

THE MORMON EXPERIMENT IN MEXICO



The Mormons in great numbers are settling in Northern Mexico and are growing prosperous in the colonies which they have planted. There are now nearly 5,000 of them in Northern Sonora and Northwestern Chihuahua. There is a steady stream of immigration from Utah and the colonies are rapidly increasing in population. The Mormons are going into the Mexican republic as rapidly as farm lands can



TYPICAL ADOBE HOUSE.

be secured for them. They are an agricultural people and occupy only the valleys where irrigation is possible. The enactment of laws in the United States against polygamy brought the first Mormon immigration to Mexico. When plural marriage was pronounced illegal there were many Mormons who preferred to leave Utah rather than surrender any of their religious principles or relinquish any of their wives. Mexico appeared to them an inviting country in which to settle, provided they could procure the assurances they needed from the Mexican government. The climate of Chihuahua and Sonora being similar to that of Utah, only milder, and the topography being the same, it only remained for those who proposed to emigrate to secure in advance the necessary concessions from the authorities of the country into which they were about to move.

The proposal of the Mormons to settle in Mexico met with instant approval and encouragement from the officials of that government, since they were known to be thrifty and adapted to the work of developing a new country. Mining companies and ranchmen especially welcomed them because they would readily supply the camps and cattle haciendas with provisions and farm products, formerly imported at considerable cost. Mexico encouraged their immigration by admitting all their household effects, building material and other articles of use in the



MORMON TITHING STORE.

erection of their homes free of cost. They also received many other concessions and privileges.

The Wilderness Transformed.

The country into which they removed was practically a wilderness. Here and there were large ranches, with now and then a mining camp. There were a few Mexican villages, at intervals of fifty or one hundred miles. The country was arid, treeless and uninviting, except in the valleys, where a rich soil only needed irrigation and cultivation to return ample crops of fruits and cereals.

The first colony was planted in 1880, and called Colonia Juarez. It was established in the valley of the Casas Grandes River, sixteen miles from the old Mexican town of Casas Grandes, the present terminus of the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific Railroad, constructed in 1897. The settlers arrived from Utah in covered wagons. They lived in tents until they dug irrigation ditches and made their first

crop. Then they began to erect their homes. Besides their teams and camping utensils and a few agricultural implements, they had nothing but muscle and religious enthusiasm. At that time the nearest railroad was El Paso, Texas, while a sandy desert, almost impassable, intervened. The mountains, too, held roving bands of renegade Apaches that occasionally raided the new settlement and drove away cattle and horses.

As to the practice of polygamy in the republic of Mexico, it may be said that the law of the land recognizes but one legal wife. The second or third wife has no legal status, and her children, in the eyes of the law, are not legitimate. After the first marriage the law has nothing to do with the matter of a Mormon's increasing the number of his wives, except that a second and third wife may not be taken unless the first wife gives her consent. But the Mormons are guided by their religion, not by the law, in the institution of marriage. A Mormon in Mexico never or seldom takes a second or third wife until he is able to support more than one family.

Active Proselyting.

Mormon converts are gained invariably from among the most humble classes. Two thousand missionaries are at work all the time in the United States and Canada and in Europe, adding to the Mormon fold. In justice to the Mormons it must be said that the converts they make are usually bettered in every respect. Thrift is a cardinal principle in the Mormon creed and it is exemplified nowhere better than in the colonies of Northern Mexico. Comfortable homes, cultivated fields and abundant crops show that the Mormons on the whole are industrious, frugal and economical. They are obliged to maintain a community of interest. They labor together and assist one another in everything that is to be done.

At present there are eight colonies of Mormons in Mexico, with a combined



and each Mormon contributes 10 per cent. of his income to the support of the church. He gives labor, lumber, fruit, meat, milk or honey, depositing 10 per cent. of whatever he may have at the tithing store. In addition to this taxation the Mormons of Daban have a self-imposed income tax of 8 per cent., which is to be used to build and equip their academy.

The Mormon colonies are socialistic communities. Everything is done on a system of co-operation. They use little money in their dealings with one another. Obligations are paid in labor or the products of labor. If one Mormon builds a house his neighbors assist and charge their labor against him. The debt is settled in kind. They have differences of opinion sometimes and occasionally there occurs a dispute, but the elders and bishops settle the trouble or if they do not, then the president does.

Surprised by the Engine.

The natives of a wild country never fail to wonder over the coming of a railroad, with its snorting locomotive and rattling cars. The antics of the native Egyptians and Arabs, says Owen S. Watkins, who was with Kitchener in his Sudan campaign, afforded not a little amusement to the railway battalion under Lieut. Midwinter.

The quantity of water consumed by the locomotive was a constant source



JUST ARRIVED FROM UTAH.

population of nearly 5,000. They are Colonia Juarez, the capital colony; Colonia Diaz, Dublin, Oaxaca, Pacheco, Garcia, Chulchupa and the recently established colony of Morelos. Colonia Juarez is situated in a narrow valley, and the land is irrigated with water from the Casas Grandes River. The neat brick residences of the settlers are hidden graveyards and thick clusters of pear, plum, peach and apricot trees. The water runs in a clear stream through all the cross streets, and is turned into yard or garden at will. Here the president of the "stake," which embraces all the colonies, resides. He lives in a handsome brick residence that cost \$10,000. He guides the destinies of the Mormons in Mexico with the head and hand of a capable captain. He is a man of education and of unusual intelligence, and was at one time a candidate for Governor of Utah. He is the first and last court of resort for all internal troubles and disputes.

Education Not Neglected.

The Mormons build schools in their communities even before they erect a church. All of the colonies have schools and an academy is maintained at Colonia Juarez. In this colony there is a great mill, a cannery factory, and other industries. There is a tithing store, the only one in the colony, but there is not a saloon, nor a tobacco shop, nor a policeman in this or any other of the Mormon colonies.

Lubian is the largest colony. It is also the most important commercially. It is four miles from the terminus of the railroad, and is situated in a broad valley. The village, which has about 1,000 inhabitants, is scattered over several square miles of territory. The Mormons of Lubian have thousands of acres of rich land, which produces abundant crops. They have beautiful orchards and gardens. They have laid the foundation of a splendid temple and a large school building. They have a tithing store as in Colonia Juarez,

of wonder. The Arabs had never dreamed of such a thirst as that monster seemed to possess. One day, when the working party climbed aboard after loading all the trucks, the Egyptians cried, "For shame!" charged them with overloading the poor engine, and asked if they thought themselves men.

Once the driver of an engine was asked by an Arab to permit his young wife to crawl under the engine, as she was sure if she could do that, her married life would be blessed.

Sales Drop Off When Authors Marry.

Some one asked quite seriously the other day if I thought that the announced engagement of Mr. Paul Leicester Ford would interfere with the sale of his novels. I smiled the smile of incredulity.

"You need not smile," said the lady. "I know that Richard Harding Davis' marriage has greatly interfered with the sale of his novels. His readers, who are largely young girls, like to think of him as an unmarried man. They find his books more interesting when they so regard him."

"What about Kipling?" I gasped. "Has his stock depreciated because of his wife and babies?"

"Oh, no!" was the reply. "It is different with Kipling. He writes more for men, and then his stories are not love stories."—Harper's Bazar.

Gabriel's Trick.

"It is time," said Gabriel, "to blow my last trumpet!"

Saying which, he put it on the ace of spades, thereby saving the trick for himself and St. Peter.

"Oh, angels, be it known, sometimes engage in little games of whist."—New York World.

Hewitt—What did you wife say when she caught you kissing the cook? Jewett—Oh, she said it was all right; that we must do all we could to keep her, and that she knew I was acting from a purely unselfish standpoint.—Bazar.

Science AND Invention

Silk worms, in Flammarion's experiments, have attained their maximum production in white, red and blue light.

The first two planetoids in 1900 were discovered, the one by the Austrian astronomer Paliga and the other by Charlois of Nice.

Measurements by an American microscopist to test the theory that the red blood corpuscles vary in size in different races have failed to show any marked differences.

New mines of lignite have been discovered in Germany which are of considerable importance; they are located at Quadrat, in the neighborhood of Cologne. A series of soundings has shown the presence of a compact mass of lignite from forty to fifty feet below the soil; the bed extends over several hundred acres. The extraction has commenced and at the present time about 600 tons of briquettes are made per day, these being used to replace coal.

The first section of the great Russian pipe line has been completed. The pipe runs parallel to the Trans-Caucasian Russian State railway. The section just completed is 145 miles long. The pipe is of wrought iron, lap-welded, and the internal diameter is eight inches. It was made in Russia from native materials. There are three pumping stations with two pumps in each, only one being used regularly, the other being kept as a reserve. It is expected that 416,275,200 gallons of oil will be pumped per annum.

The growing of Belgian hares for the market in Southern California is described by Mr. O. P. Wolcott, in the Scientific American, as having recently become an extensive industry. The hares are imported for breeding purposes from England and Belgium. A high-bred buck or doe hare, Mr. Wolcott says, will bring from \$50 to \$250. In the markets the price is about 25 cents per pound, live weight. From Los Angeles shipments are now made to all parts of the United States. A warm climate is not essential for the animals, and it is said they could be grown for the market in almost all parts of the Union.

A Russian inventor, K. Danilevsky, has recently experimented, under government auspices, with a flying-machine which combines the lifting power of a balloon with something resembling wing action. The balloon is shaped like a projectile, and is small, being filled with pure hydrogen. Its ascensional force is sufficient to neutralize the weight of the aeronaut and the apparatus. The latter consists of a system of movable aeroplanes and a steering tackle, by means of which the aeronaut guides the course of the balloon. In descending, the latter assumes an upright position. The immediate object of the experiments is to provide a dirigible balloon for the signal-corps of the Russian army.

Visitors to museums of science are always interested in the mounted skeletons of gigantic extinct animals, but they seldom appreciate the amount of study and skill required to properly match the fossil bones together. Even at the best it seems probable that many mistakes are made, and extinct monsters may sometimes be caused to assume forms and attitudes unknown to them in life. This is indicated, not only by the differences between the restorations made by various naturalists, but by a recent remark of Prof. H. C. Osborn, an expert in the mounting of fossil skeletons, that if we had had nothing but the skeleton of the elephant to work upon, we should probably have obtained a very faulty conception of the animal.

PEEPS INTO THE FUTURE.

Forecasts of Noted Men and What Became of Them.

Just previous to the assassination of the Empress of Austria the Emperor was heard repeatedly to remark, "I fear something awful is about to transpire. I wish the jubilee year were safely over." This brings to mind other instances of forecasts fulfilled.

Just over thirty years ago a visitor to Edinburgh was being shown over the High Court of Justiciary. He made some remark concerning the dock and its duties, and in reply the official jokingly said the visitor might one day be sentenced to be hanged in that very room. The sightseer was the notorious Dr. Pritchard; two years had barely passed when in the dock he had so closely inspected he was doomed to death for poisoning his wife and mother-in-law.

To many watchers of the political weathercock the rapid rise of Mr. Asquith to renown as a statesman was little short of miraculous; to the late home secretary himself, however, it was but the natural outcome of his own resolve. When a youth at the city of London school he informed all and sundry that he meant to take high honors at Oxford, enter the House of Commons, and become an influential member of the cabinet.

The Earl of Rosebery, so it is his

torically recorded, while passing his boyish years at Eton, foretold that in the coming years he would win the Derby and, more important still, be prime minister. Both Lord Rosebery and Mr. Asquith prophesied the things whereof they knew.

A gentleman conceived the idea that he would only live a certain time, so he made a nice calculation of his fortune, which he so apportioned as to last just the same period as he guessed his life would extend to. Strangely enough, his calculations came correct to the letter, for he died punctually at the time he had previously reckoned; he had so far exhausted his estate that, after his debts had been discharged, a solitary pair of slippers represented the entire property he left. His relatives buried him, and a representation of the slippers was carved on the tomb; to-day in a churchyard at Amsterdam his grave may be seen, the only inscription on the stone being two Flemish words: "Effen nyt" (i. e., "Exactly").

The late George Moore came to London from Cumberland a poor, friendless boy. He entered a great commercial house, and from the beginning declared he would eventually marry his employer's daughter and become his employer's partner. He accomplished both ambitions, became very wealthy and a man of whom his generation might well be proud.

When Warren Hastings was a lad his great grief was that his family had lost their paternal estate at Daylesford, and he was constantly heard to say: "I will buy it back." He grew up to make both history and a famous name, and he died at Daylesford.

Among the many records of Harrow school is that of a boy, the son of a poor local tradesman in a very small way of business. His school fellows often taunted him about his family poverty; their thoughtless jeers, although hurting his feelings, drew from the lad the retort: "I intend before I die to ride in a coach and four."

The years slid by and lo and behold! the poverty stricken youngster of Harrow had developed into Dr. Parr, the greatest scholar of his time, whose customary and favorite means of locomotion was a coach and four.

The seventh child of the German Emperor and Empress is a daughter, their other six being sons. The house of Hohenzollern has a tradition that in one year three emperors of that house will reign in Germany; the third will have seven sons and will bring ruin to the nation as well as the empire to an end.

This direful prophecy has seen the fulfillment of its first part; whether the arrival of a seventh son will bring the calamities predicted the future will show.—London Mail.

Longevity of Canned Food.

Tinned meat still holds the record for longevity, according to Good Words, which cites the case of that preserved mutton vouched for by Dr. Letheby in his Cantor lecture, which had been tinned forty-four years, and was still in condition at the end of that time. Those tins had an adventurous career. In 1824 they were wrecked in the good ship Fury and cast ashore with other stores on the beach at Prince's Inlet. They were found by Sir John Ross eight years afterward in a state of perfect preservation, having passed through alarming variations of temperature annually—from 92 degrees below zero to 80 degrees above—and withstood the attacks of savage beasts, perhaps of savage men. For sixteen years more they lay there broiled and frozen alternately; then her majesty's ship Investigator came upon the scene, and still the contents were in good condition. For nearly a quarter of a century they had withstood the climatic rigors, and, as was but natural, some of them were brought home again, where they lived on in honored old age, till they were brought under the notice of Dr. Letheby.

Coughs of an Engine.

The cough, or puff, of a railway engine is due to the abrupt emission of waste steam up the chimney. When moving slowly the cough can, of course, be heard following each other quite distinctly, but when speed is put on the puffs come out one after the other much more rapidly, and when eighteen coughs a second are produced they cannot be separately distinguished by the ear. A locomotive running at the rate of nearly seventy miles an hour gives out twenty puffs of steam every second—that is, ten for each of its two cylinders.

Every Inhabitant Is Insane.

Indo-China has the only village of madmen in the world. This village which is called Ban-Keune, is composed of some 300 families, is highly organized as a community, is industrially prosperous and pays yearly a goodly tribute to France. Yet it has not a single sane inhabitant. To enter it one must be downright mad—or, as the natives call it, "pipop." The conception of insanity prevailing in this part of the world is not that of a disease, but of a "possession."—Philadelphia Times.

Parents are so unsatisfactory to deal with, even in novels, that when a writer wants to treat a girl particularly well he makes her an orphan and gives her a guardian.