

Gun-Runners of the Persian Gulf



HOW LOVING-CUP ORIGINATED

Interesting Story Telling How Powerful King of Ancient Taught Ignorant Lesson.

The so-called "loving-cup" is common nowadays and we see it everywhere. But many years ago there were no such things as these queer three-handled affairs, and the following story tells how they first happened to be made:

Once upon a time, centuries before us there lived a great and powerful king who was extremely fond of hunting. He was one day in a huge forest pursuing a stag, but it was so fleet and clever that it eluded him and his hand of followers, and led them entirely out of their way. After wandering about in a hopeless fashion they finally came upon a little hut and the king himself dismounted and rapped smartly upon the door.

A young girl answered his knock and soon showed the men the right path. The king was about to go when he saw a well near the house and at the sight of the clear water immediately felt thirsty, and going back, asked the girl for a drink. Without hesitation she went into the house and came out with an earthen jug filled with the well water. But, instead of offering his royal majesty the handle, as most people would, she held that herself and handed him the cup the wrong way.

The king said nothing, thanked the girl, and he and his band soon found their way out of the woods.

But when he reached his palace, he determined to reward the girl for giving him the water and at the same time to teach her a lesson in politeness.

Sending to his jeweler, he bade him make a silver cup with two handles and deliver it to the young girl without a word from whence it came.

Perhaps a month after this the king again hunted in that same forest, sought the little hut, and asked the girl for another drink of water.

This time she entered the house and came out with a beautiful silver cup full of sparkling water.

"Now," thought the king, "she has certainly learned a lesson." But never was he more mistaken, for the poor, ignorant girl took a handle in each hand and for the second time offered her liege lord nothing but the side of the cup.

The king rode away deeply perplexed. He was still resolved to teach the girl the polite way to hand a cup without directly rebuking her, and many were the hours he spent in cudgeling his brains for some way in which to do it. At last a bright idea struck him, and he sent for his jeweler a second time.

"Make me," said he to the man, "a silver cup, heavily chased, and with my royal crest and put three handles on it."

The jeweler much surprised (for remember no such thing had ever been heard of up to this time), did as he was told, and soon the mug was finished. As before, the king had it privately sent to the girl who lived in the little hut.

One day not long after this for the third time he rode into that forest, and taking the now well known path soon reached the cottage. Dismounting he knocked at the door and asked humbly for a drink of clear water.

The girl immediately came out with the beautiful three-handled cup and taking two of the handles in her hands she offered him the third.

So the king rode away, well pleased with his strategy, and reaching home, ordered three-handled cups to be made in every sort of ware, and they became so popular that we now have them in all our shops and stores.

POPULAR GAME OF "CUTTING"

Always Finds Favor With Boys and Girls—Simple Prizes Given to Winners.

A game of "cutting" always finds favor with boys and girls. Provide each person with an old magazine, a pair of scissors, a small cup of home-made paste and a brush made by folding a piece of paper many times and then finely slashing one end. Besides these things give to each player several sheets of plain paper a little larger than a magazine page. Each person is to cut out any picture or parts of pictures he chooses and mount them on the plain paper to make new pictures. After half an hour all of the pictures should be placed where they may be seen. Simple prizes should be given to those making the prettiest, the most comical or the most original sheets.

BETTY'S CAKE-WALK.

When Betty saw a cake-walk,
She laughed at all the fun,
And thought it was the strangest thing
She'd seen beneath the sun.
The bowing and the dipping
She taught her dolls next day,
Though it was quite ridiculous
To walk that silly way.

When Betty takes a cake-walk
There's something at the end;
She doesn't learn to scrape and bow,
And turn and twist and bend,
But onward like a soldier
She marches to the fore;
The end of Betty's cake-walk
Is at the pantry door.

"Oh dear! It's raining hard," said Puss.
"I feel it on my nose.
We need our rubber over-shoes,
And I'd like some rubber hose!"
Said little Fluffy Toos:
"I'd love to have the over-shoes!"
"But excuse me dear if I observe,
We do not need the hose!"

INTERESTING FACTS OF TOPS

Whip-Top is Very Old, It Having Been Used in Remote Time by Grecian Boys.

Many tops are of modern invention, but the Whip-top is very old, it having been used in remote time by the Grecian boys. It was well known in



Humming Top.

England as early as at least as the fourteenth century, when its form was the same as it is now.

Today boys play with the Humming-top. This is hollow, having at its crown a peg, round which is wound a string; this being pulled through a kind of fork, gives motion to the top and sets it spinning—the fork and the



Peg Top.

string being left in the spinner's hand. In spinning the top, care should be taken to wind the string firmly and evenly on the peg, and when it is pulled out, neither too much nor too little force should be used, and a firm and steady hand should be employed, while the top should be held in a perpendicular position. The string should be drawn with a steadily increasing force, or the top will not hum properly.

There are various kinds of peg-tops, and they also vary in shape, some being much rounder than others. Those are the best which are shaped like a pear. There is also great variety as regards the shape and size of the peg, which in some tops is short and thick, in others long and tapering. Again, tops are made of different kinds of wood, some being made of deal, others of elm, some of yew-tree and others of boxwood. These last are the Boxers so highly prized. Some of the very best tops are made of lignum-vitae, with long, handsome pegs.

MOUSE TRAP IS VERY USEFUL

Easily Made by Placing Piece of Stout Paper Over Top of Earthenware Jar.

If you have no cat and find the mice in your house getting altogether too bold for comfort, or if you would like to keep some mice for pets, a home-made trap will catch them.

Over the top of an earthenware jar fasten a piece of writing paper, tightly binding it with a string or elastic band. In the center of the paper cut a cross. Set the jar in the closet, and suspend by a string a piece of cheese over the center of the jar, and lean something against the jar so that the mice can reach the top. If there are any mice in the closet the bait will attract them, but just as soon as the first mouse reaches the center of the paper he will drop into the jar and the paper will fly back into place again, ready for the next comer. A trap arranged in the same manner can be used for the capture of field and harvest mice, which make odd and amusing pets.

A barrel covered with stiff brown paper can be used for common rats, but they will gnaw out unless the barrel be partly filled with water.

The Usual Crop.
"Are you trying to raise anything on your suburban place?"
"Yes; a mortgage."

A GROWING MENACE TO THE PEACE OF INDIA

BY T. H. MANNERS HOWE



THE feeling is growing throughout the Indian army and Indian government circles that Britain is approaching a bigger campaign on the northwest frontier than has been seen in recent years. Not only are large sections of the tribesmen like the Mahsud Waziris and others exhibiting signs of increasing turbulence, but the frontier territories from one end to the other are already full of modern arms and ammunition, while more is pouring into them every day by every secluded track leading through Baluchistan and the Afghan hills.

In addition to this, the present Ameer abandoning his father's policy, has allowed thousands of modern rifles manufactured in the arsenal at Kabul to reach the hands of his own

board. The consistent calls for more arms and ammunition, the appreciation of the Indian Raj may easily in new Superintendents of British government with Afghanistan as well.

Jas. U. Snyder, Christian Assn. Moore, Flo. Lena Wood, Mrs. Fannie



The bird-eye view shows the territory through which the contraband guns are run. In the foreground are the bare rocky hills surrounding Muscat, the capital of Oman, while to the right is the equally bare coast of Makran, from which gun-running routes lead inland to Afghanistan. Oman is an independent sultanate occupying the southeastern end of the peninsula of Arabia. It reaches along the Persian gulf, the gulf of Oman and the Arabian sea from El Hasa to the Hadramaut region. The area is about 80,000 square miles. The region along the coast is very mountainous, rising in its highest peaks probably to about 19,000 feet. Behind the mountain chains the country gradually passes into the great desert of Arabia. The most favorable part of the country is in the central valleys, which are characterized by a temperate climate and rich vegetation. The chief products are dates, which constitute the main article of export, and other fruits. Pearls



THE SULTAN OF OMAN



OLD PORTUGUESE PORT AT MUSCAT



A TYPICAL DHOW IN THE PERSIAN GULF

soon, and quite capable of holding its own in the hard weather often to be met with in the Indian ocean. Notwithstanding local differences of detail these vessels vary very little as a class; they are generally grab-built, having a long overhang forward. There is great beam and rise of floor and a very raking transom stern. There is generally a high poop and fo'c'sle deck, the rest of the vessel being practically open. The rig consists generally of main and mizzen lateens. The mainmast is a big spar stepped amidships, with a great rake forward.

A correspondent from India writes that the British gunboats in the Persian gulf have been very active in suppressing the traffic in rifles and ammunition. The arms were being landed on the Makran coast and thence were carried by caravans for sale to the tribesmen on the northwestern frontier of India, to be used against the British troops when the next trouble comes. The navy men are reported to have been very successful, and made several good hauls of rifles and ammunition. To reduce still further the gun-runners' chances of profit, four companies of the Fourteenth Sikhs were sent from Ometta to intercept caravans in the neighborhood of Robat. One of our illustrations depicts the entraining of some of the transport camels at Jacobabad in Sind, en route to Nushki, whence the column marched to Robat.

As a rule, when camels are entrained they are loaded on open trucks, but on this occasion it was thought advisable to make use of closed cars. The "oouts" strongly objected to being loaded, but with a rope behind the hocks and a steady, persuasive strain on the nose rope they were eventually hauled or pushed in. Once in the car the camels were made to kneel down in the sand which had been spread on the floor, their knees were then tied so that it was impossible for them to straighten out their forelegs.

The cars were each loaded with six camels, three in each end, facing inward. The space in the middle was utilized for saddles and fodder for the journey. Two camelmen also traveled in each car. It may be remarked that Brahuis differ from most people in that they do not notice that the camel has a particularly offensive odor. The camels bubbled and protested while being loaded, but they soon settled down and began to eat the fodder provided for them. It took five hours to load the first train of 120 camels. Only one camel that had an unusually large hump could not be pushed through the door, and he was trussed like a chicken and carried bodily in by about 15 men.

and mother-of-pearl and fish are also of some commercial importance. The chief port is Muscat. It is situated between two hills and looks out to sea, as shown in the view of the Persian gulf accompanying this article.

The population of Oman is estimated at 1,500,000, and consists of several tribes of Arab origin, partly nomadic. The negro element is very numerous.

Muscat was taken by the Portuguese in 1508 and remained in their hands until the middle of the seventeenth century, when the Arabs of the interior secured possession of it. The imams or sultans of Muscat afterwards made extensive conquests in eastern Africa, including Zanzibar, Mombasa and Quiloo. Oman was at the climax of its power and commercial prosperity in the first half of the nineteenth century, when the authority of the imams or sultans extended over the Persian territories of Laristan and Moghistan, the islands of Bender Abbas, part of the coast of Baluchistan, and the long strip of African coastland including Zanzibar, Mombasa and Quiloo, together with the island of Socotra. The present ruling family originated in Yemen and was first established in the Imamate in the person of Ahmed Ibn Said in 1741. The rise of the Wahabi power in Nedjed resulted in considerable loss of territory. In 1856, on the death of Sultan Said, his possessions were divided between his two sons, one receiving the African territories and the other Muscat, with the Persian possessions. These last were lost in 1875. Sultan Thuwani, who succeeded in Muscat, was assassinated in 1866 by his son Selim, who reigned but a short time, and was driven out by his uncle, Seyyid Faisal Ibn Turki. The power of the imam is exercised very little beyond the capital, Muscat, the name of which is therefore probably better known in popular usage than that of the whole state.

Would Cause Much Writing.
Bacon—I see it is said that all the Russian railway stations keep complaint books, where passengers may enter various protests.
Egbert—If that plan were adopted in this country, I fear writer's cramp would be far more common than it is now.—Yonkers Statesman.

GOOD POSITION FOR TRAINING CAMELS TO COUNTERACT GUN-RUNNING

had by

and, unhappily, by British merchants. The sultan, who is under British protection, derives a large revenue from it, but although negotiations with him for its prohibition might require diplomatic handling owing to his treaty obligations with at least one other power, it is the only effective means of avoiding the outpouring of blood and treasure on the Indian frontier.

At present the efforts of the British navy are handicapped by the fact that the hydrographical conditions of Muscat, as indeed of the whole littoral of the gulf, do not allow preventive ships to go very close to the coast. It is this fact which enables the gun-running dhows to escape the vigilance of British cruisers.

Thus the dhows which put out from Muscat with their contraband cargoes adopt the simple plan of hugging the coast within the shallow-water limits. If they are making for Koweit, which is the center of the gun trade for Mesopotamia and western Persia, they can proceed all the way in comparative safety, otherwise they sail just far enough to be in a position to make a dash for Jask or some other port on the Makran coast, where their cargoes are received for conveyance by caravan via Baluchistan to Afghanistan and the northwest frontier khels.

The two most active firms engaged in this trade are owned by a Baluchi and a Frenchman. There are also in Muscat numerous small shops engaged in the trade, and numbers of the agents are "banias" from India. Mysterious cargoes are also dropped overboard in the dead of night into swift-sailing dhows and got away to obscure places along the eastern coast. It will be impossible to check this growing peril to England's peace in India without a large number of small-draught patrol boats and an efficient coastguard on the Makran coast.