

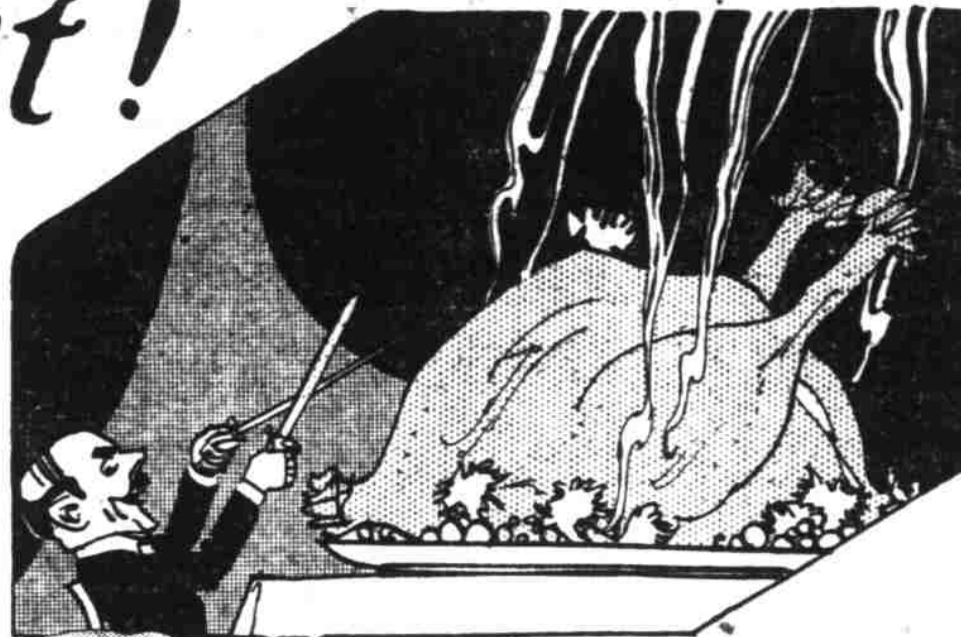
# Did You Ever Eat a Dodo? No You Didn't!

But You've Relished  
Many a Morsel of White  
and Dark Meat From This  
Prehistoric Fowl's Great-  
Great-Great-Grandson  
and You'll Enjoy

Some More Next Thursday. Science  
Has Made Some Remarkable New  
Discoveries About the Turkey and,  
Just Think of It, He Isn't an  
American Bird After All!



Skeleton of the Dodo From Bones Found on the Island of Mauritius.



The Dodo, Great-Great-Great-Grandfather of the Turkey, as It Has Been Restored in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

**N**O, YOU haven't sat down to a dodo dinner; that is, not unless you are a Mauritian 235 years old. Don't be humiliated on that account, however. You have eaten his descendant many times, if Dr. T. Ahmstead Savage, F. R. G. S., is right.

Yes, sir, turkey, the traditional bird of America, is not American, the explorer says. The great "Thanksgiving bird" has nothing of which to be proud in his ancestry; he comes from the dodo, the most foolish and insane bird that ever laid an egg.

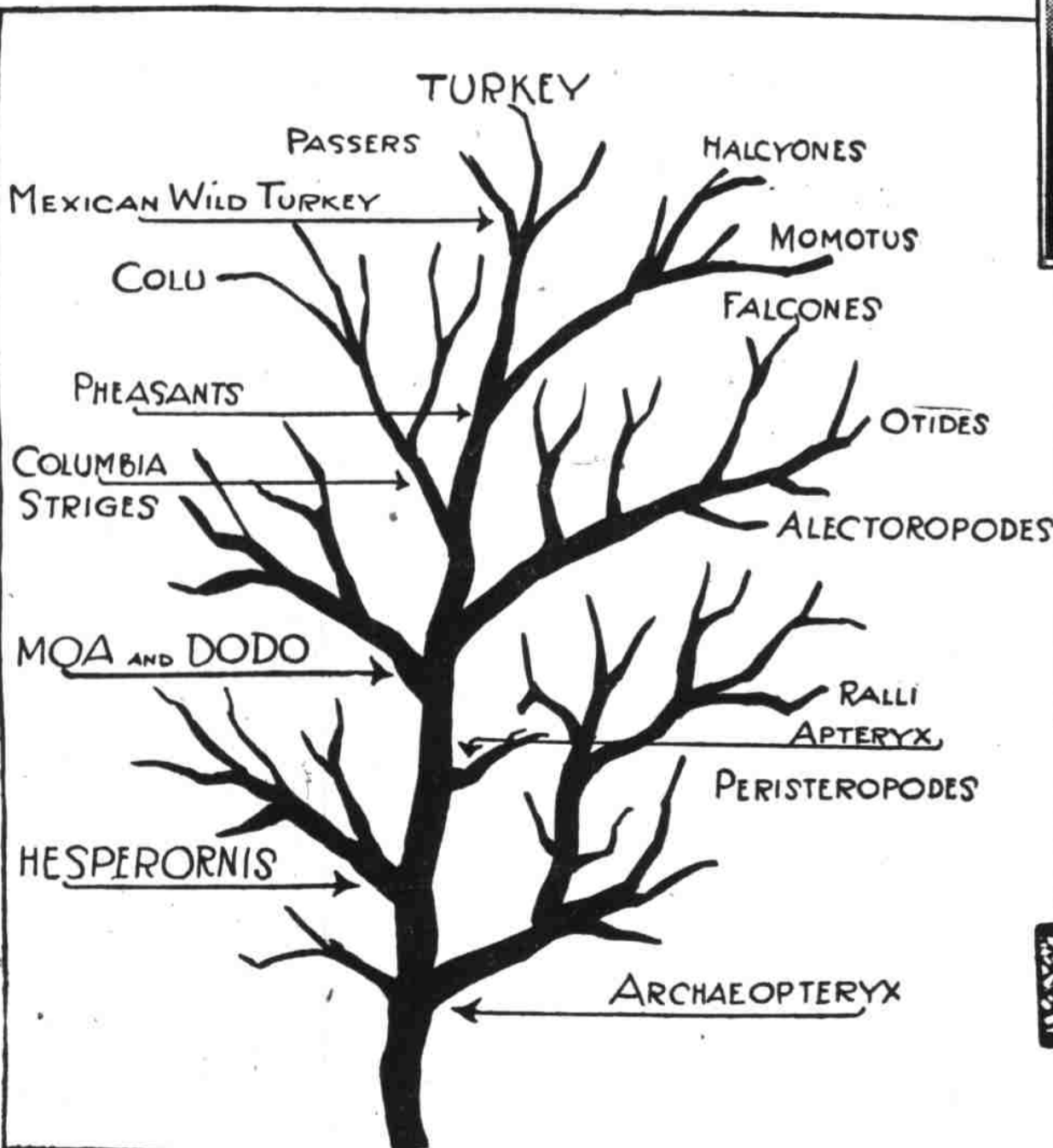
truly colossal dimensions, comparatively speaking, for they were sometimes twelve feet in height."

For ten years the doctor, who is noted for his explorations in Madagascar, has been looking up the lineage of the turkey. In carrying on this work he has been assisted by his wife, Mrs. Lois Savage. They have traveled all around the world in making their investigations.

#### Searches Out His Relatives.

Dr. Savage and his wife remained in China almost a year studying birds and fowl there with relation to a possible connection with the turkey tribe. Then they went to the Island of Borneo, to Japan, and finally came to this country. Here they observed farmyard turkeys for several months, and finally went to the Ameri-

big feet and savage ways that lived in New Zealand about 250 years ago. The moa and the dodo became extinct almost at the same time. Scientists have been unable to explain this calamitous coincidence. Laymen who have given it feathery consideration hint that perhaps the moas and dodos met unexpect-



How "Birds' Peerage" Traces the Ancestry of the Turkey.

after this, but the chances are you will forget all about the ugly dodo when the holiday carving begins.

Dr. Savage of Melbourne, Australia, is not alone in his connection of the turkey with the dodo. In 1638 Sir Hamon Lestrange told of seeing a great bird on exhibition in a London side show and that it was "somewhat bigger than the largest turkey cock and so legged and footed, but shorter and thicker."

Dr. Savage also attempts to trace the turkey's antecedents to the Moa, the extinct bird of New Zealand, which resembled the dodo in many particulars. The Encyclopedia Britannica says in describing the ancient bird: "Some were of

can Museum of Natural History in New York, where they completed their task.

One of the greatest aids to Dr. Savage at the American Museum were two figures of the dodo, a bird which became extinct 230 years ago and is generally believed to have been a myth, although science has proved beyond a doubt that it existed on the Island of Mauritius and was one of the silliest birds that ever drew breath through a bill. The dodo, according to Dr. Savage, was the great-great-grandmother of our American turkey.

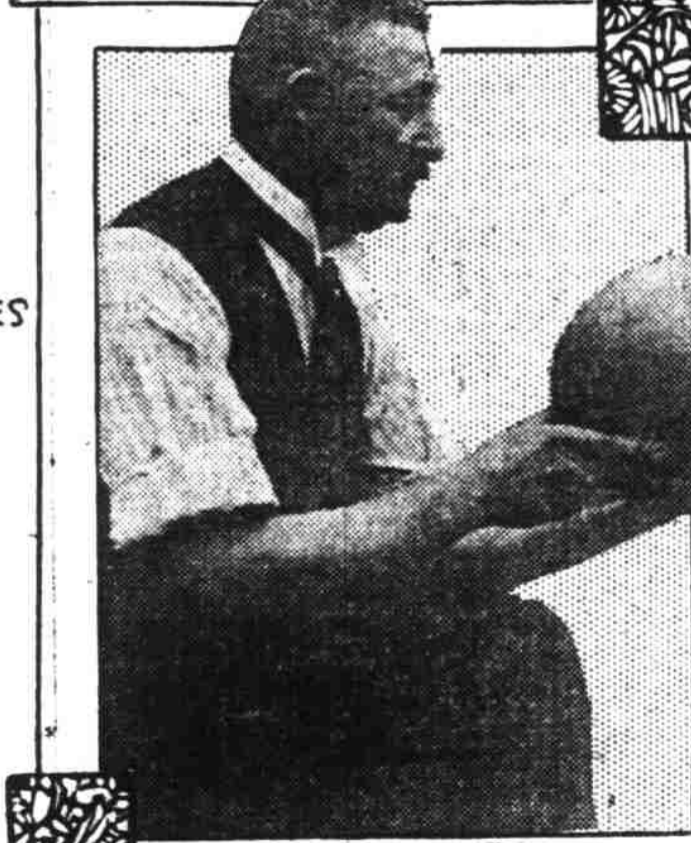
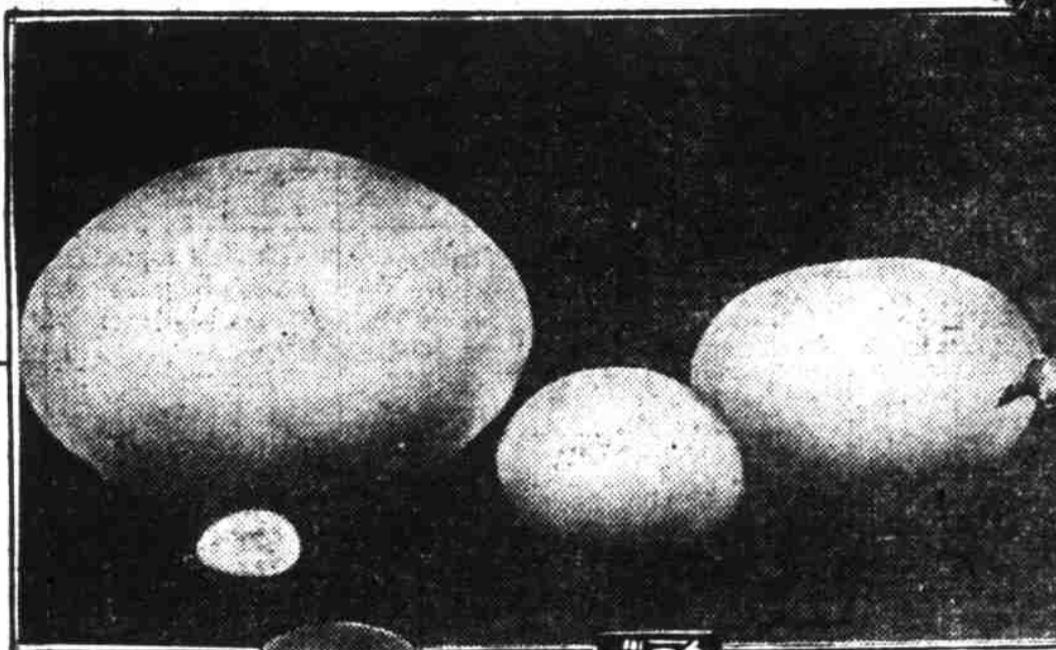
Such being the case, who was the great-great-grandfather? "Why, the moa!" says Dr. Savage. Know what a moa is, or rather, "was"? A moa was a bird with

edly, looked at each other and then decided there wasn't any use living longer.

However, their descendants were fairly sane in appearance, and so they went on living and multiplying with variable results till the stock twisted itself into that of the pheasant family, and from the pheasant family trotted the turkey tribe.

#### Advances Remarkable Theory.

It is a remarkable theory which Dr. Savage advances—one that will come as a distinct shock at this time of the year to those good Americans who sit at the festive board and discuss turkey as "the great American dish." Before sailing for Europe on the steamship Lapland Oct. 20 Dr. Savage unfolded his theory and presented his alleged proofs of it at a dinner given in his honor in New York City by Dr. H. S.



The Moa's Egg. The Moa Was Also an Ancestor of Our Thanksgiving Bird.

The Smallest Egg Is a Chicken's, Behind It Is the Moa's. Next to the Right Is an Ostrich Egg and on the Extreme Right Is the Egg of the Aepyornis, an Extinct Ancestor of the Moa and Dodo.

Lee, a prominent authority on Chinese ornithology.

"It is generally conceded," he said at the dinner, "that the pheasant family includes the turkey under the name 'meleagrinae,' which includes, among others, the Mexican wild turkey, known as the immediate ancestor of the American domestic turkey. It is in tracing back the pheasant that we reach the interesting great-great-grandparents of the turkey.

ant that we reach the interesting great-great-grandparents of the turkey.

"To understand my theory thoroughly it is first necessary to take a map of the world. There place a finger on Brazil. Then glance over to Africa. You will see an indentation extending to French Equatorial Africa. Now, imagine that in some early period of the earth's existence South America and Africa were one continent.

"This, of course, is a well-known theory. Let us, then, go still farther. Study Australia carefully. Look at New Zealand. See how it would fit snugly against Australia, from Brisbane on down below Cape Howe. Next take Australia from Cape Bougainville on down to Northwest Cape and put it against the east coast of Africa, from Italian Somaliland to Zanzibar.

"Following out the generally accepted

theory that South America and Africa once were one continent, let us go farther and assume that Australia and New Zealand were a part of the continent. In a prehistoric upheaval they were separated. Before the separation occurred, however, the moas and the dodos lived together serenely.

"When the break took place, according to ornithological observations I have made, the immediate predecessor of the turkey remained on the South American continent. There was a better development of the turkey remaining in Australia and New Zealand. Along with it remained the moa, and on the Island of Mauritius was the weird dodo. It had found a mate in the moa, only to lose him, but the offspring of the moa and dodo was the genuine turkey strain.

Indeed, turkeys lived in New Zealand along with the moas. These last birds, by the way, were of varying sizes, some being no larger than the turkey and others growing to a height of fourteen feet. Now, it is perfectly plain to me that the original turkey lived in Australia, Africa and New Zealand; that the pheasant went to South America, and there, through natural selection, the Mexican turkey was evolved. This in turn became the American turkey.

#### Not "Great American Bird."

"The first bird known to science is the archaeopteryx, which lived in the cretaceous age. After this came the hesperornis, a two-legged creature that was amphibious and lived chiefly on fish. The archaeopteryx and the hesperornis are the only birds we know of that had teeth.

"Their offspring was the apteryx, or kiwi. After the kiwi came the moa and dodo and finally the pheasant and turkey. There is your 'birds' peerage' or 'bird tree,' or whatever you choose to call it. I am willing to stake my reputation against that of any ornithologist in the world that I am correct. Assuming, therefore, that I am correct, it is untrue and unfair to say that the turkey is the 'great American bird.' It is nothing of the kind. It really is a bird that belongs to Africa and Australia."

Professor Savage was greatly interested in a skeleton and a restored figure of the dodo which have just been put on exhibition in the American Museum. The skeleton is the first of its kind ever sent

to this country. The only others like it are in the British Museum, Oxford and Cambridge universities and Utrecht. The bird is the gift of Walter Winans of the Baltimore family of that name, who now lives in Surrenden Park, England.

Of course, as the dodo became extinct 230 years ago, the specimens at the American museum are restorations. Skull and legs were cast from original parts that were saved by early voyagers to the Island of Mauritius. The dodo had a huge, blackish bill, terminating in a horny hook, cheeks partly bare; thick, short, clumsy yellow legs and feet, ash-colored plumage, stumpy wings unfit for flying, and a short tail of white, curled feathers. It looked like a mammoth pigeon and was about half the size again of a turkey.

#### Bird Proved to Be Good Mixer.

When the Portuguese discovered Mauritius in 1507 there were plenty of dodos on the island. The bird showed such a sociable disposition that the voyagers named it "duodo," meaning "stompleton."

The moas are one of the most interesting groups of ornithology for the reason that they fill the gap between the modern birds and those of prehistoric times; also because they are the biggest feathered birds, and therefore originally flying birds. The hind toe, the shape of the legs and other characteristics similar to the pigeon and the turkey show that the relation of great-great-grandfather is no dream, and the same reasoning applies to the dodo.

They laid but one egg, in which respect their descendants, the pheasants and the turkeys, show more progressiveness, unless the size is considered, when it will be seen that the net result is about the same in weight.

As for the moa's eggs proper, before the crossing with the dodo, those of the greatest of the moas, known as the "aeplornithes," are among the marvels of the past, one of which, found in Madagascar, and now in the collection of a private individual, a resident of Orange, N. J., holds more than two gallons and is as bulky as 150 hens' eggs rolled into one. Such facts have a tendency to support the stories of Marco Polo, one of which was that he presented the Great Khan of the Tartars several hundred years ago with a feather of a bird of Madagascar "9 spans long and 2 palms wide."