

## Ready to Try Niagara Falls Again



If he is offered sufficient money, Bobby Leach, the fifty-nine-year-old daredevil, may again undertake to shoot the Niagara Falls. He says he may use the steel barrel in which he performed the stunt on July 23, 1911, and on which he is sitting in the photograph.

## EXPLORE LITTLE KNOWN ISLANDS

Expedition to Visit Channel Group in Pacific Off Coast of California.

## RICH IN HISTORIC LORE

Islands Are Within 82 Miles of California's Shore, Yet Less Than 50 Persons Annually Visit Them—Discovered by Cabrillo.

San Francisco.—An expedition of scientific students has been made up in California and Oregon to explore thoroughly the channel islands off that part of the coast in California known as Santa Barbara and Ventura counties during the next six months. The party, says the Dearborn Independent, is to be sustained by Stanford university largely and to a less extent by several denominational colleges in southern California. Anthropological and archaeological students, who have spent several weeks each on these islands, say they are one of the very richest fields for work in that department of knowledge on the Pacific coast.

The channel islands constitute California's only archipelago, with the possible exception of the rocky and scanty Farallone islands. They have been objects of romance, legends, curiosity and mystery for a generation.

The islands are within 82 miles of California's shore, yet are unfrequented and years roll by with visits to them of less than 50 persons annually. Each island has its own particular strange, uncanny traditions of the tribes of red men, and each has the countless traces of an occupation by thousands and thousands of Indians.

**Discovery of Channel Islands.**  
When Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the Portuguese navigator, sailed up the coast of California in 1542, he stopped for a day or two at each of the channel islands, and his records

## VETERAN FIGHTER AT 13



John Dolocinski, aged thirteen, who has just arrived in America from Poland, where he spent two and a half years in the Polish army. He has been in more than a dozen battles.

bear testimony that on the islands of Santa Barbara, Catalina, Clemente and St. Nicholas there were a "vigorous and lusty race of natives, who thronged the shores of the little bays and headlands," and gazed in mute wonder at the white-sailed ship of the navigators.

Today the islands stand as they did more than 350 years ago, but the natives are only a memory, represented by immense quantities of stone implements, barrels of fine wampum and cart loads of human bones.

## Petrograd Is 'No Man's Land'

Once Gay Capital of Russia Is Now a Nightmare of Horror and Death.

### HOUSES WRECKED FOR FUEL

Death Stalks on Every Side, Waiting for Winter to Aid in the Grim Work of Mowing Down Thousands.

Paris.—A graphic, eye-witness description of the fearful conditions existing in Petrograd is given by the Finnish Red Cross in an appeal just issued to the Red Cross Societies of the World. It is accompanied by documents prepared by Professor Zeider formerly head of the Petrograd Red Cross, but now a refugee in Finland.

The documents tell the story of the agony of a dying city. Petrograd's present population based on the food cards, now is from 500,000 to 600,000, and the former capital of the czars is described as having shrunk to one-fourth its pre-war size. The report says:

"Death stalks on every side, waiting for winter to aid in the grim work of mowing down the silent, hungry sick, and dying by thousands. With streets and houses choked with filth that is already spreading spotted and intermittent typhus the cold weather will finish the task with pneumonia and abdominal typhus.

**Wreck Houses for Fuel.**  
"The fuel situation was never so bad. Wooden houses have been torn down for fuel. The material is distributed equally among the population but during the night the more active citizens steal the quota of wood from others.

"Attempts to repair the streets, which are full of holes, owing to bursting water pipes, failed because the wood blocks used for pavement had been stolen during the night for fuel.

"Lighting is allowed only two half hours each day, and then not all houses are supplied on the lines furnished by the authorities. Kerosene costs 450 rubles. There are no candles. Most homes are in darkness.

"There is no means of transporting things by waterway, because the barges were long since demolished for fuel. The railway transportation is devoted almost exclusively to the distribution of flour. Only 200 persons are permitted to leave Petrograd daily by passenger train.

"Workmen receive half a pound of bread daily; sometimes other food is given. The prices of foodstuffs continue to rise to incredible heights. Many products have almost completely disappeared from the markets.

"The mortality has reached a startling rate, owing to the lack of food

St. Nicholas island lies 80 miles immediately opposite the little city of San Buenaventura (recently called by the more modern and easy name of Ventura) and is the most interesting of all the channel islands from many points of view. As far back as the memory of any person in Southern California extends, hundreds of white skeletons have dotted the valleys and hillsides. Strange utensils of serpentine sandstone and steatite are found there among the human bones, and the island and its erstwhile inhabitants have a history so curious that it is difficult of comprehension.

In 1835 the Franciscan padres in the Santa Barbara mission, learning that there were but 16 of the strange and almost extinct human race then living there, determined to rescue them from the island. They went over in a sloop and succeeded, as they thought, in getting all on board.

At the last moment an Indian woman returned for her child, and, one of the frequent storms of the channel islands springing up, the sloop was driven away without her. The sloop went on the rocks off Point Conception and all were lost.

### St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas is 10 miles long and four miles wide at the widest point. Its topography shows a nearly level plateau, with an elevation of 800 to 1,000 feet. Two-thirds of the surface is covered with drifting sand, and the remainder grows a species of nutritious grass and moss, on which a thousand sheep find pasture.

As far as the eye can trace there are barren levels with innumerable circular depressions, showing where primitive dwellings once stood. Not a vestige remains of the materials used in the construction of these rancherias. Hundreds of shell mounds are scattered about and are found to consist of astonishing numbers of mollusca, the bones of every species of fish found in the channel, skeletons of seals, sea elephants, whales, sea otter, the island fox and various aquatic birds.

An examination of some mounds discloses all sorts of curious utensils—stone cooking pots, ollas, mortars, pestles, drills, bone needles and fish hooks, shell beads, charm stones, pipes, cups and a few arrowheads, spear points, and swords made of bone. The absence of many weapons proves the peaceful attributes of the islanders. Small imitations of boats and fish carved from crystallized talc and serpentine also show a rudimentary knowledge of the art of sculpture.

and the insanitary conditions of houses and streets. Fat has left the majority of the population long ago. At present the muscular tissue is consumed. The faces of the people have taken on a waxlike color.

### City of Ghastly Horror.

"In order to fill their stomachs with something, they drink different substitutes for tea and coffee, or great quantities of plain water, resulting in puffiness and dropsy, which change the complexion of the face so that even old acquaintances are unrecognizable.

"There is no fuel, no hot water or baths, no janitor, doorkeeper or servants for cleaning yards, streets, buildings, or for the removal of garbage.

"Petrograd is facing a dreadful phantom of epidemics. Thousands are already dying every month of spotted, abdominal, and intermittent typhus, dysentery, Spanish influenza, small-pox, pulmonary diseases, ringer and exhaustion.

"The hospitals are overflowing with dropsy victims, mostly women, elderly men and children."

### JAPAN IMPORTS GERMAN DYES

Gets \$1,000,000 Worth of Product During August, Says Report to Department of Commerce.

Washington.—Japan imported \$1,000,000 worth of German dyes during August, according to reports received by the department of commerce. Although their sale has been retarded by the business depression which has prevailed in Japan importations continue, importing firms fulfilling contracts made before prices slumped.

The department also was informed that the Japanese government has taken steps to halt the transfer back to Japan of funds held in other countries for the purchase of imports.

As a result of a decrease in the demand for imported goods specie to the extent of \$10,000,000, which had been reserved in America was returned to Japan during July by exchange banks, the department was advised.

### Sunflower Grows in Trunk of Big Maple

Middletown, N. Y.—A curiosity which is attracting many persons in the yard of Mrs. Mary G. DeWitt here is a sunflower growing out of the trunk of a large maple tree some distance from the ground. It has a stem three feet in length and a saucer in bloom the size of a saucer. A bird is supposed to have carried the seed into the tree, where it sprouted and took root in the bark.

## Salvation Army Dedicates New Training School



Commissioner Thomas Estill of the Salvation army dedicated the new Chicago training school for Salvation army officers. The college is one of the army's three largest in the United States and more than 125 students will train there. The building was formerly the home of Joseph E. Tilt, wealthy Chicago shoe manufacturer.

## Would Protect Alaskan Eagles

Audubon Society Urges Halt in Destruction, Due to 50-Cent Bounty Law.

### BIRDS OF FREEDOM LIBELED

Official Cites Instances of Mistaken Bird Campaign in Asking Suspension of Bounty Law—12,000 Killed Since Law Enacted.

New York.—American eagles in Alaska frequently kill full-grown deer, and are devastators of sheep and other live stock, fur-bearing animals, domestic and wild fowl, salmon and other food fish, according to Alaskans who have been writing on the subject to T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary of the Audubon Societies National association.

Mr. Pearson has been directing from the New York offices of the association an agitation to save the American eagles in Alaska by removing the price of 50 cents a head, which was placed on their heads by the Alaska legislature in 1917, which made them outlaws because of their supposed destructiveness. The accusers of the bird of freedom in Alaska have made out a very black prima facie case against him, but the bird experts of the Audubon societies generally believe that the eagle has been convicted on hearsay evidence and without much of a trial. By way of giving the bird his day in court, the department of agriculture has sent a scientist to Alaska to make a close study of ways and habits of the defendant.

The number of eagles killed in Alaska since the bounty law went into effect is not less than 12,000, according to estimates today. C. D. Garfield, secretary of the Alaska Fish and Game club, in a letter to Mr. Pearson in August said:

"A vast difference is noted in the numbers of these birds showing in south-eastern and western Alaska, and it is safe prediction that, if the slaughter continues for a few years longer, the species will become practically extinct in this country."

**Asks Suspension of Bounty.**  
According to Mr. Pearson, one section or another of this country is always working itself up into a witch-burning zeal against some particular bird, which usually proves in time to be not only innocent, but beneficial.

"Of course, human beings are more important than birds," he said, "and their concerns are entitled to first consideration. If the charges against the American eagle were all proved, the bounty law would be justified. But there have been so many mistaken slaughtering campaigns against valuable or harmless birds that we are asking in this case a suspension of the bounty law until the study of the habits of the eagle, which have been undertaken, show whether he really deserves slaughter or not.

"A few years ago there was an anti-meadow-lark campaign in California. Speeches were made in the legislature to the effect that they were ruining the grape crop in some sections. For a time it seemed as if the meadow lark was doomed, but a careful investigation of the origin of the outcry against the lark showed that it all started with a statement of a farmer that he had seen a lark sitting on the grapes.

"New Jersey had a similar period of hysteria against the robin, which was alleged to be destroying the cherry crop. There was a great propaganda in Arkansas and Texas for a time because of the untrue charge that they were destroying rice fields.

"One of the most exciting campaigns of persecution against a liberal bird started along the gulf coast in 1918, when it was alleged that the brown pelican was destroying food fish at the rate of nearly a million dollars

a day, and as it was put in one indictment—every day they consumed more food fish than the people of Texas got in a year.

### Mistakes Campaign Against Gulls.

"The assailants of the birds placed their numbers at a million and started the slogan: 'Kill the pelican or the kaiser will get you.' They appealed to the federal food administration to aid in destroying the bird to save the fish. By co-operation between the federal and state authorities I undertook an investigation of the habits of the bird and made a cruise with a party visiting all but one of the islands on which they were supposed to breed. This showed that, instead of numbering a million, their number could not exceed 65,000. It also showed that they lived exclusively on menhaden, a fish not eaten by humans.

"One of these periodic flare-ups against birds actually left a deep mark on the development of the country and is truly an historic episode. It is recounted by E. H. Furbush, state ornithologist of Massachusetts, that the inhabitants of Southern Harbor a great many years ago became alarmed at the great flocks of gulls which congregated there to eat the heads and remains of the fish which were thrown into the water. It is a frequent charge against the gulls that they destroy food fish, but the fact is that they are almost exclusively scavengers. The anti-bird fever spread over this community and gulls were slaughtered until they were exterminated. Then what happened? The tons of fishhead and refuse thrown into the water was washed up along the beaches, causing stench and sickness and making the place uninhabitable. It ended with the Southwest Harbor people leaving the region almost in a body and founding Bar Harbor, Me.

One of the few communities, on the other hand, to appreciate and remember benefits they have received from birds are the Salt Lake City Mormons.

"When they first settled the vicinity of Salt Lake, grasshoppers came on them, like the plagues of locusts, settling on the ground in myriads and threatening the complete destruction of their crops. Then the seagulls came out of the lake, eating the insects by the millions, even lighting in the yards and making their way into buildings to catch them. They exterminated the grasshoppers and saved the colony from famine. And very recently there was unveiled in Salt

## Aerial Acrobat Meets Death



Leon Ferguson, a daring aerial acrobat, was killed while performing on the wing of a plane less than 100 feet above the ground, at the Sonoma fair, Santa Rosa, Cal. Pilot Schmidt, who accompanied him on the flight, received only a scratch on his head. This photograph shows the wrecked plane and Pilot Schmidt being lifted from machine.

Lake City a beautiful statue in honor of the seagulls.

"With the history before us of so many mistaken crusades against birds we feel that we ought to make sure that we are right before attempting to exterminate the bird which is the emblem of our freedom."

### Letter Upholds Bounty Law.

One of the letters upholding the bounty law of Alaska is from Wright Weirich of Juneau, who said:

"Strange as it may seem to you, most of us here shoot the American eagles whenever we can, whether a bounty exists or not, feeling that every eagle killed means the annual saving of many, many valuable, or at least harmless, birds, beasts and fishes. We feel as a man has a right to feel when a public service has been performed. At least the lives of many innocent creatures has been spared.

"How many eagles exist in this territory, comprising an area equal to a fifth of the United States, I would not venture to estimate. On August 2 I was discussing the salmon propagation situation with the man in charge of the territorial fish commission's work at Ketchikan, Alaska. Among other things he told me of seeing eagles in flocks numbering 500 along the salmon spawning streams. The birds were busily engaged in picking out the eyes first, and then fleshing the bones of the salmon so killed. Nor were these spent salmon, for they had not recently entered the streams. I do not doubt his story. Then, too, many other men have estimated the number of eagles seen in favorable localities along the salmon streams at even greater numbers.

"Another phase of the situation was brought to my attention by a carefully observing forest ranger, who has been in this section many years—that the eagles are becoming gunwise and gunshy. Others have observed this fact. So have I.

"A second phase seems to be developing—that the eagles seem to be congregating in out-of-the-way places, where they are not so apt to be disturbed. The places where they go, and where man never goes, are certainly numerous enough in Alaska.

"It is because we know them to be so numerous and to be taking such heavy toll of ducks, grouse and other birds, fur-bearers, fish and even full-grown deer, that we feel they should be reduced in number until the harm they do is negligible.

"As I write I have before me notes of ten instances, where eagles have killed, not only fawn, but full-grown deer. Should the occasion require it, I do not doubt I could secure hundreds of affidavits to the effect that eagles have been observed killing deer. How many deer they kill out of sight of human witnesses can only be surmised by those who are in a position to comprehend the vast unsettled areas in Alaska."