

EUPHRATES RIVER IS MOST HISTORIC

As It First Emerges from Behind Curtain which Divides Known from Unknown.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Euphrates is the largest river in western Asia, and civilization is reputed to have come into being upon its banks. For 5,000 years at least empires have risen and fallen on its plain, conquering armies have marched to battle, and a hundred cities have come up out of the earth and fallen into oblation ruin again. Describing this great river as it runs its seaward course today, the National Geographic Society, whose headquarters are in this city, says in a statement given to the press today:

"The Euphrates is a strong claim to the honor of being the most historic river on earth, and certain it is that in the region it drains, along with its twin sister, the Tigris, man first emerges from behind that impenetrable curtain which divides the known from the unknown past. From then henceforth civilizations have risen and fallen, nations have come and gone, cities of rare beauty have raised their proud heads above the plain only to pass on into obliteration. Rises in Two Arms. The Euphrates rises in two arms flowing parallel to one another on the north side of Taurus mountain, through narrow valleys into which pour innumerable small streams from the high Armenian plateau. The northernmost of the two branches is the shortest, but it is generally regarded as the real source of the river. It lies to the north of Erzurum while the longer branch passes it to the south. The two branches are divided by the wild mountain district of Der-sim. Zigzag Course. After uniting, they form the Euphrates proper, which boldly breaks its way through the mountains by a zigzag course that carries it now to the right and now to the left. Now it flows for thirty miles at right angles to its general course, then sixty miles parallel to it, and then 180 miles at right angles again as though it were headed for the Mediterranean sea. Then it winds to the south for eighty miles. Here it takes up its general trend to the southeast and with innumerable sharp windings and bends, but with only a few broad curves, it heads its way to the sea. The air line distance of the remotest spring of the Euphrates from the sea is only 800 miles, and yet its waters must travel 1,800 before they reach the sea. Slow and Sluggish. In the last 1,200 miles of its course the Euphrates is slow and sluggish, wandering all over the land when it has opportunity, making that which it touches a marsh and that which it cannot reach a desert. Its fall during the last 1,200 miles is only ten inches to the mile and it broadens out so much that while it contains enough water to float the greatest battleship, it is so shallow that at places a swimmer cannot float in it. Rise to Suit Armies. The river promises to rise this year at a time exactly suited to the needs of the armies fighting on its banks. It is beginning its annual rise this month, and will reach its maximum in May. When at its flood stage it is navigable, and can play an important part in military operations."

Malaria Causes \$60,000 Loss in Town of 3000
SACRAMENTO, March 18.—Malaria, besides causing much discomfort to the affected individuals, produces a very large economic loss in the sections where it is prevalent, according to Dr. James G. Cumming, director of the state bureau of communicable diseases. Coming made an investigation in a community of 3,000 population, and estimated that malaria annually causes a loss of \$60,000 in wages. This disease is also declared by physicians of interior towns to constitute fifty per cent of their practice.

SIX MARCHES
BERLIN, March 18.—Prince Joachim Albrecht, of Prussia, whose musical compositions have been a prominent feature recently of programs at the Prussian court, has written six marches of a popular character since the beginning of the war. They are called "Pro Gloria et Patria," "1914," "The Liege March," "With God for King and Country," "Young Germany" and "The Men in Field Gray."

LEARNS SIGN LANGUAGE TO WED A COUPLE OF MUTES.
OAKVILLE, Ia., March 18.—The Rev. H. P. Bohn made signs, with his hands recently when he performed a marriage ceremony between Miss Fern Jamison, daughter of a cattleman of this city, and Edgar Mather, of Abingdon, Ill. The two are mutes. The minister, who already speaks four languages, added the fifth to his list of accomplishments in four days for this occasion.

TO LIBERATE HEROIC CONVICT.
LEAVENWORTH, Kan., March 18.—Out of the icy waters of the Missouri river Albert Owen, a convict, rescued Sam Conroy, "trusty." For his bravery Owen will be given his freedom soon. After the skiff in which the two were riding had been upset by a cask of ice Owen helped Conroy obtain a grip on the boat and then swam ashore and summoned aid. Mourning is absolutely prohibited in Germany.

STRAW HATS HIGHER.

LONDON, March 18.—The price of straw hats in London is to be advanced twelve cents the coming season. The reason is that the straw plait which comes chiefly from Japan will be much higher, while the cost of production has also advanced. Makers are economizing in material. The ribbon will be slightly narrower than heretofore and the average hat will have a three-inch crown with brim two and a quarter inches wide.

YOUTH KILLS BEAR

Boy Gets Rifle and Kills Animal in a Deep, Dark Cave in Colorado.

CANON CITY, March 18.—Donald and Harold Chapsen, sons of Elmer Chapsen, a rancher of the Pagosa Springs district, were riding their ponies in the foothills looking after some cattle, when they noticed some unfamiliar tracks in the snow, which they followed to the mouth of a cave, two miles away. Donald crawled in to investigate. It was pitch dark in the cave a few yards back from the entrance, and young Chapsen was unable to see anything ahead of him. After he had followed the windings of the cavern for a distance of forty or fifty yards a big but not unfriendly bear placed his nose in the face of the intruder, but made no effort to bite. Young Chapsen turned and fled to his horse, got his rifle and returned to the cave and shot the bear, which weighed 300 pounds.

Forced to Take a Bath, Wants Hazers Arrested

PALTO ALTO, March 18.—A compulsory bath said to have been administered to David Malcolm Ross, of Modesto, a student at Stanford University, by eighteen of his fellow students, sophomores, caused Ross to appeal to the law as represented by Justice of the Peace S. W. Charles, of Palo Alto. Ross was "tubbed," he told the justice, because he had refused to perform freshman duty and asked that warrants be issued for the arrest of his alleged assailants.

After Siege of Month Crazy Man is Captured

RACINE, Wis., March 18.—After a thrilling battle with Sheriff Samuel Hollick and six deputies, Ebenezer Smith, aged 65, Waterford, an insane bachelor, who has been barricaded in his home since January 1, was taken into custody and is in jail. The battle was watched by a crowd of more than 300 Waterford residents. Smith was prepared for the attack, and for a time resisted the sheriff's officers with knives, hatchets, hammers and a large pile of stones and firewood which he had piled up inside the house.

IRISH OATS

DUBLIN, March 18.—The Irish agricultural department announced that it has succeeded in securing and placing a government contract for 10,000 tons of Irish oats for shipment abroad. The contract was executed by grain merchants and the grain loaded in Belfast. This is the first contract of the kind placed in Ireland since the beginning of the war. It is expected that a similar contract for a large consignment of potatoes will shortly be secured.

WORKED TWENTY YEARS TO WIN BRIDE, BUT GETS CASH INSTEAD.

DES MOINES, Ia., March 18.—Lewis O'Brien, a farm hand, who worked for twenty years on farms owned by the late Edward Howell and his daughter, Jennie, without salary, expecting to wed Miss Howell as his reward, will receive \$15,500 as the result of a jury's decision in the Polk county district court. Bates contended he worked with an understanding that when Howell died he would marry Miss Howell. Soon after Howell died the death of his daughter occurred. Bates sued for \$40,000 back pay.

FIRST TO BE WORSTED.

LONDON, March 18.—The German Fokker monoplane which was damaged in an air battle recently, was the first of these machines to be worked in a fight. In one month these machines have accounted for the loss of sixteen British aeroplanes.

FASTS NEARLY A MONTH.

OSAGE, Ia., Mar. 18.—Martin Stout, a laboring man of this place, has completed a fast of twenty-three days, undertaken in the hope of curing himself of catarrh. He declares he feels like a new man. Throughout the entire time he did all the cooking for his wife, who is an invalid. He lost only twenty-three pounds and says his strength was not greatly impaired.

RIFLE REGIMENT ORGANIZED IN PITTSBURG

Services of the Organization Are Offered to President by Colonel Keenan.

PITTSBURG, March 18.—The first regiment of American Riflemen has been organized in this city. The movement is forwarded by the Young Men's Business Clubs of which there is one in most of the large cities of the country and the sole object is to acquaint laymen with the handling of a military rifle. The movement is said to have originated in Cleveland and the idea was disseminated from there, but the Pittsburg regiment is the first to complete organization. Col. T. J. Keenan, of this city, took up the matter and presented it to the Young Men's Business Clubs, with the result that these bodies pledged support to it throughout the country. In this city almost 600 men have enrolled for the movement. It is not to be a uniformed or drilled body, according to the promoters. All expense will be borne by the individuals, and the time required for qualification as a member of the organization is not more than one hour a week on a rifle range that is at the disposal of the organization. Among the members of the local body are a number of National Guardsmen who have been sharpshooters and first class marksmen for years, and several retired army officers, who have offered their services in coaching and instruction with the military rifle. It is planned to have a camp at the range, which is a few miles from the city, which will be established throughout the summer. At this camp members may go and come as they desire, being under no rigid discipline beyond being required to qualify as an expert marksman. Employers of men desirous of participating in this movement have expressed a willingness to give employees an opportunity to take advantage of the rifle range, and offers of assistance from regular service men have been abundant. Col. Keenan expresses the opinion that one million men would be participating in this training during the summer, laying a foundation for a trained citizen soldiery, against times of need. The Pittsburg regiment has been offered to President Wilson in this telegram which Col. Keenan sent to Washington: "I am authorized to offer you, in case of national need, the services of the first battalion of the first regiment of American Riflemen. All the members of the organization are of military age, and have pledged themselves to qualify at once, and at their own expense, as marksmen with the regulation rifle of the United States Army. If a million Americans will so qualify during the next few months your rifle for national preparedness will supplement congressional action, have met with a practical popular response that will help to insure our country against enforced participation either in the present or in any future war."

Jail Cat Took to Rum; Dies of too Much Booze

SEATTLE, Wash., March 18.—In an alcove of the jail yard, Ole, the county jail cat, lies buried beneath a neat mound of ashes and cinders, with a crossboard bearing the words, "He died of drink." Ole was locked in a room containing hundreds of quarts of liquor that had sprunk a leak. Some of the pungent fluid had made a little pool in the center of the floor. Ole lapped at it gingerly. Then a wonderful change came over him. He felt rejuvenated. He felt powerful and combative. Throwing back his head disdainfully, he looked around for Deputy Bush's dog that he might whip him. They found him at daybreak and buried him with impressive honors.

Spanking Is Good for Babies, Declares Boston Man, Who is a Baby Specialist.

BOSTON, March 18.—Dr. John Lovett Morse, of the Harvard medical school, baby specialist, has prepared a list of "don'ts" for children. He calls upon the mother of all baby bits. They should be made to eat what is set before them, he says. Arms and legs should not be bare except on the hottest summer days. Never deceive them. Few babies grow up without the need of real corporal punishment, adds Dr. Morse. Never spank the hands or face. He also says that many children have died of disease or accidents because they were not taught obedience. The death certificate should read "failure of the parent to teach obedience," he concludes.

MARRIAGE TRUST

Proposed by Justice of the Peace, Who May Get Together upon Ceremonies. JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind., March 18.—Some of the six justices of the peace of Jefferson, who fight among themselves for "marriage couples," are proposing a combination whereby all six would establish central marrying parlors and would pool and divide equally all their earnings. The chief benefit would be the elimination of the "runners," with whom the justices now split their fees, which only in exceptional cases amount to more than \$3. One result of the competition has been the cutting of fees. Many eloping couples now get married for \$1. Secret weddings generally cost the elopers a little more, and a \$25 fee shows up once in a while.

In Jail, Man Finds \$5 in Robin's Nest

HAMMOND, Ind., March 18.—Frank Trahtbas, of Chesterton, Ind., reflecting in a police jail cell here after a two days' fling along the gay white way, wondered how he was going to pay a dollar fine when he spied a robin's nest in a tree within an arm's length of the cell window. Reaching out, he shooed the robin away and picked a \$5 bill from the nest, summoned the jailer, paid his fine and went home.

CAN'T SMOKE

Alimony Takes All His Money, Says Man Who Appeals to Judge for Mercy. KANSAS CITY, March 18.—In order that he might have a little money to smoke cigars, Alfred Hodgson, cattle buyer, applied to Judge Robinson, of the circuit court, to decrease his temporary alimony he was paying his wife pending the hearing for divorce. Hodgson said that ever since their separation three years ago he had been paying her \$30 a week, and was forced to give up smoking to make the payments. Judge Robinson ruled that smoking was injurious and ordered Hodgson to continue paying \$30 alimony and stay away from tobacco.

ANSWER TO ADDRESS ON EGG AFTER EIGHT YEARS.

MARION, O., Mar. 18.—Eight years ago, Dale Bain, son of Health Officer Addison Bain, was working here in an egg packing house. At that time he wrote his name and address on an egg. He has received a postcard dated January 18, 1916, written by Lenore Krenfield, of Summit, N. J., who says she bought a dozen eggs at a grocery and found Bain's name written on one of them. "Of course, Dale may be a boy's name, or a girl's, but write to me anyhow," she requests. "Since she has been good enough to write to me after all these years, I am going to be 'fresh' enough to write to her again," Bain declares.

RESCUES MAN WITH LASSO.

KANSAS CITY, March 18.—Ability to throw a lasso enabled George Bell, a city fireman, to rescue Frank Slathro, track sweeper, caught in a maze of electric wires, after he had been knocked from the elevated road.

GOOD GUESS WORK.

LONDON, March 18.—Careful inquiries seem to show that for the most part insurance companies have made well within their estimate of what the war was likely to cost them, the average amount expended being about seventy-five per cent of that estimated. Considering the great number of men who may be expected to have insured their lives who at present are fighting, the figure is not a high one; but it is noticed that the companies are carrying large sums in reserve.

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WOMEN CURATES

Are Being Suggested Because So Many Clergymen Have Gone to the Trenches.

LONDON, March 18.—Women curates are being suggested because so many clergymen have gone to the trenches and because theological students who have not already enlisted will be absorbed under the compulsion act unless they are physically unfit. For ten years before the war there was a steady decrease in the applications for ordination, owing, in some measure, to the modern recognition of the fact that a young man of what is known as "good family" may engage in commerce without any social disadvantages. Genteel starvation is no longer preferable to getting a good living outside "the professions," and the candidates for the church have gradually been narrowing down to those who have an earnest call to preach or to undertake the more exacting forms of Christian work. The war apparently has not hastened the process.

MUTES MAKE TIRES.

AKRON, Mar. 18.—Sixty deaf mutes are employed by a tire and rubber manufacturing company here. It is the policy of this establishment to employ all deaf mutes who apply for position who are strong, willing to work and who have good eyes. They have proved to be efficient workers and are often placed in responsible positions.

CANADIAN WOMEN GIVES SIX SONS TO GREAT WAR.

JOGGINGS MANES, N. B., March 18.—Perhaps no other mother in Canada has made such a sacrifice for the empire as has been made by Mrs. William Colburn, of Shulee, who has cheerfully seen all six of her sons volunteer for service under the king's banner. Five of the boys are now with the colors, and the sixth is at home against his will, a physical disability, having forced him to leave the battalion which he joined some time ago. The last of the boys to enlist signed the service roll at Truro a few days ago.

TRAIN TO BEAR SAFETY EXHIBIT OVER COUNTRY

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Co-operate with Department of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Safety First Exposition, which was held in Washington recently and which depicted what the federal government is doing in the saving of life and property, may soon be brought to the doorsteps of every citizen in the United States. Writes to Willard. The exposition was of such far-reaching educational value and created so much public interest that Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane conceived the idea that the rest of the country ought, if possible, to be given the opportunity of seeing it. He accordingly wrote a letter to Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, requesting the free use of a complete train for that purpose. President Willard responded immediately and offered to furnish an all-steel train of any necessary number of cars to transport the exhibits. The railroad also agreed to haul this train free of charge over the entire length of its line, stopping a sufficient length of time in each city or town to enable the people to inspect thoroughly the various exhibits. It has been tentatively agreed that this train will be in Washington by May 1, and that it will be equipped as rapidly as possible and sent on its way. An itinerary will be arranged without delay. It is the plan of Secretary Lane that upon the completion of this itinerary the other prominent railroads of the country will be asked to extend similar favors over their lines and in this way he hopes that everyone in the country sufficiently interested will be able to see the exhibits.

Mad When Embalmer Calls For His Corpse

ST. LOUIS, March 18.—Justice of the Peace Ragland, of Maplewood, St. Louis county, is attempting to find which one of his "friends" called an undertaker to his home to "take charge of his body." The justice explained that he happened to look out of the window and saw an undertaker's wagon drive up and stop at the front of his house, in a moment the undertaker was at the front door. Justice Ragland opened the door and said that he saw the undertaker was a friend and fellow lodge member, William Armbruster. Armbruster was so shocked that he was speechless for several seconds. Ragland said: "I told him I wasn't dead, and he remarked that he guessed I wasn't."

GETS MONEY

For Steer He Sold Twenty-two Years Ago When Beef Was Three Cents a Pound.

LANDER, Wyo., March 18.—After nearly twenty-two years, Con Sheehan, a ranchman, on the sweet-water, has received \$29.89 in payment for a steer which was marketed at Chicago in 1894. The money was transmitted by the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, which has been holding it since September, 1894, when its inspector at Chicago, discovered a steer branded with a cross curb C in a shipment made by J. M. Carey and brother, of Casper. Not until recently was it established that the cross curb C cattle were owned by Sheehan brothers, a firm of which Con Sheehan is the surviving member. The delivery of the money recalls that twenty-two years ago Wyoming beef was bringing only three cents on the Chicago market.

TEN THOUSAND

More Skilled Miners Will Be Wanted on British Front Next Twelve Months.

LONDON, March 18.—Ten thousand more skilled miners will be wanted on the British war front during the next twelve months to carry on the work of tunneling for the laying of mines, according to Robert Smille, president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. In making this announcement, Mr. Smille stated that while a considerable number of miners were already engaged in this work the government wanted more and was going to appeal to the home office for them. These men, however, will have to be enrolled as volunteers. WOMAN IS A GOOD SHOT. COTTONWOOD FALLS, Kan., Mar. 18.—Mrs. Clarence V. Riggs, wife of a painter and paperhanger of Cedar Point, doubtless holds the championship among women hunters in Chase county. A few days ago near her home on the Cottonwood river she bagged seven rabbits. She used a 22 caliber repeating rifle most of the time.

FAT LADY FADES AWAY.

CLEVELAND, March 18.—Had J. H. Howard's wife been more sympathetic, he wouldn't be suing for divorce. But six years ago she got a job as "fat lady" in a sideshow and he hasn't seen her since.

SHE PROPOSES.

DES MOINES, Ia., March 18.—Miss Augusta Knies, 21, of Lansing, Mich., obtained a marriage license to wed Harley Decker, 29, of Des Moines, and told the marriage license clerk she proposed, but allowed Decker to set the date.

JILTED MAN SUES.

WARREN, O., March 18.—Love letters written by Mrs. Antoinette Carper, of this city, to Angus Gillis, of Boston, Mass., figured in a lawsuit Gillis is suing Mrs. Carper to recover \$500 he alleges he loaned her when he supposed she was going to marry him. Later she jilted him and married Carper. Gillis wants his \$500.

OLD TREE FELL.

CARLEISLE, Pa., Mar. 18.—The first week in March saw the passing of one of the oldest landmarks of the country when a monster oak tree that marked the boundary of Silver Spring and Hampden townships was cut down. The tree was 13 years old and measured four feet through. Four cords of wood came from the trunk.

SENATE BILL PURELY A BUSINESS MEASURE

CHILDREN SAVE TRAIN.

POWHATAN, Kan., March 18.—Teachers and pupils of Turner school, near here, saved the Rock Island passenger train from a bad wreck, according to members of the train crew. After being dismissed from school, Ralph Bartley, aged thirteen, and Paul Brockoff, aged eleven, discovered a broken rail while crossing the tracks near the school. They ran back to school and told Miss Grace Powell, the teacher, who was informed by the agent at Fairview that the train had already left that town. With their teacher's red sweater the boys flagged the oncoming train. A bad wreck would have resulted if the crew had not been cautioned by the youngsters' signal.

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Which Pertains to Federal Aid to the States in Construction of Good Roads.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18.—One of the most important and pressing matters with which the Congress must deal at its present session is the matter of good roads. A month ago, or more, the so-called Shackleford bill passed the House by an overwhelming majority and was sent to the Senate. It carried an annual appropriation of \$25,000,000 out of the general treasury to aid the states in the construction and maintenance of rural post roads and was sent to the Senate for its consideration. There was something of a passing flurry in that body as to which committee the measure should be referred, which was amicably adjusted by reference from the committee on agriculture and forestry to the committee on postoffices and postroads. That committee has completed its work and reported a bill very much like the House measure in its general terms but differing in important features from the House bill to such an extent as to make it, as it has been described by one of the experts who has made a lifetime study of this problem, "the best roads measure that has ever been proposed in the national legislature."

Wise Provisions.

The Senate bill which has been pressed with fine intelligence by Senator Bankhead of Alabama, provides for the year 1917 an appropriation of \$6,000,000, for the year 1918 an appropriation of \$10,000,000, for the year 1919 an appropriation of \$15,000,000, for the year 1920 an appropriation of \$20,000,000, and for the year 1921 an appropriation of \$25,000,000. The management, distribution and expenditure of the appropriations so provided are to be entrusted to the secretary of agriculture and under conditions, clearly stated in the measure, which he is directed to require. These conditions, briefly stated, are to prevent the waste of the funds taken out of the federal treasury so that each dollar expended in the work of making good roads shall have a dollar's worth of work to show for it. "The secretary of agriculture is authorized to co-operate with the states"; the secretary of agriculture and the state highway department of each state shall agree upon the roads to be constructed therein and the character and method of construction. After making certain clearly stated deductions to cover the expense of administration from the fund provided by the United States, "the secretary of agriculture shall apportion the remainder of the appropriation for each fiscal year among the several states," one-third in the ratio which the area of each state bears to the total population of all the states, and one-third in the ratio which the mileage of rural delivery routes and star routes in each state bears to the total mileage of rural delivery routes and star routes in all the states at the close of the next preceding fiscal year. "The secretary of agriculture and the state highway department of each state may jointly determine at what times, and in what amounts, payments, as work progresses, shall be made under this act, and payment of these amounts is to be made by the secretary of the treasury on warrants drawn by the secretary of agriculture. All road projects under this act are to be approved by the secretary of agriculture before they can be made a charge against the appropriations made by Congress, the act providing that he shall approve plans, specifications and estimates. The states or their subdivisions must maintain the roads built with the federal aid, for the secretary of agriculture is authorized to withhold further such aid where maintenance is not properly carried on. It will be seen that the secretary of agriculture is the most important factor, next to the money to be taken out of the treasury, in this effort to improve the highways of the country, and those who know him will be perfectly content, if they really mean business, to load this additional burden upon his broad shoulders, feeling assured that because of his character and acute business sense there will be a square deal under the terms of the law.

Purely Business.

The Senate bill is a purely business measure. There is no politics in it, no sectionalism, no favoritism, no partnership. The conditions are plain and simple—ratio in area, in population, in mileage. Better than all this, however, is the provision that the building of good roads for postal purposes, which will be available for industrial and commercial purposes also, is to be a co-partnership matter between the nation and the states. The United States will match dollars with the states. Under the conditions noted in the bill, the United States will pay a dollar to the states for every building of rural post roads for every dollar they expend for the same purpose; no more and no less. It is to be a fifty-fifty affair between Washington and the states. The states that pay nothing on their own account will get nothing under the terms of the bill and whatever the states do in road building under this bill must be done under the supervision and with the approval of the secretary of agriculture. There can be, surely, no objection to so fair an arrangement, if the states mean business.

State Freedom.

There will be no attempt on the part of the government at Washington to interfere with the domestic affairs of the states—all that will be insisted upon is that if the states care to participate they must participate under the terms of the bill. The appropriations made by the act are not so large, possibly, as some of the advocates of good roads would desire; but quite as large doubtless as the states would care to make on their own account; and if the plan should work well, the passage of this act will be the first step towards the solution of one of the greatest economic questions of the times, and will lead inevitably to other measures in the future.

Russia has 5,000,000 Jews.

Fifty vocations are taught in the