

New Nation Out of Oldest Land

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

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 Iraq, 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:

"Iraq 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 Iraq of its atlas; 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 Iraq 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 thrived 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.

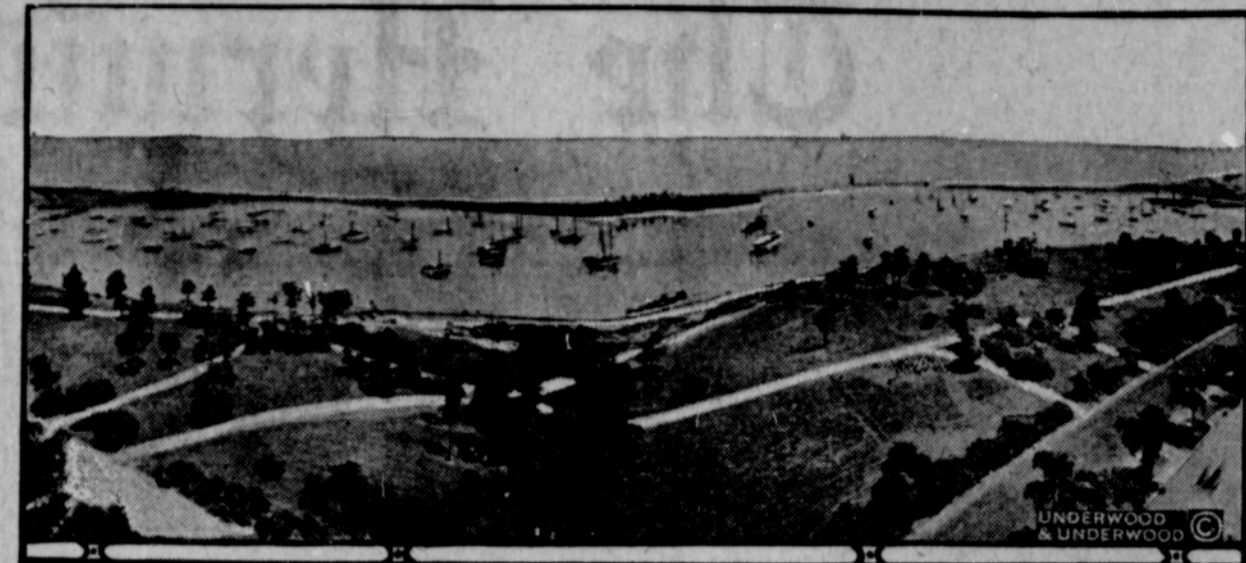
Women Fight Eagle, Save Tot

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.

Called Most Beautiful Spot in Chicago



The lagoon in Lincoln park, which is the home of the Chicago Yacht club, is said to be the most beautiful spot in Chicago. It is located off Sheridan drive at Roscoe street. At the extreme right may be seen the Sheridan House drive and next to it the bridge path. The old schooner at the extreme right of the photograph is the club's plan and office. In the distance can be seen the Lincoln Park golf course.

Ohio Town Is Being Moved

All Buildings of Osborn to Be Taken to New Site to Prevent Flood.

LAWYER CRACKS HARD NUT

Problem of How to Preserve Corporate Existence of Town and at Same Time Destroy Its Very Existence Aroused Interest.

Dayton, O.—The town of Osborn, O., is moving. The story, briefly told, is this:

In March, 1913, the Great Miami river and its tributaries overflowed their banks. The resulting flood was the worst in the history of the Miami valley. It is known as the Dayton flood. Hundreds of lives were lost, and the financial loss aggregated hundreds of millions of dollars.

When the people recovered after the shock of the disaster and looked the situation over, they decided that they would prevent future floods, cost what it would. Experts were ordered to find a way to keep the waters of the Great Miami, Mad river, Stillwater river, Wolf creek, Big Twin creek and smaller tributaries confined to their several banks.

The plan finally adopted contemplated a series of dams across the streams. This simple method of controlling the flow during floods promised the protection aimed at. The dams would hold the water back, smothering just enough to fill the river bed below, and no more.

Under this plan the water would back up behind the dams for miles, filling the whole valley between the bordering hills. These spaces were called "dry reservoirs," which means that in seasons of normal flow the water and the stream would be dry, while in flood times it would be submerged to a depth of many feet.

All homes located in the dry reservoirs, all buildings of every description, all towns and villages, mills and every form of structure; in fact, anything and everything that may be damaged by water must be moved to higher ground.

Village Must Be Moved.

The village of Osborn, with a population of 1,000, was in one of those "dry" reservoirs. It was necessary to move it. It was an old town and one of the most attractive and most beautiful in Ohio, with hundreds of wonderful shade trees, many churches, a splendid high school, great flourishing

HONORS DAD'S MEMORY



King George of England unveiled his statue of his father, King Edward VII in London recently. The monument stands in Waterloo place.

Ten Dollars a "Stick Up" Is Scale for Assistants

Ten dollars a "stick up" is the scale offered by New York city holdup men for assistants, or "swabbers," according to a story detectives say they obtained from Gerald Clair of Denver, Colo., held for complicity in the robbery of two cigar stores.

According to detectives, Clair said he held a revolver while his employer rifled the cash registers. The two robberies for which Clair is said to have received \$20, totaled \$100.

mills, whose products had a national reputation, waterworks, railways and scores of good residences. When it became known that all of these had to be removed, or demolished, the inhabitants were very much distressed. Every expedient known to lawyers was resorted to to prevent the sacrifice. But the courts held that the law, which created the Miami conservancy district, the corporate body charged with the flood prevention work, conferred all of the powers which were asserted.

How to preserve the corporate existence of the town of Osborn, and at the same time destroy its very existence, became the problem of the ablest lawyers of the state. Finally a village lawyer, Morris Rice, unknown to fame until then, hit upon a way to save the town as a corporate entity. He found nothing in the law books to guide him. Nevertheless, he brought the question to the courts, where he demanded an interpretation of the word "contiguous."

The existing law of Ohio authorized towns, cities and villages to extend their corporate limits to "contiguous" territory.

Mr. Rice argued that the town of Osborn had the right to extend its corporate limits to suit itself and that the physical shape of the extension could not be defined by law. He proposed to take into the corporate limits of the village of Osborn, as it then existed, an addition four hundred feet wide and a mile and a quarter long, at the extremity of which addition the plat broadened to include sufficient area to accommodate the buildings of the town as they then were.

Opposing lawyers laughed and jeered at the novel theory, but the court did not. It handed down a decision which upheld every claim of Lawyer Rice.

Accordingly the town of Osborn extended its corporate limits by laying out a new addition distant a mile and a half from the old town, and connecting the new site with the old by a strip four hundred feet wide and more than a mile and a quarter long. The entire town will be moved to the new location, with the exception of a few large brick buildings, and the big mills, which latter have been reserved, and will remain as they are.

All Property Rights Acquired.

In order to accomplish the removal in an orderly way the "Osborn Removal company" was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio. This company purchased outright from the Miami conservancy district every building in the town, except those mentioned. The Miami conservancy district had previously "condemned" and had appraised all the buildings of every description in the village, and had paid for them in cash.

The Osborn Removal company bought and paid for all the buildings. Title to the real estate did not pass, but remained in the name of the Miami conservancy district. It is the present and future task of the Osborn Removal company to transport the buildings from the old town to the new location. In every instance the persons who now occupy the buildings will be given preference in repurchasing them after the work of removal is effected. This plan has been accepted by the citizens of the village, and it is expected that a majority of the citi-

zens will continue to occupy their homes in the new location.

The work of removal is simple, although it will take months to complete it. Every house in Osborn has been numbered. The place where each building is to go has been similarly numbered in the new location. When the day comes to remove any particular building, it will be raised with power jacks, broad rollers placed under it, the building lowered onto the rollers, a powerful tractor hitched to it, and away it will go; and before night it will be dropped on its new location.

If the occupants so desire, they can remain in the houses, and the interior arrangements will scarcely be disturbed.

The actual work of removal is being started. Every legal impediment to the scheme has been overcome. Without statutory law, without legislative enactment, without ordinance, without precedent to guide him, Lawyer Rice worked out a plan whereby the town of Osborn could be moved to a location a mile and a half away without destroying its corporate existence, or interrupting for a moment its corporate rights and privileges, as defined under the laws of Ohio.

SAVED U. S. \$10,000,000



sives. These munitions, T. N. T. and picric acid are now being used in road building and for distribution among the farmers. Major Connolly is here shown burning modified T. N. T. If this were dynamite, the major as well as the photographer would be counted among those missing.

NEW YORK EATS MOST SPUDS

City Leads World as Potato Consumer; Chicago Ranks Second, Followed by Philadelphia.

New York.—New York is the greatest white potato consuming center in the United States. It was announced by the bureau of markets and crop estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture. An average of 19,263 cars of white potatoes were unloaded here every year for the last five years. Chicago stands second, with 11,510 cars, followed by Philadelphia with 8,807, Pittsburgh with 6,929, St. Louis with 2,943 and Kansas City with 2,726.

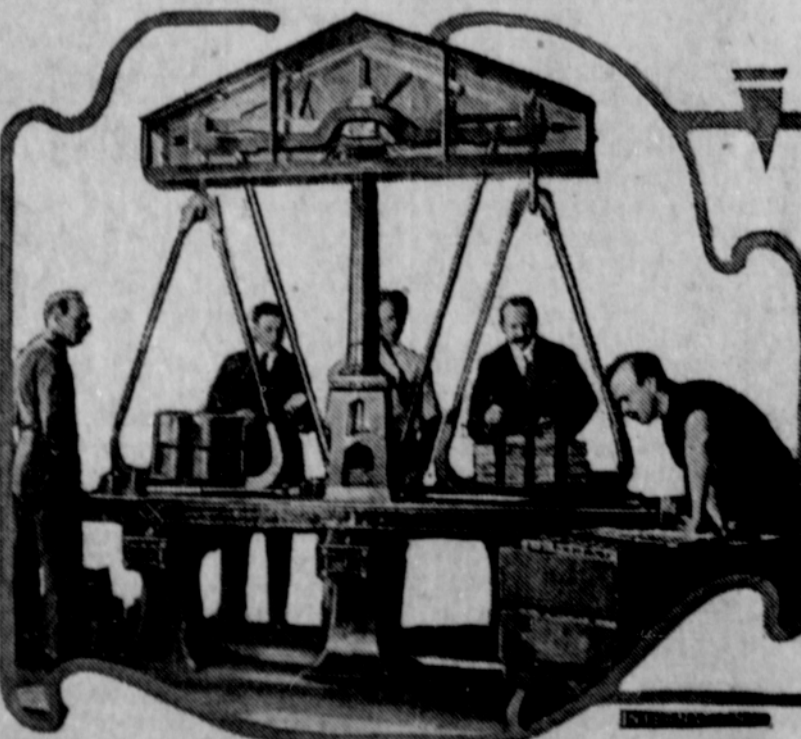
The city's potatoes come mostly from upstate and Maine. The state supplies 5,926 cars and Maine 3,048. Practically the entire supply of the intermediate crop is furnished by New Jersey, which ships 2,048 cars to this city.

O.K.'S NEW SAM BROWNE BELT

Pershing Favors United States Design, Which Provides Two Straps.

Washington.—A new type of Sam Browne belt, for wear by army officers, with two straps, one over each shoulder, has been designed by the quartermaster general and approved by General Pershing. A War department announcement described the belt as "having two straps, removable pistol slides, first-aid pouch, canteen, double magazine pocket and saber attachment, thus differing distinctly from that now being worn.

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.

Studying Electrical Discharges.

Closely associated with Mr. Wilson in his investigations is Prof. Arthur W. Thomas, who is making important studies of the relation of electrical discharges of materials used in tanning to the manufacture of leather. His laboratory is in Havemeyer hall, Columbus university, where the sessions of the leather chemistry section are to be held. In it is unique and costly equipment provided from a special fund given by a well-known Milwaukee tanner. The results of these researches are made available, however, for the entire tanning industry.

On a bench in this laboratory, occupying an area of a square yard, is what is reputed to be the smallest tannery in the world. With it complicated processes of tanning are perfectly conducted although on a miniature scale.

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.