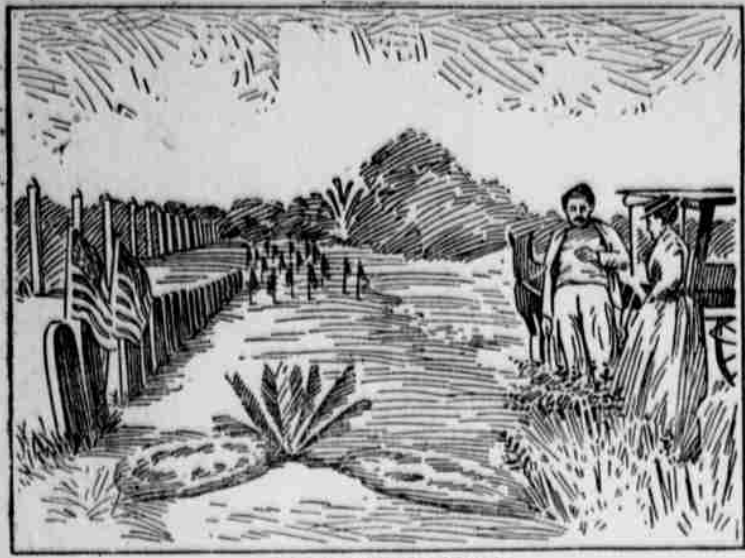


Where the Soldiers Who Die at Manila Are Buried.



"DITCH OF THE DEAD."

STRANGEST AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE THE DRUSES OF SYRIA.

Dr. Max Oppenheim, a distinguished European scientist and scholar, recently completed one of the most remarkable journeys ever undertaken in the East. He explored little known and out of the way parts of the Holy Land. He penetrated to Damascus, which is rarely visited, and made careful observations of the life of the people now living in that ancient city.

During his journey Dr. Oppenheim took a multitude of photographs showing the daily life of the people he visited. These have now been developed and printed in the New York Herald and they have excited much interest among scientific men in Germany who have learned of the results of Dr. Oppenheim's journey.

Dr. Oppenheim made his way with a private caravan from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. The attention of the world is fixed upon this wide domain, for here lies the land which Germany, England and Russia are competing with one another to possess by the building of railways. To gain any real information of the people inhabiting this country a man must be not merely an observer, but a linguist as well. He should understand Turkish, Arabic, Syriac and other Oriental tongues, and Dr. Oppenheim was well fitted for his task, after a residence in Egypt of several years.



A GROUP OF DRUSE WOMEN.

The American mission at Beyrout, says Dr. Oppenheim, seemed to exert the best and deepest influence upon the people. They are not prosperous, and as a result some ten thousand of the men emigrate every year.

Among the women, Dr. Oppenheim says, he found many remarkable for their beauty. Some European influ-



INNER COURT OF DAMASCUS DWELLING.

ences, especially French and German, are now being brought to bear for the development of agricultural interests and industrial arts, but with no great success as yet. Along the slopes of the Lebanon Mountains many of the wealthy merchants from Beyrout have

their summer residences. A hotel built on European models was opened here in 1897.

Thence the caravan went to Damascus, the oldest city in the world, and which has been inhabited for thirty-five hundred years. It is mentioned in the Tell Amarna letters found in Egypt, dating from 1500 B. C., and has been inhabited ever since, and no one knows for how long before that time. Here are ruins thousands of years old.

But the houses and life to-day in Damascus are most interesting and



ONE OF THE DRUSES

novel to the traveler from the West. They exhibit a luxury and comfort little dreamed of in Western lands as existing in Damascus to-day. All sorts of persons, says Dr. Oppenheim, are to be encountered on the streets of this ancient town, from the Christian women in their white garments to the Mo-



DRUSES AT DINNER.

ammedan inhabitants of the harem wrapped up to the eyes.

From Damascus Dr. Oppenheim set out with his caravan, consisting of ten persons besides his three camel drivers, two hostlers, two Syrian servants and an Armenian cook, a Bedouin and a pupil of the medical school at Beyrout. He made his way through the wastes of the desert, studying as he went the Druses, whom he had found in the Lebanon district and scattered east of the Jordan River.

These, he thinks, form probably the strangest nation in the world. The women are beautiful, the men are brave and intelligent. Their religion is very curious, being compounded of Mohammedanism mixed with some elements of Christianity. It is hard for any one to say precisely what the Druses do believe, but their life is a peculiarly simple and righteous one.

fled, although the dreams of former glories sometimes rouse them to strange flights of patriotic fervor. Lovers of Browning will be glad to learn something about that strange people utilized by him for one of his most dramatic poems.

The Germans assert, and have figures to prove, that the efforts of their railroad to Angora and the district south of it, Koniwah, have stimulated the people to renewed efforts for the acquirement of agricultural wealth. Dr. Oppenheim's trip shows that there is room for similar work all through Syria, and he has great hopes of the time when this country will be traversed by railways running from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf.

There is no doubt that the district east of the Jordan River is well adapted to the raising of wheat, and it is only because of the lack of facilities for transportation that this district has not already contributed a large proportion of this cereal to the markets of the Orient.

Driving the Carabao.

The American soldier is equal to all sorts of transportation problems; but the strangest one he has yet had to meet is presented by the ordinary beast of draught in the Philippine Islands, the water-buffalo. This animal is called the carabao in the Philippines, and the name (pronounced carrow) is retained by our soldiers; but the Philippine carabao does not differ greatly from the common buffalo of India, China and other Oriental countries.

R. H. Little, a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, says that the carabao is slower than a camel and

more obstinate than a mule, and has a hide "like the armor of a battleship." He "has but one hope, and that is to lie down in a puddle of water with just his nose and horns sticking out." In doing this he will, if he can, also give a bath to all the supplies loaded on the bull-cart which he is drawing.

Consequently a wild commotion rules along the wagon-train when it approaches a stream which has to be forded. The soldiers, who are walking behind the carts as guards, lay aside their rifles, and begin to belabor each animal and oblige him in three languages—English, Spanish and Tagalog. The Chinese drivers jump off the carts and also pound the poor carabao, yelling in Chinese.

As the middle of the stream is reached the excitement grows. The carabao begins to stretch his neck, and bend his knees, and grunt—sure signs that he intends to lie down.

"Hi there!" yell the soldiers. "Chop-chop! Pronto! Git out of that! Seega, blame you, seega, pronto, hi there!"

Possibly all this may get the carabao over the stream without his lying down, but this is unusual good fortune. To keep him in good trim, the



DRIVING THE CARABAO.

carabao must have a bath every few hours.

Often the desire to bathe will come upon him in the middle of the night, and he will break his rope and start out across country in search of water.

Where the State Eggs Go.

By saying state eggs is meant those that are not strictly fresh or that have been preserved for a very long time. Many of the eggs that belong to this class are used by bakers, not only for the yolks, but for the coloring matter. It is estimated that 40,000,000 are used by calico printers, and another 120,000,000 go to numerous photographic supply establishments, bookbinders, glove manufacturers and leather finishers. This estimate may be exaggerated somewhat, but it gives an idea of the large extent to which such eggs are used.

Pneumatic Coffee Pot.

A new appliance for coffee pots and other liquid dispensers has a false bottom, with a valve connecting to the main reservoir, which closes automatically when pressure is applied to an air bulb, connected with the bottom, forcing the liquid through the spout.

FARM TOPICS

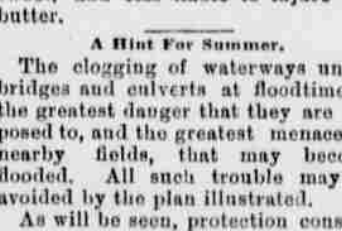
Saving Fertility.
A recent bulletin from the Vermont Experiment Station emphasizes the importance of saving the sources of fertility, especially nitrogen, on the farm, before buying commercial fertilizer. Nitrogen especially is very expensive and may easily be secured on the farm, since it is found in clover, beans and similar crops and is abundant in barnyard manure and in muck beds. When manure is not immediately applied to the land it should be protected from the weather, since leaching quickly lessens its value.

Value of Good Pasture.
An English writer tells us that in an experiment made there, one acre of rich pasture made a gain of 600 pounds of beef on steers fed there for six months. On cattle of same age and nearly same size, stall fed, it took 3500 pounds of clover hay, 1000 pounds corn and oil meal and 10,000 pounds of Swede turnips to make the same gain. The pasture was called good enough to have cut about three and a-half tons of hay if it had been mown, but even the pasture feed was cheap. Very few here would pasture a field as rich as that, and we are not sure it would be economy here, but we are very sure that it would be profitable to try to make some of the pastures grow more grass than they did.

An Advantage in Planting Legumes.
It is claimed that to get the very best results when planting leguminous crops they should be planted on rather poor soil. This is a big thing to the farmer who has a field, or a portion of a field, that is not up to the average of the farm, and it also is the best means of securing for the field an average fertility. Tests have shown that where such plants are planted on the kind of soil referred to that they take up large quantities of nitrogen and store it up in a manner that makes it available for plant food which will be used by the crops following the leguminous plant. If the soil is too fertile these plants will take up the nitrogen from the earth instead of from the air, and this would be of no benefit to the farmer.

Proper Churn For the Dairy.
When it becomes necessary to procure a new churn for the dairy, get one with a marked capacity at least one-half larger than the quantity of cream that is expected to be churned. We never saw a churn of any pattern that did not do its work better when one-half to two-thirds full than when more was put in it. We have some prejudice against those churns which have paddles or other arrangements inside, though the best one we ever used was built so, and we made good butter and salted it and worked it in the churn. But that was before we ever saw an oscillating churn or swing churn, and when we saw one of those we quickly decided that they were on the right principle, easier to handle, easier to keep clean and sweet, and less liable to injure the butter.

A Hint For Summer.
The clogging of waterways under bridges and culverts at floodtime is the greatest danger that they are exposed to, and the greatest menace to nearby fields, that may become flooded. All such trouble may be avoided by the plan illustrated. As will be seen, protection consists



in the placing of a well-braced post about six feet up stream from the opening under the bridge, or if the stream be wide, two or more. This will catch any driftwood, which if abundant will make a dam at a harmless place, the water flowing over, under and through the obstruction to the unobstructed mouth of the culvert. When the flood has subsided the rubbish may be more readily cleared away than if choked into the narrow waterway under the bridge.—M. G. Kains, in Farm and Fireside.

Ten Good Points For Poultrymen.
1. Give your fowls a dry, comfortable, roosting house.
2. Breed only from healthy, vigorous stock; never inbreed.
3. Feed a variety of wholesome food, but do not overfeed.
4. Let your hens scratch for a part of their living; exercise is essential.
5. Do not overlook the grit question; hens have no teeth.
6. Provide clean water for drinking; foul, stagnant water breeds disease.
7. Clean and disinfect your poultry houses and coops at least once a week; fowls have breathing organs.
8. Look out for lice; let utter destruction come upon them.
9. Avoid dampness, filth and cold draughts; they cause roup.
10. Be sure that you are right—then go ahead; persistent pushing in the right direction insures success.

The Gait of Soldiers.
It is computed that in marching soldiers take seventy-five steps per minute, in quick marching 108, and in charging 150 steps.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

SENATE.
PENSIONS GRANTED.

Struck Another Gusher in Tioga County—Historic Land Sold for Coking Purposes.

Pensions granted last week: John Redingshafer, Monongahela, \$6; David T. Wier, Johnstown, \$4; Charles Loeber, Monongahela, \$8; William J. Harris, California, \$10; Anthony Jaquette, Scottsdale, \$10; Joseph Hawke, Leechburg, \$10; Frederick Davis, California, \$6; Joseph Roan, Meadville, \$8; James C. Merriman, Ingram, \$12; Edward Thomas, West Elizabeth, \$8; Edward H. Sheets, Finleyville, \$10; Reymond Bush, Turtle Creek, \$6; William A. Taylor, Kittanning, \$8; Lavinia F. Rail, Greensburg, \$8; Matthew J. Welsh, Duquesne, \$8; Anthony Lawman, Coalport, \$8; William Ewing, Wampum, \$24; Brice Ramsey, Mt. Union, \$24; George W. Wright, Mercer, \$10; James P. Cline, Murrysville, \$12; John Hibernburgh, Fayette City, \$6; William C. Ramsey, Washington, \$10; William K. Wallis, Worthington, \$12; Jeremiah B. White, Fayetteville, \$8; Nancy M. Jack, Apollo, \$8; Agnes Watts, Brookville, \$8; Zerilda Armstrong, New Castle, \$8.

The Blossburg Oil Company has another gusher on the McNeil farm, at Gaines, Tioga county. The sand was tapped Friday and the well at once responded with a flow that filled a 50-barrel tank in an hour. The tools were run into the hole and the production increased by agitation to 110 barrels an hour. The well has been agitated several times since and is still spouting oil at the rate of 50 barrels an hour. It is located about 1,000 feet east of the first gusher drilled in by the Blossburg Company.

The railroad that is to be built from McConnellsburg to connect with the Baltimore & Ohio at Cherry Run, east of Cumberland, Md., and which will give Fulton county its first railroad facilities, will open up a rich and fertile section. It is estimated that in Fulton county there are 160,000 acres of timber land. There is on an average 50 tons of bark to the acre, and at least 50 railroad ties could be cut. This would make 8,000,000 tons of bark and the same number of ties. The quantity of iron ore is beyond estimation.

Joseph Laughrey has purchased from John Rankin 160 acres of fine coking coal on Washington Run, Franklin township, Fayette county, for \$65,000. The tract is the original Washington tract taken up by George Washington just before he went into the revolutionary war. On the land, which was known as "The Meadow," Washington erected a fine grist mill which Lawrence Washington and various hired men operated. This stands to-day. On the new tract Laughrey will erect 100 coke ovens and build a mining village.

Harry H. Campbell, of Freedom, better known as "Shorty" Campbell, has started on his second trip to the Alaska gold fields. He was accompanied by two other Freedom residents, William A. Korn and Samuel Spangler. They expect to locate at Cape Nome. Mr. Campbell has had considerable experience in the gold fields, being among the first to try their luck in the land of ice and snow. He returned home about a year ago, having made a good stake.

While on her way to the United Brethren Church Sunday morning, Mrs. John Ferguson, a widow of Hawkeye, about 65 years of age, was assaulted in a lane near Scottsdale by an Italian about 30 years old, who threatened her with a razor. A large posse captured the fellow at Overton, a mile from town. Had it not been for protection afforded by officers her son William would have wreaked vengeance upon the Italian on the streets.

On the side of the Laurel ridge, near Conemaugh furnace, there is now in rapid course of construction the necessary mechanical appliances for what is said, will be one of the largest and best equipped stone quarries in the United States. The company that is to operate the quarry is the Conemaugh Stone Company and is composed of the well-known railroad contractors, Drake & Stratton, and H. S. Kerbaugh.

Sixteen thoroughbred Guernsey cattle, the noted herd of Mr. P. G. Walker, of Cecil, Washington county, were slaughtered Tuesday at the Herra Island fertilizing works on account of tuberculosis. The herd was under suspicion, and by order of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board, Dr. James A. Waugh, of Pittsburg, visited Mr. Walker's farm and inspected the animals. His examination resulted in the 16 animals being condemned.

There is wild excitement in Conneville and Bullskin townships, Fayette county, because of the report that Contractor George A. Rowe had discovered oil in the test well being drilled. Operations have ceased and everybody is reticent. If the strike is even indicative of oil, the Conneville Oil and Gas Company will immediately sink other wells.

Zara Borkins, the seven-year-old daughter of John Buckley, of Monongahela, who was struck by a train on April 12 and who remained in a semi-conscious state for three weeks after the accident, is now in a fair way to recover.

The Indian Creek Coal and Railroad Co. has purchased 7,000 acres of coal and lumber land in Springfield township, Fayette county, the land lying on Indian Creek, and it is feared the mine water will pollute the domestic supply of Uniontown, when the mines are opened.

Miss Gretta Estes, of Green township, Crawford county, was severely bitten by him to the ground until help arrived a large shepherd dog, but succeeded in throwing down the brute and holding and the dog was killed. Hydrophobia is feared.

Two 25,000-barrel tanks, owned by the Eclipse Lubricating Oil Works at Franklin, one containing 16,000 barrels of benzine and the other a like amount of naphtha, were fired by lightning during a heavy storm, and the contents were partly destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company is making arrangements for the construction of a big dam in the mountain above Lilly, from which pipes will be laid to Gallitzin and Lilly, to supply water to the locomotives on their return over the mountain to avoid the trouble of previous summers.

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

Senate.

NINETY-SIXTH DAY.
By a close vote the Senate rejected the proposition to erect, without reference to the price at which the government could secure armor plate for its warships, an armor plate factory. The vote upon the direct provision was 22 to 24, and subsidiary amendments were rejected by about the same vote. When the committee's proposition was about to be voted upon a filibuster was organized, the quorum of the Senate was broken and the question is still in the air.

NINETY-SEVENTH DAY.
The Senate passed the "free homes" bill without a word of debate. Dr. Brosius showed that \$268,441,000 has been appropriated to date, a little more than 20 per cent, having been presented by other than national banks. The general deficiency bill, carrying \$4,803,021, passed the House.

The Senate committee on interoceanic canals ordered a favorable report on the Nicaragua canal bill, which was passed by the House.

NINETY-EIGHTH DAY.
The House passed and sent to the Senate the last of the general appropriation bills, the military academy bill, and will be ready to adjourn as soon as the Senate disposes of those it has not passed and the two houses adjust the differences in conference.

The House river and harbor committee reported an emergency bill appropriate \$200,000, to carry on the work necessary. It contains a provision for work on the Davis Island dam and other dams in the Ohio and Allegheny rivers.

NINETY-NINTH DAY.
More than 1,000 veterans sailors and marines of the civil war have filed applications to the navy department to have removed the charges of desertion, which now stand against their names. This action was taken in anticipation of the bill extending indefinitely the provisions of the act of 1888, relative to "innocent desertions," becoming a law. The bill has passed first one House and then the other, but has just succeeded in passing both in one session. It now goes to the President.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST DAY.
Among the bills passed by the Senate were: To pay the estate of James Young, \$10,841 in full settlement of claims upon the United States for damages done by United States troops near Middleton, Pa., during 1863; granting a pension of \$100 a month to the widow of Gen. Lawton; a bill providing that all honorably discharged soldiers or marines, who saw service in the civil war, in the Spanish war or in the Philippine war, shall be given preference in civil service appointments, age or loss of limbs not being regarded as a disqualification.

PROBING PEOPLE.
Nearly the entire day in the Senate was devoted to the pneumatic service item in the postoffice appropriation bill. The matter went over without action. Senator Sewell, from the committee on military affairs, made a favorable report on the House bill appropriating annually \$1,000,000 for the purpose of providing arms and equipment for the militia of the various States.

It is stated that President Kruger's favorite hobby is gardening. The pictures of Sargent, the American artist, now monopolize attention at the British Royal Academy. Secretary Long is looking forward with pleasure to his summer vacation at his old home in Buckfield, Me. Ruyard Kipling thinks that, though short stories may be written in youth, the novel must be the work of maturity.

The Prince of Wales says he is happiest when he can spend a quiet evening at home with the princess and their children.

Speaker Henderson, who lost his left leg at the battle of Corinth, has a new artificial leg, with ankle and knee joints, and hopes to be able hereafter to dispense with his cane.

Herbert Spencer has passed the age of eighty, and though never a robust man, still keeps himself in good condition by the tonic of steady, intelligently-directed work.

Arthur Sewall, vice presidential candidate with Bryan in 1896, is reported to be in very poor health and to have been ordered by his doctor to go abroad for the summer.

The health of the young king of Spain will necessitate his leaving Madrid earlier than usual this year. Accompanied by the queen regent he will go to Covadonga in Asturias. General Sir George White has been decorated with the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order by the queen, in acknowledgment of his services during the siege of Ladysmith. This is the official designation of the British generals commanding in South Africa: "Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, P. C., K. P., G. C. B., G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., V. C., D. C. L., I. L. D." And yet he is the shortest general in the service.

William A. King, the successor in Congress of Roberts, of Utah, is like his predecessor, a Mormon, but he is not a polygamist. He is thirty-seven years old, and has been in politics for fifteen years. He has already served one term in Congress, and was well liked by his colleagues.

General Edward Moody McCook, one of "the fighting McCooks," has been compelled to enter the Soldiers' home at Yountville, Cal. He was the fifth and seventh governor of Colorado, and was more active in Kansas and territorial politics.

Pirates of the Philippines.
The Moros are born pirates. The sea seems more their home than the land. They fairly revel in the water, for wherever possible they build their houses in the sea, raising them on piles sunk in the shoal waters of the coast. This mode of building has been followed in all the Philippine islands, the houses, even if miles from the sea, being built on piles. It seems to suggest a time when the Malays were water-dwellers. In truth, a backward glance through time shows us the Malay sea-rovers setting out in their war-praus to conquer the multitude of islands in the South seas and haunting the coasts, so as to be ready to take to the water again at a moment's notice.