

RIDER HAGGARD ON WORLD TOUR

Mission to Keep War Veterans on English Soil.

Sir Rider Haggard, who a quarter of a century ago was very much in the public eye as the author of "King Solomon's Mines" and other stories of adventure, has left England on a trip around the world with a mission from the Royal Colonial Institute to investigate the chances for empire building after the war.



the mother country and the overseas dominions into a vast confederacy. The effect of the movement would, of course, be to keep war-veterans from going to the United States or South American countries, where their status as imperial subjects would eventually be lost.

OF PRESIDENTIAL-TIMBER.

Elihu Root is Numbered Among the Foremost of Republican Possibilities. The recent speech of Elihu Root strongly advocating preparedness has echoed through the country and has



helped to make him one of the likeliest candidates for the presidential nomination by the Republican party. The former senator has reached his three score and ten, but he is still vigorous, both mentally and physically, and his name looms large in Republican calculations.

SIRENS AND SONS.

M. Briand, the French premier, never wears gloves. George W. Perkins believes in relaxing on Sunday and goes to bed that night at 8. John Redmond, the leader of the Irish party, is among the wealthiest representatives of the Emerald Isle in parliament.

Echoes of the War.

History of little nations in three reels "Brink, break, broke!"—Washington Post. In publication of debt is easily incurred, and yet indemnities are collected—Washington Star.

Tales of Cities.

Oakland, Cal. has a new shipbuilding plant, this being its third. The population of the city of Lanham, increased by 50,000 during the last year. The total population is now a little over 65,000.

Pert Personals.

Chow Chu Chi, the Chinese minister of agriculture, sounds like a pecker grower—Chicago News. Whether an Englishman desires further particulars about subjects of gloom, he can consult Rulysard-Killing—Washington Star.

Political Quips.

For the presidential bee it's summer all the year.—New York Sun. Perhaps you have noticed that it doesn't take much of a splutter to run for office—Philadelphia Telegraph.

PITH AND POINT.

Lots of men aren't quite so foolish as they look. They could not be. The bird with the brightest feathers doesn't always have the sweetest song. A Frenchman declares America lacks poets. She has many other good points.

Although the open face sneeze has been troubled by publicity, it still flourishes where the white light of knowledge has not entered. Shortage of dyestuffs causes some apprehension, but a nation can be peaceful and prosperous in spite of interference with its color scheme.

Poisonous Flowers.

Flowers of the jonquil, white hyacinth and snowdrop all possess a poisonous nature; the narcissus being also particularly deadly, so much indeed that to chew a small sap of one of the bulbs may result fatally, while the juice of the leaves is an emetic. The berries of the yew have killed many persons, and it is known nowadays that it is not safe to eat many peach pits or cherry kernels at once. The lobellias are all dangerous.

Cutting Off Noses.

Rameses II. of Egypt cut off the nose of any person convicted of treason or arson. At this time, another Egyptian ruler, punished robbers in the same way. After each nose had been amputated back even with the bridge the culprit was sent to a colony of possessive felons, the place of banishment being known as Rhinocorn, from the nature of the punishment its colonists had undergone.

In England in 1671 Lord Coventry, then "great keeper of the British seal," had his nose cut off by order of the king because he had dared to ask some questions about an actress then playing at Drury Lane theater. A conscript who protested openly that he had been enrolled in the army of Frederick the Great in a fraudulent manner had his nose amputated by order of that sovereign, who spoke of the punishment as an "indelible mark on the front side of the face."

Uses of Bicarbonate of Soda.

Bicarbonate of soda should always be kept in an easily accessible place in the kitchen. Applied immediately to a burn and moistened it will relieve the pain. A pinch added to water, fruit or vegetables will make them more palatable, and less sugar will be needed. A quarter of a teaspoonful to two quarts of fruit, fresh, or to one pound of evaporated fruit. Fill new cooking utensils with cold water in which one teaspoonful of soda has been added and boil it. Then wash the utensils with good soap and water, dry, and they are ready for use. Bicarbonate of soda added to the water in which old vegetables are cooked will make them green and fresh. It will also make tender a tough piece of steaming meat. It will sweeten milk which is about to turn.—New York Sun.

Did as He Was Told.

One evening just as it was getting dark a laborer walked down the main street of the city. Coming to a poultry dealer's place, he stopped and gazed admiringly at the fowls and game displayed on the window slab. One turkey of about fifteen pounds weight took his fancy. After running his fingers through the coils in his trousers pockets a few times he decided on having that turkey. Picking it up he entered the shop. The shopman was very busy. "Just weigh this bird for me, will ye?" said he. "Why don't you take your bird somewhere else to be weighed?" snappily replied the poultryer without looking up. "Oh, I kin do that all right," he replied cheerfully, picking the bird up and walking out with it. London Tit-Bits.

Bukovina's Stormy History.

Bukovina, the Austro-Hungarian province, has undergone sundry political transitions. According to many Austrian authorities, it was wrested from Transylvania in the fifteenth century by Moldavia, but it not long before that formed an integral portion of the latter state, to which it belonged until it was ceded to Austria by the Turks in 1773. Bukovina, which means "Beech Land," abounds in woodland and mineral wealth and rears large numbers of cattle and horses. London Globe.

The Puzzle.

"I wonder how Plutuhub can afford an auto. Don't you?" "No, I don't wonder how he can afford an auto. I know he can't afford an auto. But how do gamblers like him manage to get hold of autos? That is what I'd like to know."—Louisville Courier Journal.

Shocking.

"They tell me Dulbis is in the hospital. What happened to him?" "Oh, he saw a piece of wire lying in the street and tried to pick it up." "Yes, and then?" "He discovered that the wire was busy."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Very Annoying.

The eldest daughter says she wishes dishes were made of rubber so they wouldn't rattle so when wax is washed from them and she has an early evening caller.—Florida Times Union.

National Nicknames.

Just as the British talk about John Bull, the French talk about Jean Crapaud and the Russians about Ivan Ivanovich. Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for it is better to be alone than in bad company.—Washington.

When Beethoven Played.

In that moment I could have sworn the pianist became a little black man with a lion's head and eyes that burned red. The brow was ponderous with brooding, and the lips were straight with suffering. The ill fitting coat was cut as once long ago coats were cut with a high collar-humpy about the shoulders; trousers too outside. Then I saw again the wild, tossed hair, the gloomy brows and eyes that burned beneath with strange fires, and as he played the white keys faded and the great black sweep of the concert grand and the huge heeled man stood quite alone, shaken by blasts of music. It were hot as passion, blither a salt tears, penetrating as the infinite stars. "Heavens," said some one at my elbow, "that is Beethoven!" Then the music stopped. I tell you it was still as morning, and a little swarthy man grinned and bowed without a hand to clap him for full ten deep breaths, and when it came, the harsh, long rush of clapping hands, it seemed that great golden things were being smashed and let fall down jarring to the earth. Exchange.

Spiraea Awaken Early.

Just as if it had an alarm clock to awaken it, the spiraea opens its eyes in the morning before its companions are stirring. It's one of the earliest risers among the flowers, and you'll find it often before the moon flower and other night bloomers have gone to bed. It grows by the edge of wet soil, often from three to ten feet high where it is called goat's beard. It's tiny, creamy flowers are born in gorgeous plumes. Its leaves are strongly veined and grow luxuriantly. Its seed-bears are very small and shining. The plant bears its plumes of flowers proudly and well it may, for it is a near relative of the aristocratic rose. But it's through its early rising habits that we know it best. Long before sunrise between the hours of 3 and 5 o'clock in the morning, it opens its petals. Naturally it gets sleepy before the other flowers, which have given the goat's beard the other common name of "go to bed at noon." Philadelphia North American.

Insect Travelers.

Ship arrivals are often responsible for the introduction of "quite new" species of insects to different lands. Banana bunches often hide poisonous reptiles and insects which travel long distances, only to bite or sting the hand of some receiver of fruit. Often they escape alive and breed their kind. Many venomous snakes have thus been introduced into lands where none existed before. Strange creatures have been imported on the blooms of orchids, and West Indian insects have traveled in Easter lily blossoms. Destructive moths migrate in fruit ships. Flying insects often follow ships. One curious case was that of a vessel from the tropics followed by a swarm of butterflies. Out of sight of the shore, they hid in the cabins and holds, emerging forty days later when the ship reached England. Thus originated quite a new species of butterfly in the British Isles.

Where Leap Year is Legal.

The best of the leap-year privilege for women appears to have a legal foundation, for many years ago the following law was passed: "It is statuted and ordained that during the reign of his most beloved Majesty George for 100 years, any woman who shall be born on the 29th day of February, shall be free to marry any man she likes, albeit he refuses to take her to his lawful wife, he shall be mulcted in ye sum one pound or less, as his estate may be except and avails if he can make it appear that he is betrothed to another woman he then shall be free." London Express.

Told Him How.

A minister who lives in a small town is noted for his sententiousness both in and out of the pulpit. As he was coming down the street one day a man accosted him with, "Sir, can you tell me how to find a sheriff's office?" "Yes, sir," was the ministerial reply. "Every time you catch a spendin' sin, and he walked on, leaving the astounded man gazin' after him." Harper's Magazine.

Empty Assurance.

"Boggins is always willing to apologize when you show him how he is wrong." "Yes, but he invariably apologizes in such a way as to open up the possibility of further controversy."—Washington Star.

Book Learning.

"Do you think we have too much book learning?" "There isn't any other kind. As soon as a man finds out anything worth knowing he proceeds immediately to write a book about it."—Washington Star.

Good Memory.

"Has your wife a good memory?" "Splendid. We've been married twenty years and she's still reminding me of all the promises I made when we were courting."—Detroit Free Press.

A Sign.

"Do you think that Boggins has any sense of humor?" "Why not? He told me yesterday that he enjoyed being alone with himself."—Judge.

Old Dutch Custom.

In many Dutch villages and towns he chief door of a house is never opened except on the occasion of a funeral or of a marriage.

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