

New Nation Out of Oldest Land

Supposed Site of Garden of Eden Included in Territory of Kingdom of Irak.

SLICE TAKEN FROM TURKEY

Under British Mandate and Arabian Rule the Section, Better Known as Mesopotamia, Is Expected to Regain Former Glory.

Washington.—The impending addition of a new member to the family of nations—the kingdom of Irak, to function under a British mandate—is mentioned in recent dispatches from London. How this "new" country is in reality one of the oldest and most historic patches of the earth's surface is told in the following bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society:

"Irak has existed as a geographical name for ages," says the bulletin, "but in recent centuries it has had little more official sanction than 'Manhattan' for the American metropolis or 'Frisco' for a thriving Pacific port. Yet it covers more or less indefinitely a region known, and often famous, in every age of man from the dawn of tradition to the present—the fertile plain of the Tigris and Euphrates valleys, where the Garden of Eden is supposed by many students to have been situated. Strip Irak of its alias; call it Babylon—Nineveh—Mesopotamia, and it is known to every school child.

A Slice of Turkey.
"The country which it is proposed to erect into the practically independent kingdom of Irak was placed under the mandate of Great Britain on the breaking up of the Turkish empire following the World war, and was generally spoken of as 'the mandate for Mesopotamia.'

"It is difficult to exaggerate the agricultural paradise that might be built up in the lower valley of the two rivers, supplemented by the mineral wealth taken from the regions farther north, if the country were under a strong government, were peopled by alert, educated inhabitants, and if the necessary capital and modern machinery were available. Even with the factors as they are, the British, who will continue to hold the mandate, and the Arabians who will be in immediate charge of the government, are counting on the rise of a state which may be compared without disadvantage with some of the great governments that have occupied the land in the past.

"To gain an idea of what wonderful development can be brought about in Mesopotamia one need only look into the past. At the beginning of history the plain of the Tigris and Euphrates was a garden-spot teeming with a well-to-do and wealthy people. If there was a grandeur that was Greece and a glory that was Rome, there was as truly a splendor that was Babylon. And the splendor of Babylon was made possible 6,000 years ago largely by the wealth that sprang from the intensive cultivation of the river plain under a gigantic system of irrigation which even the most ambitious modern systems probably have failed in many ways to surpass.

"Babylon's agricultural Utopia was not a short-lived affair, but continued for nearly ten times as long as the period which has passed since white men settled in America. The country drove with only minor interruptions under Babylonians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Greeks and Romans. But always the settled civilization of the agriculturists was threatened by the turbulent hill people to the north and east. Finally the Parthians captured the country and were followed by the Persians. Under these more barbarous rulers the great irrigation systems, even then much less efficient than dur-

ing the golden age of Babylon, rapidly deteriorated.

Splendid, Gay, Wicked Bagdad.
"Under the Abbasid Caliphs, with a combination of Arabic and Persian culture, Bagdad was founded on the Tigris in the very center of the river plain—the splendid, gay, wicked Bagdad of the Arabian Nights. Mesopotamia's prosperity, though much less, was still relatively great, and Bagdad was for awhile the metropolis of the world, its inhabitants at one time numbering 2,000,000 souls.

"When the Turks got possession of the Caliphate and carried its seat to the west, Bagdad withered; and under Turkish rule the Tigris and Euphrates valley entered into its darkest period. Only a small percentage of the rich valley has for generations produced any crops.

"After the Young Turks came into power in 1908 reclamation work was undertaken in the Tigris and Euphrates plain and some headway was made. Since the British occupied Bagdad in 1917 this work has been carried much farther.

"It is planned under the new Arab state and the mandate to continue the work of rejuvenating the country's ancient irrigation system. But there is a Herculean task to be accomplished before 'the Garden of Eden' blooms again. It was estimated before the World war that the ambitious project of the Turks to reclaim 3,500,000 acres would cost \$130,000,000. The total area that might be irrigated is placed at about 12,500,000 acres."

Study Ways to Better Leather

Noted Chemists in Conference to Discuss Improved Processes of Tanning.

LOWER PRICES MAY RESULT

Plan to Hasten Tanning Process Without Sacrificing Quality—Prominent Foreign Chemists to Take Part in Meeting.

New York.—Shoe prices may trend downward as a result of new processes of tanning based on studies of electrical discharges and other unusual factors, which will be discussed by the leather chemistry section of the American Chemical Society.

The notable progress made in American tanning has gained such recognition abroad that sessions of the section will be attended by the largest number of European leather chemists which has ever come at one time to the United States.

Some of these experts will also attend the meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry of Great Britain, which, after convening with its Canadian section, will cross the border to confer with its American branch and to hold a joint session with the American Chemical Society.

The leather chemistry section of the American Chemical Society will meet at Columbus university. At its session will be discussed revolutionary methods by which the tanning of hides can be hastened without the sacrifice of quality. The saving of time and the releasing of large sums of money from its investment in raw material thus would have the tendency to stabilize and, perhaps, eventually to lower leather prices, American chemists believe.

One of the marked influences in the sessions will be that of Alfred Sey-

Loneliest British Isle Has No Laws, No Crime

London.—A minister has been found who is willing to serve on the Island of Tristan da Cunha, according to the London Daily Mail. Rev. Henry Martyn Rogers, curate in charge at Alexton, Uppingham, Rutland, and his wife have volunteered to go to Britain's loneliest possession, Tristan da Cunha, a little island in the South Atlantic, to act as priest and schoolmaster. There are 119 inhabitants of the island, which is 1,512 miles west of Cape Town and is visited only once a year by a British warship, and on remote occasions by passing vessels.

The islanders have no laws and know no crime. They do not barter, and during the whole of last year the only sum of money on the island was 5s. Tea, cocoa and flour are rare delicacies.

Women Fight Eagle, Save Tot.

Homestead, Pa.—An eagle gave battle to Mrs. George Williams of this city and Mrs. B. Ruffing of Greensburg, when the two women attacked the big bird after it had seized Mrs. Williams' two-and-a-half-year-old daughter and was about to fly away with the child in its talons.

Mrs. Ruffing, armed with a club, came to the aid of Mrs. Williams, and the two, after several minutes of desperate battle, forced the bird to flight, though it hovered menacingly over them for some time.

Barring deep scratches on her body, the child was uninjured.

Dorothy Dalton



Being given the chance to display her cleverness in emotional parts has brought Dorothy Dalton, a famous "movie" star known to the patrons of the motion picture houses. Her work in leads has been crowned with glory and she has pleased her thousands of admirers.

HOW DO YOU SAY IT?

By C. N. LURIE

Common Errors in English and How to Avoid Them

"TO STOP AND TO STAY."

HOW frequently do we hear some one say, or read in a newspaper, "He is stopping at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel." A moment's reflection should tell the writer or speaker that a person does not "stop" at a hotel unless he walks or drives to the hotel and halts his progress there. It is proper to say, "The parade stopped at the hotel," meaning that the parade ceased its motion when it reached the hotel. But the parade could not "stay" at the hotel. A person makes a "stay" at a hotel, not a stop, and he stays there. One should not say, "I stopped at the summer resort six weeks," but "I stayed there six weeks."

The true meaning of the word "stop" was well understood by the man who did not invite his professed friend to visit him. He said: "If you come at any time within ten miles of my house just stop," says one authority of English.

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THE REAPING MACHINE.

ALTHOUGH we are accustomed to regard reaping by machinery as a modern art, there are records that in Pliny's time the Gauls used a crude comb-shaped affair of knives to strip the heads from the standing grain. The first real patent on a reaping machine was granted to John Boyce of England in 1769. Richard French and J. J. Hawkins received the first American patent rights in 1803. But it remained for McCormick, in 1831, to make and demonstrate the first practical reaping machine.

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The Moor in Spain.

The Moors sprang from Saracens, that nomadic tribe of Arabs, which in the Eighth century overran southern Spain. They settled under the genial skies of Andalusia and found their surroundings so ideal they were contented to leave the northern portion of the country to the natives. It was galling to the Spaniard to behold his beautiful valleys and vineyards in the possession of the invaders and to see the crescent take the place of the cross; but, although much blood was shed in the interim, it was not until the Fifteenth century that Boabdil, the Moorish king, took his last look at Granada on the spot that has been practically named "El Ultimo Sospiro del Moro," the last sigh of the Moor.



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The SANDMAN STORY

THE SUNSHINE FAIRY.

"GOOD morning," said Father as little Henry came into the dining room, "isn't this a nice, bright morning, son?"

Henry did not answer. He jerked his chair from the table and slid into it with a sullen air, for Henry was cross because his mother had not let him put on his new shoes that morning.

"Heavy black clouds seem to be bothering you," said Henry's father. "Better drive them away or you will have an unhappy day."

But Henry did not answer. He kept his eyes on his plate, and a frown on his face, but when he pushed his dish

away from him and spilled the cream his father told him to go to his room and stay there until the cloud cleared from his face.

Henry did not quite understand about the "heavy, black cloud," but he did know, of course, that he had behaved badly, so he went to his room feeling that everyone was treating him unkindly.

"Have not got a heavy cloud on my face," he said, looking in the mirror. Then he drew the shade because someone had once told him that little fairies danced in the sunlight when it streamed into the room.

"Get out of my room," said Henry. "I won't have any fairies in here. I don't like girls, and all fairies are girls. Anyway, I don't believe in fairies, only those in picture books."

Henry was very cross as you see, and he did not want to see the sunshine, so he threw himself on his bed on his back to think over how cross everything was that morning.

All at once he heard some one crying. It seemed to come from outside his window. So Henry jumped up and peeped out.

The tiniest creature dressed in silver sat on the sill of the window crying.

"What are you crying about?" asked Henry, who really was a very kind little boy.

"I can't get in to do my work," said the little creature. "It is all dark inside and they shut me out. I am the sunshine fairy and I have to dance when the sun shines and make people happy. But how can I when they will not let me in?"

Henry raised the shade and up jumped the little fairy and danced into the room on the sunshine as it streamed in.

"Oh, haven't you any face?" asked the little creature, "or is it behind old black cloud? Sometimes he does hide faces, but I most always can drive him away."

Henry went to the mirror, and sure enough this time he found that in place of his face there was a heavy black cloud, through which he could see but dimly.

He looked at the sunshine and the little fairy had been joined by hundreds of others who were dancing about in the jolliest manner.

Henry forgot all about the cloud as he watched them, and presently a stream of sunshine cleared away the cloud and Henry jumped up, for you see he was dreaming all the time he had fallen asleep.

The wind had blown the shade and into the room came the bright sun, but Henry could not find the fairies though he looked everywhere.

"They did drive away heavy black cloud," thought Henry, "and I do feel happier. Perhaps there are some fairies in the sunshine after all."

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THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME

By MARY MARSHALL DUFFEE

WHEN SHE WALKS.

"A little neglect may breed mischief," Franklin.

WHEN walking with a woman it is customary for the man to ask to carry any parcels she may be burdened with. It is a woman's privilege to insist on carrying them herself, but remember that it is very embarrassing for a man to walk with a woman who is burdened as, besides feeling regret that he cannot aid her, he is put in a false position by those whom he may meet.

Every well-bred woman should know that it is no longer considered the right thing for a man to take her arm in walking unless she is feeble or the way hazardous. If she happens to be accompanied by a man who is not aware of this fact she should not take offense, but if he takes her arm she should ascribe it to his ignorance of that rule of good breeding and restrain him by simply assuring him that she can manage much better when unaided.

If a woman is overtaken or overtakes a man of her acquaintance she is privileged to ask him to accompany her as far as their ways go together, though needless to say she would say this only to a close acquaintance. She should not do this, however, when he is accompanied by another woman and would not usually wish to when he was accompanied by another man.

When taking a pleasure walk together it is always the woman's privilege to set the pace and make suggestions as to the direction in which the walk should be taken.

If a woman chances to see that a stranger has dropped something, what should she do? This is a question that sometimes comes up. She should not stop to pick it up, unless the man is decidedly older than she and she is very young. She should courteously attract his attention to the fact that he has dropped the article and leave him to pick it up for himself. However, if she is walking behind the one who has lost the article and not to pick it up for him might mean that it would be trodden upon she may in common sense stoop and get it.

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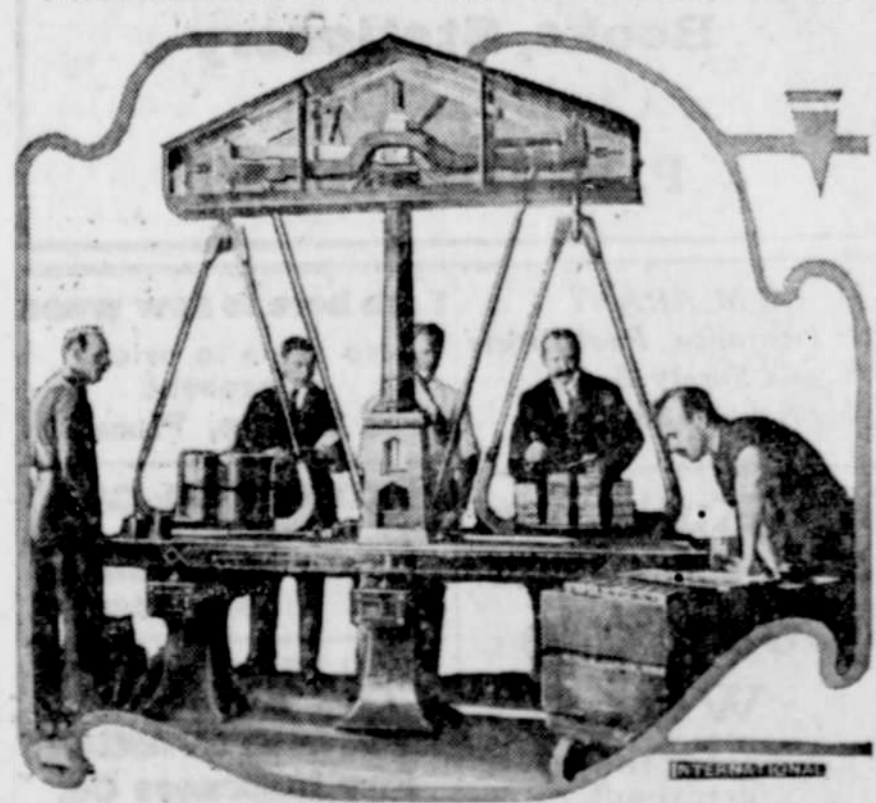
A LINE O' CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs.

A COMFORTING THOUGHT.

JUST take this comfort unto your soul. In the midst of your worries and frets; The Football, never could score a Goal. Were it not for the kicks it gets! (Copyright.)

Vast Amount of Gold Gathered Here



Treasury officials weighing bars of gold in the United States assay office in New York. In this building is about 250 tons of gold in bars and coin, approximately one-fifth of the world's supply of the precious metal. It is worth \$1,500,000,000.

Still Live in War Dugouts.

Dvinsk, Latvia.—Hundreds of families in the war-devastated territory about Dvinsk are still living in the dugouts used by German and Russian soldiers in the early days of the war. Little or no progress toward reconstruction has been made in the scores of razed villages because of the poverty of the people who for a long time after the war between Russia and Germany ended were under Bolshevik rule.