

OLD JERUSALEM IS THE DIRTIEST CITY IN ENTIRE WORLD

Pavements Christ Trod Buried Under 30 Feet of Debris—Only One Sanitary Spot—Solomon's Temple.

By Frederic J. Haskin.
Washington, Dec. 22.—The distinguishing features of Jerusalem today are dirt, disease and poverty. It is perhaps the dirtiest city in the world, and if it does not rank first in disease and poverty it is because other cities take more effectual measures to hide these twin disasters. The pavements of Jerusalem which were trod by Jesus and his disciples lie buried beneath 30 feet of the accumulated filth and debris of 19 centuries. One of the few clean and sweet places within the walled city of Jerusalem today is the Roman Catholic church built over the Ecce Homo arch, which still stands over the judgment seat upon which sat Pontius Pilate when he said: "I find no fault in this man."

Cordial Reception.
After a day's journey through the dark and slimy streets of the Holy City it is indeed a relief to enter this church. One is received by a Sister of the Order of Zion, one who used to teach in a convent in St. Joseph, Mo., and who is particularly cordial in greeting Americans. Everything in the church and its neighboring convent is immaculate and for the first time one gets a breath of air uncontaminated by Jerusalem's dirt. The good sister shows one down a flight of stairs into the chapel of the Ecce Homo arch. Just behind the arch is a section of the paved street of the Via Dolorosa along which Christ carried the burden of his cross toward Calvary. The stones of the pavement are cut in corrugations to prevent slipping on the sharp incline, and on one side of the roadway, cut in the paving stones, is a hop scotch diagram upon which the Roman soldiers amused themselves with the same game which American children play on the asphalt streets of our modern cities. This is one of the few bits of the actual Jerusalem of the day of Jesus, now to be seen in its original form. One cannot help but be glad that this particular portion of the ancient City of David was found and preserved by good Catholics who believe in keeping things clean.

Walling Place of the Jews.
At the same time depressing and fascinating, one of the principal sights of Jerusalem is the walling place of the Jews. Here remain a few of the foundation stones of the platform upon which stood the Temple of Solomon. They are the only remaining relics of the temple, and as such are most holy to the Jews. Not being permitted to enter the temple area, now a sacred place of Mohammedanism, the Jews come to these stones to weep and mourn for the departed glory of Israel. The majority of the inhabitants of modern Jerusalem are Jews. Some of them are descend-

ants of that remnant which escaped destruction at the hands of the Romans, who were not included in the dispersion, and who have lived always in Judea. Their number has been greatly augmented at various times and is even now reaching many accessions from the Jewish colonies in all parts of the world. Many Jews come to Jerusalem to die, and the city is crowded with the old and infirm of that faith, who have come back to the city of their fathers to await the end.

Fashions and Prayer.
The native Jew of Jerusalem is distinguished by his long cloak or gabardine, and his fur-trimmed turban. The Jew from eastern Europe is distinguished by the absence of the turban and by the two curly locks of hair, one falling in front of each ear. A few of the native Jews are well-to-do and their gabardines are gorgeous garments of purple satin, but the vast majority are the victims of squalor and hopeless poverty. The rich and poor, the Oriental and the Occidental, all Jews of orthodox faith come together at the walling place. There is rarely a time when there are not a half dozen sons of Israel here to mourn for their departed nationality. On Friday evening, the beginning of the Sabbath day, the narrow street is crowded to suffocation. One of the chief rabbis intones the prayer: "Because of the palace which is deserted—we sit alone and weep. Because of the temple which has been destroyed we sit alone and weep. We beseech thee to have mercy on Zion, and gather together the children of Jerusalem. Make speed, make speed, O deliverer of Zion; speak after the heart of Jerusalem. No one can fall to be so fondly affected by the pathos of these prayers."

The Other Side.
But at the same time one's eyes and nose and ears are offended by the horrible sights, the noisome odors, and the raucous voices all about him. Two Catholic priests from Buffalo, N. Y., stood by the walling wall with bared heads in silent prayer for the miserable beings before them. A horribly misshapen and disease ridden beggar begged them for alms. One of the good fathers felt in his pocket for a coin, and, unfortunately, brought up a silver piece worth 25 cents. This was such a great amount of wealth that the old beggar screamed with delight when he felt it in his hand. But her joy was short lived, for a huge, strong man struck the coin from her hand and, kicking her sprawling head, he walked on, the horror-stricken priests were beset and literally jammed against the wall by a horde of repulsive beggars. Fighting for breath, one of the Americans struck the shoulder of a one armed boy, only to find that there was a perfectly good arm on the other side concealed under the boy's jacket. The two priests were happy to escape without bodily injury. It is very difficult to remember that one is in a holy place under such circumstances.

Garden of Gethsemane.
One goes out of the city along the road to the Garden of Gethsemane. On both sides lie serried ranks of loathsome lepers who implore aid and mercy from the coming pilgrim, and who scream vile curses at the backs of those who pass them by. In the days when Jesus of Nazareth walked this way the strict sanitary regulations of the Mosaic law were in effect; and the lepers were segregated. But civilization in Jerusalem today is not nearly so advanced as it was 1900 years ago, and there is not the slightest attempt to enforce even the simplest sanitary precautions. There is no more heart-rending walk in the world than that from the gates of Jerusalem to the garden, wherein our lord made the supreme sacrifice. "Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." Now the pilgrim reaches the gates of Gethsemane with a feeling of infinite relief, for within all is clean and beautiful and the ancient ghosts of olive trees, which probably stood here on the night of the agony of Jesus, are carefully tended by the Franciscan Friars.

BORAH OF IDAHO ADVOCATES BONDS FOR RECLAMATION

Argues Against Carter's Certificates Plan and Says Direct Appropriation Has No Show—Has Cannon to Fight.

By John E. Lathrop.
Washington, Dec. 22.—"In my opinion," said Senator Borah of Idaho, "it would be impossible to dispose of \$30,000,000 of certificates of indebtedness issued against the irrigation projects, as proposed by those who oppose bonds for the completion of the reclamation enterprises. The bonds would find ready market; the certificates would be hawked either and thither, and would not meet the demands of the emergency which the reclamation service faces."

Senator Borah is championing the bond issue and has a bill therefor. Senator Frank Flint of California thus far has refused to see the desirability of the bonds, and advocates either direct appropriation or certificates.

It is understood that other members of the irrigation committee of the senate favor the bonds, excepting that Senator Carter, chairman, is not unqualifiedly committed to them.

Cannon Fights the Bonds.
Speaker Cannon resists the bond issue, and advocates certificates. It is expected that so long as he remains of this opinion the house leaders will follow him.

However, Senator Borah purposes to fight hard for the bonds, in order that at once funds may be provided for all uncompleted projects, on some of which delay has been compelled, at great inconvenience to the government and serious loss to the settler.

Few believe that Senator Flint's proposal for direct appropriation will be carried through this session, with a deficit in the national treasury paring down all assignments of federal funds.

It is apparent that western people will have to fight hard if the irrigation business is to be conducted profitably. Nevertheless, Senator Borah is optimistic, and hopes he will be able to pass his bill for a \$30,000,000 bond issue.

Borah Gives Bond Reasons.
Explaining why the certificates would not be the proper solution, Senator Borah said:

"If certificates were issued, then, for preme sacrifice: 'Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done.' Now the pilgrim reaches the gates of Gethsemane with a feeling of infinite relief, for within all is clean and beautiful and the ancient ghosts of olive trees, which probably stood here on the night of the agony of Jesus, are carefully tended by the Franciscan Friars."

Could Be Made Beautiful.
If the regeneration of the Turkish empire, and the new constitution means anything at all, it should mean a reformed municipal administration in Jerusalem. Here exists today the ruins of the most wonderful system of water works ever devised by man, here in the center of the religious interest of the civilized world, and here is what could be made a beautiful city. New water works, a sanitary sewer system and an adequate police force would make a new Jerusalem indeed.

Perhaps the cleanest section of the city within the walls is the American quarter built around the Church of St. James, but even this is pervaded by a stench so disgusting that an American can hardly walk through its streets. Less than one tenth of the population of Jerusalem is Mohammedan, and it stands as the shame of Christendom and Judaism that the Moslems of Jerusalem are the cleanest class of people in the city. It is also true that the Moslems are the most peaceful and law-abiding. The only violence connected with the Young Turk revolution in Jerusalem was the series of assassinations resulting from a quarrel between two factions of the Greek Orthodox church.

Clean Outside of Walls.
Jerusalem outside of the walls is modern and comparatively clean. It is made up of convents and hospices housing the holy orders of several churches of Protestant colonies and schools, of business houses and hotels. It has nothing in common with the Jerusalem within the walls. Outside, the streets are broad and well paved and carriages are much used. Inside the streets are so narrow, so steep, and so often cut up by steps that the use of any sort of wheeled vehicle is impossible. There is, outside the wall, an American colony populated principally by the devotees of a religious sect founded in Illinois, which offers hospitality to American pilgrims of any faith. The colony is engaged in the manufacture of souvenirs which are sold in great quantities at good profits, to tourists from the United States.

But it is not in bits of Roman pavement, nor yet in modern souvenir shops, that Jerusalem has its greatest hold upon the interest, the imagination and the reverence of the pilgrim. The very center of holiness in the holy city is in the Sepulchre of Jesus.

Tomorrow—"The Holy Land."

STATISTICS SHOW OUTSTANDING BONDS TOTAL \$1,707,368.06

City Auditor Barbur has prepared a list of figures showing the amount of outstanding street and sewer improvement bonds this year as compared to last year. The statistics give a fair idea of the vast amount of public improvement work that has been done in Portland this year.

At the close of 1909 the outstanding bonds amounted to \$1,707,368.06. Up to date this year the amount of bonds outstanding is \$2,775,118.85, or almost double the figure of the preceding year.

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instance, there would be a demand for \$10,000 for immediate use on a given project. Certificates would be issued therefor, and it would be necessary to find a buyer. Imagine \$30,000,000 disposed of in that way. Not always would the amount of certificates issued be so small as \$10,000, but the \$30,000,000 would be cut up into innumerable sums, to be hawked about in the market, and varying purchasing bases would result.

"If anyone will look at it in this manner, he will realize that only bonds will suffice."

It is useless to expect a \$30,000,000 appropriation direct from the treasury to pass; the finances of the country at this time will effectually stop such an enterprise. Bonds, and bonds only, will meet the conditions.

Borah Postal Savings Bill.
Borah's bill for postal savings banks is another measure which will be pushed, but it will meet strong opposition from the house and senate leaders. Many advocates of postal banks believe they detect a disposition by big financiers to discourage savings banks, either those to be established by the government or those already in existence, privately controlled.

Large Profits of Morgan Banks.
It is cited that the Bowery Savings bank of New York, with an enormous number of depositors, has raised its rate of interest paid to depositors from 4 to 3 1/2 per cent. On the same day on which the reduction was announced by the conservative New York Evening Post, the same paper carried on the same page the statement that the First National bank—a Morgan bank—declared a special dividend of 8 per cent, making 40 per cent dividends for the year.

It is claimed that this reduction of the interest rate, which has been made by other advocates of postal banks for the purpose of turning some of the money of the larger savings banks depositors to the commercial banks, where immense profits are made for the stockholders.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR STOCKHOLDERS

New York, Dec. 22.—Stockholders of the Wells-Fargo Express company at a special meeting today, assured themselves of handsome Christmas presents when they gave their formal approval to the proposition of the directors for an increase in the capital stock of the company from \$8,000,000 to \$24,000,000. The new issue of \$16,000,000 is to be offered to the stockholders, to whom a stock dividend of \$500 a share is to be declared. This dividend of \$100 a share is to be paid out of the accumulated earnings of the company. The new stock will be offered to holders of the old stock at par, in the proportion of two shares of new for one of old.

The division of the company's surplus, which will result from today's action of the stockholders, will take its place among the richest distributions of profits by a large corporation in the history of American financial operations. Worked out, the dividend plan gives each stockholder funds for the purchase of two shares of new stock at par and \$100 in cash.

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