

Erivan: Capital of a Hunted Nation

Graphic Description of Pictures-que Section of Armenia

Washington, May 14.—Erivan, latest capital of Armenia, which press reports say has been recently pillaged by Bolshevik conquerors, is the subject of the following communication to the National Geographic Society from Maynard Owen Williams, Mr. Williams, who has been collecting information and pictures for the Society in the new countries of Europe and Asia, writes: "In Vain and Erivan the Armenians had two of the most delightfully situated of cities. Van, the ancient capital, backed by ten thousand foot mountains, looks across the wonderfully blue lake of the same name to the rough crater rim of Nimrud and the perfect cone of Sipan, with the snow ridge of the mountains of Kurdistan to the south. Since the spring of 1918 when the Turks swept through toward Tabriz, no Armenian has lived in that ill-fated city over which war has washed in repeated waves of terror and destruction.

Centre of Armenian Nationality

Erivan, the new capital, is situated on the northern edge of the wide plain of the River Arax, which stretches from that city to the slopes of 17,000 foot Ararat, one of the world's loftiest mountains. It was the city toward which the Armenians retreated time and again during the war and it has been the city around which Armenian nationality has centered during the stormy period since the Armistice.

"Behind Erivan rises a line of hills which stretch northward to lofty Lake Gokcha, with a famous old monastery on an island near its western shore, and through these mountains, some of them more than two miles high, there winds the well built military road which leads to Akstafa and to Tiflis. Steep ascents are negotiated by intricate hairpin turns and the views as one dashes along in a motor car are a lovely succession of prosperous valleys and wooded mountain sides.

"Erivan is also connected with Tiflis, Georgia, and Tabriz, Persia, by a railway, which however has been in operation very little since 1918. In March of 1918, the American relief workers who had built up a large warehouse and many kinds of workshops in Erivan, were forced to leave. Two of them, John Elder and James Arol, who had gone down through the Caucasus to open Y. M. C. A. work, remained behind and did what they could to alleviate the sufferings of the people until the road to the outside world was open.

Pass From Terror to Terror

"Surrounded as they have been by many foes, the Armenians of Erivan have passed from one terror to another. They have had dealings with Turk and Bolshevik in an effort to save what is left of the vanishing race.

"Twelve miles away toward the River Arax, the Armenian Swanee, there is the quaint little town of Etchmiadzin, the home of the Armenian Catholicos, who is chosen by the entire Armenian nation, including those in India and Russia as well as those in Turkey and Persia, and who is the spiritual head of the national church which has been the kernel of Armenian national life for centuries.

"Erivan itself is a place of little interest, although it contains the ruins of a Turkish fortress four centuries old and the Blue Mosque of Hussein Ali Khan, whose enameled tiles rival those at the Tombs of Shakh Zivali in Samarkand. Each year in this Christian city there is a passion play depicting the assassination of Hussein, the son of Ali, enacted by the Moslem population.

Plain Dotted With Village Ruins

"There it stands, a nondescript city between the mountains into which the helpless people have repeatedly retreated and the rich plain of the Arax, dotted with the ruins of Armenian and Tatar villages. And across the hazy plain, standing alone in its majesty rises the huge mass of Ararat, snow-capped and impressive, from which the Armenian priests long since copied their headgear and toward which the anguished people now gaze with little hope.

"Across the western shoulder of Ararat they have come, leaving behind them their beloved homes beside the turquoise lake at the foot of Castle Hill in Van, its sides carved with beautiful inscriptions left by a dozen conquerors. To be conquered, to be pounded in the surf of national strife and to be cruelly crushed by the backwash of war—this has been the history of Erivan since the Russian front in the Caucasus crumbled beneath the weight of four years of misunderstood conflict, and disorder spread over the Armenian plateau where war and massacre had long been known."

Why Ship is 'She'.

Here are some answers to the question: "Why do they call a ship she?" If you ever tried to steer one you wouldn't ask. Because it takes so long to get them ready to go anywhere. They need almost as much dolling up and painting as any woman you ever saw. A ship's gotta have its own way or it won't go. Ships always come off the ways backward like the members of a certain sect alighting from street cars. It costs so much to keep one in operation. They are always calling at some place or another. Because shipbuilders can't live without them. Who ever won an argument from them. Because they are held together with steel. Because they frequently toss their noses in the air.—Bethlehem Ship News.

National Treasury May Be Called On

Unless Some Way is Found To Reduce Railroad Expenses and Increase Revenues, Says Chairman Cummins

Washington, May 13.—Unless some way is found to increase the revenues and reduce expenses of the railroad the deficit will have to be met from the national treasury, Chairman Cummins, of the senate interstate commerce committee, declared at a hearing on general railroad situation.

When Carpenters Got \$1.75.

The average carpenter in Kansas City in 1881, the Forty Years Ago column reminds us, was getting \$1.75 a day. A very few men were getting as much as \$2 or \$2.25, and the limit was \$2.50. This was for a 10-hour day. The average pay of from \$1.75 to \$2 continued through the '80s.

Then came the hard times of the early '90s. There are men in Kansas City today who remember standing in line to get a job of carpentry work at 11 cents an hour in 1892 or 1893. That was the low point, and conditions were very bad. The revival of business set in about with the election of McKinley. Since that time the trend has been upward until now the carpenter in Kansas City gets \$8 for an 8-hour day instead of \$1.75 for a 10-hour day. The price of living naturally was lower 40 years ago than it is today, but nothing like as low relatively as wages were.

Occasionally some emotional person tells us that the average man is constantly losing out, that his condition is getting worse instead of better. That isn't so. The case of carpenters' wages is an illustration of what has been going on pretty generally.

Sometimes people get impatient at the slowness with which things progress. They want the millennium tomorrow and are peevish because it doesn't come. A backward look over 20, 30 or 40 years is helpful on such occasions. America is moving forward.—Kansas City Star.

Fairwood Industrial School

Columbia, May 10.—A State-wide campaign for \$20,000 to support Fairwood Industrial School for Colored Girls until proper maintenance can be insured and to provide permanent improvements at the school, ten miles from Columbia, will be launched this month. It is believed that the campaign will excite wide interest in view of the worth while service that the school has rendered in the two years of its existence.

The school has heretofore existed by means of contributions from white people and negroes, it being expected each year that the legislature would take it over and maintain it as a part of the state system of reformatories. This has not been done and the school is faced with the problem of existence until next year when another effort will be made to have the school.

One negro loaned the money to buy the school property, consisting of 30 acres, and two buildings have been erected. These are badly in need of repair and a crying demand for money is felt every hour at Fairwood.

There are now 14 girls, committed by the judges of probate of several counties, at the school and there have been 21 received there. That the school has justified its existence is best shown by the intelligent interest shown in it by white people and negroes.

SINN FEIN SOLDIER EXECUTED

Cork, May 16.—Daniel O'Brien, of Knockandbane, was tried by drum-head court martial Saturday and executed in the Cork detention barracks this morning. O'Brien met death bravely, maintaining the same attitude he displayed at his trial when, in answering a request to plead, he replied, "I have no defense, I was caught as soldier, and you can try me."

Epworth League Social.

The Epworth League of Trinity Methodist church gave a social Friday evening May 13th in the Sunday school rooms of the church.

At the opening a short musical program was rendered after which a number of games were played.

The young people entered heartily into the spirit of the games, and on departing expressed themselves as having a good time. During the evening refreshments were served.

This is a new society, having been organized only a short time, but under the efficient leadership of Mr. Robert Brown as president it has grown both in interest and numbers. This was the first social meeting that the league has given, but they expect to give them at intervals throughout the year.

The regular meetings are held in the church Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock and all those interested in young peoples' work are invited to attend.

The Home Service section of the Red Cross now has on hand both a baby carriage and a go-cart which completes the wants of this office along the infant lines. Thanks to two generous parties the needy babies may now be able to sleep and ride comfortably.

If Mr. Daniels had wanted to play a mean trick on Mr. Deuby, he should have had his naval recommendations copyrighted.—Arkansas Gazette.

The conquest of the air has progressed to the point where very few people say "airplane."—Washington Herald.

A Mississippi planter has trained two wild geese to catch fish for him. If they weren't geese they'd eat what they caught.—Philadelphia Record.

HOW TO BEAT BOLL WEEVIL

Single-Stalk Method of Cotton Culture Gains Favor With Progressive Farmers

Twenty-five to one hundred per cent increase in yield is reported by cotton growers who have adopted the new close-spacing system of cotton culture introduced 8 or 10 years ago by the United States Department of Agriculture. Reports coming directly to the department and to southern agricultural journals, which have interested themselves in encouraging the new system, show that farmers throughout the cotton regions of the country are rapidly turning to the plan. Increased yield, less labor and expense for the same crop, and a lessening of boll-weevil damage are among the benefits recited in hundreds of letters written by farmers in various parts of the South. Indications are that the system will be adopted far more widely the coming season.

Space Plants a Hoe Width Apart. The close-spacing, more commonly known as the single-stalk method of cotton culture, consists primarily in spacing the cotton plants so close in the row—a hoe width apart—that the lower or vegetative branches do not develop, and the growth of the plant goes directly on fruiting branches, permitting them to bring development of blossoms and bolls earlier and giving them more nourishment and more light.

The discovery that the cotton plant, in common with corn, potato, and a number of other staples, produces two different sets of branches was announced by specialists of the department about 1911, and has given direction to a series of useful experiments in cultivation. By taking account of the specialized habits of branching it was found possible to exercise a much more effective control of the development of the plants so as to secure earlier crops, larger yields, and greater protection against injury by the boll weevil.

The suppression of the vegetative branches avoids the excessive crowding of large plants and injurious competition between the two kinds of branches. The cultural ideal under the new system is a cotton plant with only the single, erect, central stalk bearing numerous well-developed fruiting branches, but none of the vegetative branches or secondary stalks. The suppression of the vegetative branches is easily accomplished by leaving the young plants close together in the rows. Thinning is deferred until the plants are some 6 to 8 inches high, or even later under conditions of rank growth. If the young plants stand less than 6 inches during these early stages of growth, more of them will not produce many vegetative branches, but will have only the upright central stalk and the horizontal fruiting branches.

The distance between the plants is regulated with reference to local conditions and the habit of growth of different varieties, the range being between 6 and 12 inches. The plants then have a narrow upright form and can be left closer together in the rows. Even with the plants only 3 or 4 inches apart in the rows there may be less injurious crowding than with large many-stalked plants 3 feet apart in the rows. The distance between the rows, usually 3 1/2 feet, can be varied with reference to local conditions, but crowding the rows together, so that the sun does not reach the ground, is undesirable especially under weevil conditions.

Small Plants May Outyield Large Ones.

In the way of production two distinct advantages are gained, the smaller single-stalk plants free from any large unproductive offshoots, proceed at once to the development of the branches which produce cotton bolls, and in many cases these small plants produce almost as many bolls and a better quality of lint than large many-stalked plants occupying the space of three of the smaller. But even with very small plants that bear only a few bolls apiece the yields may be much larger than from large spreading plants. The bolls also are produced much earlier on the small plants, and are more likely to escape injury by the boll weevil.

The Egyptian cotton industry of the Southwest, an achievement of the Department of Agriculture which has added \$20,000,000 a year to the annual agricultural income of the country, could not have been accomplished, in the opinion of department specialists, without the new close-spacing system for controlling the vegetative branches. The benefits to the \$2,000,000,000 cotton crop of the country at large, with continued extension of the new method, can only be faintly estimated.

RISH KILL WOMEN

Sir Charles Barrington and Daughter Shot From Ambush

Belfast, May 15 (By the Associated Press).—Miss Barrington, only daughter of Sir Charles Barrington of Glenstal Castle, county Limerick, and head of the Masonic order in North Munster, and Police Inspector Biggs were shot dead from an ambush Saturday by civilians while moving from Killoesull to Newspost, county Tipperary.

The father of the dead woman is a former high sheriff of County Limerick.

Nine policemen, two soldiers and a number of other persons were killed Saturday and today in attacks and counter attacks at various places. Numerous persons were wounded.

More lives may have been lost in the Macroom ambush, when 17 auxiliaries were killed on Red Sunday, but for general and organized violence Saturday and today probably were the worst since shooting



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Cotton Marketing Association

Co-operative Agreement Ready For Signatures of Growers

Columbia, May 16.—Answering inquiries from farmers over the state as to when the cotton growers' cooperative association marketing agreement would be ready for the signatures of the growers, R. W. Hamer, president of the South Carolina division of the American Cotton Association and chairman of the campaign committee of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' cooperative association, said that the campaign to secure signatures would probably be launched in about ten days.

There will be a meeting of the campaign committee next week to work out the details of the campaign and in the meantime the agreement to be signed will have been turned over to the printers. The nominating committee of the association is expected to hold a meeting next week to elect a permanent president of the organization, all of the temporary officers with the exception of a president having been chosen on last Tuesday.

"The South Carolina Cotton Growers' cooperative association," said Mr. Hamer "is to be an organization of South Carolina cotton growers on a state-wide basis for the one and only specific purpose of selling South Carolina's great cotton crop in a real cooperative way.

"In other words this association is to be a business marketing organization composed only of actual South Carolina cotton growers or owners of cotton. It will be managed by its own members, who will elect permanent officers after the 400,000 bales which must be signed up before the organization can function have been secured.

"The great business cotton farmers, who have produced the greater months of the year, yet statistics show that the great bulk of cotton has in former years been dumped on the market in the fall months. The effect of this unsound practice upon the market and upon the growers' pocketbook is known to all men. This association offers the first real opportunity to put an end to "dumping" and to substitute an orderly marketing of cotton as the spinners need it.

"The plan of organization of the association is of proved and successful soundness as a business proposition. It is not an unknown or wild-catch hazard. It is based on the so-called California system, which has twenty-six years of unusually successful and profitable experience behind it and through which 80,000 California farmers are cooperatively handling more than \$200,000,000 worth of business annually.

"What has been done in California and the Pacific northwest with wheat, fruits, nuts, eggs, rice, milk, alfalfa, poultry and honey, the farmers of the south are now proposing to do with cotton.

"The cooperative association proposes to effect many absolutely necessary reforms in the present system of cotton selling, first, by the elimination of wasteful methods, and secondly, through collective selling, thereby assuring greater profits to the producer without undue increase in costs to the consumer.

"Specifically the association, I expect, will do the following definite things for its members: "First, it will grade, staple and weigh each bale of cotton delivered to it by its members. This will place a true value on the cotton in terms of quality.

"Second, it will warehouse all cotton delivered to it by its members. This will at once reduce the tremendous loss from "city damage" estimated at from 10 to 20 per bale up-ward.

"Third, it will sell all of its cotton in even running lots each grade and staple within its own pool. This will assure a higher price than can be obtained in any other way and save to the producers the cost and profits of middlemen and speculators who buy mixed lots from growers and after concentration and classification sell in even lots to mills at higher prices.

"Fourth, it will sell on its own samples and warehouse certificates. This will again reduce another heavy loss, known as the "city crop" and prevent undergrading.

"Fifth, it will sell collectively and only when the market demands it. This will reduce speculation and tend to stabilize prices.

"Sixth, it will sell its cotton as directly as possible. This will eliminate many present wasteful methods, shorten the route between the producer and spinner and secure for the producer a larger share of the price paid by the spinner.

"Seventh, it will determine the cost of production of cotton. This will assist in asking a price which will yield a profit to the producer.

"Eighth, it will encourage and develop the production of uniform and standard varieties. This will assist still further in pool selling and in securing a better price.

"Ninth, it will advise with growers on production methods and problems. This will be essentially helpful and profitable.

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WRANGLE OVER OFFICE

Columbia, May 16.—The Hampton auditor muddle got into the courts today when Jesse W. Thomas, appointed auditor, appeared before the court and asked for an order against Hagood Gooding to oust him from office, Mr. Gooding having refused to surrender the office to the appointed successor. The order was made returnable on the 25th.

Governor Cooper commissioned Mr. Thomas in place of Mr. Gooding following charges of irregularities in office, brought by the state tax commission.

SUPREME COURTS MAKES RULING

Washington, May 14.—Requirement that the prohibition amendment be ratified within seven years by three-fourths of the states does not invalidate the entire measure the supreme court ruled.