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SERVING TEA IN MESOPOTAMIA

It is difficult, as I sit on my green hill looking out across the valley to the forested heights beyond, to carry my thoughts back to a land that is without elevation and without greenery, truly a land that is desolate. For throughout Mesopotamia from Baghdad, four hundred miles to the sea, there is not one natural hill, and although the soil is as fertile as any in the world, yet for lack of water much of the country is an unrelieved waste. From May to November the sky is an unvarying as the earth, and no clouds temper the sun's rays. Here it is that Nature has brought together all the conditions of heat until she has produced a veritable inferno, where the official temperature may be as high as 130 degrees in the shade, and from May to October the days of less than 100 degrees can be counted on the fingers. This forsaken land has been the scene of desperate struggles since the war began. Here the British soldier still sweaters in the heat of summer, walls in the mud of winter, dodges the floods of springtime, and is thankful for a trace with Nature that he may take up arms against the Turk.

To spread a heaven of good cheer through this mass of desolation, the Y. M. C. A. had called for men, and four of us had met in Bombay on our way to the work. We were anything but reassured by the growing tales of heat, insects, starvation, and disease, nor did the eight-day voyage to Basra tend to make us more cheerful. Our ship was loaded down with horses, men and guns. The guns and horses were first fastened in their places, then the men were distributed among them. The guns were inoffensive; of the presence of the horses we were inevitably reminded as we passed into the Persian Gulf with its sickening heat. Some of the horses died. The men, being tougher, in spite of the scanty and distasteful diet, survived. A refreshing view of the river of Arabia (Shat-el-Arab) at length greeted us. Both banks are verdant with palms as far as Basra and forty miles beyond. The refreshing appearance of the country, however, soon loses its effect. A night of sleepless torment by sandflies, a day of penetrating, irritating dust that fills eyes and nose, a few meals of tinned food liberally diluted with flies and sand, while the tea is made with chlorinated water and condensed milk—these dampen one's first fine carefree rapture.

No war zone has needed the work of the Y. M. C. A. more than Mesopotamia, because there has been no theatre of war where the country itself is so entirely barren of resources. There is Ezra's tomb with its blue-tiled dome and Jewish pilgrims. Above all, there are agricultural villages of freed slaves whose half-naked inhabitants run along beside the steamer as it passes close to the banks and sell eggs and fowls at ridiculously low prices. Sometimes they had excellent wild ducks that they had snared, and then we had a feast.

Moreover, the navigation itself is very interesting above Kurnah. For the Tigris here is so diminished by the loss of water into forgotten irrigation canals that there is not depth of water for a loaded steamer, and it is necessary to put the load on barges which the steamer tows, one on each side. In the narrow bends the steamer cannot turn by paddling, and the crew has to drive in a stake ashore well ahead around the outside of the bend so that the bow of the steamer can be pulled about with rope and windlass. Here, too, we waited hours in the daytime for ships coming down. They have the right of way and there are long stretches where two boats cannot pass. In addition to these delays we spent every night at anchor with a guard set to watch us of falling Arabs. It was the difficulty of getting supplies past this part of the river that caused many of the hardships of troops at the time of the British advance. Hospital life is an essential part of Mesopotamian existence. All guides to the country have a chapter on hospital etiquette. Whatever deficiencies there may have been in the early days, the equipment and staff of the three hospitals of which I had personal experience left little to be desired. At any rate, they were fitted out in a way that seemed most luxurious, with brick floors, fans, and malaria, typhoid, dysentery, and cholera were the most illnesses. I met an Irishman who had survived cholera and dysentery in immediate succession. Jaundice was a very common feature in the convalescent home. Jaundice patients are an interesting psychological study. They live in a world of the imagination and have no desire to act, or even to eat. They sit about dreaming

THE TWA CATS AND THE CHEESE

I TWA cats once on a cheese did light, To which both had an equal right; But disputes, sic as aft arise, Fell out soaring of the prize.

"Fair play," said one, "ye bite o'er thick, That teeth of yours gang wonder quick! Let's part it, else lang or the moon Be chang'd, the kebbaek will be doon."

But wha's to do? They're parties baith, And aye may do the other shafts; Sae with consent away they rudge, And laid the cheese before a Judge— A monkey with a camploo face, Clerk to a justice of the peace.

A judge he seem'd in justice shaft, When he his master's chaff had fill'd, Now umpire chosen for division Baith swear to stand by his decision.

Demure he looks, the cheese he pales; He prives—it's good; ca's for the scales; His knife whops throw't, in twa if fell; He puts ilk half in either shell.

Said he: "We'll truly weigh the case, And strictest justice shall have place." Then lifting up the scales, he fand The tane bang up, the other stand; Syne out he took the heaviest haif, And eat a knoost o' quickly aff; And try'd it syne—it noo proved light.

"Friend cats," said he, "ye'd do you right!" Then to the tither haif he fell, And laid thit' tughly tooth and nail; Till weighed again, it lightest prov'd, The judge, wha this sweet process lov'd, Still weigh'd the case, and still ate on, Till clients baith were weary grown; And wanting how the matter went, Cry'd, "Come, come, sir, we're baith content!"

"Ye fools," quoth he, "and justice too Man be content as well as you." Thus grumbled they, thas he went on, Till baith the halves were near-hand done.

Poor Pousses now the daffin saw, O' gawn for niggyets to the law, And baill'd the judge that he would please To give them the remaining cheese, To which his worship grave reply'd: "The dues of court man first be paid. Now, justice please'd, what's to the fore Will bit right scripply cair your score; Tha's our decree, goe hame and sleep, And thank us ye're win aff see cheap!"

ALLAN RAMSAY (Born Oct. 15, 1836; died Jan. 7, 1918)

of home, 10,000 miles away, perhaps, and if you attempt to awake one of them to a discussion of real things, he answers brusquely and escapes again to his imaginary world. One thinks of "a party in a parlor taking tea, all silent and all damed."

During my third trip to the hospital I was able to talk to men who had been wounded in the fight for Kut, and who were rejecting of the unexpected prospect of the fall of Baghdad. One Scotch captain told a tale as romantic almost as any of Cervantes. The night before the last attack on the Sanna-iyat position he and a companion had stolen out with an armful of bombs to reconnoitre. When they had completed their investigations and were beginning to throw their bombs a Turkish machine-gun broke loose at them and sent a bullet through the wrist of the captain, which was upraised in the act of throwing a bomb. The bomb dropped and exploded, wounding him in the leg. He had avoided a fatal result by kicking the bomb aside as it dropped. He was now wounded again, and fainted. Coming to be found himself in a Turkish trench. Making his wants known to an officer in French, he insisted on being carried back on a stretcher. He received the scantiest attention and was finally placed in a cabin on board the *Basra*, a Turkish steamer on the river above Kut. Meanwhile, the British had thrown a bridge across at Kut, and had forced the Turks to retire with all speed from Sanna-iyat. The *Basra* started up-stream, amid great confusion, and was soon overtaken by one of the audacious little British gunboats.

Our captain was resting in his cabin when a shell passed through, exploding beyond. He roused himself by a supreme effort, and going on deck ordered the *Basra* run aground and the white flag raised. He had to find an interpreter to give his order to the pilot, but for some reason he was obeyed and the *Basra* surrendered with a load of Turkish regulars, including many officers, German machine-guns, British prisoners, and supplies of all sorts. The *Basra* made her first trip down the river loaded with Turkish prisoners, and a hearty cheer we gave her as she passed the hospital. She spent an afternoon at Amara to where the natives came to see the actual results of British prowess. The Arabs were very glad that day, and still glisten a week later, when the city of the caliphs fell for the first time into the hands of unbelievers. The Jews and Armenians, however, hoisted gay flags before their shops and were such smiles on their faces as I suppose had not dared to appear since the Arabs first arrived, nearly thirteen hundred years ago. The various races may de-

spise one another, but, after all, the religious bond creates the deepest hostility. In Amara we lived in a house of sand-dried brick. The roof was of mud spread on matting which rested on flat poles. Here we slept after the weather began to grow hot in March. Once or twice we were driven indoors by showers, but in general the roof is the most comfortable part of an Eastern house on a hot night. In winter the flat roof proved inadequate. The mud had cracked as it dried, and torrents of water poured through when the rains came. We would sit and shiver about the dinner-table while the rain beat down above and streams of water splashed about us into tubs and pails set under the-leaks to catch it. Fortunately, there was very little rain last winter. Otherwise a rapid advance on Baghdad would have been impossible. Even an hour's rain turns the alluvial soil into a morass into which it is easy to sink, but from which it is difficult to extricate oneself. Transport became almost impossible, and marching was a real feat. By the end of March in a dry year the heat begins to be uncomfortable, and before the end of April the steady succession of hundred-degree days sets in, not to be broken until October. Ordinarily the floods should come at this time to hinder operations and furnish a breeding-place for myriads of mosquitoes. This year the absence of rain was again fortunate, for it meant no flood and few mosquitoes.

With the coming of hot weather began the busy season for the hospitals. The doctors are wise now that they were last year, and have sent many men to India to recuperate before they actually broke down. Among the number inviolated home were two of our original four. We avoided the hardships by going down to Rurnah by the new metre-gauge railway. We climbed on to a flat truck about ten o'clock one night, spread out our beds and went to sleep. We awoke next morning to find ourselves still jolting along. We found the steps frequent and protracted, and took advantage of them to make our toilet by the river. Altogether, it took nine hours for the sixty miles to Rurnah, and it was thirty in all before we had done the additional forty by steamer to Basra. Here we caught a steamer for Bombay, and three months later we arrived in New York harbor, unscathed by submarines and rather surprised to find the lethargy of the East dropping off in great flakes as we—ARNOLD POST, in *The New York Evening Post*.

RECRUITING IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The official report of the result of recruiting in the Province of New Brunswick, for home and overseas service, for the week ending Oct. 6, is as follows:

St. John County	2
9th Siege Battery	2
8th Field Ambulance	3
I. R. F. C.	4
62nd O. S. Draft	16
U. S. A. for Imperial Army	16
Northumberland County	26
9th Siege Battery	1
York County	1
9th Siege Battery	2
236th Battalion	7
No. 2 Forestry Co.	7
8th Field Ambulance Depot	15
Westmorland County	0
236th Battalion	1
9th Siege Battery	1
Carleton County	2
No. 2 Forestry Company	1
62nd O. S. Draft	1
Kings County	1
No. 2 Forestry Company	1
Albert County	0
Charlotte County	0
Gloucester County	0
Restigouche County	0
Victoria County	0
Madawaska County	0
Queens and Suburban Counties	0
Kent County	0

Of the fifteen recruits shown for York county for the week, eight were secured in the United States.

NOEL J. OGLIVIE HEAD OF GEODETIC SURVEY

Ottawa, Oct. 8.—Noel J. Ogilvie succeeds the late Dr. W. F. King, C. M. G., as superintendent of the Geodetic Survey of Canada. Mr. Ogilvie received his commission as a surveyor in February 1905. In 1905-1906 he was in charge of a survey party on the International Boundary Survey of the 49th parallel of latitude, covering all branches of this work, including triangulation and photography. In 1907-1908 he represented Canada for B. M. Boundary Commission on the inspection of the survey of the 49th parallel of latitude from the Pacific Ocean to the summit of the Rockies.

He was in charge of H. B. M. Boundary Commission in 1909-1914 of the survey of the international boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, commonly known as the Alaska boundary. In 1914 Mr. Ogilvie was given the title of Assistant Superintendent of the Geodetic Survey. Recently he was in charge of the Geodetic Survey of the British Columbia coast.

SITUATION IN NORTH CHINA SERIOUS

Peking, Oct. 9.—The floods in North China are not abating and the situation is most serious. The government relief institutions are being overtaxed. The refugees here from the flooded districts are daily increasing. There is no hope of the water subsiding before winter sets in, which means that half a million destitute persons must be fed, clothed and housed by the government.

GREEK SUPREME COURT OUSTED

Athens, Sept. 10.—The new Government, which succeeded that of King Constantine, has adopted radical measures toward the Supreme Court, or Areopago, on the charge of having used its high judicial functions for political ends in protecting the officials of the late King and permitting the persecution of the Venizelos element. The Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice, and five Associate Justices have been summarily removed, and some sixty judges of courts below the Supreme Court are similarly displaced. Such a sweeping overturn of the judiciary has never been known before.

The Minister of Justice has explained to Parliament that conditions were such as to warrant the suspension of the constitutional provision giving the judiciary a fixed tenure of office. He referred to the dismissal of the Supreme Court and other judges as a work of purification, and said it would be continued until all those who had taken a hand in politics were removed. He cited a number of instances in which the harsh treatment of the Venizelists last December resulted from the rulings by the courts.—Correspondence of the Associated Press.

FORM HABITS IN THE ARMY

SOLDIERS WHO LEARN TO PERFORM DAILY DUTIES BY THE CLOCK NEVER FORGET THEM

Ottawa, Sept. 9.—One of the strongest recommendations for military life, in the opinion of men back from the front, is that it tends to give one settled habits of living. The soldier has a regular round of daily duties, including lengthy periods for recreation while in training, and he grows used to this method of ordering his existence quickly.

It is a tradition of the race that the easiest way to go through life enjoying oneself is to form good habits, such as regularity in rising, going to bed, eating, shaving, and the like. All these are learned by men in the army. Their duties are so ordered that they may perform the day's tasks with the least possible delay and without confusion.

Furthermore, the discipline maintained in the citizen armies which are fighting in the present war is by no means like that of former times, when harshness and severity were considered essential. It has been found out by those who did not realize it at once that the men of the present Allied armies work and fight better when treated as self-respecting individuals, each one possessed of his freedom if willing to observe discipline for the good of the whole.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MEMBERS OF THE EXEMPTION BOARD

The following gentlemen have been appointed in Charlotte County to deal with the question of exemption under the Military Services Act. The first named person in each district was selected by Judge Carleton, and the second by M. G. Teed, K. C., and J. J. McCallrey:

St. Stephen, District No. 1.—James Vroom and J. W. Moore.

St. George, District No. 2.—James O'Neil and Frank G. Hibbard.

North Head, District No. 3.—William A. Fraser, Postmaster, Woodward's Cove; Fred. McLaughlin, Seal Cove.

St. Andrews, District No. 4.—F. Howard Grimmer and George B. Finigan.

MONTREAL'S FINANCIAL DILEMMA

Montreal, Oct. 8.—According to special advices it was brought by the Montreal city government to tender out an issue of bonds amounting to between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000 before Dec. 1, to pay off an issue of approximately \$6,000,000 coming due on that date. It has been found that owing to the great extent of high financing which is going on in both the United States and Canada that this will be impossible and the deal has been abandoned for the time being. It was thought that the bonds would be saleable over the counter but the city controllers have been advised by bond men that this never could be accomplished. This coupled with advices from the Canadian minister of finance to the effect that he did not want any other bond issues offering on the Canadian market at the time the new internal war loan was being floated, has been the reason for the abandonment of the scheme.

If the bond issue is not raised and the provincial government does not come to the rescue of the city by the date on which the \$6,000,000 bond issue becomes due and help the city to finance itself, Montreal will have to refuse to take up its matured bond issue, and in that case with the huge debts coming due and the enormous deficits in the city treasury the city will be put into the hands of a commission as there is nothing else ahead but bankruptcy. This has been caused by bad city governments and the low taxation coupled with the large amount of religious property which is exempt from taxes.

STEAMER GRAHAM ASHORE AT MANITOULIN ISLAND

Port Huron, Mich., Oct. 9.—Reports received here to day from South Bay, Manitoulin Island, said that the steamer *Graham* which went ashore there, will probably be a total loss. No casualties were reported. The steamer, owned by the Montreal Transit Company, was loaded with grain, and it is understood that she broke in two after grounding.

ADMITTING FOREIGN VESSELS TO COASTWISE TRADE

Washington, Oct. 5.—The Administration Bill permitting foreign vessels in the coastwise trade, except as to Alaska, during the war and for 120 days thereafter, was unanimously passed to-day by the Senate. It now goes to the President.

MISSOURI'S LINIMENT CURES COLDS, ETC.

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