

# Tunis and its People



Artificial Caves of Tunisian Troglodytes.

by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.) French inhabitants of Tunis are viewing with close interest the British movement, which culminated in the Young Tunisian movement, the denouement of which is unknown.

Tunis by France dates from 1849, when a French punitive expedition sent into the country, and its arrival was changed to an occupation. Tunis had been a thorn in the side of civilization up to this time, when long a pirate stronghold, a turbulent region in which foreigners nor their property were safe. For a time the French three-sided influence toward Tunisia was attempted by Great Britain, and Italy acting in concert, but agreement was not satisfactory. Britain welcomed the French on the ground of control, but Italy was pleased with the new detour.

During their occupation of Tunis, the French set up a protectorate, established military posts in numerous towns and soon had a well-ordered government. Prosperity has attended its Tunis since the advent of the French, and there has been contentment with the new which has made life easier for the natives. Still, patriotism and there are many Tunisians who restive under the French.

Most towns of northern Tunis are a repetition of those of the south. The natives are a mixture of Berbers and Sudanese. In addition, there are many Jews, Italians and Maltese. Tunis is an ancient country and every town has its numerous mosques, its law courts and its heavily populated squares.

One of Tunis is called by the name of the White Burnous of the desert. Its houses are all flat-topped and creamy white in color. They have changed greatly since 1881, and attractive French townships have sprung up outside the walls of the old city. Broad boulevards, with palm trees and various shade trees, with tempting modern hotels, with every conceivable luxury; restaurants, cafes, and for the motorists that come from all directions and Carthage is reached in 25 minutes.

The ruins of the Romans. The ruins of Rome northern Africa was called the "granary of the world" for the Roman system of agriculture was marvelous and the soil never water was to be had, and to be found in abundance. An aqueduct, built by Trajan, about 136 A. D., supplied with 32,000,000 liters (8,000 gallons) of water a day to the city.

Northwest of the city of Carthage, France's little-known Tunisia, at the extreme northern tip of Africa, Bizerta is a "dark spot" on the map, a dark spot on the Mediterranean. It is a small town, whether it is not already famous for its strategic position, for its strength, Gibraltar, or for its convenient naval half-way station in the Mediterranean. For Gibraltar, the British navy has a base on the island of Malta. For Gibraltar, the British navy has a base on the island of Malta. For Gibraltar, the British navy has a base on the island of Malta.

The town of Douirat still farther desertward, is typical of the third sort of Troglodyte community, consisting of caves in cliffs and mountainsides. It is difficult to describe and very bizarre—like a beehive mountain perched high over a deep ravine. The village extends for about two kilometers; everywhere are caves and niches; in many places the trail zigzags up, and there are tiers above tiers of human Troglodyte dwellings. Above all rises the huge "ksar," or citadel, now a mass of ruins.

depth of 30 feet. On deep water ten miles from the sea, only a giant's stone-throw from the ruins of Carthage, are naval works such as the sea-faring old Phoenicians never dreamed of. The base constitutes a city in itself, Ferryville, named for Jules Ferry.

Bizerta, known in Roman days as Hippo Zarytus, was originally a Tyrian colony comparable in age to Carthage. Its citizens fought with the Carthaginians for supremacy for a while, but finally acknowledged the suzerainty of the "African Rome." When Carthage was destroyed Hippo Zarytus became a seat of Roman administration and grew in importance. Later it passed into Byzantine hands and in the Seventh century fell to the Arabs. The Spanish captured the place in 1535, but held it only a few years. Then came centuries of neglect under Turkish and local rule. During the Sixteenth century it was a notorious lair for pirates.

One of the most interesting parts of Tunis—or Tunisia as the country is often called to distinguish it from the city—is the southeastern portion inland from the Mediterranean near the border of Tripoli. The eastern coast of Tunis is the most productive part of the land. Virtual forests of olives lie about Sfax, which is a busy port for the shipment of the fruit, oil, esparto grass, and phosphates from nearby mines.

**Cave Dwellers of Tunisia.**  
Gabes, south of Sfax, is the best point of departure for the land of the strange Troglodytes, dwellers in caves, who inhabit all of inland southwestern Tunisia. Imagine arriving at a town of 5,000 inhabitants and not seeing one house—only a picturesque mosque, built since the French occupation. Matmata is the chief town of the district of Matmata, which covers quite a large area and comprises the villages of Tamezred, Zeraona, Beni-oussaid, Toudiane, Benzelten, and Hadidji. All told there are about 20,000 souls living in this district, which is situated 45 kilometers south of Gabes. All of them are Troglodytes.

At Matmata, Beni-oussaid, Benzelten, and Hadidji the inhabitants live in caves dug in the earth. The holes vary in depth and width, but average 9 meters deep by 15 meters in circumference. One great hole is used as a "patio," or courtyard. Numerous caves dug in the sides of the hole serve as living rooms and store houses. One enters these dwellings by means of a passage tunneled through the earth or rock.

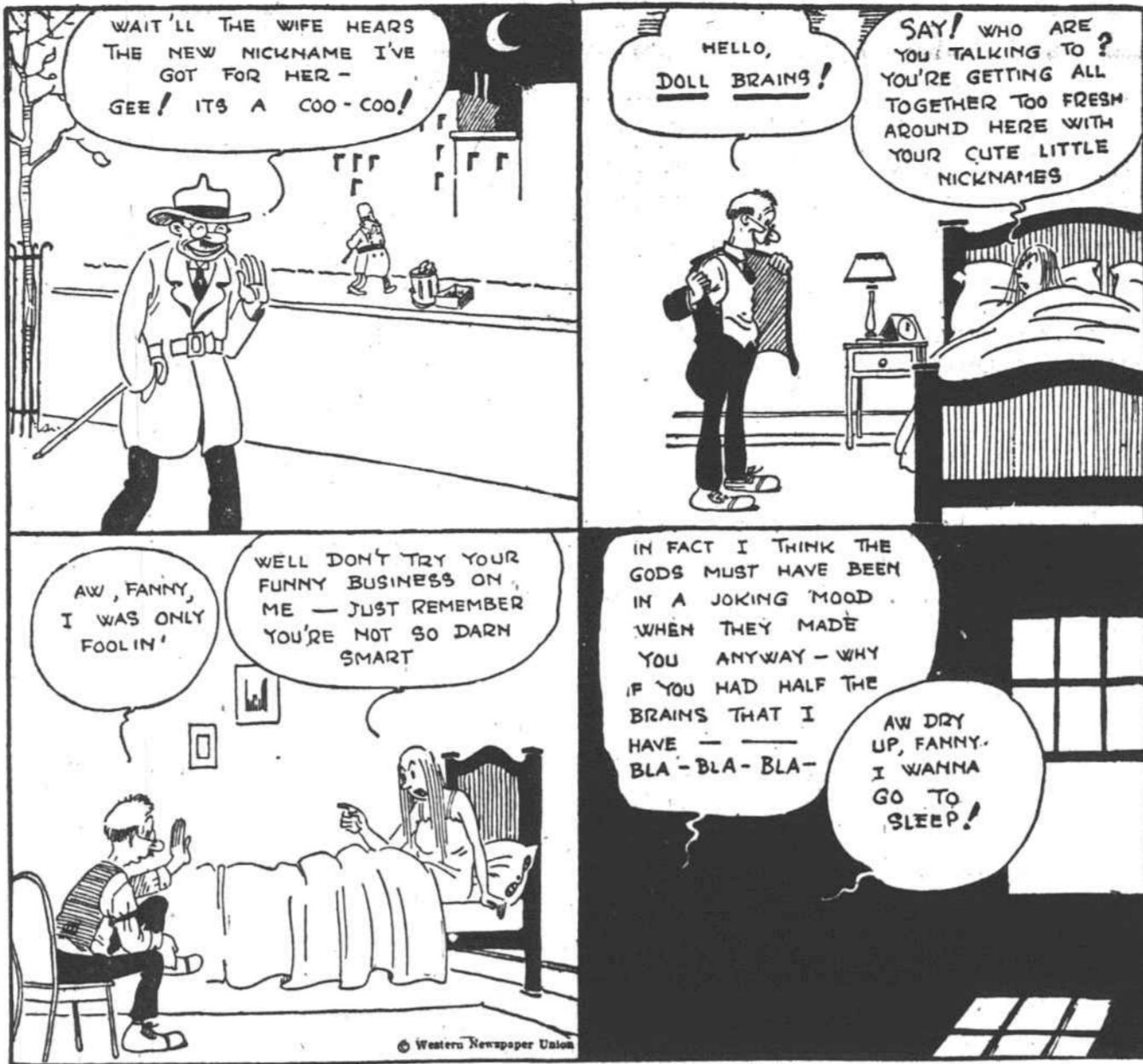
Walking through the passage into the large circular courtyard open to the sky, one sees large caves cut into the walls of the tunnel that serve for storehouses and granaries. (Grain will keep here for years in perfect condition.) There are also caves for the goats, sheep, and donkeys. A square masonry trough pipes the rain water into a large cistern built in the center of the courtyard. It rains very little, but when it rains it pours, and every drop of water is carefully preserved—so carefully that horses and animals are watered only once in every 24 hours, and then not all they want.

The town, or "ksar," of Medenine consists of thousands of cave-shaped dwellings, made of native cement and stone, superposed upon each other to a height of four or five stories. The Arab name for these curious-shaped dwellings and storehouses is "rhorfa." These are the second type of Troglodyte dwelling, which might be termed artificial caves. They are not unlike gigantic "muddauber" nests, with cylindrical cells one upon the other. One ascends to these granaries or storehouses by means of projecting stones here and there, worn smooth by centuries of use.

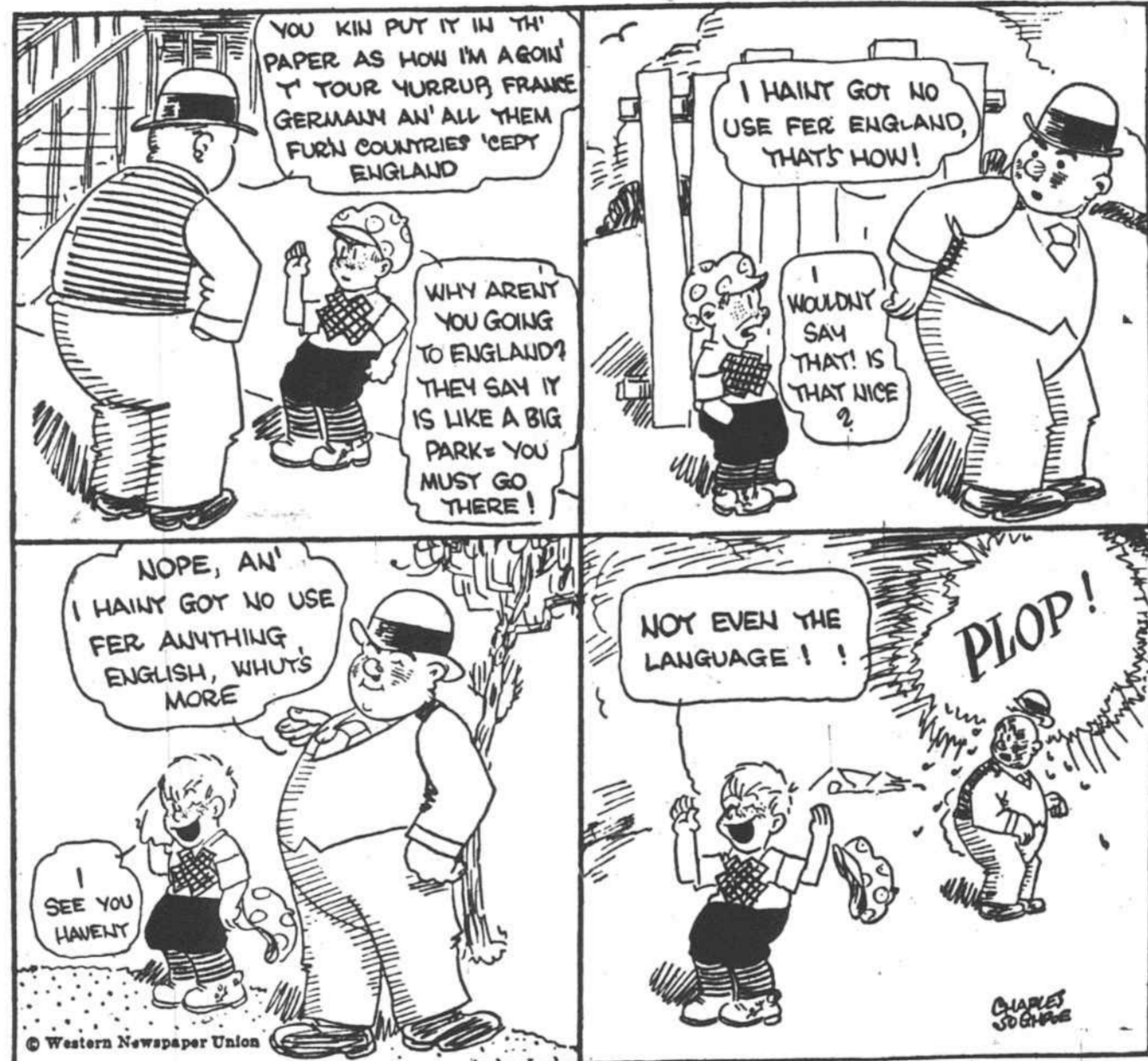
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## OUR COMIC SECTION

### Squelched



### Fair Enough



### NOT QUITE HOPELESS



### ON THE WATCH



### HE HAD HIS USE



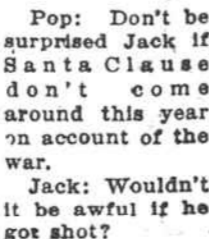
### DROPPED HER WORDS



### SET OFF DOWN HERE



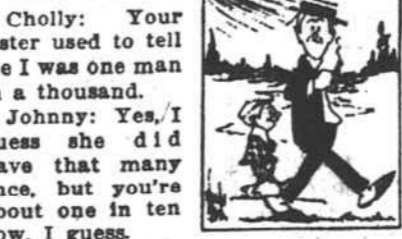
### HARD TIMES



### DISCOURAGING



### LESS COMPETITION NOW



## POULTRY

### FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR SANITARY COOP

The first requirement for a sanitary hen house is a roomy, dry building with plenty of window space and easy means of ventilation.

Dropping boards under the roosts are quite essential for the proper maintenance of cleanliness. They should be made of tongued and grooved flooring well laid, and should be at least three feet above the floor of the house. If nests are under the dropping boards, three feet six inches would be better height. In the case of heavy breeds runways up to the roosting perches should be used, but with leghorns and other light breeds they are not necessary.

Dropping boards should be level, and the perches arranged about six inches above them. The perches should be on a level, also, and of 2 by 2 material. They should be fastened to 2 by 4 supports that are hinged at the back end of the house so that the roosts can be raised out of the way while scraping the dropping boards.

A hoe with 15 or 18-inch blade is very satisfactory for scraping the dropping boards, and if used regularly once or twice a week will assist materially in maintaining the health of the flock. A small box arranged to hang from and slide along the front edge of the dropping board platform, to receive the droppings as they are scraped from the board, will help to preserve the fertilizer for the garden.

One nest should be provided for each five or six birds, and even more if trap nests are used. Twelve by twelve inches is large enough and one-fourth inch mesh hardware cloth is excellent for the bottom. Wall nests are to be preferred to those located under the dropping platform, but the wall nests require a top place at an angle of at least 45 degrees, to prevent the chickens roosting on them. The runways along the front of the nests can also be made to fold up in front of the nest openings, which will keep the young birds from roosting in the nests at night and fouling them.

Dry mash hoppers are essential to the economical feeding of the flock; they should be raised on legs 18 inches to 2 feet from the floor.

Water stands should be raised the same as the mash hoppers, and are best made with a slatted top in the middle of which an opening is left to receive a 12-quart pail. The support for the bucket should be about six inches lower than the top of the platform.

A broody coop where feverish hens can be confined and fed is much to be preferred to ducking them or to starvation.

A catching coop is very desirable and almost necessary where any regular and consistent effort at culling is attempted. A heavy wire with one end bent to form a hook and the other end tied to an old broom handle is useful in catching a bird or two, as occasion may demand.

A bin where two or three hundred pounds of scratch grain may be stored in the chicken house is also a labor saver.

Details as to the construction of different items mentioned above must of course vary with the size of the flock and local conditions.

### Difficult to Determine

#### Sex of Goose or Gander

Ganders are usually a little larger and coarser than geese. The head of the gander is apt to be larger and the neck thicker. The cry of the goose is rather harsh, while the gander makes a shrill cry. The only accurate way is examination of the organs, or observation of the flock at mating time.

Laying ability of geese depends on the breed and the individuals. Toulouse geese will usually average about twenty eggs, and some produce thirty to thirty-five. White Chinese geese will lay from fifty to one hundred eggs. The Emdens are not generally quite as good layers as Toulouse, although very similar.

The lameness may be due to rheumatism caused by spending the night in a damp, roosting place. Gossings sometimes become lame, due to faulty feeding methods caused by lack of mineral matter or animal feed in the ration.

### Early Hatching Favored

Hatching in March and April instead of May and June has several advantages. In the first place, the early hatches do not meet the strenuous competition of chicks that are incubated by hens later in the season. The incubator can be made to yield more profitable returns by running it during the early months when farm work has not become heavy.

### Winter Egg Production

Winter egg production does not depend entirely on the number of hens you keep. Regardless of the size of the flock they will all do the same thing without a balanced ration. Nearly everyone knows what is needed to feed hens a balanced ration. The problem is to keep all the different items on hand all the time. It really takes skillful management to do it, as many poultrymen work on limited capital and something is always running short.

### Dropping Boards Essential

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Just give a pleasant tasting spoonful or two of Cheney's, as millions of mothers have done. See how thankful you will be when that labored breathing stops and in a few minutes the little one is sleeping peacefully again. Mothers who once use this quick, dependable remedy always keep an inexpensive bottle on hand.

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**CHENEY'S EXPECTORANT**  
Quick and Dependable

New York is the first city in which it has been found necessary to divide the telephone directory into two volumes because of its growing bulkiness.

Good health depends upon good digestion. Safeguard your digestion with Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills and you safeguard your health. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

A test for the durability of auto tires, approximating a road test may be completed in four days by a process devised by the bureau of standards.

### The Woman Who Knows

Columbia, S. C.—"I felt so weak that it was impossible for me to keep on my feet and my back ached all the time. I had a heavy cold and the cough disturbed my sleep. I sent for a bottle of 'Golden Medical Discovery' and one of 'Favorite Prescription.' I improved so much after taking the first two bottles that I continued the treatment. Now I am absolutely well. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for the blood and his 'Favorite Prescription' for feminine weakness are sure to build up any woman who will try them."  
Mrs. I. J. Reeves, 309 Whaley St.  
All dealers. Liquid or tablets

### Would Improve Hearing

Being billed to speak at a large hall, a lecturer went there the day before the meeting to make sure that his voice carried.

Posting the caretaker at the far end of the hall, the lecturer mounted the platform and said: "I am asking you, my man, if you would care to have \$2. Can you hear me?"

"Well, sir," was the calm reply, "I could hear better if you made it \$5."

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### Feats Ancient

The circus and vaudeville are performed today by the circus and vaudeville. They draw large audiences. Frescoes were recently in Crete by an eminent artist which represent a charge to toss a girl poised on the arm of another girl is standing presently waiting to catch and represented turning somersaults on the bull's back. All of these performers are dressed in costumes which very much resemble those worn by modern bare-back riders.

### Buried Watch

A woman's watch plowed under 17 years ago on the farm of John Briggs at Avoca, N. Y., has just been recovered when potato diggers came upon it in a hill of potatoes. The crystal was not broken and the watch was in good condition.

A genius is a fool who succeeds; a fool is a genius who fails.