

# Charley Meadows After the Savages

## Has Landed on Tiburon Island and Returned to Guaymas for a Larger Force—Were Attacked by the Cannibals—Said to Be Seven Men Enslaved on the Island.

Seven white men, supposed to have been eaten years ago by the cannibals of Tiburon island, in the Gulf of California, are alive in that remote region. It is now declared, and enduring degradation unspokeable. They have been spared from death for a purpose scarcely less revolting than to provide a feast for bloodthirsty savages—they have been made the slaves of the most terrible and inhuman people on the face of the earth.

This startling intelligence has just been made known through a member of the Seris tribe who formerly belonged to the mainland dwellers and is now employed by James McCuen, a cattleman of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

It was among the mainland Seris that Professor W. J. McGee of the Smithsonian Institution made his difficult and important researches for the United States government some years ago. No man has ever gone among the island islanders and returned to tell the tale.

The Indian employed by Mr. McCuen states that two of the white men have been in captivity for about ten years. They are believed to be Lieutenant R. E. L. Robinson of Texas and James Logan of Louisiana, who completely disappeared in May, 1894, after landing on Tiburon island. Captain Porter and his sailor, of San Diego, may be with them.

Robinson and Logan were leaders of a party organized in Yuma, Ariz., for exploration and adventure. It was not Robinson's first experience in trying to invade Tiburon. The year previous he had sought to gain access to the forbidden haunts of the Seris, not from disinterested scientific motives, but from a somewhat practical spirit that craved adventure and that also coveted whatever plunder might be obtainable.

Lieutenant Robinson was not lacking in daring or determination, however open to censure may have been his ideas of business dealing. He persisted with his plans and in May of 1894 landed with his companion Logan on Tiburon.

From that day to this neither of them has been seen by white men's eyes. Early in the following month Robert Hornbeck of Yuma wrote an urgent letter to Honorable Thomas B. Reed, House of Representatives, Washington, appealing for government aid in behalf of the missing men who it was feared had been massacred and devoured by the Seris but who might be alive and in grave danger. The letter was referred to the department of state.

The acting secretary, Edwin F. Tibb, made official reply to Mr. Reed, stating that a report had been received from the United States consul at Guaymas regarding the disappearance of Robinson and Logan.

Two companions of the adventure, some men, escaping to Guaymas, had stated that Robinson and Logan had fallen into the hands of the Seris. As Tiburon is under the jurisdiction of Mexico, although Mexico has never been able to enforce any authority there, a certain amount of red tape had to be unwound. In due time the Mexican government sent a relief expedition to Tiburon, but, like every previous endeavor to penetrate to the interior, it availed nothing. Considering the ferocious character of the foe that holds all newcomers at bay on the island, it is not particularly to the discredit of the Mexican detachment that it prudently kept its skin intact from Seris teeth by not venturing from sight of the sloop in which it landed.

American volunteers for rescue purposes not offering themselves to continue the search abandoned by the Mexicans, nothing further happened. Eight years have meanwhile intervened.

In August last an expedition headed by "Arizona Charlie" Meadows set out to explore Tiburon island. Through Mr. Meadows now comes the unexpected news that seven white men have been for years the abject slaves of the terrible Seris and are alive in the interior of the island.

If this be true, the imagination cannot picture the horrors of the situation in which these men have found themselves, guarded from escape, year after year. Further news of them will be awaited with keenest interest. If anything can be done to discover the identity of the white slaves buried alive in the wilderness, "Arizona Charlie" will be the man to accomplish it, say those who know him. Young, strong, brave, keen, venturesome, yet level-headed, with a record for border shrewdness and fearlessness that speaks fatteringly of his character, "Arizona Charlie" may be the means of rescuing his countrymen from durance most vile.

Meadows' purpose in going to Tiburon was purely commercial. He deputed to prospect there, and to experiment with agricultural schemes. The spectacular side of the proposi-

tion to visit Tiburon had no influence with him, for he is a young cowboy of excellent business training and capabilities that he wished to exercise in an entirely new and profitable field. His career as government scout, Indian fighter, Wild West rider and Klondike miner had made him of all men in America the most peculiarly fitted for the undertaking.

With nineteen men picked for their desirability as comrades in such a venture, men of nerve and cool judgment, he reached Tiburon in September, having proceeded there in a home-made battleship built at Yuma for the purpose. There were two five-inch rapid-fire Maxim guns mounted on the deck, and the armory included Mauser rifles, shotguns and Mauser rapid-fire pistols. Each man was provided with a brace of revolvers, a sharp hunting knife and a rifle.

Arizona Charlie had no scruples about exterminating warlike savages. There is a tragic reason for his hatred of them: His parents were massacred by Apaches when he was a child. Meadows has returned to Yuma and will leave again next month, this time for the purpose of settlement. He made the first voyage to the island for the sake of familiarizing himself with the coast line and to learn where fresh water could be obtained. He holds an option to purchase the island and expects to take there a large party of sportsmen and his former companions of the Arizona cattle range. They will make a thorough exploration of the interior, to prospect for gold and silver and coal and oil, all of which are believed to exist in the mountains. Large game in the island consisting of mule deer, cougar and jaguar, and fish of every kind in the surrounding waters will furnish abundance of sport to the expedition members, if they are not killed by the Indians.

Professor McGee, the only authority on the natives, has written to Meadows about them, as follows: "It is a personal pleasure to learn that you go with no antagonism toward the Seris Indians at the outset, though I feel confident that antagonism will develop later. You and your men will do well to be always on your guard, and it may be possible—a good old Senor Encinas of Hermosillo would think so—that by a kind yet firm treatment you may be able to co-exist with the Indians on the island. If bloodshed begins, however, it will, in my judgment, end only with the annihilation of one party; and, you and your men being what you are, the result is easily foreseen."

Because Mexican authorities misunderstood the purpose of his expedition to Tiburon, an objection was made to the sailing of the party of forty that Meadows organized early in September. He went with the smaller party instead, after having called at Guaymas, and gone inland to Hermosillo, to make the objects of his movements clear to the officials. He will carry the original party when he sails in December.

The Indian who informed James McCuen that white men were held captive by the Seris, claims to have visited the interior, although he belongs to the mainland tribe, and to have seen the prisoners. The white men were forced to work for the natives, he said; they built huts for their captors and assisted in the construction of boats, but were not permitted to go to the shore nearest the mainland, where it is but a short pull in a balsu to the Sonora beach.

Three of the seven prisoners are supposed to be prospectors who were lured to the island by tales of gold that for many years have been told. To Meadows, McCuen stated that he has seen several Seris Indian squaws from the island who carried white or light complexioned papooses, unquestionably the children of white men.

Meadows corroborates the cattleman's story concerning white children among the Indians on the island, and at one point of landing on the west coast he found a half-constructed boat, the workmanship on which was superior, he says, to the best efforts of the natives. Materials used in the boat were wreckage and parts of the boats of Robinson and Porter, which the Indians demolished when they captured the occupants. Indians who could speak Spanish told Meadows that there was a village in the interior of the island, the number of inhabitants in which they compared with the number of serows then visible in a small bay, which the travelers thought numbered two or three hundred.

The cowboys went ashore apparently unarmed, when a small band of natives came forward and with great show of friendship invited them to come to the interior. When they had gone but a few yards from the beach other Indians appeared, these armed with the great bows and full quivers of arrows which the Indians carry,

# WERE ALIVE WHEN BURIED

## In Order to Collect Life Policies

### Horrible Discovery Was Made in Mexico—Men Were Drugged Before Buried.

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 22.—Information has been received here from Chihuahua, Mexico, which says that two men were buried alive, while under the influence of a powerful drug, by C. T. Richardson, agent of the New York Life Insurance Company, and his alleged conspirator, William Nason; and also that the murderer was committed to secure large sums of insurance upon their lives.

As a necessary part of the proceedings to secure evidence against the alleged conspirators, the Mexican authorities examined the body of a man named Mitchell, who died mysteriously at Chihuahua after having been insured in the New York Life Insurance Company. The facts were kept secret by the Mexican officials, though at that time a postmortem examination was held at Chihuahua and a dispatch was sent to El Paso directing the local officers to hold the men under arrest here pending extradition on the charge of murder.

Now it has been learned from the Mexican city, where Mitchell was buried immediately after his strange death, that the indications evidenced the commission of the inhuman crime of burying alive. All appearances indicated the unfortunate man had been consigned to a living tomb, and that he awoke from the deep stupor of some potent drug to find himself in his coffin. There was evidence of a struggle on the part of the body in the coffin, the mouth being wide open; the arms were raised from the sides and were pressing against the lid, and the palms were turned upward as if in a vain endeavor to force up the covering with its load of earth.

The details of this frightful discovery have shocked the community and embittered the feeling against the accused—who are prisoners in the city jail.

Within the last year the insurance company has suspected its Chihuahua agent of murdering men insured by him, and then swindling the company out of the insurance money. The agent is C. T. Richardson. It is supposed he was operating with a confederate, William Nason. Early last year Richardson insured two

# TALK OF POLICY

## The President in Conference With Party Leaders

Washington, Nov. 24.—President Roosevelt will put the finishing touches to his annual message to congress tomorrow. The document is practically completed now, but it is the president's desire finally to consult several of the leaders in both branches of congress as to one or two features of the message before he commits it to the hands of the printer.

The president arrived in his office early today and soon was besieged by callers. During the hours until luncheon time he had brief conferences with Senators Allison of Iowa, Lodge of Massachusetts, Foster of Washington, Quay of Pennsylvania, Fairbanks of Indiana, Stewart of Nevada, McComas of Maryland, Elkins of West Virginia and Gibson of Montana, and with Speaker Henderson and Representatives Cannon of Illinois, Babcock of Wisconsin, Boute of Illinois and Landis of Indiana.

Nearly every one of the callers was with the president so short a time that no opportunity was afforded to discuss the important questions, the consideration of which is involved in the message.

Many of them announced as they left the executive office that they had called merely to pay their respects. Few of them discussed with the president any matters of policy. With the views of all the president is reasonably familiar. With Senator Quay and with Speaker Henderson, the president was in conference for half an hour or more. The former did not hesitate to express to the president his opposition to any tariff revision, either at the approaching short session of congress or in the next congress. He expects to press in the senate this winter the territorial statehood bills, and is very optimistic as to the result. By agreement the statehood bill will be made soon after the session begins.

The president conferred with Speaker Henderson about the status of legislation in the house during the short session, but the speaker declined to enter into any details of the conference.

Mr. Cannon had only a brief interview with the president during which they discussed no public questions. It is the purpose of the president to talk with Republican congressional leaders concerning his attitude and their attitude on trusts and the tariff. Discussion of the latter subject, it is understood, will be with special reference to the reciprocity question.

Hewitt—Blood will tell. Jewett—That's so; Gruet swears terribly, and it turns out that his grandfather was a hackman.—Brooklyn Life. Job printing at Nugget office.

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