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in

**"MARY'S LAMB"**

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**TOMORROW ONLY**—Wallingford and Neal of the Navy.

## REAL COCOS KING IS DEAD

BY WILBUR S. FORREST.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
London, Jan. 8.—(By Mail)—The news that King Ross of the Cocos Islands has laid him down in the shade of the palms and died was cabled here today. The brief message rings down the curtain upon the last act of the first ruler of the real, original Comic Opera Kingdom—The Land of Cocos—which lies upon the shimmering silver lap of the South Seas, a diminutive emerald world in a setting of pink coral reefs. Andy Ross was a Scotch adventurer who, after a roving youth, discovered and decided to cast his lot as king with the motley inhabitants of the little story book kingdom. From 1827 until his death he was the oddest king, with the queerest subjects and the most extraordinary domain in all the world. His was a kingdom where the arrival of Sinbad the Sailor, Alice in Wonderland, Gulliver and The Boy Who Could Not Learn to Shiver and Shake would not have seemed unusual. His was a kingdom that put Romance into Real Life and Real Life into Romance. The Cocos Islands is distinctly an O. Henry land, a place such as Gilbert & Sullivan saw only in fancy, a spot that a Robert Louis Stevenson would be loth to leave.

Ross was king, court, government and owner of this group of Indian ocean isles, twenty in all, whose only excitement in history occurred during the present war—the destruction of the German cruiser Emden by the Australian battleship Sydney, off the Cocos' coast.

King Ross was the third of his line. In 1823, an English adventurer named Alexander Hare settled in the islands with a number of slaves given him by an Indian potentate. Two years later Ross, a Scotchman, rediscovered the islands and determined to colonize them. He returned in 1827 with a party of Scotch and found Hare in possession. The two factions settled by dividing the islands equally. Finally, however, the na-

tives swore allegiance to Ross and he and his descendants have ruled their story-book kingdom ever since.

Interspersed with palm covered taolls and flanked by reefs of pink coral, the picturesque little group of islands is more like a scene from a musical comedy than anything else. In 1856 the British government extended protection to the Cocos. In 1885 Parliament sent a commission to investigate conditions there. When the British warship with the commission on board steamed into the lagoon at Direction Island, the inhabitants and the King and his court welcomed them just like a comic-opera-South-Sea-Island-King would be expected to do.

The Palace was thrown open to the Europeans; and the royal family, its salaaming Malay servants and their all was the disposal of the men from civilization.

All the people of the island group are of more than ordinarily powerful physique, muscular and lithe; quite Jack Londonish, in fact. The brown skinned natives speak their own language with a Scottish burr. The white royalty speaks the native tongue too. Even the King himself knew little of the English tongue that his forefathers used. The chief industry is copra and coral gathering. There is no metal money. The King decided at first that Money is the Root for All Evil, so he issued cards and not too many of them. The kingdom is administered on model lines. The King makes his own laws, polices his domain and provides everything for his subjects.

When the Cruiser Emden was sunk off the islands, the survivors of the crew commandeered the royal yacht and embarked for Sumatra. Aside from this, the only other excitement the islands have had is cyclones. The natives, King, royalty and all, out-maneuver nature on these occasions by rushing into the lagoons and standing in water up to their necks until the blow subsides.

### Today's Oddest Story.

Devils Lake, N. D., Jan. 24.—Despite its name, Devils Lake is said today by A. L. Johnson, to be so good that a city jail is an economic loss. Johnson is waging a campaign to have the city sell the jail and use the county jail for the few cases the city may have. Johnson is president of the Devils Lake City commission.

### Farmers' Union Plans Elevators.

Condon, Or., Jan. 24.—The Farmers' union of Gilliam county has decided to erect two grain elevators in the county, one at Condon and the other at Blalock. Plans are being drawn for the buildings and cost estimates will be prepared immediately.

### Ten Convictions in Malheur County.

Vale, Or., Jan. 24.—In the circuit court for Malheur county in the week just closed the state convicted almost all criminal cases and Sheriff Brown and two deputies have taken 10 persons to the penitentiary. Among those going is "Bill Ridings," convicted of horse stealing in company with two young boys. Ridings is known as a famous broncho rider, and was made prominent by being chosen as a character subject of the Wild West by Mr. Prentiss, the artist.

Three of those convicted were sent up for sheep stealing and one, George Hickman, for assault with a knife upon Margaret Arnold in a hotel at Ontario.

### City Manager Plan Advocated

(By United Press)

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 22.—The so-called Des Moines plan of city government, one of the first forms of Commission government, which attracted much favorable attention the country over when it was adopted seven years ago, is branded a failure by Councilman W. F. Mitchell and a considerable percentage of the citizens. Mitchell was put into office to see if he couldn't reorganize affairs and make the plan successful. His resignation is tendered today, effective this spring. Mitchell says the city manager's plan should be adopted by Des Moines. The bonded and floating indebtedness of Des Moines has increased nearly \$1,000,000 since the plan was put in force seven years ago. The plan was heralded as one that would eliminate partisan politics from all municipal elections, place the responsibility for the success or failure of the city government upon the heads of the individual commissioners and generally make for economy and efficiency. Mitchell says politics has not been eliminated and that financially the plan has accomplished no good. Mitchell favors electing councilmen by districts rather than at large, paying them for one meeting a week. He believes all municipal executive control should be vested in the City Manager, together with power to enforce all laws and ordinances and to control all city work. Mitchell believes this would kill the political phase he believes has made the old Des Moines plan useless.

### Death in Homes or Ashland.

Ashland, Ore., Jan. 24.—Three deaths of old and respected citizens occurred Friday and Saturday. J. Leslie Corbet, pioneer and former city engineer, passed away in his sleep Saturday morning. He had been suffering with the grip, but was downtown in his usual good spirits Friday. A sister and niece in Ashland and a grandson in the East survive. Mrs. Sarah J. Barber, mother of W. M. Barber of Ashland, died at the home of her son Friday afternoon. She came to Ashland from Columbus, Ohio, a year ago. Wallace Rogers, pioneer Indian fighter and Civil war veteran, died Friday morning. He leaves a wife in this city.

### Old Resident Passes at Canyon City.

Canyon City, Ore., Jan. 24.—Mrs. Sebella Overholt died at her home in this city Saturday morning. Deceased was an old resident of Canyon City. She has long been a sufferer from heart trouble and for the past month was confined to her bed. She is survived by two children, a son, Elmer, of Arizona, who was called to her bedside soon after she was taken ill, and a daughter, Mrs. D. I. Asbury, of McMinnville, Ore., who was unable to be present. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon.

### States May Control.

Washington, Jan. 24.—In a decision of wide effect to water power development throughout the United States, the supreme court held today that states possess the power to enact laws authorizing condemnation of power sites and water rights, by right of eminent domain.

The decision was announced by Justice Holmes in upholding the constitutionality of the Alabama water power condemnation statutes in a case touching the improvement of Tallapoosa river.

"The principal argument," said Justice Holmes "is that the purpose of the condemnation is not a public one. In the organic relations of modern society, it may some times be hard to draw the line that is supposed to limit the authority of the legislature to exercise or delegate the power of eminent domain.

"But to gather the streams from waste and to draw from them energy, labor without brains and so to save mankind from toil is to supply what next to intelligence is the very foundation of all our achievements. If that purpose is not public, we should be at a loss to say what is."

### BLIND FIG AT CONDON.

Cleaning Establishment Raided and Liquor Seized.

Condon, Or., Jan. 24.—A raid in this city by District Attorney Weinke, Sheriff Lillie and several deputies on a cleaning establishment conducted by Maybelle Davis and Georgia Fisher a few days ago, resulted in the arrest of the two women and Evan Anderson and stranger giving his name as Ausman, as well as the seizure of a large quantity of liquors of all kinds. The two women after a preliminary hearing were bound over to the grand jury on charges of violating the state-wide prohibition law and of conducting a disorderly place, while the men were held as witnesses.

The liquors seized consisted of a trunk filled with bottled beer, numerous gallon and half-gallon demijohns containing whisky and a number of quart bottles containing whisky and wine.

District Attorney Weinke is anxious to have a special term of the grand jury called so that the cases can be quickly disposed of and many Farmers' union members and other taxpayers have indorsed his plan. This is the first violation of the prohibition law in Gilliam county.

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