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Fez the Ancient and Sacred City

By CARLETON ASHWELL.

Fez, for the possession of which the Rifis and the Krim are contending, is a story with a long history. Below Mr. Carleton Ashwell describes it, and tells something of its real significance. Fez, towards whose crumbling ancient walls the Rifian hordes are advancing rapidly, is a city of ancient dreams. Once its white walls dominated the whole of northern Africa, for it was at once a great trading centre whose caravans went out to Imbuku laden with gold, ivory and leather, and a sacred city famed throughout Islam for its Mosque of Mouley Eddis. Fez, stands in a long second only to Mecca—which makes the present great battle for its possession a matter of paramount importance. On the issue depends the future of France in northern Africa, for should Fez fall, then every tribe will be in arms against the infidels and France will find herself with the concerted forces of northern Africa in conflict with her.

It is not saying too much to say that France's African empire and her huge reserves of coloured troops upon whose organization she has spent so much skill and money may go if Fez, the Sacred City, is invested by the Rifis.

There is no hint of the West in this strange oriental city. Its narrow sunless streets, thronged with Arabs, Berbers, negroes and Jews of mixed race, are those of the East of ten thousand years ago.

Fez has been for many centuries two things; a famous centre of Islamic religious training—it possesses an unique library of sacred books containing some forty thousand volumes; and it has been, as I have said, a trading centre. Scholars gravitate towards Fez, and in the university of the Mosque of Mouley Eddis embryo priests study the sacred learning.

Ringed about by fertile land Fez is indeed a picturesque city. In the lush orchards all about the city are stretches of olive groves, oranges splash their vivid colour under the burning sun and pomegranates ripen to perfection. It is a fertile and desirable terrain, and its proximity to the Atlantic seaboard—it is but a hundred miles from the coast town of Ragat—make it strategically of prime importance.

In the Fifteenth century Yussuf Ibn Tashfin proclaimed Fez capital of an independent kingdom. A century later it was incorporated with Morocco, from which time its decline as city of first rank started.

Decay has laid a destructive hand upon its ancient buildings, the ancient palace of the Sultans is rapidly crumbling, its old walls are ruinous, its streets uneven and its houses decrepit.

Yet at the moment it stands as the guerdon of the two factions fighting for its possession. It is, as it were, the Ypres of northern Africa, and upon the present battle depends the whole issue of the long-drawn-out fighting with the redoubtable chieftain Abd el Krim.

CONFEDERATION LIFE. —
aug17.3mos

Tons of Fish Perish

MYSTERIOUS DESTRUCTION ON THE BROADS.

Recently practically the whole of the fish of Hickling Broad and Heigham Sound, Norfolk, has been destroyed.

Water from the Broad has been taken for analysis, and some of the dead fish are being examined to find the cause of their death.

Live bait used by fishermen dies as soon as it enters the water, which has acquired a noticeably green tinge. Cattle have been stopped from drinking it.

For some days thousands of eels, bream, pike, and roach have been observed floating down the Thurne, an affluent of the River Bure. Both sides of Heigham Channel, Kendal Dyke, and the Thurne have been covered with dying fish. Most of the fish come to the surface in a half-dead condition and then die.

Pike weighing 15lb., eels over 7lb., and bream up to 5lb. have been picked up. It is estimated that of eels alone several tons have been destroyed. Fifteen stones of fish were found dead in one of the eel catcher's nets.

Thousands of herring gulls and a number of carrion crows have invaded Hickling Broad and Heigham Sound, feasting on the fish.

One theory is that the very low barometric pressure on the day before the trouble began may have allowed marsh gas to be released from the bed of the broads.

New Expedition to Seek for Gold

COCOS ISLANDS BURIED TREASURE WORTH MILLIONS IS OBJECTIVE.

LONDON, Nov. 11.—Despite scores of failures and disappointed hopes, one more expedition is about to endeavor to wrest the romantic secret of Cocos Island and recover the £14,000,000 treasure known to be buried there. Its leader is Lieut. F. W. Kealey, who organized the Pacific expedition which recently returned to England in the steam yacht St. George. He will adopt novel methods, will use the latest scientific appliances, and will draw on the most recent scientific discoveries. In this way he hopes to succeed where others have been defeated. There are at least three vast pirate hoards in Cocos—a little island, fourteen miles in circumference, 600 miles west of Panama. Doubtless, bars of gold and silver, sword hilts encrusted with precious stones, Church plate, and a life-size golden figure of the Virgin are among the treasures which await discovery. One of the hoards has been found and lost again.

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For Music

"The Board of Trade have decreed that in fog, mist, falling snow, or heavy rain storms every vessel at sea shall make as much noise as possible, and so we find that immediately fog clouds the horizon the bridge officer, heaving a sigh heavy enough to close a church door, lets loose upon the world a shriek as of fearful agony," says a writer in the Nautical Magazine.

"His shipmates in the watch below toasting about on lumps of horsehair and oakum give up all hope of sleep when once they hear that bellow of pain, for they know that being a conscientious navigator the man on the bridge will obey law and faithfully jerk the siren siren every two minutes, making the night a long drawn out agony of discordant howling and shrieking."

"A fog watch must be experienced to be believed. It is a terrible four hours, punctuated one hundred and twenty times by a long blast on a steam whistle made in Germany and toned by one of their arch plottings with designs on the nerves of those who man Britain's Merchant Marine."

"Away on the port quarter comes the deep toned growl of a lordly liner, heralding her approach to the man who somewhat ahead is responsible for a tramp steamer's wall in F. ship. Mixed up with these is the indignant snorting of a South-bound coal boat, the musical double note of a Scandinavian four-poster, the asthmatical wheezing from a couple of tugboats and the fishing fleet's piping treble."

"To these the bridge officer contributes his quota, and altogether it sounds to him as if he is lost amid a whole fleet of every type of ship on the ocean surrounded by every sort of steam whistle known to man, yet helpless to do anything but listen and look—at fog."

Keep Wednesday the 25th open to attend the Congregational Ladies' Aid Sale. —nov19.21

Attorney Questions Right to MURDER IMBECILE DAUGHTER

Joel E. Stone, newly young prosecuting attorney in Littleton, Col., has outlined to a jury the route by which he hopes to send an aged physician to prison for life for the murder of his deformed and imbecile daughter.

"Who are we to say that any person put on earth by the 'Supreme Being shall cease to live'? the young attorney asked recently.

It was the opening of the trial of 61-year-old Dr. Harold Blazer, the man who chloroformed his 32-year-old daughter Hazel, to end her suffering and to prevent her becoming a burden on society.

Defense and State attorneys, weary after two days of wrangling over the venue, agreed to the fitness of the thirteenth man, a substitute in case of illness of one of the regular jurors, and one of the most sensational murder trials ever held in the West began.

On the jury are four farmers from the foothills of the Rockies, one laborer, one garage man, two carpenters, one druggist, one blacksmith, one baker, one auditor and a pool-room owner. Two of the thirteen are unmarried, and one is a widower.

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Board Inquiries Into Dole Abuses

PERSONNEL OF MINISTRY OF LABOR COMMITTEE TO STUDY SYSTEM.

LONDON, Nov. 11.—(C.P.)—Abuses, in connection with the so-called dole, includes representatives of capital,

are likely to engage considerable attention at the hands of a committee of enquiry set up by the Ministry of Labor to investigate the desirability of making changes in the unemployment insurance scheme.

Lord Blanesburg, a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1919 to 1923 will preside over the committee of enquiry, which

labor, finance and local government. The personnel includes, Frank Hodges, former Labor M.P., and Civil Lord of the Admiralty in the late Labor Government; Viscountess Milner, widow of Viscount Milner, who died last May, and Miss Margaret Bondfield, ex-M.P., Under-Secretary to the Minister of Labor in the Ramsay MacDonald Administration.

Household Notes.

Use brown or rye bread for peanut butter sandwiches.
Fresh fish has flesh that is firm and elastic to the touch.
Flavor candied sweet potatoes with ginger or cinnamon.

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