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Twopence

AMERICA AND EGYPT

Stories of Atrocities Published Throughout U.S.A.



HOW EGYPTIANS ARE FLOGGED.

An affidavit was presented to M. Clemenceau by the Egyptian Delegation to the Peace Conference stating that at Choubra-el-Charieh and Kaffr-el-Hagga, in consequence of a shot having been fired at an English Patrol, all the male inhabitants in these villages were condemned to be flogged on the stomach and back.

On June 28th Zaghul Pasha, the leader of the Egyptian Delegation to the Peace Conference, addressed a statement to M. Clemenceau setting out the claim of Egypt for self-government. The claim was accompanied by an exposure of the British militarist rule in Egypt, including sixteen affidavits alleging what are described by the American Press as "the most shameful atrocities committed by British soldiers against native men, women, and children."

An attempt was made by the censorship to prevent the publication of the facts contained in these affidavits, but they reached America through confidential sources

and have been given publicity from one end of the United States to the other. They have also been widely published on the Continent.

VALUE OF EVIDENCE.

In judging the value of the evidence contained in these affidavits, it should first be borne in mind that Zaghul Pasha, who sponsored them in Paris, is a man of great responsibility and reputation. He is a member of the Egyptian Legislative Assembly, and has been Minister of Education and of Justice. Lord Cromer, Sir

SIXTEEN AFFIDAVITS
PRESENTED TO
PEACE CONFERENCE.

Allegations of
Women Assaulted,
Children Murdered,
and Men Shot
for Defending their
Loved Ones.

AN IMPARTIAL
ENQUIRY DEMANDED.

Eldon Gorst, and Lord Kitchener have all paid high tributes to his ability and patriotism.

In the second place, it should be noted that in each case the name of the village and of the persons concerned are given. The British authorities have issued a general denial of the allegations, but they have not attempted to meet them in detail. If the assertions contained in these affidavits are not true, why cannot they be repudiated by evidence showing that the persons mentioned are fictitious or that they have not been harmed? If the official British denial were true, it would be the easiest thing in the world to shatter the evidence presented in the affidavits, and who can doubt that the authorities would hesitate to destroy confidence in the Egyptian case if they could do so?

CHARGES SUMMARISED.

It is impossible to reproduce the affidavits in full here. They fill six columns in the American papers. The following summary is given from one paper:—

Atrocities Charged Against British Soldiers by Egyptian Peace Delegation.

CAIRO.—Hundreds killed, wounded, and imprisoned by British soldiers, who swept the streets with machine guns during peaceful demonstration of protest against deportation of Egyptian leaders. Ten-year-old girl assaulted by several soldiers until she died.

CHOBAK.—British soldiers pillaged town, killed twenty-one, wounded twelve, mistreated women, buried five persons to their waists and cut them to pieces with bayonets, burned 144 of the 200 houses.

EL CHABANAT.—Detachment of English soldiers pillaged village, burned it, and left 4,000 persons without shelter.

AZIZIA and BEDRECHIEU.—Soldiers searched both villages for arms and burned a number of houses.

CHOUBRA - EL - CHARIEH and KAFFR - EL - HACCA.—Alleging that a shot had been fired at an English patrol, soldiers condemned all male inhabitants to be flogged on the stomach and back.

UPPER EGYPT.—British general decreed that every Egyptian, including high dignitaries, must salute British officers in the streets. Those who did not obey the order were dragged before Courts Martial.

Whilst considerations of space make it impossible to quote from all the affidavits, the following sworn statement by Abdel Latif Abou el Bagd, 25, son of the Mayor of Chobak, may be given as typical.

THE STORY OF A MAYOR'S SON.

On Sunday, March 30, 1919, a train of British troops stopped at some distance south of the village of Chobak. The Mayor had advised all the inhabitants to treat them

well to avoid unpleasant consequences. We continue the story in the words of Abdel Latif Abou el Bagd:—

"The soldiers entered the village and took all the geese, fowls, pigeons, lambs, etc., that they came across. I saw some of them surrounding a woman named Aziza Bint Khodeir, wife of Abdel Tawab Abdèl Maksoud. She cried for her husband's help. He ran out of the house with a stick in his hand and gave the soldier who caught his wife a blow on the head. Another soldier then fired at him and killed him on the spot.

"Murmurs of rage and discontent filled the air, especially for defaming the honour of such women as Aziza and others. The soldiers then began to attack the houses, killing the inhabitants, plundering everything that came under their sight, burning the buildings, animals, and people, and shooting everyone who came in their way. . . .

Buried Alive and Shot.

"I heard what the soldiers had done with five of the inhabitants, namely, the Sheikh Abdel Ghani Ibrahim Tolba; his brother, Abdel Rehim Ibrahim Tolba; his son, Saïd Abdel Ghani Tolba; and two others, Khafagi Marzouk and Abdel Samad el Ochi—these were buried alive to their waists, then shot, and afterwards disfigured with bayonets. I saw their disfigured corpses as I assisted in getting them out of the places they were buried in. One hundred and forty-four houses were burned, and, to our knowledge, twenty-one persons were killed, and twelve were wounded, of whom one died. It is very probable that casualties were more than that, as most of the houses were totally burned to ashes, and it is presumed that many inhabitants were burned within

Child Shot in Mother's Arms.

"Four soldiers . . . found Gad el Noula and his wife, Wakda Bint el Gabn, who was carrying her child, a year old. The soldiers attempted to assault her, and when her husband protested, one of them shot him, and he died the next day. She fled into another room, but the soldiers followed and caught her. She thought when she held her child, who was on her shoulders, she might attract their mercy and pity toward her, and thus escape assault, but when she stretched her arms, with the child between them, the soldiers brutally shot the child and the bullet pierced his right shoulder. He did not die, and is still under treatment."

One of the affidavits presented to the Paris Conference was from Ibrahim D. Abaza, an official of the town of Giza, who stated that this woman, Wakda Bint el Gabn, came to him and corroborated the statement of Abdel Latif Abou el Bagd. The Mayor of Giza also corroborates the statement of the son of the Mayor of Chobak.

The Egyptians demand an impartial investigation into these allegations. In justice to them and for the honour of the British nation, can their demand be resisted?

A WOMAN'S STATEMENT.

It is only possible to give quotations from a number of the other affidavits.

A woman of Chobak, Om El Sayed Bint Mohammed, asserted in her sworn statement that:—

"Two soldiers broke open my door and rushed in. One of them mistreated me, and the other looted the house. Then they went out, and three others entered and attempted to repeat the same shameful act, but I cried for help, and when the mulahez (police officer) entered, they left me and went out."

Another affidavit by Soliman Mohammed El Fouli, of Chobak, states:—

"Four soldiers broke my door down and rushed into my house. Two armed men guarded me so that I could not move, and two others threw my wife prostrate on the ground before my eyes. She resisted, and kicked a soldier, but the remaining soldiers shot her dead in the right side."

HUSBAND AND SON SHOT.

The copy of an affidavit by Zenab Bint Khali, of Chobak, relates that a soldier assaulted her daughter, and that when her husband pleaded with them they turned him out and set fire to the house. The next day she went to search for her husband, she said, and "found him buried up to his waist, a bullet piercing his side and a wound in his neck."

The affidavit of Saad Bint Hassanein, of Chobak, contains the sworn statement that soldiers seized her and her daughter-in-law, and were attempting to outrage them when her husband and son rushed in, unarmed. The soldiers, she asserts, "fired at them and killed both of them."

NO WOMAN ESCAPED.

Hussein Sayed el Mohr, 46, a merchant of Chobak, in his affidavit declares that his wife was outraged before his eyes, and adds:—

"I think no woman escaped that disgrace, as the soldiers remained in the village from the afternoon until the next morning, while the men of the village were chased away."

ANOTHER MAYOR'S AFFIDAVIT.

One of the affidavits submitted to the Peace Conference was from Ibrahim Rashdan, the Mayor of Azizia. He declared that ten British soldiers visited his house, told him that residents of Azizia had attacked a British officer, and that the British were going to burn the village in retaliation. The village was then surrounded by soldiers, he said, and the inhabitants ordered to leave.

"A procession was formed to proceed to Hawamdieh," continued the affidavit, "and when the troops found our pace too slow they urged us on with the points of their bayonets. As the sun had now reached its zenith, our sufferings were terrible, and one soldier took pleasure in photographing us in this pitiful condition."

"We arrived at Hawamdieh police station about noon, and there found the Mayor of Bedreshin and one of his Sheikhs. They informed us of the terrible

treatment to which their village and inhabitants had been subjected."

The Mayor of Azizia further declares that he was forced under threat of death to sign a statement admitting that the fate which befell his village was "just and proper." When he returned to Azizia, he swore he found 180 houses burned.

OPPRESSION IN EGYPT.**"UNBELIEVABLE RUTHLESSNESS IN KILLING THE UNARMED NATIVES."****STRONG INDICTMENT OF BRITISH POLICY IN LEADING AMERICAN REVIEW.**

The following passages are extracted from the "New Republic" (September 3rd, 1919), one of the most influential weekly reviews in America:—

"To the Egyptians these principles (President Wilson's) seemed to promise at least a hearing for a united people earnestly seeking the right of self-determination. True the Egyptians had been taught to be somewhat suspicious of British promises—for Britain had remained in military occupation of Egypt since 1882, despite repeated promises to withdraw. . . . But though suspicious of the good faith of the British Foreign Office, Egypt was nevertheless animated with the hope that a new era of world politics had been ushered in by the pronouncements of Mr. Wilson against the old order of secret intrigue and imperialistic ambitions. Hence, with the arrival of the armistice, the statesmen demanded the right to go to England and discuss arrangements for Egyptian independence. They also demanded that a delegation be allowed to participate in the peace deliberations. The first request was refused, or at least the British Foreign Office delayed so long that the proposal was made practically futile. For the purpose of carrying out the second proposal, the Egyptians had circulated petitions to get a direct mandate from the people to go to Paris. The British Government forbade the circulation of these petitions, but not before they had already received two million signatures.

Obstruction on the part of the British then sought to checkmate every move of the Egyptians, and things went from bad to worse. Ruchdi Pasha, President of the Egyptian Legislative Council, resigned, and for months no one could be induced to supplant him, so great was popular indignation. On March 9th, four of the leaders of the delegation chosen to represent the people at Paris were arrested and deported to Malta.

From this moment, the nationalistic movement, which had been orderly and constitutional, assumed a violent form. There were demonstrations—without arms, since the Egyptians had been totally disarmed. Egyptians refused to accept office in the Government. There was a general strike, including Governmental and municipal employees. The British Government used violent repressive measures, but this practice only served to aggravate matters, and the whole of Egypt burst into revolt. Riots occurred daily; railroads were torn up; stations destroyed; telegraph lines cut, and Cairo isolated for some time from the rest of Egypt.

The revolt was finally crushed by sheer force of arms, and General Allenby became Military Dictator. Not two score British were killed in the whole period of revolt. The British killed over 900 Egyptians, according to their own announcements. The relative losses betray an almost unbelievable ruthlessness in killing the unarmed natives. Finally, having secretly obtained from Mr. Wilson a recognition of the British Protectorate over Egypt—of which the Egyptians were not cognisant—the British authorities permitted the deported members of the delegation to proceed with their colleagues to Paris.

The Egyptian delegation reached Paris in April. It

was composed of twenty members, fifteen of them Mohammedans and five Christians. They were a modest, honest-appearing set of men, reasonably temperate in presenting their case, but fired with enthusiasm for their cause, and full of confidence that they would be able to win sympathy from unprejudiced judges. They never suspected that their case was already settled. Their only weapons were appeals to the Conference, and what publicity they could gain in the pages of the French socialist press.

It did not take the Egyptians long to discover that no amount of appealing would bring them before the Council of Five."

AMERICA INDIGNANT.

THE PRESS TAKES UP EGYPTIAN CAUSE.

BIG HEADLINES TELL THE STORY OF BRITISH MILITARIST ATROCITIES.

The wide circulation which the case for Egyptian self-determination and against British rule is receiving in America is suggested by the following headlines taken from a few American newspapers. The papers in every part of the United States have devoted many columns to the subject recently.

"PITTSBURG LEADER," August 16th, 1919.

(Heading across two cols.)

BRITISH SOLDIERS GUILTY OF HORRIBLE ATROCITIES IN SUPPRESSING EGYPTIAN REVOLT—PEACE DELEGATE'S CHARGE.

"MILWAUKEE NEWS," August 18th, 1919.

TORCH PLACED TO HOUSES IN EGYPT—CHARGE—PEACE DELEGATES DECLARE VILLAGES LOOTED AND GIRLS VIOLATED.

"THE BALTIMORE STAR," August 18th, 1919.

(Heading across two cols.)

AFFIDAVITS TELL OF HORRIBLE ATROCITIES OF BRITISH SOLDIERS DURING REVOLT OF EGYPTIANS—WOMEN ASSAULTED, CHILDREN MURDERED, AND MEN SHOT FOR PROTECTING LOVED ONES—PEACE ENVOYS GET SWORN STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES.

"BOSTON AMERICAN," August 18th, 1919.

(Heading across full page.)

AFFIDAVITS REVEAL ATROCITIES OF BRITISH SOLDIERS IN EGYPT—CHILD SHOT IN ARMS OF PLEADING MOTHER.

"WASHINGTON TIMES," August 18th, 1919.

BORAH URGES U.S. ACTION TO FREE EGYPT.

"PUBLIC LEDGER," Philadelphia, August 19th, 1919.

BORAH CHAMPIONS EGYPTIAN CAUSE—U.S. WOULD BECOME PARTY TO BRITISH OPPRESSION UNDER LEAGUE, HE SAYS.

"SYRACUSE (N.Y.) JOURNAL," August 19th, 1919.

SENATOR CHARGES BRITISH IN EGYPT WITH ATROCITIES—BORAH READS ALLEGED REPORTS ON CONDITIONS IN FIGHT OF LEAGUE.

"PITTSBURG LEADER," August 19th, 1919.

(Heading across two cols.)

AFFIDAVITS GIVE DETAILS OF CRIMES OF BRITISH SOLDIERS IN PUTTING DOWN EGYPTIAN REVOLT.

"BOSTON AMERICAN," August 19th, 1919.

(Heading across full page.)

EGYPT ASKS FOR JUSTICE AND INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITISH RULE—PLEA TO WORLD IGNORED AT PEACE TABLE—EGYPT REJECTS FURTHER RULE BY BRITISH—BORAH OPPOSES ENSLAVEMENT OF EGYPT—SAYS U.S. WOULD HAVE TO HELP BRITISH OPPRESSION UNDER LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

"BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER," August 19th, 1919.

(Heading across full page.)

APPEALS TO SENATE TO PROTECT EGYPT FROM BRITISH GRIP—JOSEPH W. FOLK, FORMER GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI, FILES BRIEF WITH COMMITTEE—CHARGES ENGLISH TRICKERY—RECITES HISTORY FROM 1882 AND AIM OF NATIVES IN JOINING LAST WAR.

"WASHINGTON TIMES," August 25th, 1919.

BRITAIN IN EGYPT LIKENED TO BANDIT PROTECTORATE SIMILAR TO ROBBER WITH GUN AT MAN'S HEAD, SAYS FOLK.