

PECULIAR SECT IN MESOPOTAMIA

Are Known as Yesedi, Number 60,000 Souls and Live Across Tigris at Mosul.

According to a writer in the Pioneer there exist a community in Mesopotamia which worship the devil.

They are known as the "Yesedi" and are a semi-barbarous race of mixed Arab origin—Arab and Kurdish. They number some 60,000 souls, the majority of whom dwell in the Jebel Sinjar Hills, opposite to Mosul, east of the River Tigris. In smaller numbers they are to be found in Aleppo, Diarbakir, Tifis and Teheran.

They speak a dialect a Kurdish, are industrious, very abstemious, courageous and hospitable, and are steeped in ignorance. Is this any wonder, when their religion forbids the study of letters? Their numbers have been considerably diminished by persecution, and only a few years ago the Turks (in 1892) massacred some thousands of them.

Their religion is really a survival of primitive superstition overlaid with elements of Christianity, Judaism and Mahomedanism. They believe there are two great spirits—"Melek Taus," the devil, and "Malek Isa," Jesus. Each of these spirits are to reign 10,000 years; but as the devil is, they say, at present supreme, he is accorded the highest place.

Four thousand years of his reign are now over and when the remaining 6,000 years pass away then Jesus will appear and drive the devil into hell, where he will weep so copiously that the fires of hell will be extinguished by his tears. He will then be pardoned and restored to his former position as Chief of Archangels.

The reason for placing Jesus in the sacred category is that his reign is not yet, and being merciful, good and slow in anger, and of great kindness He is not therefore, to be dreaded or feared.

At their great feasts one sheep is sacrificed to Jesus and seven to the devil, because the latter is a jealous and exacting god. They believe in the incarnation and passion of Jesus, but not His death on the Cross. His first coming was, they consider, a failure, because He was unable to break the power of sin.

They respect the sign of the Cross, reverence the sun and moon, and daily kiss the ground where the sun's rays first strikes the ground. They believe in a Supreme Being but do not worship Him as being Lord of Heaven. He takes no account of the earth or the things that dwell therein. Mahomed is regarded as a prophet, and Mecca is looked upon as a holy place. Though there is no actual evidence that they worship serpents, the walls of their temples are adorned with images of high black serpents. It is considered very impious to spit into fire. Lamps are also continuously kept burning in front of the ark in which the images of the devil are kept.

The Story of The Creation.

The Yesedis believe they were created from Adam and Eve, but that there were 71 Adams and Eves from whom all the rest of the world were created—each of these Adams and Eves are reputed to have lived 10,000 years each. It is said that in the beginning Adam and Eve had a dispute as to which of them possessed creative powers. To settle this dispute they spat into separate vases, which were then sealed for nine months. When opened at the end of this period, in Eve's vase were found reptiles and worms, etc.; while in Adam's vase were two very lovely children—a girl and a boy—from whom the Yesedi sprang. Eve was so incensed at the result that she refused to suckle the children, but



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God provided Adam with beasts, and he suckled them for two years.

An interesting story is also told in regard to the flood. The ark drifted on to the Sinjar, the highest of their mountains; but as the ark was coming to rest, the mountain bucked or lifted suddenly with such great force as to drive a hole in the ark which began to sink. Noah was at his wits end to know what to do when the serpent approached him and offered to plug the hole with his body by coiling himself up in it, provided Noah would grant him a favor which was to permit him to live under the armpits of men and suck the blood from them.

While this conversation was proceeding between the snake and Noah a swallow swooped down and pecked the snake on the head and in pain he called out "Akh," "Akh," which means earth, earth in Kurdish, so Noah thought the snake wished to crawl on the earth on his stomach and accordingly granted his request. After Noah had granted these requests the ark was saved, but Noah repented of his promises to the snake, and collecting all the snakes that were in the ark he burnt them, but from their ashes sprang other snakes which to this day inhabit the earth and pester the human race.

"The man who had his arm broken in two places should stay away from those places," says the Safety League.

GRASS LOSSES "PEP," BONES AND ASHES ARE FED TO COWS.

Even grass is not as good as it used to be. Farmers at the annual meeting of the Toronto and York Milk Producers' last week learned that their cows might eat as much grass as they did twenty years ago, but they would not give as much milk. The cows are not to blame, Prof. H. H. Dean told the farmers. It is the grass.

Soil has been used for so long in Ontario, the professor said, that some of the minerals necessary to produce the lactic fluid in large quantities had been exhausted.

But scientists had discovered means to remedy the defect in the grass. By adding finely ground bones and wood ashes to the cow's daily menu the milk yield had been increased as much as twenty-five per cent.

The farmers went home rejoicing for on nearly every farm is yet to be found a wood-lot and bones can be obtained much more easily in the country than in the city.

100 and Hasn't Danced. Winsted, Conn., Sept. 22.—Mrs. Lucy H. Trout, who has just observed her 100th birthday, has only one regret. She has never danced. All her life, she confided to friends, she has wanted to, but her parents' religious beliefs forbade it.

LORD BURNHAM SAYS FAREWELL TO THE DOMINION

Head of Imperial Press Conference Makes Strong Plea For National Stability in Canada and in the Empire.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Quebec, Sept. 21.—Viscount Burnham, who acted as president of the Imperial Press Conference, and was head of the great mission of newspaper men during their entire stay in the country, was the guest of honor, at a luncheon offered by the Quebec men's Canadian Club at the Chateau Frontenac at noon today. Lord Burnham made his adieu to the province of Quebec, and this city in particular, and to Canada in general, expressing his delight at his visit to the Dominion with the press delegates and saying he sincerely hoped he would soon again be given the opportunity of returning to Canada and the great and generous hospitality its people had offered the Imperial Pressmen.

Lord Burnham said that he wished to emphasize strongly the need of national stability here and everywhere because it was stability the Empire stood in need of today. I don't say, "let us rest and be thankful," said Lord Burnham in concluding his address.

Lord Burnham also spoke of the development of trade relations between Canada and the other parts of the Empire, and his address was greeted with loud applause by all those who were present at the luncheon.

SEARCHING THE ATLANTIC FOR SPAWNING EELS

Cardiff, Wales, Sept. 2.—Dr. Johannes Schmidt, a Danish scientist, is searching the Atlantic between the Azores and the West Indies for spawning fresh water eels, which the eye of man has never seen.

This announcement was made by Dr. W. A. Herdman, professor of oceanography at Liverpool University, in his presidential address before the annual conference of the British Association. "All the eels of the streams and lakes of northwestern Europe," Dr. Herdman said, "live and feed and grow under our eyes without reproducing their kind; no spawning eel has ever been seen. After living for years in immaturity, at the end of their lives, the large male and female yellow eels undergo a change in appearance and in nature. They acquire a silvery color and their eyes enlarge, and in this brief attire they commence the long journey which ends in maturity, reproduction and death."

"I migrate in the autumn to the coast, from the inhospitable sea to the open ocean and still westward and south to the mid-Atlantic and we know not how far they go. The exact locality and manner of spawning have still to be discovered. The youngest known stages of the leptocephalus, the larval stage of eels, have been found by Dr. Schmidt in the west of the Azores where the water is more than 2,000 fathoms in depth. These were about one-third of an inch in length and were probably not long hatched. Now Dr. Schmidt is traversing the Atlantic in the hope of finding the missing link in the chain, the actual spawning fresh water eel, in the intermediate waters somewhere above the abysses of the open ocean."

NEW MAMMOTH OF OLDEN DAYS

The curators of the Launceston and Tasmanian Museums have presented to the Royal Society of Tasmania the preliminary account of a nearly complete skeleton of a gigantic extinct monster, recently discovered in the pleistocene beds of Tasmania. The animal, as large as the largest existing rhinoceros, was first described from a few bones by the late Sir Richard Owen at the meeting of the British Association in York in 1844. He named it *Nototherium mitchelli*, and recognized that it belonged to the marsupials or pouched animals, but had too scanty material to give a full description. It has generally been supposed to be a relative of the wombat or marsupial bear, but the new discovery shows clearly that it was a rhinoceros-like animal, with a skull built for aggressive warfare, and at least one powerful horn on the snout. Evidence of the gigantic battles in which the animal engaged is to be found in the complete smashing and partial mending of the collar-bone, and in the crushing and subsequent repair of the bones of the nose and snout.

This most interesting find adds to the knowledge of the peculiar parallel development found among the pouched animals of Australasia. All these marsupial animals represent a lower grade of evolution than the familiar animals of the rest of the world, and appear to have developed along lines of their own, shut off from the general stream of mammalian evolution. None the less they mimic in a striking way the orders into which the higher mammals have become divided. There are small marsupial rats and mice, rabbits and hares, land herbivora of all sizes from the small wallabies to large kangaroos, carnivorous forms like the Tasmanian devil and the wolf or thylacine, pouched flying squirrels, pouched ground bears and tree bears. Many large extinct marsupials are known, and opinion is coming round to the original description of Owen's *Thylacoleo* as a carnivore.

It is to be remembered that these marsupials are entirely independent developments of the mammalian life; there is no suggestion, for example, that the marsupial rhinoceros is related, except in shape and habits, to the true rhinoceros.

An investigation is being held as to what caused the death of Miss Winnifred Hamm, of Mahone, N. S., who died recently in Montreal. An inquest was held in Mahone recently and a verdict returned to the effect that the young lady died from unnatural causes and not from heart failure as stated in the medical certificate. It is said evidence of an operation was found.

"A careless man is shortsighted," says the Safety League.



Fry's Cocoa Girl

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HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETS IN MONCTON

Moncton, N.B., Sept. 21.—C. O. Foster, chief engineer of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, and Mr. Mitchell of Montreal, consulting engineer, were in town today attending a meeting of the commission. It is understood that surveys and plans for the Musquash and Shegomec power schemes

are practically completed and the engineers estimate the cost of power at these sites is reasonable and that it will be possible to supply power to municipalities at from one cent to two cents per kilowatt hour according to the length of the transmission line.

The work of development is to proceed with all reasonable despatch and Mr. Foster, the chief engineer, has referred all plans to Mr. Helgate of Montreal.

Mitchell Brothers of Montreal, who are consulting engineers in connection with the Nova Scotia development have been engaged to supervise the New Brunswick development as well.

The well known firm of Toombs & Son have disposed of its business to a company comprised of local and outside parties who will take charge of the business on Monday next. Toombs & Son have conducted a successful wholesale

grocery and feed business in Moncton for the last twenty-five years, the business being started by the present manager, former Mayor John B. Toombs.

Bull Fighting vs. Baseball.

Madrid, Sept. 22.—Bull-fighting, from the spectators' point of view, is becoming almost as strenuous as baseball. Bull-fight "fans" at Haro, displeased with the work of the terro, assailed him with a volley of stones. He was obliged to seek police protection. "Pop" bottles are not available at Spanish bullfights, and spectators are therefore obliged to fall back upon stones as ammunition when they feel impelled to demonstrate their disapproval.

"The safety habit is contagious. Be sure to catch it," says the Safety League.

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