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Notice of Intention.

LAND OFFICE AT LA GRANDE, OREGON, April 7, 1897. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before County Clerk, Morrow County, Oregon, at Heppner, Oregon, on May 17th, 1897, viz:

HENRY D. MIKESELL,

Hd. E. No. 7408 for the E½ SW¼ Sec. 11 and E½ NW¼ Sec. 14, Tp 5 S, R 27 E W M.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Benjamin F. Hevland, Samuel C. Creason, Leander Copple and David A. Hamilton all of Heppner, Oregon.

B. F. WILSON, Register.

555-46.

Notice of Intention.

LAND OFFICE AT LA GRANDE, OREGON, April 6, 1897. Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before County Clerk of Morrow county, Oregon, at Heppner, Oregon, on May 18, 1897, viz:

MATHEW E. CLARK,

Hd. E. No. 6775, for the NW¼ NW¼ Sec 34, Tp 2 S, R 29 E W M.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of, said land viz: Hezekiah Tippett and Andy J. Cook, of Lena, Oregon, Edward Chapman and Charles Doherty of Vinson, Oregon.

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555-46.

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THE ISLAND OF CRETE

A Brief Historical Account of Thrilling Interest.

Story of the "Isle of One Hundred Cities" from the Age of Fable to the Present Year of Grace.

There are not many islands with a more stormy or more heroic history than that of Crete. In remote antiquity it was the redoubtable "Isle of One Hundred Cities," and had an illustrious line of kings, among whom were Rhadamanthus, Minos and Idomeneus. The last-named led a fleet of 80 ships to assist in the conquest of Troy, and was the last of what we may call the legendary kings. After him a gap of several centuries occurs, and when the record is resumed it is no longer fable, but authentic history. At the time of the Persian invasion of Greece the island was populous and prosperous. It was divided into several independent republics, which, like those of the peninsular Hellas, were not always in peace and friendship with each other. They kept free from foreign wars, however, except as they voluntarily furnished mercenary troops to whichever side would pay best for them. This was done in both the Persian and Peloponnesian wars, when the Cretan archers were as noted and as dreaded as those of Merry England in later ages.

The prowess of the ancient Cretans and their insular position kept them free from invasion down almost to the Christian era. While the eagles of Rome "flapped wide wings in fiery flight" over nearly all else of the known world that island retained its independence. Indeed, it was only through intestine quarrels that it was at last subdued. Some 70 years before the Christian era Rome took advantage of the prevailing discord in Crete to invade the island, on the pretext that the Cretans had given aid and comfort to Mithridates, and had ill-treated some Roman soldiers. The first army was repulsed and almost annihilated by the Cretans. But Rome was determined to achieve the conquest, if it took the whole power of her empire. Army after army was sent, and after three years of desperate fighting Rome prevailed. For the first time in her history Crete became, in 68 B. C., subject to an alien master. From that day to the present, for more than 1,900 years, she has been a conquered province, never once regaining the independence so long maintained and so reluctantly relinquished.

For many years Crete remained an appendage of Rome, and then of Byzantium. It first fell into Moslem hands in 823, when the Arabs, led by Michael the Stutterer, found it an easy prey. No important attempt to colonize it was made by the new conquerors, but many of the Greek inhabitants, voluntarily or involuntarily, accepted the Moslem faith. So it comes to pass that at this day there are few Turks or Arabs in the island, though many Mohammedans, the latter being of as pure Greek blood as their Christian neighbors. After 137 years of Arab rule the island was retaken by the Greeks under Nicephorus Phocas, who taught the Arabs what he thought "an everlasting lesson." It remained under Greek rule until the establishment of the Latin empire by the crusaders, when, in 1204, it was turned over to Boniface, marquis of Monferrat. The Genoese tried to buy it of him, but he sold it to their rivals, the Venetians, instead, for the sum of 100,000 silver marks. The Cretans revolted against the Venetians, and, assisted by Genoa, gave them much trouble. Indeed, during their several centuries of ownership, the Venetians had few years of peace with the turbulent islanders.

The second Moslem conquest dates from 1645. Sultan Ibrahim, on the pretext that Venice had given assistance to the Knights of Malta, sent an army of 100,000 men to seize the island. It took them nearly two months to capture the port of Canea, and no less than 24 years to reduce the capital city of Candia. Then Venice yielded the whole island to the Turks, excepting three ports, the last of which she also relinquished in 1715. Thereafter came the bloodiest chapter in Cretan history. Oppressions, rapine, torture and massacre made up the daily story for more than 100 years. The Cretans were in a chronic state of revolt, and in 1821 would probably have been successful had not an Egyptian army come to the aid of the Turks. Seven years later, when Greece became independent, Crete was ceded to Egypt as a reward for the latter's services. For some years thereafter, under the wise rule of Mehemet Ali and Mustapha Pasha, the island enjoyed such prosperity, peace and justice as it had not known for many centuries. Unhappily, in 1840 the powers compelled Mehemet Ali to surrender it again to Turkey, and since then affairs have been nearly as bad as possible. The great rebellion of 30 years ago resulted in the granting of some reforms. But the Cretans did not know how to make proper use of the advantage they had gained, and now the whole battle must be fought over again.—N. Y. Tribune.

The Boston Idea.

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Uncle James—Yes, I like it very much.

Boston Girl—I suppose it is nice enough in the glad summer time, but to go out in the cold and snow to gather winter apples and harvest winter wheat I imagine might be anything but pleasant.—Texas Sifter.

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A WONDERLAND.

Facts and Guesses About the Roraima Mountains.

A Mysterious Country Near the Schomburgk Line in Venezuela—Surmises as to the Flora and Fauna of the Region.

Perhaps one result of the Venezuela boundary commission's work will be the solving of the most remarkable geographical enigmas in the world and the exploration of what is regarded as a unique natural wonderland. This remarkable region is a number of elevated and isolated areas of land, situated on what the British call British Guiana's southwestern boundary, which is in the disputed territory. It is on the British side of the Schomburgk line. A British Guiana newspaper describes this region, as far as it is known, and expresses the hope that the final settlement of the boundary controversy will leave it well within British bounds. Should there be another result, however, the newspaper says, the region should be made an international park, something on the plan of the Yellowstone park reservation.

The region is called by the Indians "Roraima," but the several isolated areas are known by distinctive names. Each consists of what might be called an isolated mountain, but is really a table-land, comprising an area of 100 or more square miles, elevated several thousand feet above the surrounding country. The rocky sides of the mountains are as perpedicular as the Hudson river palisades and entirely bare of vegetation, and have defied all attempts to scale them. The level summits are covered with trees and other vegetation, and down the rocky sides fall a large number of cascades of considerable size, indicating the certain existence of rivers and streams on the mysterious summits, and probably of lakes that feed the rivers. The summits have been observed with telescopes, and are known to be as full of plant life as the tropical plains below, but beyond this nothing is known.

Because so little is known of the condition of these table-lands occasion is given for all manner of speculation as to what exists there. That the vegetation is quite different from that on the plains below the telescope shows; and that it should be so is quite natural, as the table-lands are 2,000 or more feet higher than the plains. While the climate of the plains is tropical, that of the table-lands must be temperate, not only because of their elevation, but because of the free play the winds have about them.

Of the geology of the region this explanation is given: This part of South America rose slowly from the sea, through successive and remote ages. The Roraima mountains were formed precisely as was the rest of the land, and are not the result of volcanic action. Hence they must have been above the ocean before the surrounding plains appeared. They stood 2,000 feet above the level of the sea when the neighboring tops were but islands in the ocean. In the course of a period difficult to appreciate the adjacent valleys and plains appeared above the water and became covered with vegetation and animal life. But the isolated plateaus of Roraima had a tremendous start of the plains below. Here comes the alleged ground for the speculation that perhaps on these mysterious summits there exists flora and fauna unlike any found elsewhere, forms of life that long since disappeared from other parts of the world, but remained the same on these summits, because unaffected by the influences of communication with the outer world. All sorts of wild guesses have been hazzarded regarding the existence of strange reptiles and animals among the streams and forests of Roraima.

The cascades falling from the summits are among the highest in the world. One is 2,000 feet high and is broad enough to be visible 30 miles away. It falls sheer, without a break. The mountains from which these cascades fall form the dividing watersheds of the Amazon, the Orinoco and the Essequibo, the three great rivers of South America, and the waters of the cascades flow some to one and some to another of these rivers. It is argued that to supply these waterfalls there must be a considerable body of water on the mountain plateaus, and it is natural to conclude that where there are large bodies of water there are fish and reptiles. The resulting conclusion that, because these fish and reptiles must have been isolated on the mountain tops for ages, they are likely to be different from any known species, is regarded as quite natural. The mountain plateaus form practically little countries by themselves, like islands, but more isolated, because the ocean of air that surrounds them does not afford the facilities for communication with other islands as do the waters of the ocean itself.

One of the plateaus, known as Kukenham, which is better situated for observation than any of the others, is estimated to have an area of 200 square miles or more. The smallest, which bears the name common to the group, Roraima, is estimated to contain 80 to 140 square miles.

The story of the mysterious region is hot new, at least to British Guiana. It is many years since any scientific men were in the region, but chance travelers and gold prospectors happen there at odd times, and when they return to Demerara they add their little store of information and mystification to the rest.—N. Y. Sun.

Heading Her Off.

"Everywhere I called to-day," said Mrs. Matchey to her daughter, "I heard that Miss Winsome was engaged."

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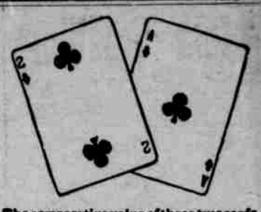

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