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The Druse Revolt Against France in Syria

His Majesty Atash Pasha, Sultan of the Druses and leader of the spirited Anti-French outbreak in Syria, has been talking to a German correspondent, we are told, and declaring that the Druses must have complete independence, while the French will be permitted to act only as advisers.

"The French pressure upon the Druse people had become absolutely unbearable," General Sarraill never was ready to receive our representatives or to accept our complaints against Governor Carbillat. All the rights that the French granted to us in 1921 had been disregarded. Our leaders had been arrested, and every evening tales were spread. I can assure you that, although the cause of the uprising was only the disregard of the complaints of the Druse people, the movement is by no means purely local significance, and it is to be regarded as the beginning of a general revolt in Syria."

The Vossische Zeitung's correspondent's arrival "was coincidental with that of the parliamentarians who had been sent to the French High Commissioner," and his report continues:

"They told me that the French peace terms called for the payment by the Druses of £5,000 as war indemnification, for full compensation by the Druses to merchants whose property had been plundered or otherwise damaged, and for the return by the Druses of the arms they had cap-

tured in action. Sultan Atash told me that his reply would be that these demands were unacceptable to the Druses. The Druses felt that they, not the French, were the ones attacked and that, consequently, the latter ought to pay a war indemnity. He did not demand compensation for the Druse tribes for collecting compensation itself. The captured arms would never be returned to the French voluntarily. The Druses had won them with their blood and would keep them."

"When I told the Sultan that the French had apparently accepted the Druse Parliamentarians' demands regarding amnesty and autonomy, so that the Jebel Druse district would have a Druse Governor and could be administered by a Druse Council of State, the Sultan replied that he could not be content with mere autonomy of the Druse district, as he and his entire people demanded the complete independence of all Syria."

"When the correspondent asked what His Majesty meant by 'all Syria,' he was told that the term 'covered the Mantat country, without Lebanon, but with Alautien,' and—

"In answer to more detailed questions about the kind of independence demanded by him, Atash said: 'We want our own free parliament, our national Army, our national Government, and our King or President as head of the State. The French must be satisfied, like the English in Iraq, to function only as advisers.'"

"When I went on to say that France could not grant these demands, the Sultan said that the French had 6,000 men in Syria, altogether, that they had their hands full in Morocco, and were not able to send reinforcements. On the other hand, he had plenty of friends and allies."

"Telegraph to your newspaper," he added, "that if France dares to attack the Druse people, revolt will break out in all Syria. We have but one conviction—it is better to die fighting than to live as we have until now."

After this interview with Atash Pasha, the correspondent "visited the

battle-field of Mezraa, where the French had been the victims of a surprise attack three weeks before." He tells us:

"There I saw many unburied French soldiers, strip of their uniforms, three wrecked tanks, which had been captured by a Druse rush and turned over by sheer muscle power, and also two cannon, and other war material left on the field."

"In Soueida, which I also visited, I saw the barracks, in which the French garrison is besieged by the insurgents. The city is entirely in the hands of the Druses."

"My general impression is that the political situation is very serious, because the Sultan is being encouraged to further resistance by numerous Syrian delegations, and because the Sultan evidently counts upon a revolt in Damascus and therefore, despite his dispatching of negotiators, is in reality not inclined to begin serious peace discussions."

According to German editors, the anti-French uprising in Syria has so far caused no great losses to the French. The rebellious district, which forms a self-governing unit among the States of Syria, under the French mandate, has some 60,000 inhabitants, with a fighting force of 15,000 to 18,000 men. It is true, we are told further, that it is extremely difficult for the French to fight in this rocky and mountainous country and to send reinforcements across deserts and wildernesses, and the French forces do not exceed about 6,000 men. As we are told, fighting began on August 5, when bands of Druse raiders attacked a French detachment of 170 men and massacred about 100 of them. Soon afterward the Druses attacked a large detachment of 3,000 men that was moving to the capital of the country, Soueida, inflicted losses and took considerable booty. Most of the cities of the country, protected by French garrisons, including Soueida, have been besieged or even taken by the rebels. Yet, some German editors assert, all this is but a local affair which probably will soon be ended. But there is also, they say, a wider aspect to the problem. The uprising of the Druses is only one symptom of the general dissatisfaction prevailing in Syria. The Frankfurter Zeitung says:

"Syria had always been the most cultured part of the Ottoman Empire. It was not the main bulwark of the Arab intelligentsia. The large and flourishing commercial city of Aleppo, lying at the crossing of railroads and of caravan trails, Damascus, which has been the main centre of the Mohammedan caravans ever since the days of the Caliphate, Beirut, with its port and its Jesuit and American colleges, have always played the role of cultural centres whose influence was felt far beyond the boundaries of Syria proper. It was only with great difficulty that Djemal Pasha succeeded during the Great War in keeping Syria from separating from Turkey. When the debacle of the Turkish forces in Palestine allowed the Syrians and the Cilicians to break away from the Ottoman Empire, they were sure that the hour of freedom which had been promised to them by the Entente had come. They were, however, bitterly disappointed: like a mere African colony, proud Syria was forced to become the mandatory territory of the European Powers. It was the French who obtained the mandate. The administrative organization of Syria was carried out by General Gouraud, High Commissioner. He acted cleverly in obeying the old formula: Divide et impera. The population of the country is homogeneous in language, but it is divided into a number of religious and confessional groups."

"There are orthodox Mohammedans, Sunnites, Druses, Ismaelites, and Sheeths, and among the Christian population there are Greek Catholics, Maronites, Chaldeans, etc. The French have profited by these divisions in order to split the country into a number of States—that is to say, self-governing units. Each of these States has a constitution and a representative body, whose rights are, however, strictly limited."

One of such States, we are told further, is the country of the Druses, which became self-governing in 1921. Like the rest of the States, it is under the strict control of the French, the French Commissioner keeping his residence in its capital, the French garrisons occupying its cities. We read further in the same paper that—

"In spite of the rudeness of the military administration, and in spite of mistakes made by the French officials, for the most part men taken from the French colonies in Africa, General Gouraud was on the whole a good pacificator, especially as he respected the religious susceptibilities and prejudices of the population."

"The same, however, cannot be said of General Sarraill, who replaced him in the spring of this year, and who has already provoked the dissatisfaction not only of the Arab Nationalists, but also of the hitherto pro-French elements of Lebanon. General Sarraill is an anti-clerical and a Radical. He is of the opinion that one should put an end to the old prejudices in Syria. He began his reformatory activities by proclaiming a lay programme for the schools of the country from which all religious education was henceforth to be excluded. This raised a storm of indignation."



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Adam Died of Gout

A SIXTEENTH CENTURY GENEOLOGY.

Adam died of gout. At least that is the information vouchsafed in a queer 16th century document kept in the library at the Herald's College, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., which is sometimes shown to visitors as a curiosity.

This document, the history of which is unknown, professes to trace the pedigree of the early Saxon Kings right back to Adam and Eve, among the names of those appearing in the genealogy being Our Lord, Alexander and Nebuchadnezzar.

It contains some beautifully executed and well-preserved pen and ink drawings of subjects which include the Fall, the building of the Tower of Babel, and the Ark.

Adam is stated to have died from "gout" and to have been buried at Hebron.

The document has been in the possession of the Herald's College for 250 years.



City Pigeons
MISDEEDS MAKING THEM UN-POPULAR.


Public disfavour is growing in the city against the flocks of well fed pigeons which swoop and flutter in grey clouds in front of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Exchange.

Visitors to London regard them as being one of the most interesting features of the city, and delight to feed them with grain or bread. Many city workers regard them as being a great nuisance. They disfigure buildings, soil the hats and clothing of passers by, injure walls by picking lime and mortar from them, and in their search for water upset the vases of flowers at the base of the war memorial to city troops outside the Royal Exchange.

This last transgression is especially annoying to the women workers of the Bank of England, who have undertaken to keep the memorial as tidy as possible.

Although the Royal Exchange pigeons look a cleaner company than the rather disreputable birds of St. Paul's, it was stated that many of them are diseased.

Officials of the City Corporation are considering whether they shall take any action regarding the birds, the misdeeds of which were brought before the Court of Common Council in July.



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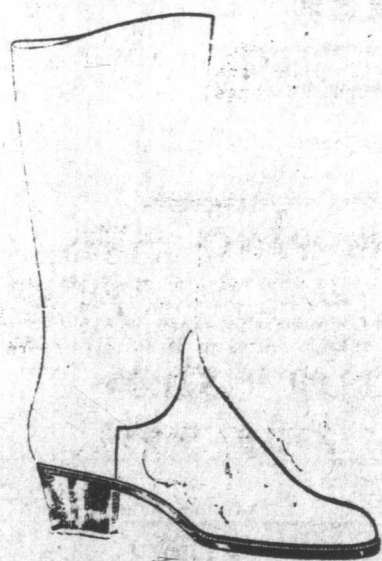
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Mother and Babe Prey of Flames

POURING COAL OIL ON SLOW FIRE
CAUSES EXPLOSION AND FIRE.

Coal oil poured on a slow burning stove fire cost Mrs. Vilda Legault, aged 28, of 104 Market Street, Valley field, and her daughter Laurette, aged two and a half years, their lives, recently.

The baby was found burned to a cinder on the floor of the kitchen by firemen when they broke open the door, while the woman, who rushed flaming out of the house to summon aid, imploring neighbors to save her child, died of her burns in the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Valleyfield, shortly after being admitted there.

Dr. Besner, coroner of the District of Valleyfield, opened and adjourned the inquest.

During the course of the fire, which followed an explosion as coal oil, poured into a stove to excite the smouldering coals came in contact with the flames of the stove, Vilda Legault was summoned from her work at the Montreal Cotton Mills, and was about to dash into the house to save her life when she learned that she had already left the building. He knew nothing then of the fate of the child. Doctors and nurses fought all night to save the woman's life, but she died from multiple burns about the head, face and arms.

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Might Weaken the Firm

Two brothers one ran a general store in a small western town. One of them became converted at a revival and urged the other to follow in his footsteps.

"You ought to join, Jake," said the converted one. "You don't know how helpful and comforting it is to be a member of the Church."

"I know, Bill," admitted Jake, thoughtfully, "and I would like to join, but I don't see how it's possible."

"Why not?" persisted the first. "What is to prevent you?"

"Well, it's just this way, Bill," declared Jake, "there has got to be somebody in this firm to do the weighing."

An Old Age Recipe

Methuselah ate what he found on his plate.

And never, as people do now, did he note the amount of the calorie count—

He ate it because it was chow. He wasn't disturbed, as at dinner he sat.

Destroying a roast or a pie. To think it was lacking in granular fat.

Or a couple of vitamins shy. He cheerfully chewed every species of food.

Untouched by worries or fears. Lest his health might be hurt by some fancy desert.

And he lived over nine hundred years!

He Knew

At a certain meeting the speaker said, fervently:—

"He drove straight to his goal. He looked neither to the right nor to the left, but pressed forward, moved by a definite purpose. Neither friend nor foe could delay him or turn him from his course. All who crossed his path did so at their peril. What would you call such a man?"

"A lorry driver," shouted a voice from the audience.

Cloth dresses have never been more popular for sports and general wear. Interest and trimming is undoubtedly concentrated on the skirts of frocks.

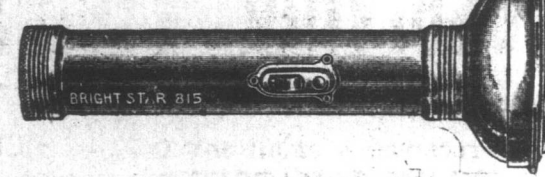


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