

Some Reminiscences of Coolgardie

“The Sun” (Kalgoorlie), 21 August, 1910, page 5.

The elder Grigo, the parental head of the family, dead several years, was widely known in Coolgardie in what are genetically described as the "roarin' drunk days of the Old Camp" when the bars of the pubs ran rivers of sparkling champagne and beer and whisky cost only a fraction more to purchase than an equal quantity of Water, J Grigo's first job was with Mr. John de Baun as baker and confectioner - the "confectionery" largely consisting in those days of. damper and sodden scones. drenched with soda and baking powder.

During Grigo's engagement with De Baun, Annie Charlotte Grigo, then a blushing and vivacious girl, of barely 16 summers, became in some way acquainted with Dost Mahomet, who was partners in a camel team with his compatriot Jourack,

When Mr. Grigo was informed his daughter had formed a close acquaintance-with Dost Mahomet, he flew into a violent rage, upbraided his erring daughter in dreadful language, and threatened her with his vengeance if she did not summarily cease her association with the white-turbaned follower of the prophet Mahomet. These threats, as is frequently the case, had an effect opposite to that contemplated by the irate parent. She left the parental, tent at the first convenient opportunity, flew to the camp of Dost, and Jourack on the flat at the- lower end of Bayley-street, and complained of the treatment to which she had been subjected by her father. With her tacit consent or otherwise. Dost decided to abduct the girl, and placed her on the -back of a swift camel he flew with her that same night through the desert, to be followed later by a troop of horsemen, who continued the pursuit until their horses succumbed from exhaustion and thirst. Then the exasperated parent turned a revolver on himself, and attempted to take his life. Afterwards, Grigo went further afield, and. Became a. member of the Hope Syndicate, which was heavily interested in the Great Oversight Mine, Bulong. He made about 12,000 out of his interest, but squandered the whole amount in three or four years by a judicious investment in wild cats and other hazardous ventures, which, devoured his competency with greater rapidity than he had accumulated it.

For ten long and miserable years Mrs. Dost was ostracised and denounced by her father as an outcast, and refused admission to the family, circle. The mother, Mrs. Grigo, who afterwards migrated to Port Hedland [with the] the rest of the family, clung to her erring child, however, with characteristic maternal affection