

EGYPT FORGOTTEN IN WORLD TURMOIL

Fate of American Missionaries Causes Little Excitement.

INDIAN TROOPS RESCUERS

Airplanes Relieve Ammunition Shortage—Many Natives Slain—Escape Made Down Nile.

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CAIRO.—If the whole world were not in such a topsy-turvy and turbulent condition, America would be greatly excited just now over the fate of the American missionary families who have been besieged at Assiut, Fayoum, and several other places in Egypt.

Foreign communities almost as large as that which the Boxers invested in Peking have been defending themselves against natives. As it is little more than a ripple upon the surface, little public interest has been caused thereby.

At last all the missionaries have escaped in safety, with tales to tell for which there are no hearers except their own missionary circles, for Cairo itself is in the midst of exciting times, with the menace of threatened death hovering near. Latest to arrive were fifty-two American men, women and children from Assiut, where there is a large United Presbyterian mission college and girls' school and hospital. Their story is an interesting one.

Situation Takes Critical Turn. There had been intermittent excitement, processions and meetings in Assiut, and a general strike of students and lawyers, ever since the deportation of the four nationalist leaders to Malta. Railway communication had been broken. Not until Sunday, March 23, however, did the situation take a critical turn. While the missionaries and the Protestant Egyptians were gathered in the native church on Sunday morning a messenger brought word to the preacher of trouble in the city. After the "long prayer," and before the sermon, the congregation was dismissed and told to go home and pray.

Soon afterward all the foreigners were summoned by the British to the big government school between the canal and the river, for the natives had attacked with firearms. Men, women and children had to camp in the schoolrooms. Rations were supplied by the British, and the American women did the cooking for the refugees. The men took their turn doing sentry duty, with whatever weapons could be mustered. Some of the American men did not have their clothes off for a week.

Ammunition Sent by Airplane. The most sinister aspect of the situation was the shortage of ammunition. The troops were Indians, numbering 150, and they were brave and loyal to the limit. But their supply of ammunition was low, and they did not have enough machine guns to enable them to cope with the mobs, who attacked from three directions. Fortunately, owing to the law which prohibits the natives from carrying firearms, the rioters were poorly equipped with weapons.

After the first day of fighting, help came from the air, up the Nile by seaplanes. Cairo, knowing the plight of the Assiut troops, sent an adequate supply of ammunition and additional machine guns. After that there was no real likelihood that the position could be rushed by the natives.

From Sunday until Friday noon, the besieged carried on in reasonable comfort and without panic. It was life in panic style, for the refugees had taken from home almost nothing. One stationary, Dr. H. L. Finley, made his medical rounds in the city throughout the fighting.

British Interests Identical. There was no animosity to the Americans, until the unfounded report spread that the British were using the tower of the American college as a vantage point from which to fire on the mobs. This rumor caused considerable bitterness, but it was later corrected.

No secret was made, however, of the essential solidarity of the British and American interests. Both were refugees under the same roof. American missionaries, while they did not actually participate in the fighting, nevertheless did guard duty by night. At no time have the Americans failed to show their condemnation of the nationalist violence and their support of the fundamental British position, although doubtless most of the missionaries have sympathized with the Egyptian desire for recognition by the Peace conference. Should the cry be raised in America that these Egyptians are being tyrannized over by the British, it should be remembered that all the Americans in Egypt, most of them missionaries devoted wholly to the people's welfare, side openly with the British against the present outbreaks. They differentiate between Egypt's practical claim and the insurrection by lawlessness. Refugees are loud in their praises of the courtesy and efficiency of the authorities during the present ordeal.

Native Casualties Heavy. Of the number of casualties at Assiut there is no official record. Four Indians were accidentally killed by British fire. Of the natives the number was large. One missionary said he saw a bridge about three-quarters of a mile long thick with dead Arabs and Egyptians, who had been mown down by the guns. Finally, the brave insurgents were, but hard breasts are no protection against disciplined troops armed with modern weapons of precision. The mobs also offered perfect marks for the aircraft. The neighboring town of Walaia, with a population of 10,000, was destroyed by bombs and there were many fatalities.

After a siege of five days boats appeared to take away the civilian population. These were the old Hamburg-

American ships—now called the Anglo-American line, and, appropriately, British were put aboard the Victoria and Americans aboard the Puritan. Australian troops were on guard. As hostile towns were passed the soldiers would prepare for possible action, but aside from occasional futile sniping there were no hostilities. The gravest concern of the soldiers was to secure milk for the American babies.

Nile Trip Takes Four Days.

That Nile trip—the last the missionaries or other civilians will make for many a moon—took four days, one of which was spent on a sandbar. It is low water in the Nile. To enable relief boats to reach Assiut, Luxor and other points, the authorities opened the Assuan dam, where water is stored for irrigation purposes. This will disastrously affect the July crops. In a score of ways all the Egyptians will suffer for the deaths of the rioters.

Meanwhile the mobs in Assiut destroyed everything British they could get their hands upon. As elsewhere, the signal system of the railways, as well as the permanent way itself, was utterly wrecked. Rails and ties were thrown into the canal and poles were similarly treated. All the British shops and many belonging to Greeks and Copts were looted. No damage was done to any of the extensive American properties.

Many Americans in Egypt.

Famous in the annals of Christian missions and travels is the American mission in Egypt, which has been at work here for nearly 60 years. While called the American mission, it really is a United Presbyterian enterprise with headquarters in Pittsburgh. Its weekly public church service in Cairo on Sunday evenings smacks more of western Pennsylvania than of eastern Egypt. The Psalms of David are sung and the type of sermon and worshipers is distinctively United Presbyterian, except for the sprinkling of red-turbaned Egyptians present. Members of British attend and after the service some of the soldiers remain for supper—not dinner, mind you, but supper.

There are 90 American missionaries in Egypt, in addition to 35 teachers and other American assistants. Associated with them are 823 Egyptian ministers, evangelists, teachers, harem workers, etc. These altogether operate 243 churches and stations, with a Protestant membership of about 14,000. There are also 172 schools of all grades, including two colleges connected with the mission, and 17,000 students. Three hospitals and four dispensaries treated more than 50,000 cases last year. No missionary physician lacks for patients. Something like 18,000 religious books were also sold last year. This extensive mission work centers in Cairo, Alexandria, Assiut, Luxor, the Fayoum, Zagazig, Banks, Mansurah, Tanta and points along the Nile. Because of their sanity and thoroughness and fine spirit, these missionaries have won the favor of both natives and foreigners.

Held in abeyance by the war, there is a great project under way for the establishment here of Cairo Christian university on the scale of Syrian Protestant college at Beirut and Robert College, Constantinople. The former secretary of the United Presbyterian mission board, Rev. Dr. Charles R. Watson, of Philadelphia, is president of the embryonic university. The headquarters are in Philadelphia.

LONG BEACH CELEBRATES

Welcome Home Jubilee Enjoyed by Population of Peninsula.

LONG BEACH, Wash., June 7.—Saturday last was a red-letter day for Long Beach and the peninsula people in general. A huge welcome-home jubilee, equaling any Fourth of July celebration ever held here, was enjoyed by the whole population of the peninsula, from Nahcotta to Megler, and even people from South Bend, Astoria and Portland came for the occasion. The jubilee dance was held in Sylvan hall, which was decorated elaborately by the boys from North Bend radio station with flags of allied nations intermingled with the Stars and Stripes.

Kelso Band Has New Director.

KELSO, Wash., June 7.—(Special.)—Vincent Grewelle has been appointed director of the Kelso municipal band, which was organized a short time ago. He succeeds Philip M. Hicks, who has been coming from Portland once a week to instruct the band. Mr. Grewelle has had long experience as a musician, having been a member of Grewelle's orchestra and other organizations. He is well qualified to direct the band, which is making rapid progress and will soon be advanced far enough to give street concerts.

NATIONAL FORESTS IDEAL FOR CAMPING

Government Allows Outers Great Many Liberties.

LANDS MAY BE LEASED

Hunting and Fishing Are Permitted During Open Season—Homes May Be Built.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., May 31.—To the majority of prospective summer campers or those figuring on vacations in the great outdoors there exists little or no distinction between the national forests and the national parks. As a matter of fact there is considerable difference which must be taken into consideration by the vacationist in arranging for his annual outing. The prime difference between the two is: The national parks are maintained in their primeval state, it being the purpose to preserve these districts as national heritages to tute generations as examples of wilderness when the hand of man has eradicated all frontiers. For this reason nothing is allowed to be disturbed and birds and wild animals find safe sanctuary here. Rigid regulations are strictly maintained. The national forests, on the other hand, are maintained as an economic asset. Timber is cut and herds grazed. Campers are at liberty to come and go as they please without restriction, and the huntsman and angler with few exceptions is required only to conform to the game laws which obtain in the state in which the park is located. Furthermore, it is possible for persons to rent from the government at from \$5 to \$10 a year a half acre or acre of land, on either short or long-term renewable leases. To this he is given practical ownership during his lease. On it he may build any sort of summer home his fancy dictates. He is amenable only to such regulations as obtain in any community. Should he not care to renew his lease, the property reverts to the government. In the case of buildings or other improvements, the government will buy these at a fair price if they are available for use. In the event they are not, the owner is allowed to sublease the property.

There are national forests located in 24 states or just half of the states of the union. Alaska and Porto Rico also are provided. The states, together with the number of national forests each contains and their total acreage, are:

State	Parks	Acreage
Alabama	1	37,163
Alaska	2	15,451,000
Arizona	10	12,790,458
Arkansas	2	1,487,488
California	20	24,120,399
Colorado	10	14,824,713
Florida	1	675,420
Idaho	10	10,140,058
Maine	1	29,414
Michigan	2	163,487
Minnesota	2	1,281,014
Montana	18	19,004,582
Nebraska	1	217,589
Nevada	8	5,335,164
New Hampshire	1	17,819
New Mexico	7	9,314,590
North Carolina	1	61,649
Oklahoma	1	61,649
Oregon	17	15,440,950
Rhode Island	1	85,950
Utah	2	1,513,221
Virginia	2	238,254
Washington	11	11,624,374
West Virginia	1	12,790
Wyoming	12	8,619,855

Thus the 151 national parks of the United States contain a total of 175,951,266 acres, which are open to the people of the country as permanent recreation grounds. In the Tusayan and Kaibab national forests of Arizona, the Pisgah of North Carolina and the Wichita of Oklahoma are located national preserves designed under special acts of congress for the protection of game. Maps of the national forests are printed for free distribution and are obtainable at any forest service office, headquarters or stations. They show, among other things, every road and trail within the forest, exact descriptions to nature of the country, the best fishing and hunting grounds and where meals, supplies, water and other necessities may be found.

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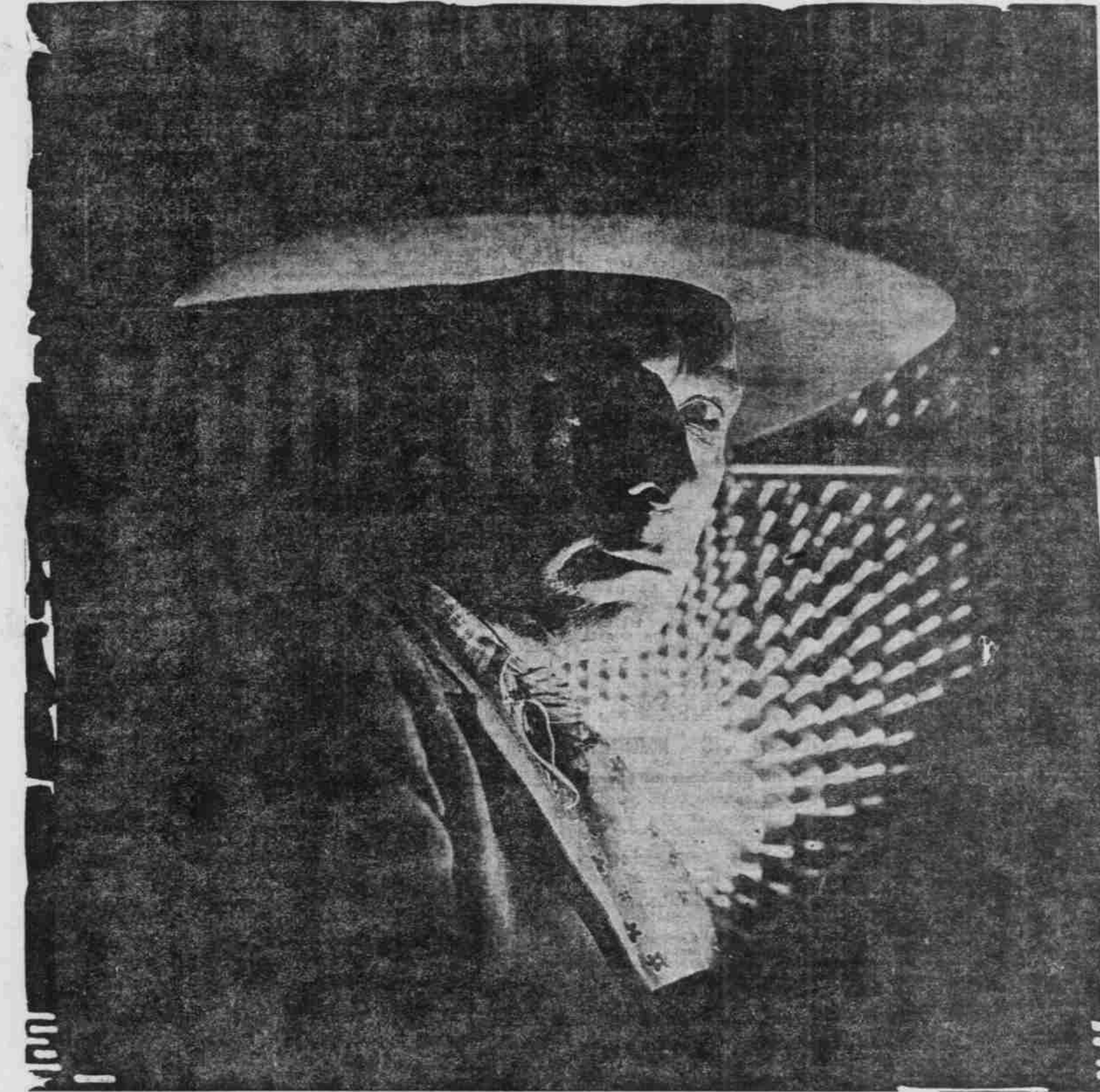
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