

IN DARKEST AFRICA.

Desperate Battle Being Fought for a Slice of the Big Continent.

AMAZON WARRIORS A FACT.

A Campaign That Has Placed Dahomey at the Mercy of France.

COURAGE OF THE NATIVE FORCES.

Every Approach to Their Capital Resisted to the Utmost.

THE LEADER OF THE INVADING ARMY

It is over three months since France began her second war with Dahomey. Colonel Dodds led into the field nearly 4,000 soldiers, mostly Senegalese and Porto Novans. With only 125 miles between his camp on the coast and Abomey headquaters with the greatest caution, and in the last half of his journey the desperate enemy contested nearly every step of the way.



Colonel Dodds. The army, could go to Porto Novo and return with fresh supplies. Colonel Dodds began on August 17 to ascend the Wheme river. This is the first time the Wheme has been used as a highway by an invading army.

An Exploration of the River. It was not until 1875 that Father Baudin, of the French Mission, eluded the Dahomean guards and paddled about forty miles up the river. Since the natives became better acquainted with the whites the Wheme has been ascended by several officials and explorers, including Ballot and Skerithy.

His three little vessels, two of them gunboats, could not carry a third of Colonel Dodds' force and supplies. The cavalry horses and their riders, for the most part, ascended on the boats; heavy artillery wagons dragged by natives went in advance crossing a road through the jungle and forest along the river bank, for the greater part of the expedition. Two or three thousand porters were always on the march between strong detachments of soldiers carrying the supplies; and other large bands of carriers were tramping to and fro along the road thus made, replenishing the commissary department from the abundant market of Porto Novo.



Dahomey Soldier. ing column. The enemy did not appear in strong force, however, and were easily forced back. The Native Plan of Defense. Behanzin had, it is thought, planned his defense. He did not intend to offer serious battle until the French were far inland. If he then succeeded in defeating them he hoped to wipe them out before reinforcements could reach them or they could flee to the coast. It was not until Colonel Dodds had advanced about 50 miles up the river that he came within sight of the first earthworks which the enemy had built crossing the route along which the invader was advancing.

came to that city the more numerous they found the lines of defense. Behanzin knew just where to place these fortifications, for, as the whites were using the Wheme as a highway, he knew they would ascend it until they reached Tohu, whence the only fair road to the capital leaves the river; and it was necessary for the French to use this road because the forest is very dense between the river and Abomey, and the invaders could take no other route, save at great cost of time and energy.



THE KING AND HIS AMAZON GUARD. diers into action. The loss of the natives was heavy, for the French had the best of rifles and artillery. The Dahomeyans fought with the greatest courage, and at the battle of Dogba, where the King's brother led the charge, 30 of the women warriors were killed almost at the muzzle of the cannon. They had a large supply of ammunition, but wasted the most of it. Their guns, contrary to many reports, were of inferior quality, and they were slow in loading them. In firing they held the butt of the weapons under their arms and blazed away, most of their shots whizzing above the heads of the French forces.

All these battles occurred in the timber, and on two occasions the natives surprised the French early in the morning by rushing unheralded into the advancing lines. This is their favorite mode of attack. When possible they always endeavor to swarm in upon and overwhelm an enemy early in the day before he has stirred from camp. It was estimated on October 2 when Colonel Dodds left the river and began his overland march to Abomey that Behanzin had already lost a third of his fighting force. About 5,000 men and women had been killed or wounded. Behanzin had been compelled to keep a large force on the road between his advanced posts and the capital to replenish his food supplies. He had also found it necessary to return to the capital himself for a fortnight to quell a revolution that broke out in his absence. His uncle and elder brother were leaders of the new party; they fled to the North when the King with all his reserve troops suddenly appeared on the scene.

With the Utmost Desperation. All he could do was to fight with the utmost desperation for his throne and that of his children. He had no other recourse. He had no other recourse. He had no other recourse. He had no other recourse.

A Practically Continuous Battle. Colonel Dodds' forces were tired out with almost incessant fighting, and four miles from Canua he paused to give his troops a rest. A large number of his carriers were provided with hammocks and carried the wounded back over the hard-worn road and down the river to Porto Novo. A strong force of soldiers went with them as an escort. Dodds did not intend to advance again until 1,000 porters who were supposed to be on the road from Porto Novo with supplies reached him. Three days later the supplies came and then Colonel Dodds easily drove the enemy out of the sacred town where the bones of a long line of Dahomey's Kings are buried.

Behanzin now retired to the new lines of fortifications with which he had surrounded Abomey eight miles beyond Canua. One of our pictures shows the plan of the most important part of the city. About the middle of November Colonel Dodds began the siege of Abomey. He had found that in the last two or three battles, culminating with the capture of Canua, the resistance of the Dahomeyans had become less and less serious. They had time and again seen their comrades mowed down by grape shot at the muzzles of the French guns, and had become greatly disheartened. Behanzin had a few Krupp and cast-iron guns which were badly served by some of the more capable of the French artillery. It seemed evident, however, that the enemy would make a desperate attempt to save their cause by preventing the French from entering the capital. Colonel Dodds' plan was to invest the town of 12,000 people and wait until additional forces were sent to him from the coast before attempting aggressive measures. Caution is one of his most admirable characteristics; and having carried everything before him to the gates of the capital he did not intend to risk all in the final battles without a force adequate to insure his victory.

Progress of the Expedition. All through the campaign Dodds has been able, every week or so, to dispatch couriers to Porto Novo with dispatches for the French Government. From Porto Novo they were telegraphed to the coast. These dispatches have very concisely summed up the progress of the expedition. The couriers traveled with great rapidity and the dispatch from Canua was cabled to Paris four days after it was sent. This, however, is not quite so expeditious as the time made by Behanzin's runners who, stationed in relays along the road between Abomey and Whydah, have carried his messages to the coast in a single day. Details of the fighting have been received from French officers with the expedition. Colonel Dodds has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General for the great success he has achieved. His family for some generations have lived in Senegal and his grandfather married a Fulbe woman so that Colonel Dodds has a considerable admixture of native blood in his veins. He is 50 years old and has made a splendid record in the

MR. HARRISON TALKS

While Engaged in the Preparation of His Message to Congress.

NO CHANGE IN TARIFF VIEWS

Because of the Reverses Sustained in the Recent Election.

PREFERS PENCIL TO STENOGRAPHER

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.) WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—The President has almost completed his annual message to Congress. For two weeks he has been working on it as steadily as the other demands of public business would permit; and within the next week it will have been rounded off, read to the Cabinet, approved and will be ready to go to Congress. It will probably be sent to the Capitol in the hands of Assistant Private Secretary Frotten on Tuesday, the day following the Monday on which Congress meets.

The President has followed a new method of work in preparing his annual message this year; a fact which makes the work of preparation more interesting. This message is of particular interest, too, because it will be the last annual message which President Harrison will send to Congress. A gentleman who called at the White House found him with a little pad of "scratch paper" in front of him, a pencil in his hand, working out an idea. It has been the custom of the President in past years to write his messages to Congress in this way—sitting at his desk in his office at the White House or in his room, writing when his fancy seized him or when some idea was suggested to his mind.

Working as Never Before. The attitude suggested the annual message, and his visitor suggested it and asked the President if he was working on it. The President said: "I am doing something I have never done before. I am dictating my message to a stenographer this year. I find that the physical effort of writing on this pad of paper—and he picked up the pad and held it in his hand as he spoke—"is exhausting. It wears me out."

The President looked weary, as he spoke. There is not an unhealthy look in his face, but there lies in it to-day the expression of deep sorrow. It is seemed with wrinkles. The visitor noticed, too, that on the pad where the President had been writing the lines were not straight and the letters were straggling and ill-formed. Ordinarily the President's handwriting is clear, precise and neat as that of a woman. The great strain of the long days of Mrs. Harrison's last illness has told

MR. MEANTWELL AND THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY.

AFTER A NEW STATE.

Part of the Kansas People Want to Leave the Calamity Crowd.

THE WESTERN END ALL RIGHT, And the Voters of That Section Repudiate Simpson and Peffer.

A PROPOSED APPEAL TO CONGRESS

TOPEKA, Kan., Nov. 26.—A great surprise was sprung on the people of Kansas by the announcement that leading Republican politicians of Western Kansas have organized for the purpose of dividing the State. The plans are well laid and the matter will be urged on the Legislature the coming session. It is believed that body will be favorable to the scheme. The organization includes a strong committee of Democrats and Republicans, who will go to Washington early in the session and lobby the matter through, to the end that favorable action may be taken there as soon as the Kansas Legislature acts and prescribes the terms and bounds of the new State.

The movers in this matter set up that Western Kansas has always stood loyally by the Republican party, and beat back calamity because the success of that party in the State would affect the West more than any other section, for the reason that they are building and improving on borrowed money from the East. The calamity party in power in the State, all capital would be withdrawn, mortgages foreclosed when due, and the people's homes, that they have worked hard to save, would be sacrificed. They further cite that in 1890 the new counties of the West saved the Republican State ticket from defeat, and the credit of the State, by giving it a majority sufficient to overcome the Alliance majority in the Eastern end. They propose to divide the State on the west line of Jewell, Mitchell, Lincoln, Ellsworth, Rice, Reno, Kingman and Harper counties, making West Kansas 200 miles square. The vote of this part of the State at the recent election shows a Republican majority of 5,000, and if the scheme goes through they figure on a population sufficient for three Congressmen, who, they claim, will be Republican, no matter how the new State is divided.

W. E. Hopkins, member from Finney county and one of the originators of the scheme, is making his canvass for Speaker on this issue, and the further fact that the West saved the House to the Republi-

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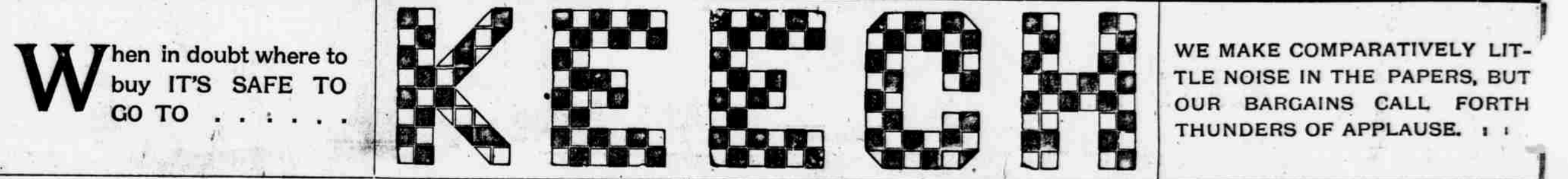
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A SUNDAY THOUGHT

When in doubt where to buy IT'S SAFE TO GO TO... WE MAKE COMPARATIVELY LITTLE NOISE IN THE PAPERS, BUT OUR BARGAINS CALL FORTH THUNDERS OF APPLAUSE.

BEDROOM SETS.

We know the value of room and are willing to make a sacrifice in price to get it at this time of year when an immense stock of Christmas goods is being unpacked. In our mammoth stock of Bedroom Sets you'll now find some splendid opportunities. They are all perfect, the styles are new and we have them in all desirable woods and finish.

We Sell for Cash Or We Give the Most Liberal Credit Terms Obtainable Anywhere.

You can get the goods you need at once and pay for them as you can spare it. Hundreds find this a great convenience. We don't charge an excessive price for the accommodation as some do.

Our Level Best—That's our way of getting hold of the public confidence. We do our best and it is fully appreciated.

THE HOLIDAY BAZAR

Is getting into shape fast. Most of the goods are unpacked and a truly elegant assortment we shall show you this season. "Too early," say you. Not a bit of it. Now's the nick of time to cast about, look at, compare, get a knowledge of what your money will buy, so that in the near future you may spend it judiciously.

AN ARTICLE OF FURNITURE

Makes an elegant and appropriate Christmas present, and is almost sure to be appreciated. We have added to the regular stock hundreds of artistic and beautiful pieces from those costing only a dollar or so up to the most costly made.

- BOOK CASES, CLOCKS, DESKS, BRONZES, PICTURES, ONYX TABLES, LAMPS, ROCKERS, SIDEBOARDS, LACE CURTAINS.

And scores of other useful and ornamental suitable for presents.

CARPETS

The old saw, "competition is the life of trade," has never been more forcibly illustrated than at the present time. Never in any previous season have we sold so many Carpets. We are not at all alarmed at your getting prices elsewhere, for if we cannot do better by you than others we can't honestly ask your patronage.

We know we can; we know the Carpet market thoroughly, and have implicit confidence in our ability to serve you as much to your advantage as our own. Our immense stock includes everything in the Carpet line that's worth handling. Late, pretty, striking styles that please the eye, and qualities that will more than satisfy. Pleasing prices.

Don't Let Go

Of your dollars until you have tested who sells the cheapest and where you can do the best. Don't trust to newspaper advertising. Come and see for yourselves. We can convince you of the truth of every claim we make, and when you see how well prepared we are to serve you you'll say the half has not been told.

923, 925, 927 KEECH 923, 925, 927 PENN AVENUE. We touch the sensitive pocket nerve of the public by our low range of prices on really reliable goods.