Secrets of Deserted Capital Revealed

BURIED TREASURE.

Sir Aurel Stein who was commissioned by the Indian Government to lead an archaeological expedition to Eastern Turkestan and Westernmost China, is shortly about to publish his report. The most interesting part of his account is likely to be that portion dealing with his investigations at Khara Khoto, the dead city in Mongolia [illegible] visited not long ago by Colonel Kozloff, the eminent Russian explorer. Archaeologists are awaiting the volume with keen expectation, whetted by the exhibition of Sir Aurel Stein's finds now being held at the British museum. Col. Kosloff's discovery of Khara-Khoto is one of the age, for here achaeology breaks new ground.

How ancient the city is no one knows; but it is certain that it goes back to the period (about 1362) which led up to the Golden Horde when Mongolia, it seems, was a world Power.

Some original fragments of the teachings of Chengiz Khan set down by the scribes from his own words were found amid the ruins; also business correspondence and the Debt Act of that period.

More wonderful still, part of the celebrated Persian writings of the Book of Sindibad, "The Stories of the Seven Sages" (or Masters), was found in the original. One Arabic text of the story is contained in the "Thousand And One Nights."

Whole libraries of books were recovered. 2,000 copies in all, including one of 34 pages on medicine for horses. Many were written on silk, and the binding was of blue. They were as new-looking as though they had been inscribed yesterday.

Several editions were printed; thus it is established that the art of printing was known in the East much earlier than had been thought. Nor was this all. Immense quantities of objects of all kinds were found, including hand-weaved gobelins of exquisite beauty.

Buddhist Paintings.

But, of these, perhaps the most valuable were 300 Buddhist paintings, chiefly on silk and thick linen cloth, which had been treated beforehand with a preparation of chalk and glue. The colors are fresh, and even brilliant, some quite original tints are introduced, as, for example, a tender pinkish violet.

Looking at these Buddhist paintings, one is at once reminded of early Christian art. Often the Buddha is enveloped in clouds, and at each side is to be seen the little figure of a monk, or in a corner that of a pious layman, censer in hand.

Some of these ikons are unimaginably fantastic.

The Mongolia of those days, the days of Ghengiz Khan, was evidently a land of great culture, a land in which people from many distant parts of the civilized world assembled.

It would appear that the Mongols were not altogether the savages that we have imagined them to be.

Khara-Khoto, about which we now learn for the first time, is a strange and mystical city. The Mongolians of to-day call it the Black City, and, believing that it is haunted by spirits, will not enter it. No one would even tell the expedition where it was located.

One night a woman, caught by a storm, was forced to take shelter there.

Next day, raking over the ruins, she found a magnificent necklace composed of three ropes of pearls.

It is said that the last ruling prince, when besieged by the Chinese, buried 80 cartloads of gold, silver and other treasure in the city. The Mongolians are confident that this treasure is there—but none dare seek it, lest harm befall him.

The city, which shows traces of having been well planned, contains a number of tapering towers and a temple of original design, with a cupola.

Preserved By Desert Air.

In one of these towers, called the praying tower, most of the books and the paintings were found. Some of them were strewn about, but others were neatly piled, as if they had been carefully stored away for centuries.

The dry air of the desert had enabled them to survive for hundreds of years in an almost perfect state of preservation.

The country around Khara-Khoto is as strange as the dead city itself. But it is beautiful beyond dreams.

Colonel Kosloff tells us that life in Mongolia is a magical fairy tale. Everything is fairy-like. In the daytime the sky is a perfect turquoise blue and at night the moon is surrounded by a ring of rainbow colors.

On the plain enormous herds of camels, horses, antelopes and sheep are to be seen—the explorer says that he has never seen so many animals assembled together before in his life. But all the animals are of an "original shape"; even the bears which he came across looked unusual.

Every night the expedition was entertained to a concert of howls from hundreds and hundreds of wolves which crept out.

Col. Kosloff saw lakes literally covered with ducks, geese, seagulls, and storks, while overhead flew immense flocks of cygnets. Of vultures there are an abundance, and of small birds, too; indeed, the desert is thickly populated with bird life.

The explorer frequently observed an eagle swooping down upon a hare; but on each occasion the hare leapt over the back of its enemy and made off. One curious fact is that hares are tamed and run about the houses of the Mongolians just as cats do with us.

In the winter there is great elemental activity. Storms sweep over Mongolia, the wind uplifts the rock of the mountains, and polishes the stones, until they are exquisitely smooth and curiously formed. Then the whole silhouette of the landscape is changed. So fascinated were members of the expedition with the endless variety and beauty of these stones that they stuffed their pockets with them until the load became cumbersome, and they had to lighten it.

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sept15,17,18

Great Britain's Representatives

AT CHINESE TARIFF CONFERENCE.

LONDON, Sept. 8.—The Foreign Office announced yesterday that Great Britain will be represented at the Chinese tariff conference, which opens at Peking, October 28, by Sir Ronald McLean, British Minister to China, assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Cornwallis Peel, as financial adviser and K. D. Stewart, director of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Colonel Peel is a former financial adviser of the Foreign Office. Mr. Stewart lived in Shanghai for 17 years and was a member of the commission which negotiated the last revision of the Chinese customs tariff.

Two Useful Inventions

A new kettle which has a shield round the lid so that the hands cannot be scalded has just been placed on the market. The shield is so arranged that even if the lid were to be knocked right out of the kettle the water could not reach the hands, and it cannot boil over, as the spout is specially made to prevent this happening. The kettle is obtainable in various sizes, made of tin, or of tin and copper, and is, moreover, no more expensive than an ordinary kettle.

Designed to save space, there is now obtainable a coat-hanger which can be expanded to allow four coats to be suspended from it. This coat-hanger, which is made of copper-oxidised steel, can be fixed over a nail or hook which will slip into the slot provided, and is thus a convenient device for including in the holiday luggage. It weighs only 4½oz. and will take over 50lb. weight.

SUNBURN Apply Vicks very lightly—it soothes the tortured skin. VICKS VAPORUB Over 17 Million Jars Used Yearly

Chinese Insult White Wo[men]

"KILL THEM"

ESCAPE FROM BAYONET TH[RUST]

The following is, in part, a [letter] sent from Chengtu, Suchwan, [in] the most remote of China's prov[inces] by an American woman:—

The insults to which the [foreigners] are being subjected are terrible. [Even] ericans are supposed to be free, as a matter of fact, we are not. [A] couple of days ago I was [driven] down from a neighbour's house, my uniform was that of one of [the] American companies here.

Just as I was on the edge of a precipice coming down the mountain side, a call was raised, "Kill the foreign dog!" Someone replied, "But this is an American woman." The reply to this was, "The [officers] tell us to kill and beat every foreigner."

Most of the mob was composed of farmers of the vicinity who knew and knew me. They hooted my coolies, calling them "Slaves to forget their country." Then they began pelting me with stones and pieces of coal. My coolies were to drop the chair and fight, but knew this would be fatal, because farmers were all armed with bay[onets].

A Bayonet Lunge.

I made the coolies rush on as rapidly as possible, and we finally past, but the shock has affected heart. The following day, another woman was treated in exactly the same way.

Mrs. B—— (another foreigner) was almost run through with a bayonet by one of the soldiers who made a lunge at her. She [turned] aside, but received a serious [wound] on the arm.

Mr. M——, a Canadian who [lives] ill in his house on the hills, [was] terribly persecuted. They entered [his] bedroom, said they were going to live there, and took his personal belongings from the room. Finally they got them to leave him.

They then went to the C[hurch] (China Inland Mission) bungalow, made themselves at home, and they would not depart until Mr. [M.] gave them a revolver.

I do not think that a single [foreigner] on the hills has escaped insult. The students and agitators have cut down most of the trees in the yards of foreign houses. Mrs. W—— asked them not to cut down her trees, but they only laughed and told her that this was nothing to what they intended to do to her later on. They said, "We are going to cut down your trees; then we are going to kill you and live in your house."

Recently when the Japanese consul was coming through the city he was attacked and stoned and his sedan chair smashed to pieces. He informed the authorities that if an apology was not forthcoming he would order the Japanese to shell the town. He got the apology at once.

There are now eight gunboats here and the patience of their commanders is almost exhausted. A strike has been called for all employees of Britons, and the Chinese were told that anyone working for a Briton or a Japanese would be branded with a hot iron, so that the mark would remain with them through life.

There is no doubt of the Bolshevik tendency. The anti-Christian spirit so strong in one of the boys' schools that the Methodist Episcopal Mission are closing it.

Our chair-coolies here tell us that each has a room picked out in some foreign house to live in when the foreigners are all driven out of China. Dr. F——, one of the older men here, says the present situation is worse than the Boxer uprising, and that he that this is bound to have a disastrous effect upon missionary work in this part of China.

Channel Jetty

PLANS FOR A DOUBLE LINK FROM DOVER TO CALAIS.

A plan for the construction of a double jetty across the Straits of Dover has been laid before the Calais Chamber of Commerce by M. Jules Jaeger, a civil engineer, and is now being considered. It it not yet known, however, in view of British opposition to former schemes, how this particular plan would be viewed by the British Government.

Each jetty would be in two [parts], the upper carrying a roadway [about] 40 feet wide and the lower two railway tracks. The weight would be supported by piles embedded in caissons or in the bed of the Channel, an operation which, according to M. Jaeger, would present no insuperable difficulties.

He maintains that there would be no military objection to the scheme, as either by France or Britain, as the jetties could easily be enfiladed, and the channel between them would afford a protection against enemy submarines if France and Great Britain were allies.

The cost is estimated at between £64,000,000 and £72,000,000, which would be less than a tunnel if the latter were made wide enough for railway tracks.