

WINNERS AT THE GUELPH FAIR



Prize winning Hereford steers owned by the University of Alberta, after their victories at the Chicago show

BRITISH OFFICER
MASQUERADED IN
MANY DISGUISES

Sent on Special Mission to
Soviet Government of Turk-
estan — Bokharan Advent-
ures.

Major F. M. Bailey, of the Indian Political Service, which was sent in August, 1918, on a special mission to the Soviet government of Turkestan, and of whose whereabouts for over a year there was no news—it was feared that he had been killed by the Bolsheviks—was lectured last night before the Royal Geographical Society, says the London Times of November 23.

Major Bailey spent two months in the autumn of 1919 in Bokhara in the assumed capacity of a Bolshevik spy, and afterwards made his escape, together with some companions, across the Kara Kum desert to Northern Persia. His lecture dealt with his experiences in Bokhara, a Moslem city, famed throughout the east for the fanaticism of its inhabitants, and with his journey across the desert, the home of nomad Turkomans, where every man's hand is against his neighbor.

It may be recalled that recently Red troops invaded Bokhara and that the Emir is in flight. During the Tsardom the position of Bokhara was similar to that of an Indian native state. At the time of Major Bailey's visit the Bolsheviks had recognized the complete independence of the state, but relations between the Bolsheviks at Tashkent and the Bokharans were very strained.

Describing his life in Bokhara, Major Bailey said: The bazaar is most interesting. There is a special Jewish quarter and a Hindu Seral, where about 25 Hindus were living. They are all small traders and money-lenders. The Hindus and Jews are not allowed to ride a horse or in a carriage in the town and are obliged to wear a string round their waist outside their cloaks, and may not carry arms. Russians, when in Bokhara,

wear the brilliantly colored khalat or robe over their own clothes and on the heads the small soft skull-cap, or in winter a fur cap of the Russian pattern. The Bokharan Army.

The Emir of Bokhara lives in a palace, Sitar Nahassar, about two or three miles outside the town, and nowadays never enters the city. An important officer is the Kazi Kalan, or chief justice, who was frequently seen riding in the streets with his spare horses all gorgeously clothed following behind him, and preceded by a man on horseback, carrying an axe as a sign of office. Official couriers also attracted attention by carrying their passports bound in their turban for all to see.

Troops could frequently be seen marching through the streets; they gave the impression of extreme inefficiency coupled with complete confidence. The officers wear Russian badges of rank. I once saw a captain playing a fife in the band. The generals are invariably respectable looking old men with long white beards, and are preceded by about a dozen mounted men carrying white wands. All ranks are plastered with numerous medals and decorations. The city is surrounded by a ruined but still strong wall about 7½ miles in circuit. The houses are very densely packed together, and there are no open spaces or gardens, except for a patch of reeds near the city wall, in which one day I put up a pleasant. A curious thing about Bokhara is the absence of sparrows. It is the only large city that I now where this bird is never seen, though it is of course common in the surrounding country.

Many Disguises.

Of the dangers which attended his journey, Major Bailey said little, but admitted that great caution was required, as Bolshevik spies "were frequently caught and drastically dealt with" by the Bokharans. He was himself arrested when walking on the walls, but secured his release. To the Bokharans he represented himself as an Australian prisoner of war. Just before he reached Bokhara, being then in company with some Afghans, a private cipher from Tashkent was received, asking that careful inquiries should be made about "Colonel Bailey of the Anglo-Indian Service." To this "we sent a reply calculated to put the Bolshevik authorities off the scent."

Of the difficulties surmounted in making his escape from Bokhara, Major Bailey gave only a hint. Apart from the risk of the discovery of his identity, the crossing of the desert itself was full of perils. The appearance of the desert was that of a stormy sea of brown sand, the waves or hillocks being 10 to 20 feet high in most places, and the distant horizon appearing absolutely flat.

Carried Leavened Bread.

For food (said Major Bailey) we carried Russian sukhari. This is ordinary leavened bread dried in the oven. It keeps indefinitely, and though very hard can be eaten when soaked in tea. We also carried a little fresh meat for the first day or two. Later, a Persian showed us how to fry lumps of meat in fat with a good deal of salt, which kept good a surprisingly long time.

For water the party was dependent on wells, and these were few and far apart. On one occasion one of our Turkoman companions said he could now take us to a well. We followed him and after 25 miles we reached a well where we were fortunate enough to find inhabitable. The water was pulled up in a leather sack by two camels, and I paced the length of the rope and made it 250 yards, and the well must have been over 150 feet deep. The two camels took about 9½ minutes to lift a skin full of

water. Had we reached the well to find it unoccupied, as had been the case with all the others, we could not have obtained a drop of water, as we had no rope either long or strong enough. Most of the wells we had used were between 60 and 100 feet deep, and these comparatively shallow ones always contained bitter water.

On January 1 we had a blizzard, which deposited about five inches of snow, but luckily we had a hut to stop in. Usually we simply lay down on the ground at dusk and got up at day-break, when it was bitterly cold with a hard frost. The snow was very fortunate for us, as it made us independent of wells and we were always sure of fresh water instead of the usual ration of brine, though it was unpleasant to sleep in the snow at night. About this time of year snowstorms swept over the desert, but the hot sun soon melts the snow, and as if by magic small shoots of grass appear. It is for this grating that the Turkomans bring out their enormous flocks of sheep.

The whole nomad Turkoman population lives in constant fear of robbers of their own race. This was exemplified on several occasions. Major Bailey and his companions being taken for bandits by various bands as well as by peaceful ones. The consequence was that they could not barter, and had nothing to eat for several days except the ponies' food, which they either purchased or boiled, according to the individual taste.

A CHILD HERO.

(Boston Globe.)

Not many youngsters get into the hero class at the age of 5, but Charles Roberts has upset all precedents.

When his mother leaped into Providence Harbor in an effort to save her little daughter, who had fallen overboard, tiny Charles kept his wits, seized a long rope from the deck and tossed one end over the side for his mother to grasp until rescued.

Charles is the son of Capt. Perry Roberts of the barge Electra. Since the ship had been able to toddle about the harbor his dad has carefully instructed him in the fundamentals of life aboard ship and the proper things to do in emergencies. Little did either father or son think that the lad would have a chance to save the life of his own mother when Capt. Roberts taught him how to heave a line over the rail.

But such was the case. The other day Charles' tiny sister fell overboard into Providence Harbor. Mrs. Roberts prompted by all the yearnings and anguish of the mother heart, leaped overboard in an effort to save the girl. Unable to reach the baby daughter, she would herself have drowned had not Charles been at hand.

As stolidly as a man 10 times his age he ran for the nearest rope and heaved one end into the water where his mother was just able to grasp it. She and mother hung on until a passing tug rescued her.

HYDRO SUB-STATION FOR EAST LONDON, ONT.

London, Ont., Dec. 18.—The Ontario Power Commission has approved of plans for a Hydro sub-station in East London to cost \$350,000, to accommodate the new industrial area that the city has established there. The Public Utilities Commission will begin work on the station the first of the new year, and it will also instal filtration equipment at the Horton street pumping station at a cost of \$25,000. This equipment is designed to remove traces of sulphur, etc., from a portion of the water supply secured from the Beck artesian wells.

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HELD FOR ATTEMPT
TO WRECK MARITIME

Quebec, Dec. 17.—Ovide Lemieux, of Cap St. Ignace, has been arrested in connection with the attempt to wreck the Maritime express by placing ties on the track near the Cap St. Ignace station on Wednesday. He pleaded not guilty, was refused bail and remanded until Dec. 22.

LARGEST CHRYSANTHEMUM.

London, Dec. 18.—Described as the largest chrysanthemum yet grown, the "Louisa Packett" on exhibition at a flower show here, has a circumference of thirty inches.

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