Slavery Still Flourishes

European Powers Charged With "Winking" at Traffic in Arabia and Abyssinia

Confirmation of recent reports received by the League of Nations telling of the survival of the slave traffic in Ethiopia (Abyssinia), largely in response to the demand existing in Arabia, is found in an article in the Berlin Vossische Zeitung. The article is written by Dr. Wolfgang von Weisl, who has been traveling in the Near East.

Dr. Weisl asserts that the European powers whose war craft patrol the Red Sea are not making really serious efforts to suppress this traffic in "black ivory." In his article, written in Jidda, the main port of the Kingdom of the Hedjaz, the German correspondent says: ,

"Of course. officially there is no longer any trading in slaves. But in fact there are still slaves in Arabia and the Sudan, in Abyssinia and the colonies on the Red Sea. Only the form has changed a little. Instead of slave hunts there are honorable merchants who buy up young slaves. And instead of great slave caravans there are little sailboats which carry batches of from thirty to forty slaves from Africa to Arabia.

"Warships of the British, French and Italian beats patrol the waters between Abyssinia and the Hedjaz, but the captains shut one eye. No one wants to be too strict. A little slave trading really does not do much harm.

2,000 Imported Yearly

"And one of the European Consuls in Jidda with whom I talked a little about the slave trade remarked with a courteous smile: 'Oh, that doesn't amount to anything any more.' 'Doesn't amount to anything?' I asked. 'According to the statistics I have gathered, more than 2,000 slaves a year are imported by Arabia.' 'Yes,' said the Consul, 'that may be so. But what does that amount to, 2,000 slaves? That really cuts no figure any longer.'

"In one way the European powers are right when they wink at slave trading in Arabia. The slaves of the Moslems,and above all of the Arabians, are well treated, are counted almost like children of the family, are content. Even the Soviet Russian Consul in Jidda confirmed this, saying, with a little embarrassment: 'We really shouldn't say so, but the lot of the slaves in Arabia is almost enviable in comparison with that of the poor Bedouins. These latter are dying from hunger.'

"But the person talking about the happy lot of the Arabian slaves is always thinking of the slaves of the Princes, of the Kings. These 'happy ones' form one category; the slaves of the big landowners and of the city residents form another.

"True, the position of the slaves in Islam—that is, when the slaves themselves are Moslems—is assured by the laws of the Koran. 'It is better that a believing slave become the husband of your daughter than an unbelieving Prince,' taught Mohammed, who never forgot that his first followers were slaves.

"And the fact that the slaves were generally negros, Abyssinians, did not hurt them in the eyes of the Arabs of the coast. For centuries Abyssinian Christians had subjected the coasts of Arabia to their rule. Mohammed and his followers knew the blacks as victors also, not merely as the conquered. And this may be one of the reasons why Islam knows no race question, no color problem.

"Officially, theoretically and in practice, however, this tolerance ceases as soon as we leave the coasts of the Red Sea. In the interior the negro is regarded as inferior. The Bedouins of the Nejd, notwithstanding the Koran's permission, do not present their daughters with negroes as husbands, for there the blacks arrived only as slaves, as the conquered. Consequently, they are despised.

"Ibn Saud, King of the Hedjaz, Sultan of the Nedj, has the ambition to create a whole battalion of slaves. A slave costs from $100 to $200, an extra powerful youth even $600, while beautiful slave maidens come twice as high. And to-day Ibn Saud has a body guard of 120 picked slaves upon whom he can depend under all circumstances, who are absolutely devoted to him. In Arabia 120 slaves represent not only wealth, but power also. They are the only dependable soldiers.

"When Ibn Saud besieged Jidda about a year ago it was necessary to construct trenches and emplacements for the cannon that were to shell the city. But the Wahabites, Ibn Saud's soldiers, refused to dig trenches, declaring that they were not slaves but warriors. And so slaves did the job.

Act as Rulers

"Slaves obey blindly, and sometimes win high positions thereby. The Governor of Uqair, an important place on the Persian Gudf, is a negro slave of Ibn Saud. Other slaves rule in other places. And the Bedouins obey them, because they are slaves of the King. If a King is defeated his slaves fall into the hands of the victor and are divided, like horses and dogs. To-day the slaves of the conquered Kings Hussein and Ali are serving Ibn Saud and are loyal to him.

"The woman slaves form another chapter. Those of the Princes are spoiling the race. A century ago the leading families of the Idrisi, who rule in Assir, were quite white; fifty years ago they were brown; to-day they are black. They have become negroes.

"In Arabia an attempt of a woman to escape is punishable by death. And while a male slave still can flee to a European consulate or to a European hip, where he must be protected, the woman slaves are helpless and unprotected. Their master demands them back with the words: 'It is my wife.' And Europe's power stops at the threshold of the harem, as before the walls of the cloister. This threshold is inviolable."

Britain Aims at Cleaner Rivers

Lords Appoint Committee to Study Effect of Wastage From Factories

London.—A debate of considerable importance in the House of Lords took place recently which drew attention to the increasing pollution of rivers in Britain. This evil, said Lord Balfour, was not confined to Great Britain, but was more acutly felt there owing to the large population and the relative smallness of the rivers as compared with countries like America and Germany. As in every industry research was necessary, so in this case was it necessary to inquire further than into the mere fact of pollution.

Debates had taken place in Parliament dealing with low temperature carbonization, with the growing of sugar beet and with the artificial silk industry. There was every prospect of the first of these becoming a great national industry; the second might spread much farthed and the third was already a big affair. All three produced noxious waste elements which must somehow be got rid of. A noteworthy example of the evils of river pollution could be found in the River Tees in Northumberland, once a most beautiful river and one in which the salmon fisheries were most valuable. These fisheries had been completely destroyed by the effluents of coke-ovens.

Lord Balfour said that with the question of the necessary research in view of a strong committee had been appointed to collect and co-ordinate the vast mass of information on the subject of river pollution which was now scattered about the world. Sometimes one of the chief difficulties facing inquiries was the choice of destroying an industry or maintaining the purity of a river. In many cases no method of purification was possible; in others it was too costly to adopt. The only way was to find a method of getting over the difficulty of dealing with the laws of nature.

Too Silent.

Buyer of Second-Hand Automobile—"Didn't you tell how silent the motor was in the car I bought from you?""

Dealer—"Yes, isn't it?""

"It certainly is—it's been silent for two weeks now."

It is by presence of mind in untried emergencies that the native metal of a man is tested.—R. J. Lowell.

The World's Biggest

Giant searchlight at Charlotteville, Va. The light throws a beam of 1,380,000,000 candlepower that can be seen 200 miles away at an angle and 1,000 miles away directly in the path of the beam.

The Menin Gate

London Evening Standard (Ind.-Cons.)—What, in the last resort, Ypres means to us is that there, fighting against heavy odds, we might have been beaten and were not beaten. The war was not for us, or for any of our Allies, a triumphal procession of victories, nor should we like to think of it as that. It was, to say the least of it (and the men who were there do habitually say the least of it), an anxious business, and never more anxious than when the German waves broke against the rock our men provided in that little tract of blood-bedabbled ground. That blood is still there, and for all of us it will always be there. . . . It is now for us survivors to show that this blood was shed in the cause or liberty, was the toll taken by the armies of aggression. We stood in the Menin Gate, in the very crisis of our history, because we would not see Belgium trampled down by an alien Power. Let us pray that to the end of time we may be worthy of what the Menin Gate stands to record.

Resourceful Financier.

"When I started out in the world I had but a dollar."

"What did you do with that?"

"Wired home for some more."

A lifetime of service has not destroyed our faith in human nature. We have so many friends that are even better than we expected them to be.

Free Speech Without Violence Never Restrained in London

England permits unlimited freedom of speech in public places, but the police exercise strict surveillance over the speakers. During the recent excitement caused by the expulsion of the Russians from England, anarchists and Communist orators harangued the crowds in Trafalgar Square without apparent restriction. Standing at the foot of the Nelson monument the radicals denounced the Government of Great Britain as "a gang of thieves and murderers."

During one of the Sunday meetings recently a voice in the crowd suddenly remarked: "God save the King!" The orator of the day retorted: "You call yourself a patriot? You are a patriot like this bloke up there"—pointing to the serene figure of Lord Nelson on his column. The crowd laughed.

A dignified London Bobby who stood on the outskrts of the crowd observed:

"Those follows seem to be having everything their own way, but the police have the situation perfectly in hand. Every one of the speakers has been shadowed. We know everything about them, their past records and present whereabouts, and could put our hands on them any moment of the day or night.

All Speeches Recorded.

"There is always some one in the crowd taking down what is said. All these talks are a matter of official record. The fellow who is talking now about unemployment and tyranny could not be indueed to do an honest day's work. We know him. And we know the crowd listening to him. They are not taking his rant seriously. They are laughing at his attacks on the Government. By letting him speak freely we allow him to blow off steam. It does no harm. If there were anything serious brewing in the way of plots, we would know about it long in advance.

"Meetings in Trafalgar Square must be handled with diplomacy. If there should be violence here, news of it would spread quickly all over England and abroad. It would be said that there were riots in London—the beginning of a social revolution. Some years ago there was some trouble here that could easily have been avoided if the constables had been a little more tactful in handling the crowd."

The London police on guard in Trafalgar Square are chosen with extreme care; chosen for their intelligence and experience in handling crowds. They are the diplomats of the force.

Not to the Bobbed Wife.

"Long hair falling to a man's shoulder gives him a dignified look."

"Yes, to all except a bobbed-haired wife."

High Speed.

"How are you getting along at school, Alec?"

"Fine! We're learning words of four cylinders now.."—American Boy.

A dentist declares that his profession is in need of a slogan. What is wrong with ""The yanks are coming?"

Laugh at Yourself.

Most of us are quick enough to laugh at other people—at their blunders, their conceit of themselves, their preposterous opinions. We are delighted to see the other fellow make a silly ass of himself. It makes us feel such superior persons by comparison.

Of course it does not occur to us that the other fellow may frequently laugh at us behind our backs. And if he dares to laugh at us to our face we put it down to his ignorance, his bad manners, his perverted sense of humour. Sometimes it makes us very cross.

But not many men have the good sense to laugh at themselves as readily as they laugh at their neighbors. Our little doses of humour are usually dispensed to the other fellow, we do not often swallow them ourselves. We have no need to be cured of blunders, vain conceits, and egregious theories.

Have we not, indeed? It is a pity that we cannot stand back, so to speak, and take a good look at ourselves. The sight would surely strike us as so comical that we should break into an uproarious fit of laughter. We should realize that not all the good jokes in the world spring from the sayings and doings of the other fellow.

Suppose that killjoy chap could get a good look at himself as we others see him. He would nearly die of laughing as soon as he caught sight of himself rolling his pious eyes and wringing his puritanical hands. His killjoy gospel would quickly slink away from him.

And the Communist. If he could only see and hear himself trying to convince the world that its only chance of leading a useful life is by committing suicide, he would laugh at the silliness of it and become sane again.

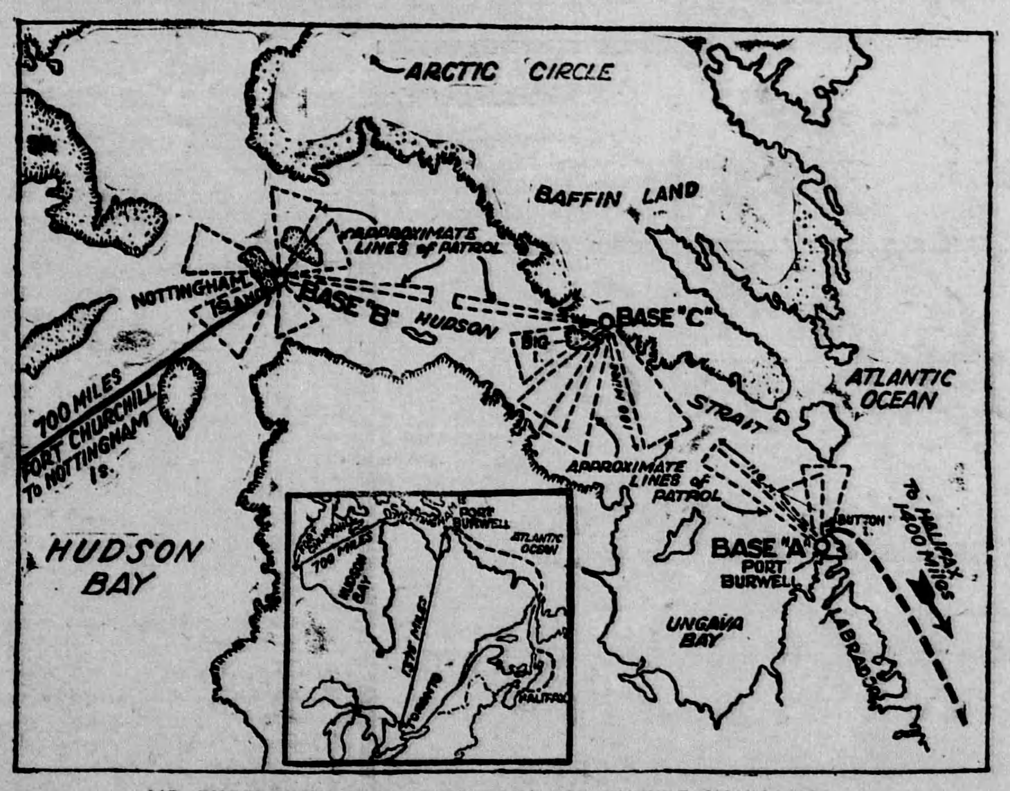
And the criminal—the chap who thinks his fellow men are pigeons created for his plucking. If he would only take a good look at himself and his ways, he, too, would laugh at himself for an utter fool. He would see clearly that in the end it is always himself whose feathers are plucked, and give up crime as an unprofitable job.

So with all of us. We need to get outside ourselves and see ourselves at our foolish capers. It would provide us with many a healthy laugh at our own expense. But, better still, it would cure us of some of our blind foolishness. It would make us realize that we are not a bit saner than all the other idiots after all.

Ambition is the spur that makes man struggle with destiny. It is heaven's own incentive to make purpose great and achievement greater.—Donald G. Mitchell.

Paris authorities say that skirts are to be worn longer. Unfortunately this refers merely to the length of the skirt.

Radio Soon Between Hudson Strait and Ottawa



AIR EXPEDITION GATHERING DATA FOR FUTURE NAVIGATION

Reports from Ottawa state that the Department of Marine and Fisheries will soon be receiving wireless communication at Ottawa direct from Hudson Straits, if present plans succeed. A mast is being erected at the Straits, and it is expected the station being installed there will be powerful enough to reach Ottawa. Messages relayed by way of Port Nelson indicate that the work of installing the base at the west end was progressing satisfactorily.. The new terminus of theh H. B. Co., Fort Churchill, and its distance from Nottingham Island, 700 miles, are indicated in the key map ABOVE. Big Island and Port Burwell, the other two bases, are shown. The possibilities of the northern route have been explored through the activities of the seven planes used this summer, in a way impossible before the development of aviation. The report of this summer's work, which began in July, will to a large extent determine the development of navigation between Europe and Hudson Bay ports, chief of which seems likely to be Fort Churchill.

REG'LAR FELLERS—By Gene Byrnes.