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GYPSIES REMAIN A PUZZLE

By Many, the Familiar Wanderers Are Believed to Have Originally Come From India.

The word gypsy is a contraction of Egyptian. When the nomads appeared in the British Isles, many centuries ago, their leaders called themselves "eairis" folk. Only about 700,000 in number, the Balkan states and south Russia have most of them, but there are many in Egypt and among the Moors on the coasts of North Africa. Who are they? To that question historians, anthropologists and just plain, curious people have tried to find an answer without success. Many believe that they are descendants of the lost ten tribes of Israel; still others think they are the children of Ham condemned to perpetual wanderings. They have been considered Spaniards, Assyrians and Egyptians, though they are different in body and mind from all of these.

The opinion generally held is that they are Hindus. They have the dark complexion, the same thin lips, straight and proportionate nose, brilliant eyes and white teeth of the Hindus. Their language, such of it that is not gypsy adaptation of the language of the people they live among, shows similarity to Hindu dialects. Besides, their habits and customs link them with the fortune telling, mystical habits of India.

GRASS GROWS ON BROADWAY

Fine Plot Flourishes Under Thousands of Feet in the Metropolis of the Nation.

There might be some towns where it would be difficult, but New Yorkers find it easy to hustle and yet let the grass grow under their feet. It is being done at least in one place in New York, near Broadway and Leonard street, remarks the New York Sun. At this point is a small drainage grating set into the sidewalk. Dust and dirt have settled in it almost to the level of the sidewalk, and in that little plot, less than two feet square, grass grows luxuriantly.

This is not ordinary mongrel grass that, like Topsy, "just grew." A truck driver working for a cotton goods house in the neighborhood, with a leaning toward agriculture decided the soil under the grating would be fertile, and hit upon the idea of a grass plot. He purchased the seed adapted to the soil.

Next came the preparation of the ground. With a table knife borrowed from a restaurant the truck driver scraped the diminutive plot and planted his seeds. Soon the first green appeared. It has kept on growing steadily. It is true that the blades never get a chance to climb above the top of the grating, because they are kept worn down by hundreds of passing feet, but below there is a fine growth of rich, green grass.

Microbes That Defy Death.

Though some microbes are very tough and can stand great extremes of heat and cold, the majority of them are easily killed if the right methods are used. But what puzzled scientists for many years was that "killed" microbes seemed to be able to come alive again!

You could kill them as dead as door nails, but in a very short space of time they would reappear in swarms and as lively as crickets.

Then a discovery was made. It was found that many microbes breed by means of seeds or spores, which are almost indestructible, save by fire. Experiments made with spores show that they do not in the least mind undergoing a temperature of 400 degrees below freezing-point for many hours. Nor does it hurt them to be boiled! That is why such a disease as anthrax, the microbes of which produce spores, is so extremely difficult to stamp out—no ordinary means of disinfection is of the slightest use.

Simple Food for Fighters.

Researches made by various scholars indicate that the heroes of Homer prepared their food with their own hands. The New York Herald remarks. In the happy simplicity of the Homeric ages the great heroes who dealt such terrible blows, leaving death and desolation behind them when they reposed after their exploits, partook of a blameless dish of beans or a plate of homely lentils.

It may be difficult to imagine Diomedes in the act of peeling onions or Achilles washing cabbage. But although the wise Ulysses roasted, with his own hands, a sirloin of beef, vegetables occupied the most conspicuous places at all the great banquets of ancient Greece.

MASTER CON MAN FLEECED THE POOR

Horatio Bottomley Duped Many in England.

BOASTED HE SAVED COUNTRY

Former Journalist, Member of Parliament and Owner of Race Horses, Posed as Champion of Former Service Men While He Was Planning to Rob Them—Former Employee and Business Associate Finally Brings Him to Justice.

The conviction of Horatio Bottomley is an important event in English history, says Arthur S. Draper in the New York Tribune. This journalist, member of parliament, financier, owner of thoroughbreds, who has just been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for misappropriating large sums collected from ex-soldiers and servants and other persons with modest incomes, has been a leading figure in English life for many years and an almost dominant personality right through the war and down to the date of his action against Reuben Bigland, whom he charged with criminally libeling him.

People—thousands of them—swore by Bottomley. Parsons quoted him from the pulpit. Government ministers feared him. Hundreds of Britons considered him an arch rogue and hypocrite, but such was his cleverness that few dared to cross his path. It remained for a former employee and associate in his enterprises to bring about the downfall of this British idol. Bottomley, a born crusader, swollen with power and fearless in spirit, started to fight Bigland, hesitated, and eventually landed behind prison bars at the age of sixty-two years.

Losses Claim to Sympathy. It is impossible to feel any sympathy for Bottomley, because he was a consummate hypocrite. He paraded as the possessor of all the virtues—honesty, cleanliness and fair dealing—and yet he did not hesitate to use the money of the poor for his own purposes—for paying the expenses of his racing stable, for buying magnificence of champagne, for buying newspapers to give him more power. His office contained busts and pictures of the leaders of humanity. His articles in "John Bull," of which he was editor until his final legal difficulties started, contained frequent Biblical quotations. His speeches were full of idealism. His friends say that during recent years he developed a religious streak, but if that is so then he mixed it with an amazing recklessness of other people's hard-earned money.

Through his various bond clubs he collected upward of \$4,000,000. Briefly his scheme was to issue certificates, buy war bonds and then hold lotteries. The government authorities refused to sanction the drawing of these so-called premium bonds. Then he transferred his club headquarters to Paris, ran afoul of the French authorities; but, according to his own statement, he did hold one draw in London, a tailor being the winner. Bottomley had advertised to refund money at any time. The bonds depreciated in a falling market. There was an avalanche of demands and finally receivers had to be appointed. Meanwhile Bottomley had sold many of the bonds and used part of the money for his own purposes. The court records showed that his accounts were in hopeless confusion. In fact, the evidence proved that the more confused they were the better they covered his complicated transactions. It might be that Bottomley fully intended to make good the money he took from the clubs, but that charitable interpretation would not clear him in the eyes of the law, and his long record in various courts, extending from 1893, was calculated to weigh against him.

Bottomley's life is fascinating. His parents intended he should become a painter, but instead he obtained a place in the city. He spent a short time in a law office. It was there that he gained his first insight into the law. He was called "England's greatest lay lawyer," and time after time the bench was compelled to compliment him on his masterful handling of his case. Bottomley might have made a fortune at the bar, but instead he elected to try his luck in finance and journalism. He had marvelous success in both, but on several occasions his speculations almost ruined him. In 1906 he was elected to parliament, and six years later he was forced to resign because he was declared a bankrupt.

Plunged into War as Patriot.

The most interesting phase of his life was that beginning in 1914, when he plunged into the war as a super-patriot. He is a gifted actor, a powerful orator and extremely clever in sensing public opinion. Unquestionably he was a huge asset to this country during the trying war period. He was a most prolific writer and a tireless speechmaker. Millions read his weekly articles, extraordinarily bombastic, and his halls were packed whenever he spoke. His trial has shown that he was something of a war profiteer despite his later attacks on this class. Bottomley was no "dollar-a-year" man; his fees were always large.

Bottomley posed as the typical Britisher. In personal appearance he did resemble the Briton as he is often pictured in cartoons, but Bottomley was in a class by himself. No other Eng-

lishman would write this paragraph: "Three men named Horatio saved England—Horatio Lord Nelson, Horatio Lord Kitchener and (modesty forbids the editor to name the third)."

In his weekly Bottomley was always fighting the battles of "Tommy and Jack"—the very men who subscribed to his clubs at a later date. He was always picturing the hamstringing of the last Hun before the next issue appeared. He elected himself to try and hang the Kaiser. He was imploring the country, especially the men in the trenches to "hold fast"—while he collected £200 for a war lecture. One week he was damning the government and the next he was telling his readers that he and Lloyd George were now in full agreement. Still the public did not know him then as a humbug and hypocrite, and he undoubtedly did much to keep up British morale.

Always appearing as the "friend of the people," Bottomley had a tremendous following. His brain was so nimble that he must have been sickened at the gullibility of the public. An editorial writer in "The Daily Telegraph," says:

Became Drunk With Power.

"Bottomley's story, if we met it in the pages of Balzac, would seem to us rather a masterpiece of grandiose fancy than persuasively real. For he was not only such a chieft among gamblers and cheats Balzac loved to imagine; he had a singular power of demagoguery, he was a chevalier d'industrie and a tribune of the people in one, and in both parts supreme."

Bottomley became drunk with power; he was such a hypocrite that in his heart he undoubtedly had a huge admiration for the Kaiser until his downfall. Both grew to think they were above ordinary mortals. Today it is a rare German who would have Wilhelm II return to the throne, however strong his monarchial views might be. Bottomley could speak as the cockney gamblin or the inspired patriot, and he fooled the people until he finally fooled himself. Utterly without principle, he employed virtuous rhetoric or dropped into vulgarities as he thought the occasion demanded. He hypnotized himself in believing that he was more powerful than he was. His oratorical skill made his a persuasive personality and also gave him an absolutely false perspective.

Played With Money and Lives.

This man had the generosity as well as the recklessness of the gambler. He was kind to his friends; he was equally callous. He drank champagne and bet heavily. He played with money and with lives. And finally a jury of "common people" found him guilty.

The spectacular had an irresistible appeal to him and his whole life is a record of extremes. A typical incident is his purchase after the war of the submarine Deutschland, which made two trips to the United States during the period of American neutrality. The Deutschland was to some extent a cargo carrier and her successful breaking of the allied blockade, although without any real value, was an exploit which won admiration even from Germany's enemies.

Great Britain took over the Deutschland as part of the spoils of war and Bottomley bought the ship from the government and exhibited her at various seaside resorts. The avowed purpose of the exhibition was for the benefit of a patriotic fund for the support of wounded soldiers and sailors, but it appeared during the trial that no money had been turned over by Bottomley, who claimed that his Deutschland venture had been a financial failure and that the proceeds did not balance his expenditures. On the day that Bottomley was sentenced the admiralty court ordered that the boat be sold to meet a claim against the convicted editor for \$17,000 for repairs.

BOBBED HAIR STRIKES SOUTH

Australian Women Take Up Fad, Which Men Resist.

Bobbed hair among the young women of Australia is causing as much discussion and comment as in America. Until the craze started barber shops in Sydney were patronized only by the men. There are so many bobbed-haired women in Australia now, that they have two or three perfumed tonorial parlors of their own.

When the bobbed hair craze hit Australia it was tried first by women of the theatrical profession. Then magazines from the United States arrived with discussions by various people on bobbed hair. Soon bobbed hair became a topic of public discussion in Australia. The men will never get over the shock of seeing the other sex invade shops heretofore exclusively their own and demanding haircuts. Some people will never admit that the women have a right to choose their own methods and manner of conducting themselves.

JAP DEBT \$1,771,933,980

Finance Department Reports \$678,507,500 Represents Foreign Loans. Japan's total national debt amounted at the end of March to 3,543,867,961 yen (normal value \$1,771,933,980), of which 1,359,015,000 yen represented foreign loans, according to figures published by the department of finance.

As compared with figures for the preceding month, the March totals show an increase of 22,896,000 yen in the domestic loans and a decrease of 3,355,000 yen in foreign liabilities.

Giddy Old Bird Out All Night.

Gust Witham's five hens and old rooster were reported stolen at Muskegon, Mich., but they came home a few hours later after being out all night. They located a neighbor's mash, Witham reported, and showed marked effects of the night's spree.

PLEA FOR BIRD PROTECTION

Feathered Creatures Alone Are Able to Wage Effective War on Insects That Destroy Crops.

It has been estimated, and no doubt conservatively, that insects injure the crops in the United States annually to the amount of more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. All will agree that if every portion of this loss could be avoided by the protection of bird life, it would be well worth the cost. Not only the farm crops and gardens, suffer, but orchards, forests and shade trees are greatly injured by insect pests, a condition of which the people of Massachusetts are probably better aware than are the inhabitants of any other state.

There is a well-authenticated story of a Bavarian nobleman who made a fine piece of forest land a sanctuary so delightful to the feathered folk that when a scourge of destructive insects swept over the country, the summer dwellers protected his trees from devastating worms that stripped bare the neighboring forests. Similar occurrences on a smaller scale are perhaps not uncommon. Manifestly, from the standpoint of good citizenship, which calls for wise economic policies, bird protection as a subject for national legislation is deserving of most careful consideration; for these little friends of man, if they are encouraged and protected, render a very valuable service. Much wise legislation has been enacted, but there is need of more to make our bird friends secure.

HOW TO CLEAN GILT FRAMES

Can Be Done Without Injury to Gold Leaf, if the Following Rules Are Observed.

Almost every house has at least a few old gold picture frames. How to clean these without the risk of rubbing off the thin gold leaf is a matter which concerns most women.

Brush all dust from the frame, and with a soft hog's hair brush dipped in clean, cold water, frequently changed, brush all the ornamental parts, carefully avoiding the burnished parts. This will remove all dust and fly-marks. The frame must now be allowed to dry thoroughly. Now make a mixture of one pint of water, one ounce methylated spirits, and half-ounce of ammonia. Go over the gold with this, using a small camel hair pencil brush, and avoiding burnished portions. Each time the brush is removed from the frame it must be washed in water and squeezed out before being dipped into the spirit mixture. The quicker you do this job the better.

The burnished parts now require attention. With a piece of new wash-leather in your hand breathe lightly upon a small strip of the work and push or roll away dirt or dust.

A coating of clear size will much improve the appearance of the gliding. —Wolverhampton.

Doyle Made Good as Detective.

Sombody recalls Sir Conan Doyle's activities as a detective back in 1907 when he applied the Sherlock Holmes methods to an English criminal case and succeeded in bringing about the release of an apparently innocent man. That was the Edjall affair, which was widely exploited in the English newspapers at the time. Edjall, the son of a Parsee and an Englishwoman, was accused of wantonly maiming animals. The prosecution made out a strong case against him. It was alleged that on a certain dark night he went to a field near his home and there brutally mutilated a horse. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle became convinced of his innocence, and succeeded in proving beyond a doubt that the nearsightedness of the prisoner was of so extreme a nature that he would have been unable to find the field, let alone the horse.

Chinese Ancestor Worship.

In China almost every family has, in the main hall of the house, its "ancestral shrine" wherein are arranged the ancestral tablets. These tablets are made of wood or stone or marble, according to the financial circumstances of the family, and inscribed thereon are the names, titles, dates of birth and death of deceased ascendants and the names and degrees of relationship of their nearest living descendants.

Twice a year, on the birthday and death-day of the departed, ceremonies, consisting chiefly of oblations before the tablets, are held. The use of the tablet as an object of reverence is not due to the belief that the spirit of the departed resides in it, but rather that it is a symbol to be remembered and respected by the living; and the days set apart for "worship" are no more religious than is remembrance of the dead.

Reassuring Him.

"I beg your pardon," said the embarrassed man to the floorwalker. "I want to buy some hose for my wife. I believe she said 'oller' hose. You roll 'em up or roll 'em down. It was something like that."

"Step this way, sir, and have no fear. We discharged a young lady only last week for making a flippant remark to a man in your predicament."

No Bonehead, He.

Rastus—Feller, why for you all dabbin' wid dis here oysteropathy? Sambo—Cause Ah done read in a book dis oysteropathy treat ob manipulation of de bones, and de onliest partiality Ah's got is humorin' de gallopin' dominoes to pass in review. Science and invention.

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