

SINDBAD'S BURDEN

He Will Carry it No More

We all remember that the stories of Sindbad the Sailor begin:

There was in the time of the Caliph Haroun-Al-Raschid, Prince of the Faithful, in the city of Bagdad, a man called Sindbad the Porter, a man in poor circumstances, who bore burdens for hire upon his head.

The Turkish Government has now issued a decree that this carrying of great loads is to cease. The hamal, as the human beast of burden was called, is now prohibited.

But to decree is one thing, to enforce the decree is another, for many streets in the old towns are not adapted for wheeled traffic or even for mules. The hamal may be "as strong as a Turk" and may be able to carry even four hundredweight, but the law thinks such a use of human beings is undignified, and so, in spite of the romance of the Sindbad stories, Sindbad the Porter must go.

In Constantinople alone there are ten thousand such porters, and the news sets us wondering what the Government is going to do for them if they may no longer carry burdens.

NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOURS AT SEA

A curious little incident happened in the North Sea the other day.

The London steamer Northern Firth drifted for 15 hours before the Newcastle steamer Lochside the Second was able to go to her assistance. A tow-line was thrown out, and after several mishaps the Newcastle steamer succeeded in towing the helpless vessel into the Tyne.

The odd thing is that Captain Naylor of the Northern Firth and Captain Graham of Lochside the Second are next-door neighbours.

Thomas Grindle of Patricroft, aged 83, has joined the Youth Hostels movement; he has climbed Snowdon 46 times since he first reached the top 67 years ago.

FROM GLUT TO FAMINE

The Way the World Should Go.

So great is the demand for iron and steel for peace and war purposes that the Government has made pig iron imports duty free, while reducing the duty on iron and steel products by half.

Free admission of pig iron will greatly help the iron and steel trades, and the manufacturers dependent on them. Yet not long since the world demand for iron and steel was so poor that many furnaces were blown out!

Taking America, Germany, France, and Britain together, the output of crude steel fell from 7,600,000 tons in 1929 to 2,400,000 tons in only three years. Now recovery is in full swing.

Here the main peace trouble of mankind appears—irregularity of work due to the faults of the commercial system. Always the world needs iron, and the proper record should be one of constantly rising output as population and needs increase. The slumps that disfigure trade and ruin so many people are entirely unnecessary; the world should not go up and down, but steadily on and steadily forward.

NO WINDOWS

What next? At Racine in the United States is an office building without windows.

A low streamlined structure, it has two horizontal bands of glass tubing through which daylight enters. There are said never to be any shadows, and there is no change in temperature, as the offices are all air-conditioned.

THE TABLES TURNED

In these days it is good to hear of a place where everyone is busy.

The chairman of the Cheadle District Council has been telling the world that in this Staffordshire town everyone is fully employed except those who work at the local employment exchange.

BRER RABBIT

His £30,000 Bill

The rabbits must take some pride in being made the subject of a special report, all to themselves, by a Select Committee of the august House of Lords.

The peers, says Peter Puck, wore their coronets and Sunday robes when they met to discuss Brer Rabbit.

It is surprising to find that the peers put the yearly damage done by the rabbit at only £30,000. It was commonly understood that it amounted to hundreds of thousands. Still, £30,000 is too much.

It is therefore proposed that the authorities shall have power to enter upon rabbit-infested land to destroy rabbits in cases where their presence injures neighbouring owners, or to take legal action against people who do not keep their rabbits in check. County councils should keep experts to be hired.

Gun traps are admittedly cruel, but the Committee does not recommend the abolition of their use, for every way of killing a rabbit is sometimes cruel, whether snare or gun or gas be employed. They would like to see a better trap invented, and think that the use of gas should be legalised.

THE FIRST LUMP OF SUGAR

Who gave us our first lump of sugar?

It was Henry Tate, born at Chorley in Lancashire in 1819. He began life as a grocer's assistant and passed on to a sugar refinery at Liverpool, acquiring an invention by which loaf-sugar could be cut into cubes, and becoming king of the sugar market.

We read of Henry Tate in Arthur Mee's Lancashire (Hodder and Stoughton, 7s 6d), one of the King's England series, a fascinating Domesday Book of the duchy which has been the cradle of our prosperity.

LIGHTED HORSES

The mounted police of Vienna are to have lamps on their stirrups so that at night motorists may see them easily.

PICTURE-NEWS AND TIME MAP

GLACIER ON THE MOVE
The Black Rapids Glacier of Alaska, which had not moved for centuries, began to advance last October, and in the past few weeks it has crept about five miles and spread into the valley of the Big Delta River, about 125 miles south of Fairbanks. See news columns.

ALASKA
Fairbanks
Black Rapids Glacier

CANADA

29,000 FARMS FOR SALE
As a result of the depression and bad times in agriculture land banks in the United States now hold about 29,000 farms, surrendered to them because farmers could not keep up mortgage repayments.

Equator—the middle line round the globe

PACIFIC OCEAN

The Spring Equinox
On March 21 the Sun is overhead at the Equator. This is known as the Spring Equinox, and every place has 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness.

CENTRAL AMERICA
Georgetown

SOUTH AMERICA
Tristan da Cunha

A DIAMOND RUSH
A labourer working in the Interior a hundred miles from Georgetown, British Guiana's capital, dug out a diamond weighing 203 carats. When the news spread large numbers of prospectors invaded the district.

GREENLAND

ICELAND

THE SUN RETURNS
The sun can now be seen on the horizon in Greenland as the long Arctic night ends, and it will rise higher in the heavens 'day by day until mid-summer.

DESTRUCTIVE GOATS
The question of whether goats should be kept or not is to be the subject of a nation-wide vote in Bulgaria. Goats do great damage to young trees, and it is said that they make reforestation impossible.

BRITISH ISLES

MOSCOW

EUROPE

BULGARIA

EGYPT

INDIA
Mysore

WILD BEAST MENACE
During a recent period of a year more than 9000 cattle were killed by wild beasts in Mysore State; and the Government has asked the Chief Conservator of Forests to suggest ways of reducing this menace to the herds.

AFRICA
Capetown

FIGHTING MALARIA
The Egyptian Government is considering a scheme to fight malaria by draining all marshes and clearing the land of stagnant pools, breeding places of mosquitoes. The programme would cost about four million pounds.

NEWS FROM LONELY TRISTAN
When HMS Carlisle returned to Capetown last week from Tristan da Cunha it was reported that the islanders were all in splendid health and the story that the lonely island is infested with rats was untrue.

ARCTIC OCEAN

A COLD SURVEY
The metal ore resources of the Verkhoyansk region of Siberia are to be the subject of a survey by five explorers from Moscow. Verkhoyansk is one of the world's coldest places, temperatures between 80 and 80 degrees below zero being known.

SIBERIA
Verkhoyansk

ASIA

FAMINE IN CHINA
Floods having ruined crops in Honan Province, it is said that 30 million people are faced with famine. According to the international famine relief committee many people are living on a kind of bread made from roots and vines.

CHINA
HONAN

JAPAN

EAST INDIES

GLoucester

AUSTRALIA
BIG FALL OF TIMBER
100,000 tons of timber were felled in one operation while ten cinema cameras recorded the scenes on a mountainside near Gloucester in New South Wales. Tree-trunks were partly severed beforehand, and dynamite started the great crash.

NEW ZEALAND