

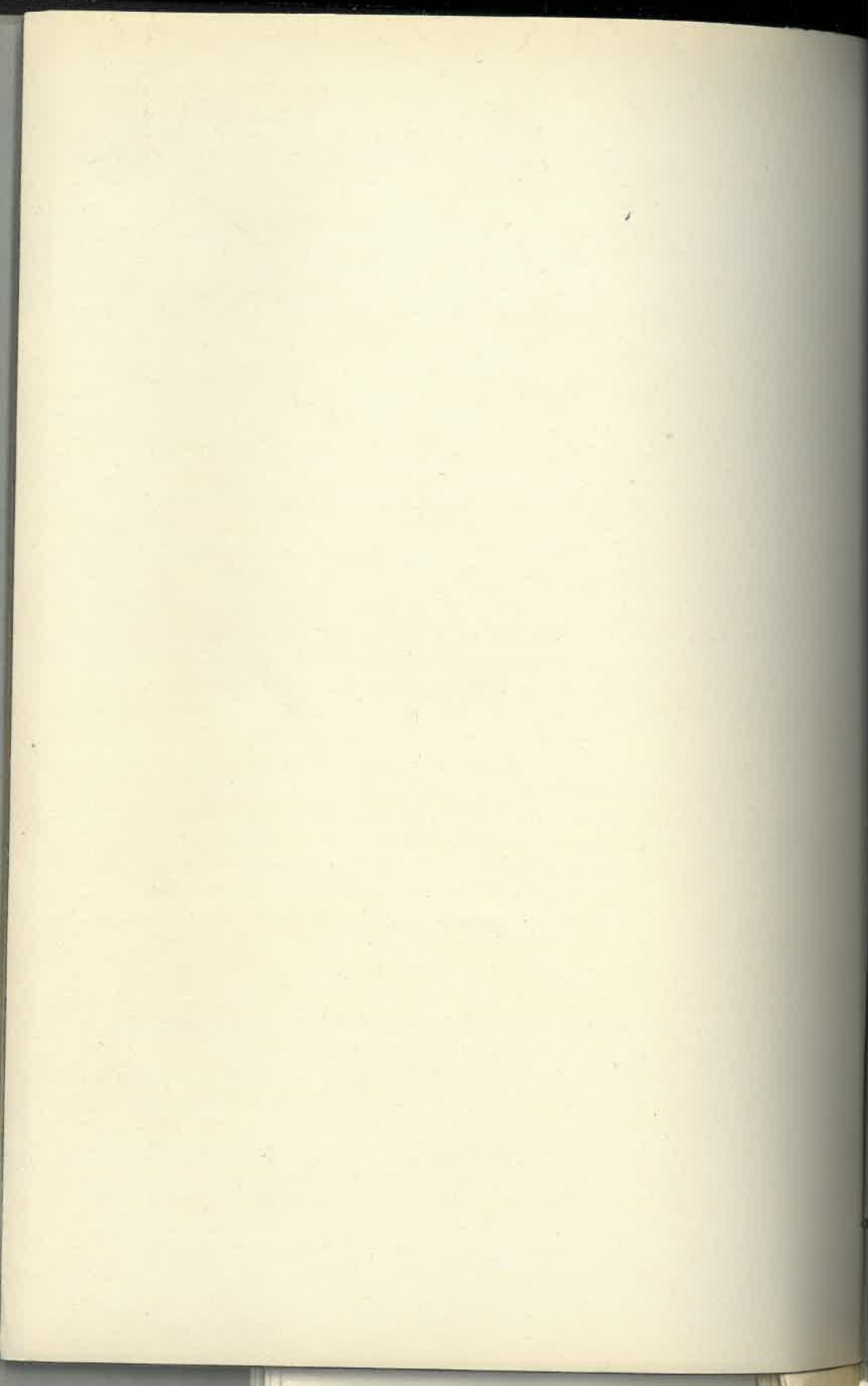
THE
ORIGIN
HISTORY
AND
OBJECT
OF THE
Alfalfa Club

country, the burden of which will again fall upon the poor peasant. They have helped to bring about the present situation.

Reveries are born the capital and

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BY
H. RALPH BURTON



The ORIGIN, HISTORY AND OBJECT
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ALFALFA CLUB

The Honorable John Sharp Williams, in speaking to the Alfalfa Club on January 19, 1917, stated that to his knowledge the origin of the Alfalfa Club was indicated on the Rosetta Stone, with regard to which he elaborated at length. This proved of great interest to the members, because it is a subject about which there has always been great uncertainty. It may be of interest to the entire Club that there has been brought to my attention a manuscript which would not only corroborate Senator Williams, but which has at last given to the world information with regard to this renowned organization, which surpasses anything which the members of today could, in the most extensive flights of imagination, hardly have conceived. It gives to the Club that which many supposed it did not have. Facetious references to traditions have been met with laughing responses. Now, however, there is to be presented to those persons such historical facts with regard to this, the oldest club in existence, which should make their laughter fade as the echoes.

A man of most distinguished appearance called upon me at my office. His every appearance denoted the student, the ardent lover of research, and, above all, the gentleman. It was with pleasure that I greeted him. He asked me if he was correct in his understanding that I was a member of the Alfalfa Club, to which I replied that the happy honor was mine. Probably the enthusiasm of my response was what caused him to smile in a knowing way. He then stated that it was his good fortune to come upon information which he thought would be of great interest to the Club, in view of the great uncertainty

regarding its origin, history and object. With this explanation of his visit, he handed to me a package of papers, stating that they contained the record of the Club's interesting origin and history, the full description of the object, with some of the famous royal secrets being in a separate manuscript which he would bring later to the office. These interesting documents, which I have studied with utmost interest for weeks, are as follows:

There has come to me the good fortune of knowing the truth about the Alfalfa Club, which, though its members today are probably in ignorance of the fact, is the oldest known in the history of the world. Like many similar organizations, the most valuable records have been lost, although there exists today in an association of good fellowship by that name, having as its principal place of meeting the City of Washington, at least a relic of the original conception of what the ancient formulator intended. The principal source of my information was the famous Rosetta Stone, which was found by soldiers while digging the foundation of a fort during the French occupation of Egypt over a century ago. It became the property of the English, who, in 1801, placed it in the British Museum, where it remains. Part of the inscription, which is trilingual, being in hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek characters, is a decree of the Priests of Memphis (not Tennessee) conferring honors on Ptolemy V, Epiphanes, King of Egypt, B. C. 195, on the occasion of his coronation. Scholars of every nation exhausted their learning to unravel the riddle, but nothing was accomplished for many years. Among others who made an attempt was Dr. Thomas Young, the demonstrator of the vibratory nature of light. Later, however, Champollion discovered its secrets. The "Enigma of the Sphinx" was then practically solved, and the secrets of the monuments of Egypt, hidden for so many centuries, were disclosed to the world. Being an ardent student of the ancient languages, I could not be satisfied without a personal investigation of this famous work. It was for that reason that I spent months in the study of its revelations. Finally, one day, when least expecting it, I discovered in a remote

section of the stone, a reference to certain secret archives, which you may be sure I sought without delay. These, though they had led me into mysteries almost beyond our realization, rewarded me fully by bringing to light, among other things, the truth about the Alfalfa Club, which was never before known.

When the first known king of the human race, Menes, united the two kingdoms of Egypt under one crown, which epoch is placed by various historians from 2717 B. C. to 5867 B. C., he found it necessary to gather about him a number of real good friends, who would not mix up with the barbarians to his detriment. To this association was intrusted the great royal secrets. It was called by the king, himself, "The Alfalfa Club," which name has remained to the present day. Permit me to suggest here that it was possibly because they were so well fed by royalty that the weed we know as "alfalfa," meaning, in Arabic, "the best fodder," received its name centuries ago, rather than that the Club was named subsequently, as previously supposed. Upon the founding of the City of Memphis, and the building of the great temple of Pta, the royal archives were deposited with this organization. Mesilim, King of Kish, E-Anna-Tum, Queen Nictocrosis, Asshurbanipal, King of Ninevah, Cyrus, King of Elam, and their successors, turned to this Club for pleasure, assistance and protection. It was guardian of the royal archives. Although little known in history, it was the power behind the throne through the generations of dynasties. It was the Colonel E. M. House of the olden days. When Babylon was invaded by the Semites, which is placed as far back as 5000 B. C., it was really for the purpose of acquiring the archives of the Alfalfa Club, which they knew contained such secrets as would give them the power they desired. Mesilim, King of Kish, acquired them through the subjugation of Shirpurla, Mesopotamia, and later E-Anna-Tum, upon throwing off the Kish yoke, came into possession of these much-desired secrets. When the Chinese Empire was founded in 2800 B. C., a Western Union messenger boy escaped with the secrets, which he hid in what is now Manchuria. Later, with the assistance of Asshurbanipal, they were again

recovered. Hammurabi, King of Babylon, used it as a basis of compilation of their earliest code, which is used today by the Committee on the Judiciary in the preparation of laws for the District of Columbia, particularly involving wet goods. When a hereditary monarchy was founded in China, B. C. 2200, an attempt was made to again possess these records, but without success. Its influence was felt from 1750 to 1250 B. C., when the new empire of Egypt attained its greatest splendor and power. Through possession of its secrets, the inhabitants of Assyria discovered the ingredients of mint juleps, unfortunately destroying the theory of their Kentucky origin, which gave them sufficient pep to obtain their independence from Babylon, which occurred in 1500 B. C., according to historians. The real dope which enabled the Hittite realm in Syria to attain its great power about 1400 B. C., was due to the cleverness of a Pinkerton detective, who succeeded in getting a formula from the Club's archives. These are all interesting little facts which should make the present members of the Club feel very proud. Rameses II, Shalmaneser I, the Phoenicians, Theseus, the Trojans, and others successfully built their fortunes upon the results of acquiring these secrets.

It has been authoritatively stated that when the Phoenicians, who were closely allied in language to the Hebrews, began their colonizing career, it was only after they came into possession of these rare archives. They seemed to play a part in everything of consequence in those days. Theseus used them in 1235 in connection with the founding of Athens, the success of which we all know. So long as the documents remained there, Athens prospered. Right here a very interesting little story should be told involving these interesting records. Many such have been found in various places. We have heard many versions of the fall of Troy, involving particularly the incident of the great wooden horse, of which much has been written in history. The authenticity of this has been doubted by many. Permit me to say here that the hieroglyphic inscriptions fully corroborate these so-called legends. Now follows the remarkable part of it. Helen, of Troy, through her machinations, persuaded the Am-

bassador from Athens to steal the famous secrets of the Alfalfa Club, which had been reposing there since its foundation. The King of Troy knew full well that with these they would be safe. The Greeks, discovering the loss of these cherished documents, immediately made warfare upon Troy. Now, the soldiers who were within the wooden horse when it was shoved through the gates of Troy, could never have succeeded if they had not known just where these documents were. The moment they got loose they beat it for the palace, where they grabbed the secrets. The Trojans were so overcome by their loss that the Greeks got the gates open before they could get a nip to pull themselves together. This is the real truth about the wooden horse. Now, there is very little of particular interest from 1184 B. C., when Troy fell, giving to the Athenians possession of the Alfalfa Club archives again, until 1017 B. C., when Solomon became king of the Hebrews. His fame is too well known for discussion. His greatest wisdom was in acquiring these documents, immediately upon his accession, because it was through them that he became the wisest of all kings. He cherished these beyond anything in his possession. It was hinted in some of the inscriptions that the great temple at Jerusalem was built by Solomon more to protect these archives than anything else. Many important events were identified with the Alfalfa Club from 1017 B. C. to 753 B. C., when Rome was founded. Evidently Sheshonk, King of Egypt, got in right with the Club, because in 973 he captured Jerusalem, after which he helped Asa, Eomer, Jehosaphat, the Syrians and Jehu, and lending some assistance to the Tyrians in their colonization of Carthage, and to Uzziah. One of the most practical things to which the Club gave its assistance was the building of the canal at Negoub, constructed to convey the waters of the Zab River to Ninevah. However, something happened to turn the tide against that famous city, for it would never have been destroyed in 789 B. C. had it had the Club's assistance.

It changes its habitat from this time, when in 753 B. C. there came to the shores of Italy, Romulus and Remus, well known to students of ancient history. It was be-

cause they had the influence of the Club and the friendship of its members, that its promise to assist in the foundation of a new empire was obtained. Without this the attempt would never have been made. The real quarrel between Romulus and Remus was not the little story about Remus jumping over a furrow made by a plow of Romulus', but to determine who was to have charge of these ancient and wondrous documents, then so greatly sought by the wise men of the world. We all know that Romulus won the argument. Hence the beginning of Rome, which city took his name.

During the several following centuries the Club was more or less inactive, although its influence was felt in many directions. It is of interest to mention some of these. A representative was sent, during the great war between Sparta and Messenia, resulting in the subjugation of the latter. The same thing occurred when Syria became subject to Tiglach-Tilesar II of Assyria, who later, with the same assistance, succeeded in subjecting Chaldea to his will. Assistance was given to Hezekiah upon his ascending the throne of Judah, to King Sargon of Assyria when he conquered Samaria and put an end to the Kingdom of Israel. Just what the reason was for this is not known. Jerusalem was then captured by Sennacherib who encountered the Egyptian and Ethiopian forces and, because of some resentment on the part of the Club, his expedition to Syria failed. The accession of Manasseh to the throne of Judah was with the approval of this organization. Yamato was established by Prince Gimmu in 660 B. C. as the capital of Japan, in which event the Club played a very important part through sending a special representative to Japan at the time. Just about this time it was concluded by your predecessors that the Assyrian rule was becoming intolerable. It was for this reason that it seemed advisable to open the country to the Greeks. Moreover, there was a great shortage in shoe shine parlors, hat cleaning establishments and quick lunch rooms in that section of the continent. Therefore, in 650 B. C. the Club, by exerting its tremendous influence, succeeded in making the whole of Egypt united under Tsammetichus I, the founder of the XXVI dynasty.

It was in 640 B. C. that the Club first entered the scientific field. This was quite an event. Chales, one of the seven wise men of Greece, was a member of the Club. This has only been known since the discovery of certain records, giving the information, in very recent years. He taught the spherical form of the earth and the true causes of lunar eclipses, and also discovered the electricity of amber. It may be well understood that the standing of the Club was much enhanced through this epochal work of one of its members. The defeat of Necho by Nebuchadnezzar at Tarthemish in 605, the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the origination of the Olympian games in Greece, the dethronement of Hophra by Nebuchadnezzar in 507, the conquests of Cyrus the Great were all events in which the Club manifested its interest.

There seem to be very few references to the activities of the Club during several centuries after this; the first mention being after the birth of Caesar in 100 B. C. when many important events took place. It is very probable that, for diplomatic reasons, the Club, during this time, took very little part in events. It seems that the Club had been mixing it up pretty lively for some time previous to this time. They always were very much disposed to joviality. Apparently, they had led some of the monarchs a merry chase, resulting in domestic troubles of various kinds. This, of course, did not go well with the common people; however, they were in so strong that they soon got back with their strong stuff again.

It would appear that Cleopatra had acquired information regarding this ancient organization which had made her determined to possess its secrets if such a thing were possible. Realizing that it had reposed for several centuries somewhere in Rome, she instituted various schemes for discovering the location of its archives. It was for this reason that she first made such violent love to Julius, the Great Caesar, with whom she became very closely associated in his habitat for many years. This not availing her of what she had hoped would make her supreme in the East, she turned her attention to the honorable Marc Antony, who fell for her with a dull thud. When he, deserting his ships in battle, followed her to the shores

of Egypt, he was under the impression that it was his own dear self she sought. Not so, however, for Cleopatra's ambitions were greater than that by far. She thought he had the dope. He thought she was kidding him. When she threatened to kill herself it was just to make him come across with it. Somehow Marc didn't seem to appreciate the point. When word was sent to him that she had poisoned herself, he followed suit. When she heard this she let her pet asp sting her, not because she had lost Marc, but the opportunity to get what she knew would mean her supremacy.

While the records are not altogether clear upon this part of the Club's history, it would seem that St. Patrick, when he visited Rome in 340 A. D., was intrusted with the precious documents, when he started for Ireland. Apparently somewhere on the way he was caused to leave them hidden. Just what the cause for this was has never been stated. Clearly, however, he studied them with great care, because in a private letter which has been found in the search, he indicated that it was through the information obtained from these great secrets that he was enabled to drive the snakes out of Ireland, which we all know he accomplished with great success. Undoubtedly it would have been an independent sovereignty had he been able to reach there with the papers.

The only other instance in history which has been found up to the present time relates to King Alfred the Great, who seemingly owes much of this reputation of his to having acquired these documents. The story, while brief, is rather interesting. It may be recalled that there is a little story about King Alfred traveling incognito about his kingdom. On one of such occasions he was in the house of a peasant. He was asked by the lady, who left the room for a few minutes, to watch the cakes on the hearth. He did not attend to his duty very well, according to history with which we are all familiar, because he let the cakes burn, for which he was very severely criticised by the housewife upon her return. This, of course, he had to take with good grace, because he was supposedly a traveller. The truth of it is that when she left the room, he discovered, because of a loose stone,

a large secret chamber in which were hidden these valuable records which he had been devouring with great interest during the lady's absence. This is the only instance which is any particular interest until I found the documents in Germany several years ago.

This comprises all of this particular manuscript, but there was to follow in a few days one containing the great secrets.

The gentleman who called was so reluctant about his address that I did not insist upon his giving it to me. It seemed perfectly reasonable to suppose that there would not be any question about his calling with the remaining data, because he had seemed so anxious to get this to me. He seemed to be one who must be treated with the utmost consideration, because naturally having made such a wonderful discovery, he would be careful in the extreme. Several weeks passed. This seemed very strange, because he had given his assurance that in a few days he would call again. However, a very short time ago, an explanatory letter was received, which read as follows:

"Somewhere, 1917.

Dear Mr. Burton:

You are undoubtedly wondering what has become of me. You have a right to do so, because of my promises. Undoubtedly, however, when you understand my reason, you will quite agree with me that it has been the course of wisdom. One hardly knows what to do in such strange times, particularly about so important a question. You undoubtedly were impressed with the fact that the manuscript left with you stated that the documents in question were found in Germany several years ago. This is the true situation. It was with the utmost difficulty that they were brought out of that country. The truth of it is that the Kaiser depended upon these for the success of the present war to such an extent that if for one moment he had thought they were gone, he would have waited until they were found again. When it was discovered that they were not any longer in their place, the most

trained members of his secret service were set upon the trail. It would be worth my life to have one of them locate me now, for which reason I have not dared to give you an address by which you could communicate with me. It must remain so until there is a termination of the present conditions. It is my belief that Germany is now continuing the war with the hope that these great secrets may be located in time to give her supremacy. To be sure, however, they never will, unless it is for the benefit of this country, which, of course, would be the realization of my ambition. When I have determined upon a method which will enable me to leave my present hiding place, in order that I may present the records to the proper authorities, I shall communicate with you. When the opportunity presents you may expect to hear from me again.

Sincerely yours,

FRIEND OF ALFALFA."

While the manuscript as an entirety is not complete, I felt that it was only proper to acquaint the members of the Alfalfa Club with such information as had been presented to me up to this time.

Sincerely yours,

H. RALPH BURTON.

Union Trust Building,
Washington, D. C.

