

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 unspcakable. 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 islands.

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 Seri 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 Seri 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,

and those that acted as the guides found their spears and bows and arrows under mesquite bushes. But when the cowboys drew revolvers from their shirt fronts the Indians disappeared as quickly and mysteriously as they had come. Meadows thinks that a show of superior force in armament will do much toward subduing the natives.

The Seris use poisoned arrows, and these, with spears, are their chief weapons of war, but a few have ancient rifles, for which they manage by some means to find a small quantity of ammunition. One of the braves was induced to exhibit his weapon. The shells that he carried had been loaded and reloaded until they were nearly worn out, and it struck the visitors then, although they had not at that time heard any rumors of the existence of white prisoners on the island, that the work of reloading the shells was more cunningly done than if performed by the natives. Their food is consumed raw, an animal being slain and the carcass torn and devoured before the flesh has become cold. George Fugard, one of the party, shot a deer on the island. He dressed it and gave half of it to a small band of natives that had gathered near the landing-place. No sooner had the meat been given to them than they began tearing it, like a pack of dogs, chewing the flesh and gnawing the bones.

Nuggets of gold are frequently brought to the mainland by Seri women. The story has often been told of a great treasure in gold that was taken from Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, and carried by Indians to the west coast, where it disappeared. Lieutenant Robinson, who was a student of Mexican history and Aztec mythology and tradition, believed that the lost treasure was buried in Tiburon island, and it was to seek the treasure as much as to explore the island that he engaged in the ill-fated voyage.

Arizona Charlie denies that he is going treasure-hunting, and even denies any belief in the story of hidden treasure; nevertheless, he is making a careful study of every bit of history or fiction that tells even remotely of the tale of the Montezuma treasure, for it was a part of that great store—which Robinson sought.—San Francisco Examiner.

In Erupt on
Honolulu, T. H., Nov. 11.—A wireless message received here this morning from the island of Hawaii tells that the great volcano Kilauea is in violent eruption, more active and more awful than any outbreak for the past twenty years. No particulars, except that the eruption started last night, came with the message.

Since the outbreak of Pelee at St. Pierre, Kilauea has been in mild and intermittent activity, but nothing occurred to unduly alarm the island. It is evident from the message that the present outbreak burst forth suddenly in all its violence.

Kilauea is the largest volcano in the world. It rises from the island of Hawaii, about forty miles from Hilo. Its crater is a seething, hellish lake of semi-liquid lava, which boils and bubbles explosively like a thick broth, and the smoke and fumes which wreath the top of the mountain are like a breath from the infernal regions. The crater lake is nearly full, and when the volcano becomes more than usually active the tide of lava rises and spills over the mountain side, where it cools into a mass like a bunch of writhing snakes—grotesque and horrible.

There was an eruption in 1899, but not a bad one. There was another in 1894, which was worse. Then huge rocks were thrown high into the air from the crater's mouth, and the stream of liquid lava flowed almost to the sea. The whole island shook with the tremendous forces that fought for escape into the air, and the atmosphere for miles around was sulphurous and smoke-laden.

Details regarding the present outbreak are eagerly awaited, for if the report that it is the worst for the last twenty years be correct, it must be a tremendous display of nature's fury and a grand one—if nothing worse.

No word has been heard from Mauna Loa, the other big volcano of Hawaii.

Large Purchase.
St. John, N. B., Nov. 20.—A syndicate with John F. Stairs, Halifax, at its head, has purchased the whole of the Gibson properties at Marysville, including the town, the Canada Eastern railway, lumber mills, cotton mill, timber limits, etc., for \$8,000,000.

No Power to Act
Albany, N. Y., Nov. 24.—Attorney General Davis, in an opinion submitted to Gov. Odell, in the Potter case, holds he has no power to proceed against the Schenectady Painters' Union for expelling Potter because of his membership in the National Guard.

Martial Law
Buenos Ayres, Nov. 24.—As a result of the strikes which have been on, the government has issued a decree establishing martial law in this city and throughout the provinces of Buenos Ayres and Santa Fe.

Boers Cannot Return
London, Nov. 22.—According to a dispatch from the Hague, permission to return to South Africa has been refused to the Boer delegates, Wessels, Fischer and Wolmarans.

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 exhumed 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

men in Chihuahua, one of whom was Mitchell. The policy of one of them was \$15,000, written in favor of the agent's wife, Mrs. Richardson, and the other was for \$10,000, in favor of Nason. Both insured men died suddenly and under such peculiar circumstances that the company, upon inquiry, grew suspicious. In the meantime, however, the premiums were paid to the beneficiaries.

To catch the agent a detective named Gray was sent to Chihuahua by the corporation with instructions to insinuate himself into the confidence of Richardson and Nason. Gray persuaded Richardson and Nason to come to El Paso on the understanding that he should play the part of a man to be insured. It was understood that Gray was to personate Marshall Sanguinet. Upon arrival in this city Richardson immediately applied for a policy of \$100,000 on the life of Sanguinet. Thereupon the three men were arrested on complaint of the insurance company, but on November 7th Gray was discharged on a telegram from an official of the company in New York stating that he is a detective in the company's service.

Richardson and Nason are still in jail here. Since Richardson discovered he was entrapped he has refused to eat. It is thought both of them will be taken to Mexico for trial on charges of murder and swindling.

Fatally Ill.
Chicago, Nov. 24.—Mat L. Berry, the well-known theatrical manager, is fatally ill with blood poisoning at the Alexian Brothers hospital. The attending physicians announced late tonight that Mr. Berry would not survive until morning. In the days of his prosperity Manager Berry managed Corinne, Fay Templeton and other stars. He also had a financial interest in "A Texas Steer," "A Hole in the Ground," and other Hoyt productions.

Chafee Assumes Demand
New York, Nov. 23.—Major-General A. B. Chafee has arrived at Governor's Island, N. Y., from which post he is to command the department of the east. A salute of thirteen guns was fired in honor of the new commander, who probably will remain at his post until his retirement from the army.

Peace Being Signed
Washington, Nov. 22.—The Navy Department today received the following cablegram from Admiral Casey dated Panama: "Conference opened today on board flagship Wisconsin between Salazar and Herrera is signing terms of peace approved by Predo ino, thus ending war in Colombia."

See Mrs. Boyes as "Arline" in the opera "Bohemian Girl" at the Auditorium on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Games and Christmas Tree Decorations at Landahl's, First avenue.

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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, Ekins of West Virginia and Gibson of Montana, and with Speaker Henderson and Representatives Cannon of Illinois, Babcock of Wisconsin, Boutele 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 the unfinished business of the senate 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.

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