POOR DOCUMENT

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DAMMING THE NILE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MAY PREVENT COM-PLETION

PLETION.

The strict of the Greatest Engineering Reflorts of the World—Stoppage of Work by the Withdrawal of the British from Egypt Would Be a Calamity.

One possible result of the Boer waths the agenerally been overlooked is that it may put an end to the greatest engineering effort which has ever been begun in the world—the damming of the Nile, says a writer in the Washington Star. Should those complications ensue that have been doreshadowed the intervention on one pretext or another of Rassis, France and Germany, about the first thing to happen would be the forced evacuation of Egypt by the British. Her Majesty would be too fully engaged in other directions zo hold the country where she has only been "tolerated," as the Francehamed say with gritted teeth. Wilk the withdrawal of England the Nile simprovements would case at once, and an end, perhaps only a temporary end, to be sure, would be put to the Nile and ned, perhaps only a temporary end, to be sure, would be put to the Nile and the completion of the work on the Nile dams would be a calamity involving the progress of the entire Egyptian people, of whom there are corne min million. It would affect the work on the next people, of whom there are corne min million. It would affect the work on the next people, of whom there are corne min million. It would affect the work of the work on the Nile dams would be a calamity involving the progress of the extension of the great engineering work there will be put back just as panany spars as the Work of the Nile dams would be a calamity involving the progress of the extension of the great engineering work there will be put back just as panany spars as the work is interrupted. Its early completion means to these two million the lifting of a hurden of saxtain under present only a horizont of the carden of the system that will come with the completion of the great engineering work there will be piction agent of a hurden of saxtain under the completion of the great of the completion of the great engineering work there wi

the time of Noah. There will be nothing like this change, except the conditions that resulted in primeval times when the earth underwent one of its terrible convulsions. Where a barren, rocky, sandy waste now exists, there will, on completion of the Nile dam, spring up a vast inland sea with a surface area of over two hundred square miles. The sea or lake will extend back into Nubia from the Egyptian frontier for a distance of about 130 miles. To the north the entire character of the Nile and Nile country will be changed for a distance of about 130 miles. To the north the entire character of the Nile and Nile country will be changed for a distance of the Mediterranean coast. For it is one of the marvels of this wonderful work that the water imprisoned behind the dam at the little town of Assuan will bring about the reclamation and cultivation of vast tracts 700 miles away in the delta to the north. At present only about one-third of the land lying he.

"barrage," a dam at the apex of the delta just above Cairo. The barrage, a comparatively unimportant piece of work, had taken 24 years to build. It was intended to raise the water level for navigation purposes during the low Nile. Though it has cost thousands of lives, and taken a quarter of a century to construct, it proved but a limited process. So insecurely had it been planned that in 1863 the sluice gates had to be hurriedly raised to prevent the whole structure from being swept away and washed ture from being swept away and washed in sections to the Mediterranean. It was reenforced by the French engineers in charge and managed to do part of the work intended for it, but only a part. It great area in the delta until the English came into exclusive control in 1833. Then Sir Colin Monrieff, the English diplomatic agent and actual ruler of Egypt, took the barrage in hand. Under his administration the dam was built up, and made as effective as its early faulty construction permitted. Gradually the growing area in the delta was increased, until today something over a million acres are growing the finest cotton in the world. What was formerly a sullen, unclaimed waste is was formerly a sullen, unclaimed waste is now yielding \$30,000,000 annually in crops. It is related that the barrage, worthless as it is as an engineering work of permanent value, almost cost the world the existence of its most ancient world the existence of its most ancient and inspiring monuments—the great pyramids. The construction of the work was undertaken while Mehemet Ali, "the great," was khedive of Egypt. After he had decided on the dam he placed Mongel Bey, a French engineer, in charge. "Where am I to get the stone for the barrage?" asked the Frenchman. "There," said Mehemet Ali, pointing to the pyramids. "From those great useless heaps. Use them up, every block, if need be."

Mehemet Ali, it is related, was not a gentleman to be trifled with. He was an

gentleman to be trifled with. He was an autocrat of the kind who figure in the "Arabian Nights." The engineer was literally between the devil and the deep sea. As a European he knew what would happen to him if he destroyed the pyramids. The entire civilized world would call down maledictions on his head and the ever informers where ment has always refused him title. The happen to him if he destroyed the pyramids. The ethire evilible world will throw a trast volume of his name would be ever infamous when would be ever infamous when would be ever infamous when would have it great. On the other hand was Mehemet Ali, with all through the United States government a claim for damages, he having present extract tourists and backsheesh. To reason with Mehemet, therefore, on the structure of a strange long was more of sacrilegious vandalism was worse than useless. So Moneg Bey got his with Mehmet, therefore, on the content of the work at \$10,00000. Under this plan deconvinced him that it would cost the Egyptians nothing, as when they will be paid \$800,000 for 50 years. Careful calculations place the cost of the work at \$10,00000. Under this plan of early plan of the plan

the Prechmen any wint, gritted textiles, and the prechmen any wint gritted textiles, and the prechmen any wint gritted textiles, and the prechmen and winter the precision of the waters not of the waters not the Nille dampwents would be put to the Nille dampwents the terrigative canals. It receives the terrigative canals, and the water specified could happen. The stoppage of the warfs not the Nille dampwents are over nine million. It would affect directly over two million areas of the work is interrupted. It easily completion means to these two million may be foreign to the work is interrupted. It easily completion means to these two million may be foreign to the work is interrupted. The early completion means to these two million areas of leafler from any other source.

To the work of a fact that the work was actually more completion means to these two million areas of leafler from any other source.

To the work of a fact the work of the wo

tion of vast tracts 700 miles away in the delta to the north. At present only about one-third of the land lying between the two mouths of the Nile is under cultivation. It is by long odds the richest land in Egypt, probably in the world. A comparatively few years ago it was all a marshy waste.

In 1861 there was completed under French supervision what is known as the "barrage," a dam at the apex of the delta just above Cairo. The barrage, a comparatively unimportant piece of work, had taken 24 years to build. It was intended to raise the water level for navigation purposes during the low Nile. Though it has cost thousands of lives, and taken a quarter of a century to construct, it proved but a limited process. So insecurely had it been planned that of 46 feet above the water on the other side of the dam, special means of construction had to be planned. In consequence this dam is not only by far the greatest in the world, but it is unique in other respects. The greatest difficulty that had to be overcome arose out of the fact that a solid masonary dam could not be built. To confine the Nile at high flood was impossible. Therefore the dam had also to be a waterway, so that the river could be allowed to run through river could be allowed to run through the structure practically unimpeded at certain periods. To make this possible the dam will be built in the shape of a bridge with piers set close together. When the flood has subsided, but while the river is still at its highest, gates between these piers will be closed, making the structure solid, and confining the water as effectually as would a solid masonry dam When the parching sum-mer months come, the imprisoned water will be released as fast as needed. The will be released as fast as needed. The supply, however, will come not from the top, but from the bottom, where lies the deposit which the river brings down from the Abyssinian Mountains and which deposited on the sandy soil makes the Nile farm the richest ground in the world, needing no artificial manure.

To augment the work of the Assuan dam, another dam lower down the river, at Assuit, will be built. This will be simply an "elevating" dam, destined not simply an "elevating" dam, destined not to store the water, but to deliver it to the irrigating canals between Assuit and Cairo, at a higher level. This dam will cost \$4,000,000. Its construction will go hand in hand with the construction of the Assuan dam. Mr. Whitehouse sees in the building of this lower dam a plan in the building of this lower dam a plan on the part of the English to steal his reservoir; to which the Egyptian government has always refused him title. The Assuot dam will throw a vast volume of water into Joseph's canal, and, as there is no outlet for it, Mr. Whitehouse mean to add to their storage by filling the Wady-Rayan, as his depression is known. In consequence he is arranging to pre-

practical Mehemet, tersely, and the pyramids were saved to the world by the Frenchman's ingenious lie.

The property of the first way in the pyramids were saved to the world by the tractors of more than \$7,000,000; or the property of the pyramids of the

From the first year that the English found themselves in control of Egypt under the "occupation" they determined on an extension of the irrigation system. Land in Egypt constitutes the great source of taxation and wealth. Every acre under cultivation in the country is worth \$105 and pays on an average \$4 new

ARTIFICIAL SPONGES.

The process patented by Dr. Gustav Pum, of Graz, Germany, consists principally in the action of zinc chloride solution of pure cellulose. The results are amyloid and hydrocellulose-like products, which swell up with water, but turn horny and hard on drying. In order to retain for the product the property of alretain for the product the property of also absorbing water after drying, alkalihaloids are employed in treating the cellulose with zinc chloride, and finally the product is subjected to a mechanico-plastic treatment. Thus, for example, 2,000

FOUND IN SLEEPING CARS.

When the occupant of a berth in a sleeping car oversleeps, and is hastily routed out to make a way station at an early hour in the morning, he usually Show is true to life that does not take are all y hour in the morning, he usually leaves his pocketbook, or watch, or some piece of personal property in the berth behind him, only to realize the fact when, half awake on the station platform, he goes through his pockets while the train speeds away miles beyond. Railroad men have found this carelessness so common that a system whereal lost property can be collected and reclaimed has become a natural development in the departments which have to do with the comfort and convenience of the passengers. The instruction of employes is first necessary to the efficiency of the lost-article department. Porters are under orders to search their care they have grown lost property can be collected and reclaimed has become a natural development in the departments which have to do with the comfort and convenience of the passengers. The instruction of employes is first necessary to the efficiency of the lost-article department. Porters are under orders to search their care they have grown lost throughes a static state to the static property can be collected and reclaimed has become a natural development in the departments. Porters are under orders to search their care they have grown listintly horsey themselves. All of them mediatively chew rye straws. Most keep up their trousers with fragments of the saddle; the circular pattern prevails below staris at the Garden. The best of sourcingles. Somehow their legs seem to the uses of the saddle; the circular pattern prevails below staris at the Garden. The best of sourcingles. Somehow their legs seem to the uses of the saddle; the circular pattern prevails below staris at the Garden. The best of sourcingles. Somehow their legs seem to the uses of the saddle; the circular pattern prevails below staris at the Garden. The best of sourcingles. Somehow their legs seem to the uses of the saddle; the circular pattern prevails below staris at the Garden. The best of sourcingles.

The barge office doctor found that the bow was found to the tra

even then, when the car is sent to the strippers in the yards, the cleaners often find lost property tucked away under seats and carpets or behind steam pipes. Everything thus found is taken to the nearest terminal, from whence (with description) it is reported to headquarters. Up town, near the Grand Central station, says a writer in the New York Evening Post, is the central bureau or headquarters of one of these lost article departments. Here lost property comes

quarters. Probably the strangest "find" made by a porter of a sleeping car was a

months unclaimed, is given to hospitals and the worthy poor.

Of course," said the manager of one of the two large palace car companies before their consolidation, "there are a large number of things lost by our passengers which we never find. These are principally articles exchanged by absentminded persons, who either never take the trouble to correct their error, or who are so satisfied with the exchange that they don't care to recover their own. Then, again, we have found in our experience with the travelling public, that Then, again, we have found in our experience with the travelling public, that thieves who ride in palace cars do not wear placards denoting their profession."

The manager scouted the idea that

The Lost Property of the Railroad Offices—Curious Articles Found There.

The Lost Property of the Railroad Offices—Curious Articles Found There.

Hambletonian, warbies soline well-in formed boarding school girl to her chum at the ringside. It is surprising how interesting is the genealogical tree of the equine when a determined girl sets out

the siren charm misses a trick, and you hear the quick thud of a hoof against the partition and then the protesting voice of the singer saying something that may be freely and decorously translated as "Now, don't!"

HIS DEBATE

Take this boy him. The boy is to be sent back to his father, and the government of Austria is to be requested to compel the father to take care of him.

EXPENSIVE HORSE

forwarded it, this time with the article cut out of the columns of the St. James many a soldier who would like to have cut out of the columns of the St. James Gazette.

made by a porter of a sleeping car was a wooden leg, reported by an agent at a southern terminal. What the circumstances were surrounding this useful appendage the books of the lost article department do not explain, but the owner was prompt with the necessary identification, and he recovered his property.

Notwithstanding the number of lost articles returned to their owners—and the manager of the local office says these average five a day—the storeroom of the car company up town has a fair-sized stock of goods, which represents the accumulations of years. The stock does not include the linen and general clothing, which, after remaining several months unclaimed, is given to hospitals and the worthy poor.

Gazette.

Now comes the curious feature of the incident. When Mr. Crockett clapped eyes on the article, he was astonished to find it one of his dreams materialized. One night, going to bed extra tired, he dreamed that a good idea for a St. James column had occurred to him, that he then and there sat down, wrote it and posted it. Next morning he remembered his dream and made up his mind some day to write the article exactly as he dreamed he had writen it, when to his astonishment, came article and check from the newspaper. Few writers can earn checks while a sleep.

"LOTTCHEN."

A notable old woman has passed away at Hamburg in the person of Heinrich Heine's much beloved sister, "Lottchen," within a few days of her ninety-ninth birthday. Thousands of the poet's admirers were in the habit of visiting the old house on the Hamburg esplande in which Frau Charlotte Embden lived for many years, surrounded by many a memento of the immortal bard, and nothing afforded the old lady greater satisfaction than to recall reminescences of his youth and trials and triumphs.

In temperment as well as in appear-

"DROP THIS BOY OUT WEST." So Wrote Markus Rendelstern's Father

Shipping him to New York. "Take this boy out west and drop him. I don't want him. I'm tired of him."

This was the message received by A. G. Sheldon, of the firm of Sheldon & Co., bankers from the farther of Markus Renders of Renders

had as good bread in the war."

GREW FROM A WAR-TIME NUT. Curious Tree in the Wall of the Harris-

During the war of 1861-5 large quantities of a certain Japanese nut were sent into Harrisburg, Pa. These nuts served as food for the horses quartered in the city at that time. The seeds were excity at that time. The seeds were exceedingly hardy; wherever they fell they took root. One fell upon the broad, high wall surrounding the county jail; it sprouted, and sent down roots on the inside of the wall to the soil 15 feet below. The tree grew and flourished until this present fall, when it became necessary to tear down the wall in order to carry out certain improvements. The casual observer; passing the old jail wall, supposed that the tree grew close to the inner side of the wall, not realizing at what a of the wall, not realizing at what a strange freak of nature he was gazing.

strange freak of nature he was gazing.

The tearing down of this wall has exposed to public view another of these odd trees. The seed of this fell upon one of the huge stones forming the foundation of the jail. The seed sprouted, sent its roots down into the adjacent ground, and went on growing until it became a large, strong tree. In the process of growth its immense roots forced apart many of the foundation stones of the jail; in fact, it has rendered the front of the building so insecure that it will probably be cut

the retain for the product the property of a postrying, alkalish on a based of the condition of the conditio