

ODD RACE LIVES IN UNDERGROUND CAVES

Troglodytes of North Africa Antedate the Arabs.

London.—A strange people, living in holes in the ground, descendants of a race so far antedating the Arabs in North Africa that its origin is lost in antiquity were found by Horace D. Ashton, a fellow of the Royal Geographical society and a member of the Explorers' club, during his travels a year ago into the unfrequented localities of Africa a few hundred miles south of the Mediterranean coast.

"There are practically 30,000 of these cave dwellers," says Mr. Ashton in describing some of their peculiarities in the travel bulletin issued by the French government tourist office at 342 Madison avenue. "No doubt, 2,000 years ago they were living a pastoral life in tents at the foothills, but the armies of the Caesars, after conquering Carthage, swept south and menaced them so that they took refuge in the rocky hillsides, where they dug themselves in between layers of rock."

"Today most of them live just as the invaders left them, as these refuge caves solved a great problem in house construction in a place where there is practically no wood. Utilizing one stratum of hard rock as a floor and the one above as a ceiling, they dig chambers into the comparatively soft marl between, whose dimensions are about 20 feet long, 8 feet wide and with ceilings forming a perfect arch 8 feet high, the whole finished with a crude cement and then whitewashed."

No Furniture in Homes. Many of the houses, according to Mr. Ashton, contain several chambers, some opening from the main room, but often with independent entrances, except in the case of the harems, or women's quarters. Furniture is virtually absent. The bed is really a platform or shelf in the far end of the room, about three feet above the level of the floor. In only one house did Mr. Ashton see a table, and that was in the home of Sheikh Mohammed Lafat of Dulrat. He had a plain table, upon which were his papers and some photographs sent by former visitors.

Along the side walls of the occupied rooms are divans, upon which the occupants sit, as there are no chairs. In the women's quarters will be found looms and earthen bowls in which the native dishes are prepared. There are also many huge jars filled with olive oil, dates, figs and other staple foods. As the various towns are usually dug into the conical hills, composed of a succession of strata sometimes rising to a height of 1,000 feet, says Mr. Ashton, "the streets are arranged like terraces or huge steps, culminating in a citadel on the summit, which served as a storehouse and place of refuge in the frequent wars which prevailed until the coming of the pacifying French influence. Looking out from one of these citadels toward the opposite mountains, the view greatly resembles that of the region of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, as the erosion and coloring are much the same."

Cave Town of Matmata. "Sixty miles south of the cave town of Medenine is the strangest place of all, that of Matmata. While the inhabitants appear to be of similar race, their houses are great wells, which dot the valley as far as the eye can see. Surrounded on all sides by low mountains, on top of the loftiest of which can be seen their ancient fortresses and citadels, the valley of Matmata covers more than three square miles. It presents to the eye of the stranger a most astonishing sight, for the whole floor of the valley is dotted with the openings of huge circular wells, about 60 or 70 feet in diameter, open to the sky and about 30 feet deep.

"In all the valley there are only three buildings, and they have only recently been built by the French—a school, a mosque and a market. Yet in this valley are said to dwell more than 12,000 souls without a single tent or house as we know the word.

"Their strange subterranean homes are entered through dark, sloping tunnels, usually branching off into small staircases on the way, and opening finally into a circular courtyard, 30 feet below the level, around the vertical sides of which are dug the rooms of the occupants.

"Some of these dwellings are quite spacious, often consisting of a series of wells, entered from the first by connecting passages. These wells are the harems or dwellings of married sons or relatives. Here in Matmata there has sprung up of necessity a distinct code of etiquette, which forbids the approach of any one to the upper edge of one of these wells, for these people are all Moslems and are extremely fanatical, guarding very strictly their women from the gaze of all men."

Admits He Stole Kiss From Girl Nine Years Ago. Goshen, N. Y.—"Did you ever commit a crime?" asked Justice Steger when Joseph Pelemmer applied for naturalization.

CALIFORNIA PLANS TO SAVE FORESTS

More Than 700 Acres of Redwoods Replanted.

San Francisco.—California's redwood trees, made famous by many writers in song and story, are to be saved. Replanting of cutover forest land in the method which has been adopted to keep the giants of the forest safe from the ravages of commerce.

While individuals and groups throughout the state and nation have made the well-known welkin ring with pleas to save the redwoods, a report just made public by the California Redwood association is the first record of any great accomplishment. Since September, 1923, more than 700 acres have been replanted in redwoods by this association.

This means, the experts say, that lumbermen may cut their holdings over and over, replacing them with young trees or seedlings. Replanting of the cutover lands means the famous redwoods will never vanish, as has been feared.

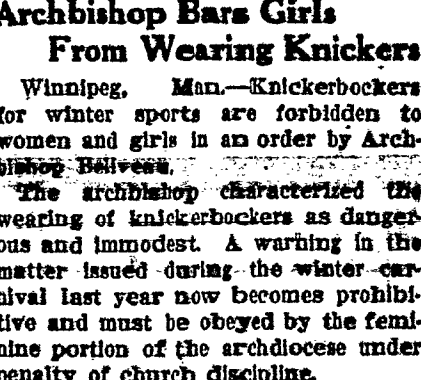
Next winter, the association announces, 3,000 acres will be replanted in redwood seedlings, 5,000 acres will be covered in the following year, and the succeeding winter 10,000 acres will be planted.

Explorers to Hunt for Eskimos Hidden in Ice

Christiana.—Although warned that no white man has ever returned alive from seeking two inland Eskimo tribes in Arctic Canada, Christian Leden, the Norwegian explorer who has made many trips into Arctic regions, insists that he will make such a search this year. Leden insists that he will come back safely and bring with him all the available information about these primitive tribes, their origins and their customs.

Leden, who recently returned to Norway after exploring the northeast coast of Canada and visiting six of the more accessible Eskimo tribes, will take a group of European scientists with him to map out uncharted Arctic lands. The expedition will last for several years. It will sail from New York or Boston early this summer for Hudson's bay. Leden will establish a head depot at the north end of the bay for geographical experts. On the east coast he will leave an archeologist and geologist in a depot to study relics of now extinct tribes, and on the west side a depot for an ethnological party. He himself will proceed further into the country to locate the inland tribes north of the bay.

Wonders of Radium Divulged at Clinic



When using radium a steel slab is used as a chest protector, as Miss Harriet Foster, nurse at the University of California hospital, is showing.

Archbishop Bars Girls From Wearing Knickers

Winnipeg, Man.—Knickers for winter sports are forbidden to women and girls in an order by Archbishop Bellemare. The archbishop characterized the wearing of knickerbockers as dangerous and immodest. A warning in the matter issued during the winter carnival last year now becomes prohibitive and must be obeyed by the feminine portion of the archdiocese under penalty of church discipline.

STUPENDOUS RUINS FOUND ON ISLAND

Japanese Unearth Relics of Long-Forgotten Race.

Leroku, Fiji Islands, via Honolulu.—Donald Richardson, a traveler who has just arrived here, tells a fascinating story of the search for the history of an ancient race by the Japanese in one of the islands taken over from Germany by Japan in the World war. "On the island of Leru, one of the Caroline group, where I spent several months," says Richardson, "a Japanese scientific expedition is studying the marvelous ruins of an ancient race and civilization which covers hundreds of acres. These ruins are said to far exceed in interest and possible importance those of any other part of the world. They possess all the mystery of the pyramids of Egypt and may have back of them the secret of a vast continent that now lies under the deep waters of the western Pacific."

Great Stone Walls. "I was told that enough has been discovered in these ruins to prove that they belonged to a race of people of which there is now no connecting knowledge. That the remains of one of the deserted cities upon Leru must, at one time, have had a population of more than 200,000, is apparent. The ruins consist of wide and deep canals, great stone walls, massive stone buildings with a multitude of rooms, earthworks that consist of mounds and long parallel embankments."

"So far as I could learn no exploration of the mounds has been made. In the buildings, some beautiful specimens of pottery, unlike any found in prehistoric ruins in other parts of the world, have been brought to light. Just what other relics or implements of the forgotten people have been discovered by the Japanese investigators I do not know.

"The deserted city with its network of canals must have been a Venice in its day. The ruins ran abruptly into the sea and how far they extended under water no one knows. The blocks of stone in the walls and buildings are of enormous size and have raised them to their present position must have required more than man power. Where the stone came from is a mystery—none of the kind is found in the islands. No more stupendous ruins are to be found anywhere."

"Bully" Hayes' Career. "It was in the island of Leru that 'Bully' Hayes, a notorious chief of the Pacific, came in the early '30s and sought to set up a little empire of his own. Hayes was a native of Cleveland, O., and his wild exploits in the waters of the antipodes and the more northern seas, bordering Japan and China, made him a terror to peaceful merchantmen and the natives of beach towns on scores of isolated islands.

"When Hayes landed with his crew on Leru there were big prizes put upon his head by the authorities, ranging all the way from Sydney to Shanghai. He had barely got his little island government going when a barque from Honolulu put into the harbor and its skipper, informed Hayes that a British warship was on its way to Leru to take him captive. The outlaw of the ocean gathered his motley crew on board and set sail. It was his last voyage. Way down in the South seas he was shot and killed by one of his own men."

Neck Chain Nets \$16,000 at Auction in New York

New York.—An emerald and diamond neck chain, festooned in platinum and gold, with five pear-shaped emerald drops and five large and many small diamonds, went to J. B. Cortright for \$16,000, at the third session of the sale of the art effects of Julian Le Roy White of Baltimore and others in the American Art association galleries. The session yielded \$61,963, making the total for the sale thus far \$105,156.

Anton Rudert, agent, paid \$10,000 for a string of 189 pearls. A three-strand pearl necklace went to A. H. Ivins for \$3,800.

An emerald and diamond necklace of the Louis XV period was sold to Chapp & Graham for \$800.

To Teach Bachelors How to Select Good Wives

Brooklyn, N. Y.—A class in wife-picking for bachelors has been organized in the Y. M. C. A. here. Carroll M. Gibney, director of education in the institution, will be the teacher. Mr. Gibney says: "Don't marry for sex attraction. Don't get off marrying until you are earning \$4,000 a year. Don't pay more than 20 per cent of your income for rent. Don't marry a woman who is not for your wife and a different one for yourself. Don't fail to run your household on a budget system."

Always Had Bad Luck With Pets

By CLARA DELAFIELD

I never had a long pet. To this day I wish my best black cat had been a dog. I was sure to die.

That was the only verse of poetry that Miss Dolly knew. She had come across it in a scrapbook once and treasured it in her mind.

For being past the age of attractive pets, to men and having been married, Dolly had an inordinate fondness for household pets.

Anything in which to lavish her unwanted affection. Dogs, cats, parrots—and the same fatally overlooked them all. Now she was raising with fearful indignation at the body of her canary, stretched out cold and limp upon the floor of his cage.

Something had happened to his little inmate, something inexplicable and unsuspected—and that was all that remained of Jim.

"I'll get a tabby," reflected Miss Dolly. "Cats don't die on you like birds do. It's a year since Tom was poisoned. I'll get a tabby, and keep her in the house, and she'll come to love me in time. A nice, big one—what's that under the bed?"

Miss Dolly, who was making up her room, started as she saw the crawling, scurrying and blinking cat. A purring sound came from beneath. Miss Dolly lifted up the blanket.

"Fussy, pussy!" she whispered. "A large and tawny form came from underneath the bed. Miss Dolly found herself looking into the great, staring orbs of a lion.

All was confusion down at the clinic. Dick, the oldest lion in captivity, had got away.

Dick had delighted generations of circus-goers who had thronged the tent in the eager expectation of seeing Signor Antonelli, his attendant, fall a victim to his fascinating mane. As a matter of fact, Dick was too old to want to do anything but sleep in the sunlight. He had to be prodded into his tricks. The trainer had to search a piece of meat about him in order to awaken Dick to any interest.

And somehow the cage had been left open, and Dick had stroked out and disappeared.

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Missionary's Long Hair Cut as He Goes to Prison

Walla Walla, Wash.—A young man and religion received a prison sentence for the theft of a horse. Carter was the last to be released, which means he is the only one left in the penitentiary.

Old Monitor Being Worked for Fuel

Manila.—The old monitor USS Albatross is being worked for fuel.

