

AROUND THE WORLD

Twelve Russian War-dogs on the Suez Canal. Cost of Navigating the Big Ditch.

EGYPT'S QUARANTINE INSPECTION.

Port Said, the Thugs Paradise. Cairo, the City of the Arabian Nights.

PORT SAID, EGYPT, Feb. 20, 1903.
Pharaoh Necho undertook to build a canal from the Nile about 670 B. C. but it was a failure. Trajan was more determined, his efforts being crowned with success. Doubtless he profited by Pharaoh's mistakes. One thing is sure and that is that M. de Lesseps improved upon the ideas advanced by both Pharaoh and Trajan and scored a triumph which places him among the genius of the nineteenth century. His work was begun in 1856 and completed November 16, 1869 utilizing thirteen years—a number that forbode ill to the enterprise, but in spite of that horrid thirteen, Suez stock is at a premium.

We have just passed five Russian battleships and first-class cruisers, seven torpedo destroyers, all steaming for Chinese and Japanese waters it is supposed. The British officers aboard this ship prophesy that such an armament pushing into the far east may mean war sooner or later and expect to see a like number of British battleships and torpedo destroyers on their way to the front before this ship passes Gibraltar. Having seen many of the world's battleships, armored cruisers and torpedo destroyers all the way from Yokohama to Port Said, I am almost ready to say I am sick of the whole display of man killing machines. If we must spend billions on our army and navy because we have a sort of a fatherly relation over Cuba and the Philippines, the sooner we get rid of them the better. To send that fleet of war vessels through the canal cost Russia at least \$50,000. How does it appeal to you to see the Russian government pay \$50,000 out in cold cash to steam her engines of destruction less than a hundred miles and then think about our having given flour and meat by the ship load besides considerable cash in order to help Russia's starving famine stricken peasantry? To me it seems that such a record would invite another famine. Far away possessions are questionable property and the sooner the nations learn it the better. People who are managed at the point of a cannon and are not in sympathy with their rulers should be classed as convicts ruled by force. Where such conditions exist rebellions may be hourly expected regardless of the nature of the mother country. No advanced western nation can legislate and establish ideals for an eastern people without friction in the application.

Port Said is reached. Newspapers are in great demand. We have been two weeks on the sea without news of the world. We are interested about the naval display. Reports are in the air that Russia has her eye on Korea and proposes to bluff Japan.

I went ashore and was detained in the quarantine station till my clothes could be disinfected as I had come from a plague port. I faced a boiler about 4 1/2 x 9 feet in size. The huge door was opened and into it my clothing went, the engine was started, and I was nervous lest I would see them again as tattered carpet rags. Before I had decided to send for a tailor and outfitter, the engine ceased its murmur, and my restlessness ceased when the door opened and there lay my equipment none the worse for its seige.

Desiring to see Port Said, with a population estimated as high as 37,000, I made a circuit of the city after passing the customs officials who charged me seventeen pence, (34 cents) for the privilege of asking me a few questions.

While I admit that this city has a number of as good people as the world possesses, I must confess that I believe it is the most abominable, immoral, blasphemous and unrighteous city in my knowledge. I am not beligerent, but twice I raised my cane (presented to me at Cawnpore, India, cut from the Himalayas) and twice the bluff worked. The Turks and Arabs are not so hard to manage as I had imagined. Had my prescription not worked, I might have been prepared to be sent home in sections. Being a six footer, I was doubtless ranked as a fighter, having hailed from a nation that gave Spain's navy an everlasting ducking. My rule is to say something good about a person or keep mum, but Port Said is enough to drive rules into the jungles. If the people who lived here 4,000 years ago were anything like these, I can easily muster a shade of sympathy for Moses who broke all the commandments at one time on account of being provoked by them.

CAIRO, EGYPT, Feb. 21, 1903.

Having escaped from Port Said without being killed or wounded, I felt like rejoicing. As Cairo was the objective point I booked for that city, leaving Port Said at 9:20 a. m. As the train sped southward many a man was passed, each enroute to the city of thugs armed with an antiquated rifle or shot gun which was swung from his shoulder by straps or carried at shoulder arms as if ready for a fight. The track is alongside the great canal all the way to Ismailia and is quite level with few curves, in fact a base ball twirler would be disappointed if he should come here in search of sample copy curves. One hour was taken at Ismailia for lunch and the journey toward Cairo resumed. The scenes presented are a reproduction of India, except that there are sixteen camels and donkeys here to one in India. So numerous are those beautiful(?) animals that one cannot open his eyes without one is in sight. I tried the experiment by closing my eyes for a minute and then opening them in order to determine whether I could succeed in avoiding having one of those beasts within the range of vision and the result was that I never escaped once in many trials, and very frequently there would be a score. Once when I thought I had succeeded I was startled to see one of the long eared tribe pointing his hearing apparatus directly at the train. After passing Zagazig and other cities whose names would give a person not familiar with them the lock-jaw at every attempt to pronounce them, we reached Cairo, the camel city or city of mosques, where the first foreign mail in two months awaited my arrival. I had traveled more than 22,000 miles, and my disconsolate weary self needed the refreshing that came as a mighty inundation in those letters. They were real oases, and I must admit that such complimentary unsolicited eulogies, coming as they did from readers on two continents, indicated that I am being followed studiously by men of thought who are reaping a harvest from my attempt at grappling with the world's civilization. Truthful unbiased presentation is the north pole toward which I strive to make each article point. The articles printed prior to January were forwarded here, and on reading them I noticed errors in language for which I have no apologies to offer, suffice it to say however that those which were not purely typographical resulted from having been written when I was thinking about bottling my will to be thrown overboard when the ship should make her last sinking jerk.

Around The World.

A large eastern publishing house proposes to publish THE HERALD'S "Around the World" articles in book form; size of trimmed leaf 5 1/2 x 8 inches, on 120 pound eastern sized and calendered paper; bound in cloth with gold stamp on front cover and to contain 300 pages, more or less. The volume will contain the complete tour Vancouver to New York. The chapters descriptive of Egypt, the Holy Land, Greece and Italy will alone be worth many times the price of the book.

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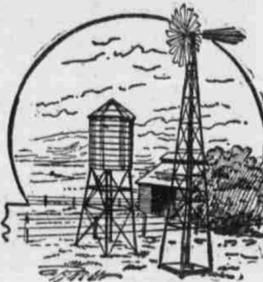
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