50,000,000.

Perhaps it is worth only \$25,000,000 to-day, but may become \$50,000,000 by the rise in the value of railroad shares in the course of 15 years' time. What is to be done with the income of all this property? Mr. Huntington evidently had no purpose, except to leave most of it to his wife. All his provision related to the management and maintenance of the fortune which he had accumulated. The money given directly for public objects does not amount, probably, to so much as one-hundredth part of the whole.—Hartford Times.

The legacies to nephews and nieces and sisters and sister-in-law and brother-in-law are regulated with a nice discrimination. No surprise will be expressed at the conditions surrounding the bequest of \$1,000,000 to his adopted daughter, the Princess Hatzfeldt. The money is put in trust for her and goes to her children when she dies, it should have any, and it is not to be liable in any way for the debts of her husband. Thus does the shrewd old American protect the property of the wife from a spendthrift husband. It is worthy of note, also, that the estate goes to men and women who live orderly and quiet lives and who will not devote themselves to squandering what they have not earned.—Brooklyn Eagle.

A Soldier of Fortune.

An American is entitled to the credit—if credit it is—of reorganizing the Chinese army upon a basis approaching its present efficiency. Frederick Townsend Ward was a soldier of fortune and a native of Massachusetts. In 1860, when the Taiping rebels were everywhere successful, Ward, who was 26 years old, and had served in the French army, found himself in Shanghai. He organized a band composed of men of various nationalities and offered to capture a city for a fixed price. The first achievement of his small army was the capture of the walled town Sangkinga, which was held by 10,000 rebels. As a reward he was made a mandarin of the fourth rank. Ward then cleared the country around Shanghai, being paid so much cash after each victory he won. After awhile he disappeared and was next heard of when the natives attacked the city in large force, when Ward appeared at the head of three well-armed and well drilled native regiments, who rescued Shanghai. Thereafter he became one of the leading men in the defense of Shanghai. He adopted the Chinese nationality under the name of Hwa, married the daughter of a wealthy mandarin and was made a mandarin of the highest grade and admiral general in the service of the emperor. Gen. Ward died as the result of a wound received in directing an assault on Tsekie. The Chinese paid him the highest possible honors after his death by burying him in the Confucian cemetery at Ningpo. Ward's successor in command of the Chinese forces was Major Charles G. Gordon—"Chinese" Gordon.

Royal Etiquette.

Old world privilege and restriction reign supreme in Spain, where there is a law that no subject shall touch the person of the king or queen, says the New York Mail and Express. The present king of Spain nearly suffered a severe fall from this rule in his childhood. An aunt of his made him a present of a swing. When he used it for the first time the motion frightened him, and he began to cry. Whereupon a lackey lifted him quickly out of it and so, no doubt, preserved him from falling. The breach of etiquette, however, was flagrant and dreadful. The queen was obliged to punish it by dismissing the man from his post. At the same time she showed her real feelings on the subject by appointing him immediately to another and better place in the royal household.

In another case a queen of Spain nearly lost her life in a dreadful way owing to this peculiar rule. She had been thrown when out driving, and her foot catching in the stirrup, she was dragged. Her escort would not risk interference, and she would have been dashed to pieces but for the heroic interposition of a young man who stopped the horse and released her from her dangerous position. As soon as they saw she was safe her escort turned to arrest the traitor who dared to touch the queen's foot, but he was not to be seen. Knowing well the penalty he had incurred, he made off at once, fled for his life and did not stop until he had crossed the frontier.

Across the Divide.

The few frosty nights of late have been keenly felt by the night workmen on Dominion and Sulphur and several claims could not get in full time because of ice in the boxes. Should the snap continue half day shifts will be the order.

The McAlpine-Johnson claim, 5 below, has certainly proved a wonder. The work in the creek bed during '98 and '99 showed it to be a claim of unusual richness, but the hillsides on their left limit was overlooked. Early this summer slight prospecting showed pay and lays were let, a sluice head turned on the ground and the richest summer diggings on Dominion was uncovered. Pans of \$100 are common and large nuggets are scattered all over so that both laymen and owners will do well.

Messrs. Deboey Brothers have been doing some nice work on 8 below upper and the pay has been first-class. The claim will be worked till freeze up.

Dominion, between discoveries, will be practically idle during the early winter. Preliminary work will be done and about March 1st work in earnest will start in.

Lower Dominion will be the seat of activity on the creek from now on. From lower discovery to 78 below the pay has been located on almost every claim either creek or hillside and prospect work with good results from there has been done. The left limit hillsides 89, 90 and 92 have located pay and men have been rocking, taking out from \$10 to \$30 a day to the rocker. A ditch is being put in that will bring a sluice head from Nevada pup for next summer. Prospecting in the immediate vicinity is very active.

Wallace Gerow, of 21 below lower, received a surprise party not long ago when his son Edward arrived, bringing a charming bride with him to lighten the days of gloomy winter on 21. Ed is no chechako, for he made a whipsaw record for a grubstake in '98, but those were hard times, for now 21 is one of the most promising of lower Dominion claims.

Hillside 30 below lower was offered for \$1000 a little over a year ago. Today \$30,000 won't buy it. Its owners couldn't sell, so they prospected and opened up a pay streak nine feet on the rim and how far back into the hill is yet unknown—100 feet shows pay dirt. They rocked 40 days and the two rockers cleaned up a little over \$18,000.

Thirty-one, 32, 33 and 34 have been worked as heavy as light machinery would work them, each getting a sluice-head on the ground and some very rich dirt was run through. The heaviest machinery will be put on next summer.

Geo. Burke, of 10 below Hunker has a good bench claim, but water was a scarce article. His Yankee ingenuity came to his rescue and he built a large tank and circulates the water through several boxes and smaller tanks till it has cleaned the gold from the ground and has the ground filtered from it and pumped back into tank No. 1. Some good pay is taken out.

Brewery for Circle.

Geo. Rice, probably the best known man in Alaska, is due to arrive in Dawson today en route to Circle City with a brewery plant and an outfit for an elegant bar. A brewery will be something of an innovation in the Yukon country. John Quinn, for several years past partner of and manager for Rice in Skagway, left on the Weare today for Circle to arrange for a location for the new industry. Geo. Rice was one of the pioneers of Juneau, where he still owns valuable property. He put up one of the first buildings in Skagway, the Pack Train saloon, and was the first man to pack a train of horses over the summit of White Pass. He opened the first hotel and saloon in Bennett and two years ago erected a hotel in Atlin at a cost of \$40,000. Besides being a hotel and saloon man, Mr. Rice also runs largely to newspapers, being interested in the Juneau, Alaska, Miner and the Douglass Island News. Mr. Rice will probably stop a day or two in Dawson on his way through.

Another Dawson Resort.

The Rev. Mr. Sinclair, of the Presbyterian church, is soon to leave Whitehorse. After two years or more of church work in Alaska and the Yukon he is going back to labor among the people of the outside world. There is a condition on which he will return to the Arctic circle and remain in it another year and that condition is that he be given permission by the presbytery to engage in a work which experience has taught him is very much needed in the country. Mr. Sinclair says there are enough churches in the Yukon and now he would turn his attention to establishing institutions of a semi-secular nature which would appeal to the young men of the north, and prove a strong counter attraction to the saloon and gambling house. Mr. Sinclair thinks that there is particularly a great field for an institution of this kind in Dawson and it is there he would commence work. He would have a large public building to the privileges of which all young men should be made welcome. Inside he would have bright lights, good furniture, comfortable and healthy air, reading matter and various harmless games. By conducting a resort of this nature on broad grounds, Mr. Sinclair believes that the character of many a young man in the Klondike metropolis can be saved.—Whitehorse Tribune.

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CLEAN DUST.

The decision of the merchants of the town respecting the retention of the present valuation of gold dust commands itself to us as being both wise and just. To tamper with or alter in any respect the accepted means of effecting changes invariably results in difficulties of the most serious nature. So well has this become established that financial experts are agreed upon the conclusion that alterations in the monetary system of a country are to be strenuously avoided as tending to effect uncertainty, destroy values and create a lack of confidence which is the worst enemy to business prosperity. We apprehend that all people in Dawson as well as mine owners on the creeks are of one mind in the belief that the present system of using gold dust as a circulating medium is unsatisfactory. It will very seldom and perhaps never happen that two qualities of dust of equal weight will prove upon assay to have the same value, which fact of itself means that in practically all transactions where gold dust is used as the means of effecting an exchange, one or the other of the parties concerned is bound to suffer. If the dust is of unusually high value the injury is to the buyer and vice versa. We are unable to see, however, that present conditions would be remedied in any respect by lowering the valuation of gold dust to \$15. If by so doing the business of the town could be at once placed upon a currency basis, with absolute equity to the producer of gold dust, the plan would certainly be acceptable, but we have not seen it demonstrated that such would prove to be the case. In the absence of a government assay office, at which gold dust might be exchanged at its real value, less a nominal charge for assaying, the best remedy before the merchants of Dawson is insistence upon receiving clean dust and no other. There is certainly no obligation upon the business man to accept black sand or any other kind of sand in exchange for his wares. If he sells for gold dust it is his right to expect and demand that he be given gold dust and nothing else. If every business man in Dawson would agree to make free use of the magnet in taking in dust over his counter, it would not be long until the sand nuisance would be effectually done away with.

The story comes over the wires again that the royalty is to be removed, reserved claims thrown open and other equally desirable things take place. We have heard this same joyous tale so often that we shall really begin to believe after a while that something of the kind will certainly occur. The rub will come, in properly placing the credit for bringing about all these various blessings. There will be so many claimants for the glory that to assign honor where honor is due will be a matter of the utmost difficulty. However, there will be plenty of time to quarrel over the matter of placing the credit for removing the royalty when the royalty is actually removed.

The assassin of King Humbert has been sentenced to life imprisonment. The first year of his term is to be spent in a dark cell, three feet wide and six feet long. He sees no one, talks to no one, has nothing in his cell but a plank on which to sleep and once in 24 hours receive a little bread and water from a silent guard. If at the end of twelve months he is still sane he will be given the luxury of hard labor for the balance of his life. It is a matter of record, however, that no prisoner ever survived a year of such confinement and preserved his reason. It is scarcely to be wondered at that the assassin expressed a desire to be shot.

From the character of the merchandise which is being stored in the warehouses of Dawson it is quite apparent that the standard of living will be much higher this winter than has been the case heretofore, at least for those who have the price. There will be very few things which cannot be secured by the person of the most epicurean tastes, provided, always that he possesses the wherewithal. Dawson is unique among the cities of the world. For practically eight months we must be prepared to stand siege without receiving supplies from the outside. It is doubtful, however, if any town was ever in better condition to survive such an ordeal. When the river closes next month Dawson can look the world in the face and smile, for stored in the ample warehouses of the town will be supplies enough and to spare, to last until the river runs again.

From arrangements now being perfected it appears evident that mail facilities will be better even during the coming winter than was the case a year ago. In all probability there will be a great smashing of records in time between Skagway and Dawson. With trains running daily to Whitehorse delivery of mail is quite likely to be not far behind the service given under the summer schedule.

Quartz discoveries are being announced with a degree of regularity that presages the time when the Klondike will be as famous for its ledges as it is now for placer mining.

Timely Information.

Editor Daily Nugget:

Will you kindly state in the columns of your paper what is the minimum amount of gold dust received by the A. E. Co. for assay, and what are the charges? R. H.

(Inquiry of the A. E. Co brings the information that the price of \$10 is charged for each melt up to as much as 300 ounces, but very small amounts would not justify the expense of an assay.)

Yukon Business Growing.

There is a general belief among merchants and shippers that the action of the chamber of commerce in regard to the bonding privilege, says the Alaskan, has been productive of much good, and that this aggressive action was timely. The development of the American territory beyond Dawson is making rapid strides, and the Canadian officials are now acting with every possible civility in regard to the bonding of American goods to that territory. Goods can now be sent in on a cash deposit or by bonded carriers and during the last month alone the amount so bonded in amounted in value to over \$50,000.

This, of course, is only the beginning of a large business, for which Skagway is the natural entre port. The amount of goods going through in bond during the past two months is somewhat remarkable. On July 24, as before reported, the Canadians found that this was not a prohibition port, so they permitted the importation of American liquors to go in to Dawson on payment of duty, and beyond Dawson in bond.

The increase in the bonding figures for this year over those of last year for the months of July and August is remarkable, and shows how the transportation through this port has grown. In July of last year the value of the bonded goods going through was \$131,518; in July of this year, \$409,524; in August of last year, \$295,036; in August of this year, \$568,163.

The Dog Problem.

There will never come a time in Dawson when dogs will be considered worthless property, and it is a hardship on their owners to be compelled to keep them tied up around the doors of the cabins to prevent their getting into the pound. But now that the pound law is not in effect the number of dogs on the street appears to have increased tenfold in as many days with the result that a person has to pick his steps when out walking to prevent traveling over dogs, and the expression "the dogs" is probably more often heard than any other. But as it is impossible to keep a dog in a trance except when he is needed, they are evils which must be borne. Dogs will be dogs regardless of surroundings.

Wade vs. McDonald.

In the matter of the suit of F. C. Wade against Alexander McDonald, Judge Craig, after hearing testimony and argument, has taken the matter under advisement and will render a decision in the regular course.

The case of F. C. Wade against the law firm of Clark & Wilson, is in a similar condition. This case is one wherein the plaintiff sued for an accounting, as he was at one time a member of the firm, and during the time of that connection went to the outside and says that after his return no satisfactory accounting was ever made of the business during his absence. No decision has been rendered.