

### STRANGE LANGUAGE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Natives Speak in Peculiar Tongue Never Heard Outside the Area— Political Agent Finds it Hard to Understand Them

LONDON, Feb. 19.—You may have noticed something in the newspapers about the Nigerian Railway, which is being pushed thru Northern Nigeria, and about half way across the African continent. It is a big job getting a railway thru the swamps and forests and over the rivers of West Africa. The men who do it call themselves—modestly—mud-shifters. And just as the railway is in sight of its objective comes the book of the man who laid down—not the rails—but the language.

There will not be many reviews of the grammar of the Gbari language. Don't start! By a curious chance I happen to know of the labor and fun that went to make up Major Edgar's "dictionary" of a speech that had never been written down. Plugging thru Northern Nigeria he found natives that talked a language that was never spelled or understood by anyone outside the area. You will imagine the major, as political agent, annexing some few hundred miles of territory, calling together the men of unknown speech, and, with the aid of interpreters, jotting down what they mean by that.

**Peculiar Misapplication of Names.** As a result, the dictionary-maker has got together a grammar and a dictionary of some thousands of words that will take the Gbari country. And even in Northern Nigeria you find proverbial philosophy. For example, there is a proverb that, in mercy to the printer, I do not attempt to reproduce in the original: "An elephant in another town is here." Which is, as you will perceive, the replica of the prophet without honor in his own country.

**Diplomatic Organization of Country.** It was necessary to get the country organized on a family and financial basis. So this young officer suited into the village of the principal chief and summoned the natives to appear before him. On one side he ranged the males, on the other the ladies. Then he asked the men to choose whom they would take for a wife. And that law, promulgated by the youthful major, is typical of the British compromise.

### NO CAUSE FOR FEAR, SAYS PITTSBURG MAGNATE

Henry C. Frick Says Business Conditions Are Very Favorable.

Excited imagination and groundless fears are the causes of the hesitation in business activity in the United States, in the opinion of Henry C. Frick. He holds that there is no cause for fear, and that "if the people will cease paying attention to the calamity-hoaxing gamblers and demagogues, who make capital out of their fears, all will be well."

"It is hard to understand why," he said, "with all the conditions favorable to unprecedented prosperity in this country, there has suddenly appeared a hesitation in activity practically upon the part of the railroads asserted, a fear of unfriendly legislative and manufacturing establishments."

"If this cause is, as it is generally held at Washington and the drastic enforcement of the anti-trust law against the business organizations of the country, I cannot believe that it is a sufficient reason to justify the timidity shown in many quarters. Congress will not legislate any form of property out of existence and court decisions cannot destroy the productivity of the soil or of legitimate enterprise."

"We have never stood upon the threshold of better days than now, and it will be our fault if we allow our activities to be paralyzed by groundless fears."

"In my opinion, the present great depression in security values does not reflect the condition of business so much as the present hesitancy in business reflects the effect of wild conjectures upon what will happen at Washington and exaggeration of its possible consequences."

#### WILL HAVE FINE STORE

Dunfield & Co. Purchase Yonge Street Real Estate.

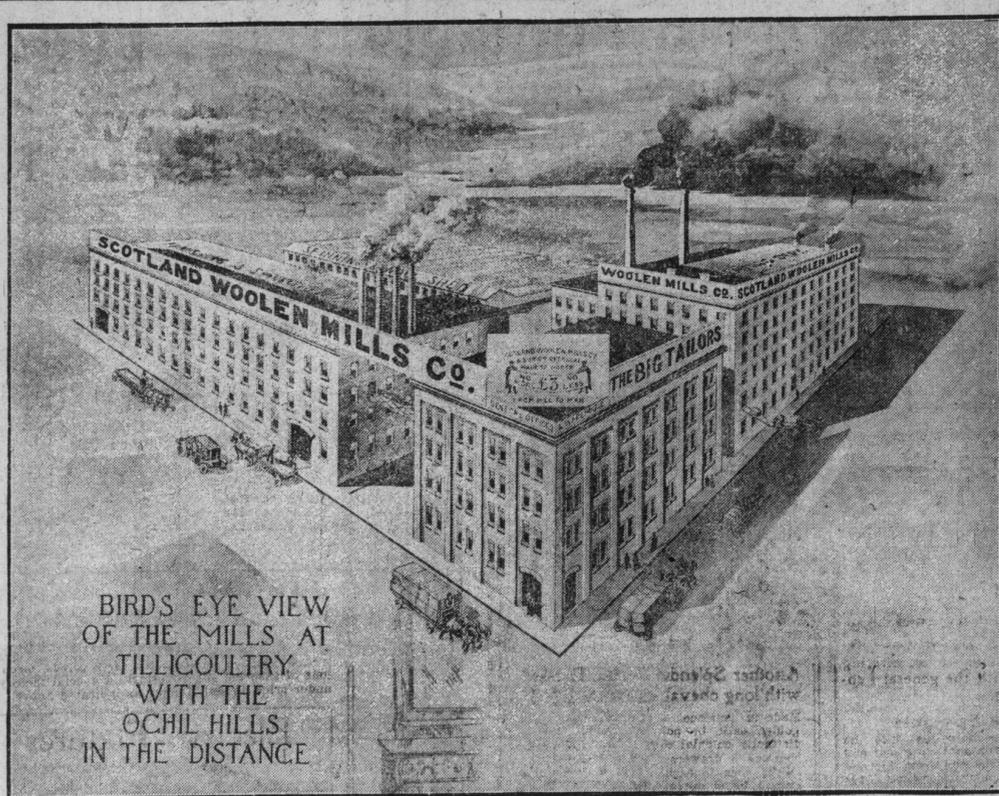
Messrs. Dunfield & Co., 94 Yonge-street, gents' furnishers, have just signed a 21 year renewable ground lease at 102 and 104 Yonge-street, from the Upper Canada Tract and Bible Society. For the first seven years Dunfield & Co. pay \$11,000 a year, the next seven years they pay \$12,000 and for the last seven years the rental is \$13,000. Messrs. Dunfield & Co. purchased the building, which has a frontage of 30 feet, for \$30,000 and will soon start to remodel the building to suit their requirements. At present the Upper Canada Tract and Bible Society have possession. The new owners intend to make the store one of the finest of its class.

**Coin to Farmer Who Gave Him a Meal** NASHVILLE, Ind., Feb. 19.—David Ornstein, a farmer living in the southern part of Brown County, has found that bread cast upon the waters returns after many days—only in this case it was a bread and meat "hand-out" given a tramp five years ago.

One bitterly cold day in December, 1904, a tramp appeared at the Ornstein home. He was given supper, a bed and breakfast and departed. While the family was at supper a few days ago a man called and asked food and shelter for the night. He was taken in and after supper handed Mr. Ornstein a \$20 gold piece, explaining it was for the supper given five years ago. The tramp is now in business.

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