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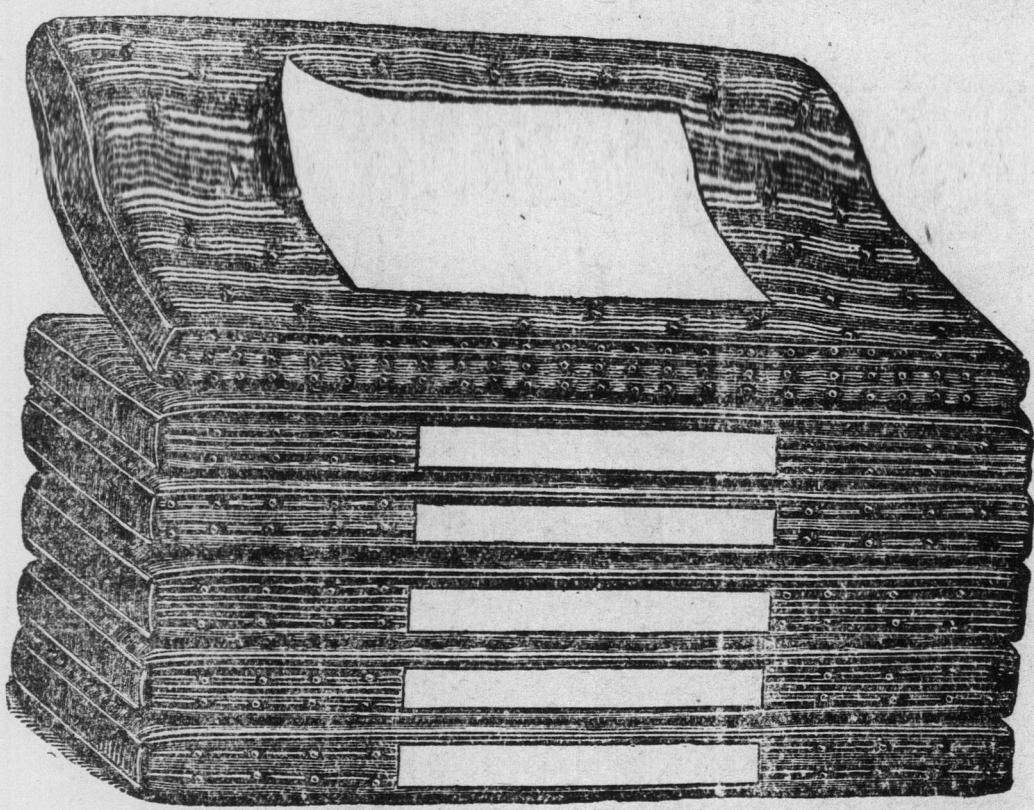
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A. & S. Rodger

BY CABLE

Special to Evening Telegram.
NAPLES, March 19.
Professor Mercalli, Director of the Observatory at Mount Vesuvius, was found burned to death in his bedroom to-day.

LONDON, March 19.
The Globe, to-day, says that warrants have been signed for the arrest of Sir Edward Carson and other leaders of Ulster Unionists. The statement has been officially denied.

SALISBURY, March 19.
Another name has been added to the list of British Army aviation to-day, when Lieut. Treby, of the Imperial Flying Corps, was killed, while making a flight over Salisbury Plain.

BREMEN, March 19.
An unknown schooner was sunk, and her crew drowned, through a collision last night in the North Sea, with the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse. The steamer remained in the vicinity for two hours, but could not discover any trace of schooner or crew. She then resumed her voyage to America.

LONDON, March 19.
The vote of censure on the British Government was moved to-day in the Commons by Bonar Law, based on Asquith's refusal on Monday to grant delays in the scheme of local option, by which nine counties in Ulster will be permitted to vote separately on the question of exclusion. Law offered to give a guarantee that if the Government would take a referendum of the United Kingdom on the Home Rule Bill and the local option proposals, the Unionists both in the Lords and Commons, would place no impediment in the way of carrying out the will of the people. Carson backed up Law's offer, saying that if the Premier is prepared to give him a definite offer of the referendum, he would accept its decision.

LONDON, March 19.
During the debate on the Navy Estimates, last night, Lord Beresford said: "Why is the First Lord not in the House? It is most uncivil to the House and myself who sat in the House before he was born; and who was strong for reform on the lower deck, when the First Lord was at the business end of a feeding bottle." Churchill entered the House directly afterward, and as Lord Charles, proceeding, said that he had broken promises and pledges, he yawned, whereupon Lord Charles said he was sorry if he bored the First Lord. He could see right down his throat at that moment. Later, Beresford said: "I have nothing to say about the First Lord's flying in the air, as I do not suppose he will ever get any nearer to heaven."

ZAM-BUK DOES CURE PILES.

Mrs. C. Hanson, wife of the proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, Poplar, B.C., suffered from piles for years. Went to doctor after doctor in vain. Finally went to Spokane and had an operation. Twelve months afterwards she was as bad again. She says, "One day I read about Zam-Buk and thought I would try it. The first one or two boxes gave me more ease than anything else I had tried, so I went on with the treatment. In a short time I began to feel altogether different and better, and I saw that Zam-Buk was going to cure me. Well, I went on using it, and by the time I had used six boxes I was delighted to find myself entirely cured." If you suffer from this painful ailment, or from eczema, ulcers or any skin disease, don't waste time. Try Zam-Buk, 50c. all druggists and stores.

Commissioner Rees Has Recovered.

London, March 18.—Commissioner Rees, in command of the eastern division of the Salvation Army in Canada, sailed by the Alsatian on Saturday after a fortnight's visit in England. So benefited was he by the voyage over, that his former physician, Dr. Richmond, scarcely believed that his recent illness was as serious as was really the case. His recovery is regarded at headquarters as nothing short of miraculous. He is proceeding direct to Toronto, but will visit Montreal shortly in connection with the Maternity Hospital. Commissioner Rees expressed great satisfaction with the development of the Army's social and general work in Montreal, as well as with the generous response of the public in connection with the Christmas fund which is still being used to relieve distress among the poor.

COUNCIL MEN BUST. — During last night's rain storm the streets were in a wretched condition. A gang of men from the Council were engaged clearing the gutters which became choked.

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The Rivers of Babylon.

A NEW GARDEN OF EDEN.

By E. G. Harmer, in the 'Christian World, London.)

A few weeks ago the magnificent barrage which has been constructed by Sir John Jackson at the head of the Hindia branch of the Euphrates, according to a scheme prepared for the Turkish Government by Sir William Wilcocks, was formally opened. This great engineering work inaugurates a new era in Mesopotamia, and its ultimate effect will be to add an enormous area to the corn lands of the world. But the event is also of great moment for the Bible student, and the opportunity may be utilized for drawing attention to some of its aspects, because they enable us to view the story of Babylon in a new perspective.

The land of Shinar, enclosed between the lower Euphrates and the lower Tigris, has an area of about 12,000,000 acres, one-third of it swamp and two-thirds of it desert. The desert is due to the scanty rainfall, which hardly exceeds eight inches in any year, and the swamp to the untamed forces of the two natural streams, whose output during the flood is twelve times greater than at low water. In the morning of mankind the Persian gulf covered the whole of Shinar, and the stone age peoples who dwelled upon the eastern uplands looked down upon a sweltering chaos of turbulent sea. It is permissible to hold that it was the folk memory of that dim past which was enshrined by the earliest Semites in their legendary poetry, and led them to personify the struggle of man with nature in stories of conflicts between their racial heroes and the dragons of the deep.

Recent research has shown that behind the old Babylonian cosmogony there lay a clear recognition of the practical tasks wherewith man was first confronted in the marshland of Shinar. To one of its dragons the name of Rahab clung with such persistence that it survived in the later Hebrew literature. Thus it was that Job declared: "He hath described a boundary upon the face of the waters. He stilleth the sea with his power; and by his understanding he smiteth through Rahab." The tasks, in fact, were those of the water engineer, and one of the greatest of these, early heroes, the Mero-dach of Jeremiah, is he of whom it was sung:—

Marduk laid reeds on the face of the waters; He piled up earthen banks, and sheltered them behind the reeds.

So, again, in another tablet:— Marduk laid a reed on the face of the waters.

He made dust and poured it out upon the reed. On the edge of the sea Marduk placed a dam.

A reminiscence of this very poem has been traced in the eighth chapter of the Proverbs. It may be of interest to say that, during the present century, when the port engineers of one of the greatest of Indian cities desired to curb the wayward course of its river, they followed this age-long example by dropping reed mats mile after mile, and then building up behind them a rampart of quarried stone.

When we reached the beginnings of written history, Babylonian life is seen to depend upon the waterworks formed by the labor of man. At least two thousand years before Amraphel, King of Shinar, irrigation was highly developed, for there was a regular system of land valuation, associated with a net-work of canals, tanks, and dams. Amraphel himself—if he be Hammurabi—formed two great canals during his amazing reign. So zealous was he in maintaining the water-ways that many of the letters which preserve his memory record his personal instructions from the royal water board. In one "Let men clear the Damanum Canal within the present month"; in another, "Within three days clear out the canal within Erech." One section of his code of laws laid down that the riparian owner was responsible for his own banks, and if thro' his negligence a breach caused injury to his neighbor's crops he should make good the damage, even if this meant his being sold into slavery to raise the money. Even poor women had their small holdings, and such was the fertility of the land under this careful administration that, whereas to-day the Canadian yield of

wheat averages no more than twenty bushels to the acre, Hammurabi could point with pardonable pride to a yield of forty-five bushels.

During the next 2,500 years the agricultural prosperity of the land "between the rivers" was more or less vigorously maintained. In the fifth century B.C., Herodotus shrunk from recording what he knew of its fertility, knowing that he would not be believed. The date and the vine orchard fruits and vegetables grew in indescribable profusion. Three hundred years before him, in the time of Jehu, nearly a thousand villages and fortified towns in the Mesopotamian region were captured in a single Assyrian campaign. Let it be noted that few of the great cities of Chaldaea were built upon the banks of the natural streams. Ur of the Chaldees, Larsa and Erech, Nippur and Sippara, even great Babylon itself—all were erected upon the banks of artificial canals, whose water supply was the object of systematic regulation.

The "river of Chebar," the background of Ezekiel's pathetic poetry, was an irrigation canal. Choked up by centuries of Moslem indifference, it lay unused until our English engineers cleared it out again for a length of fifty miles, and during this wintertime filled it once more with the life-giving stream. It was Ezekiel who measured the fall of one in a thousand which has been proved to be accurate by Sir William Wilcocks's surveyors. It was he who wrote: "Her rivers ran round about her plantations; and she sent out her channels unto all the trees of the field." He, also, who, in a prophetic vein, declared: "But the miry places thereof, and the marshes thereof, shall not be healed; they shall be given up to salt." Not a hundredth part of the old irrigation system, founded by Marduk in the world's far-off dawn, has remained to this day. Camel thorn and caper grow stragglingly where once there flourished the palm and the vine; colocyth and wormwood have displaced the rich cornfields of the past. But at length a new era has come, and within the lifetime of this generation the land if Shinar will once more become an Eden, wherein is the tree of life.

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