

A MOROCCAN TRAGEDY

A PICTURESQUE STORY FROM AN ANCIENT LAND.

A Spanish Lady Provides Some Excitement for a Toy Sultan, Who Had Ordered the Special Performance of a Circus Although He Would Not Allow the Priestess to Attend.

Dawn has not entirely blotted out the Arabian Nights. The East still has its little romances, its comedies, and its tragedies. Take Morocco, for instance, which not so very long ago was an independent kingdom, guileless of being nearly the cause of a European war in 1911.

When Mulai Abdul Aziz first issued from the seclusion of his palace, where, on account of his extreme youth, he had passed the first four or five years of his reign, it was everybody's purpose to keep him amused. The powerful grand vizier, Bu Ahmed, held absolute sway and had no intention of surrendering his position even in favor of the gentle, quiet youth who had inherited the throne. So the only statecraft they allowed their young lord and master to learn was the letting off of fireworks, the pressing of the buttons of kodak cameras, and trick bicycle riding, at all three of which, under apt tutelage, his Majesty soon became an adept.

It was at this moment that a strong and good adviser might have prolonged the life of an independent Morocco, for although possessed of no great attainments or will power, Mulai Abdul Aziz was thoughtful, intelligent, and desirous of doing well. It was no easy matter, however, at Marrakech, the capital, where the court at this time was in residence, to keep the young sultan amused. Situated one hundred miles from the nearest port, which itself was three hundred miles down the Atlantic coast, communication with Europe was necessarily very slow, and the sultan's ever-increasing orders of European goods took long to carry out. Often, too, the heavy Atlantic swell rendered impossible communication between the ships and the shore for weeks together.

The Sultan's amusements were at their last resources. Fireworks were played out, bicycle tricks had led to bruises and sprains; and even photography had lost its pristine interest. At this critical moment came word of a belated circus at one of the coast towns. It might be said to have been a very poor circus ever to have found itself at this dreary little port, but its advent was welcomed as enthusiastically as if it had been Barnum's entire show. Imperial letters were directed to the local kaid and governors, agents were sent to buy the circus, and eventually the circus, baggage, and a dozen people and three or four horses, started out across the weary plains of Morocco to obey the royal command. It took time, and meanwhile in court circles it was the absorbing topic of conversation. One or two serious rebellions among the tribes, and an acute quarrel with the government of a European power passed into temporary oblivion.

Now the proprietress of the circus was an extremely stout Spanish lady of uncertain age, on whose corpulent body the rough joggling on a mule for more than a hundred miles had left almost as painful an impression as the discomfort, heat, and worry of the journey had upon her temper. She herself took no active part in the performance, and it was with this account, to her intense indignation and wrath, that she was refused admittance to the court of the palace in which the Sultan was to witness the show. His Majesty's orders were that none but the actual performers should be allowed to enter.

So the fat lady and one or two of the employees of the circus remained in an outer courtyard adjoining the enclosure in which the Sultan, seated under a gorgeous tent, was witnessing the performance. A wall some twenty feet in height separated these two courts, and in the outer one where the fat lady found herself, the Sultan had been building some additions to the palace, and a pile of stone, mortar, and other material reached almost to the top of the wall. The lady was her figure suited for such mountain climbing, but she was to receive assistance from a source undreamed of. Affected, no doubt, by her slow progress in a sport of which he himself was so proficient, the old man cunningly bounded himself, and, balancing himself for a moment on his hind legs, he leaped forward and butted the fat lady so successfully from below that her ascent was materially assisted. In a series of repeated bounds, owing to no voluntary action on her own part, she found herself pantingly grasping the top of the thick wall.

Meanwhile the performance of the circus was progressing to the Sultan's satisfaction. Suddenly, however, an eversion of wrathful countenance became visible in his face, and speechless he pointed at the agonized and purple visage of the fat lady, peering down at the Sultan and his court. In a moment the officers of the salute were shouting and gestulating to her to retire. But the only reply they received was the sud-

den vision of a considerable portion of her immense body, as the playful moulou, his self invisible, gave her another hoist up. At last all her body was on the wall, to which she clung for dear life with arms and legs, as she lay extended on its summit. It was at this moment that he moulou appeared. With a majestic bound he leaped on the summit, stood for a moment poised on his hind legs, then suddenly dropped and with a terrific prod from his wide horns butted the fat lady at least a yard along the wall. He was evidently intent upon taking her round the entire circuit of the courtyard.

A DIZZY JOURNEY

Australia Has Most Zig-Zag Railway in the World. In looking back over the history of the original settlement at Sydney, Australia at first it seemed strange that the base of the Blue Mountains, a plateau 3,000 feet in height and a day's ride from the coast, should mark the edge of known land for twenty-five years after civilization.

There are, however, good reasons for this seeming lack of enterprise, says the National Geographic Magazine. The Blue Mountains, though not lofty, are broad and constitute a formidable barrier. There are no long valleys heading in practicable passes and furnishing access from the east and west; the stream heads are boxed in by walls, and it was only when the narrow divides were chosen for causeways that the passage of the mountain was successfully accomplished.

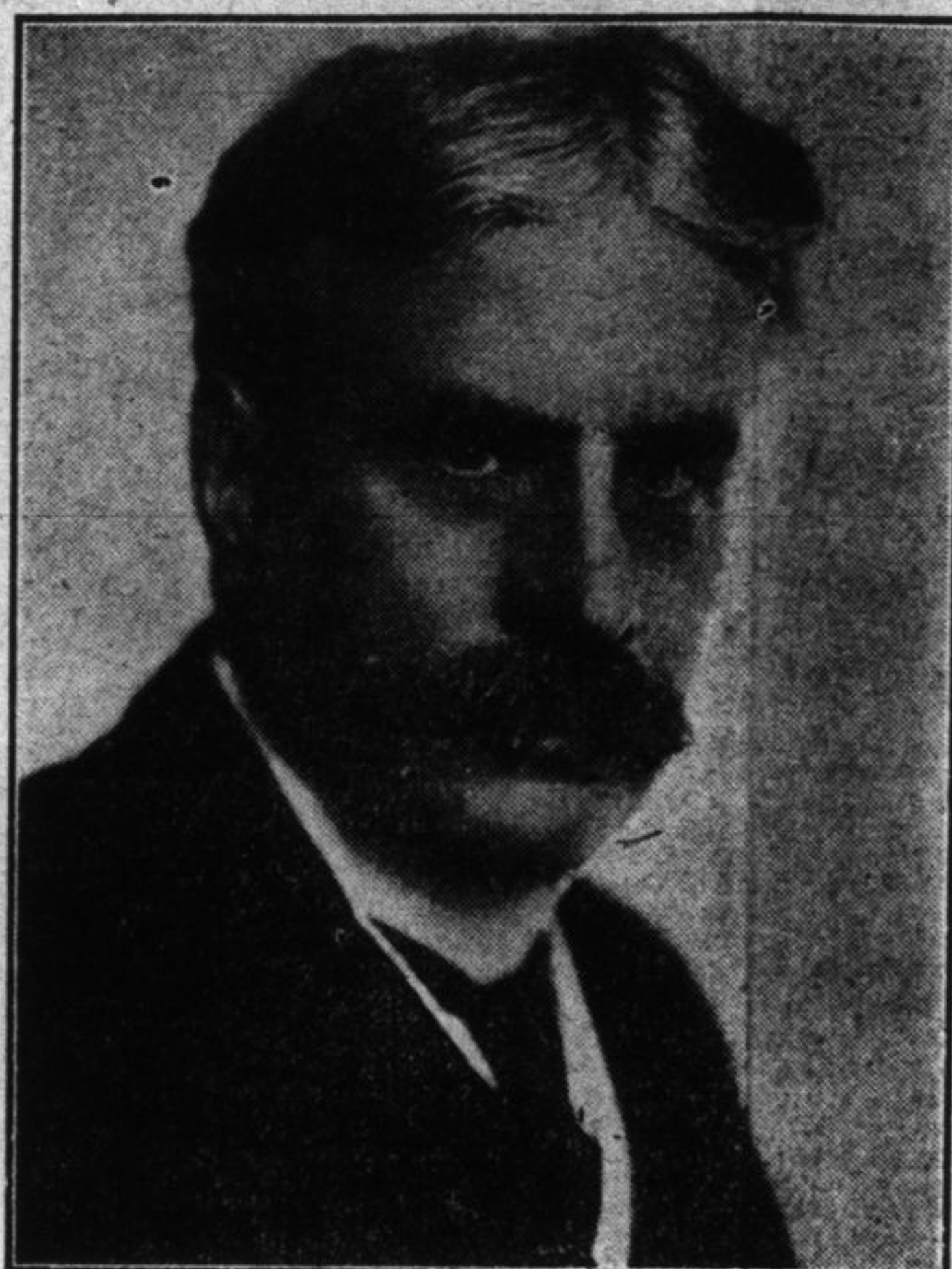
The famous "zigzags" of the first railroad, now replaced by a dozen expensive tunnels, required for the steep descent of 2,000 feet give even the casual tourist an impression of the ruggedness of the plateau, and when one is led out on one of a hundred flat-topped promontories and gazes down into canyons whose walls may be scaled only by an experienced mountaineer, and looks out over a tangle of canyons and cliffs and tables at lower levels, he realizes that "magnificent scenery" for the present generation must have been "dismal and forbidding" to the scout in search of tillable land.

Votes for Hans. The Vossische Zeitung recently announced that it had learned from a parliamentary source that the Prussian Government has already worked out a scheme for the reform of the franchise which it will submit to the Diet immediately upon the conclusion of peace. The authorities are maintaining silence as to the details of the scheme, the Berlin organ stated, but it may be already assumed, it observed, that the system employed with regard to elections to the Reichstag will not be adopted in Prussia, but that a secret, direct ballot may be looked for, probably in conjunction with a plurality vote.

This announcement, commented the Vorwarts on the foregoing, also accords with our information. It means a challenge to both sides, to that of the defenders of the three-class suffrage, as well as to that of the advocates of equal suffrage for Prussia. The decision will be made by the men who return from the front, who will have to say whether those who have fought for Empire and State are to have political rights inferior to those of other citizens. The situation will then look considerably different from what it now appears to be to the authors of the new franchise scheme.

Slave Drivers. Card: "I Mercier has stated to the world his opinion of an act which an African slave runner would find it hard to justify. "Why do you reprove?" says the Arab slave trader to the weeping slave. "Aren't you better off here in Tunis, with cunning chains on your ankles, the slave to a severe but moral master, than you would be back in the forest where you could get enough to eat without working? Think of the effect upon your soul of association with us! Happy but not rich, gretch, stop blubbering." And he lays the whip on the naked shoulder.

Volume and Prices in Trade. The London Economist has calculated the United Kingdom's import and export trade for 1916, in terms of the prices prevailing in foreign trade in 1911. While total imports in 1915 were \$4,459,000,000 and in 1916 \$4,746,000,000, yet the imports of 1916, if valued in 1915 prices, were only \$3,715,000,000—indicating an actual falling off in volume from the preceding year. Exports and re-exports increased in value from \$2,420,000,000 in 1915 to \$2,620,000,000 in 1916, but last year's exports in 1915 prices were only \$2,507,000,000.



R.H. Baden

WHO HAS RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO ENGLAND.

EAT MORE CORN SAYS DEPARTMENT Only Ten Per Cent. of Output At Present Used For Human Food.

Washington, May 15.—With a world shortage, the Agricultural Department today launched a country-wide propaganda urging general war-time use of corn on the table. At present, only 10 per cent. of the American corn output is utilized as human food.

70 PER CENT. PROFIT ON CAMP BORDEN SITE On 17,000 Odd Acres It Would Come to the Sum of \$87,500.

Ottawa, May 16.—Much interest is being evinced here in the evidence respecting the purchase of land for Camp Borden, brought out before the Public Accounts Committee last week.

Florida Golden Wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Walker entertained Tuesday, May 1st at their home in Florida, to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

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Wages After the U-Boats. It is reported, the British have four thousand motor boats in service, it is reasonable to believe that a good many German submarines have been sunk by this branch of the service.

HAD INDIGESTION Could Keep Nothing on Stomach Indigestion is one of the worst forms of stomach trouble. The stomach becomes upset, and you have a raw, debilitated feeling in it.

Nothing Really New 'is Expected in the Speech of the German Chancellor. (Special to the Whig.) London, May 15.—Further details of Germany's war aims were to be announced by the Imperial German Chancellor in the Reichstag today.

ONLY 17 FRENCH VESSELS Sunk in Three Months by German Submarines. Paris, May 15.—Seventeen French merchantmen were sunk by German submarines during February, March and April, according to an official statement issued. During the same period nine French vessels were attacked by under water craft, but made their escape. No armed merchantmen have fallen prey to the U-boats.

Many a man has been convicted of forgery because he took Solomon's advice and chose a good name for himself.

NEW TITLES CREATED

SUBJECT IS INTERESTING CANADA AT PRESENT.

Sir Hugh Graham of Montreal, a Newspaperman, Receives a Seat in the House of Lords, and Attention Has Thus Been Called to Our Long List of Knights and Barons.

NO Canadian title has caused more comment than the peerage conferred on Sir Hugh Graham, proprietor of The Montreal Star. He is the first Canadian-born citizen who, remaining a resident of Canada, has been awarded a seat in the British House of Lords.

Baron Graham is also a bona-fide newspaper man. His career is one of the romances of journalism. He has never been openly identified with any other important business enterprise. As a youth of twenty-one he founded The Montreal Star.

But why to the peerage? Officially the answer is that it is a recognition of "lifelong devotion to the highest causes of Empire." Some day some critic may inquire if it would not be more to the ultimate benefit of the Empire if titles were granted for services rendered in Canada, for Canada, that is if titles are to be continued at all.

French authorities have opened 185 miles of railroad in Algeria. Possibly the man who grows about the washday dinner would find it more pleasing to his taste if he had done the washing.

WOULD EXCLUDE ALIENS From Right to Exercise the Franchise in Canada. Ottawa, May 15.—Something like a bombshell was dropped in the House last night when in the middle of a rambling debate upon the extension of the franchise to soldiers irrespective of age R. B. Bennett, of Calgary, director-general of National Service, made a vigorous demand for the exclusion from the franchise of all citizens of divided allegiance.

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Relaxing the Tension with a good Gillette Shave. A day a-wing over enemy lines—scouting, observing, fighting, dodging shells and machine-gun bullets—is a nervous strain that has no precedent and probably no equal.

Nor is this appreciation of the Gillette Safety Razor limited to our airmen, or even to our own British armies. Every service has its own tense moments, hours or days, with its welcome intervals of relaxation when the Gillette is a friend indeed.

Nor does its service end here, for "the man behind the gun" who in the factory, the office or on the land is bending every energy towards production—he too gets solid comfort and satisfaction out of the Gillette Safety Razor and its wonderful three minute shave.

Spending a five dollar bill to send a Gillette to one of your defenders—and get one for yourself to see how much he'll appreciate it!

Draperies

At least once a year your draperies and curtains will require to be dyed or cleaned.

This can be attended to most satisfactorily and with the minimum of trouble and expense by having us do the work. New trimmings supplied if required. Estimates gladly given; write or telephone about this helpful household service.

PARKER'S DYE WORKS LIMITED 69 Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario.

DESPAIRING WOMAN NOW HAPPY MOTHER

Mrs. Stephens Did Not Need The Surgical Operation.

Patoka, Ill.—"I had been married five years and my greatest desire was to become a mother. The doctor said I never would have a child unless I was operated on for female troubles and I had given up all hopes when a friend told me of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I took it regularly for some time, and I am in better health than ever, and have a healthy baby girl. I praise your Vegetable Compound for my baby and my better health. I want all suffering women to know that it is the sure road to health and happiness."

Mrs. GEORGE STEPHENS, R. F. D. No. 3, Patoka, Ill. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is so successful in overcoming woman's ills because it contains the tonic, strengthening properties of good old fashioned roots and herbs, which act on the female organism. Women from all parts of the country are continually testifying to its strengthening, curative influence.

It has helped thousands of women who have been troubled with displacements, inflammation, ulceration, tumors, irregularities, periodic pain, backache, that bearing down feeling, indigestion, and nervous prostration.

The owners of the London traction line, having lost money in competition with the city-owned electric road to Port Stanley, have offered their rails for France.

Advertisement for Parker's Dye Works Limited, 69 Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario.

Advertisement for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, featuring a testimonial from Mrs. George Stephens.

Large advertisement for Gillette Safety Razors, titled "Relaxing the Tension with a good Gillette Shave".