

# THE BRITISH SUDAN

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

**K**HARTUM.—The British officials here tell me that the day will come when the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan will be supplying a good share of the raw material needed for the cotton mills of Manchester. If so it will be in the future. The total amount of cotton raised is but a few million pounds, and the exports of last year were only 4,000 bales. There is no doubt but that the Sudan has vast areas of good cotton lands, but large irrigation works will have to be constructed before they can be brought into cultivation. The Egyptian is kicking in every attempt to rob her of the waters of the Nile.

#### NATIVE COTTON EVERYWHERE

At present cotton is raised in a small way in every one of the 12 provinces of this country. It is grown to a considerable extent along the Nile between here and Egypt. In Berber and Dongola, two large provinces of lower Nubia, the most of the crop is raised by the local weavers, who make it into a rough white cloth known as damar, which forms a large part of the clothing of the Sudan.

Some is grown along the borders of Abyssinia, and there was formerly a cotton factory in one of the towns of Kasella. Still further south, in the province of Semnar, there are branches of the Blue Nile whose valleys are famous for cotton. The governor there had a cotton show last year which attracted 10 exhibitors, and he has set up a few small cotton gins which are now being worked. That region has exported considerable cotton to Abyssinia.

In the Dar Salé provinces there are several large plantations, and I am told that a good crop is expected at Tokar, where cotton is growing in an established industry.

The governor of the White Nile provinces has recently reported that the succeeding year raising Egyptian cotton, and that two acres sown at Duer last year turned out from three to four bales each, with only three artificial waterings. The sirdar tells me that the vast plain between the White and the Blue Niles, known as the Gezireh, could be made to produce vast quantities of cotton, and it is believed that it can be raised in the Bahir el Gezir, away up on the edge of the Congo watershed. In the Blue Nile province the cotton acreage planted this year is twice as large as it was last, and in the White Nile province an increase of about 1,300 acres is reported.

#### THE NEW OMDURMAN.

The British government is rapidly improving Omdurman. When we moved here it contained six or eight hundred thousand people, and it still contains the same space as then, although its population is not more than 10,000. It is a city of mud huts. There are not a dozen two-story houses in it, and the place still looks somewhat like a large native camp.

When I first rode through it I was told that the mud huts in the walls had not been made by cannon fire.

I went to the mud huts at the back and looked in at the weavers. They were black boys and men, who sat before rude looms on the edge of holes in the ground. The looms were so made that they could be worked with the feet, the shuttles being thrown back and forth by hand. The latter moved through the cloth with a whirling noise, and this was about the only sound in the city. A cloth turned out is very coarse. It is well woven, soft and selling good prices. Its wearing qualities are better than those of the Manchester and American cottons. I asked what wages the boy weavers received, and was told 10 cents a day.

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#### COTTON AT KHARTUM.

Here at Khartum there has been a considerable increase in the amount of cotton planted and the farmers tell me that the crop pays well. Angelo Capato, one of the richest of the Khartum merchants, who has 6,000 acres of land, says that he raised 100,000 pounds of cotton last year which he shipped to Alexandria for sale. It was said that the unguined, or one-half cent more than the cotton of the lower Nile valley. Mr. Capato says that he bought his land for \$6.50 per acre, and that he has already been offered \$225 per acre for \$600 acres, but that he would not take it. Said he:

"I can make 8 or 9 per cent net out of my land by renting it at \$20 per acre for a money rent, and if I plant it to cotton, several times as much more. I am now using steam pumps and am importing steam plows; and it may be that I shall some time have a cotton factory and ginning establish-

ment right here."

#### LEIGH HUNT'S GREAT PLANTATION.

One of the most daring cotton planting enterprises to be found in the whole Nile valley has been started by an American. I refer to Mr. Leigh Hunt, who, in connection with Mr. Shaw, Faxon and others made a big fortune in gold mines in Kenya. Mr. Hunt has a concession of something like 900 acres bordering the Nile just opposite where the river Atbara, or Black Nile, flows into the main stream. The Atbara brings down almost all the mud which the Nile spreads over Egypt, and these lands are so situated that they can be easily irrigated.

Mr. Hunt imported a number of steam pumps, and is gradually putting water on the land. He has built a house there which has cost something like \$40,000, and I understand that he has spent something like a million dollars in the development of his property.

His lands lie near the junction of the Cape to Cairo road, which runs from Alexandria south to Khartum, and the Nile and Red Sea railway, which connects that road with Port Sudan on the Red Sea. He will drive his team to it for his cotton. He can either send it to the Red sea across the Nubian desert by a short railway haul of about 300 miles down to the Mediterranean over the Cape to Cairo route, a distance of considerably more than 1,000 miles. The probability is that it will all go to the Red sea and thence by steamer to Europe or the United States.

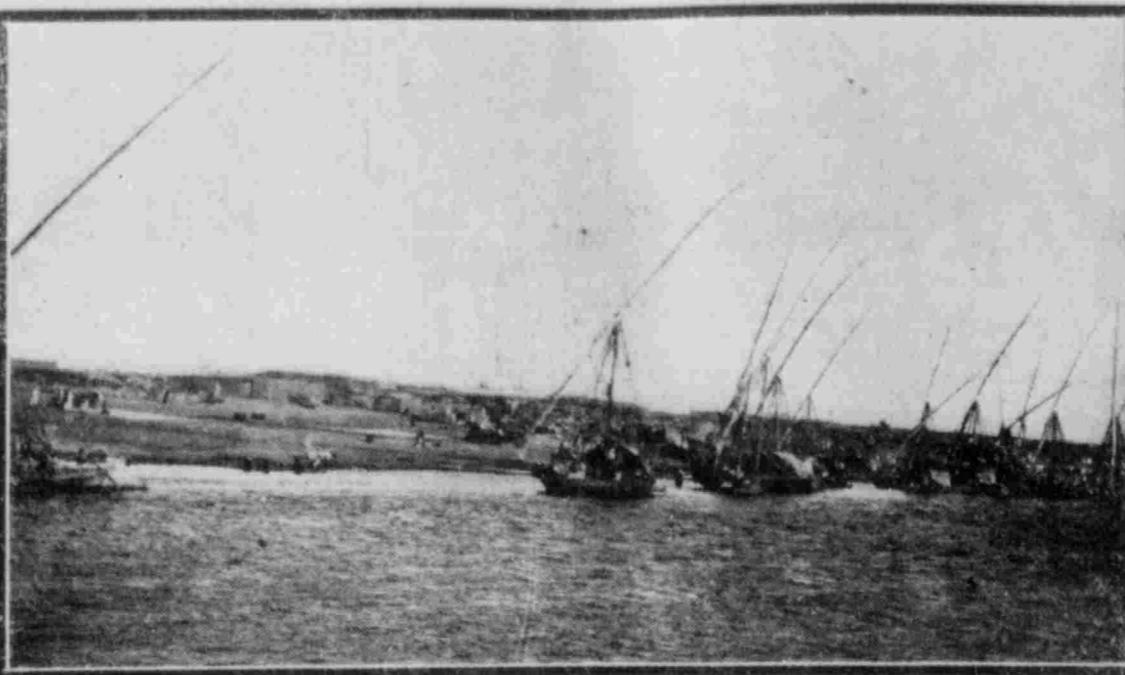
As yet the experiment is not far enough advanced to be pronounced entirely successful. Mr. Hunt has had trouble with his labor, and his machinery and with insects late, especially the locusts which have eaten up a large part of his crops. These difficulties can be overcome, and the land promises to be worth a great fortune. I understand that it was given him by the government at a low rate to consider of his developing it. It will cost him improvements only a few thousand per acre, and the water is not yet on, so it should be worth more than \$200 per acre, and it will then rent for enough to pay a good interest on that sum. Thirty thousand acres at \$200 per acre means \$6,000,000, and this, I am assured, is not an overestimate of his probable value, if it can be brought under cultivation.

I met Mr. Hunt in New York shortly before he left for Africa. He then hoped to be in in the time of my visit, and asked me to assist him in his plantation. He met with an accident, however, which kept him in the United States longer than he had intended. I asked him some questions about his plantations there, but he had little to say. He is modest in talking about himself and the information I have given here has been taken from him. I find that he has the second largest estate in every one here, and the general opinion is that he will succeed. I am told he is a large owner of lands in the suburbs of Khartum. About three or four miles up the river, paying him \$150 per acre for rent. This is to be paid under \$10,000. That land is rapidly increasing in value, and is said to be now worth anywhere from one-quarter to one-half million dollars. Angelo Capato told me that he is authorized to buy Mr. Hunt's \$200,000 for it as a whole, but he has not. Mr. Hunt will probably keep it and develop it upon his own lines as a new addition to the city of Khartum.

#### SELLING COTTON IN OMDURMAN.

Speaking of the cotton of the Sudan, I visited an old street in Omdurman yesterday, devoted to selling the na-

**A Vast Country Whose Cotton May Compete With That of Our Southern States—How Cotton is Raised on the Upper Nile—Native Farms and Native Factories—Leigh Hunt's Great Plantations Which May Make Millions—Omdurman and How The British are Improving it—A Visit to Hospitals—Something About Slavery in The Sudan. And What a Poor Swiss Boy Did to Abolish it.**



OMDURMAN FROM THE RIVER.

Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

was even offered the chance to be present at several surgical operations, including the cutting off of the leg of a patient who had just come in, but I declined. The hospitals cover five or six acres. Their buildings are of one story, and they are made of sun-dried brick, but they are cool and well lighted. The patients are mostly young women of many tribes. There were several hundred in the various wards, and the doctors told me that during the past year they had given treatment to 12,000 sick who had been brought to the hospital, and in addition to the 800 or 900 patients who were kept in the hospital itself. The British are greatly improving the sanitary conditions of the natives. They have cleaned up the city, and it now looks

remarkably well for a native town. It is rapidly growing, and will probably be the commercial capital of the Sudan. It will keep its African character, but will be modified by the new Africa; and as such, will be one of the most interesting cities of the continent.

#### SLAVERY IN THE SUDAN.

The British are doing what they can to break up slavery in the Sudan. This region was once one of the chief slave markets of the continent. Slaves were brought by the thousands from central Africa, and they found their way to Omdurman and Khartum and throughout the Sudan, where they were sold again under the mahdi, but it broke out again under the mahdi, and when the British took hold Omdurman was one of the chief slave markets, and slaves were brought in in droves from all parts of the country. Since then the buying and selling of slaves has been stopped, as far as possible, but it is still carried on in many of the provinces, and it will be a long time before it can entirely eradicate.

Sixty-four slave dealers were

convicted and more than 50 received sentences in the penitentiary of from centers of the slave trade, and when the navigation of the White Nile was declared free it was made a slave route. Later on the Arabs raided the natives of central Africa and sent up their slaves to Khartum and Omdurman, and they found their way down to Egypt. During the English rule there were military stations in different parts of the country, and they became

one to seven years each. While I was at Assout, about 200 miles south of Cairo, Dr. Alexander, president of the Training college there, told me how a poor Swiss boy broke up the slave trade of upper Egypt. Said he: "This incident occurred just before the British occupation of Egypt, years ago. The boy, whose name was Roth, got the idea that it was his mission to aid in abolishing slavery, and that he held in the Sudan. He had no money, but he worked his way to Alexandria, and, arriving here without a cent, he applied for work in the mission schools, telling us his plan. Finally he arranged that he could teach French. While doing so he studied Arabic, and went out through the country to learn all he could as to slavery. He spent his vacations living with the people, traveling about and visiting the slaves. It was then contrary to the law to sell slaves in Egypt, and Roth learned that the trade was going on, and that caravans were bringing slaves from the Sudan down here, and that they were then sent to Tunis and Tripoli and thence to Constantinople. One day he came into the mission and said that a long slave caravan was encamped outside Assout, and that the men had their slaves in cages during the day and sold them at night. He begged me to go with him to the governor and demand that they be punished. I did go, but was not able to do anything."

"After this," continued Dr. Alexander, "Roth despaired somewhat, but said he intended to go to Cairo and get the English consul general to help him. He did so and convinced the consul general that his story was true. The two went together to His Excellency, who was then foreign minister, and demanded that the sale of slaves be stopped. Roth had then the English government behind him, and the Egyptian government had to respect him. They gave him a company of 200 soldiers and told him to go back to Assout and capture the caravan. He was probably in time, so they could get away, but Roth stopped his special train outside the town, divided his company into two bands, surrounded the caravan and took the traders and 67 slaves, whom they had with them. He brought the slaves to the mission school and said he wanted to let them go, as the Egyptians would not dare take them from under the American flag."

Shortly after this there came a message from the governor of the province ordering that the slaves be given up. The messengers were backed by soldiers, but nevertheless Roth refused, saying it was impossible on account of the absence of Dr. Hoge, the superintendent of the mission. The next day Dr. Hoge arrived, and the government sent him. He abused him for not giving up the slaves, whereupon Dr. Hoge charged him with wanting to evade the law, and told him that if "Assout had any respect for the law or had a governor who

would anything of a man, the slaves would have been already arrested and the owners punished." He then demanded that this be done, and a reward of £100 was offered. The slaves were then taken to Cairo and sold to the slave dealers and slave were taken to Cairo to be tried there. The government of Egypt did not dare to witness the transaction, and so a white flag was raised, the governor and army forces were withdrawn, and the slave dealers were allowed to leave.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

#### PASSED EXAMINATION SUCCESSFULLY.

James Dunham, New British Consul, was treated with several kidney remedies, and was treated with our best physicians for diabetes, but did not improve until Foley's Kidney Cure. After the medicine had been completely taken, he passed a night without sleep, and was cured of his kidney trouble, and all forms of kidney and bladder trouble. For sale by Dr. Douglass' "The Never Substituting."

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Assortment of 50 pieces in plain and check, stripes, plaids and plain silks in Taffeta, Gros Graine, Peau De Cygne, etc. in Black and colors.

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SILKS UP TO \$1.25 FOR YD. VALUES 73c

Assortment of 50 pieces in plain and check, stripes, plaids and plain silks in Taffeta, Gros Graine, Peau De Cygne, etc. in Black and colors.

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SILKS UP TO \$1.25 FOR YD. VALUES 73c

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SILKS UP TO \$1.25 FOR YD. VALUES 73c

Assortment of 50 pieces in plain and check, stripes, plaids and plain silks in Taffeta, Gros Graine, Peau De Cygne, etc. in Black and colors.

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SILKS UP TO \$1.25 FOR YD. VALUES 73c

Assortment of 50 pieces in plain and check, stripes, plaids and plain silks in Taffeta, Gros Graine, Peau De Cygne, etc. in Black and colors.

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LOT No. 8

SILKS UP TO \$1.25 FOR YD. VALUES 73c

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LOT No. 9

SILKS UP TO \$1.25 FOR YD. VALUES 73c

Assortment of 50 pieces in plain and check, stripes, plaids and plain silks in Taffeta, Gros Graine, Peau De Cygne, etc. in Black and colors.

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