

Little People of Africa

PYGMIES WHO DANCE AND SING ALL DAY.

LONDON, April 29.—The romance of travel is not dead.

Fancy a trip on foot across Africa in which you have a forest lit up by night by fireflies, days and days with pygmies, adventures with people who call both the elephant and the white man "father," a diet strange to white men, including delicious tea made from lemon grass, and finally an earthquake which shakes down a house, yet hurts nobody, and does not break so much as a teacup.

These are some of the experiences of an expedition of which the leader is Mr. Fairbairn.

Hiding in the dark, occupied six months, was from the west coast at the mouth of the Congo to the east coast at Mombasa. Canibans come into the story, for the travelers passed through one village in which nine human beings were said to have been eaten in a fortnight.

But the great excitement of the journey centered about the pygmies, little people whose the tallest did not exceed 3 feet 9 inches in height.

They are very ancient, and the evidence seems to suggest that they once were the tallest of the forest depths to secure themselves from persecution by stronger tribes. Where they are becoming bolder, and breaking out into open clearing, and they are said to be deteriorating; but it really means in better conditions they are coming to be dwarfs.

Fear of the White Man.

But the pygmies whom Mr. Fairbairn met were truly Peter Pans. At first they were terribly afraid of the white men, and only four could be induced, by presents of salt and cloth, to approach. They afterwards brought more of their tribe, and finally the whole expedition was admitted to the pygmies' village.

It was truly Peter Pan-like in character, with a dash of twigs and leaves in the forest, but built snug and secure underneath bushy trees. To the white men the village was invisible; they could not see a single dwelling, and the dwellers stopped them and pointed them out.

The pygmies all have arrows tipped with a deadly poison, but they used none against their guests. Instead, they obtained their guests to dance to them—songs strange and not unpleasant, dances which expressed love, sorrow, hatred, violence, war.

Earthquake in the Camp.

In the gloom of the forest, with only the flames from a log fire to light the scene, the picture must have been amazing. The pygmies seemed like elves or gnomes, squat, hairy little creatures, straight out of a book of fairy lore.

In good humor and kindness they danced the hours away, then vanished like elfin lightning, says Mr. Fairbairn. No wonder that for two thousand years white men scoffed at the old story that pygmies really existed in Africa.

It was like a dreamland, and when, later on, an earthquake threw down the early's temporary dwelling and damaged nothing but the house, it only seemed part of a waking dream.

Mr. Fairbairn has caught the glamour and thrill of travel in dangerous places, and he enables us to realize that yearning which all explorers have to visit again the scenes of their suffering and triumph.

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UNCONDITIONAL YES

demands, was drawn up at a conference

this forenoon by the foreign min-

isters of Great Britain, France, Italy and

Belgium.

This declaration was submitted to the

supreme council of the Allies, when it

met at 12.30 o'clock.

The proceedings in the council of for-

eign ministers, which comprised Lord

Curzon, Premier Briand, who also is the

French foreign minister, Count Storza

and M. Jaspard, are described as hav-

ing proceeded smoothly, and that they

drew up the document to take its

final form in the supreme council, it was

explained.

The interval of a few days provided

for in the ultimatum of negotiation, it

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to this point of view and added that

the course of the United States had

been absolutely correct.

Uncertainty still exists among the

French delegates over the possibility

that the United States may endeavor to

mediate. They declare this would not

be acceptable to them. The cause of

this impression is not clear, but some

of the delegates have made it under-

stood that it does not originate with the

French ambassador, M. Jusserand.

French Adverse to Delay.

M. Briand and the whole French de-

legation are sitting late tonight with

General Nollet, president of the inter-

allied commission, who was summoned

by the French premier from Berlin to

state his views.

Notwithstanding the agreement the

French are not entirely satisfied with

today's developments, and the idea of

an ultimatum which is believed to have

been largely due to the influence of

the British ambassador to Germany,

Lord d'Abernon. M. Briand was adverse

to delay, and it is reported that he has

been endeavoring to make the German

compliance, some move should be made

today.

Indeed, the French premier had de-

clared before the meeting of the coun-

cil that he desired to see the plan of

menace of new penalties for to-

day. I mean by this that the necessary

order for mobilization will be given

and that I am in my position. I

cannot act otherwise.

CONTINUE REPARATIONS.

LONDON, May 1.—A plan for recon-

ciliation with Germany and the French

views with regard to the steps to be

taken to enforce the payment of re-

parations by Germany was submitted

by M. Jaspard, Belgian foreign minister,

at a meeting of the supreme council

this afternoon.

This plan now is under consideration

by the British cabinet, the Allied ex-

perts, and the other delegations, and

it will be further discussed at another

meeting of the council at 11 o'clock

Monday morning.

The plan would allow France to con-

tinue her preparations for the penalties

to be applied in view of the failure of

Germany to comply with the terms of

the treaty with respect to reparations

and war criminals, and at the same

time would meet the British views that

Germany would be given a short ex-

ension of time to meet the allied terms

and give guarantees.

M. Jaspard's plan proposes, first, that

the terms should be submitted to Ger-

many, and second, that the allied ex-

perts should be authorized to make

that immediate military preparations

should be made to enforce the terms

at the conclusion of the period named

in the ultimatum. Mr. Lloyd George

did not object to the plan, but he

before consulting his cabinet, which he

did soon after the council broke up.

Even then all that British officials

would say was "there seems to be a

movement of opinion on the part of

the Allies favoring this suggestion."

Hope was expressed that the experts

would submit a unanimous report on

tomorrow's meeting of the council.

There was only a short meeting to-

day of the council, the one fixed for

this morning being called off, as the

experts, who had been at work hours

on the subject, had not yet finished

the French plans, and because of the

new situation arising in view of the

British learning of the reparations com-

mission's report with regard to Ger-

many's indebtedness to the Allies. The

matter Briand and Mr. Lloyd George

however, had a half-hour's conversa-

tion.

The afternoon session, at which M.

Jaspard's proposal was submitted, ad-

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