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ACROSS THE AUSTRALIAN DESERT

A. W. Canning a brave Englishman has succeeded in crossing the West Australian desert. The result of the exploration is the making of a stock route across 950 miles of unknown country extending from the south-west to the north-east of Western Australia.

Having toiled for months in a temperature of 120 degrees in the shade and been forced to place his trust in treacherous natives, the explorer has the satisfaction of having accomplished not only what had been hitherto declared impossible, in finding sufficient water right across Australia to supply both man and beast, but he had opened to the white man a country which may in ten years' time be regarded as among the most valuable in the Empire.

The result of the expedition was a complete vindication of the theory held by the explorer before he started that there must be supplies of water at easy stages right across the country. Aborigines were known to exist in the centre he argued, and how could they live without water? Therefore Mr. Canning, with seven white men, started from Wiluna, in the south. To find the water springs the party had to rely upon the natives. One man would be obtained from one tribe or family to take the expedition about fifty miles until another native could give information of the water in the new district was forthcoming. The natives were fairly friendly though treacherous and hostile at times. There was little fear of danger if the party travelled quickly as the natives who were in everyday exceptionally cunning, were anxious to talk the matter over among themselves before making the attack.

"We lost one of our men on the preliminary expedition," said the explorer. "This poor fellow was named Tobin. He had gone to speak to a native boy by one of the wells with regard to the water, and had told him that we were very friendly and

wished him no harm. The native agreed to tell him what he wanted to know. But while Tobin was talking he happened to look away for an instant and at that moment the native thrust a spear into the side of his face. Poor Tobin fell but though dazed was able to fire his gun. Instead of aiming at the native, however he intentionally fired over his head to frighten him. The native ran away and Tobin scrambled to his feet and followed.

"When I heard the report I was about half a mile away, without a rifle. I ran toward the two men and shouted to Tobin to halt as I noticed the native had a spear poised. Suddenly Tobin stopped, realizing the position, and put his rifle to his shoulder and fired. As he did so the native hurled his spear, which tore its way right through our comrade's chest. Tobin died next day. Strangely enough as he was struck by the spear he pulled the trigger of his rifle and the native dropped dead."

When Mr. Canning again visited the spot—574 miles from any town—he carried with him a marble cross inscribed in memory of his unfortunate colleague and erected it over the spot where the body was buried. Other experiences of the treacherous nature of the natives were recalled by Mr. Canning. Once he crawled with a guide into a narrow cave in search of water when he discovered the native was evidently trying to wriggle back to the entrance apparently for the purpose of closing in the exit. The explorer prevented this by seizing the native's foot and forcing his guide before him until the water was found.

The ordinary French dressing (three tablespoonfuls oil, one and one-half tablespoonfuls vinegar, one-quarter level teaspoon salt, one-eighth level teaspoon pepper), will moisten one pint of salad.

FATE OF ABDUL HAMID

A German newspaper, which claims to be reliably informed, prints a pitiful picture of the present plight of Abdul Hamid, the deposed Sultan of Turkey. According to its account, the former Sultan of Turkey is shivering with fear for his life. He is in constant dread of assassination by his enemies. Since he was sent into exile nearly eighteen months ago he has never shown himself at any of the windows of the Villa Alati in Salonica. He dare not, for he is convinced that he would be shot by one of his foes if he were seen.

Neither advice nor entreaties nor even medical orders will induce him to leave the house and take exercise in the garden. Not only does he remain stubbornly indoors, but nothing will make him leave the first floor of the villa. He fears to trust himself on the ground floor lest bombs should be concealed in the cellars beneath. He will not go up to the second floor, for he thinks the villa might be set on fire and he would perish before he could escape.

A victim of insomnia, he never undresses, but his thin, bowed figure is seen wandering through the night from room to room until finally Abdul Hamid falls exhausted and slumbers fitfully on a couch. He works as a carpenter during the day, and recently he finished making a large wardrobe. Strangely enough, his one desire is to find a purchaser for it.

It is not that he needs the money, but he longs to convince himself that the work of his hands is of monetary value. He pegs his wardrobes for leave to send the wardrobe away from the villa to be sold, but his request is refused invariably. The Turkish Government fears that within the

woodwork there may be concealed some message to his friends.

Abdul Hamid knows nothing of the outside world. Neither, he nor the two wives and the servants who followed him into captivity are allowed to read any newspaper. Once his keen desire to learn what was happening led him to attempt to bribe one of his warders, to whom he offered \$500 for the latest newspapers.

Whenever an officer or a warder speaks to him the ex-Sultan tries to start a conversation, but orders are stringent. Only the most indefinite of answers must be given to any question which Abdul Hamid may put. His first question is invariably: "What do people think and say about me?" He has also inquired repeatedly whether the monarchs of Europe have expressed opinions about him, and if so, what they were. He clamors for details of the revolution which ended his reign.

Sometimes he sits hour after hour deep in melancholy meditations. Recently when the officers on duty congratulated him on his birthday, Abdul Hamid wept and said: "I was once a great Sultan, and therefore you can only mock me when you congratulate me in my humiliation."

Abdul Hamid is intensely lonely. Abdul Rachim, the only son who followed him into captivity, has deserted him, declaring that his father was so petulant and nervous that no one could endure life in his vicinity. Burchan ed Din, his favorite son, to whom he desired to leave his crown, has repudiated his father, accusing him of having caused the death of his mother because Abdul Hamid refused to summon a competent medical man to attend her in her illness.

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The Cincinnati Reds desire to make a change in the programme for the field meet to be held at Cincinnati on October 9. They propose that instead of the bunt-and-run contest, which is a difficult one to handle that a relay race be substituted. The reason given is that it will enable more players to participate.

AGED INVENTOR TO LEAVE AERIAL FIELD

London, Sept. 21.—Sir Hiram Maxim, after having devoted years to the construction of a biplane which has been described as "The Pullman of the Air" today announced that he had abandoned his experiments with aerial machinery influenced both by his advanced age and the difficulty in competing successfully with French inventors and builders. Sir Hiram is 70 years old. He has long shown an interest in flying and has encouraged every effort in that direction. His own model was to have been exhibited soon and great hopes of its success had been entertained. A novel feature was the employment of three screws designed to lessen the waste in power unavoidable in the French aeroplanes of the small single screw type.

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TARIFF MAY SPLIT UNIONIST PARTY

Rebellion Against Leadership of Mr. Balfour—Liberals are Solid—The Tide Running Against the Tariff Reformers.

London, Sept. 20.—Mr. T. P. O'Connor, the leader of the Irish party in the House of Commons recently made public the following statements: The political truce is now definitely at an end. The impatience of the Tory high tariff section is breaking through all bounds: Members of this faction announce thousands of meetings, especially in the open air, to reach the villagers and the masses of the people in the next few months. This movement is largely due to the growing rebellion against Mr. Balfour's leadership because of the suspicion that he is lukewarm on the tariff question. The importance of this revolt at the present moment is that it weakens Mr. Balfour's hands in the negotiations with the Liberals on the question of the veto power of the House of Lords, and makes it more difficult for him to adopt a reasonable compromise.

WOULD KNIFE BALFOUR

Mr. Balfour now knows that many, if not the majority, of his own followers are looking eagerly for an opportunity to knife him, and if he makes any concessions which the high Tories regard as too extreme this section would create a revolt and disrupt his party. Thus at the same moment in the United States and Britain the tariff threatens the unity and even the existence of a great political party.

This attitude on the tariff on the part of the Tories is made the more remarkable by contrast with the attitude of the Liberals. Not a single Liberal journal or newspaper has said a word for weeks, if not months, of impatience or distrust of the Liberal negotiators. This, again, means that the Liberals have a much freer hand in dealing with the negotiations.

LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF COMPROMISE

All the events of the present week seem to justify Mr. Balfour's grim prophecy that gibbets were outside the door of the conference room for the eight negotiators, except that the Liberals appear to stand a better chance of escaping the gibbets, having now a much more rational and united party behind them.

It is impossible to say anything definite now about the prospects of an arrangement, as the negotiators have not met, even casually or privately, since the close of the Parliamentary session, but I do not think that the prospects of a compromise are as good as they were at the close of the session.

TORY CRITICISM OF THE CHANCELLOR

One important factor however, still remains permanently in a favorable place. This is Lloyd George.

The Tory outcry against Mr. Lloyd George's land taxes received a severe blow by the courageous action of Mr. Lloyd George in summoning all his enemies and critics to a public conference. This conference blew sky high much of the stupid or hypocritical criticism. I think the tide is going against the tariff reformers, and that if they force Mr. Balfour into refusing a reasonable compromise on the House of Lords question, and thus cause another general election, they will be defeated.

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Sydney Record.—The King's signature of "George R. and I." may sound somewhat ambiguous when read just as it is written, but even at that it is far ahead of the Kaiser's "Me and Gott."