

WAGING WAR IN ALGIERS

French Flying Columns Hold Down Robbers.

BARBAROUS STEALING

Plunder of the Sand Sea Made Raucous on Settlers in Southern Oran—Seizure of Oudjda Decried to Overawe Fierce Berbers—Army Posts on the Sahara.

The seizure by France of Oudjda, a Moroccan frontier town, is really the culmination of an active guerrilla warfare that has been in progress since 1902. The ostensible reason for the act was the murder of a French official in Marakech, but Marakech is 500 miles from Oudjda.

For some years the Algerian administration has had to maintain a strong force in the southern part of Oran to keep these robbers in check. Gen. Lyautey, who commands the little army that took possession of Oudjda, has been at the head of the pirate chasers, and as there is a line 400 miles long to police, and as the Moroccan side has always in the past been a safe refuge for the marauders, he has had his hands full.

The duty is not unlike that of the Canadian mounted police, or the similar bodies which guard the British colonies in South Africa, but it is more regularly organized, consisting of detachments of infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineers from the French army, with regularly fortified posts. Perhaps the life and duty are closer to what the United States army used to do in the Far West in the days of the Indian wars than to anything else in military history.

The territory of Oran is swarming with French settlers. Farms were laid out and a considerable commerce in sheep and cattle arose with the peaceful tribes which fattened their flocks through the region. French settlers and small garrisons of troops held the Sahara oases, and something like a peaceful settlement of the country seemed to have been accomplished when symptoms of trouble appeared.

Occupation by the French was ruining the predatory bands that roved over the desert and lived by plunder. They levied an arbitrary tax on caravans wending their way between the big cities of Morocco and Algiers and the regions south and east.

When the trouble began razzias were made at night into the French settlements and the cattle were carried off.

The method was simple. While the Berber marauders lurked in the deep fields of alfalfa grass, their well trained dogs were sent into the pasture. The dogs noiselessly drove the sheep or cows before them.

Even stone walls did not protect the animals from the Berber raiders. A stable apparently robber proof was easy to them. On a dark, stormy night half a dozen of them would squat under the wall farthest from the farmhouse.

With hydrochloric acid they attacked the mortar between the bricks or stones, digging them out one by one with the aid of gasolene horns. This delicate act of burglary might take hours, but it was patiently and noiselessly continued until a hole was made by which a man could creep into the stable.

The man went in naked, anointed with the fat of a lion or a panther. This cowed the dogs. They crouched in a corner, not daring even to whine.

Then the cattle were driven one by one to the hole in the wall, through which they were forced to pass. The smallness of the apertures through which they were dragged is described as all but incredible. Any hole that the horns and head could be navigated through was big enough for the body to follow.

The man outside grabbed the wretched animal by its tongue and pulled. The agony is so intense that it can neither cry nor bite. The only thing it can do is struggle, squirm, exert all its strength to yield to the agonizing traction of the robber who knows no pity.

In fact, the Choifs of Tafelert, the southeastern province of Morocco, were preaching a holy war against the French. They are a sort of religious nobility, claiming descent from the Prophet Mohammed, and their influence with the Berbers is enormous. But the French had read the signs and Gen. Lyautey, who had already organized posts and flying columns throughout the province of Oran, took all necessary precautions.

All the posts to the south were strongly reinforced and a depot of provisions was established at Bechar, the southern railway terminus. A regular patrol of the Moroccan frontier was begun by bands of troops as light and mobile as the robbers themselves, living the same life and using the same tactics.

The greatest defect of the whole system has been heretofore the ready refuge of the Moroccan border. By establishing themselves beyond this the French hope for a good while to hold the tribesmen in awe. The moral effect of the occupation of Oudjda will be backed up by the exercise of actual force for a front around it until the extension of the new Moroccan police system, managed by France and Spain, restores order to the entire country.

FAMOUS MINE BEING OUTF-

Mount Morgan in Australia Changing From Gold to Copper.

For years the Mount Morgan Mining Company of Australia has been paying a monthly dividend of \$145,000 on its stock. The shareholders have thus far received nearly \$25,000,000 in dividends. A great change has come, however, and it will interest those who have known Mount Morgan as the most wonderful gold mine in the world.

Prof. J. W. Gregory, who occupies the chair of geology in the University of Glasgow, issued a book on Australia, which partly is the result of his extended studies in that continent for several years. He says that the gold of Mount Morgan has been decreasing in quantity and that the mountain is rapidly changing into a low copper proposition. The company is preparing how to extract the copper values, for it is believed that the history of Mount Morgan as a great gold producer is practically closed.

Mount Morgan is in the south eastern part of Queensland. It is a curious fact that long ago the poor hermit named Gordon who owned it and sold it for a pittance told the purchasers that he had observed curious green and blue stains all over the mountain and he would not be surprised if it contained copper.

His surmise has proved true at last, but the experienced prospectors who found gold there did not find Gordon or the indications that fairly started them and he gladly accepted their offer of \$5 an acre for the land. Gordon died in poverty but he lived long enough to know the value of the prize that had slipped through his hands.

The Morgan brothers, who purchased the mountain, let four other men into the enterprise and five years later each of the six men was a millionaire. The stock has remained in comparatively few hands and the mine has made a fortune for every one concerned in it. The army of miners working the mine has usually numbered about 1,200.

The richest gold deposits were found at the top of the mountain and until the top had been quarried away the dividends amounted to more than \$500,000 a month. The ore decreased considerably in the value of its gold, but later it remained for years almost uniform in richness and it was thought likely that the entire mountain would be worth digging away.

Recently, however, as the level of operations has been lowered, less gold has been extracted and now the gold has largely disappeared and copper has come into view. With copper supplanting the precious metal, Mount Morgan will no longer be known as one of the richest spots on the globe.

CURIOUS CHINESE CUSTOM.

Elaborate Ceremony Attending First Cutting of a Boy's Hair.

One of the most ancient and curious customs among the Chinese, and one rarely commemorated in this country, was observed with great pomp and circumstance in China town recently, says the San Francisco Chronicle, when Fong Hoo, a leading merchant who for years has had the supervision of the Chinese Bank of San Francisco, entertained his relatives to a remote degree with a magnificent banquet in honor of the first cutting of the hair of his only son.

The banquet took place at an Eighth street restaurant and there were 150 guests. A notable feature was the fact that the wives and children of the guests sat down at the same table with the heads of families. A most elaborate menu, comprising birds, nest soup, steam stuffed duck, Foon Yon Ha, shark's fins and other costly Celestial dishes were served.

The banquet cost the happy father \$1,800. During the evening quite a number of prominent members of the San Francisco clearing house called at the restaurant to offer their congratulations to him. The hair cutting ceremony, which was observed with picturesque rites, symbols that Fong Hoo's hair is now a factor in the family. The guests brought presents for the little son worth thousands of dollars.

Longevity of Ants.

Ants are really very long lived, considering their minuteness. A naturalist had two queens under observation for ten years and one of Sir John Lubbock's ant pets lived into her 15th year. Ants are very tenacious of life after severe injury. Following loss of the entire abdomen they sometimes live two weeks and in one case a headless ant, carefully decapitated by aseptic surgery, lived for forty-one days. A carpenter ant after being submerged eight days in distilled water came to life upon being dried, so that they are practically proof against drowning. They can live long periods without food; in one case the fast lasted nearly nine months.

To Avoid Wrecks by Rail.

In order to avoid railroad wrecks as the result of the incompetency of telegraph operators, it is proposed in the State of Indiana to subject all operators to an examination as to their ability. The tests will be conducted under the auspices of the State Railroad Commission.

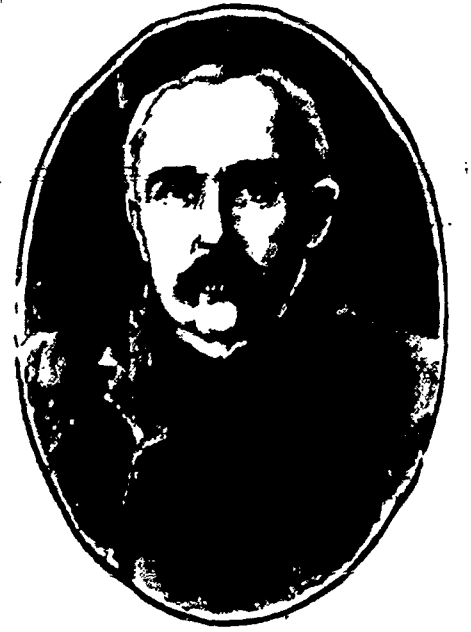
AGAINST GAMING TABLES

Fight Waged by Premier Clemenceau of France.

DRAW THE LINE, HARD

American Gamblers, Although They Have the Reputation of Dealing More Fairly Than Others, Get Short Shift From the Government—How the Game is Worked.

M. Clemenceau, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, recently closed 30 Paris gambling clubs, expelled 50 Belgians of a millionaire baccarat combination, sent five American proprietors with gentlemanly Mr. Draper at their head across the frontier, refused their gambling permits to the new Beaulieu Casino and the Nice establishment, stopped the game of the French territory concern



PREMIER M. CLEMENCEAU.

at Monte Carlo and gave out that he would apply laws against public gaming generally, says a writer in the Pittsburgh Gazette.

If I speak of the Americans, and Mr. Draper in particular, it will be not to bury them, but praise them in this that, first in Paris, they admitted ladies and transformed dry gambling shops to bowers of beauty. The Americans enjoyed a reputation for large handedness and even fairness. Rich players may have lost large sums to them, but the queer Transatlantics were incapable of robbing women. Who were grateful yet suave Mr. Draper was the first to go on M. Clemenceau's "administrative order"—exiled in a night.

The "club" rent runs from \$5,000 up a large apartment, well situated, high ceiling, gaming hall, short-cards room, conversation, reading, smoking and restaurant rooms and comfortable kitchen. The croupier (or two) enjoys no salary, looks like a humble servant waiting on the game, shuffling cards and paying bets with his big paddle, is enormously important. When he is expert at the false shuffle, the false deal, building up with the paddle and the specialty of "outofage" he is allowed to keep half his tips and a percentage of the chips sticking to his fingers. Croupiers regularly grow rich and become proprietors of new clubs.

The cashier, a retired business man, must furnish from \$30,000 to \$100,000 liquid money, to lend out at usury and stake friends of the house when on the quiet they take a bank for the general good. "These gentlemen are here to pass 'du frot' ("tid-bits") is the phrase of introduction. He draws from 15 to 25 per cent of the "kitty," half of his usurious interest and a share of "frot" when he can get it.

Finally, when the "club" has a poorly paid secretary, a decorative confidence-inspiring and expensive president, a maitre-d'hotel, a good kitchen to draw players by delightful meals at quarter price; when you count the servants, the heating and lighting, the Government tax of \$4 per member and \$10 or \$15 worth of club-taxed cards per day, it is calculated that the "kitty," which scarcely runs higher than \$300 per day in the best season—an annual salary for the proprietor from an average deficit.

M. Clemenceau, as Minister of the Interior, has had these figures all presented to him, with the harm these clubs are doing to the Paris population. The great closed clubs—that which membership is so difficult, to it is a brevet of honor—are forced to charge high annual dues, \$200 or \$300 from each member, to meet their expenses. In the "open" clubs the member who proposes to pay dues is looked on as an idiot. Indeed, the notice to pay up is a polite request for resignation, sent to no-good members, who neither play nor bring in new players. Therefore M. Clemenceau is convinced that they must have some occult resources, and that the slick introduction of pre-arranged "sequences" (cold deck) and packs with sorted backs by a croupier and three or four "combinards," with or without the aid of the great specialist, M. Laratasse, can be the only explanation of the mystery.

The keeping of gambling houses is absolutely prohibited; nevertheless, the Minister of the Interior, by virtue of a decree of June 13, 1906 considered still in vigor, excuses the right to authorize in casinos of watering places certain games of hazard.

DOUBLE BARRELLED CANNON.

Only One Is at Athens, Ga.—Result of the First Test.

The only double barrelled cannon in the world is one of the historic curiosities of Athens, Ga.

There is a history of unique interest that goes along with this old cannon. Besides being the only double barrelled "shooting iron" of this kind ever invented, it was conceived with a peculiar idea by the inventor John Gilleland, a member of the Mitchell Thunderbolts, a local military company during the war. The Mitchell Thunderbolts was a company composed of men too old for active service in the field and was organized purely for home defence.

Mr. Gilleland, the inventor, believed that with a cannon of the double barrel pattern he could mow down Yankees by the hundreds. He had his cannon cast at the Athens Foundry, and when finished it was hauled out to the outskirts of the city, where a test was made. One test was entirely sufficient to demonstrate that the cannon was a rank failure.

A fifty foot chain with the ends attached to two cannon balls was the charge. These balls were rammed into the cannon good and hard. It was the inventor's idea that when the cannon was fired the chain would stretch taut and cut down everything within its length. When it was properly loaded it was touched off with great ceremony.

One of the balls got out a little ahead of the other and the devil and Tom Jones were to pay. It had a kind of circular motion, ploughed up about an acre of ground tore up a cornfield, mowed down saplings, and the chain broke, the two balls going in different directions. One of the balls killed a young cow in a distant field, while the other knocked down a chimney from a log cabin. The members of the Thunderbolts who went out to witness the test scattered as though the entire Yankee army had turned loose in that vicinity.

The one test was enough to convince the inventor that his double barrelled cannon was more disastrous to the men behind it than to the enemy in front. It was drawn back to the city and was never used again except to celebrate Democratic victories, the number of times for this purpose being rather limited except in State campaigns. Several years ago the old cannon disappeared from in front of the City Hall, and it was found in a junk shop, from which it was rescued and after being mounted was placed in the little park on College avenue, opposite the Federal building, where it now stands one of the most interesting relics of the civil war.

BUYING OLD FIDDLES.

How Some Fine Instruments Have Ben Picked Up Cheap.

Great numbers of fine old violins and violoncellos that come into the high class market of London are procured through the medium of advertisements inserted in obscure country papers, and especially those of ancient cathedral cities.

Of course, few of the fiddles thus obtained are veritable masterpieces, but a great many of them are fine examples of early English and foreign makers, and they are often bought for ridiculously small prices by a group of experts, who have brought the business to a lucrative system. Many a struggling family of long descent, in some out of the way part of the country, happens to see in the one county newspaper of the week that good prices are given for old fiddles, and some long forgotten instrument in a lumber room, or put away on a shelf, suddenly comes to mind.

Correspondence follows; the dealer sends a deposit in order that some fiddle spoken of may be sent to him and examined, and he usually replies that the instrument sent is dilapidated and but so generally, but that he is willing to give 30s. or £2 for it. In a great many cases the dealer is accepted off-hand, and in this way most of the finest fiddles extant of the second class come into the hands of dealers. Only lately a fiddle that came from a Shropshire farm at the price of £2 sold the same day to a West End dealer for nearly £100.

One of the most shrewd and respected of all these dealers was, until a year or two ago, a humble member of the orchestra of a London suburban theatre. He began to advertise in remote papers to the greatest limits of his scanty wages, and is now one of the most extensive and prosperous dealers in the trade.

Uses of Tupelo.

Tupelo, a timber which in its best grade closely resembles yellow poplar, is now being extensively cut for timber in the South and promises to become of great value in view of the growing scarcity of suitable wood for lumber. It appears that the wood is useful for a considerable variety of purposes, but "is not durable in contact with the ground, and requires much care in seasoning." Besides being largely used for packing boxes, Mr. Holroyd states that it has almost replaced cypress and pine in tramways.

The tree is found from southern Virginia to northern Florida and westward to Texas, Arkansas and Missouri, and is frequently associated with cypress.—Boston Post.

A WARFARE ON TRAMPS

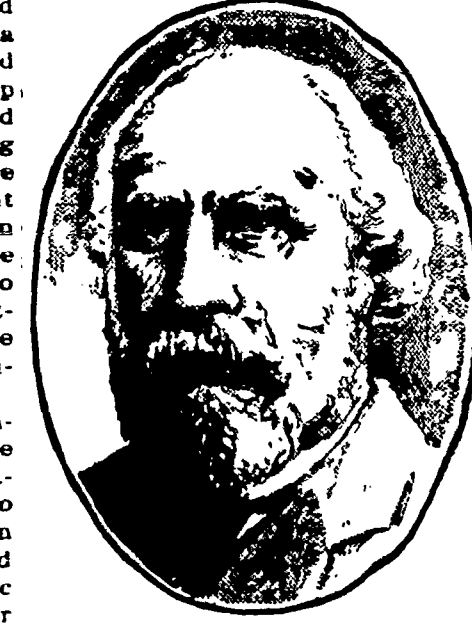
They Are Often Responsible for Wrecks.

MANY KILLED YEARLY

James J. Hill Declares Country Itself Is to Blame For Evil Which is Growing Rapidly—Over Twenty Three Thousand Killed by Trains in Four Years.

Officials of cities and States and the heads of departments of the great trunk lines were called upon as the result of a national conference of Charities and Corrections, held at Minneapolis, to stamp out vagrancy in the United States by abolishing the "side-door Pullman" and the railroad tramp, says the New York Herald.

Important facts and statistics on the subject were given in a paper by Dr. Orlando F. Lewis, of this city, whose wide experience in connection with the Charity Organization Society, in which he has had much to do with crippled and disabled railroad trespassers has led him to make the vagrancy of the rail a subject of exhaustive analysis and study. Some of the most convincing contributions to Dr. Lewis' paper are from the pen of James J. Hill, president of the Great



JAMES J. HILL.

Northern, who for many years has been a keen observer of conditions which sooner or later must claim the attention of the State, if not the national authorities.

"Vagrancy in the United States," said Dr. Lewis is introducing the subject, "is a national problem. Thus far its treatment has been almost local. Emphatic testimony from all parts of the country shows that often not even good palliative measures have been applied to vagrancy; with rare exceptions, far reaching plans of treatment are still to be evolved.

"Railroads representing more than half the total mileage operated in the United States and Canada testify, almost without exception to depredations, thieving, injuries, deaths, accidents to passengers or rolling stock, enormous aggregate costs to railroads or society by vagrants. The railroads attribute this vagrancy plague not to any inherent defect in our industrial system, but to unenforced or inadequate laws.

Dr. Lewis declares that the number of vagrants killed annually on American railroads exceeds the combined total of passengers and trainmen annually killed. From 1901 to 1905, inclusive, he has ascertained that 24,964 trespassers were slain and 25,236 maimed. From one-half to three-quarters of these trespassers were vagrants.

"Cost to railroads of vagrants killed and injured," continues the investigator, "is often considerable, and few railroads can give exact figures. Trains stop to pick up the injured and dying and bear them to hospitals, where the hospital and burial charges must often be guaranteed by the railroads, which state that they feel themselves bound not on legal but humanitarian grounds. Towns show much unwillingness to assume such expense.

"A number of suits have been successfully brought against the Illinois Central by vagrants who were thrown off trains in motion in the course of fights with train crews.

"Most railroads, and especially trunk lines, are much troubled by vagrants who steal rides, pilfer, rob stations, build fires in box cars, place obstructions on tracks, interfere with signals, stone trains and at times injure and even kill employees."

"Tramps, writes Mr. Hill, 'attempt to secrete themselves on every train at any risk. A considerable number of these are killed and injured each year. They get on and off trains while in motion, and some suffer in life and limb. Others fall off while asleep. It would be difficult to gather reliable statistics on this point because a large percentage of the tramps reported as killed on the railroads are really murdered.

"To attack vagrancy effectively the main principals of a consistent programme must be followed by all communities. During the last two years Massachusetts has waged an effective vagrancy campaign because the entire State has been made the unit of activity. In consequence the number of vagrants in Massachusetts has diminished remarkably.

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