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In Mesopotamia

St John Globe

Taking advantage of the trade opportunities opened by conditions in Russia and Roumania, the Germans are buying up all available supplies of food and other necessary commodities and placing orders for many years ahead. Efforts to establish new trade connections in Asia are also noted, and it appears now to be pretty clearly established that the purpose of Germany's aggressive attitude toward the peoples on whom peace has been forced is to drive them into trade agreements to the present and future advantage of Germany. Control of the food resources of Roumanian and the Ukraine would solve the supply problem of any future war just as control of the cotton growing region of Asia would solve the problem of a material as greatly needed in times of war as in times of peace, cotton undoubtedly one of the main reasons of Germany's interest in the Berlin to Bagdad railway was to exploit the resources of a country rich in food and cotton growing possibilities, Mesopotamia. A distinguished British soldier-explorer Major General Sir George Younghusband K.C.M.G., who commanded a division in Mesopotamia during the present war and who has travelled extensively in the east, recalls in a recent article that in ancient times Mesopotamia was one of the world's granaries. To-day it is a desert and swamp as it has been for many centuries, but desert and swamp offer development possibilities almost unlimited in their scope. Sir George Younghusband wrote:

"Mesopotamia is at present a land of desert and swamp. Exactly the same scourge of waters is occurring now as occurred in the days of Noah; the intervening centuries when the rivers were harnessed, when Babylon flourished and Mesopotamia blossomed like a garden throughout its length and breadth, came to an end; and back the country went to what it was when Noah rushed off in his frail ark. It is considered probable, from various evidences, that Noah lived at Kurbela, then on the banks of the Euphrates, but now left about twenty miles to the west of its present channel. Year after year came the great floods down the river, and periodically, when a greater flood than usual came, were the flocks swept away and the crops destroyed. Then the citizens of Kurbela set their heads together and determined to build a great "land" on bank above the town, so as to hold up the river and induce it to avoid their crops and cattle. So did they; but Noah who was more of an engineer than they, prophesied that the bank would some day burst and then they would all be drowned. Though his fellow townsmen would not listen to him, Noah was convinced he was right, and built the ark. His prophecy came true, the bank burst, and all the people were crowded; but Noah sailed off in safety in his ark. As the levels taken show that a rise of fifteen feet only, which is about what occurred, would flood the whole country, so flat is it, it is easy to understand the whole face of the earth would be covered with water, no land being seen anywhere.

Going thought only to such of this as deals with the problem of science, it will easily be understood that making

Mesopotamia a garden is a perfectly feasible proposition. Already the British have put their hand to the task in accordance with the plans of a great engineer, Sir William Willcocks, who built the famous Nile barrage, which brought prosperity to Egypt. One hundred canals have been reconstructed and 800,000 acres brought under cultivation, with the expectation of "a richer harvest than ever in the memory of man since the days of Nebuchadnezzar." Five years will be occupied in completing the big task of harnessing the Tigris and Euphrates rivers within their banks, drying up the swamps and converting the immense area from Bagdad to the Persian Gulf into one of the world's granaries, for the production of wheat, barley, oats, sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and other valuable products. The rich heritage long coveted by the Germans and conquered for the Emir by our Indian troops under British leadership, is now to be made under the inspiration of British genius, a home for the over plus of India's millions, fulfilling in its achievement the ancient prophecy that Babylon shall again flourish like the rose. The tremendous efforts of Germany to establish order in Russia are undoubtedly preliminary to a movement in cooperation with the Turks against the British in Mesopotamia as well as in Western Asia, where still another colony of enormous potential value has been won for the Empire, largely by colonial troops. Only the difficulties of the Western front prevent the Germans sending larger forces eastward; but Great Britain is taking no chances of losing what she has won in the East. India will send many thousands of additional troops to Mesopotamia and Palestine, and native races who have quickly sensed the difference between British and Turkish rule, will lend invaluable aid if the enemy makes a serious effort to recover his lost opportunity in Asia.

Notice

All persons holding books belonging to the L. P. Fisher Public Library are requested to return the same on the 15th, 18th, and 20th days of June, next. Those not returning books will be responsible for the price of the same.

The Library will then be closed for the purpose of revising and examining books until the 27th day of June, next, on which and the two following days it will be open, and each patron may then take out two books of fiction and two books of non-fiction for the month of July during which month the Library will be closed.

Dated this thirtieth day of May, A. D. 1918.

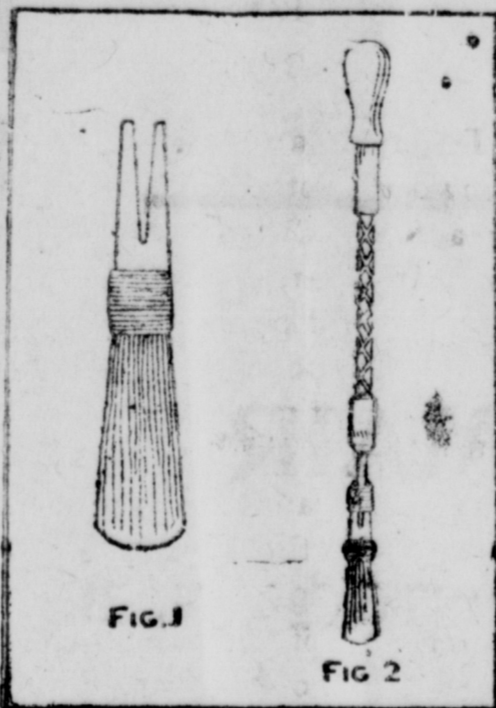
M. J. E. STARRETT
Librarian.

Mrs. D. A. McKendrick is very ill at her home in Woodstock.

TO REMOVE THE DUST
USE A SCREW DRIVER

Put a Paint Brush in the Ratchet Driver And Try It

Cleaning tufted upholstery work is one of the most difficult jobs imaginable. The dust collects in the hollows and it is almost impossible to get it out by ordinary methods. This is especially true of leather furniture.



The ordinary dust brush must be cast aside and if absolute cleanliness is wanted a ratchet screw driver and a paint brush must be used. The handle of the paint brush is cut, about 1 1/2 inches being left on the brush. This is cut V-shaped, as shown in Fig. 1. This permits the brush to be attached to the blade of the screw driver with stout cord shown in Fig. 2 and the tufted places are cleaned out by simply pushing the brush into them and whirling it with the ratchet as the screw driver would be turned.

Cat Survives Eight Days After Swallowing Nails. A three-months old kitten belonging to Elsie Kinney, of Watertown, N.Y., has been relieved of her trouble.

The pin was swallowed head foremost, the head entering the stomach. The sharp end could be felt under the jaw. A veterinarian cut a small hole in the cat's throat, worked the pin out as far as the head, swung it around, and by bending it slightly, pushed it out head first from the cat's mouth.

Insurance Bill in Australia. The commonwealth ministry of New South Wales is preparing a national insurance bill on the lines of Lloyd George's measure. Provision will be made for benefits for funerals, maternity sickness, accidents and unemployment.

Beer or a Pension. "If a man was to save the price of a pint of beer a day from the time when he is 18 years old, he would have an old-age pension of £300 a week at 70," said Dr. Fraser, of the local government board, at the National Society, London.

HUNNISH TURK DEEDS

The following description given by an Armenian woman of the upper class, is typical of the fate suffered by hundreds of other bands. After describing the murder of every male over fifteen in a surprise attack by Kurds, and how their horses, valuables and food were taken, she continues: "Very many women and girls were carried off to the mountains, among them my sister, whose one-year-old baby they threw away. My mother died until she could go no farther, and I was left by the roadside on a mountain top. We found on the road many who had been in the previous batches; some women were among the killed with their husbands and sons. . . . Many persons were obliged to start off on foot—and with what they could carry on their backs. Such persons naturally became so weak that they fell behind, and were hanged and thrown into the river. At the Euphrates, the brigands and gendarmes threw into the river all the remaining children under fifteen years."

Of the districts assigned to the Armenians a Professor Haropian writes: "These unhappy deported people have been chiefly deposited in two places—one section of them in a swampy region which has either remained uninhabited on account of the deadly malarial while the remainder have been sent to a still more unhealthy place in the direction of the Persian Gulf—that is, Der-el-Zor, so bad that they have begged to be sent to the swamps, but their petition has not been granted."

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A GOOD CLOTHES-TREE FROM OLD MATERIAL

Something That a Clever Boy Can Make With the Aid of Very Few Tools

Here's an ornamental article for boys to try a hand at. It isn't as easy as it looks though it's simple enough for a beginner in the use of tools to make successfully. It will be found useful in the hallway or in sleeping apartments. You probably can find an old wooden bedstead in the attic which will provide enough material when torn apart to do nicely for this clothes-tree. If you order from the mill you can have the upright post cut tapering to just suit your needs.

You will notice that it is three inches square at the base and only 2 inches at the top. Fig. 2 is the base of the post. It fits snugly down on the cross. Use the pieces that form this cross or base proper to get the right size for your mortises.

Mark the lines carefully and saw slowly, turning the piece over and sawing from the other side after every tenth stroke. When you have cut deeply enough bore two holes with a three-quarter bit in the pieces which are to come out and saw from the holes to the other saw cuts with a coping saw. A coping saw is a small wire frame with detachable blades and may be purchased for 15 cents.

Finish trimming your mortises with a wood chisel and finally rub with sandpaper wrapped around a square stick. The top of the post is shown in Fig. 4. It is shaped with a wood chisel and sandpaper.

The cross, which acts as a base, is formed of two pieces fitted together.

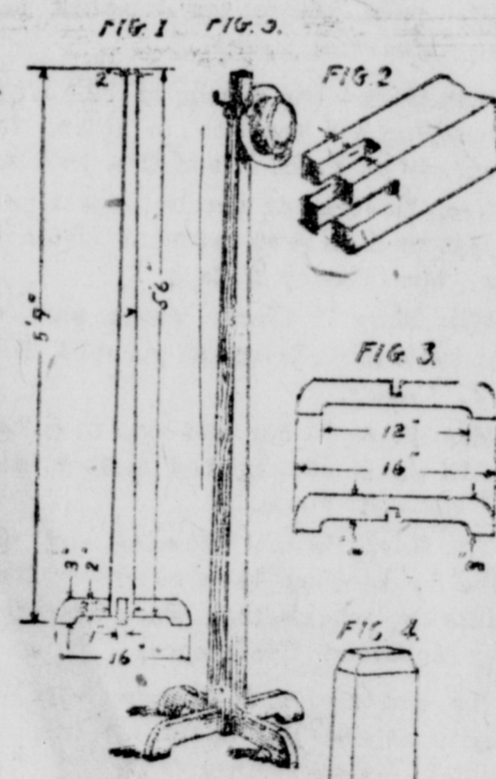


Diagram showing completed clothes-tree and how the different parts are made.

Study the diagram marked Fig. 3. The notch or mortise is in the top of one end and in the bottom of the other.

The cutting is done with a saw and chisel, the final part of the fitting being accomplished with the old reliable sandpaper rub. The curves are easily managed with the coping saw. Whenever the pieces come in contact with each other in the assembling use a little coating of liquid glue.

In finishing the surface, first rub any decayed shavings and then with fine sandpaper of the same shape if hard wood is used, lastly polishing with

Cleaning the Radiator
When the auto radiator gets splashed with mud do not attempt to clean it by scrubbing it with a sharp instrument. Take a hose with a good strong stream, open the hood and squirt water through it from the rear of the radiator, using care not to wet the electrical instrument, until the mud and dirt soften and are driven out.

An ambulance for disabled horses has been invented that can be coupled behind an automobile for hauling.

A competitive test of mining machines in England, open to the world, was won by one of Swedish invention.

FEEDING THE BEES

Syrup made from the best grade of white granulated sugar is a safe substitute for honey in spring and summer and a desirable supplementary food for winter. For autumn feeding use two parts of sugar to one of water, in the interior of Canada, and two and a half parts sugar to one of water at the coast. To get the sugar to dissolve completely, the water must be hot, and if the syrup is made over the fire, the sugar must be added to the water in small quantities at a time and stirred constantly until dissolved, to prevent it from settling to the bottom of the vessel and burning. Burned sugar is very unwholesome for bees and would cause their death during winter. To prevent the syrup from granulating, a teaspoonful of tartaric acid may be added to every twenty pounds of sugar.

TWO "BRAINS" FOR ALL

The Right or Left Hand Decides Choice of Brain

Nature, according to a new theory, has given us two brains just as she has given us a pair of eyes, hands, and ears, which help each other to do the work of the body. Everyone has two brains, but he only uses one for intellectual purposes. If a man is right-handed he uses the left brain. The left-handed one uses the right brain. Which brain we are going to use is therefore decided by which hand we make use of first when we are babies. The brain which is not being used for the intellect helps the other to minister to the body. It also serves as an emergency brain in case of disease or accident. Sometimes memory or speech is destroyed by accident, and if the second brain is trained it may do the work of the other which has been destroyed. It is easier to train the brain in this way if the patient is under thirty years of age.

HOW TO LIVE LONG

Frederic Harrison's Golden Rules—People Eat Too Much

Five golden rules of health were given recently by Mr. Frederic Harrison, author, critic, bibliophile, professor, barrister, historian, traveler and amateur gardener, on his eighty-first birthday, celebrated at his home at Hawkhurst, Kent.

- (1) Abstain from tobacco, spirits, made dishes, and all such dreadful things. I am satisfied with a little bit of mutton and rice pudding.
- (2) Rise from a meal with an appetite. I believe people eat too much.
- (3) Walk every day for two hours. This I am going to do as soon as I get through a pile of letters and telegrams from Florence and Rome. I am too old to play at tennis, and golf is too slow.
- (4) Sleep eight hours. People cannot sleep who smoke themselves black in the face, eat too much and have not walked enough.
- (5) More important than all—be content with what you have got. Take things quietly.

WHEN MOTOR CAR RATTLES

How Best to Locate Troubles and Cure Them

There are many unpleasant noises heard when the motor car is in operation and which may be remedied without very much trouble. A hood rattle is most annoying and usually is caused by the holding down device having loose springs. There are so many different types of hood fasteners that specific instructions cannot here be given, but it will be worth the owner's trouble to investigate this small part and determine just how the fasteners can be made to hold the hood more firmly in place. Door rattles and floorboard hums are easily removed by using felt inserts and, although these soon become compressed and the noise returns, they constitute a good temporary remedy. Tools under the front seat often rattle, giving rise to the belief that some part of the car is causing it.

Cause of Engine Noise
A cause of engine noise sometimes not suspected by the motorist is the slapping of worn pistons, which, of course, is likely to occur only when the engine has been run a long time and the cylinders and piston are considerably worn. The lateral thrust of the connecting rods rocks the pistons.