

\$150,000,000 TRUST

J. P. Morgan, T. F. Ryan and Levi P. Morton Form Combine.

BIGGEST MERGER IN AMERICA

Represents Three Banking and Trust Companies, With Deposits of Over \$133,000,000.

New York, Jan. 4.—J. Pierpont Morgan, Thomas F. Ryan and Levi P. Morton linked hands in New York today in a trust company merger which unites resources of \$150,000,000.

It is a triple combination, bringing the Guaranty Trust company, the Morton Trust company and the Fifth Avenue Trust company, all of this city, under one head with the title of the Guaranty Trust company.

The merger is perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States. Directors of all three companies met today and informally proposed the terms of a merger which will be put in more definite form Wednesday, when another directors' meeting will be held and the plan ratified by stockholders.

The merger will be taken until later, Levi P. Morton, president of the Morton Trust company and of the Fifth Avenue Trust company—both known as Morton-Ryan concerns—has consented to act as chairman of the board of the merged companies.

The new move in finance follows the recent absorption of the Guaranty Trust company by the so-called Morgan interests, but upon just what terms the merger was made is not disclosed.

The Guaranty Trust company was organized in 1891 and has total deposits of more than \$88,000,000.

The Morton Trust company, formerly the banking house of Bliss, Morton & Co., was organized in 1899. Thomas F. Ryan is vice-president. Its deposits aggregate more than \$45,000,000. Like the Guaranty Trust company, its capital and surplus are \$2,000,000 each.

The Fifth Avenue Trust company, founded ten years ago, is one of the better known up-town financial institutions. With a capital and surplus of \$1,000,000 each it has paid large dividends. The capital stock of the new company probably will be fixed at \$5,000,000, with perhaps a like amount for surplus.

It is believed that the merger will involve the large stock and cash dividends of the shareholders of the three companies.

The present premises of the Fifth Avenue Trust company will be retained as a branch of the combined companies while the main offices will be in the financial district.

It is rumored that the Morgan interests had acquired the holdings of Thomas F. Ryan in the Morton Trust company, but no statement on this point was obtainable.

CALIFORNIA HAS NEW PEST.

Insect Like Ladybug Lays Waste Many Grain Fields.

Jackson, Cal., Jan. 4.—A bug, somewhat like the common ladybug, has made its appearance near here. It is showing a piece of land to grain, a number of sacks were left over night in the field. An examination the next day led to the discovery that each sack was swarming with small bugs with a dark yellowish back.

Other parts of this county were affected by the same kind of insects, it is believed. The last year, the lands visited were denuded of all vegetation, and the soil produced nothing for that season. It was as if a fire had swept over the surface. One large ranch had fully 100 acres so affected last year.

While there is no general appearance of the bug in the county, it has appeared in localities wide apart.

Message in Sections.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Following a conference with presidents of six of the great railroad systems, President Taft late this afternoon announced a change of program in the sending of his message dealing with interstate commerce and anti-trust law amendments to congress.

The message will be split into two parts. The section dealing with trusts will be sent to congress Thursday noon. The section dealing with the interstate commerce law, in which railroads are directly interested, will be deferred until Friday. The president's special message on conservation of natural resources is expected to be ready for congress Monday.

Manila Has Cancer Cure.

Manila, Jan. 4.—A conditional and preliminary report of what is hoped will prove to be a successful treatment for cancer was presented before the Manila Medical society today. The treatment consists in making the patient immune from the further progress of the disease by the use of vaccine prepared from his own cancer.

Experiments have been made during the last eight months, both in cases where operation was possible and where it was not. A number of patients, apparently cured, were exhibited before the society.

Negro Refused Entrance.

London, Jan. 4.—A negro who claims American citizenship is an unwelcome guest of the Union Castle Steamship company at Southampton pending the outcome of diplomatic negotiations to determine the man's nationality. The negro was deported from South Africa after he had been convicted of a crime and served a sentence in a British prison. He was returned to New York, but was refused permission to land there as he was unable to satisfy the authorities of his American citizenship.

March Cause of Mutiny.

Fishers Island, N. Y., Jan. 4.—Many of the non-commissioned officers and men of the One Hundred and Thirty-First company, U. S. Coast Artillery, are confined in the guardhouse, at Fort H. G. Wright, as a result of a mutiny Saturday. The company was ordered out for a march of 15 miles and all but nine men declined to do the duty. It was declared authoritatively today that a majority of the men in the company had been ordered before a court-martial.

COLONIST TRAVEL HEAVY.

Year of 1909 Was Record-Breaker. More Expected in 1910.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The colonizing work done by the railroads in the west and Pacific northwest during the spring and fall of 1909 broke all records in railway history. Figures prepared by the management of the Harriman lines show that the number of colonists who were taken into the Pacific coast territory far exceeded the number in any other year.

The increase over the colonist movement of 1908 was fully 70 per cent, and may have been in excess of this.

Figures for the movement over the Hill lines are not available, the management refusing to give any detailed information regarding the number of new home makers they transported into the northwest during the last year. It is understood, however, that the Hill lines did not make as determined an effort to secure colonists as they have made in former years. This fact is said to be due to trouble in the colonist department of the Northern Pacific which led late in the year to the resignation of C. W. Mott, general immigration agent. On the Great Northern road, the illness of Max Bass, general immigration agent, which resulted in his death, somewhat retarded the work of taking homeseekers to the northwest.

It is understood that in 1910 the management of both the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, aided by the management of the Burlington, are to make a special effort toward populating the vacant lands along their lines in the fertile states of the northwest.

In each year the railroads have two short periods which they call colonist periods. The spring colonist period is from March 1 to April 30, while the fall period is from September 15 to October 15. In the fall period of 1909, the Harriman lines sold a total of 11,811 tickets to California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming points. In the corresponding period of 1908, the same lines sold a total of 6,227. The increase for 1909 was 5,314 tickets. This is an increase for the fall period of 85 per cent. In the fall of 1908 colonist tickets were sold between September 1 and October 31, during which time the Harriman line sold a total of 15,816 tickets. Accordingly, in just half the time in the fall of 1909 the Harriman lines sold within 4,275 tickets of the number sold during the 60-day period of 1908.

DYNAMITERS IN TOLLS.

Striking Railroad Machinists Attempt Violence, Is Belief.

Baltimore, Jan. 3.—Following an attempt last evening to blow up the Gay street bridge of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, three men were arrested on a charge of conspiracy with intent to dynamite the bridge and also the Mount Clair machine shops of the company. The bridge was not seriously damaged.

William R. Shipley, Hamilton W. Lighter and William H. Zimmerman, all machinists, were later taken into custody. Detective Captain Humphrey claims to have evidence directly implicating the men.

Both Zimmerman and Shipley, who went out with the striking machinists of the Baltimore & Ohio here last May in formal statements today confessed they had engaged in a plot to blow up the Mount Clair shops last night.

In the shops at the time the bomb was to be exploded were more than 1,000 workmen, and the alleged plotters admitted that they did not know how many persons might have been killed by the explosion. Detectives are looking for three other men, whom they say they can connect with the plot.

Prison Cruelty Alleged.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 3.—General Dodd, formerly overseer of the city prison, testifying before the investigating committee, in addition to corroborating the stories of cruelty to prisoners, and of filthy and unsanitary conditions, declared that the food served the prisoners was unfit even for the lowest kind of animals. Prisoners frequently showed bread containing flies, he said, and one man brought him a piece of bread containing a spider. He declared the place was overrun with vermin.

Pearl Bryan, one of three white women who was hung up by rings while at the stockade, said she was strung up nearly 45 minutes and was only taken down when they saw blood running down her arms.

Mount Pelee Is Active.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., Jan. 3.—Cable advices received here report a violent earthquake in the French island of Martinique and the British island of St. Vincent early today. Mount Pelee, a volcano on the island of Martinique, and La Soufriere, in St. Vincent, are reported active. A message from Fort de France, Martinique, says an earthquake shock was felt, but no damage was done. Nothing has been heard from St. Vincent since early today. Considerable anxiety is felt here about Kingston, Jamaica.

Trolleys Crash; Five Hurt.

Greenfield, Ind., Jan. 3.—Five persons were seriously injured, two probably fatally, in a head-on collision between two cars on the Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Eastern line at Philadelphia, four miles west of here, late today. The cars were the Newcastles limited eastbound, and the Dayton limited, westbound. They met at a siding as the westbound car was preparing to enter a switch. The Dayton limited was running at full speed when it crashed into the eastbound car. Both cars were telescoped for 10 or 12 feet. Both motorists stuck to their posts.

Paroled Convict Is Shot.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Harry Featherstone, a paroled convict, who has a long police record, was shot and seriously injured here today in a chase which followed a robbery of a South Side saloon. Featherstone and two companions were pursued after they had rifled the till and a policeman who joined in the chase sent a bullet into Featherstone's back. Search was begun for his companions. According to the police, Featherstone has participated in many daring robberies.

Labor Fights Big Trust.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Officers of the American Federation of Labor tonight issued a call on its 1,540,000 members to subscribe to a fund with which to wage a fight on the steel trust. The call arraigns the corporation as inimical both to labor and to the country and a violator of the laws. The sum of \$154,000 is to be raised at once.

Lampshire Dies in Prison.

La Porte, Ind., Jan. 1.—Ray Lampshire, convicted slayer of Mrs. Belle Gunness, of "murder farm" fame, and his children, died tonight of tuberculosis in the Michigan City penitentiary, where he was serving an indeterminate term for arson.

TO BOYCOTT TRUSTS

German Plan Is To Be Given Trial In America.

TWO CONGRESSMEN INTERESTED

National Anti-Trust League Will Make War on Combinations that Increase Cost of Living.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Plans for a national boycott of those combinations that increase the cost of living were laid here tonight, when the National Anti-trust League was launched.

Members of congress are interested in the new movement and immediate steps will be taken toward perfecting state organizations.

Then, when prices soar, league members, by stopping the use of such articles or commodities as have gone above a certain level, will try to put them back by refusing to furnish a market.

The plan was tried in Germany a few years ago, and, according to a report, broke up a combine that had raised the price of coffee to an almost prohibitive point.

The meeting was informal, and no final organizations was effected. It was understood, however, that the crusade just begun should go on in the name of the Anti-trust League, and that the organization should be non-political.

As soon as congress reconvenes a permanent organization will be effected. Among the speakers tonight were minority leader Clark and Congressman McKinley, of California.

The women of the United States will be taken into membership on equal terms with men, and will have equal voice in the campaign.

A nominal fee will be charged members to cover the cost of mailing proclamations against articles of food that have been pushed too high in the market.

DAUGHTER'S PLOT ENRICHES

Witnesses Confirm Story That Girl Stole \$97,820.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—Angelina Schiavone's dramatic story, in which she told how she robbed her father's bank of \$97,820 and gave it to her uncle, Francisco Schiavone, to gain a husband, received strong confirmation from other witnesses today in the trial of Francisco Schiavone and his family before Judge Tuthill.

The original packages of money taken from Pasquale Schiavone's bank were traced to one of the defendants, Mollie Schiavone, daughter of Francisco, and said to have inspired her cousin with the idea that she could buy a husband.

D. Costello, formerly receiving teller from the West Side Trust & Savings bank, testified that Mollie Schiavone had made frequent deposits of \$500 for her father, Francisco Schiavone.

Mollie always made a deposit for her father, Francisco, the witness said, and he did not recall an instance when Francisco had deposited such money himself.

DAMAGE SUITS THREATENED.

Independent Oil Men to Sue Standard Oil by Thousands.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 1.—Several thousand damage suits against the Standard Oil company of New Jersey will be instituted by the independent oil refiners if the United States supreme court upholds the decision of the circuit court for the Missouri district ordering the corporation dissolved.

Thomas L. Higgen, presidential candidate of the Independence party in 1908, who is now president of the Independent Petroleum Marketers' association, today announced that the independent refiners would base their proceedings under the section of the Sherman law providing that any person or company injured by a corporation may bring action against it for fourfold damages.

Davenport Trifle Worse.

San Diego—Homer Davenport, the noted cartoonist, who is seriously ill at the home of A. G. Spalding, Point Loma, fighting to recover from a nervous breakdown, was not as well this afternoon. Mr. Davenport slept well last night, but today a new complication threatened. A sharp pain has developed in the back of his head, and, while there is no fever, the attending physician has not yet decided the nature of this latest development. The doctors refuse to say whether he will ultimately recover.

Third Death in Tong War.

New York, Jan. 1.—Renewal of the tong warfare in New York's Chinatown claimed another victim early this morning, when a Chinese actor was shot and killed in the hallway of a tenement house, just before daybreak. Ah Hung, who was a prominent member of one of the Chinese secret organizations, was in his room when a voice demanded admission. Ah Hung opened the door an inch or two and peeped out. There was a shot and then a scamp of feet down the stairs. Neighbors found Ah Hung lying dead. A bullet had penetrated the body.

Zelaya Regarded as Martyr.

Mexico City, Jan. 1.—Dr. Groesbeck Walsh, formerly acting United States consul at Corinto, passed through here today. He said Zelaya was looked upon as a martyr by the people of Central America. Dr. Walsh said that he knew that when Zelaya was in power he had caused consular reports to be intercepted and had muzzled the press. Papers of Costa Rica are bristling with paragraphs such as "Down with the Yankies." "We must stand together," and "Zelaya is a martyr."

Submarine Saves Lives.

Toulon, Dec. 31.—The submarine Cigogne performed a remarkable lifesaving feat in a recent storm. The boat was practicing diving in the open sea when the commander saw a fishing boat suddenly sink. The submarine immediately dived under the fishing craft, of which the masthead alone was above water. The valves were operated quickly, and the Cigogne rose to the surface, lifting the boat and holding it above water long enough to take off the crew.

Aeronaut to Scale Mount.

New York, Dec. 31.—With the aid of a large balloon minus a basket and designed to assist in climbing, Colonel H. P. Shirley, of Nashville, Tenn., an experienced aeronaut, is planning to scale Mount McKinley.

The balloon, 20 feet in diameter and holding just enough gas to lift a man off his feet, is ready for shipment. Shirley says he will attach himself to the balloon by a harness and belt. This will leave him free to climb and yet give him the buoyancy of the gas-filled bag.

Guaranty Bank Test Dns.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 30.—Governor Haskell, of Oklahoma, today appealed to Governor Shallenbeger, of Nebraska, to join Oklahoma and Kansas in a legal test of the guaranty of deposits acts of the three states.

SAYS KNOX IS TO BLAME.

Zelaya Says Secretary Has Been Systematically Misinformed.

Mexico City, Dec. 31.—"Mr. Knox is not my judge. I am answerable only to my government."

Jose Santos Zelaya, who arrived this morning from Salina Cruz, thus replied to a question tonight as to what attitude he would assume should Secretary Knox seek to extradite him from this country. Zelaya refused to discuss such a probability, but strongly intimated that the secretary of state would not have the right to request his presence in the United States.

The former dictator's baggage included two valises bulging with American gold, and a third filled with paper money.

"I have no feeling against the American people at large, nor the government," he said. "Secretary Knox has been systematically misinformed, and public opinion in the United States has been prepared against me, but the real facts must become known in time, and it is to time I trust for my vindication."

"My relations with the preceding American government were exceedingly friendly. The situation contains many unfortunate conditions. Secretary Root had the complete confidence of Central America, and his policies were drawing the people closer together politically and commercially. I am afraid the attitude of Secretary Knox is undoing all that work throughout Latin America."

Zelaya said American marines engaged in several recent battles in Nicaragua, and that 20 of them were killed. He said:

"Do you know that there were 400 Americans fighting with the insurgents at Rama? Do you know at the battle of Colorado Junction, on November 1, the bodies of 20 American marines were picked up by our forces, all dead, and all from American gunboats anchored in the river to protect American interests? The official explanation given me was that these men were deserters."

WIRELESS PLANS STOLEN.

Great Britain Mourns Loss of Years of Work and Secrecy.

London, Dec. 30.—The wholesale theft of wireless plans, models and sketches which, in the hands of an expert would reveal all the workings and innermost secrets of the wireless service of the British navy, is charged against Richard Knowlden, who was placed on trial at Portsmouth today.

Knowlden is a draughtsman attached to the torpedo schoolship Vernon. In his room were found no less than 80 plans for wireless improvements and coding books of the most confidential character.

The authorities attach the greatest importance to the arrest, for they contend if the documents abstracted from the Vernon had reached foreign governments all the labor of recent years given to the perfecting of a wireless system for the British navy would have been rendered practically fruitless.

Valuable Ore Find Made.

Denver, Dec. 31.—According to an assay made today by Herman Fleck, professor of chemistry of the Colorado school of mines, the largest known body of pitchblende in the world has been discovered in a mine at Central City, Colo.

The discovery was made December 21, and the assay made by Professor Fleck shows, it is asserted, that the ore runs almost treble the highest percentage of all uranium ores ever discovered.

It is said the strike was made by the regular force of men engaged in taking out gold ore, and the assay, it is claimed, ran 85 per cent pure, whereas the previous best record was 30 per cent pure.

The mine is owned by Bishop Matz, of Denver, and is leased to Philadelphia capitalists.

Offer Taken Back Again.

St. Paul, Dec. 31.—The railroads today withdrew their offer to abide by the Chicago conference and re-employ striking switchmen as soon as they have places. The embargo on wheat shipments in some small towns of the state by the Great Northern road was removed. Railroad officials say that the strike is over so far as they are concerned. It was reported tonight that the old switchmen will go back to work on the Great Northern at Butte tomorrow. The Northern Pacific says that conditions on that road are satisfactory at Butte.

Dickinson at San Juan.

San Juan, P. R., Dec. 31.—J. M. Dickinson, American secretary of war, arrived today on the converted yacht Mayflower.

Many persons gathered at the wharf. The visit of the secretary has been the occasion of elaborate decorations. Secretary Dickinson has been on an inspection of Santo Domingo, giving especial attention to revolutionary conditions. He will also make an inspection of Porto Rico.

Davenport Is Sick Man.

San Diego, Dec. 30.—Homer Davenport, noted cartoonist, is suffering from a serious nervous collapse. He came here last week in the hopes of building up his shattered nervous system. He has not been feeling well for some time, and felt the pressing need of change of scene and climate. He accepted the invitation to visit the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Spalding, at Point Loma, where he is now under the care of a physician, by whose advice no visitors are received, and all correspondence is left untouched.

Soul for Music Lacking.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—"The American people are musical barbarians, and the function of the American musician is to civilize the people." This declaration by President A. W. Harris, of Northwestern university, was the keynote of the thirty-first annual convention of the Music Teachers' National association, which met here today. "It is regrettable that music plays such a little part in the education of the people," said President Harris, "and it is a shame that college graduates know so little of the sublimer works of music."

Belgium Republic Due?

Brussels, Dec. 30.—Socialists in the chamber of deputies today opposed the civil list of the king, which amounts to \$600,000, and reaffirmed their allegiance to a republic. M. Royer declared that the royal chateaux had been turned into sanitariums. The appropriations, however, were adopted by a vote of 100 to 29. The king's civil list is the same as that granted to Leopold, the new sovereign declining the Catholic party's suggestion of an increase.

Seattle Discovers Leper.

Seattle, Dec. 31.—For the second time within 20 years a case of leprosy was discovered in Seattle today, the victim ordered deported to the government leprosy colony in the Hawaiian islands. Eric Govers, a Scandinavian, who has spent the last 12 years in Alaska, is the afflicted man.

CHICAGO HIT AGAIN

Second Blizzard Stops All Traffic and Communication.

FUEL SUPPLY ALMOST GONE

Thousands of Cars of Coal on Tracks But Cannot Be Delivered to Consumers.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Slowly and painfully emerging from two previous heavy snow storms, followed by extremely cold weather and intermittent snow for two weeks, Chicago and contiguous territory tonight was swept by another fierce blizzard, which nullifies all the work of clearing away the debris of the earlier storms and leaves the transportation companies agghast at the task facing them.

With 9000 cars of coal at its doors, on sidings and terminal tracks, Chicago is on the verge of a fuel famine. Railroads and dealers admit tonight the condition is alarming.

The city already has consumed 60 per cent of its reserve fuel, and by the most rigid economy will be sold within five days unless the situation is relieved. The railroads had hoped, with good weather, to get in some of the coal, but tonight's storm means that they will be unable to move a pound for two or three days at the best. The snow tonight is driven by a high wind, which means heavy drifting and increased trouble for the railroads.

The storm blockade is felt seriously in the grain and provision trade. This was made apparent today when wheat that was good enough for December delivery sold on track here at three cents under the December price. The buyers were unwilling to take chances on getting the wheat into elevators and available for delivery before the close of business next Friday. This was for grain actually within the city limits.

It was asserted on the Board of Trade that one of the worst roads leading out of Chicago has more than 8000 loaded cars of grain on its various sidetracks, which it is totally unable to move in either direction. The condition applies to other roads, perhaps, in a lesser degree.

ENUMERATORS' TEST EASY.

Census Director Durand Sets February 5 as the Date.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Any person of good judgment, who has received an ordinary common school education, can readily and easily pass the test to be given applicants for census enumerators' places on Saturday, February 5, the date set by United States Census Director Durand, according to an announcement from the census bureau today. This will be a comforting assurance to the several hundred thousand persons who are believed to be contemplating application for the places.

It was emphatically stated at the bureau that the test will be an eminently reasonable and practical one, similar to that applied to applicants at the twelfth census. It will consist of filling out a sample schedule of population from a description in narrative form of typical families; and, in the case of enumerators whose work will be in the rural districts, they will be called on to fill out an additional sample schedule of agriculture, from information furnished by the census bureau.

All persons, whether women or men, who desire to become census enumerators, must be citizens of the United States, residents of the supervisor's district for which they wish to be appointed; must be not less than 18 nor more than 70 years of age; must be physically able to do the work; must be trustworthy, honest, and of good habits; must have at least an ordinary education, and must be able to write plainly and with reasonable rapidity.

Those who can comply with these requirements are invited to put in their applications, as there will be at least 68,000 enumerators' places to be filled by the middle of March, in preparation for the enumeration beginning April 15.

Application forms, with full instructions as to filling in, and complete information concerning the test and the method of appointment can be secured by writing to the supervisor of census for the supervisor's district in which the applicant lives. All applications, properly filled in, must be filed with the supervisors not later than January 25, as any received after that date cannot be considered.

At the University of Michigan, where there are no halls of residence for the women of the institution, ten different sororities succeed in solving the problem of how to house satisfactorily and chaperon properly about 200 young women students, fully one-fourth of the total number of coeds at Michigan, a Detroit Free Press Ann Arbor correspondent says.

There is something indescribably satisfactory to the average college woman in wearing one of those little Greek letter pins that mean so little to the great outside world—the busy, hustling, jostling, everyday world—but which mean so very, very much to the few entitled to wear them. At Michigan the sororities fill the places, to a great extent, of the traditions of the eastern schools for girls, schools established before the birth of the grandmother of the coed of today.

Nearly every sorority owns its home at Michigan. The aim of these sororities is not entirely social purposes, but is to promote good scholarship as well. There has been a great change in the fraternities and sororities at Michigan in the last few years, and both are beginning to be looked to as a means for promoting good scholarship and not as a hiding and sheltering place for some of the poorest students, who managed to get through college simply because they were boosted and coached day in and day out by the better students in that fraternity.

Until such time as the regents of the university find it within their province and power to erect residence halls for the women the homes offered to a certain number of coeds in the ten sorority houses will have to solve a share of the problem of suitably housing the girls.

The Hot Air Furnace.

There was a young publisher who made a sudden fortune by appealing to that largely neglected class which we call Society. Gaining riches, the young publisher retired and was seen less and less in his old haunts.

"Where's Lawrence?" some one asked of "Mr. Dooley."

Dooley answered: "Oh, he's up town just now, warning his hands at the Social Register."—Success Magazine.

When Two Men Try to Talk at the Same Time, It is a Pretty Good Sign that Each is Not Trying to Tell the Other what a Fine Man He Is.

We have observed that the man who shouts loudest for Fair Play wants something more than that for himself.

BIRD PARADISE IN PACIFIC.

Laysan Island Nesting Place of Albatross, Frigates and Petrels.

To the northwest of the Hawaiian Islands, about an equal distance from the shores of Asia and America, there is a small group of islands and cliffs upon which hundreds of thousands of birds live. Every year they lay their eggs and raise their young. Among small strips of land and rock there is what might be called a veritable bird paradise. This is the island of Laysan.

Laysan measures about five and a half kilos by four kilos and possesses no vegetation save a few thickets and occasional seaweed, and now and then a sickly little palm tree. Upon the banks are to be found large quantities of driftwood, brought from the shores of America by the currents.

But the number of birds that come there at the season of nesting exceeds the wildest imagination. There are places on the island where it would be impossible to put the foot without crushing a bird, a nest or an egg. Apparently, to the eye, there are hundreds of thousands of birds. There are albatross, white and brown, petrels and frigates in innumerable colonies, but distinct.

The albatross of Laysan are of two kinds, the white and the brown, the Los Angeles Times says. The latter live chiefly in the southern part of the island. They are, moreover, fewer in number than their white cousins. The two kinds unite in colonies, which are always distinctly separate, however. Their nests are almost identical, simple little mounds of earth with a hole in the middle. The female here lays a solitary egg. The parents provide for the nourishment of the young until the latter is able to go to the sea and hunt for himself.

The albatross are good neighbors among themselves, but they show a decided repugnance to living in the vicinity of the frigates. These big birds, so remarkable for their swiftness in flight, are great gluttons. All those who travel in the South sea know with what obstinacy they keep up with the speed of the vessel in hope of getting food.

The frigates are also to be found in prodigious numbers at Laysan and about the neighboring islets. The males, with their brilliantly colored plumage, are beautiful birds, and there is nothing more curious than to observe the haughty air which they assume on account of their beauty. The frigate is neither a born swimmer nor a diver. This, however, is compensated for