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THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS

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The Ameer's Vengeance

When Sir Charles Euan Smith, who died not long ago in England, was in the market place of an Afghanistan town he was fired at by a native. He lodged complaint with the Ameer, who appeared to take no notice of the incident, merely remarking, "That's all right." Sir Charles complained again and met with the same reply. He still thought that the Ameer was treating a serious matter with less consideration than it deserved, but the subject did not seem to interest him. About a week afterward he was invited by the Ameer to ride with him. They rode for some distance outside the town and passed gibbet after gibbet. At length Sir Charles said: "Your Highness has been busy of late." "Oh, no," replied the Ameer, "they are your little lot." He had taken all the members of the would-be assassin's family and mangled every one of them.

Angry Samoan Women

ARMED WITH WHIPS AND STICKS THEY ATTACKED A MALE CRITIC.

The latest news from the South Seas brings a story which illustrates, in a fashion at once comic and serious, the chief difficulty of the German empire-builder in Samoa, to wit, the readiness of the German settler to intermarry with the native women. The white population of the German colony is about 500, and there are already about 1,100 half castes. Of the twenty married German officials no fewer than twelve have Samoan wives. As the native girls nearly always speak English and refuse to learn German, the

frequency of these mesalliances causes particular disquiet in colonial circles in the fatherland. In April last a German settler named Michaels took it into his head to express these truths in a letter to the colonial newspaper, adding that quite apart from race considerations the Samoan women made inefficient and unworthy wives. Seldom has an author had more gratifying proof of his power to arouse interest and inspiration. The very next morning a deputation of several hundred Samoan women of various shades waited upon him armed with whips, sticks and gardening tools. The police were just in time to rescue Michaels by taking him into custody. But the dusky amazons scored in spite of the police, for the authorities had to bundle their clamorous orator out of the island as the only means of preventing serious trouble.

Manitoba is Quite Old.

For 200 Years Fur Traders Kept Most Settlers out of it.

It may surprise many people who as late as ten years ago looked upon Manitoba as on the edge of the world to know that Manitoba probably is the oldest settled section of the North American continent west of the Mississippi River and north of New Mexico. It was near the present site of Winnipeg that Lord Selkirk settled his Red River colonists in 1813.

Away up in the Peace River country, 200 miles north of Edmonton, the Hudson's Bay Company has a wheat mill that has been in operation for fifty years. And Edmonton is 1,000 miles west of Winnipeg and

about 300 miles north of the United States line. The mill grinds wheat that is grown in the great fur region.

As a matter of fact western Canada was thoroughly explored many years earlier than was the district between the Missouri River and the Pacific coast in the United States. But for 200 years it was exploited by the fur traders, who discouraged every effort to turn it into an agricultural region. The factors of the fur company resisted the incoming of the farmer.

The American is ubiquitous in western Canada now. He is on the farm, in the towns, in the cities, in the irrigated districts, working hard and setting the pace for his neighbors. They have caught the boom spirit from him, and some of them, like the young Scot, even go him one better at times.

Yet they have reasons to boast, says the Columbian Magazine. Ten years ago Winnipeg had only 40,000 inhabitants. Ten years before that it was a small town. It is now the largest single inland grain market in the world.

Saskatchewan, the middle of the three prairie provinces, is an empire in itself covering an area of approximately 250,000 square miles. Only the southern half has been touched, and less than a quarter has been developed to any extent. Still it does fairly well. In 1900 its wheat crop amounted to 3,443,771 bushels. Now it raises from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels annually. Its oat crop has grown from 1,600,000 bushels in 1908 to more than 100,000,000 bushels annually.

Alberta, the province just west of Saskatchewan, is following right along. It is the southern part of Alberta, near Calgary, in the Bow River Valley, where the largest single irrigation project in the world outside of Egypt has been undertaken by the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Three million acres are to be irrigated when the work is completed; about half a million acres are now under the ditch.

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St. George, Aug. 31, 1911.

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