

THE BARNYARD MEN HEARS OF THE "EGG TRUST."



—Chicago Tribune.

SAHARA DESERT.

A Sun-Baked Region of Desolation and Ever Shifting Sands. In the event that it becomes necessary for France to intervene in the affairs of Morocco, in the interests of international order, the scene of her first operations will be in the desert region where the French colony of Algiers and the country of the Moors join. French troops are now posted in that region and a more dismal setting for military operations it would be difficult to find. Under the name of the Algerian Sahara the great desert of the southern base of the Atlas mountains and closely approaches the Mediterranean west of the Gulf of Gabes. The immensity of this great barren region can scarcely be realized. The Sahara desert embraces some 3,200,000 square miles and presents an alternation of

is the chief beast of burden and were it not for this "ship of the desert" the burning wastes would be impassable for man. Along these caravan routes oases are found in places where underground sources of water exist. Vegetation flourishes in these restricted areas and date palms, affording a grateful shade, thrive. Of late strange sights to the natives have been seen along some of these caravan routes. Modernism has invaded them. Daring tourists have run their automobiles, to the consternation of the Arabs, into the oases which never before witnessed other means of locomotion except that furnished by the camels. A strange contrast indeed it must be to see the motor car of civilization whirling along routes where for centuries the four-legged "ship of the desert" stood without a compeer. But so it is. Civilization is forcing its way into every nook of the world. But



SAND WAVES OF A DESERT SEA.

immense burning wastes of loose and moving sand, with tracts of barren rock, stony plains of gravel and elevated and rocky plateaus rising into mountains, with extensive valleys and expanses of sand between. Some of the valleys are depressed below the level of the ocean. Under the influence of meteorological conditions operating for centuries the particles composing the sandstone and other rocks are disintegrated and these particles carried away by the mighty wind that sweeps the soil, wander afar until they come to a standstill in the hollows. Such is the origin of the extensive sandy tracts of which the accompanying illustration gives a good idea. In these belts or strips the sand halting against the smallest obstacles accumulates around them and generally the downs thus created assume the form of the waves of the sea, their fall and motion being with the direction of the prevailing wind. Rain is utterly unknown except in the oases and on the mountains, where it sometimes falls with such violence as to produce torrents that suddenly

while it may thus lend a picturesque aspect to desert locomotion, it will never change the essentials of the great waste, whose shifting sands are forever in motion like the billows of the troubled sea. Odd Habits of Pheasants. There is some curiosity as to how many English pheasants will be raised in Kansas this year. The average number of birds raised by each pair of parent birds is sixty. With 2,000 in the State this would mean about 7,000,000 birds in two years. The woods and fields would be overrun with them at this rate. However, there are many foes of the birds and they are killed every year in great numbers. The sheet storms are particularly hard on them, as the water freezes on their long plumage and they are unable either to fly or run fast. When in this condition they are easy prey to dogs and wolves. One of the queerest habits the birds have is to migrate in the late winter thirty-five miles. It is claimed that the birds always migrate exactly thirty-five miles and always to the south. The



A CONTRAST OF TWO CIVILIZATIONS IN THE DESERT.

pour down into the valleys and almost as suddenly disappear beneath the sands. These rains fall at long intervals, 9, 12 and even 20 years intervening between them. Notwithstanding the obstacles of the desert, it is constantly crossed on various routes by caravans of traders and many nomadic Arabs make it their home. The camel

young never stay where they were hatched, but make this move as soon as they are large enough. Naturalists have never been able to explain this. The only theory advanced is that the birds know if they stay where they were hatched the country would soon be overstocked with them.—Kansas City Journal.

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