

THE ISLAND OF MALTA.

Vice Consul Hasell H. Dick Tells of Visit to Interesting Place.

Vice Consul Hasell H. Dick in the following letter written home while enroute from Marseilles to Port Said tells of his visit to the island of Malta.

P. & O. S. N. Co., S. S. Kaiser I Hind, Aug. 25, 1915. Went ashore for the day at Valetta, Malta, and despite the brilliant sunshine had a most enjoyable day.

We arrived at daylight and tied up alongside the pier. After breakfast I had my passport vised, joined a party and went ashore about nine in a Venetian like row boat. After passing the customs military authorities we started "up town." Yea, verily it is up town too, for we had to take an elevator to the top of the cliff. Steps cut in the sand stone led up, but the elevator was handier.

At the top a magnificent view of Malta was obtained. At our feet lay the harbor, spreading into many coves, and dotted with a few warships and merchantmen. Across the harbor rose sandstone cliffs with houses hewn from their sides and others built of sandstone blocks. Beyond lay rolling hills which were bare except for scattered houses and many fences. Behind us lay the town for which we were heading.

Passing into the street we found ourselves on a public square covered with concrete blocks and at regular intervals were manholes tightly cemented. I found out that this was one of the granaries. This method of storing grain is employed in preference to building warehouses, which require so much space, and is more efficient.

In walking around the streets it was noticed that all the buildings were of sandstone, that all the streets were cut into the cliff and, in the business section, all of them were straight.

Advertisements were printed in English and in Maltese. On a movie sign I saw advertised a reel in five parts showing the destruction of the American ship "Victory." I didn't know we had such a vessel, but there must have been one, if the movies had it.

At a small shop we stopped to watch a little girl make Maltese lace. The facility and ease with which she worked was wonderful. Lace is made on a patterned pillow, and it seemed to me a jumble of pins and thread attached to little pencil like sticks of wood, and the little girl seems to be throwing these sticks around in a very careless manner. Yet she was turning out the lace all right.

From this shop we went to see the Altar of Bones. We first went into a cathedral, prepared as usual for masses, and passed on through several gates, down a flight of stairs into a courtyard, which we traversed, then down another flight into a cavern dug into the earth. Going into this place we found the bones of about 3,000 men, all soldiers who had fought for the independence of Malta. The gruesomeness of the scene was forgotten upon beholding and noting the careful arrangement of the various bones and the beautiful designs into which they had been made. In two niches, one on each side of the altar, were the skeletons of the Maltese generals commanding the troops. On a little stand at one side were five skulls, each with a bullet hole, of five Maltese rebels against the French. Taking a last glance around we departed full of admiration at this means of the Maltese of preserving the memory of the gallant soldiers of 1565.

Hereupon we visited a "pub" to partake of a small libation and feeling fully refreshed we hired two carriages at two "bob" per hour for a ride in the country. Quaint vehicles these carriages, short coupled, with small seats for four, high wheels, canopy covers and side curtains of khaki. Fortunately we had horses hitched to ours. Most of the other vehicles were light two wheel cars pulled by donkeys.

On the way out to the gardens my heart was delighted to hear familiar sounds, and looking around, what do you think I saw. Nothing else but a couple of Ford automobiles chugging along the excellent road. Now and then we passed herds of nannie goats with long grown shaggy hair, long floppy ears and udders almost touching the ground. They were on their usual round to be milked at the customers door. Well, I guess Dr. China's dairy farm had nothing on them.

The roads, in most cases, were fenced in with heavy sandstone walls and lined with a few trees, all of which were covered with a white coating of powdered dust. This dust gets in the eyes, the ears, the nose, the throat, and I wished that I were back in Bordeaux sipping light wines to quench the thirst. But Bordeaux was many miles away and I was on a sun-baked road.

Between broken places in the walls the outlying country, as far as the eye could see, was rolling, treeless, bare. The land must grow crops, as in many a walled area, it had been recently cultivated. Here and there were enormous cactus plants and several times en route cactus fruit was offered us



New Shoes for Fall & Winter

We have just opened up one of the largest and most complete lines of Shoes for Men, Women and Children that we have had in several years.

Ladies, if you want to have your footwear look smart and attractive this winter Dame Fashion says you must wear high top shoes. We have them in both the Button and Lace. We invite your inspection of these.

Shaw & McCollum Mer. Co.



for sale, but I didn't taste any. After a four-mile drive we reached the gardens and orange grove. The whole was beautiful, but they did not appeal to me as they were so unnatural and had to be nurtured. After a hurried trip through the garden we adjourned to a nearby cafe for lunch in which there was nothing Maltese except some sour grapes. Finishing lunch we took carriages for town.

Both going and coming there were of course many women and I inquired why they all wore such big round black hoods with long flowing veils and I was told that such dress became national when, after the French captured Malta in 1536, they ravished all the women who adopted this style of mourning, so to speak. We drove to the elevator, paid a penny each, rode down and took boat back to our good ship Kaiser I Hind and sailed at 4 p. m. bound for Port Said, Egypt.

Standing on the boat deck I watched the island slowly disappear over the horizon and shortly afterwards when night fell, a perfectly delightful day had come to a close.

A second letter from Vice Consul Dick, written from Alexandria, Egypt, is equally interesting in its description of life customs of the people and incidents of the trip:

Alexandria, Egypt, Aug. 30, 1915. Arrived here on Friday night without adventure except for a slight delay at Port Said where the customs authorities snatched my Austrian automatic pistol and, as I refused to let them open a well-packed suitcase containing an Underwood typewriter destined for use in the consulate at Jerusalem, they held it up. However, owing to my official nature they will be passed upon the representation of our consul here.

I arrived here one day too late to catch our cruiser Des Moines. The cruiser Chester will arrive in a few days though and I'll continue my journey, the schedule of which is already a week late, owing to my enforced stay in both New York and at Marseilles. I intend to make hay while the sun shines by going over to Cairo tomorrow for two days to "have look see." After the trip I'll write about it. At 12.30 last Friday we pulled out of Port Said station on the Cairo express. Almost immediately the right of way led to the bank of the Suez Canal, which we followed for over an hour. On one side was the canal and on the other were marshes and desert. Along the canal there were very few traces of the recent fighting.

After leaving the canal at Ishmallia the track struck across the desert, which, as you know, is some sand. The sunlight reflected on us gave a greenish hue and the glare was something fearful. Fortunately the speed of the train raised a breeze. Occasionally we passed oases which formed delightful contrasts—the deep green and the yellowish sand. About 1.30 a chap passed the compartment in which I was and said "first seats for luncheon." Off I started for the diner, without differentiating between this announcement and the usual one in the U. S. A., "First call for lunch." I reached the diner all right and sat down, only to be routed out for not having a ticket, obtainable at Port Said, for first place. I could see myself going hungry, as I had no meal ticket at all and they were out for 3rd service too. I knew I wouldn't be put out, so I sat tight and got chow, consisting of mostly stewed tough beef and spuds. There were some ripe dates, which I think are not as appetizing as dried ones.

About time I finished eating we arrived at a city called Zagzig, some place too. The train waited only a few minutes and we proceeded on to Benha, where we had to change cars—carriages, as they say here. This burg is a fertile spot in the delta of the Nile and it is here that one gets the first impression of the ancient granary of the world with one Joseph as manager. I don't see the how his brothers managed to cross the desert to get grain from him.

From the train window one gets an idea of the country. The houses are made of mud—just as Bible pictures show us. On the flat roofs one sees chickens, cornstalks, cotton stalks, dogs and rubbish. Through the doors there are dirty children and a carriage

(water buffalo) or two. In the fields are nothing but cotton and corn. I was surprised to see so much cotton. It is planted in rows just about one-third as wide as ours and is worked with hoes instead of by plowing. Judging from the divisions of land though, farmers in general cannot have more than two acres. In fertilizing it all that is necessary is to cut a dyke in one of the numerous canals intersecting the country and hood the field with rich loam from the Nile.

If dykes are not available water is raised from the canal by crude water wheels. In some instances it is done by hand with wooden cylinders about six feet long, one end of which is under water and the other elevated to the ditch level. A turbine-like arrangement inside raised the water with the revolutions of the cylinder. Another scheme employed is by a bullock hitched to a pole—just like an old country sugar cane mill. A system of gears operates the water wheel. Of course the entire system is crude. For all that I know old Joe himself may have invented the scheme.

On the roads are a few camels, some water buffalo and many donkeys, descendants probably of those taking part in the flight to Egypt. I see that I am running into a volume and the censors, becoming tired of reading, may destroy it, so more anon.

BIG COTTON SALE.

Harby & Co. Buy Sixteen Hundred Bales from B. J. Barnett. One of the largest sales of cotton by a single person ever made in Sumter was put through this morning when B. J. Barnett sold 1,600 bales of cotton to Harby & Co. Inc. The sale was made on condition of immediate delivery, and while the exact price paid was not stated, it is understood on good authority that the average price was upwards of 11 cents. Assuming that the price was precisely 11 cents, for the purpose of making the calculation, the deal amounted to \$88,000—quite a tidy sum for one cotton check.

VON PAPAN'S IRE ROUSED.

German Military Attache Speaks of Affair as "Ungentlemanly." San Francisco, Sept. 24.—Capt. Franz von Papan, German military attache at Washington, who in one of the letters found in the possession of James F. J. Archibald referred to Americans "as those idiotic Yankees," is in San Francisco today. He is accompanied by a friend, who registered at a hotel as "M. Hatzfeldt, New York."

Capt. Von Papan arrived yesterday and attempted, it is said, to preserve an incognito. When his identity became known he refused to make any statement other than to say he is here on leave of absence.

"I have nothing to say with reference to what I consider the ungentlemanly use of private letters," Capt. Van Papan said.

He added that all official utterances must come from Count Von Bernstorff.

BROADWAY TRAFFIC BLOCKED.

Subway Cavern Causes Worst Tieup Ever Known.

New York, Sept. 27.—The worst traffic tieup ever known is the result of recent subway cave in. Sections of Broadway are closed to all traffic, also a large section of Seventh Avenue. Thousands are compelled to walk miles to their work. Officials are investigating the cause.

Supervisor P. M. Pitts came near being seriously injured today and did sustain a number of bruises which were more or less painful by being struck and knocked down by an automobile. The accident occurred about one o'clock as Mr. Pitts was crossing the street in front of O'Donnell and Company's store, and he would probably have been badly injured had the car not been going along at a low rate of speed at the time. Just as he got half way across the street someone called him back and as he turned and started back the machine hit him. One arm was hurt and his face was bruised, but Mr. Pitts was able to get up and continue his way.

ADVICE ON NEXT YEAR'S CROP.

Mr. Williams Advises Farmers on Planting of Grain and Cotton.

It is hard, so hard, for mortal man to be satisfied. I hear so many farmers regretting that they did not plant more cotton this year, and they had no right to increase their own crops without expecting their neighbors all over the South to do likewise. If two million more bales cotton had been produced this year than have been produced, instead of regretting you would be rejoicing over not having planted any more cotton. It is about time to begin planning for next year's crop. I think the demand for cotton will justify a slight increase in the crop for next year. On my own farm I think I shall increase the crop enough to cover the amount of land planted to tobacco. Tobacco like cotton is a robber crop—that is, it does not take any nitrogen from the air like peas and the legume crops. I do not care to plant a robber crop without being reasonably sure of making a profit. If there was any profit in growing tobacco this year the other fellow certainly got my share. As to wheat, peanuts, sweet potatoes, sorghum, oats, rye, and corn, I think that it will be good business to grow good quantities of each, at least enough to supply home consumption, if we have an unfavorable season, and some to spare, if the seasons are good. I have seen good crops of corn, peanuts, potatoes and peas grown after wheat this year. In the up-country where they plant wheat, they consider that a crop of wheat makes the least drain upon the soil of all the common crops that we plant. We have two roller mills in the county that make just as white flour as can be purchased anywhere, if the wheat is good.

I have heard some criticism about the amount of toll taken at the Leup roller mill. All successful roller mills are operated on a basis of exchange. No man wishes to have his team with a wagon load of wheat wait all day to have it ground, neither does it suit him if he lives some distance from the mill to leave the wheat and return for the flour. In Pickens county the roller mills give 34 pounds of first grade flour and 14 pounds of bran in exchange for a bushel of good wheat. I understand that Mr. Lenoir is giving in exchange 36 pounds of flour and ten pounds of bran. This is on exactly the same basis. A pound of first grade flour is worth two pounds of bran, I have been told that the Manning roller mill gives 35 pounds of flour and twelve pounds of bran, which is on the same basis. It must be remembered that there is from two to three pounds of dust and chaff and waste that is taken out of wheat that is thrashed by the common separator.

On every farm enough wheat should be sown this fall to easily supply the farm. The bran is very valuable for stock food. We shall have to learn to take good care of the wheat and to treat the seed for smut before planting. We have two remedies, blue-stone and formalin or formaldehyde, either of which will kill the smut. There are several good varieties of wheat to plant in this country. After observing all of the varieties grown in the county, I am a little partial to Leup's prolific. There is some advantage in planting a bearded wheat when we have heavy rains during the flowering stage of the wheat.

There is the largest crop of peavines that I have ever seen grown in the county. This is going to help us a great deal for it is going to be very hard to secure fertilizers. Let all of the farmers see to it that they make and save as much stable manure this winter as possible, under a shelter. If we can make two or three more crops as cheaply as we made the one that we are harvesting, the farmers of Sumter county will be independent. There is being seeded the largest crop of crimson and bur clover in the history of the county. There is also being seeded a great deal of rye and rape for winter grazing.

J. Frank Williams.

Marriage License Record.

A license to marry was issued this morning to Nyles Evans and Addie Henry, of Sumter.

ADVISES FARMERS: "BEWARE OF COTTON."

J. C. Dunbar Warns Against Outcome of Big Acreage Next Year—Plant Grain and Raise Hogs and Cattle, He Says.

Dalzell, Sept. 27.—I am sorry to see from one of your correspondents that his community will not plant wheat this season, owing to the fact that the water mills have failed for lack of water and the steam mills are so congested that many of the farmers can not get their wheat ground. It will rain again and then the water mills will resume their work, when the wheat will be converted into a healthy grade of flour.

The farmers learned a lesson in 1911 and one in 1914 that should not be forgotten soon, and if they are caught next year with a big crop of cotton and no home supplies, with cotton below the cost of production, it will not be good sense to try to blame somebody else for such conditions. The war is on and we don't know how long it will last, therefore, if we, as a class, exercise good common sense, we will adapt ourselves to the conditions by trying to make our farms self-supporting in every respect possible. Nothing but a sharp crop is the cause of the fair price cotton is bringing today, regardless of all the rumors to the contrary. It has not reached the maximum yet, but that is a lame reason for planting everything in cotton another year, disregarding the most important element on the farm, that of foodstuff. Cotton always goes down under the pressure of a big crop in spite of all the reasoning that can be brought forth and should the South go in for a bumper crop next year she will have to accept the inevitable. Planting cotton, like many other things we engage in, is only gambling and when the luck is all our way, we are a bouyant and hopeful class, but when the bears take advantage of the opportunities we extend to them, which they never fail to do, then we are a faithless, hopeless set, with a tendency to curse out somebody else for bringing such conditions. Depressions come and it is not every body who can analyze and give the reasons why, and such being the case, the average farmer who is not supposed to know all the tricks in trade, but knows something of the advantages that have been taken off his reckless disposition to plant cotton to the neglect of many other crops, that go towards making him more self-sustaining when these adverse circumstances arise. Brother farmers, let's plant wheat again, and oats, corn, sweet potatoes, plenty of vegetables and raise all the meat we can. Keep all the cattle we can, raise all the chickens and other poultry possible; quit planting so much cotton and buying all the fertilizer the dealers will sell and hiring all of the sorry labor that comes about you; to handle that fertilizer in trying to make all cotton and next season, you will be able to live again in spite of the European war and all the pressure the cotton bear can bring on the price. When we have a little cotton, somebody else wants it and are willing to pay us for it, but when we have nothing else but cotton, somehow in some way, nobody seems to want it. The writer is no prophet, neither the son of a prophet, but will say that the farmer had better be a little cautious how he plays on the checker board of trade another year or the other fellow will swamp him.

J. C. Dunbar.

ANOTHER STORM ON WAY.

Caribbean Disturbance Headed West of Northwest.

Washington, Sept. 24.—A storm warning issued tonight by the weather bureau said a Caribbean storm raging southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, probably would move west of northwest. Strong winds are said to be prevailing on the south coast of Haiti.

LOOT AND KILL AT CANANEA.

Douglas, Sept. 24.—Thirty terror-stricken American women arrived from Cananea. Carranza troops have been looting and killing there for thirty-six hours. Forty inoffensive Mexicans were executed.

MANY HEAR McLENDON.

Number From Sumter and Other Counties Go to Bishopville to Hear Revivalist.

Evangelist Baxter Franklin McLendon, who is conducting a revival service at Bishopville is preaching to large and enthusiastic audiences every day and night now and many who hear him are coming up at the close of the meetings to profess their faith in Christ and promise to lead new lives. More than five hundred conversions are reported as the result of his two weeks preaching at Bishopville.

On Sunday there were quite a number of people from Sumter, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Darlington, Florence and Marlboro, as well as Lee County, present to hear the evangelist, about twenty-five hundred being present in his audience. Mr. McLendon is said to be preaching powerful sermons and doing much good.

MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR CHINA. Most Thoroughly Scientific System in World in Prospect by Foundation.

New York, Sept. 26.—China has in prospect the most thoroughly scientific system of medical education in the world if plans of the China medical board of the Rockefeller foundation, outlined in the third part of the annual report of the foundation, made public here today, are realized. This conclusion is reached from the results of four months' observation of China's needs by a commission comprising Harry Pratt Johnson, president of the University of Chicago; Roger S. Greene, United States consul general at Hankow, and Francis W. Peabody of the Harvard medical school. "As the system proves practicable and efficient we may extend it to other similar centres, or it will perhaps itself, and China will be in a fair way to lead the world in medicine."

Imports Released by Britain.

Special to The Daily Item.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The British embassy notified the State department that arrangements are complete for the release to American importers of a hundred and fifty million dollars worth of German-Austrian goods held in warehouses at Rotterdam.

ORANGEBURG MEN REORGANIZE.

"Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture" Organized by City's Business Men.

Orangeburg, Sept. 24.—The Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, for the promotion of the general welfare of the city and county of Orangeburg, was made a permanent organization last evening at a largely attended meeting of this city's most progressive business men, held at the court house, said meeting having been called by a commercial body temporarily organized at a like gathering Thursday, September 16. The proposed constitution and by-laws, read and submitted by Major W. L. Glaze, chairman of the temporary committee named to draft such by-laws, were unanimously adopted.

The following officers were unanimously elected: President, W. L. Mosley; first vice president, B. Hart Moss; second vice president, P. M. Smoak; secretary and treasurer, W. A. Livingston. Directors: J. M. Albertgott, W. G. Seas, W. L. Glover, Henry Sims, C. A. Renneker.

RETURN TO SCHOOL.

One Hundred and Seventy-five Heard Summons.

Lynchburg, Sept. 24.—The school exercises for the ensuing term at this place opened in the high school building on Monday morning of this week with the following teaching force in charge: J. G. Kelly, superintendent; Misses Antley, Lesesne, McClanaghan, Edges and Harvey. The enrollment on the first day was 175.