

## THE KURDS ARE REVOLTING AGAIN

Have Figured in Wars for Ages Past and are Yet; Fought Greeks Centuries Ago; Men May Have Four Wives Under Moslem Law

The Kurds are revolting again. A Turkish newspaperman perhaps would change the word "again" in that sentence to "yet."

Nearly 3000 years ago, outlying Assyrian settlements were harassed by marauding bands of Kurds and in the fifth century B. C., the tribesmen attempted to annihilate Xenophon and his 10,000 retreating Greeks by rolling stones from high cliffs along the line of march," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C. headquarters of the National Geographic Society. "In the meantime, the Armenians, who entered Kurd territory were either massacred or driven from the country.

"In spite of exciting events in the fighting history of the Kurds, the tribesmen were almost unknown outside the Near East before the World war.

"When the delegation of Kurds appeared at the peace conference in 1919, newspapermen did not know who the sunburnt tribesmen might be. When their identity was revealed the Kurds went on the front pages and frequently have been there since.

"Four years ago the tribesmen revolted in an attempt to set up their own government, but Mustapha Kemal's forces subdued them. The scrapping of the Caliphate at Constantinople aroused them and nearly every change in old Moslem customs has irritated them. Revolt after revolt has been quelled but as soon as the Kurd replenishes his forces and supplies, he is ready to attack them.

"Most of the 2,000,000 Kurds in the Near East inhabit the eastern areas of Turkey, but tribes also are scattered over the northern part of Iraq and western Persia. Neither the Turks nor any other people has influenced the tribesmen. Now and then a Kurd will light his cigarette with a patent lighter instead of the old flint stone he once carried, and a few other modern devices have crept into his mountain village, but the close tribal life maintains the old racial customs.

"The Kurd farmers of the Iraq In plains are more prosperous than the tribesmen of the hill country. Travelers climb the trails of Kurdistan or miles without seeing a village. When one does appear, it is usually situated in a well protected spot. Houses are placed without regard to building line and a birds-eye view of a village reveals a jumble of mud and stone structures.

"The peasant's house is a one-room structure which might be mistaken for a stable. The tribesman reserves one side of his abode for his animals while his family occupies the other side. Kurds sit on the floor when they rest or eat, therefore they do not need tables or chairs.

"The tribal head or headman fares better. He has a house for his family and a guest house where he lives and entertains his guests. He is offended if a traveler does not drop in. Once the traveler has stopped, he must remain for dinner. The food is placed on the floor in the center of the diners. Should a guest stretch his legs toward another person, convey food to his mouth with his left hand, or fondle the dog, his host is offended. No knives and forks are to be found in the Kurd silver chest but if a guest has difficulty in feeding himself with his hands, a spoon will be handed to him. Few meals are served that do not include mast (curdled milk) the favorite dish of the Kurd. A little water mixed with the mast makes mastao, the Kurd 'national' drink. The tribesmen like vegetables, but seldom serve meat.

"Under Moslem law, the Kurd may take four wives. Wives are bought, so the peasant usually has only one. The chieftains take the full quota. Wives are priced according to their rank. The tribesmen can get a wife in exchange for a pony or goat, or one may cost the equivalent of \$2,500. The wedding entails a season of merrymaking in which the whole tribe joins, but it takes less than a minute to dissolve a union. The man simply says 'I divorce you' three times and the parties are free.

"To the foreigner, the Kurds seem to know little else than the 'art' of highway robbery. Many of the mountain tribesmen are adept thieves, but in the hills as well as the plains, many Kurds earn honest livings by farming and cattle raising. Kurds are pastoral people, seldom moving from their villages except to migrate to higher altitudes during

the summer for new pasturage. Now and then a whole tribe will move from a village. The tribesman takes his roof, the only valuable part of his house.

"Life is hard in the mountains but the family has time to play. In the summer camp the young tribesmen spend their leisure moments playin touch-last on horseback. Children play a sort of hockey, with crooked sticks and wood balls. Now and then the traveler will see a deck of cards in a tent but they are usually used by the children. Gambling is not indulged in by the tribesmen, who, after a hard day's work enjoy sitting outside their tents, smoking cigarettes."

### FARM BUILDING PLANS SUPPLIED BY COLLEGE

The North Carolina farmer who wishes to construct or remodel farm buildings on his place will find that blue prints made from plans designed by the agricultural engineers at State College are helpful and may eliminate many costly mistakes.

"We do not send our building plans directly to farmers indiscriminately because of the great cost involved but we do have them available through county agents of the extension service," says A. T. Holman, agricultural engineer. "We now have 188 building and equipment plans listed. These cover all kinds of farm buildings, including farm homes, barns of all kinds, self-feeders, poultry houses, hog houses, machinery sheds and others. Farmers who wish to take advantage of this service should consult with their county agents, decide on the kind of building desired and have the agent secure the needed plan."

Last year, Mr. Holman says his office supplied 969 such plans directly to farmers on county agent requests. An additional 600 printed plans for poultry houses were supplied and a number of charts and prints having to do with swine feeding work, installation of hydraulic rams, water systems and other special designs were made.

As a result of this activity, Mr. Holman finds that with the aid of farm agents, 122 new dwellings were constructed; 177 were remodeled; 43 septic tanks were installed; 203 barns built; 188 hog houses added; 718 poultry houses constructed; 87 silos built and 226 other buildings were erected from plans sup-

plied. This made a total of 1,764 buildings constructed and remodeled after plans designed by the agricultural engineers of the college.

**No Names.**—The schoolmaster had just met little Leslie, whom he very much wanted to see.

"I am writing to your father, my boy," began the schoolmaster. "Now, what is his Christian name?"

"Daddy," replied the small boy. "Ah, yes," the other smiled, "I know; but what does your mother call him?"

Leslie thought quickly for a moment or two, and then he looked up at the kindly face above him.

"She doesn't call him anything," he answered proudly, "she likes him."

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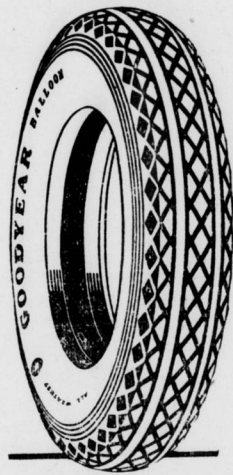
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