

Gun-Runners of the Persian Gulf

A GROWING MENACE TO
THE PEACE OF INDIA
BY TH. MANNERS HOWE



THE feeling is growing throughout the Indian army and Indian government circles that Britain is approaching a bitter campaign on the northwest frontier than has been seen in recent years. Not only are large sections of the tribesmen like the Mahsud Waziris and others exhibiting signs of increasing turbulence, but the frontier territories from one end to the other are already full of modern arms and ammunition, while more is pouring into them every day by every secluded track leading through Baluchistan and the Afghan hills.

In addition to this, the present Ameer, abandoning his father's policy, has allowed thousands of modern rifles manufactured in the arsenal at Kabul to reach the hands of his own tribesmen, and the probable co-operation of the latter in a frontier war against the Indian Raj may easily involve the British government with Afghanistan as well.

All this, as every Indian officer knows, is involved in the continuance of the persistent gun-running which is marking the growing war fever on the Indian northwest frontier through the Persian gulf. It is not too much to say that the peace and safety of India depend upon the suppression of this trade, and yet, owing chiefly to the paucity of British naval resources there, she can do little or nothing.

Muscat, at the entrance of the gulf, is the chief center of this nefarious traffic, which is carried on by Euro-

peans and, unhappily, by British merchants. The sultan, who is under British protection, derives a large revenue from it, but although negotiations with him for its prohibition might require diplomatic handling owing to his treaty obligations with at least one other power, it is the only effective means of avoiding the outpouring of blood and treasure on the Indian frontier.

At present the efforts of the British navy are handicapped by the fact that the hydrographical conditions of Muscat, as indeed of the whole littoral of the gulf, do not allow preventive ships to go very close to the coast. It is this fact which enables the gun-running dhows to escape the vigilance of British cruisers.

Thus the dhows which put out from Muscat with their contraband cargoes adopt the simple plan of hugging the coast within the shallow-water limits. If they are making for Kowet, which is the center of the gun trade for Mesopotamia and western Persia, they can proceed all the way in comparative safety, otherwise they sail just far enough to be in a position to make a dash for Jask or some other port on the Makran coast, where their cargoes are received for conveyance by caravan to Baluchistan or Afghanistan and the northwest frontier Khels.

The two most active firms engaged in this trade are owned by a Baluchi and a Frenchman. There are also in Muscat numerous small shops engaged in the trade, and numbers of the agents are "bantans" from India. Mysterious cargoes are also dropped overboard in the dead of night into swift-sailing dhows and got away to obscure places along the eastern coast. It will be impossible to check this growing peril to England's peace in India without a large number of small-draught patrol boats and an efficient coastguard on the Makran coast.

"No craft," says Mr. H. Warrington Smyth, in "Mass and Sall in Europe and Asia," "has played a greater part in the world's history than the dhow. The lateen yard is as much the emblem of the Faith as is the Crescent. The true baggara, baggara, or Arab dhow, the probable parent of all the lateen-rigged offspring, is now mostly to be met with in the Red sea and eastward to the Persian gulf, Karachi, Bombay, along the Malabar coast, and down the coast of Africa to Zanzibar, making its voyages with the fair wind of the mon-

The bird's-eye view shows the territory through which the contraband guns are run. In the foreground are the bare rocky hills surrounding Muscat, the capital of Oman, while to the right is the equally bare coast of Makran, from which gun-running routes lead inland to Afghanistan. Oman is an independent sultanate occupying the southeastern end of the peninsula of Arabia. It reaches along the Persian gulf, the gulf of Oman, and the Arabian sea from El Hasa to the Hadramaut region. The area is about 80,000 square miles. The region along the coast is very mountainous, rising in its highest peaks probably to about 10,000 feet. Behind the mountain chains the country gradually passes into the great desert of Arabia. The most favorable part of the country is in the central valleys, which are characterized by a temperate climate and rich vegetation. The chief products are dates, which constitute the main article of export, and other fruits. Pearls



and mother-of-pearl and fish are also of some commercial importance. The chief port is Muscat. It is situated between two hills and looks out to sea, as shown in the view of the Persian gulf accompanying this article.

The population of Oman is estimated at 1,500,000, and consists of several tribes of Arab origin, partly nomadic. The negro element is very numerous. Muscat was taken by the Portuguese in 1508 and remained in their hands until the middle of the seventeenth century, when the Arabs of the interior secured possession of it. The Imam or sultan of Muscat afterwards made extensive conquests in eastern Africa, including Zanzibar, Mombasa and Quiloa. Oman was in the first half of the nineteenth century, when the authority of the Imam or sultan extended over the Persian territories of Laristan and Moegistan, the islands of Bender Abbas, part of the coast of Baluchistan, and the long strip of African coastland including Zanzibar, Mombasa and Quiloa, together with the island of Socotra. The present ruling family originated in Yemen and was first established in the Imamate in the person of Ahmed Ibn Said in 1741. The rise of the Wahabi power in Nedjed resulted in considerable loss of territory. In 1856, on the death of Sultan Said, his possessions were divided between his two sons, one receiving the African territories and the other Muscat, with the Persian possessions. These last were lost in 1875. Sultan Thuwani, who succeeded in Muscat, was assassinated in 1866 by his son Selim, who reigned but a short time, and was driven out by his uncle, Seyyid Faisal Ibn Turk. The power of the Imam is exercised very little beyond the capital, Muscat, the name of which is therefore probably better known in popular usage than that of the whole state.

As a rule, when camels are entrained they are loaded on open trucks, but on this occasion it was thought advisable to make use of closed cars. The "outouts" strongly objected to being loaded, but with a rope behind the hocks and a steady, persuasive strain on the nose rope they were eventually hauled or pushed in. Once in the car the camels were made to kneel down in the sand which had been spread on the floor, their knees were then tied so that it was impossible for them to straighten out their forelegs.

The cars were each loaded with six camels, three in each end, facing inward. The space in the middle was utilized for saddles and fodder for the journey. Two camelmen also traveled in each car. It may be remarked that Brahmins differ from most people in that they do not notice that the camel has a particularly offensive odor. The camels bubbled and protested while being loaded, but they soon settled down and began to eat the fodder provided for them. It took five hours to load the first train of 120 camels. Only one camel that had an unusually large hump could not be pushed through the door, and he was trussed like a chicken and carried bodily in by about 15 men.

Exact Knowledge Counts

Congressmen Will Listen Closest if the Speaker Is Familiar With His Subject.

In an interview Congressman Weeks related his experience on first entering congress. He said he soon realized that a member who was thoroughly familiar with even one subject could maintain the attention of his audience better than a congressman who could

talk fairly well on almost any subject. A measure came up involving the custom of "hazing" at Annapolis, and as he was a graduate, he was urged to say something in behalf of the bill. "You may not have as good a chance for five years to speak on a subject which you so thoroughly understand," said his colleague. He asked the speaker for an opportunity to state his views in five minutes. "When I rose

to make my little speech," said Mr. Weeks, "the members were in the usual state of disorder, talking, writing, lounging or coming in or going out. 'Mr. Speaker,' I said as loudly as I could, with the idea of making my voice heard above the din, 'I am a graduate of the Naval academy at Annapolis.' Before I got any further, to my surprise, the noise ceased. Men stopped and looked at me with attention, as though saying to themselves: 'Here is a man who knows whereof he speaks. We will listen to what in-

formation he may be able to give.' Since then," continued Mr. Weeks, "I have found that exact knowledge on any subject under discussion will always gain the attention of the house of representatives."

Shoe Salesman's Stool

A new shoe salesman's stool is provided with small mirrors on each side of the foot rest, to enable a customer to get side views of a shoe he is trying on and also to afford a degree of privacy.

Hints For Hostess

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS
for Those Planning Seasonable
Entertainments

For Labor Day.

Monday, the fifth of September, brings "Labor Day" and for most people it also brings the end of vacation days. At many resorts the season closes on this date and its "back to the mill" for the children and in consequence, for the grown ups, too. When I was wondering what to do to plan a little variety for entertainments on the occasion a dear woman who exclaimed "All days are Labor days for me," but I will tell you what a hostess I know is planning for a luncheon on that day.

She has provided the most bewitching sweeping caps for the guests to don before they go into the dining-room; the invitations say "Please come prepared to relate some item interesting to housekeepers, or tell of some labor saving device." The prizes for the best three items are, first, a new toaster for a gas stove; second, a set of bread knives; third, an improved lemon squeezer with a little china pitcher for the juice to match. The favors are all diminutive articles in household use—a woom broom, duster, wash-tub, pail, iron, etc. The hostess is going to take this opportunity of showing off her new electric equipment and several dishes are to be prepared at the table. On the place cards will be this quotation: "Learn to Labor and to Wait." The table centerpiece will be a huge copper bowl filled with saliva. This brilliant flower is lovely for tall decorations.

cils (of yellow) and the score cards which were decorated with sunflowers. There were five prizes, all very beautiful, being a white and gold plate, a cup and saucer, sugar and creamer, and a compute in glass with gilt decorations. Refreshments were served on the card tables and consisted of orange ice in tall glasses, the stems twined with asparagus ferns; the cakes were card shaped, iced in white with the "spots" in yellow. The bon-bons were orange and lemon quarters, glacé. There were two hostesses who wore charming gowns of yellow. During the games glasses of lemonade containing slices of orange were passed on glass trays.

MADAME MERRIL

TRANCES OF FASHION

The hat with the big broad-spreading ribbon bow is quite popular. One of the prettiest novelties of the season is the hatpin of Irish crochet to be worn with the dainty summer hat. Cabochons for the evening are of mousseline de soie shirred and trimmed with rosettes of old gold or silver tissue. Even foulard parasols are veiled with plain colored chiffon with effects that are just as good as those secured in gowns.

A Persian belt adds a smart touch to the frock of black—or old and dark blue serge and natural colored linen or pongee. Smart, indeed, are the all-linen hats in most picturesque shapes. They are usually trimmed with loops or bows of soft ribbon. Pumps are fashionable in one form or another in kid, suede and patent leather. The stiff pump bow is seen and the string bow also. The pulley belt is among the new belts. It is made of elastic, finished at each end with a covered ring and fastened with a ribbon bow.

For the Child

Sunbonnet of Pink Gingham with White Lace Edge on the Frill, and Crown Buttoned on with White Pearl Buttons. Shade Hat of White Linen Embroidered in Light Blue, with Veil. Insertion and Bow of Blue Ribbon.



HINTS TO MOTHERS.

Greatest Care Necessary in Fitting Shoes—Cashmere Coats for Babies.

Fine twilled white pique is one of the leading materials for the small boy's best suit. Quaint little frocks of old-fashioned figured lawns and dimities are made for tiny girls to wear on very hot days, as these materials are cooler than gingham or percale. Many minutes spent in darning stockings might be saved by the busy mother if the wee ones wore the knee protectors which are easily adjusted, comfortable to wear, and come in three materials—black jersey cloth, black leather and tan leather. The drying frames for children's "undies" are an excellent invention, as they prevent the little garments from shrinking and they dry in shape, which makes them easier to put on. Even in the summer a very small babe needs a warm coat when he goes for his morning airing. A material that is very light weight, but just

warm enough to give the necessary protection is the thing to get, and soft white cashmere answers admirably. The coats are usually made slightly flared on to a yoke, with long skirt, bishop sleeves and a cape, prettily embroidered in white and scalloped on the edge. Sometimes the coat, or just the cape, is lined with white, pink or blue china silk. The importance of having the children's shoes carefully and wisely fitted cannot be overestimated. The idea that any shoe will do so long as it is about the right size is far too prevalent. Children's feet often need individual attention, and many of the foot ills so common among grown-ups might have been avoided had the feet been properly looked after in the early stages of childhood. The leather in children's shoes should be soft and pliable, for at night many are the aching, tired little feet that have trotted about all day in shoes of harsh, stiff leather used in cheap shoes.

ABOUT SUMMER WORKBAGS

How Filet Insertion and Bargain Squares May Be Easily Put to Good Service.

Are you looking ruefully over the filet insertion and squares that you bought last fall as a bargain because it is no longer fashionable for gowns? Instead of putting it away for the wheel to turn fileward again, convert your lace into summer workbags. What is left will do for pillowcases. Make an oblong bag, 10 by 8 inches, of white Paris muslin or handkerchief linen. In the center of each side put a filet square and around it embroider an eyelet vine or wreath. Two inches from top make a half-inch casing, through which is run a white cotton cord. Let the frill be open on each seam and edge with narrow filet edging down to casing; or a mitered heading of lace or insertion can be set on above casing. Line the bag with white or colored satin. This should be made separate and hand-stitched to inside of bag just

below the casing, unless it is a washable silk.

Variations of this bag are easily made according to your filet. If you have ten squares or medallions, set one in center and one in each corner, filling in the spaces with designs in satin stitch and eyelet embroidery.

For another bag use strips of filet insertion with spaces of swiss or linen half the width of insertion between. The strips may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, or form a series of oblongs, each getting smaller. Keep the insertion on outside edge and embroider the narrow strips of the material with dots, detached flowers, in eyelets or both combined. Instead of handwork the insertion can be combined with embroidered batiste or dotted swiss. Sometimes these dots can be worked solid with a colored cotton, the original dot serving as padding. The entire bag can be made of the filet by using strips of insertion and medallions. These can be overlaid together, joined by fagoting or the edges can be connected by a chain or braid stitch in heavy white cotton.

MEAN.



Willie—we were playing insurance company at school today and the boys treated me mean. Mama—How? Willie—I was the president of the company, and before I could resign they fired me.

KEEP BABY'S SKIN CLEAR

Few parents realize how many estimable lives have been embittered and social and business success prevented by serious skin affections which so often result from the neglect of minor eruptions in infancy and childhood. With but a little care and the use of the proper emollients, baby's skin and hair may be preserved, purified and beautified, minor eruptions prevented from becoming chronic and torturing, disfiguring rashes, itchings, irritations and chafings dispelled. To this end, nothing is so pure, so sweet, so speedily effective as the constant use of Cuticura Soap, assisted, when necessary, by Cuticura Ointment. Send to Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole proprietors, Boston, for their free 32-page Cuticura Book, telling all about the care and treatment of the skin.

Thinking of Certain Lectures. Mrs. Peck—I see the Maine Agricultural college proposes to establish lectures especially for country pastors. Mr. Peck—What's the matter, ain't none of the parsons up there married?

Real Modesty. "An actor should be modest, and most actors are," said James K. Hackstitt at a luncheon in Pittsburg. "But I know a young actor who, at the beginning of his career, carried modesty almost too far." "This young man inserted in all the drama papers a want advertisement that said: 'Engagement wanted—small part such as dead body or outside about preferred.'"

He Had No Eye for Color. There came to the home of a negro in Tennessee an addition to the family in the shape of triplets. The proud father hailed the first man who came along the road and asked him in to see them. The man, who was an Irishman, seemed greatly interested in the infants as he looked them over, lying in a row before him. "What does yo' think?" asked the parent. "Waul"—pointing to the one in the middle—"I think I'd save that one"—everybody's Magazine.

Tuberculosis in the Prisons. The fact that 100,000 prisoners are discharged from the jails and prisons of the country annually, and that from 10 to 15 per cent. of them have tuberculosis, makes the problem of providing special places for their treatment while they are confined a serious one. So important is the problem that the Prison Association of New York in cooperation with the State Charities Aid Association, is preparing to inaugurate a special campaign for the prevention of tuberculosis in the penal institutions of the state, and will seek to enlist the co-operation of all prison physicians and anti-tuberculosis societies in this work.

Sign of Recovery. "If when the devil is sick a monk he will be," said Rose Stahl sagely, "then the devil gets well in double quick time. Witness that young 'divil' with the ladies,' my kid cousin. Last winter he was ill, so ill he didn't have any sense of humor left nor any sense either. I was staying at the same hotel, and when I went in to look after him he virtuously remarked that his room was no place for a 'Chorus Lady' and promptly showed me out. (A few years ago I spanked that kid.) Then he got scared and sent for a doctor and the doctor sent for a trained nurse. For several days I got bulletins of his progress from the chambermaid. The fourth morning she set my mind completely at rest. "'Sure, ma'am,' said Maggie, 'an' I think he do be gettin' along very well. The nurse was sittin' on his lap this mornin'!"

Right food is a basis for right living. There's only one disease, Says an eminent writer—"Wrong living." "And but one cure—"Right living." Right food is supplied by

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It contains the vital Body and brain-building Elements of wheat and barley—Most important of which is The Potassium Phosphate, Crown in the Grain For rebuilding tissues Broken down by daily use. Folks who use Grape-Nuts Know this—they feel it. "There's a Reason" Read "The Road to Wellville." Found in packages.