

ATOLL IN PACIFIC LOOMS AS PUZZLE FOR TWO NATIONS

Christmas Island Becomes International Prize As Airway Base—Claimed By England And America.

SAN FRANCISCO—(UP) Christmas Island is the next tiny island most calculated to leap suddenly out of the almost boundless reaches of the Pacific and assume an international importance in the public eye...

Colonized by Priest But the real romance of Christmas Island began shortly after 1890, when Father Rougier, a French priest, conceived the idea of planting it entirely in coconut trees...

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The American Museum of Natural History in New York has sent an expedition to the island to make a close investigation so a reproduction of the tiny bit of land may be placed in its museum...

New Zealand Watchful Two New Zealand cruisers have been reported in shipping circles to be looking over the island, presumably from the standpoint of British interests.

For more than a century possession of the island has been disputed by the United States and Great Britain. The exact international status of the island remains somewhat complicated. As late as November 28, 1919, the British government proclaimed its sovereignty...

In the meantime the island is operated by a Frenchman under lease from the British government, who has had strong support from various French governments in the past.

The population consists of about 25 Tahitians brought there from Papeete by the Frenchman to cultivate his coconut plantations.

Island's History Long Unlike Jarvis, Howland and Baker islands, which were colonized by the United States, Christmas Island has back of it a history of romance and mystery. It was discovered by Captain Cook on Christmas Day, 1777, the year following his discovery of the Hawaiian Islands. Hence its name.

Since then it has been claimed alternately by Britain and the United States. It lies just south of the Hawaiian Islands, just north of the equator and about opposite the Panama canal. Among its interesting assets is the "Bay of Wrecks", where the remains of enough wrecks accumulate to furnish the limited population with all the materials necessary for building. There also is a gasoline supply left for the late Charles T. P. Uim, trans-Pacific flier who had hoped to cross the Pacific with Christmas Island as an intermediary stop.

But the real romance of Christmas Island began shortly after 1890, when Father Rougier, a French priest, conceived the idea of planting it entirely in coconut trees—at that time when coconut oil had a high value. He leased it for 87 years from the British government. He gave French names to about everything on the island, from Paris for one point to Marshal Foch for his schooner.

When he died, the lease passed to his nephew and grandson, Paul Emmanuel Rougier. In the meantime, the price of coconut oil had decreased but Rougier with his 25 Tahitians still held possession. Now he finds copra cutting more profitable than growing coconuts.

Appeal For Books Gets Good Results

Appeal of Medford post of the American Legion for books to supply the new Bandon library has met with a splendid response, post officials said today. Scores of books of every type and description were received Tuesday night at the Legion stag party and many more have been promised by local citizens, they stated.

The drive for reading material to replenish the Bandon library, recently destroyed by fire, will end this week, and anyone having contributions to offer should leave them with Adjutant Lee Garlock at the Oregon Motor association office on North Riverside avenue at once, officers explained. All types of books are acceptable, travel, fiction, history or science, whether new or old, according to word received from the Legion committee in charge of the project.

Phone 542. We'll haul away your refuse. City Sanitary Service.

Stars Also Broadcast That stars are continuously "broadcasting" to the earth also was disclosed by Dr. Caldwell. He said that radio research workers had picked up messages audible as a hissing sound from the direction of Sagittarius.

TESTS INDICATE PLANET HISSES CREATE STATIC

Heavenly Bodies 'Broadcast' To Earth, Editor Says—Radio Reception Thought Affected By Sun Spots.

NEW YORK—(UP) Blame the sun, the moon and the stars if radio reception isn't what it ought to be and if it occasionally hisses.

Dr. Orestes H. Caldwell, who has been studying such things, reports that the magnetic qualities of heavenly bodies bear directly upon radio performance. Intensity and extend reception in some periods and block and interfere with it in others.

Describing the sun as a "gigantic electro-magnet 860,000 miles in diameter and 90,000,000 miles from the earth," Dr. Caldwell, editor of a radio magazine and formerly a member of the first federal radio commission, said that sun spots—polarized blotches on the sun's surface—affect radio reception in direct proportion to their number.

Minimum in 1922-23 "In 1922-23 the sun spot cycle was at its minimum," he said. "Then with a little set you could hear a 50-watt station across the continent."

"From 1925 to 1929, when the number of sun spots reached the top of the curve, reception was unusually bad. Later in 1929 when the cycle was at the minimum, reception became so good that broadcasting stations had to shift their frequencies to prevent radio waves from going all the way around the world and interfering with the broadcast."

"The moon also affects radio reception," Dr. Caldwell said. "You will find your radio works better on moonlight nights. On other nights radio waves strike the Heaviside Layer, that stratum of the atmosphere 100 miles up, through which radio waves pass with difficulty, and are reflected back, causing interference."

"When the moon is overhead, however, being negatively charged, it causes 'electronic tides' in the Heaviside Layer permitting the waves to pass through freely."

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Another type of interference is caused, Dr. Caldwell said, by short radio waves which slip through the Heaviside Layer, strike the moon, a planet or the sun and are reflected back to the earth.

Waves which strike the moon come back in a few seconds, he added. Those which penetrate to Mars are reflected back in about four minutes. The time for a round trip journey to the sun is only eight minutes, three hours to Neptune and five hours to Pluto.

The trips to the stars take considerably longer time and are no cause for worry, Dr. Caldwell said. A radio wave which set out from earth today to visit Alpha Centauri would be four years getting back. To Sirius and back would take about 9,000 years and the round trip to Virgo would occupy some 17,000,000 years.

RUSSIA TO SAVE HAIR OF HORSES

MOSCOW—(UP)—All farm horses will lose their tails under instructions of the commissariat of agriculture issued to state and collective farms.

The order was issued in a three-column announcement in the agricultural press which featured a picture of a peasant docking his horse's tail.

It read: "Attention, of collective farmers, individual peasants and state farm workers! By organized cutting of tails and manes of horses we can supply our industry with very valuable raw material for production of goods of broad consumption."

"When the mane and tail are combed during the cleaning of horses much hair remains on combs and brushes. Do not throw it away but collect it in one place."

"Deliver all hair collected as a result of cleaning and docking of horses to collecting organizations at fixed prices."

Killed on Highway ST. HELENS, Ore., Nov. 27.—(AP)—William Bucklin, 72, stepped from one machine into the path of another and was almost instantly killed here last night.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

SLEEP LOSS FAILS TO RETARD BRAIN, PROFESSORS SHOW

LOS ANGELES (UP)—Loss of a mere two or three nights' sleep shouldn't dim brain power—that is, if a person can concentrate.

This was the discovery of two University of Southern California scientists who kept three students awake for 65 hours in an experiment. At the end of 65 sleepless hours the students did mental work almost as well as at first, except for lapses in their powers to concentrate. In these intervals their minds "went blank" and they could not solve even simple arithmetical problems.

From 5:30 a. m. Friday until 10:30 p. m. Sunday the students had no sleep. Dr. Neil Warren and Dr. Brant Clark with 12 assistants worked shifts keeping them awake and smooching out frequent quarels that flared as the students grew sleepy and irritable.

Every 10 hours the students were put through a test of solving more than 100 mathematical problems and identifying more than 300 colors flashed before their eyes.

Their accuracy changed little despite loss of sleep. But increasingly they struck "blank" lapses when they looked at the problem of, say, 7 minus 4, and took some time before answering "three."

These lapses occurred 9.2 per-

cent of the time at the start and soared to 23.5 percent at the end of 50 hours without sleep. Then, to the scientists' surprise, at the end of 65 hours without sleep, when the students should have been wearied, their scores snapped back to 17.5 percent.

This abrupt psychologists say, proved that the students' brains were carrying on in normal fashion, but that, with the promise of sleep only a few hours ahead, the students turned on all their lagging powers of concentration and "sprung" mentally for the final test.

Difficulty in concentrating when a person is tired, scientists said, probably is due to fatigue poisons gathering in the blood supplying the brain cells.

APPEL GATE MAN HURT WHEN TEAM PLUNGES

BIG APPEL GATE, Nov. 27.—(Sp) Roy McIntyre of Little Applegate was removed to a Medford hospital Wednesday, having sustained head and chest injuries in an accident at the Harold Crump farm that morning. Mr. McIntyre was operating a manure spreader, when his team suddenly plunged, and in attempting to jump to the ground, he was struck on the head by the spreader tongue. He sustained severe facial wounds, and X-rays were taken to determine the extent of his injuries.

Strike Hits Wheat CONDON, Ore., Nov. 27.—(AP)—Strike conditions on the Pacific coast waterfronts have cut wheat shipments from Condon by 100 cars, farmers estimated. Merchants, too, have been affected. Many shipments of merchandise have failed to arrive.

CHRYSLER TOPS 'EM ALL

BARS IN NEW ORLEANS SEE MAIDS AS ASSETS; UNION THREAT BEATEN

NEW ORLEANS (UP)—Bartenders in New York may think barmaids are a menace, but in New Orleans they are considered an asset by their bosses and their customers.

The bartenders' union will not admit them, but only about 10 percent of the men bartenders belong to the union in New Orleans.

The subject came up when Louis W. Wulfr, president of the International Bartenders' association, became disturbed about the barmaid situation in New York. He had heard that plenty of bars were hiring women because they were attractions.

Said Wulfr: "Liquor alone causes enough trouble. Why add women? Women barmaids flirt. As a matter of fact, they flirt whether they are barmaids or not. So put a ban on them, we say."

In New Orleans, pretty, brunettes

Lola Caughlin polished her bar and poo-pooed Mr. Wulfr. She also scouted the idea that behind the bar is no place for women. "In the places I've tended bar I've never had any trouble," said Lola. "The boys hung around and talked, just like they would to a man. They bought plenty drinks, too. If anybody got rough, the man in the place took care of them."

The union here tried to get the girls barred from the bars, but the state legislature wouldn't pass the bill.

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