

AMERICANS GO TO THE WEST INDIES IN GREAT NUMBERS

Distinctly the Habitat of the Negro, but Natives Are More Serious Than Their American Brothers.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Washington, March 12.—Ever since the Panama canal became a certainty American interest in the West Indies has grown steadily until now it is probably greater than at any time since the American flag was to be seen on every ocean and American bottoms carried more than their share of the world's commerce. Americans always seeking some new thing, and in their restless search more and more of them are beginning to appreciate the delightful voyages that may be made from their eastern coast through summer seas at comparatively low prices. An evidence of this was furnished this winter when the first strictly excursion ship, carrying a full quota of passengers, left New York to cruise among the West India Islands and down the coast of South America as far as the Straits of Magellan.

Habitat of Negro.
The West Indies are distinctly the habitat of the negro. There are all kinds from the voodoo worshippers of the interior of Hayti and San Domingo, to the cultured, highly polished, ever hospitable college graduates of the English and French islands. The first desire of the American traveler is to compare the negroes and men of color in the islands with those he is familiar with in his own country, and he is almost invariably surprised at the difference. Laughing, unprovoked mirth and an utterly happy-go-lucky disposition is characteristic of the American negro of the south, but, as a rule, the natives of the West Indies take themselves much more seriously. They are exceedingly volatile when aroused, but the chattering gossamer is lacking. The nearest approach to the American style of negro is among the coal passers of St. Lucia, who, as they wind in and out from the coal piles to the ship, maintain an incessant flow of banter and chaff.

Nearly All Speak English.
At one time or another France owned nearly every island in the West Indies, but its possessions there are now limited to Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Bartholomew (better known as St. Barts) and a part of St. Martin, the other portion of which belongs to Holland. England has persistently Anglicized its islands until the French suzerainty has been almost forgotten, yet it is a curious fact that a French patois is the language of the natives of nearly all the English islands below the Virgin group. The people are bilingual, using the patois among themselves, but all having just as good a command of English. In the Danish islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix (which is better known as Santa Cruz) the back country natives have a patois which is not Danish, although the Danes have owned the islands for 250 years. Danish is now taught in the public schools of these islands and the children speak it, as do the government officials, but all speak English as well.

All Drink Rum.
West India brings thoughts of rum—the rum that has cut a figure in history and is famous the world over. In the early days the exchange of West India rum with African chiefs for slaves for the western world was a regular and enormously profitable business. Slavery passed but the rum remains—millions of gallons of it. The natives, foreign residents and tourists drink rum in all the islands. Special brands are spoken of with pride, and thousands of bottles are carried away every year by tourists as precious gifts for friends at home. This exists everywhere except among the whites and higher classes of British Guiana, which, although on the mainland of South America, is always counted as one of the islands. For some strange reason, in British Guiana it is considered extremely plebeian to drink rum. The people there drink gin and Scotch whiskey. Perhaps the explanation of this peculiarity is the fact that back in the almost impenetrable wastes of British Guiana the natives make "moonshine" rum like the mountaineers of the southern states make "moonshine" whiskey.

American Silver a Drug.
It would be advisable for all Americans going to the West Indies to lay in a supply of English money before starting. Travelers landing with nothing but American coins will be greatly inconvenienced unless they are of gold. Every island varies more or less in its willingness to accept American silver, although the gold and banknotes are readily exchangeable at the banks. In Antigua, for instance, not even the street peddlers are willing to accept American silver at all if they can possibly get English money. The Danish islands have a special coinage of their own, which is current nowhere else. Guadeloupe and Martinique each has a coinage, but Martinique silver does not pass in Guadeloupe, or vice versa. The small shopkeepers pass off this local coinage as frequently as possible, and travelers who have made purchases seldom leave without taking more or less of it from every island, some as souvenirs and some through carelessness. It would be interesting to know how much of the local coinage disappears forever in this manner. Tourists present still another peculiarity in that while its medium is English money, prices are all computed in dollars and cents.

Kill and Eat Monkeys.
To the ordinary man the thought of shooting a monkey would be abhorrent, but the natives of St. Kitts have no such scruples. The island has long been famous for its wild simians, the hill behind Basseterre, the capital, being called Monkey Hill. When the rains are on and water plentiful, monkeys are scarce and hard to find, but in the dry season they have to frequent waterholes known to the hunter, and here they are easily shot. The natives eat them with a relish, but strangers can seldom stomach the idea of the meat. The proverbial predatory habits and mischievousness of monkeys cause them to be a nuisance to the white planters, and in their wrath over damaged crops they might have about killing them. When the monkeys become unaccountably scarce, the natives revive a tradition that they have passed to the island of Nevis, only a few miles away, by submarine tunnel.

Bluebeard's Castle Here.
Every island in the West Indies is the abode of tradition, amplified history and historical facts stranger than fiction. For hundreds of years the Caribbean Sea was the haunt of buccaners, pirates, wreckers, beach combers, free soldiers and adventurers from the four parts of the earth, and nowhere did

they leave their impress more strongly than on St. Thomas, the first call for ships trading from New York down through the Leeward and Windward Islands to the Demerara river and British Guiana. As the ship sails into the magnificent harbor at Charlotte Amalie in St. Thomas—the harbor so greatly coveted by the United States before the war with Spain—on the farthest right of the three hills on which the city is built, is seen a round tower, resembling a truncated cone. On the central hill is another tower very similar in appearance. The first is called Bluebeard's tower and the second Blackbeard's tower. They are ideally situated to command the town and harbor, and tradition has it that they were built by the bewhiskered pirates whose names they bear.

Bluebeard's tower still has its old cannon and masonry defenses. The view from both is magnificent. A local historian has dispelled the illusion by showing that Bluebeard's tower was originally a lighthouse. Blackbeard's supposed structure is not so dissuading when its history is examined. The records show that it was built in troublous times by a citizen with large ideas of protecting himself when things happened. In fact, he erected such a formidable structure that the governor of the island feared he might become the political and military boss of the town, and ordered him to vacate.

Barbados Densely Populated.
Barbados is the only island in the West Indies which has remained English from its first settlement, which was in 1625, to the present time. It contains 166 square miles and supports 200,000 persons, making it one of the most densely populated countries on the globe. This overcrowded citizenry is one of the most intensely patriotic in the world, and in all the British Empire there is no people more proud of the fact that they live under the British flag. "I am a British subject, sah," is almost the first statement a Barbadian utters when he meets a stranger in a strange land, and if you look at him closely or crook your finger at him he hastens at once to the British consul.

to tell his troubles. It is said that if a Barbadian, while in swimming, sees a shark about to attack him, he sternly utters those talismanic words: "I am a British subject, sah," and the shark flees at once.

Although not one of the West Indies, but a part of the mainland of South America, British Guiana is generally spoken of as if it belonged to the island chain. This is because it is the natural terminus of a swing through the islands and because of its intimate relations with them. The Guianians are of interest to Americans for several reasons. The most important is because when the peace of 1667 was concluded between England and the Netherlands, the Dutch traded New York for the settlements which the governor of Barbados had founded on the Surinam river in what is now Dutch Guiana. This turned out to be the worst "swap" in the history of the world.

There is great confusion of terms in the popular mind in regard to British Guiana. The tourists and sailors call it Demerara, and the reader or hearer whose knowledge of geography is not detailed has little idea where it is. Also the sailors do not mean Demerara itself, but a city, which again confuses strangers. The truth is, Demerara is the central, smallest and most important of the three counties into which the province of British Guiana is divided, and the part to which the sailors refer is Georgetown, capital of the province, situated at the mouth of the Demerara river.

Club Entertains.
One of the pleasant features of traveling in the West Indies is that the visitor who makes himself agreeable, and remains any length of time, is almost sure to "put up" at the local club. This is a courtesy not to be despised, for the club is usually the coolest and most attractive place in town. It is to be regretted that at least one club down there does not welcome tourists with any great enthusiasm. Some months ago when a large ship arrived and the courtesies of the club were offered to all the passengers, the strangers showed their appreciation by carrying off many of the club's odds and ends as "souvenirs."

BUILDING AND LAND FOR CHEMAWA

Chamberlain Hopes to Secure \$35,000 Appropriation From Indian Department.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)
Washington, March 12.—Senator Chamberlain hopes to get \$15,000 for a new building and \$20,000 for additional land for the Chemawa (Salem) Indian school. At the senator's request Indian Commissioner Valentine required a special agent to examine the ground, the latter reporting favorably. It is hoped to get the items incorporated in the annual Indian bill. It is proposed to buy 101 acres at \$200 an acre.

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Tomorrow—The Culture of Flowers.

New Depot for Los Angeles.
(United Press Special Wire.)
Los Angeles, Cal., March 12.—Los Angeles may have a new union railway station that will cost \$1,000,000. Robert S. Lovett, president of the Southern Pacific, left New York yesterday for Los Angeles. It is known here that his coming is in some way connected with the plans for a new station in this city. He will go to Santa Barbara to confer with President Ripley of the Santa Fe road, who is wintering there. It is known that the Salt Lake road favors the construction of a depot, and all that is needed to consummate the plans, it is said, is the consent of Ripley.

FLAX GROWING AS INDUSTRY FOR OREGON FARMERS

Flax and Linen Expert Takes Up Matter With Senator Chamberlain—Much Wealth From the Fibre.

By John E. Lathrop.
Washington, March 12.—William J. Robinson, a flax and linen expert, has taken up with Senator Chamberlain the subject of growing flax in Oregon. He expresses the belief that, by a new process, the production of flax would add enormously to Oregon's agricultural wealth. He submits to Senator Chamberlain a sample of flax fibre, and some data to prove how large are the opportunities which open to the Oregon farmer.

Fibre Very Valuable.
He states that the fibre referred to is worth \$100 a ton, plus \$60 duty imposed on it.
"In 1908, about 70,000,000 gallons of linseed oil were made in America out of American-grown flax seed; and in the same year 4,000,000 acres were planted and 8,000,000 tons of flax fibre was produced. Practically all the fibre was burned in the fields. Estimating it very low, the destroyed fibre is worth \$600,000,000 every year."
Robinson believes that by the de-

velopment of the new method flax fibre raised in this country will be available for use in making good linens, and that Oregon may as well not have an important part in the industry.

It is known at the department of agriculture that flax is a very profitable crop, even when grown only for the seed, when the fibre is destroyed. If, then, the fibre be used in manufacture of linen, the value of the flax crop will be enhanced to make it worth while for Oregon and other farmers to raise flax on large areas.

Northwestern Corporation Sold.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Wallis Wallis, March 12.—Consulting Engineer H. M. Pabst, assisted by E. H. Crawford, a gas expert, and Accountant John Y. Richardson, all of Portland, have been in this city and Pendleton for the past few days looking over the property of the Northwestern Corporation, with a view to finding the exact status of the company's holdings and its earnings. They are supposed to be in the employ of the H. M. Blythe company of Chicago, which has purchased the Northwestern corporation.

chased the Northwestern corporation. It is said they have been making the final preparations for the taking over of the company's property by the new owners.

More Paving for Wallis Wallis.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Wallis Wallis, March 12.—Street improvements will be resumed next week, the spring weather having made the street beds firm enough to take the paving and macadam. Many miles of paved streets will be added to Wallis Wallis's street system. The paving is done by assessment of contiguous property owners, and from the interest taken it is thought before fall that most of the business and residence portions of the city will have streets that will not be affected by changes of weather.

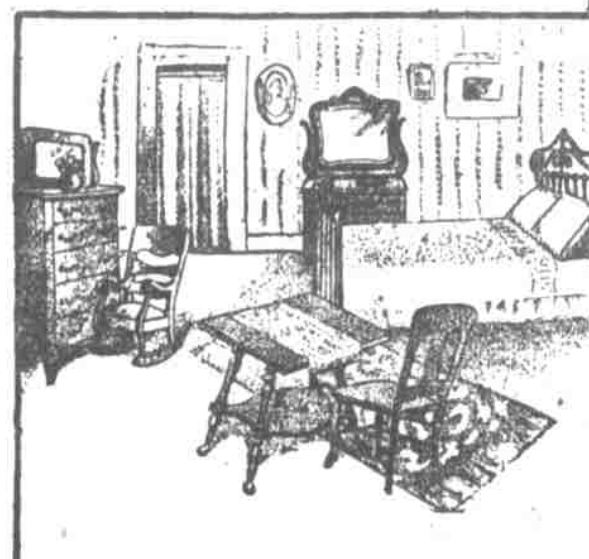
Body Found in Lake.
Lakewood, N. J., March 12.—The body of Miss Helen Bloodgood, a New York heiress, was found today in the lake here. Miss Bloodgood had been missing since Wednesday. It is believed that she committed suicide.

Furniture for Four Rooms

\$99.50 at Gadsbys' \$99.50
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THIS outfit has been selected with great care, and we believe it is the best ever offered on this coast --- It is all assembled so you can look it over without going all through our store



PARLOR

Parlor Suit in birch, mahogany finish, spring seats, upholstered in green velour, consisting of Sofa, Arm Chair, Reception Chair, one Center Table, Brussels Rug, 9x12, and one pair of Lace Curtains.

NOTE—If Parlor Suit is not wanted, we will substitute one Couch, with roll edge, and two Rocking Chairs.

DINING ROOM

Rug, ingrain, 9x9 feet.
Extension Table, oak, 6 feet long.
4 Oak Dining Chairs, cobbler leather seat.
1 Buffet, with mirror back, drawers for silverware and cabinet for china.
42-piece Decorated Dinner Set.

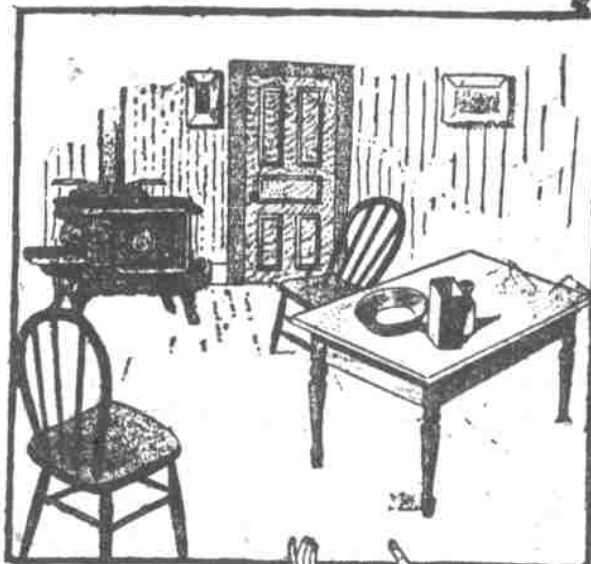
BED ROOM

1 Enameled Iron Bedstead.
1 Woven Wire Spring.
1 Cotton-Top Mattress.
2 Feather Pillows.
1 Dresser or Chiffonier.
1 Cane-Bottom Oak Rocker.
1 Cane-Bottom Oak Chair.
1 Rug, ingrain, 9x9 feet.

KITCHEN

1 No. 8 Cook Stove.
3 joints Pipe, 1 Elbow and Collar.
1 Kitchen Table, with drawer.
2 Kitchen Chairs, wood bottom.
12 yards floor Oil Cloth.
1 Coffee Pot, granite.
1 Tea Pot, granite.
1 Tea Kettle, granite.
1 Saucepan.
1 Stew Pan.
1 Dish Pan.
1 Frying Pan.
1 Roast or Bake Pan.
2 Bread Pans.
1 Pudding Pan.

1 Flour Sifter.
1 Rolling Pin.
1 Potato Masher.
4 Pie Plates.
1 Basting Spoon.
1 Stove Shovel.



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NOTICE

The true measure of progress is service, and we recognize that just as we are of service to you, just to that extent will the Union prosper. For the benefit of the people who are employed during the day, the UNION DENTAL CO. will keep its office open evenings until 8:30, Sundays from 9 to 12.



Out of Town People

Should remember that our force is so organized that we can do their entire crown, bridge and plate work in a day if necessary. Positively painless extracting free when plates or bridges are ordered. We remove the most sensitive teeth and roots without the least pain. No students, no uncertainty, but specialists who do the most scientific and careful work.

Full Set of Teeth \$5.00
Bridge Work or Teeth Without Plates \$3.50 to \$5.00
Gold Crowns \$3.50 to \$5.00
Porcelain Crowns \$3.50 to \$5.00
Gold or Porcelain Fillings \$1.00 UP
Silver Fillings 50¢ to \$1.00
Whalebone or Gold Dust Rubber Plates \$10.00

No charges for Painless Extracting when other work is done.

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