

## SALWEEN, MYSTERY RIVER OF THIBET

(Toronto Globe)

Nearly two thousand miles, but navigable only for a hundred miles, the Salween River of the forbidden country of Tibet, in Central Asia, has been the inspiration of many interesting traditions and is still a source of mystery, even among unimagination geographers. The following facts about that mighty stream are given in *The Sphere* (London):

### A Useless Waterway.

To man the Salween is almost useless, for, although it is nearly 2,000 miles in length, it is navigable for barely a hundred miles from its mouth! This is a very remarkable fact; it means that the Salween flows through mountainous country from its source to its mouth, but the slope of its bed is everywhere steep, and that it is almost continuously broken by rapids. Nowhere does the river meander placidly across a plain; it has built up no delta. From the time it leaves the Tibetan plateau to within a hundred miles of the sea, it rolls through a succession of terrific gorges, and for a distance of over 800 miles the extreme breadth of its basin does not exceed sixty miles! For a hundred miles its valley is but twenty miles across! But these figures, wonderful as they are, convey no idea of the romance and fascination of the Salween. It rises far up in Tibet beyond the great turquoise lake called Tengri Nor, among snowy mountains. Thence for several hundred miles it flows eastward before bending round to flow due south. Of this bend nothing is known, but from the 80th parallel to the 16th, where it enters the Bay of Bengal by Monumden in Burmah, its course is fairly well known. Perhaps the most interesting portion of the river is in the middle of its course, where it flows out from the Tibetan gorges into the Chinese territory.

### An Abrupt Change of Climate.

There is an abrupt change of climate here, the arid, hucless gorges of eastern Tibet giving place to a monsoon region where palms and bamboos grow and rice is cultivated. The valley, too, opens out a little in sympathy. The climate, however, is warm and moist, and fever is so prevalent that the Chinese are unable to live here. This part of the valley is inhabited by the redoubtable Lisso crossbow men, and further south, by Shans, remnants of a once mighty race. During the heavy summer rains it is impossible to induce the Chinese muleteers to cross this dreaded death trap, lying as it does 8,000 to 4,000 feet below the general level of the Yunnan plateau; but during the dry winter months thousands of mules go backwards and forwards over the chain



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ume and great length of the river. This is easily accounted for by the narrowness of the valley and the steepness of its sides. In summer, when all the torrents are spouting water and the snows and glaciers are melting away up in Tibet, the river is a grand sight; the turbid flood comes rolling down, and roars over the boulders with a noise like thunder. But in winter, when the iron grip of an implacable frost has chained up the torrents, the clear water, full forty feet below its summer level, flows more placidly.

### Gorges 21,000 Feet Deep.

One thing more. Attention must be drawn to that remarkable belt of country between China and Tibet, where, over a distance of 150 miles, four of the big rivers of Asia flow close to and parallel to one another. This belt nowhere exceeds a hundred miles, and at its narrowest is only seventy miles in breadth; so that, although the river gorges are separated by snow-capped rock walls rising to 21,000 feet above sea level, it is possible to cross all four rivers in less

than ten days' marching. That is to say, these rivers, namely, the Irrawaddy of Burmah, the Salween, Mekong and Yunnan rivers, flow in gorges two and a quarter miles deep, separated at one place by walls only about fifteen miles thick and four miles high. Where else in the world is so remarkable a sight as these four great rivers rustling down from the Tibetan plateau through the narrow breach torn in the Himalaya Mountains?

### PLAN SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The general interests committee of the Presbyterian maritime province synod which met in Halifax on Thursday, appointed a committee to make a survey of the public school systems of the maritime provinces and present a report in the autumn. The object of the survey will be to test the efficiency of the system of education and to find out to what extent it is meeting the demands of the people and also to discover whether there are many children of school age who are in isolated districts and not reached by any school.

Rev. J. A. MacKeigan, who has been spending some days visiting at his former home in Cape Breton, was present at the committee meeting in Halifax and returned to St. John yesterday. He said

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The knowledge acquired through these lectures, coupled with the educational advantages of such extensive travel, could only be equalled by many years intensive study.

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the sessions of the committee had been of the last year and to formulate plans fully occupied. The chief purpose of and draw up estimates for the ensuing the meeting had been to review the work year.

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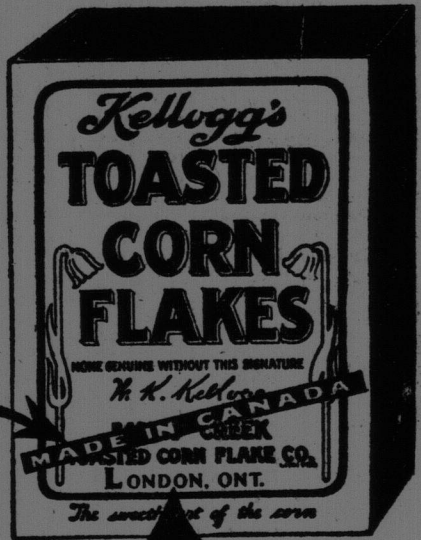
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### MUTT AND JEFF—MY WORD, WHAT AN AWFUL SCARE JEFF HAD

By "BUD" FISHER

Panel 1: GEE, A DROP WOULD SHORTEN THIS JOURNEY TODAY, AND LIKE A FOOL I DIDN'T BRING ANY ALONG!

Panel 2: YOU POOR FISH, I HAD MORE FORESIGHT THAN YOU!

Panel 3: I BOUGHT A HALF-PINT FROM A GUY DOWN NEAR THE STATION. WANT A SHOT?

Panel 4: SURE! I'LL TAKE A CHANCE! HERE'S HOW! (GLUG GLUG GLUG)

Panel 5: WOOD ALCOHOL!! HELP! I'M BLIND!!

Panel 6: CALM YOURSELF! YOU'RE O.K. WE WERE IN A TUNNEL!

Panel 7: GEE, WHAT A RELIEF!