

BRITISH CARRY ON IN EGYPT UNRUFFLED

Army Efficiency Quickly Gets Upper Hand of Rebellion.

AUSTRALIANS PATROL CAIRO

Nationwide Uprising, With Slaughter, Looting and Atrocities, Handled in Business-Like Manner.

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BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

CAIRO.—Insurrection does not interfere with tea. In outward seeming the normal life of the British goes on undisturbed by revolution and restriction. Egypt is in the throes of its greatest revolt against authority, yet the placidity of the British demeanor and routine appears scarcely to be disturbed. One of the most interesting phases of the grave crisis through which the country is now passing is the manner in which the British carry on. There are no hectic hurrying to and fro, no excited knots of alarmed men and women discussing the latest tales of uprising, burnings, slaughter and siege. Officers in the hotel lobbies do not rise from their whiskeys and sodas of an afternoon to look at the latest official communication as it is posted. Afternoon tea at the homes is not devoted to talk of the troubles. The preacher on Sunday does not mention the revolution. Young officers and nurses, or "sisters," as is the beautiful British name for them, out at the citadel play tennis as usual, regardless of the heavy influx of the wounded and prisoners.

In a younger nation of different temperament this attitude would seem a surprise, but the British have had rather an extended experience of responsibilities and risks, and, besides, the war has taught them calm in street and in regard to danger and death as part of the day's work. Even the barbarous mangle of seven unarmored railway passengers in the Cairo citadel, a mass of flesh that there is not even a shred of uniform or badge of rank to determine whether they were officers or men does not get a scare head in the local dailies. This police spells power and reassurance. It is the consciousness of ability to meet any emergency.

Life Amid Insurrection.

True, there are signs of the times in which Egypt is living just now. Officers wear pistols and soldiers carry rifles and travel in squads. Armed patrols traverse the streets, foot and mounted. Ford trucks carrying machine guns and their crews make the rounds. An occasional armored automobile may be met. Native bazaars are "out of bounds" to Europeans and soldiers. At squares and strategic corners in the old city, detachments of soldiers are encamped. Bridgeheads at the Nile have barred wire entanglements ready for emergencies. Hello squads keep watch on the citadel towers. Native policemen have lost their former lethargy. Some shop windows, even on the principal streets, are boarded up, either as a precaution or because they were broken during earlier demonstrations. The airplanes that whirl above the city carry machine guns and bombs. What excitement there would be in any American city over even a tithe of these warlike signs!

Everybody knows that out in the country, to the uttermost borders of Egypt, there are under way either continued attacks upon foreigners or government property, or else a process of pacification that is little different from war. Refugees arrive daily from the interior, with tales of fighting, sieges and escapes. Even in Cairo itself, a well-known business man was assassinated while sitting at his own dinner table. Native officials as well as foreigners receive threats of violence if they refuse to obey the behests of the agitators. It is fear of personal injury that keeps men from entering a new cabinet. The country has been without a cabinet for a month and the prospects are poor for the formation of one. Literal "black hands" warnings are ingeniously circulated and industriously suppressed.

Lesson Taught Pharaoh.

Without public announcement, and as quietly as though it were all a matter of private maneuvers, arranged many months ago, columns are passing out of the city and towns. Some go by boat; many travel afoot and by horse. It is these latter that Calcutta see. They range in size from a few score men to a thousand or two. Many are Indian; others are English, Scotch and Australian. Scores of expeditions are at this moment en route throughout Egypt to deal with rioters and Bedouin. Some of them go forth to real war.

Pharaoh chose an opportune moment to make insurrection. Great Britain has more troops in Egypt now than there ever before here in all the modern history of the land. This is not because the insurrection was expected, for it was not. The magnitude and concertedness of the outbreak took the authorities by surprise. But certain units from Palestine were here to be demobilized. Five shiploads of Australians were ready to sail when the blow fell, the horses and weapons and equipment having all been turned in and redistributed. In two days these men were mounted, armed and equipped and on the job teaching Pharaoh a lesson. Nobody feels more bitter over the Egyptian revolution than these Australian soldiers, whose feet were almost on the gangplanks of the great steamers that were to bear them home after four and a half years of war.

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country's administration of this trust, told me that it is the fellahs' estate in the arms labor corps that has fitted them to play this new and violent role. The farmers have learned how to work together, under discipline and in the face of fire. They have got over being afraid of guns. In British service, they were made ready to revolt against Britain, even though most of their supposed wrongs were due to their own village headmen and Egyptian notables.

Of a sudden the long-submerged fellah has shown himself willing and able to fight for what he deems his abstract political rights. Granting that he has been misled by the radical agitators from the schools, his capacity to grasp the new ideals of nationalism and to act on a grand scale in concert is a phenomenon of first importance. That same self whose portrait is so often found on the ancient monuments, bent beneath the lash, has learned to lift up his head—and his hand.

"Gippy" Hates the Greek.
Several Australian officers, whose demobilization was spoiled by the outbreak, were discussing the native and his qualities. "Gippy needs a strong hand. We have been too easy with him." (The democratic fraternization of the Australian soldiers with the Egyptians has often been a cause of criticism by the British.) "The Greeks know how to handle him. They show him no mercy. They hit him and kick him all over the place. Gippy hates the Greeks, but he stands around for them. Our mistake has been that we have treated him like a human being, and he does not respect us for it."

There you have a problem more pressing than the door of the dominant people. The subordinate British official—and this is by no means peculiar to the British—has a genius for business, but he is not a genius for the eyes of an Oriental impoliteness is more of a sin than dishonesty.

As to the Australian's opinion that the Greeks handle the Egyptian best, one has only to read the extravagant wallings in the local Greek press. Evidently a first object of attack in every one of the hundreds of outbreaks of the last two weeks has been the Greek merchant and the Greek place of business. Under cover of the general rioting, innumerable personal scores are being settled. At the present moment the high hand has not paid. No American has been hurt despite the madness and unreason, because the American missionaries scattered over the land have treated the natives as men and brethren.

One American Bloodthirsty.

In the matter of how the native should be treated, we have our finger on the crux of the Egyptian question and the whole oriental question. Foreign misconduct caused the Boxer rebellion. British inconsiderateness is a primary factor in the present Egyptian insurrection.

I am bound to say, though, that up to this writing I fail to find among the British here the spirit of disdain toward the native and ruthlessness in the treatment of him which once marked the white man in the east. The war has produced a more democratic and tactful type of British officer. The commander-in-chief here, General Bullfinch, has had to stand out for moderate measures in putting down the rebellion in the face of vociferous demands for a blood and iron policy, which both native and foreign civilians have been pressing upon him. General Allenby himself has been most tactful and conciliatory in his attitude.

STUDENTS MAKE RECORDS

GIRL FINISHES HIGH SCHOOL IN TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

Another Hood River County Pupil Has Average of 96.31 Per Cent for Three-Year Period.

HOOD RIVER, Or., May 31.—(Special).—Remarkable records in scholarship were made by two of the graduates of the Odell union high school, who received their diplomas Friday night. Martha Ferguson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ferguson, although only 15 years old, has completed the high school course in 2 1/2 years and has a credit to spare. Edgar Harris, aged 17, son of Mrs. E. H. Harris, has completed the work in three years. Miss Ferguson has given during her high school career 135 readings for Red Cross, Y. W. C. A. campaigns and teachers' institutes and similar occasions, and has appeared on frequent occasions in Portland.

A surprise greeted Mr. Harris at the commencement exercises. In addition to his diploma he received a scholarship "for meritorious work and conduct as a student," to Willamette university. His general average in scholarship for the three years has been 96.31 per cent. Miss Ferguson will also attend Willamette university.

Other graduates Friday evening were: Maurice Graff, William Gilker, son, Harry Plog and Margaret Heft.

Woodland Boy Recovering.

WOODLAND, Wash., May 31.—(Special).—K. F. Lindahl of Woodland has just received a letter from his son, George F. Lindahl, formerly of Portland but more recently of the 162d division, formerly the Oregon Third. Lindahl is in the hospital at present, having been taken to Camp Lewis a few days ago in the hospital train. He received a bad wound from a fragment of shrapnel. He reports that he is now able to get up for a short time every day. Mr. Lindahl will go up to Camp Lewis and visit him next Sunday.

Women Favor Highway.

MARSHFIELD, Or., May 31.—(Special).—Women, usually diffident regarding elections, are interesting themselves in this district in view of aiding the Roosevelt highway measure, and meetings are being held at which the various measures are explained to audiences which are composed of women. Charles Hall, one of the leading boosters for the tax measure, is addressing women gatherings.

Polk School Head Quits.

Fred S. Crowley to Be Superintendent at Prairie City.

DALLAS, Or., May 31.—(Special).—Fred S. Crowley, for the past four years school superintendent of Polk county, has announced he will submit his resignation to the county court Wednesday to take effect September 1. He will become superintendent of schools at Prairie City, Grant county. Mr. Crowley, who is a native of Polk county, has taught in county schools a number of years. Several years ago he was defeated as a candidate on the democratic ticket for the office of county clerk.

Road Construction Under Way.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., May 31.—(Special).—After several years of petitioning and remonstrating on the part of residents served by the Cottage Grove-Lorane road and repeated delays upon the part of the county court because of lack of funds, work on the road is now in progress.

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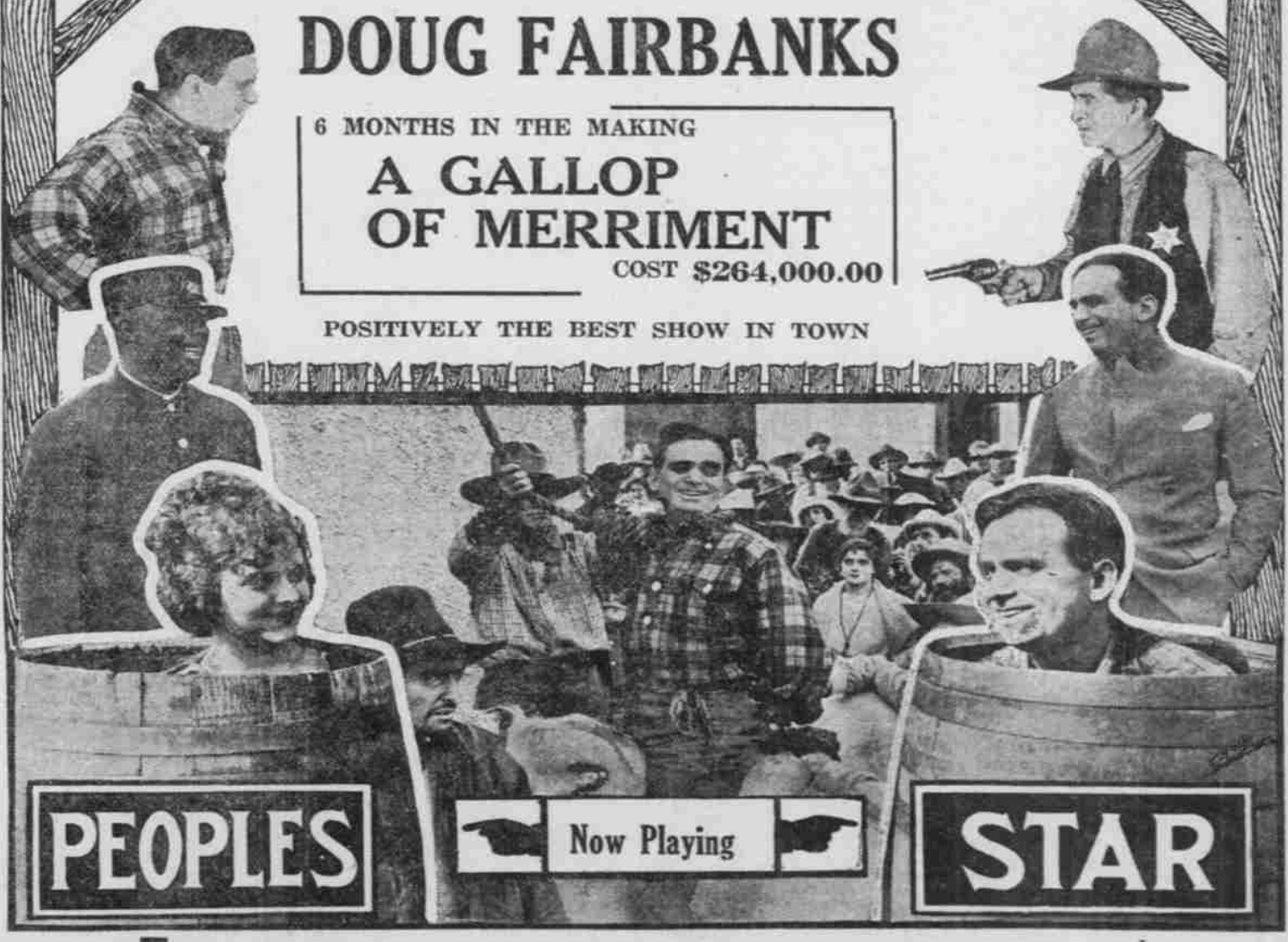
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