

ENGLAND HAS AT LAST GOT EGYPT IN GOOD FINANCIAL CONDITION

William E. Curtis in the Chicago Record-Herald. The rapid increase of the population of Egypt in modern times, to which I alluded yesterday, is chiefly due to the introduction of modern sanitary measures to protect the health of the people, although there has been a large immigration from Arabia, Algeria, the Sudan and other countries of the interior, attracted by the improvement that has taken place in Egypt, the higher wages that are paid here and the excitement of city life. The foreign population is not so large as many suppose. I gave you the figures yesterday. The death rate has been very much reduced by the introduction of sewers, pure water, the establishment of quarantine against contagious diseases, the enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of impure food, the revival of the press, which has enabled the poor to secure adequate nourishment, the filling up and draining of swamps and other hotbeds of malaria, and numerous other sanitary reforms, which have saved millions of lives and have enabled the natural increase of the population to be protected and felt. The birth rate is very high. As in India, China and all densely populated semi-civilized countries, nothing but plagues, famines and flood can keep the population down, for they breed like rabbits, and when you read that two or three millions of poor pagans have been swept to eternity within a few weeks, you must understand that it is God's way of reducing the number of mouths that must be fed. In Egypt the British have not only increased the number of mouths to be fed, but have provided the food by extending the productive area of the land and by increasing its productiveness.

Nile and provide their own food and tools, was abolished at a cost of more than \$2,000,000 a year, which is now paid in wages for such labor. The tax on the professions was entirely abolished; the tax on sheep, goats, cattle, camels, donkeys and other animals, which weighed heavily upon the agricultural classes and gave rise to numerous abuses, was suppressed, with several other similar petty and vexatious taxes. These were the source of constant irritation and injustice because they could be evaded by the rich at the expense of the poor. The octroi is the most offensive of all taxes. It prevails in all oriental countries and still exists in Spain, Italy, and some other parts of Europe where the truck gardeners have to pay a penny or two upon every basket of produce, every chicken, every egg, and every flower they bring to market. That, as I have said, has been entirely abolished and brought the greatest relief imaginable to the Egyptian market gardeners and others who labor for a living. The navigation of the Nile was made free, so that the cost of transporting produce was reduced, and wherever a burden rested heavily upon the people it was removed or adjusted so that it could be more easily borne. The salt tax was reduced 40 per cent, which caused an increase in the consumption of salt from 24,000 to 20,000 tons and a corresponding increase in the revenue therefrom. The house tax, which was formerly paid only by natives, was not only reduced, but was imposed upon all residents of Egypt, irrespective of nationality, and a reassessment equalized the rates as justly and fairly as possible. The result was an increase in receipts from that source from \$200,000 to \$725,000. The taxes upon farming lands were also readjusted, and several millions of arrears, which had been accumulating from year to year because it was impossible for the farmers to pay them, were remitted by a stroke of the pen. Twenty years ago ordinary land taxes were collected with the greatest difficulty and forced sales by the government were common everywhere. Now, after the reduction and equalization which has taken place, sales for non-payment are matters of rare occurrence, and out of a total taxing area of 5,540,000 acres, only 592 acres were in arrears last year, and on a total assessment of \$4,998,000 only \$18,278 was unpaid at the end of the year. I doubt if there is another country on the face of the earth which will show a better record for the payment of taxes.

The British "occupation" has now continued for 20 years and Lord Cromer, who, as I told you yesterday, is the de facto ruler of the country, can congratulate himself as well as all others concerned, upon the marvelous improvement that has been accomplished during that period. He has proved himself to be one of the most far-sighted and able administrators in history and the record of his reforms in Egypt is not surpassed by that of any other man in modern times. If we knew more about the reforms of Joseph, prime minister of Pharaoh, we might possibly find an appropriate comparison, but few men have ever had so great a responsibility and few have ever made so much of it. Viscount Cromer was Evelyn Baring, a member of the famous family of bankers. He had served in the army and had the benefit of several years' experience in the civil service in India, and when it became necessary for the British government to send a representative for the settlement of the Egyptian finances he was picked out as one who could be trusted. Being appointed to the nominal position of diplomatic agent he gradually gathered authority into his hands, and with tact, determination, made himself the master of Egypt with unlimited power. He has done this without exciting the hostility or opposition of the representatives of France and other powers that were equally interested, and it is a remarkable tribute to his integrity and ability that they should have conceded him dictatorial authority. The British government has permitted him to shape as well as to carry out its policy in North Africa, and has bestowed great honors upon him, having elevated him successively to knighthood, to a barony, to the peerage and finally made him a viscount. He has been offered seats in the cabinet at home and the viceroyship of India, but has declined them because he feels that no one can relieve him of personal as well as political responsibility in Egypt.

In addition to these, postal rates were reduced one-half, which has caused the number of letters passing through the mails to increase from 4,354,000 in 1882 to 17,356,000 in 1891; the telegraph rates were reduced 50 per cent and the number of telegrams increased from 959,000 to 4,251,000; the rates on the railways were reduced 33 per cent, and as a consequence the number of passengers carried increased from 2,761,000 to 12,040,000, and the freight from 1,176,000 to 2,375,000 tons of goods. The rate of taxation has been reduced in every direction and the proceeds have been expended in the construction of remunerative public works instead of being stolen by the officials and wasted by the extravagance of the khedive and his family. The credit of the country has been restored. Stability has been given to the whole situation. The people have been protected from epidemics and have been allowed to enjoy the results of their labor. Foreign capital has been attracted to the country, and many enterprises have been undertaken that have given employment to the people and have increased the productiveness of the soil. The area of cultivated land, Lord Cromer told me, has been largely extended and there has been an enormous rise in its value. In spite of a great fall in prices the value of the imports has been increased from \$40,000,000 in 1891-2 to more than \$60,000,000 in 1901-2, while the value of the exports has grown from \$50,000,000 to \$85,000,000 during the same period. The cotton crop has been more than doubled and the sugar crop has tripled.

In speaking of the experience of the British "occupation" and its results the other day, Lord Cromer called my attention to the revenues for the year 1902, which, after a 20-year "race with bankruptcy," showed a surplus of more than \$3,500,000, and they were \$2,000,000 in excess of his expectations. The revenues for the year were only \$50,000 less than the highest figure on record, notwithstanding the fact that it was an exceptionally bad year and there had been a large reduction in taxation. The land revenue, he said, has been reduced about \$700,000. The octroi, the taxes imposed upon food and other articles at the gates of different cities, has been entirely abolished, involving a loss of more than \$1,500,000, and several other taxes have been removed and reduced, while there were extraordinary expenditures that had not occurred in previous years. Lord Cromer was particularly gratified to be able to pay off the \$2,525,000 of the debt was paid off last year, that \$900,000 remains in a general reserve fund to be expended on works of public utility, and more than \$5,000,000 in a special reserve fund for emergencies. During the next year the railway administration will be allowed to expend 55 per cent of the gross earnings, instead of 45 per cent, which was the previous limit. This, Lord Cromer believes, will enable it to make improvements that will be of great benefit to the country. A commission of inquiry, composed of representatives of the European powers, found that the abuses in the government service were almost beyond belief, and they had to deal, not with a patient suffering from a single malady, but with one whose every organ was diseased. Writers who were in Egypt in those days declared that they could not describe the misery that existed; that taxes made life almost impossible, and that many people gave away their lands because they could not produce enough on them to pay the demands of the government. At the same time the administration was so corrupt and incompetent that it became a question whether any remedy were possible. But the commission finally decided that they would reduce taxes first and postpone the reform of the administration until later. They decided also that a large expenditure was necessary for drainage and irrigation in order that the people might derive the full amount of benefit possible from their land and their labor. The first thing done, therefore, was to relieve the taxpayers of burdens that could not be borne, and, next, every dollar that could be spared was devoted to the improvement of irrigation and drainage. The land tax was reduced \$2,750,000 a year, and a reassessment distributed the burden more equitably than before. What was known as "the Corvee system," under which peasants were compelled to labor without pay upon the irrigation works and the banks of the

In the meantime the allowance to the khedival family has been reduced about 40 per cent; and other economies have been brought about in every branch of the public service. When the "trustees" of the government, as Lord Cromer calls them, took charge in 1882 large sums of money vanished from the treasury every year in a mysterious manner; the accounts were in the utmost confusion and it was impossible for any one to estimate the receipts and expenditures. There were leaks at both ends. One class of officials had a chance to help themselves, while the money was coming into and another class while it was going out of the treasury. "Failure to distinguish between the funds and the private income of the ruler," said Lord Cromer, "has been the rock on which the finances of many countries have split." Lord Cromer observed, in a significant manner, and he tells some extraordinary stories of the disastres that were made while investigating the financial condition of the Egyptian government. He said: "The accounts of the floating debt showed that the eulogies lavished by a portion of the press of Europe on Ishmail Pasha were not due to disinterested motives. A sum of \$750,000 was due to a Paris dressmaker, and it appeared that Ishmail Pasha had been engaged with his own finance master in an operation upon the stock exchange, the basis of which the ruler was to bear the obligations of his own country. In any number of other cases large sums were spent without having anything to show for the money. Millions were swallowed up in interest at exorbitant rates, on bonuses on the renewal of bills and in similar juggleries." All this has been changed, and by economy in expenditures, by an honest administration of the finances, by a reduction of taxation and fair and equitable assessments, and the expenditure of the public funds for the benefit of the people, the condition of Egypt has not only been improved, but there is annually a large surplus to be applied to public debt. This was accumulated largely through the extravagance of the several khedives and on the 31st of December last amounted to more than \$51,000,000. During the last few years, however, the commissioners of the debt have applied the sinking fund to the purchase of bonds, and have thus reduced it nearly \$45,000,000. Upon this record, as I have suggested, you will agree with me that Lord Cromer has a right to congratulate himself as well as the people of the country he has been serving so ably and so faithfully.

NAMED FOR THE PRESIDENT. From a Harper's Bulletin. President Roosevelt has had a mountain ridge in Alaska named for him, Roosevelt ridge. The ridge was recently explored and christened by Dr. Frederick A. Cook, who writes in Harper's Magazine for February his second paper on "America's Unconquered Mountain," which is Mount McKinley, in Alaska. Dr. Cook thus refers to the new Roosevelt ridge: "When looking at Mount McKinley from the west, during the

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- \$6000 Lot 50x100, on Lovejoy st., near 24th st., with modern dwelling of 4 rooms and bath.

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A large list of new modern homes of various designs in different locations at cash prices. Terms equivalent to about 10 per cent down and monthly rentals. Our installment houses cannot be duplicated in quality or price and our contracts are the most liberal offered. If after looking over our lists you find nothing to suit, we will build to your order, about 10 per cent down, monthly rentals.

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Latest designs of architecture, A-1 plumbing, piped for furnace and gas. All modern conveniences. On ten-minute service car line. Twelve minutes ride from Third and Morrison Sts. 10 per cent down

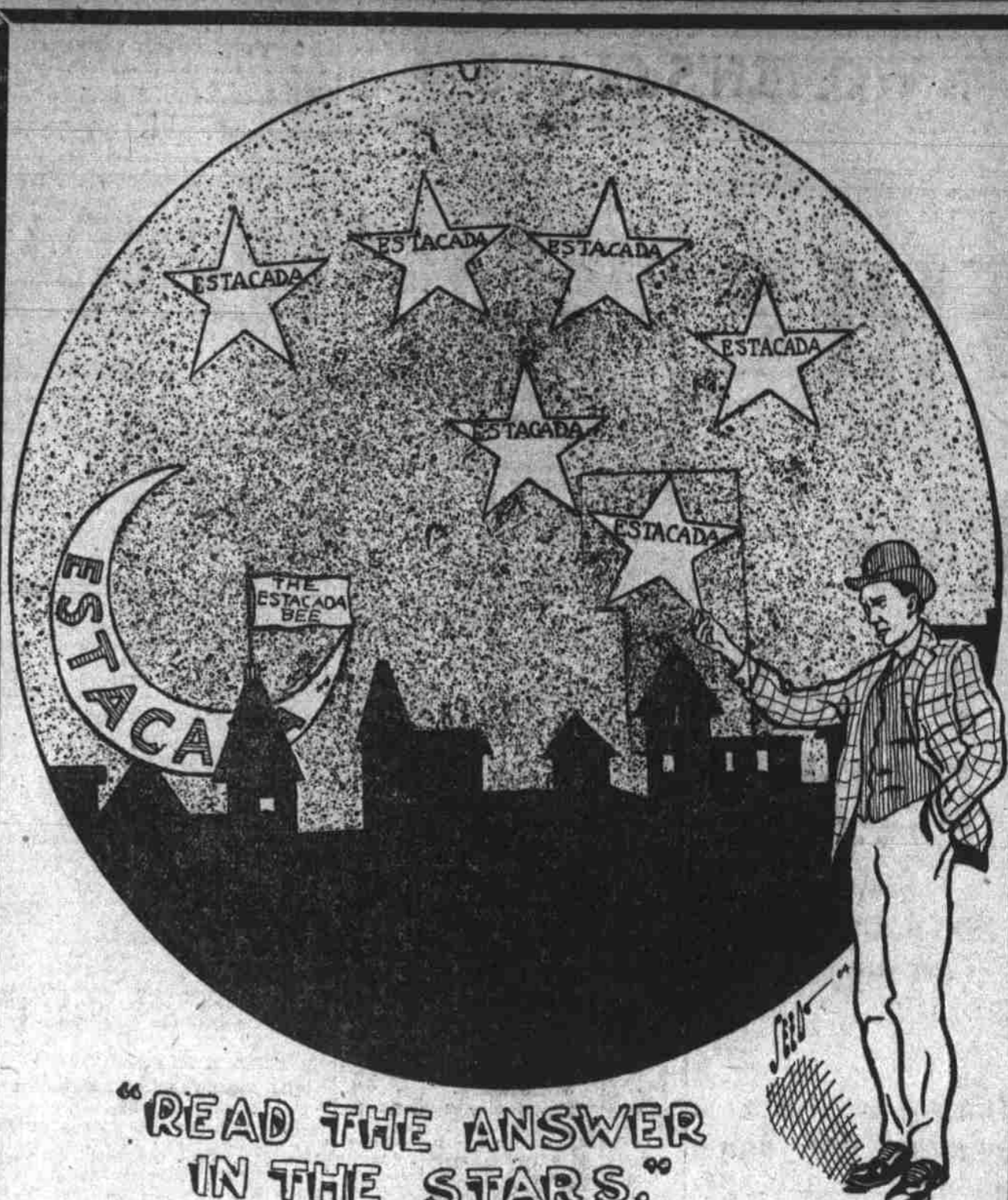
Neat Flats and Houses \$2500—Flat 30 rooms, rent \$75. \$3000—Flat 70 rooms, rent \$250. \$3500—Flat 50 rooms, rent \$110. \$1000—House 10 rooms, rent \$50. \$ 650—House 8 rooms, rent \$45. \$ 750—Flat 8 rooms, rent \$30. All of the above houses within 5 blocks of the Hotel Portland. WALTER A. GREEN 206-206 1/2 Commercial Building, Phone, Main 1909.

Politics in Union County. From the La Grande Observer. Aspirants for county offices appear to be more active in many counties throughout the state than in Union. One reason no doubt is that all the present officers are serving their first term and doubtless expect to be re-nominated. On the Republican county ticket the only aspirant that we have heard mentioned is John Waldon for sheriff. Politics is unusually tame for Union county.

BUILDING WANTED

About 10,000 square feet on two floors or ground floor and light dry basement. Heavy construction required for machinery and other heavy goods. Location anywhere between Pine and Taylor and river to Seventh. Lease 5 or 10 years. Would accept now or 60 days to four months. Address

MANUFACTURER CARE JOURNAL



READ THE ANSWER IN THE STARS.

Journey anywhere you wish to, throughout this vale of tears, in North or South America—from Portland to Algiers—Ask every individual on steamboats or on cars, "Where's your ideal of beauty?" and they'll say to "READ THE STARS!" Go rummage in your think tank till your pate is gray and bald, And the hinges of your intellect with cogitation's galled, Then ask some lonely pilgrim, "Oh, show to me the bars Separating me from Glory," and he'll say to "READ THE STARS!" Go search the kingdom over for a home of pure delight, Where there's joy in sunlight twinkles and contentment through the night, And if you fail to find it glance toward the planet Mars And you'll see its name is written on the PRETTY LITTLE STARS. If your pocketbook is empty—if you're frantic after coin—If the dollars from the forest you would speedily purloin, Hie thee out into the woodland where there's millions made in spare, What! You ask me, where that place is? You may "READ IT IN THE STARS." There are farm lands there a-plenty and a dancing water fall, There are orchards where the luscious fruits are at your beck and call; It's a region of tranquility—where there's no earthly jara—It's the Canaan Land of Oregon. It's NAME IS ON THE STARS. In truth there is a Paradise beneath your very eyes; No fairer land is known to man or sun-kissed by the skies; There is a bounding city upon which there are no scars, And its dimpled name is printed on THE VISAGE OF THE STARS.

ESTACADA THE BEAUTIFUL

Is its characterization by those who have visited the charming spot and know it best. It is THE TERMINAL CITY OF THE OREGON WATER POWER & RAILWAY COMPANY, 37 miles south-east of Portland, at the Clackamas River Falls, where the railroad, after an expenditure of five million dollars in reaching the place, is ERECTING AN ELECTRIC POWER PLANT AT A COST OF \$750,000. The country to the southeast of Estacada is heavily timbered with fir, cedar, hemlock, spruce and oak. There is an immense area of this forest—enough to employ the energies of several large sawmills for more than a decade. To the south, west and north agricultural lands abound, upon which are grown, in great profusion, wheat, barley, rye, oats, all kinds of vegetables, fruits and berries. The soil is wonderfully prolific. Indeed there is scarcely any richer in the world. It would seem, therefore, that, with a great water power at its door, a splendid grain region, a broad timber belt, and the multiplied factories and mills already bargained for and to come, that

ESTACADA OFFERS UNPARALLELED INDUCEMENTS To the homeseeker, those searching for business locations, factory sites, and trading opportunities of all kinds and descriptions. Two-Thirds of the Platted Section of the Townsite Has Already Been Sold Although placed upon the market less than two weeks ago, and most of these buyers will make Estacada their place of permanent abode. Lots will be Advanced in Price on March 1 In the business district this advance will amount to from \$100 to \$150 each, and in the residence part from \$50 to \$100. That is to say, these figures will be added to present prices of property, so that NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST to secure the FULL VOLUME OF ADVANCEMENT bound to continually come to this growing city. Remember—and these words are true as ever were spoken— Estacada Is the Coming City of Western Oregon Mark our words, it will not have an equal, it will never be surpassed, west of the Rocky Mountains.

The Oregon Water Power Townsite Co. Apartment 5, Oregon Water Power and Railway Company's Bldg. First and Alder Sts. Portland, Oregon