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West Indian Island the Home of Many Birds.

Species of Some of the Most Beautiful Feathered Creatures in the World Are There.

In the little island of Tobago, the ward of Trinidad in the West Indies and lying to the northwest, birds are seen at their best and are tame enough to be studied easily, writes Dudley S. Corlett in the Los Angeles Times.

At sunset one may see the regular formations of flamingoes, like a rosy cloud, heading for the mainland of Venezuela. Along the shore the pelicans are numerous—clumsy and of dull plumage, that sail all day up and down the margin of the shore watching for fish. They drop down with tremendous velocity, and opening wide their great bills sweep the fish into the pouch which acts as a sein. Then they raise their heads from the sea so that the water may drain from the pouch and leave the fish in the proper position for swallowing. The little gulls perch on their heads awaiting for any chance bits that may fall from an over-full pouch.

In the dark mangrove swamps one sees the gray heron, white egrets, bittern and coot. The gorgeous macaw in his blue and yellow or red and green livery is only a rare visitor from the mainland, but there are flocks of green parrots and noisy parakeets in every forest glade. Toucans, glossy black, with long-curved bills and yellow crests, clatter from the tree tops, and woodpeckers, red and green, wake the forest silences with their ceaseless work. In the dark bamboo glades may be seen the shy "king of the forest," with his cap of peacock shyness, russet breast and long rafter tail. With him will be the iridescent bronzed beater, floating in the sun as he darts after the insect prey, and the golden orioles build their long hanging nests of woven grass from the moss-hung branches of the zamman trees.

There are not many songsters, save a mocking bird, the black and yellow "touch-yah" and some of the tiny sugar and grass birds. And lastly there is what is perhaps the most attractive of all—the bluebird—the bird of happiness. Cobalt is his head and back, soft gray-blue his breast, and he feasts on the ripest fruits or hops unafraid and into the house after stray beetles. Tobago should adopt the bluebird as its crest, for in the faces of the people shine the gift of happiness, whether it be in the bronzed features of the white planters who have elected to lead the simple life on this little island, or whether it be on the shining black faces of the negroes. As Tobago was a British possession when Trinidad was still Spanish, there are hardly any French or Spanish creoles, and most of the estates belong to the descendants of old Scotch families.

Appeals to Adventurous.


Though some of those who know the polar regions develop a kind of love for them, the experience of two British explorers who spent a year on an Antarctic island with no shelter but an overturned boat must have been a severe test of whatever affection they may have had for those latitudes. Lt. W. Bagshawe, geologist, and Lieutenant C. M. Lester, navigating officer, had provisions, dogs and scientific instruments to keep them company when their companions sailed north, leaving the two to make observations. The return expedition fell into financial difficulties and sent a rescue ship back only in the nick of time. Besides a scientific interest, ventures into the far north and the far south probably are actuated by what one may call a sporting impulse. With them it is a game. They return again and again, and with success comes a genuine liking for the icy seas and archipelagoes, such as led Stefansson to call the northern polar region "the friendly arctic."—New York Sun.

Irish "O" Not an Abbreviation.

That the apostrophe, like the hyphen, is a recent intrusion is the statement of Francis O Sullivan tighé (sic), author of the Irish romance, "The Portion of a Champion." "The 'o,'" he says, "is not a contraction of 'of,' as popularly supposed. It is a contraction of the Irish 'ua' meaning 'the descendant of.' Also the 'o' should not be capitalized except when the Christian name is omitted."
 The word "tighé," following the author's name, signifies "of the house," and it is the traditional designation of his family as distinguished from others of the O Sullivan clan. In private life the author is just plain Sullivan, but he thinks that to print it so on the title page of his Fifth century romance would be anachronism.

American Methods in Holland.

Methods of the American milkman have been applied to the oil business in Belgium and Holland by an American oil company. Through its Belgian company it is marketing oil products in those countries in bottles. In the past, distribution has been in cans and drums, involving larger purchases by the consumer at one time. Recently this company introduced the quart bottle and the dog-cart delivery, a system similar to the milk bottle and milk wagon common in this country. Bottles are exchangeable, as with the milkman. It is not now unusual to see a cart loaded with bottles containing oil products going the rounds in Antwerp, Brussels, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.



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