

## Mesopotamia, the Land With Great Past and Even Greater Future, If Made British Protectorate; Irrigation Solution of Its Only Great Problem

Where Water Is Provided Barren Desert Becomes a Luscious, Green Paradise of Wonderful Fertility—Euphrates Provides Gigantic Salmon—British Engineers Already Have Tamed Great River and Made It Follow Set Courses.

(By a Returned Officer.)

Today, as you read this article, imagine yourself swept on a magic carpet, suddenly and in the twinkling of an eye, over continent and ocean to the land of the Eternal East. Let us imagine you chosen to come down and settle on the banks of the Euphrates by the Hindiyah dam. It is sunset, but the land is still hot and the light breeze cools not at all. "What a change! How different it all is! Every sense seems assailed by a new and unknown sensation: the tinkle of a donkey's bell, the silhouette of a silent camel caravan going in single file across the desert; the wide river fringed with palms; the various old boats, each with a cloud of canvas to catch the light breeze, creeping up the river; the creak of an old water wheel lifting the water for irrigation; the weird, singing cry of a shepherd encouraging his flock homewards. As you stand taking it all in, a dignified old Arab with white beard and flowing robe passes, saluting you with a Salam Allakum (God's peace be with you). Then your eye falls on the great dam and you observe some Arabs, half-naked, are busy fishing. And what monsters they are getting. The Euphrates salmon weighs anywhere from fifty to two hundred and ten pounds. They are spearing them after throwing in little pellets of a drug which make the fish foolish and easily approached. You notice they have already caught nearly a ton, and have them lying in the mahallah, which is moored to the river bank. If you wish, they will sell you one, and you will later learn what glorious eating they are.

An Arab's garden. But let us wander down river to an Arab and his garden. His creekly water-lift, worked by oxen, raises the water into a great camel-skin bag and dumps it into a little channel which runs back among the trees. He grows a variety of fully and luxuriant—bunches of grapes over a foot long—melons and those roses, sugarcane, palm trees and other things, never seen greater fertility—anywhere. He tells you when you question him that he has only applied water—no fertilizers whatever were necessary. Now, having had a glimpse of this country, let us turn from our magic travels.

A fruitful country. History tells us Mesopotamia was wonderfully fruitful, and it is not too much to say that it is one of the most fertile of any country in the world. It is a fact that Mesopotamia is a hot, dry, flat, dusty plain, lying roughly between the two great rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates which run north and south. Its southern boundary is the warm and steamy waters of the Persian Gulf. Its northern limits stretch to the mountainous regions of the Armenian and Kurdistan mountains, where ice peaks shimmer on the distant horizon. West, the impenetrable barrier of the Arabian desert—an inner ocean of white, lifeless sand. And east, the Persian Gulf, which the Persian Gulf chain forming a natural line north and south.

Having located its geographical history, let us turn to its geological history. Old as this country is, and astonishing as it may seem, yet it is a fact that Mesopotamia has not been fully born yet. It is still in process of being made. It is a child of the two great rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. Year by year they have eroded, worn and torn away the rocks of the vast mountain ranges, and have deposited as silt and alluvium in Mesopotamia. One needs very little imagination to realize this if he once sees the swirling, dirty yellow flood waters of spring or sees the Government dredges at the mouth of the river trying night and day, year in, year out, to keep a channel open for ships. The thousands of tons of mud which come down every day are deposited in the slack waters of the mouth and delta, and as a result Mesopotamia creeps out and grows. Even in historical times it is known that a place as far up country as Kut was once a sea port. Over two hundred miles! So we see that all of this vast land lying between the rivers is silt and alluvium laid down, bit by bit, by these mighty rivers. No wonder it is fertile if given opportunity.

## Girls! Have the Long Beautiful Hair that is Rightfully Yours

Short, scraggly, unsightly hair is more of a habit than anything else.

Hair must have intelligent care. Merely combing and washing will not keep it in a healthy condition, and give you the abundance of hair nature intended you should have.

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should be used at frequent intervals, because it keeps the scalp free from dandruff and harmful matter due to perspiration. Herpicide keeps the scalp in a healthy condition permitting the hair to have its normal growth and sheen.

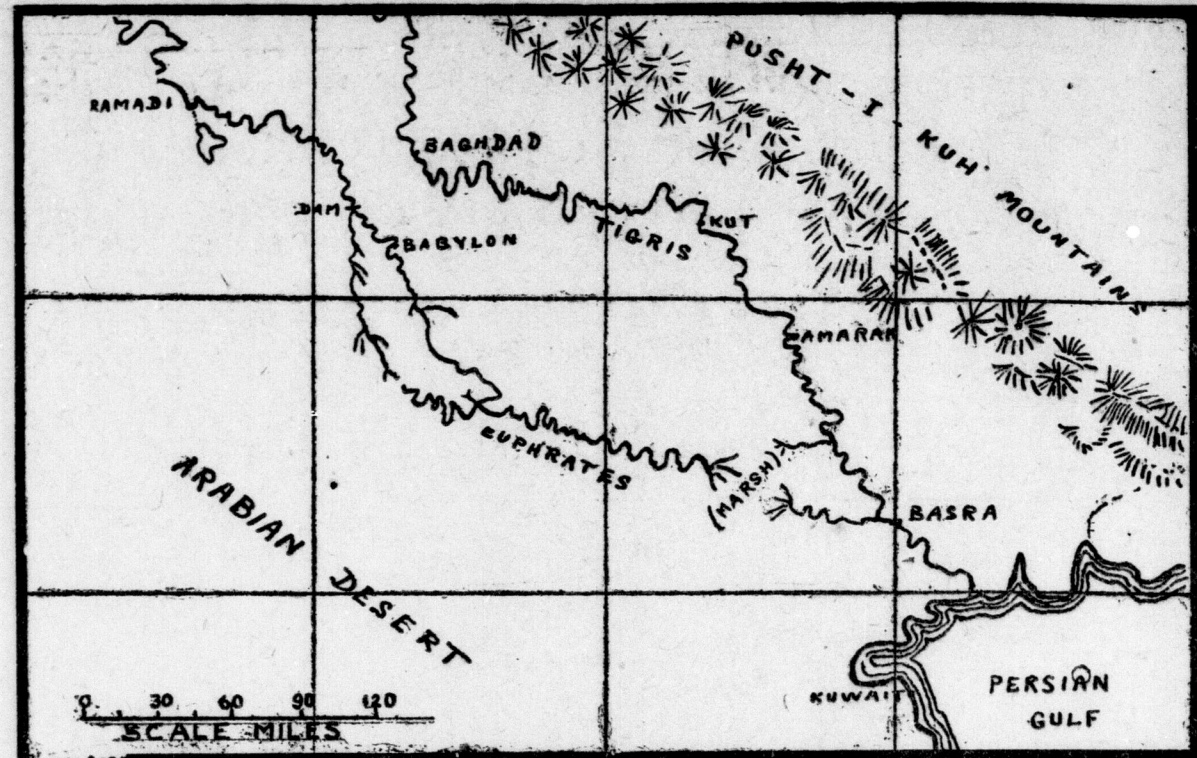
It is astounding how many men and women will go through life with little or no hair and with what they have in a very unhealthy condition, when at a very small cost, they could get Newbro's Herpicide and save and beautify their hair.

Herpicide is sold and guaranteed at drug and department stores everywhere. Applications at barber shops.

Send 10 cents in stamps or coin today for sample and booklet on the care of the hair. Address: The Herpicide Co., Dept. 180-B, Detroit, U. S. A.

STANDARD DRUG COMPANY, Special Agents.

## WHERE BARRENNESS WILL BE CHANGED TO FERTILITY BY MEANS OF ALL-POWERFUL WATER



Map of Mesopotamia, the Land of Promise, drawn for The Advertiser by the writer of the accompanying article to illustrate points mentioned.

A chance, for it is dried river mud.

Irrigation From Antiquity.

Since very remote antiquity this country has been successfully irrigated. Water channels were easy to build, and slaves were cheap. The only thing which needed watching was the spring floods. Holding walls or "bunds" were needed to keep the water in bounds. If it once broke through on account of the flatness of the country tremendous areas were inundated, and whole populations were wiped out.

Long before the time of Christ, when the mighty Assyrian civilization in the north and the Babylonian in the south were at their zenith, irrigation and dry farming had become very important sciences. Here there was a warlike and cruel people, holding in subjection most of the then known world—always plundering and ravaging—bringing home as trophies gold and silver and precious stones and beautiful women and slaves—always slaves—thousands of them. These that slaves to the land and drove by the lash to work early and late. Thus it was possible to elaborate great systems and deep canals. Human life was incredibly cheap. One Babylonian historian relates that when the floods broke through a "bund" and the king commanded that slaves be thrown into the breach. He actually states that slaves to the number of several hundred were cast in, but the result was unsuccessful. But cruel and heartless as they were, the Babylonians made of this whole country a veritable garden, and it undoubtedly teemed with as dense a population as has ever been known in history.

Different Today. How different now is this sparsely peopled, almost totally arid country! One finds many mounds and ditches scattered here and there over the desert—the last traces of bygone civilization not quite totally erased by the hand of time. The rivers no longer keep to their banks, but great sections of them have wandered off and wasted themselves in marshes. Looking at the map one notes that the Euphrates has so wasted and wandered away its waters that at one point in lower Mesopotamia it ceases to have any distinct course and only partially collects itself together many miles lower and again becomes a river. Turning one's eyes back to the map, one finds that the Euphrates has risen and fallen on this land, one begins to understand why it is a total waste, and the awful and destruction according to little with such highly technical work as irrigation and the constant fighting of Persians and Parthians, Greeks and Romans ruled as conquerors successively. Mahomet and his fiery followers swept the country in 637 A.D. And since about 1200 A.D., our friend, the lazy Turk, has ruled (or misruled) this forlorn land. His policy of stagnation—his fatalism—his belief that Allah wills all things, have been deadly narcotics to progress.

Damming the Euphrates. Two Englishmen, both brilliant engineers, had before the war tried to "shake the Turk awake on this subject" and had partially succeeded—Sir William Wilcox and Sir John Jackson. Two works of large magnitude have been attempted. One, the damming of the

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## NO HOOK, LINE AND ROD LANDED THIS FELLOW



Euphrates Salmon captured in the way described in the article.

Euphrates at Musayib, to regulate the waters below this point. This is complete and is working successfully. The river here has had two courses which run separate, for nearly 100 miles and make a very fertile country. The river would deepen one channel and use it exclusively for several years—then, following some whim at a spring flood, it would switch back to the old channel and leave the other nothing but a trickle. This was a terrible calamity to the Arab, for without water to drink or to water his gardens his position was hopeless. He had to abandon everything and migrate over to the new channel and start afresh. As this process kept on repeating itself and constantly kept the luckless population of this district on tenterhooks, Sir William Wilcox conceived the scheme of putting a dam across the river just where it was about to divide, and by careful regulation feed both channels their share. This great dam was completed shortly before the war. As the ruins of Babylon were close by, hundreds of thousands of bricks were used in its construction. The dam was salvaged and built into this dam. It has 39 arches and sluice ways, and is known as the Hindiyah Barrage. This scheme has been a wonderful success, and the results are now becoming apparent. This strip of country is now a veritable garden. Dates—date palms, grapes, wheat, barley, pomegranates, lemons and oranges grow in profusion. The small fruits and vegetables are wonderful.

A Second Scheme. The second scheme only started is a much larger one, and seeks to draw off the flood waters of the Euphrates high up in Mesopotamia, at a place called Ramad. This would act as a tremendous storage reservoir of water, which could be let back into the river in dry weather as needed. Its secondary use and very important also, would be to curb the worst of the flood, and so save the dikes and levees of lower Mesopotamia. At Ramad there is a small brackish lake of about three miles breadth (Lake Habbaniyah), not far from the river. This little lake is the centre of a very large depression in the desert, and if a canal were cut through from the river this depression could be utilized as the reservoir. The water would flood and fill it for many miles, and by a system of gates could be returned to the river as needed. Sir John Jackson & Co. had contracted before the war with the Turks for this work, and had it under way.

During the last of the fighting in Mesopotamia, when the Turks were driven up-river through this town, they utilized the small metal dump cars used for earth excavation at machine gun posts. They set them on end, and half buried them on the sides of this canal. From such vantage points they did deadly execution until they were silenced.

How soon this great scheme will be completed it is hard to say, but although it will cost millions of dollars, if Mesopotamia becomes a protectorate or a part of the British Empire, it is certain to be rushed to completion. Great Britain at present has a small army of engineers and agricultural experts working out fresh schemes and teaching the Arab the science of gas engines, water lifts and piping. India would be ready to send many emigrants to such a land. As an outlet to its crowded millions, Mesopotamia would be ideal. This would act as a machine, not better than Mesopotamia is a land with a great past, and those who have studied it believe it has an even greater future. Let us watch it with interest.

INSPECTOR WILL SUMMON MORE OF TAX-DOGGERS. License Inspector J. W. McCallum threatens a wholesale summoning of scores of citizens who have not paid their municipal vehicle licenses. The mayor is numbered by the inspector among those who have not donated the one dollar license fee for each vehicle in operation.

More than two thousand licenses have been paid to date, but citizens are slackening up again, the inspector states, and another court appearance of unwilling vehicle owners he thinks will give the proper impetus to the payment of the licenses.

In a test case in police court recently a lawyer retained by three owners to investigate the validity of the municipal vehicle license bylaw pronounced it impossible to resist successfully.

## WAR VETERANS ASK GRANT OF \$3,000 FROM CITY COUNCIL

That the city council should be asked for a grant of \$3,000 with which to facilitate the plans being made by the Great War Veterans' Association for the reception of the Prince of Wales, was the decision of the reception committee of that organization at its meeting last evening. The members commonly agreed that further plans could not be formed without the co-operation of the council. Six delegates were appointed to go before the council next Tuesday evening.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 returned men are expected to be in London on the day of the prince's arrival, and in regard to their welfare, the committee wishes to provide a free meal in one of the buildings on Carling Heights prior to the prince's arrival. With that object in view, representatives of every ladies' organization in the city will be requested to meet in the G. W. V. A. clubroom on Thursday afternoon next at 3 o'clock. Then from the assembly, a committee will be formed which will make the arrangements for the supply of the "feeds," if the scheme is deemed feasible. The ladies' organizations requested to be present at the meeting will be: I. O. O. F., Red Cross K. of C., Army Hut Ladies' Auxiliary, St. John's Ambulance Society, the Ladies' Aid Societies of every church in the city, also every mothers' club and the ladies of the Salvation Army.

## WHOLESALE AND JOBBING FIRMS FIND TRADE BRISKER

Some Fear Among Them That Prices May Crumble, Says Bradstreet's. London reports to Bradstreet's that wholesale and jobbing firms are experiencing a busier trade as the fall season and the Western Fair approach. There appears to be increasing evidence that buyers will take the usual amount of goods. There is some fear that prices may crumble, but while such a feeling is not unreasonable, there seems to be little at the present situation to justify such an attitude. Some wholesalers are advising their customers to avoid over-purchasing and to buy for actual requirements. The growing scarcity of goods makes it apparent that the early buyers are the ones who are most likely to have their wants satisfied.

Crop conditions are only fair, but considering the fact that the farmers are showing a disposition to absorb a good amount of commodities such as wearing apparel, groceries, etc.



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SMALLMAN/NEWMAN

## PRINCE USING G. T. R. ON TOUR OF ONTARIO CITIES

Will Be Accompanied by H. R. Charlton, Representing Railway.

OTTAWA, Aug. 29.—The Prince of Wales, on his visits to the principal cities, is using the lines of the Grand Trunk Railway System. His Royal Highness will arrive at Hamilton from Toronto on Monday, October 27 for Brockville and Montreal. The royal train will be hauled by the big Pacific type of locomotives of the Grand Trunk.

H. R. Charlton of the Grand Trunk has been designated to accompany His Royal Highness while on the lines of that system. Mr. Charlton has been the representative of the company on the various Canadian tours of important personages during the past twenty years. The Emperor of Japan conferred on him the Order of the Sacred Treasure following the visit of Prince Fushimi to Canada.

## WAR VETERANS' ASSN. REQUESTED BY MAYOR TO HELP RECEPTION



H. R. CHARLTON.

Mayor Somerville has requested the executive of the Great War Veterans' Association to assist the city in the reception to be given to Gen. Sir Arthur Currie when he visits London to open the Western Fair. As a result of the request, a special meeting of the executive was held last evening, and the preliminary plans formed.

The G. W. V. A. band and a large number of veterans, in addition to the civic representatives, will meet the prince and make the parade ceremony a success in every respect. At Queen's Park the returned men will gather around the raised platform from which Gen. Currie will formally open the fair.

Only the foundation plans were formed last evening by the G. W. V. A. executive, and later, in co-operation with the civic reception committee, the more elaborate and final arrangements will be made.

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## MEMORIAL AT ILBERTON.

ILBERTON, Aug. 29.—The Ilberton fair directors have erected a fine new grandstand on the grounds to seat about 500. Secretary Ed. Douglas, who was severely hurt by falling from the roof, is getting around again. The Red Cross Society have the monument to the local heroes, and work will be pushed on as fast as possible.

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