### Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Sixth Page.)

to speak of. The largest steamers do not call there and the chief business is done by native sailing vessels, which come in to buy birds' nests to sell to the Chinese for soup, also tortoise shell and wax, sandal wood and cinnamon.

The natives wear sarongs like the Java-They are taller than them and more built. They are darker than the and have frizzly hair, which is wavy and woolly. They file their to a point.

they are pagans, worshiping the earth. am told they do not cultivate the earth be ause they consider it holy, and that they only dig for water at times of drouth. when they make holes in the river beds. Along the coast there are some Mohammedans and a few Roman Catholics. There are two Dutch Catholic mission stations

the island, but, as a rule, little mission ork has been done. This is so throughout the whole Dutch East Indies. The Dutch government does not encourage missionaries and I doubt whether any American missionaries would be permitted to settle in any of the Asiatic possessions of Holand with a view to Christianizing the seople.

Sailing on westward from Flores, wa bassed by volcanic islands until we saw Sumbawa, the land of fire. This island is bigger than Jamaica, and it has many volcanoes, active and dormant. It has one whose crater is more than seven miles wide and so big that you could drop the city of Washington in it and lose it. The crater was caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora in 1815, when the whole apex of the mountain, a mass higher and thicker than all Mount Washington, was blown up into the air. Tambora was then 13,000 feet high and 8,000 feet of it was sent skyward. The explosion was so great that it was heard in Sumatra, 1,000 miles away, and also on the island of Ternate, 900 miles in the opposite direction. That was a sample they would quickly understand that he eye and they were packed away for the of old Mother Earth's fireworks in this part of the world. She is always spitting for'h fire and flame. I can see the smoke arising from several peaks here at Soerbaia and for many months I have been in sight of volcanoes, living and dead.

The eruption of Tambora was among the greatest ever known. Sea captains tell me that the ocean for miles about was covered ashes on the sea that the ships had trouble in making their way through them, and up into the air and carried miles. The their lives. of eighteen feet and there it is to this day. At present there is no evidence of fire about

The island of Sumbawa is ruled by the Dutch through the natives. There are two nished gold and said: towns, each of which has about 5,000 peo- "Oh, rajah, much p pony and almost every native rides, carry- Lembok may escape the plague." ing a spear with him. He keeps his weapon with him when at work in the fields.

### How the Rajah Took the Census.

sions. It has been settled for thousands of years, but it has been so shut off from the rest of the world that its natives are about the same as the Javanese were when the Dutch first came. Many of them are still Hindoos in religion, and they are divided pretty well into castes. Every now and then a widow is burned on the funeral pyre of her husband, and the natives have other old Hindoo customs.

The Dutch govern Lombok just as they do Java, and the taxes are now collected by the native officials with the assistance according to Alfred Russell Wallace, an natives pay up. All taxes were collected in rice, every village giving so much, according to the number of its inhabitants. The tax was light, but the island was se thickly populated that the rajah should have had enough for himself and all his officials. He had, however, thousands of oles through whom the taxes passed, and after a time he found his revenues steadily falling. Reports were sent in from one district that the people were sick and could net pay, from another that the crops had fallen off, and from others that the volcanoes had destroyed the lands. At the same time it was observed that the nobles were better dressed than ever and that many were wearing gold and diamonds.

The rajah suspected something wrong. He looked over his receipts and found, according to reports, that the population of the island had fallen off. He should have



THE RAJAH AND HIS OFFICERS

the people knowing it.

### Consulted the Great Spirit.

He thought the matter over and at last evolved the following plan of action: He sent out word to all his chiefs, priests and with floating timber. There was so much princes to come to his capital. Upon their arrival he told them that he had had a vision in which the spirit of the fire mounashes so filled the air that it was pitch dark tain had come to him and directed him to the daytime long after the explosion ascend the volcano, when it would again away off here in Java, hundreds of miles to appear to him in the flesh and give him a the westward. The whirlwinds were ter- communication of great importance to the rible. They tore up the largest trees by the people. He said that the chiefs must go roots. Men, horses and cattle were lifted with him almost to the top and that every village must furnish men to clear the roads population about the volcano was destroyed and build bridges. This was done and with and altogether 70,000 of the natives lost great ceremony his royal highness made There was a town lying at the journey, while the people waited and the foot of the mountain, on the edge of wondered. As they neared the top of the the sea. When the top blew off this town mountain the rajab ordered all to halt and sank, the sea water covered it to the depth he went on alone to the extinct crater. He remained there a day and a night and then came back looking very grave. He this volcano. It made one big blaze and said that he had had a communication, but then went out. The jungle has since grown would not tell what it was. He said over the streams of lava and the crater is nothing until he had reached his capital, now a mass of green, with ragged green when he assembled the chiefs, princes and priests and told them how the Great Spirit had appeared to him with a face like bur-

"Oh, rajah, much plague and sickness ple, and, in addition, about 140,000 living in and fevers are coming upon all the earth, villages. The people are not unlike our upon men, upon horses and upon cattle, but They have two sultans and many as you and your people have obeyed me tribal chiefs. They are farmers and pony and come to my great mountain I will raisers. Nearly every man has his own teach you how you and all the people of

The nobles were terrified, but they waited to hear the method of their salvation. After a short silence the rajah told there Shortly after leaving Sumbawa we came that the Great Spirit had commanded that to the island of Lombok. This is one of twelve sacred krises or swords be made the most interesting of the Dutch possessand that to make them every village and every district must send a bundle of needles, one needle for every head in the And when any grievous disease village. appeared in any village one of the sacred krises should be sent there and if every house in that village had sent the right number of needles the disease would immediately cease. But if not the kris would be of no avail and the people would die. Very Superstitious.

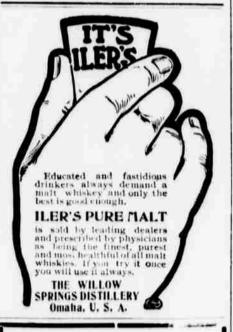
The natives of Lombok were very superstitious. The nobles believed in their ra-They sent word out to their villages of the Hollanders. At one time in the past, and all made haste to collect the needles with the greatest accuracy, for they feared explorer who spent some time in Lombok, that if one were wanting the whole village the rajah who was then supreme in the would suffer. One by one the head men country had great trouble in making the of the villages brought in their needles.



so much rice from each man, woman and The rajah received them with his own child, and lo! there were not half as many hands and marked the name of the village on the Island as during his father's time, and district on each bundle and laid them He wanted to take a new cersus, with the away in a campbar wood chest. When hope of increasing his re-enue, but he they were all in the rajah ordered the knew that if he asked his officers for it krises to be made from them under his own was after their stealings and the number time of the plague. Soon after this the turned in would just be equal to the collection of taxes occurred. To those vilamount of rice he got last year, so that if lages who paid almost the full tax the he had a census taken it must be without rajah said nothing, but those who paid cely a half or a fourth of what they should he gave warning, saying:

"The needles from your village are many more than from such another village, yet your taxes are much less than theirs. There must be a mistake. Go back and see who has not paid his taxes."

They did so and the taxes were at once increased, for according to law the rajah could put to death those who did not pay And so the rajah became rich. He increased his so'diers and gave gold and jewels to his wife. He kept the krises and if sickness appeared in the village he sent one to it. Then if the sickness went away the kris was supposed to have healed it and the head men told the rajah of its miraculous power. If it did not go away every one was convinced that there must have been a mistake in the number of needles sent from that village and the people thought the fault was their own, FRANK G. CARPENTER.



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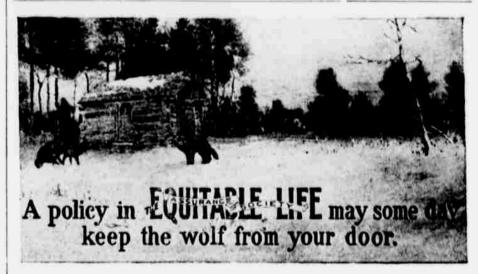
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