

# HANDS OF CHANCE

by Rex Beach

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### THE STORY THIS FALL

Three Phillips, penniless in Alaska, where he has come in search of gold, decides that he will stay. He is young, has an unusual physique and all the courage that is necessary to carry him over Chilkoot Pass to the land of glittering gold. The Canadian government will not let anyone enter the country without a ton of provisions and a thousand dollars.

Phillips, however, decides on taking a desperate chance. With a tremendous pack on his back he joins the stream of humanity out to battle the elements. On the treacherous ascent of the Pass he meets up with a giant French Canadian who cautions him to go more slowly and thus save his strength. "Don't never hurry too much; don't be in such hurry," the friendly giant warns.

### CHAPTER II (Continued)

The comrade shrugged. "Mebbe so; but s'posid' dey do. W'at'd be de odds? She's been countin' dere's penny claims."

"Are there, really?" Phillips' eyes brightened. "You're an odd-imer; you're been inside." To you mean there's plenty of gold for all of us?"

"Dere ain't nauff gold in all de worl' for some people."

"I mean de Dawson as rich as they say it is?"

"Um-m! I don't know."

"Did'nt you get in on de strike?"

"I hear 'bout 'im, but I'm 'inkin' 'bout oder things."

Phillips regarded the speaker furiously. "That's funny. What business are you in?"

"My business? Jus' livin'!" The Canadian's eyes twinkled. "You don't savvy, eh? W'at, dat's because you're lak dese oder fellers—you're in deeg hurry to be reech, me?"

He shrugged his brawny shoulders and smiled cheerily. "I got plenty time. I'm loofer. I enjy myself."

"So do I. For that matter, I'm enjyng myself now. I think this is all perfectly corking, and I'm havng the time of my young life. Why, juht think, oder there—"

Phillips waved his hand toward the northward horizon of white peaks and purple valleys—"every-thing is unknown!" His face lit up with some restless desire which the Frenchman appeared to understand, and he nodded seriously.

"Sometimes it scares me a little."

"What you scare 'bout, you?"

"Myself, I suppose. Sometimes I'm afraid I haven't de stuff in me to last."

"Dat's good sign." The speaker slipped his hand into his pocket and adjusted the strap-line to his forehead preparatory to riding.

"You goin' mak' good 'sounding' lak me, you kohn' love de woods and de hills wen you know 'em. I can tell. W'at, I see you binchy at W'ite 'Grse."

"White Horse? Is that where you're going?"

"Yes, I'm batteau man; I'm goin' de pilot."

"Isn't that pretty dangerous work? They say those rapids are awful."

"Sure. Everybody scare" to try 'im. Wen I came up dey pay me fifty dollar for de one boat 'trough. By gosh! I never mak' no moeh money—tree hundred dollar a day. I'm reech man now. You lak get reech quick? I teach you be pilot. Swif' water, heeg noise! Plenty fun in dat!" The Canadian threw back his head and laughed loudly.

"W'at you say?"

"I wouldn't mind tryng it." Pierce confessed, "but I have no outfit. I'm packng for weeks. I'll be along when I get my grub-stake together."

"Good. I go purty quick now. W'at you reech, I 'at you 'trough de canon tree. In one day I teach you be good pilot. You ask for 'Poleon Doret, remember?"

"I say!" Phillips halted the cheerful giant as he was about to rise. "Do you know, you're de first man who has offered to do me a favor; you're de only one who hasn't tried to hold me back and climb over me. You're de first man I've seen with—a smile on his face."

The speaker nodded. "I know! It's peety, too. Dese poor fellers in sears' lak you. Dey don't understand. But himself, dey get wiser; dey learn to help de oder fellers. Dey learn dat a smile will carry a pack ac ross a boat. You remember dat. A smile and a song, she'll shorten de miles and mak' de'n's wld everybody. Don't forget w'at I tell you."

"Thank you, I won't," said Pierce, with a flicker of amusement at the man's brief sermon.

This Doret was evidently a sort of backwoods preacher. "Adieu!" With another flashing smile and a wave of his hand the fellow joined the procession and went over the precipice. It had been pleasant to exchange even these few friendly words, for of late the habit of silence had been forced upon Pierre Phillips. For weeks now he had toiled among relentless men who regarded him with hostility, who made way for him with reluctance. Haste, labor, strain had numbed and brutalized them; fatigue had rendered them irritable, and the strangeness of their environment had made them both fearful and suspicious. There was no good-fellowship, no consideration on the Chilkoot. This was a race against time, and the stakes went to him who was most energetic. Phillips had not expatriated! Until this morning, he had received no faintest word of encouragement, no slightest offer of help. Not once had a hand been outstretched to him, and every inch he had gained had been won at the cost of his own efforts and by reason of his own determination.

He was yet warm with a wordless gratitude at the Frenchman's cheer when a figure came lurching toward him and fell into the space Doret had vacated. This man was quite the opposite of the one who had just left; he was old and he was far from robust. He fell face downward and lay motionless. Impulsively Phillips rose and removed the newcomer's pack.

"That last fit takes it out of you, doesn't it?" he inquired, sympathetically.

After a moment the stranger lifted a thin, colorless face overgrown with a bushy gray beard and began to cuss in a gasping voice.

The youth warned him. "You're only hurt yourself, my friend. It's all down hill from here."

The sufferer regarded Phillips from a pair of hard, smoky-blue eyes in which there lurked both curiosity and surprise.

"I say!" he panted. "You're the first white man I've met in two weeks."

Pierre laughed. "It's the result of a good example. A fellow was decent to me just now."

"This is the kind of work that gives a man dead babies," groaned the stranger. "And these darned trail-horns!" He ground his teeth vindictively. "Get out of the way!"

"Hurry up, old man! Stop livng, grandpa! That's what they say. They say at your heels like coyotes. Hurry! You can't force your luck!" The speaker struggled into a sitting posture and in an apologetic tone explained: "I darsn't lay down or I'll get rheumatism. Tough guys—Frontiersmen—Pah!" He spat out the exclamation with disgust, then closed his eyes again and snuck back against his burden. "Coyotes! That's what they are! They'd rob a carcass, they'd gnaw each other's bones to get through ahead of the ice."

Up out of the chain below came a slow-moving file of Indian packers. Their eyes were bent upon the ground, and they stepped noiselessly into one another's tracks. The only sound they made came from their creaking pack leathers. They panted briefly to breathe and to take in their surroundings, then they went on and out of sight.

"Going through to Linderman?" queried the other man. "Is an I. I'll wait a second. I'll join you. Maybe we can give each other a hand."

The speaker's motive was patent; nevertheless, Phillips obligingly acceded to his request, and a short time later assisted him into his harness, whereupon they set out on a line behind the other. Pierre's pack was at least double the weight of his companion's, and it gave him a measurable thrill to realize that he was one of the strong, one of the elect; he wondered pityingly how long this feeble, middle-aged man could last.

Before they had tramped far, however, he saw that the object of his pity possessed a quality which was lacking in many of the younger, stronger stampedeers—namely, a grim determination, a dogged perseverance—no poor substitute, indeed, for youth and brawn. Once the man was in motion he made no complaint, and he managed to maintain a very good pace.

Leaving the crest of Chilkoot behind them, the travelers bore to the right across the snowcap, then followed the ridge above Crater lake. Every mile or two they rested briefly to relieve their chafed and aching shoulders. They exchanged words while they were in motion, for one soon learns to conserve his forces on the trail, but when they lay propped against their packs they talked.

(To be continued)

## FAILS TO DUN; GOES BANKRUPT

BERLIN (AP).—Because 74-year-old Baron Christian von Dreesell, head of Berlin's most exclusive fashion house, refused to dun clients, his firm has been compelled to go into bankruptcy.

Von Dreesell designed gowns and trousseaus for practically all the German princesses and when the "Empress" Heruine started for Holland to join William II in wedlock, she stopped in Berlin long enough to have her wedding gown and other clothes made by the firm.

Germany's upper 400 were quite as much charmed by the versatile head of the firm as by the creations of his staff, for Baron Christian always insisted upon personally waiting on all distinguished customers and placing the finishing touches upon their gowns.

The baron, who before the war conducted shops also in New York, Vienna, Paris and London, insisted that his clients of distinguished families must not be dunned. This gradually led to his liabilities exceeding his assets, but it is expected the firm will emerge safely from the bankruptcy proceedings, as the creditors are showing a disposition to make generous terms.

Charlie Chaplin is declared by the Neue Berliner Zeitung to be the best known man in the world. The screen comedian is compared with such well known personages as Hindenberg, Einstein, Richard Strauss, Trotsky, Lloyd George, Mussolini, Prandello, Bernard Shaw, Edison, Heron, Edison and Ford, none of whom, however, stand a ghost of a chance beside Charlie Chaplin in point of notoriety.

The only rivals worthy of a moment's consideration are believed to be Jackie Coogan and Jack Dempsey. That of Jackie Coogan it is said that he will grow up and presently lose his popularity and Jack Dempsey, after all is said, is really considered a high light only in America and Europe.

Italy Building Great Tunnel Enter Apennine Mountains

FLORENCE, Italy, (AP)—Italy soon will be able to boast of one of the world's greatest railway tunnels. The double track tube under the Apennines part of the electrified direct line between here and Bologna, now in process of construction, will measure 18 kilometers (slightly more than eleven miles).

The tunnel will rank next to the famous Stimplon tunnel through the Alps, which is 22 1/2 miles long, and ahead of the Mont-Cenis tunnel connecting Italy and France, which measures eight miles in length.

## "Dead" Buddy Comes to Life



Sixty-one years ago on a Civil War battlefield Miles D. Cook (left), of Funt, Mich., threw a blanket over his comrade, Charles D. Webster of Traverse City, Mich., believing he had been killed. To his amazement Cook met Webster very much alive at the annual G. A. R. encampment at Grand Rapids.

## Marine Planes in Transcontinental Flight



The Shenandoah disaster and the loss of the naval plane PN-6, No. 3 have caused no changes in the plans of the marine corps to fly two giant Martin bombers from Quantico, Va., to San Diego, Calif. Top shows the planes which will make the flight and bottom the crew that will man one of them. Left to right: Marine Gunner Michael Wodarsky, Captain H. D. Campbell, Captain R. A. Presley and Major Ross E. Rowell.

## GRAND LODGE WILL CONVENE

PORTLAND, Ore., (Special).—The meeting of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, which will take place in Portland, September 21-25, will bring together thousands of people from all over the United States and the different provinces of Canada. There also will be representatives present from Australia, Cuba, and other distant points. While there are but a limited number of representatives from each of the grand jurisdictions, there will be numerous degrees and drill teams on hand to compete for the prizes. Approximately \$10,000 is distributed for prizes for the various contestants.

The largest prize will be \$1000 which will go the patriarcha salutaris for the best canton, consisting of 24 chevalliers and 3 officers.

The second prize in this department will be \$500 and a third prize of \$300. Class II prize in the same department, which goes to 18 chevalliers and 3 officers making the best appearance in the drill, is \$500, with a second prize of \$250 and a third prize of \$200.

Among the various degree teams listed from a distance is Garland Rebekah Lodge No. 359 from Detroit, Michigan. This team, which is composed of about fifty young women, will compete for the prize in the Rebekah degree. Another Rebekah team coming from the east is Vera Rebekah Lodge No. 13 of Helena, Montana. There are a number of other Rebekah teams from Canada and Washington.

Some of the Oregon lodges outside of Portland will take part in this contest. In the male branch of the order one of the most distant teams that will be on hand is the degree team of Excelsior Encampment No. 85 of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. This team will consist of about forty men, who will bring much equipment and other paraphernalia with them and no doubt will make an excellent exemplification of the work in all three degrees of the encampment branch of Odd Fellowship. This is the same team which carried off all three prizes at the Sovereign Grand Lodge gathering in

## Tomb of Noted Japanese Found

TOKYO, (AP)—The tomb of Sharaku, one of the most famous caricaturists in old Japan, whose humorous pictures of the actors

of his day are treasured by lovers of art, especially in Europe, is reported to have been discovered in the Honmyoji Temple, Tokushima, by Dr. Hyuzo Tofti, the noted anthropologist, who is now staying there investigating ancient relics.

The whereabouts of this tomb has heretofore been one of the interesting problems for artists, and for Sharaku experts in particular.

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Two years ago in Detroit, Michigan, there were equally as many. Although the membership is not as great in the west with the more than 60,000 members in the state of Washington and 45,000 members in Oregon it is expected that there will be one of the largest parades that has taken place in Portland during the season.

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