

# Gun-Runners of the Persian Gulf

### A GROWING MENACE TO THE PEACE OF INDIA

BY H. MANNERS HOWE

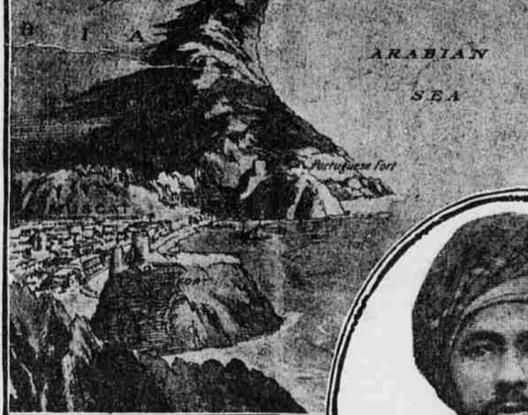


THE feeling is growing throughout the Indian army and Indian government circles that Britain is approaching a bigger campaign on the northwest frontier than has been seen in recent years. Not only are large sections of the tribesmen like the Mahsud Waziris and others exhibiting signs of increasing turbulence, 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 tribesmen, and the probable co-operation of the latter in a frontier war against the Indian Raj may easily involve the British government with Afghanistan as well.

All this, as every Indian officer knows, is involved in the continuance of the persistent gun-running which is marking the growing war fever on the Indian northwest frontier through the Persian gulf. It is not too much to say that the peace and safety of India depend upon the suppression of this trade, and yet, owing chiefly to the paucity of British naval resources there, she can do little or nothing.

Muscat, at the entrance of the gulf, is the chief center of this nefarious traffic, which is carried on by Euro-



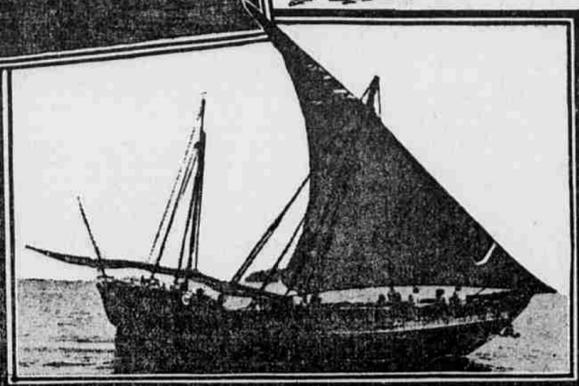
The bird's-eye view shows the territory through which the contraband guns are run. In the foreground are the bare rocky hills surrounding Muscat, the capital of Oman, while to the right is the equally bare coast of Makran, from which gun-running routes lead inland to Afghanistan. Oman is an independent 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 10,000 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 FORT AT MUSCAT



A TYPICAL DHOW IN THE PERSIAN GULF

peans 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.

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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 Kowait, 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.

"No craft," says Mr. H. Warrington Smyth, in "Mast and Sails in Europe and Asia," "has played a greater part in the world's history than the dhow. The lateen yard is as much the emblem of the Faith as is the Crescent. The true baggara, bagala, or Arab dhow, the probable parent of all the lateen-rigged offspring, is now mostly to be met with in the Red sea and eastward to the Persian gulf, Karachi, Bombay, along the Malabar coast, and down the coast of Africa to Zanzibar, making its voyages with the fair wind of the mon-

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 overhung 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 northwest 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 Ouetta 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 "outs" 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.

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 Quiloa. 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 Quiloa, 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.



FAMOUS MEN IN WISCONSIN  
Two of Them, Gen. Zachary Taylor and Second Lieut. Jefferson Davis, Became Presidents.

Three United States army forts, built before Wisconsin was a territory, did much to attract attention to what has become one of the solid commonwealths of the nation, writes Lieut. Col. J. A. Watrous in Chicago Tribune. They were Fort Howard, at Green Bay; Fort Winnebago, near Portage, in Columbia county, and Fort Crawford, at Prairie du Chien. There were soldiers in those rude forts 75 years ago and since, who became famous. Two of them, Gen. Zachary Taylor, who went to Fort Howard as a lieutenant colonel more than seventy-five years ago, and Lieut. Col. Jefferson Davis, who went there a little later,



Sometimes a Friendly Indian Did the Paddling.

became presidents, one of the United States, the other of the confederacy. These two officers were on duty for a short time in the two other forts named.

While at Fort Crawford Lieutenant Davis wooed and won General Taylor's daughter, his first wife. It is said to have been a runaway match, but that has been disputed. At all events General Taylor was so much offended that he and Lieutenant Davis were enemies until one day, while Taylor was commanding an army and Davis was colonel of a Mississippi regiment in the Mexican war, Davis was seriously wounded in battle.

At the next general election Taylor—"Old Rough and Ready," as he was called—was elected president. Four years later General Pierce was chosen president, and one of the first things he did was to offer his Mexican war comrade, Colonel Jefferson Davis, a seat in his cabinet, which the future Confederate leader accepted. He made a very good secretary of war.

Speaking of presidents, Wisconsin people do not forget that a volunteer captain from Illinois campaigned in their territory during the Black-Hawk war. He camped for a night where Whitewater now stands, and was also at Fort Atkinson before Governor W. D. Hoard made it prominent by becoming the foremost butter and cheese man in the country. That was Capt. Abraham Lincoln. Nor should I stop here. A young lieutenant, with his wife and daughter, went 70 years ago to Fort Winnebago, where the lieutenant was stationed for several years. He was R. B. Marcy. Mrs. Marcy was a prime social favorite and their girl was beloved by the entire garrison. She grew to beautiful womanhood and married a captain of the engineer corps. In 1861 the captain, who had retired to civil life, was advanced over all the officers in the army except Brevet Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott, and was placed in active command of the army. That is what happened to Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, who three years later was the choice of his party for president, and officers who knew little Miss Marcy at Fort Winnebago were almost persuaded to favor her husband's election so that she could be mistress of the White House. A recent mayor of New York is her firstborn.

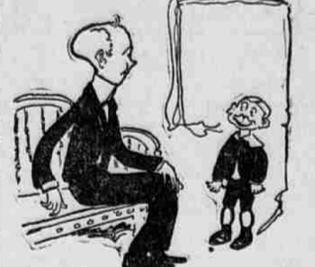
When General McClellan assumed command of the army in 1861 his father-in-law was a major and paymaster. The general lost little time in placing him on his staff as a brigadier general.

This story would not be complete without a reference to the social life at those army posts of the early days. By the Fox river it is something over 100 miles from Fort Howard to Fort Winnebago, and by the Wisconsin river from Fort Winnebago to Fort Crawford it is 120 miles. In making visits the travel was always by canoe, on the rivers named and on Lake Winnebago from Oshkosh to Neenah. The trip from Fort Howard to Fort Winnebago required a week or longer. Sometimes a friendly Indian did the paddling, but more frequently the young officers and their wives were the propellers.

## MUNYON'S PAW-PAW LIVER PILLS

I want any person who suffers with biliousness, constipation, indigestion or any liver or blood ailment, to try my Paw-Paw Liver Pills. I guarantee they will purify the blood and put the liver and stomach into a healthy condition and will positively cure biliousness and constipation, or I will refund your money. —Munyon's Homeopathic Home Remedy Co., 53rd and Jefferson Sts., Phila., Pa.

GAVE SIS AWAY.



Her Little Brother—Say, are you goin' ter marry my sister Bess?  
Her Sutor—Why, er—er—er don't know.  
Her Little Brother—Well, you are. I heard her tell pop she was goin' ter land you tonight.

When Servants Were Slaves. It hasn't been so many years since servants were practically slaves; they were bound out for a term of years and never could hope to better their conditions. The world is advancing, however, and now servants, especially those who do washing and house-cleaning, are better treated. Easy Task laundry soap, that does half the work itself, and which cleans pots and pans and painted work like magic, is responsible for much of this emancipation. Only 5 cents a cake, too.

Real Modesty. "An actor should be modest, and most actors are," said James K. Hackett at a luncheon in Pittsburg. "But I know a young actor who, at the beginning of his career, carried modesty almost too far."

This young man inserted in all the dramatic papers a want advertisement that said: "Engagement wanted—small part such as dead body or outside shouts preferred."

Faults in American Character. In an address on botanical education in America, Prof. W. F. Ganong remarks that "disregard of particulars and a tendency to easy generalities are fundamental faults in American character," and he insists upon the necessity of laboratory and experimental work in all scientific study. Books "ease the wits," but independent observation is the source of sound knowledge in science.

In the Suburb. "What beautiful public building is that?"  
"That isn't a public building. It's old man Savitt's summer cottage."

"And whose neat little cottage is that over there with the tower on it?"  
"The little one-story frame affair."

"That isn't a cottage. It's the First Episcopal church."—Life.

Thinking of Curtain Lectures. Mrs. Peck—I see the Maine Agricultural college proposes to establish lectures especially for country pastors.

Mr. Peck—What's the matter, ain't none of the parsons up there married?

I have come to see that cleverness, success, attainment, count for little; that goodness, or character, is the important factor in life.—Romanes.

## Cut Out Breakfast Cooking

Easy to start the day cool and comfortable if

# Post Toasties

are in the pantry ready to serve right from the package. No cooking required; just add some cream and a little sugar.

Especially pleasing these summer mornings with berries or fresh fruit.

One can feel cool in hot weather on proper food.

"The Memory Lingers"

POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd.  
Battle Creek, Mich.