

The Awakening of the Older Nations

Tower of Babel Is Again in Use—Mesopotamia's Reclamation—Sir William Willcocks' Great Project Now in Course of Realization.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

Babylon—Possibly the greatest present project of civilization, and certainly the most romantic, the reclamation of Mesopotamia is now in course of actual realization. During the time of its sojourn in Mesopotamia the papers providing for the construction of these vast irrigation works were signed by the Turkish government and Sir John Jackson, the distinguished British engineer, to whom the carrying on to completion of the imperial project of Sir William Willcocks has been entrusted. Sir John has left one of his consulting engineers in charge in Baghdad, and the other men of his staff are either already here or on the way. The magnificent conception of Sir William Willcocks, to give back to civilization the fertile land between the Tigris and the Euphrates, which was the birthplace of history, and the home of teeming millions of people, is no longer a dream.

So dramatic an event as the reclamation of this once-fertile land, now become a desert, is found to be full of startling aspects. Not the least of these I discovered when I came to Babylon and saw that what the archaeologists are agreed upon as the remains of the Tower of Babel is now practically a heap of the ground; when I went out to the Hindia Barrage, where the Willcocks engineers are at work, I saw the bricks from the Tower of Babel being ground up into powder to make cement for the foundations of the new barrage. There is a measure of time in this ancient tower of deliverance being used to help save the land from its thirsty aridity. Lest anybody accuse Sir William of being an iconoclast, it may be said that the bricks were taken from their original site two years ago by the Turkish government, which tried to build a dam that would send the waters of the Euphrates once more past Babylon, or, what meant more to it, past the modern town of Hillah.

Making the Garden of Eden Bloom. Sir William Willcocks, like all archaeologists and students of the Bible, locates the Garden of Eden in the Tigris-Euphrates delta. Sir William fixes the site at a point west of Hillah, the famous springs from which both antiquity and modern civilization have drawn their life-giving waters. These smoking and forbidding regions are said by some to have given the ancients their figure of the angels with the flaming swords at the gates of the garden.

No doubt the modern archaeologists that it was in this region that civilization had its birth. Here were the great empires of antiquity. From beneath the drifted dust and silted mud of Mesopotamia the scholars with spades and the digging up of wonderful stories of Babylon, Uruk, Tello, Nineveh and Assur, while other "tells," or mounds, such as mark the site of Ur of the Chaldees, the city of Abraham's ancestors, await the coming of archaeological expeditions.

The Garden Made a Desert. As every traveler in this part of the world has seen, the Mesopotamian is not a builder, but a waster. The statement is commonly made concerning the Arab, but it is equally true of the Turk. It seems as if the fatalism and physical excesses of Mohammedanism cut the nerve of initiative and endeavor. Certainly the followers of the Prophet found this region a garden; but they have made it a desert. I have traveled over a considerable part of Mesopotamia, by horse, by camel, and on foot. Everywhere the same story is repeated. It is all poverty, ruin and desolation. The Arabs live in the same black tents that Solomon sang about, or else in miserable mud hovels. There is none of the conveniences of civilization. Life is a hand-to-mouth existence. The appliances of agriculture are primitive beyond belief—a small triangular shovel, a little hoe about the size and shape of an adze, and a sharpened stick for a plow.

Only a small strip of territory, lying along the rivers, or the few subsidiary canals that remain, is cultivated. Water is raised by the "cheri," a leather bucket let down to the stream, and hauled up by oxen, donkeys, camels or cows. The process is cumbersome, expensive and inadequate. In a few places oil engines and pumps made in Britain and America, have displaced the cumbersome cheri, and it seems inevitable that they should become general in the near day that is dawning for Mesopotamia.

Back of these cultivated areas lies the Mesopotamian desert. I have traversed sections of it where not a plant bigger than the camel thorn could be seen. It looks quite as desolate as the sandy Arabian desert to the west of the Euphrates. Yet it is every foot good gray earth, friable and productive, needing only water to make it pour forth crops to enrich the markets of civilization and to deliver the present population from dire poverty. And the water is still available, as fully as it was when this region was the world's granary.

"The Father of the Nile dams," Sir William Willcocks, who has also had extensive experience in irrigation work in India, has for years been calling the attention of the world to the irrigation possibilities of the Delta of the Euphrates and the Tigris. There is no good reason why the ancient productivity of this district should not be restored. The water is still available, and the soil is as good as ever it was. The only reason for its ancient productivity—which was so great that Herodotus was afraid to describe it in full lest veracity be questioned—is the system of canals maintained by the peoples of old. It is to be remembered that the

dense populations which filled this delta in a former time were not savages or barbarians; they represented the beginnings and the high-water mark of ancient civilization. Greece and Rome were the heirs of this Eastern culture. Here it was that many of the fundamental inventions of civilization had their origin. It was here that wheat and barley were first domesticated. Some of the sciences took their rise in this part of the world. A code of laws as old, or older, than the Mosaic, is now known to have prevailed in this Babylonian civilization.

For the present, it is enough to recall that a complete and wonderful system of canals covered all the land known as lower Mesopotamia. Nothing like it is known in modern times; engineers have freely conceded high praise to this achievement. Not until Sir William Willcocks took up the subject, from high humanitarian motives, for the re-establishment of the Babylonian canals ever seriously considered. His preliminary observations led him to reach the question, and five years ago he undertook, on behalf of the Turkish government, whose interest he had enlisted, the actual mapping out and beginning of a canal system. This he has done for a non-salaried engineer, which has straightway gone back into the project. In some cases the lines of the old canals, which to this day are the outstanding feature of Mesopotamian scenery, are followed. In others, newer methods, made possible by modern engineering skill, are employed.

A Livelihood for New Millions. The Willcocks operations, which the engineering firm of Sir John Jackson take over at the first of April, provide for two great works to be completed in less than three years. One of these is the Hindia Barrage, which will cause once more to flow "the rivers of Babylon," now practically dry, and the Habbania Escape, further up the Euphrates, at Ramadi. When these have been completed, with their in-

undertaken the disarmament of the people and the establishment of law and order. If it succeeds in this a greater obstacle to the prosperity of Mesopotamia than any that confronts the engineers will have been overcome.

Some persons there are who say that Germany should be permitted to fulfill her ambitions in this same area. Everybody knows that a primary consideration in the building of the Baghdad railway is to give Germany access to the wheat and cotton fields of Mesopotamia. Here lies the potential granary which Germany so much needs. Here, too, may be grown the cotton for which her spinning wheels are hungry. In all her projects looking toward the Persian gulf she has been hindered by Great Britain and Russia. Now a school of British statesmen, among whom Sir William Willcocks may be counted, have arisen to ask for Germany the outlet that she sorely needs. At present she is bottled up. It is this very repression, argue the men of this new school, which makes Germany a menace to the peace of Europe and the world. Give her a legitimate outlet for her energies, and she will cease to keep the statesmen of other nations awake at night. Let her take on Mesopotamia, or a large part of it, and she will have troubles enough right at hand, as well as a field for the labors of her surplus population. It would be inconsonant with the ideals of the twentieth century, and in particular with those of Sir William Willcocks, if the great dream, and equally great achievements of this Briton, aided by others of King George's subjects, should be instrumental in delivering his country from the peril of German militarism, while at the same time doing an incalculable service to humanity.

Back to the Garden of Eden. The immediate results of the new irrigation are fairly staggering. The land which within three years will be calling for settlers will, according to

Mr. Willcocks, be capable at once of producing a million tons of wheat and two million hundredweight of cotton, not to mention rice, dates, beans, barley, oats, melons, etc. Sir William has figured out an entire scheme for the most profitable order of crops. This scheme is at the present moment visualized in mountainous piles of earth, great canals, grinding engines, growing stone-crushers, thumping pliers (which use Lactawanna pipes), and regiments of slow and singing Arab laborers. Here are in prospect the freight of the new Baghdad railway.

At present the area affected by the irrigation project contains about a million; and a half of population. These are mostly poor Arabs, who subsist on a pittance, so that thousands of them are glad to get work on the new canals. The project, which will stand them in stead when they come to take up the land that is being redeemed by their present laborers. Sir William Willcocks is authority for the statement that there should be a livelihood for twelve million people in the reclaimed area.

Where these extra ten and a half millions of population are to come from gives concern to some students of the scheme, inasmuch as the Young Turks refuse to admit any settlers who will not become Turkish subjects. Otherwise the surplus peoples of India and Egypt, already trained to work on irrigated land, would quickly find their way here. It is not at all unlikely that within the next three years the chauvinistic Young Turks will have had a chastening that will remove this difficulty. In any case there are the industrious Kurds of the mountains who would flock down in numbers, while the Moslem Persians have no scruples against exchanging their present sovereignty for the call of all the faithful. Then there is the not unreasonable prospect that the roving Bedouin will settle down to agriculture, when conditions become more stable in the land.

Is This Germany's Chance? At present the delta is a land of lawlessness. Some of the tribes along the lower reaches of the two rivers are little better than sheer savages. Everybody carries a gun or a stout cudgel, with a ball of pitch on the end. "There's a great deal of food left over since I began doing the cooking." "That's nice," responded the young bride. "There's a great deal of food left over since I began doing the cooking."

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Local bylaws prevent buildings. They permit the folk to live in unhealthy cottages; they permit overcrowding and all sorts of insanitary conditions, simply because they dare not turn out the inhabitants. At the same time they enforce the letter of absurd regulations upon anyone desiring to build, and so discourage enterprise. Beyond all question the rural birth rate is immensely diminished by the progressive want of cottages. A garden with children finds its services absolutely unobtainable, and "no encumbrances" has become a cardinal virtue.

The only solution of the great national question is the cheap cottage.

Paris.—Although the five-step Argentine is to be the dance of the season, the international conference of dancing masters, meeting here, has recommended its approval on five other dances.

The "Pas des Aviateurs" is a topical dance, which, beginning with a flying movement, finishes very slowly. There is a Russian dance known as the "Lukinskoif." Spain is represented by a pas de quatre, while King George's coronation is responsible for the "Royale" step, said to be full of majesty and grace; the United States contributing a languorous dance known as "Sleeping Love."

London.—During the bankruptcy proceedings against him, the earl of Yarmouth told the judge that he tried to make a living at the poultry business after his wife, who was Miss Alice Thaw, Harry H. Thaw's sister, divorced him. He said he sank the \$5,000 a year his wife had settled on him in the poultry farm. Then, utilizing his experience with broilers and squabs he appeared in a farmyard play, "The Chicken House," but that failed, too.

Yarmouth, whose intimates call him "Blotated," told the judge further that he has signed bills to money lenders for \$85,000 on which he had received only \$22,000, the balance being applied to interest, commissions and costs. His income at the moment is \$1,500 a year, he said, but he is looking around for a job to supplement it.

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WOMAN MAY BE MADE AN "IMMORTAL"



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HOMES ARE SCARCE

Lack of Cottages for Rising Generation Is Serious Problem. Many Married Couples Are Forced to Wait for Many Years for Habitation—Engagements Last Many Years.

London.—The Chelmsford laborer who was forced into a workhouse, because there is no cottage procurable in no isolated victim of the dearth of rural houses. It is quite a common thing in the country for marriages to be postponed for years solely owing to want of houses.

WILLS \$2,000 TO OLD HORSE

Mrs. Ellen Mulvelt of Chicago Leaves Bequest for Care of Aged Animal—Never to Be Worked.

Chicago.—A bequest of \$2,000 for the care of an old horse, with further directions that it never be sold or worked, is contained in the will of the late Mrs. Ellen Mulvelt, who for many years lived at 4521 Indiana avenue.

Richard W. Clifford, former judge of the Circuit court, who is executor of the estate, said that it was the first time to his knowledge that provision had been made for a horse in a will filed in Chicago.

VALUABLE JEWELS IN SHOES

Jewelry of Value of \$6,000 Placed in Footwear Outside of Hall Door to Be Shined.

New York.—Rings and a diamond stickpin, valued at more than \$6,000, were stolen from Mrs. W. W. Jennings, daughter-in-law of E. F. Kizer, president of the First National Bank of Towanda, Pa., when her shoes, containing the jewels, were placed to be cleaned outside her room in the Knickerbocker hotel.

VARIETY IN PEACHES

SOME NEW WAYS OF SERVING DELICIOUS FRUIT.

Housewife Will Find These Recipes Simple and the Results Will Amply Repay Her for Her Trouble.

Spiced Peaches.—Peel seven pounds of fruit, but do not remove the stones; to one pint of cider vinegar add three and one-half pounds of sugar, one teaspoon of cloves, and one-half cup of cinnamon ground, and one and one-half cups of water. Tie the spices in a bag. Cook the vinegar, spices and sugar for fifteen minutes, then add the peaches, a few at a time, and cook until tender; pack in jars, pour over them the scalding syrup and cover closely. Let them stand twenty-four hours, then drain, cook the sirup ten minutes, and again pour over the fruit. Put a plate over the fruit in the jar and tie a cloth over the top and keep in a cool place.

Peach Catsup.—Peel and quarter six quarts of ripe peaches. Quarter the parings for thirty minutes in one pint of water. Then strain, add the peaches, and simmer thirty minutes longer. Add one and one-half cups of best cider vinegar and one-half cup of sugar, two teaspoons of ground cinnamon, and one-half teaspoon each of cloves, mace and pepper. Simmer slowly until quite thick and seal hot in pint jars.

Stuffed Peaches.—Allow three-quarters of a pound of sugar and one cupful of water to every pound of fruit. Peel the peaches, cut them in half if the fruit is large. Cook the sugar and water and skim, the drop the peaches and let them boil hard, stir and mash them until the whole is a thick mass. Then put in glass jars and seal at once.

Stuffed Peaches.—These are a delicious accompaniment for roast turkey at Thanksgiving time. Select medium sized peaches, wash and take out the stones, cover with salt water, and let them stand over night. In the morning fill the peaches with a mixture of radish mixed with a little celery seed and a small piece of ginger root, tie each peach with string and pack in jars. Turn over them hot vinegar with sugar and spices to taste. Seal the jars.

Molded Salmon.—One can salmon, one-half teaspoon salt, one and one-half tablespoons sugar, one-half teaspoon flour, one teaspoon mustard, three-fourths cup scalded milk, one and one-half tablespoons melted butter, yolks of two eggs, one-fourth cup hot vinegar, three-fourths tablespoon granulated gelatine.

Smothered Eggs.—Poach four eggs by breaking into a saucepan half-filled with boiling salted water; let them remain until yolks are hard, then remove with perforated skimmer; cut each egg in half with a sharp knife, keep one plain, and while you prepare the following sauce:

One pint of gravy from roast or boiled meat, or one pint of soup; add one chopped onion, salt and pepper to taste, and a dash of Worcestershire sauce, which has been well mixed one even tablespoon of flour; bring all to boiling point, simmer five minutes and pour over eggs; serve hot.

This is a delicious way to serve eggs as a first course, or a good breakfast dish for five or six people. It is cheap as well.

Stuffed Beef Heart.—In these days of high priced meats one can make many savory dishes of inexpensive bits. Take a beef heart, clean it carefully, fill with a dressing made as for chicken or turkey. Use an equal amount of mashed potatoes and bread crumbs, seasoned with sage, summer savory, pepper and salt, and moistened with beef drippings or butter, and add one or two chopped onions. Fasten together with skewers or twine, steam four hours and bake one hour and a half, basting well. Make a thickened gravy of the drippings.

Apple Farsel.—Select eight large, tender, perfect apples; wipe, core, then steam until tender. For the filling allow a quarter pound of candied cherries and two ounces of candied pineapple. Chop fine and simmer with a half cupful of sugar and a cup of water. Arrange the steamed apples in a deep glass dish, drain the fruit and fill the centers of the apples, leaving full. Boil the sirup until thick, flavor and dip over the apples. Chill and serve with whipped cream.

Four-Milk Doughnuts.—Two eggs, 1 1/2 cups sugar, or a little more, 1/4 cup of butter, 1 1/2 cups of flour, 1 1/2 cups of milk, one even teaspoon soda, 3/4 cups flour, more if needed. The less flour the better the doughnuts. Add a little nutmeg if you like.

Grape Fruit Salad.—Remove the pulp of a grapefruit, lay it on lettuce, add a few malaga grapes which have been seeded and a few English walnuts, and serve with mayonnaise dressing.

Right Way to Make Tea.—In the first place, tea never should be boiled, as the flavor will be entirely destroyed by the bitterness extracted from the tea leaves. Use a china or agate lined tea pot, let the tea leaves get warmed through by standing the pot on the oak of the stove, or scalding with fresh, boiling water and putting leaves in the pot at once. Steep for a few moments, then fill pot with water which has just reached the boiling point, and serve at once.

Prejudice Is a Serious Menace

Prejudice is a hard thing to overcome, but where health is at stake and the opinion of thousands of reliable people differs from yours, you ought to lay it aside. This is said in the interesting story of people suffering from chronic constipation, and it is worthy of their attention.

In the opinion of legions of reliable American people the most stubborn constipation imaginable can be cured by a brief use of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. You may not have heard of it, but it is not advertised. It has sold very successfully word of mouth recommendation. Parents are giving it to their children and pleasantly so, that by their parents, and it has been truthfully said by those who give it personally in their families than any other laxative.

Letters recently received from Mrs. Blanche Tilton, Chana, Ill., and J. Brockway, Chana, Ill., are but a few of thousands showing the esteem in which Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is held. It is mild, gentle, non-grating, not violent, like salts or cathartics. In time nature again does its own work, and the patient is able to get on as usual. Anyone wishing to make a trial of this remedy before buying it in the regular way of a doctor, should get one of our dollar a large bottle (family size) can have a sample bottle sent to the home of the doctor who gave it to you. Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 201 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. Your name and address on a postal card will do.

Do not wait for serious kidney illness; begin using Doan's Kidney Pills when you first feel backache or notice urinary disorders. David P. Corey, 255 W. Washington St., Buffalo, N. Y.

St. Ionia, Mich., says: "I had kidney trouble for some time, but for six months I could only get around with Doan's Kidney Pills. The backache grew gradually worse until I was compelled to take to my bed. While still in bed, I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, and gradually improved until I was able to get about."

"When Your Back Is Lame, Remember the Name—DOAN'S," 50c. all stores. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Business Instinct Strong.—A photographer tells as a joke on himself that a woman, accompanied by a little boy, came into his studio the other day. "I want my picture taken," she said. "I see that you take pictures for four dollars a dozen this week, so I come for mine. And I want this little boy taken in the same picture with me." "Yes, madam—but, of course, we made an arrangement outside the studio when two pictures are taken at once." "Oh," says the lady, "but I'll keep the boy in my lap. That's the way I do in the street cars, and nobody ever says anything."

Revised Version.—Representative Henry of Texas, in an eloquent and witty attack on infidelity at a marriage, said the other day in Waco: "The Honorable Maude Laclands, the little daughter of the Earl of Laclands and a Chicago pork vendor, once asked her mother: 'How long does a honey-moon last?'"

"Lady Laclands with a bitter smile made answer: 'The honeymoon may be said to last, my dear, until your husband begins to pester you for money.'"

Incubable.—"You say you are your wife's third husband?" said one man to another during a talk.

"No, I am her fourth husband," was the reply.

"Heavens, man!" said the first speaker. "You are not a husband—you're a habit."

A BRAIN WORKER.—Must Have the Kind of Food That Nourishes Brain.

"I am a literary man whose nervous energy is a great part of my stock in trade, and ordinarily I have the appetite for a breakfast of food and the extravagant claims made of them. But I cannot withhold my acknowledgment of the debt that I owe to Grape-Nuts food."

"I discovered long ago that the very bulkiness of the ordinary diet was not calculated to give one a clear head, the power of sustained, accurate thinking. I always felt heavy and sluggish in mind as well as body after eating the ordinary meal, which diverted the blood from the brain to the digestive apparatus. "I tried foods easily of digestion, but found them usually deficient in nutriment. I experimented with many breakfast foods and their too groovy, unsatisfactory, till I reached Grape-Nuts. And then the problem was solved. "Grape-Nuts agreed with me perfectly from the beginning, satisfying my hunger and supplying the nutriment so many other prepared foods lack. "I had not been using it very long before I found that I was turning out an unusual quantity and quality of work. Continued use has demonstrated the ordinary meal, which diverted the blood from the brain to the digestive apparatus. "I tried foods easily of digestion, but found them usually deficient in nutriment. 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