

CAMELS AGAIN GET PUBLICITY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—The case at the national museum here constitutes the sole relic of two shiploads of camels brought from the Far East in the "fifties" while Jefferson Davis was secretary of war in an effort to solve the problem of transporting military supplies between the Mississippi river and the posts scattered across the western deserts.

Hostility of native mule drivers to the "ships of the desert" and the beginning of the Civil war are assigned by government authorities as the reasons for the failure of the effort to utilize camels as burden carriers over the western plains.

Dr. Charles C. Carrol, of the department of agriculture, has written an official history of the importation of camels. He says the idea of transplanting the beasts to America originated with the Spanish after the conquest of South America and toward the end of the 16th century they were introduced into Peru. The camels were not looked upon with favor by the ruling officials, however, and they dwindled away. Some camels also were transported to Virginia from Guinea in 1701 but there is no authentic record of the enterprise except that it failed.

Transportation troubles during the stubborn Indian war in Florida caused Major George H. Crossman to advocate the use of the desert beasts for military purposes, but nothing came of the plan.

Some years later Major Henry C. Wayne suggested to the war department and to members of congress a plan for government importation. His ideas were endorsed by Jefferson Davis, then chairman of the senate military committee, and after Mr. Davis became secretary of war under President Pierce he pressed the skeleton of a camel which stands in project. Finally in December 1854 congress approved an amendment by Senator Shields, of Illinois, to the annual army appropriation bill providing \$30,000 "to be expended under the direction of the war department in the purchase and importation of camels and dromedaries to be employed for military purposes."

Secretary Davis at once sent Major Wayne to the Levant to round up the camels, the secretary of the navy placing at the disposal of Mr. Davis the storeship supply, with her crew, under the command of Lieutenant David H. Porter (afterward Admiral Porter.) It was ordered that the ship land at a Texas port as it was supposed the climate there would more resemble that of the Far East.

Major Wayne and Lieutenant Porter bought their first animals in Tunis in August and upon applying for a permit to bring the camel away the Bey of Tunis presented to the United States two other animals, one of which finally because the veteran of the American herd.

The ship then went to Constantinople, where the officers declined an offer of the Sultan of Turkey to present four camels to the United States because it was found the animals would have to be brought from Asia and the officers did not want to wait for them. The supply went from Constantinople to Alexandria, Egypt, where it was proposed to purchase ten dromedaries and 30 camels but "red tape" so disgusted the Americans that they loaded three dromedaries and made ready to sail. Before leaving, however, they secured six fairly good beasts. The ship sailed with nine dromedaries and the camel presented by the Bey of Tunis, the two others obtained in Tunis having been sold to a Turkish butcher for \$44 after they were found to have signs of itch.

Gwyn H. Heap was sent on ahead to Smyrna and when the supply arrived at that point the remaining camels were found assembled. Mr. Heap had purchased them at prices ranging from \$100 to \$400.

The voyage home was begun on February 15, 1856, with 31 animals, nine dromedaries, or runners, 23 camels of burden, and one calf. Six Arabs were engaged to go along with the animals as it was thought they would prove useful in their useful management. A Turk was employed as a "camel M. D." but his medical services were dispensed with after it was found that his cure for a cold was a piece of cheese, for swollen legs, tea mixed with gun powder, and for trifling complaints, tickling the animals nose with a chameleon's tail.

The cargo was landed at Indianola, Texas, May 14, 1856 and the beasts were taken by easy stages to San Antonio, 120 miles away, where Major Wayne planned to establish a camel ranch and to attempt the breeding of the animals but Secretary Davis instructed him to find out whether the animals were adapted to military uses.

Major Wayne found the animals highly satisfactory for the purposes for which they were secured and as something over \$20,000 of the original appropriation remained, Lieutenant Porter was sent for another ship load. The Sultan of Turkey gave six dromedaries, which were included in the lot of 41 animals landed at Indianola February 10, 1857. The camels were taken to Camp Verde which had been established at the camel station. Five of the first herd had died, one it was said from blows received from a mule driver.

The senate in February, 1857, di-

rected the secretary of war to make a report on the camel experiment which was done and John B. Floyd, who became secretary of war under President Buchanan continued to urge buying of more camels, saying in his annual report of 1858:

"The experiments thus far made—and they are pretty full—demonstrate that camels constitute useful means of transportation for men and supplies through the great deserts and barren portions of our interior."

Secretary Floyd recommended that congress authorize an appropriation for the purchase of 1000 camels, but the law-makers did not agree with him and no further expenditures were authorized.

During the summer of 1857 the camels were used in carrying water and for scout duty. That fall Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale opened a wagon road from Fort Defiance, N. Mexico, to the eastern frontier of California, using part of a herd of camels. The journey took 48 days through unexplored wilderness, plains and desert. The camels carried water for the mules on the desert, traversed stretches of country covered with the sharpest of volcanic rocks and swam rivers without hesitation.

When Lincoln's administration began in 1861 the war department had 28 camels in California. These with several others brought on from Texas were held in various forts and military reservations in California without being put to any use. In 1862 Lieutenant Beale wrote Secretary Stanton of their ideal condition and proposed to use them for further exploration and in packing supplies across the Great Basin, but his proposal was rejected as was one a year later to use the camels in carrying mail between Fort Mohave, N. Mex., and New San Pedro, Cal.

The herd finally was sold by the government to Samuel McLaughlin, in whose care the herds had been for some time. Some of the camels found their way into circuses and hands of other parties.

At the beginning of the Civil war the camels at the Camp Verde station in Texas passed into the hands of the confederate government which paid little heed to them and some wandered away. Of these there is an official account of three captured in Arkansas by the Union forces and sent to Mr. Peden, near the Des Moines river in Iowa, for the benefit of his care and economy in their support.

Some of the herd is thought to have wandered into the Texas panhandle, Arizona and New Mexico where they lived free and half wild, the prey of white and red hunters.

When the federal government came again into control of Camp Verde at the close of the Civil war they found 44 camels which were finally ordered sold at public auction. Bids were opened in New Orleans, three persons being willing to buy, Horace Bell offered \$5 each, Joseph Hallam \$10 each and Colonel Bethel Cooper's bid was \$3 each.

Some of the camels eventually were driven into Mexico and as late as 1903 the San Antonio Express spoke of having observed a camel in a midway show with the brand of the United States on it and the counterbrand of a subsequent purchaser.

Blight Resisting Pear Trees Found

GRASS VALLEY, Cal., Nov. 3.—The world's largest stock of pear seedlings of a wild, blight-resisting variety found in Manchuria, is located on the Loma Rica ranch near Grass Valley. The young trees are from seed brought directly from China and number about 100,000.

Three pomological experts from the U. S. department of agriculture, Professors Allison, Wright and Kinsman, recently inspected the stock and approved the experimental work. The original trees, known as the *pyrus usuriensis*, are found growing in the ancient burying ground of the kings of the Manchurian Dynasty, and it is only since the overthrow of the dynasty that the seed became available. The tract is said to be vast and to be grown to trees of immense size.

By grafting the commercial varieties of pears upon this stock good results are expected to be obtained.

Tourist Business Hurt by Disorders

DUBLIN, Nov. 3.—The tourist business in Ireland has been injuriously affected by the revolutionary disorders. Tourist agents and hotel keepers are in despair. North Wales and the Isle of Man have captured the visitors who used to come to Killarney and Glengariff. There has been a notable absence of the usual influx of Americans.

Dublin has suffered less proportionately than other places, but Dublin's visitors did not take the risk of leaving it for the provinces. There was no danger to life or limb, but the dislocation of the railway service caused by the refusal of the railway men to carry soldiers, police or munitions made the train service so uncertain that nobody could count safely on reaching or returning from any given destination within the limits of a holiday.

The "Babe" Ruth of basketball is Johnny Beachman, whose playing contracts with the Original Celtics of New York city are said to net him \$2000 a month.

MADE EXCHANGE OF SWORDS

American Officer in Havana Was Not to Be Outdone in Courtesy by Any Cuban.

Maj. E. Orlando Power, United States army, says the most embarrassing moment of his army life was in Havana when he was a lieutenant, in 1906. The United States had just taken control of Cuba and Lieutenant Power was sent to Havana to see about taking over some property. While in a restaurant he saw four Cuban officers, immaculately garbed, in true Latin manner they rose, bowed ceremoniously, and invited him to sit at their table.

"Sir," said one of the officers, rising. "It gives us the honor very distinguished to have an American officer join us—to have the valiant Americans in control of our country. My feeling is so great that I beg of you to give me the honor of accepting my sword."

With that he whipped out his beautiful Toledo blade, made of a steel the like of which no American ever possessed. As the young American awkwardly waited the Cuban stuck the point of his Toledo blade in the center of the table, bent it double, and as it whipped back into shape gracefully handed it to Power.

Feeling it up to him to do something gracious, Lieutenant Power begged the Cuban accept his sword to establish relations further. With that he whipped out his \$10 blade, bought from a department store on the East side of New York, imitating the Cuban, he stuck the point in the middle of the table, bent it double—and it stayed bent!

Without a tremor, Lieutenant Power calmly handed the blade, now bent like a pretzel, to the Cuban, and made him a sweeping bow.—From the Amaroc, New Official Newspaper of the American Army of Occupation.

DEMAND FOR HIPPO TEETH

Buyers Fleck to Antwerp Four Times a Year to Attend Auction Where They Are Sold.

The chief ivory market of the world is in Antwerp, where buyers from everywhere assemble four times a year to attend an auction of this material.

Most of it consists of the tusks of African elephants, but considerable quantities of hippopotamus teeth also figure in the sales. The latter, at an auction a few weeks ago, brought prices all the way from thirty-five cents to \$5 a pound, according to quality.

A century ago hippopotamus ivory was much more valuable than it is today, because it was the preferred material for artificial human teeth, being very dense and hard. George Washington had a set of teeth made of it. But nowadays much better ones are manufactured of porcelain by the million.

At the recent auction above mentioned rhinoceros horns brought \$13 a pound. They are ingeniously carved, mostly for curios. The horn of the rhinoceros, by the way, is one of the oddities of nature, being composed of closely compacted hair.

"Good Angel" Unappreciated.

Many times our best angels are not appreciated. The very fact that we are so accustomed to their ministry makes them commonplace. Bill was handy man at a certain college. He didn't get rich on what he did but he knew more about things than any one there. He just naturally took the responsibility for everything. But no one appreciated him. In fact he became something of a joke and everybody took occasion to shove off responsibility on him knowing that he could be counted on putting anything through that he undertook. So they worked the willing horse until he was picked up by a more appreciative concern and the college lost a good angel. Incidentally I might add, two men and a typist are doing the same work.—Grit.

Reversed.

A famous Scotch minister of the last century was very absent minded and many amusing stories are told of this awkward falling. On one occasion he had arranged to preach in a certain church a few miles from Aberdeen. He set out on a pony in good time, but when near the end of the journey he felt a desire to take a pinch of snuff. The wind was blowing in his face, so he turned the head of the pony around, the better to enjoy the luxury. Pocketing his snuffbox, he started the pony without thinking to turn it in the right direction, and he did not discover his error until he found himself back in Aberdeen, at the very time when he ought to have been preaching seven miles away.—Buffalo Commercial.

No Fuel Problem Here.

The French town of Chaudes-Aigues in the Auvergne mountains, with a population of 2,000, probably is the only place outside the tropical and sub-tropical zones where the heating of homes is no problem, the scarcity and high cost of fuel notwithstanding. The town is built in the crater of an inactive volcano. A number of stone-covered wells furnish boiling water which flows through mains beneath the rows of houses. In the floor of each house, are several holes leading to the main pipe. To heat a house, the covers of the holes are removed; to prepare a meal a pot is lowered to the flow of boiling water. Outside the town is a large pond of hot water, where the women wash clothes.

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Big Auditorium Built by Soldiers

NOGALES, Ariz., Nov. 3.—The biggest auditorium in Arizona, so described by the architect, is nearing completion at Camp Stephen J. Little here, where the 26th infantry is stationed, having been built completely by hitherto uneducated negro soldiers in the 25th infantry studying in the army vocational school at the post under direction of Major John

C. Fairfax, morale officer. The new building is a complete theatre, equipped for either motion pictures, vaudeville, or legitimate productions. The seating capacity is 3000.

Present plans call for opening the new theatre by Christmas day. The theatre will be conducted by men at the army post, from publicity man to scene shifters. The building is of wood construction. The lumber was obtained by the morale officer from the salvage material of the U. S. reclamation service. Practically the en-

tire work has been done by 25 soldier students in the vocational school at the post. None of them, they stated to Maj. Fairfax, had ever handled carpenter's tools when they began the course last November. Many of these men could not even read or write when they entered the school.

A number of well-known players in both the major and minor leagues are arranging to put in the off season by pastiming with the new Florida Winter league.

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