## **SMOKE BELLEW**

## $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{y}}$ **JACK** LONDON

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CHAPTER XIX.

A Flutter In Eggs. T was in the A. C. company's big store at Dawson that Lucille Arto the dry goods counter.

Smoke obeyed her call with alacrity. would not have been flattered by the notice of Lucille Arral, the singing that performed nightly at the Palace Opera House.

"Things are dead," she complained, with pretty petulance. "There hasn't been a stampede for a week. There's no dust in circulation. There's always standing room now at the opera house. And there hasn't been a mail from the outside for two whole weeks. In short, this burg has crawled into its baven't the time to tell you of the incave and gone to sleep. We've got to wardness of the deal. I will afterdo something. It needs livening, and ward and let you go half on it if you you and I can do it. I've broken with want to. But the thing right now is Wild Water, you know."

midst of a bleak snow stretch under Buy it!" a cold arctic moon, being pot shotted with accurateness and dispatch by the aforesaid Wild Water. Smoke's reluctance at raising excitement with the aid of Lucille Arral was too patent for her to miss.

thinking at all, thank you," she chided, with a laugh and a pout. "Take it from me, Mr. Smoke Bellew, I'm not going to make love to you, and if you dare to make love to me Wild Water will take care of your case. You know him. Besides, I-I haven't really broken with him. Wild Water thinks I've broken with him, don't you see?"

"Well, have you, or haven't you?" "I haven't-there! But it's between you and me in confidence."

"Where do I come in, stalking horse

or fall guy?" "Neither. You make a pot of money, we put across the laugh on Wild Waall and the reason for it all, he gets he confessed. disciplined. He needs it. He's-well, He broke out last night again. You've heard of it, of course."

get you."

"Listen. He was too turbulent. I broke our engagement, and he's going A pronounced change was coming over around making a noise like a broken Shorty-one of agitation masked by heart. Now we come to it. I like extreme deliberation. "Do you mind eggs."

got to do with it?" Smoke demanded you?" he asked. "Everything. I like ggs. There's only a limited supply or eggs in Dawson."

an egg, retail."

"He likes eggs too," she continued. I have breakfast every morning at 11 o'clock at Slavovitch's. I invariably willin' and free to impart" eat two eggs." She paused impressively. "Suppose, just suppose, somebody corners eggs."

She waited, and Smoke regarded her with admiring eyes, while in his heart he backed with approval Wild Water's choice of her.

"You're not following," she said. "Go on." he replied. "I give up What's the answer?"

"Stupid! You know Wild Water. When he sees I'm languishing for eggs, and I know his mind like a book and I know how to languish, what That squaw's his wife, an' they keep will be do? Why, be'll just start house on the bill back of the hospital. stampeding for the man that's got the 1 could 'a' got them eggs for two a corner in eggs. He'll buy the corner, hrow if you hadn't butted in." no matter what it costs.

11 o'clock. Wlid Water will be at the to anything. We know that we've got next table. He'll make it his business the corner. That's the big thing." to be there. 'Two eggs, shirred,' I'll say to the waiter. 'Sorry, Miss Arral,' with a stub of a pencil on the margin the waiter will say, 'they ain't no of a three-year-old newspaper. more eggs.' Then up speaks Wild Water in that big bear voice of his, 'Wai- "Lemme give you the totals. You an' ter, six eggs, soft boiled.' And the me has right now in our possession exwaiter says, 'Yes, sir,' and the eggs actly 973 eggs. They costs us exactly are brought. Picture: Wild Water \$2,760. If we stick up Wild Water for looks sideways at me, and I look like \$10 an egg we stand to win, clean net a particularly indignant icicle and an all to the good, just exactly \$6, summon the waiter. 'Sorry, Miss Ar- 970." ral,' he says, 'but them eggs is Mr. Wild Water's. You see, miss, he owns from sound sleep by Shorty. 'em.' Picture: Wild Water, triumphant, doing his best to look nuconscious while he cats his six eggs.

"Another picture: Slavovitch himself saying: 'Compliments of Mr. Wild Wa ter, miss.' What can I do? What can I possibly do but smile at Wild Watery And then we make up, of course, and but that good thing was Wild Water he'll consider it cheap if he has been compelled to pay \$10 for each and every egg in the corner."

what station do I climb on to the choochoo cars or at what water tank do I

get thrown off?" "Ninny! You make that corner in eggs. You start in immediately, today. You can buy every egg in Daw- sold the eggs, but that the buyer was son for \$3 and sell out to Wild Water at almost any advance. And then.

come out. The laugh will be on Wild Water. His turbulence will be some subdued. You and I share the giory of it. You make a pile of money. And Dawson wakes up with a grand ha, ba!"

"Hey, Shorty!" Smoke called across the main street to his partner and crossed over. "I want you to do me a favor."

"Sure," Shorty said gallantly. "What is it? Let ber rip.'

"I want you to buy eggs for me"-"Sure, an' Floridy water an' talcum powder, if you say the word. Look here, Smoke, if you want to go in for high livin' you go an' buy your own eggs."

"I am going to buy, but I want you to help me to buy. You go right straight to Slavovitch's. Pay as high as \$3, but buy all he's got"

"Three dollars!" Shorty groaned. "An' I heard tell only yesterday that ral beckoned Smoke Bellew over he's got all of 700 in stock! Twentyone hundred dollars for hen fruit. Say. Smoke, I'd sure do anything for you. The man did not exist in Dawson who If you had a cold in the head an' was layin' with both arms broke I'd set by | He'll buy the corner if it costs him one soubrette of the tiny stock company your nose for you, but I'll be everlastin'ly d-d if I'll squander twenty-one hundred good iron dollars on hen fruit | Smoke, I'll never forgive you."

for you or any other two legged man." "They're not your dollars, but mine, Shorty. It's a deal I have on. What I'm after is to corner every blessed egg in Dawson, in the Klondike, on the Yukon. You've got to help me out, I to get the eggs. Now, you hustle up to Smoke caught two almost simulta- Slavovitch's and buy all be's got. And neous visions. One was of Joy Gas- then keep on. Nose out every egg in tell, the other was of himself, in the Dawson and buy it. Understand?

Never was a market cornered more quickly. In three days every known egg in Dawson with the exception of several dozen was in the hands of Smoke and Shorty.

The several dozen not yet gathered "I'm not thinking what you are in were in the hands of two persons. One, with whom Shorty was dealing. was an Indian woman who lived in a cabin on the hill back of the hospital.

"I'll get her today," Shorty announced next morning. "I'll be back in a jiffy, if I don't bust myself a-shovin' dust at her."

In the afternoon when Smoke returned to the cabin he found Shorty. "What luck?" Shorty asked carelessly after several minutes had passed.

"Nothing doing," Smoke answered. 'How did you get on with the squaw?" Shorty cocked his head triumphantly toward a tin pail of eggs on the tater and cheer Dawson up, and, best of ble. "Seven dollars a clatter, though,"

"I offered \$10 finally," Smoke said. the best way to put it is he's too turbu- "and then the fellow told me he'd already sold his eggs. Now that look Sowed the floor of the M. & M. with bad, Shouty. Somebody else is in the gold dust-all of a thousand dollars. market. Those twenty-eight eggs are liable to cause us trouble. You see, "Yes; this morning. But still I don't the success of the corner consists in holding every last"-

He broke off to stare at his partner. kindly just repeatin' over how many "But what have eggs and appetite eggs you said the man didn't sell to

"Twenty-eight."

to each question.

"Hum!" Shorty communed to him self. "They's just exactly, precisely "Sure. Slavovitch's restaurant has nor nothin' more or anything less'n most of them. Ham and one egg. \$3: twenty-eight eggs in that there pail ham and two eggs, \$5. That means \$2 settin' on the table, an' they cost, every dinged last one of 'em, just exactly seven great big round fron dollars a "But that's not the point. I like them. throw. If you stand in cryin' need of any further items of information I'm

"Go on." Smoke requested.

"Well, that geezer you was dickerin' with is a big buck Indian. Am I

Smoke nodded and continued to nod

"He's got one cheek half gone, where a bald face grizzly swatted bim. Am I right? He's a dog trader-right, eh? His name is Scar Face Jim. That's so. ain't it? D'ye get my drift?"

"You mean we've been bidding"-"Against each other? Sure thing

"And so could I," Smoke laughed, "If "Picture: I come into Slavovitch's at | you'd kept out. But it doesn't amount

Shorty spent the next hour wrestling

"There she stands." he said at last.

At 11 that night Smoke was routed

"I just seen Slavovitch. He says to me: 'Shorty, I want to speak to you about them eggs. I've kept it quiet Nobody knows I sold 'em to you. But bringing two shirred eggs to me and if you're speculatin' I can put you wise to a good thing.' An' he did, too,

Smoke.

"Well, maybe it sounds uncredible, Charley. He's lookin' to buy eggs. He goes around to Slavovitch an' offers him \$5 an egg, an' before he quits he's "Go on, go on!" Smoke urged. "At offerin' \$8. Ah' Slavovitch ain't got no eggs. Last thing Wild Water says to Slavovitch is that he'll beat the head offen him if he ever finds out Slavovitch has eggs cached away somewheres. Slavovitch had to tell 'm he'd secret.

"Slavovitch says to let him say the

afterward, we'll let the inside history | word to Wild Water, who's got the eggs. 'Shorty,' he says to me, 'Wild Water'll come a-runnin. You can hold him up for \$8. Eight dollars your grandmother,' I says. 'He'll fall for just wanted to eat them. You see, we \$10 before I'm done with 41m.' Anyway, I told Slavovitch I'd think it over and let him know in the mornin'. Of course we'll let 'm pass the word on to Wild Water Am I right?"

"You certainly are, Shorty. First Have him tell Wild Water that you and I are partners in the deal."

In the morning Smoke chanced upon Lucille Arral again at the dry goods counter of the A. C. store.

"It's working!" be jubilated. "It's working! Wild Water's been around to Slavovitch, trying to buy or bully eggs out of him. And hy this time Slavovitch has told him that Shorty and I own the corner."

Lucille Arral's eyes sparkled with delight. "I'm going to breakfast right uow." she cried. "And I'll ask the wniter for eggs and be so plaintive when there aren't any as to mielt a heart of stone. And you know Wild Water's heart is anything but stone. your bedside day an' night an' wipe of his mines. Hold out for a stiff figure. Nothing less than \$10 will satisfy me, and if you sell for anything less,

That noon, up in their cabin, Shorty placed on the table a pot of beans, a pot of coffee, a smoking platter of moose meat and bacon, a plate of stewed dried peaches and called. "Grub's ready!"

Smoke opened the door for a breath tum. of frosty air and saw something that made him close the door hurriedly and dash to the stove. The frying pun, still hot from the moose meat and bacon. frying pan he put a generous dab of butter, then reached for an egg, which the pan. As he reached for a second egg Shorty gained his side and clutched his arm in an excited grip.

"Hey, what you doin'?" he demanded. "Frying eggs," Smoke informed him. breaking the second one and throwing off Shorty's detaining hand. "Get out



"Shorty and I own the corner."

of the way, Shorty. Wild Water's coming up the bill, and be'll be here in five minutes."

Shorty sat down at the table. By the time the expected knock came at the door Smoke was facing him across the table, and before each was a plate containing three hot fried eggs. "Come in!" Smoke called.

Wild Water Charley, a strapping young giant, entered and shook hands. "Set down an' have a bite, Wild Water," Shorty invited. "Smoke, fry him some eggs. I'll bet he ain't scoffed an

egg in a coon's age." Smoke broke three more eggs into the hot pan and in several minutes placed them before his guest, who lookat them with so strange and strainan expression that Shorty confessed afterward his fear that Wild Nater would slip them into his pocket and

carry them away. "Say, them swells down in the states ain't got nothin' over us in the matter | you. But the fellow that's got the corof eats," Shorty gloated. "Here's you an' me an' Smoke gettin' outside \$90 worth of eggs an' not battin' an eye." appearing eggs and seemed petrified.

"They-they ain't worth no \$10," Wild Water said slowly. Shorty accepted the challenge. "A

thing's worth what you can get for it, are they?" ain't it?" be demanded.

that," Wild Water objected. "It-it time you sing out." ain't right."

"We just dote on eggs, Smoke an' me," was Shorty's excuse.

Wild Water finished his own plate in a half hearted way. "Say, you fellows can do me a great favor," he began tentatively. ' " me, or lend me, or give me, about . Lozen of them eggs." "Sure," Smoke answered. "I know his detaining clutch on the proprietor's what a yearning for eggs is myself. But we're not so poor that we have to sell our hospitality. They'll cost you lornly at the strip of breakfast bacon nothing. Go ahead, Shorty. them up for him."

But Wild Water laid a restraining hand on the eager Shorty as he explained. "I don't mean cooked. I want them with the shells on."

"So that you can carry 'em away?" "" at's the idea."

"But that ain't hospitality." Shorty objected. "It's-it's tradin'." Smoke nodded concurrence. "That's

went into this for a speculation." The dangerous blue of Wild Water's moccasined foot under the table. eyes began to grow more dangerous.

ly. "How much?" "Oh, not a dozen," Smoke replied. thing in the morning tip off Slavovitch. "We couldn't sell a dozen. We're not Lucille Arral hesitate, almost push the break our own market. We've got a lure. hard and fast corner, and when we sell out it's the whole corner or nothing."

> "How many have you got and how much do you want for them?" Smoke inquired.

me see. Nine hundred an' seventy- you're a philanthropist." three minus nine, that leaves nine hunshootin' match at \$10 a throw will black despair. thing I never seen in the Klondike-a from Forty Mile." bad egg."

couple of dozen. I'll give you \$20, but an' got 'em. 'Show 'em to me,' I savs. I can't truy 'em all."

perfectly honest with you, an' don't let soap boxes. it go any further. You know Miss Arway she likes 'em."

What do I want with all the rest of market higher 'n a kite." them eggs?"

price of the eggs," Smoke put in all that's needed. I'll get Wild Water quietly.

the heat of his eloquence. "She's worth | eggs. Even if you pay \$10 apiece for a million dollars. She's worth all the them, Wild Water will take them off dust in Klondike. But that ain't no our hands at the same price. If you call for me to gamble \$10,000 on a can get them cheaper-why, we make breakfast for her. Now, I've got a proposition. Lend me a couple of dozen of them eggs. I'll turn 'em over to Slavovitch. He'll feed 'em to her with my compliments. She ain't smiled to me for a hundred years. If them eggs get a smile for me I'll take the whole boiling off your hands."

"Will you sign a contract to that efthat Lucille Arral had agreed to smile. Wild Water gasped. "You're almighty hill," he said, with a hint of a snarl, "We're only accepting your own

proposition." Smoke answered. "All right; bring on the paper; make stands now, according to Shorty's fig it out hard and fast," Wild Water cried in the anger of surrender.

> CHAPTER XX. Four Years Old.

MOKE wrote the document. wherein Wild Water agreed to Lucille Arral.

to come back with the \$10 I paid for them in order to make our corner

"That's all right," Smoke placated.

"It's only fair." Smoke inserted the word "good" in the contract, and Wild Water sullenly signed, received the trial two dozen in be there at 2 o'clock. But \$40,000!" a tin pail, pulled on his mittens and opened the door.

back at them and slammed the door. joining Lucille Arral's. Almost to the each egg." letter, as she had forecast it, did the scene come off.

she murmured plaintively to the waiter. and businesslike. "No, ma'am," came the answer. ing to buy a few just especially for mention eggs to me again." ner won't let loose."

It was at this juncture that Wild Water beckoned the proprietor to him. Wild Water stared at the rapidly dis- and, with one hand on his shoulder, and opened it deftly with his thumbs. drew his head down. "Look here, Slavovitch," Wild Water whispered

"In the safe, all but that six I have "Yes, but-you can't eat eggs like all thawed and ready for you any

> "I don't want 'em for myself," Wild Water breathed in a still lower voice. "Shirr 'em up and present 'em to Miss | good eggs experimentally and put them Arral there.

"I'll attend to it personally myself," Slavovitch assured him. "An' don't forget-compliments of

me," Wild Water concluded, relaxing

Pretty Lucille Arral was gazing forand the tinned mashed potatoes on her plate when Slavovitch placed before

her two shirred eggs. "Compliments of Mr. Wild Water." they at the next table heard him say. Smoke acknowledged to himself that it was a fine bit of acting-the quick, joyous flash in the face of her, the impulsive turn of the head, the spontane-

only checked by a superb self control restaurant proprietor.

Smoke felt the kick of Wild Water's

"Will she eat 'em-that's the ques- marble. "I'll pay you for them," he said sharp tion-will she eat 'em?" the latter whispered agonizingly.

And with sidelong glances they saw retailers; we're speculators. We can't dish from her, then surrender to its

said to Smoke. "The contract holds. Did you see her? Did you see her? anything but satisfactory. Smoke felt She almost smiled. I know her. It's a premonitory chill. Shorty was more "How many have we. Shorty?" all fixed. Two more eggs tomorrow valiant. He held one of the halves to an' she'll forgive an' make up. If she his nose. Shorty cleared his throat and per wasn't here I'd shake hands, Smoke, formed mental arithmetic aloud. "Lem I'm that grateful. You ain't a robber:

dred an' sixty-two. An' the whole to the cabin only to find Shorty in

hundred an' twenty iron dollars. Of groaned. "The corner's busted What course, Wild Water, we're playin' fair. d'ye think I run into? A geezer with an' it's money back for bad ones, three thousan' eggs-d'ye get me?- waited in silence. Slowly an unmisthough they ain't none. That's one three thousan' an' just freighted in takable odor began to drift through

"Gautereaux's his name, a whackin Wild Water shook his head sadly and big, blue eyed French Canadian busky. helped himself to the beans. "That It was our cornerin' eggs that got him would be too expensive, Shorty. I only started. He knowed about them three want a few. I'll give you \$10 for a thousan' at Forty Mile an' just went An' he did. There was his dog teams "All or none," was Smoke's ultima- an' a couple of Indian drivers restin' down the bank where they'd just Throw it out! And leave the door "Look here, you two," Wild Water pulled in from Forty Mile. An' on the open!" said in a burst of confidence. "I'll be sleds was soap boxes-teeny wooden

"We took one out behind a ice jam he put back on the front lid. Into the ral an' I was engaged. Well, she's in the middle of the river an' busted it broken everything off. It's for her I open. Eggs-full of 'em, all packed in want them eggs. I want to give them sawdust. Smoke, you an' me lost. he broke and dropped spluttering into to her on a platter shirred. That's the We've been gamblin'. D'ye know what he had the gall to say to me? That "Do you want 'em ninety-six hundred they was all ourn at \$10 a egg. D'ye an' twenty dollars' worth?" Shorty know what he was doin' when I left his cabin? Drawin' a sign of eggs for "Aw, listen to reason;" Wild Water sale. Said he'd give us first choice at pleaded. "I only want a couple of ten a throw till 2 p. m., and after that dozen. I'll give you \$20 apiece for em. if we didn't come across he'd bust the

"It's all right," Smoke said cheer-"I should say Miss Arral's worth the fully. "Quick action and team play is here at 2 o'clock to take delivery of "Worth it?" Wild Water stood up in eggs. You buy that Gautereaux's a profit as well. Have them here by not later than 2 o'clock. Borrow Colonel Bowie's dogs and take our team " Smoke found Wild Water at the M.

& M., and a stormy half hour ensued. "I warn you we're picked up some more eggs." Smoke said after Wild Water had agreed to bring his dust to fect?" Smoke said quickly, for he knew the cabin at 2 o clock and pay on deliv

"You're in kier at finding eggs than swift with business up here on the me," Wild Flower admitted. "Now how many eggs have you got now -an' how much dust do I tote up the hill? Smoke consulted his notebook, "As I

tres, we've 3.962 eggs. Multiply by ten"-

"Forty thousand dollars!" Wild Wa

ter bellowed. "You said there was only

something like 900 eggs. It's a stickup. I won't stand for it!" Smoke drew the contract from his take every egg delivered to him | pocket and pointed to the pay on delivat \$10 per egg, provided that erg, "No mention is made of the numthe two dozen advanced to him ber of eggs to be delivered. You agreed brought about a reconciliation with to pay \$10 for every egg we delivered to you. Well, we've got the eggs, and Wild Water paused with uplifted pen a signed contract is a signed contract. as he was about to sign, "Hold on," Honestly, though, Wild Water, we he said. "When I buy eggs I buy good didn't know about those other eggs eggs. If I find one bad egg you've got until afterward. Then 🔦 had to buy

> For five long minutes, in choking silence. Wild Water fought a battle with himself, then reluctantly gave in "I'm in bad." he said brokenly. "I'll

At 1:30 Shorty arrived with Gautereaux's eggs. "We pretty near double "Goodby, you robbers," he growled our winnings," Shorty told Smoke as they piled the soap boxes inside the Smoke was a witness to the play cabin. "I holds 'em down to \$8, and aft next morning at Slavovitch's. He sat, er he cussed loco in French he falls for as Wild Water's guest, at the table ad- it. Now, that's \$2 clear profit to us for

Promptly at 2 o'clock Shorty, peeping, saw Wild Water coming up the "Haven't you found any eggs yet?" hill. When he entered he was brisk

"Bring on them eggs, you pirates, "They say somebody's cornered every he commenced. "An' after this day, if egg in Dawson. Mr. Slavovitch is try. you know what's good for you, never

> They began on the miscellaneous assortment of the original corner, all three men counting. When 200 had been reached Wild Water suddenly cracked an egg on the edge of the table

"Hey, hold an!" Shorty objected. "It's my egg, ain't it?" Wild Water hoarsely, "I turned over a couple of snarled. "I'm payin' \$10 for it, ain't I? dozen eggs to you last night. Where But I ain't buyin' no pig in a poke. When I cough up ten bucks an egg I want to know what I'm gettin'."

> Wild Water looked and smiled. "That's a good egg. Gimme a pail. I'm goin' to eat it myself for supper." Thrice again Wild Water cracked

in the pail beside him. "Two more than you figured. Shorty," he said at the end of the count. "Nine hundred an' sixty-four.

not sixty-two." handsomely. "We'll throw 'em in for good measure."

receipt, Smoke."

the side pockets he drew forth two Lula Thompson, Mrs. Rachel Toon, sacks of dust, so rotund and long Mrs. F. W. Wilkerson. that they resembled bologna sausages. When the first batch had been paid for there remained in the gold sacks

ous forerunner of a smile that was not more than several bundred dollars. A soap box was carried to the table. which resolutely drew her face back and the count of the \$3,000 began. At different, Wild Water. I thought you so that she could say something to the the end of 100 Wild Water struck an egg sharply against the edge of the table. The resultant sound was like that of the striking of a sphere of solid

"Frozen solid," he remarked.

"Huh!" said Shorty. "It ought to be solid, seein' it has just been freighted up from Forty Mile. It'll take a ax to bust it."

Smoke brought the ax and Wild Wa-"I'll take them eggs," Wild Water ter split the egg cleanly in half. The appearance of the egg's interior was

"Smells all right," he said.

"But it looks all wrong," Wild Water contended. "An' how can it smell Smoke returned jubilantly up the hill when the smell's frozen along with the rest of it? Wait a minute.'

He put the two halves into a frying tote up just about nine thousand six "It's all off with the big Swede," he pan and placed the latter on the front lid of the hot stove. Then the three men, with distended, questing nostrils, the room.

"Throw it out!" Smoke cried, gasp-

"What's the good?" asked Wild Water. "We've got to sample the rest." "Not in this cabin." Smoke coughed and conquered a qualm. "Chop them open, and we can test by looking at them. Throw it out, Shorty!

Box after box was opened; egg after egg, chosen at random, was chopped in two, and every egg carried the same message of hopeless, irremediable de-

"I won't ask you to eat 'em. Shorty." Wild Water jeered, "an', if you don't mind, I can't get outs here too quick. My contract called for good eggs. If you'll loan me a sled an' team I'll haul them good ones away before they get contaminated."

"Say, how long you been holdin' that corner?" was Wild Water's parting Smoke made no reply, and, with one glance at his partner, proceeded to

Smoke helped in loading the sled.

fling the soap boxes out into the snow. Say, Shorty, how much did you say you paid for that three thousand?" Smoke queried gently. "Eight dollars. Don't talk to me. 1

can figger as well as you. We lose

seventeen thousan' on the flutter, if anybody should ride up on a dog sled an' ask you. I figgered that out while waitin' for the first egg to smell," Smoke pondered a few minutes, then again broke silence. "Say. Shorty, \$40,000 gold weighs 200 pounds. Wild Water borrowed our sled and team to haul away his eggs. He came up the hill without a sled. Those two sacks of dust in his cont pockets weighed about twenty pounds each. The un-

they were bad. Now, how did he know they were bad? What do you make of it anyway?" "Huh! That ain't nothin'. A child could answer it. We tose seventeen thousan'. Wild Water wins seventeen thousan'. Them eggs of Gaute-

reaux's was Wild Water's all the time.

derstanding was cash on delivery. He

brought enough dust to pay for the

good eggs. He never expected to pay

for those three thousand. He knew

Anything else you're curious to know?" "Yes. Why in the name of common sense didn't you find out whether those eggs were good before you paid for them?"

"Just as easy as the first question. Wild Water swung the bunko game timed to seconds. I hadn't no time to examine them eggs. I had to hustle to get 'em here for delivery. An' now, Smoke, lemme ask you one civil question. What did you say was the party's name that put this egg corner idea

into your head?" Smoke was casting about to begin the preparation for supper when Colonel Bowie knocked at the door, handed Smoke a letter and went on to his own

"Did you see his face?" Shorty raved. "He was almost bustin' to keep it straight. It's the big ha-ha for you, an' me, Smoke. We won't never dast

show our faces again in Dawson." The letter was from Wild Water, and Smoke read it aloud:

"Dear Smoke and Shorty-1 write to ask, with compliments of the season, your presence at a supper tonight at Slavo-vitch's joint. Miss Arral will be there and so will Gautereaux. Him and me was pardners down at Circle five years He is all right and is going to be best man. About them eggs. They come into the country four years back. They was all bad when they come in. They was bad when they left California. They always was bad. They stopped at Carluk one winter, and one winter at Nutlik, and last winter at Forty Mile, where they was sold for storage. And this winter I guess they stop at Dawson. Don't keep them in a hot room. Lucille says to say you and her and me has sure made some excitement in Dawson. And I say the drinks is on you, and that goes.

W. W." 'Respectfully your friend,

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Advertised Letters. J. Otho Bradley, Harrison Branch, W. J. Bell, Willie Crowder, E. P. Douglass, Rev. E. W. Dunagon, W. M. Moulee, J. H. Rait, Edgar B. Richards, M. J. Rogers, Junius Rob-"My mistake," Shorty acknowledged eson, Walter Thomas, N. C. Watson, Miss Sarah Beatie, Niss Dellah Bell, Mrs. L. Belan, Bessie L. "Guess you can afford to," Wild Britt, Miss Ida Britt, Miss Corman, Water accepted grimly, "Pass the batch Mrs. Laura Davis, Miss Clara Da--\$9,620. I'll pay for it now. Write a vis, Miss Lucy Gilaspie, Mrs. E. A. McNeill, Mrs. J. E. Newby, Miss Going to his fur coat, from each of Ida Pope, Mrs. I. P. Pope, Miss

> HE ORIGINAL LAXATIVE COUGH SYRUP KENNEDY'S LAXATIVE HONEY\*\*TAR 2nd Clover Ble .- and Honey Bee on Every Bottle