

LOWDOWN ON SOUTH SEAS

Life in Tahiti With Its Blue Milk, Black Sand and Under-Water Fishing --- Mosquitoes Are Dangerous and Eels Bite Deeply, But Snakes and Malaria Are Unknown.

There comes a time in the life of every man and many a woman—it may be a post-war period, the reading of Melville's "Typee," a hard-hitting depression or just a bunch of sixes and sevens—when they want to sail away and live happily ever afterwards on a tropic island. Whether it's better not to stay but just to pay a quick visit to such islands and return home is a moot question which may be settled for some people by this interview with Hassoldt Davis, world traveller and writer, author of "Islands Under the Wind," and his wife, Hanny Magoo Davis.

Mr. Davis, who spent two and a half years at Harvard before deciding that travel was a better way of getting an education, has made his way over much of the world. He knows his continents from the Americas to Asia and Africa, his islands from the Antilles and Balearic to the East Indies and the South Seas, including Bali and Tahiti.

In the West Indies he likes St. Thomas, in our Virgin Islands, best. "It's most livable," he said, "and Charlotte Amalie is a charming little port. Guadelupe is a deadly place, with Pointe a Pitre a miserable little hole. My wife enjoyed Martinique, but I didn't."

"I loved the mountains, the magnificent foliage and the village of Bedinet," said Mrs. Davis. "It has perfect swimming on a perfect beach, with black sand and colorful waters. They have the most marvelous fireflies there, their light actually strong enough to read by, for I tried it."

"At one time or another I have been over most of the West Indies," continued Mr. Davis, "but certain islands of the Pacific have much more to offer. The Celebes are probably the most colorful islands, certainly the hottest, in the Pacific, the natives frail-looking, with no muscular development, but the strongest, toughest men I have run across anywhere in my travels. The Fiji Islands, run by the British, are immaculate, but the natives, black Melanesians, are lifeless as compared with the Polynesians."

"Bali is indeed a glorious island. It is not only the most beautiful island, but it has the most beautiful people I have seen anywhere. However, my wife and I are sailing for Tahiti, not Bali."

"So far I have lived about three years in Tahiti, during two stays there. When I first landed in Papeete my financial situation was deplorable, so I took a native hut and lived very happily and very freely. During that stay I wrote a very bad novel and got started on 'Islands Under the Wind,' which is a different kind of travel book."

When I went to Tahiti with my husband for his second stay, we had just \$80—and no change," said Mrs. Davis. "Yet we managed to enjoy everything, had an ideal life, especially after we had received some cash from the States, had leased a long, narrow stretch of land, extending from the sea about twenty miles inland into the mountains, and built a home—costing \$400. Everything in the island grew on this land, and it provided us with most of our food."

Asked about these home provisions Mr. Davis replied:

"We had many trees producing mangoes, pomegranates, oranges, coconuts, limes, two kinds of bananas—eating and cooking—and breadfruit I don't care for breadfruit."

"I like it," said Mrs. Davis, "and

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the Tahitian cows do too, for the only way to get good milk on the island is to feed the cows breadfruit. Most of the milk is blue, since very few will bother to feed their cattle properly. We used canned milk and canned butter."

"The natives," said Mr. Davis, "use avocados mashed into a paste instead of butter on their bread. There were four avocado trees near our house, and the alligator pears they produced were most succulent, some as much as ten inches long. In the native taro we had a substitute for spinach, and of course the tuber known as taro came to our table from our twenty mile long back yard."

"Oh, yes, and there are cashew nuts and papayas. The cashew nut grows on the end of a thing that looks like a tomato, except that it's purple. The natives eat, and throw the nuts away. Tahiti has plenty of chickens, and all of them are tough, very tough. One of the ways the natives prepare chicken is to cut the meat into very small pieces and insert them under the bark of a papaya tree. Containing pepsin, this juice in the tree 'digests' the meat for the ultimate consumer, so that it reaches the mouth soft and edible."

"We drank some rum, which with lime makes an excellent drink for the tropics, but our chief liquor was mead, which we made ourselves. I got the idea of making mead from seeing the natives prepare one of their drinks with honey. That set me to looking up a recipe for good old English mead."

"Using local products, I worked it out this way. I bought crude, raw honey and mixed it with water in an ex-kerosene can. When an egg—a good one—would float upright in it, then I had the right proportions. To this mixture were added some ginger root, hops in a bag, and sometimes, lemon juice. When all the scum was boiled off after two or three hours, I put it in carboys or demijohns. After three months' fermentation, it went into bottles, which went into the cellar for six months. Then it made a really good tropical drink."

"The coral and fish around Tahiti provide gorgeous under-water views. I was the only white man who regularly speared fish under water, and Mrs. Davis is the only white woman who ever succeeded in hitting one under water with a spear! You wear goggles and nothing else if you prefer, and use a spear with a wooden shaft about ten feet long, a two-foot, barbed prong of iron on one end. You 'hunt' your fish about fifteen feet under the surface."

"Background for under-water fishing in the islands is provided by fantastic blue, yellow and lavender castles of coral. There is coral which appears like monstrous filigree and embroidery, and coral which seems a crystallization of beautiful South Sea sunsets. Hordes of small fish swim in, out and around the coral masses, multi-colored creatures that come and go like torn bits of tinsel or fragments of cloisonne. These under-water views are the despair of poets and painters, and they make any so-called marine gardens in the West Indies appear as very drab affairs in comparison."

"My first attempts to see these under-water visions were not very successful. Out with Etua, a Tahitian who was a veritable fish in water himself, I made the mistake of going down with my lungs full of air. I had no more than started to look into the purple darkness of a coral cave than I had to start pawing upward. Etua explained that the only way to dive was to let out half the air from the lungs before going down. So I followed his instructions and sank so fast that I had to swim frantically back, with visions of my drowned body bloated among the coral. It seemed that I was no native, nor a Halibut-ton."

"But I learned the trick of natives and pearl-divers. I took three deep inhalations to oxygenize the lungs, whistled about half the air out and got going downward. Prepared in this way for looking into that cave. I was studying it from the outside when was a sudden churning of water beside me and I felt a sharp pain in my right big toe. I twisted frantically from the coral and clambered for the surface that never seemed to arrive. As I lay panting in the outrigger canoe Etua rocked it and himself with laughter. My big toe was badly munched and bleeding. 'Eel, big eel, shouted Etua. I see him jump out hole, bite you!'"

"I still have scars from that bite and many others. There is a variety of ways of becoming physically miserable in Tahiti. Mere skin scratches in spite of iodine, often grow into boils. Infection by coral cuts is serious. There are sea porcupines which are nearly as venomous as rattlesnakes if stepped upon. Also, there are aiguliettes, little fish with two inch bodies and two-inch needle-like snouts, and these tiny sword-fish run into you, not because they are sore at you, but because they want you to

FINAL PLANS FOR CEREMONY COMPLETED

Enthronement of Archbishop to Be Followed By Other Events

MONCTON, Feb. 22—Gradually, ends of the many and varied strings attached to the plans for the enthronement of Archbishop-elect Louis J. A. Melanson as archbishop of the See of Moncton are being drawn together and knit into a solid whole by committees in charge of the arrangements. This week will be one of ceremony and receptions for the new archbishop who will arrive here today on the eastbound Ocean Liner.

Beginning at 7.30 this evening will be the installation services, started by the procession from the rectory to the sanctuary of L'Assomption church. The archbishop, in his new cathedral, will offer his blessing and the Papal bulls will be read proclaiming Bishop Melanson archbishop of Moncton. He will take possession of his throne, accompanied by his two suffragans after which he will receive the Act of Obedience of his clergy. Following this will be the reading of the address from the laity. His Grace will reply. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude the evening's ceremonies.

Pontifical Mass will be chanted by Archbishop Melanson at 9.30 Tuesday morning. The sermon in French will be delivered by Most Rev. Emile Yelle, archbishop of St. Boniface. That in English will be given by Most Rev. James C. McGuigan, archbishop of Toronto.

A banquet will be tendered the new archbishop at noon in the auditorium of the Church street academy. Dignitaries of the hierarchy and clergymen will attend. Addresses will be read. His Grace by the clergy.

The same evening Archbishop Melanson will be given a civic reception by the mayor and city council in the auditorium of the Moncton High School.

On Wednesday Archbishop Melanson will journey to St. Joseph's for Wednesday evening where plans are being made for a reception by the faculty and student body of St. Joseph's University. On Thursday morning a Pontifical Mass will be celebrated at the University by His Grace followed by a dinner at noon.

It is reported that a visit to the Mother House of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart will take place in the afternoon.

Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, L'Assomption Society will tender the Archbishop a reception in the Academy auditorium in the course of which a presentation will be made by Dr. A. M. Sormany, of Edmundston, general president of the organization Rev. A. Melanson, of Shediac, will deliver and allocation. L'Assomption Choral Society will be present.

The week's ceremonies will be concluded on Friday evening with a reception to Archbishop Melanson in St. Bernard's church. This will be held at 7.30 o'clock and special plans have been made for the occasion.

get out of their swimming path. Tahiti, by the way, has only one good beach, and it's of volcanic black sand at Arus.

"There is also leprosy, but not much, and venereal diseases, widely spread in Tahiti. Another hazard is the mosquitoes, not that there are many of them, but the bites of some produce elephantiasis. By accident I once learned that a very ripe gorgonzola cheese would keep mosquitoes away from my ankles as I sat writing at my desk. Most white people sleep with mosquito nets, but we never did."

Mrs. Davis, who has made a study of elephantiasis, said: "There is a great deal of elephantiasis in the islands. It is caused by the bite of a certain female mosquito. Most white people who spend any length of time in the islands get preliminary attacks which may develop into elephantiasis. A lot of doctors will tell you that elephantiasis acquired in these tropical islands will be arrested if the sufferer returns to a temperate climate, but that is not true in all cases."

"We know of a woman who returned from Tahiti to New York with elephantiasis in her right arm, but the disease continued to progress right here in this city. X-ray treatments, which most doctors give for it, only aggravated the trouble. Not until she had serum treatments from Dr. Arthur Grace of New York Hospital was her elephantiasis cured. With tropical research and experience behind him, Dr. Grace is doing a really notable work on elephantiasis and other tropical diseases."

"But after all Tahiti is a lovely island, if you know how to take it," concluded Hassoldt Davis. "It has one of the healthiest climates in the world. There are no snakes in its jungles, and malaria isn't known. The proof of what we think of it lies in the fact that we are preparing to go back, and we can't get away from New York too soon."

MECHANICAL "ANT" IS DESCRIBED AS A NEW PRINCIPLE IN MINING

Enables Man to Dig Deep in Earth on Insect Principle --- Bores Downward Through Earth and Stone

NEW YORK, Feb. 22—A mechanical "ant," a round-bodied machine about 30 feet long and five in diameter, was described yesterday as a new principle in mining.

It enables man for the first time to drill deep into the earth on the insect principle. The "ant" was described to the annual meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical engineers by J. B. Newsom of the Idaho-Maryland Mines Corporation, San Francisco.

The teeth drill both earth and rock. As they bore downward, the empty barrel fills with the "core" they have cut out. When the barrel is full, cables hoist the "core" to the top of the shaft.

One lone man rides the "ant" as it digs. He sits at the motor control, with a steel "umbrella," half an inch thick, above his head.

This queer, new machine, Newsom said, has drilled a five foot round hole 1,125 feet deep at Grass Valley, California.

Its work is something new in mining. The usual method of sinking shafts is by blasting. The machine can go on down indefinitely. Its five-foot diameter is bigger than most blasted shafts after they have been timbered, Newsom said.

POLICE CO-ORDINATION TO BE TRIED FOR YEAR

Modified Scheme Worked Out at Conference With Attorney-General May Become Basis For Permanent System

YORK, Feb. 22—As the result of a conference today between the York County Special Police Committee and the Attorney-General, Hon. A. W. Roebuck, a temporary solution of the problem of intermunicipal co-operation in respect to the various police units in the country will be tried out for the balance of 1937.

During this experiment the representatives of the municipalities will consult their local Councils, and endeavor to arrive at the basis for a permanent arrangement. Once this is agreed upon, it is assured that the necessary legislation to enforce it will be enacted without delay.

Minister Approves Plan

Up to the present objection had been strong to any proposal under which the engaging, dismissing or disciplining of local constables should be in the hands of any authority except that functioning in the municipality from which they were supplied to the county for county duty as required.

The Minister gave approval to a plan under which each municipality in the County of York would be required to place a specified number of constables at the disposal of the county police Commission as required by that body, and whenever asked for. The power to engage, discipline and dismiss the officers in any municipality will, however, remain with the local authority. In the event, however, of any misdemeanor on the part of any such officer lent to the county, while on county duty, it will be the right of the county Commission to investigate the case, and make representations and recommendations to the local authority concerning any such offense.

Action Regretted

The members of the committee included Warden W. E. MacDonald, Reeve Gordon Harris, Weston; Reeve John Warren, East York; Reeve W. L. Stephens, Etobicoke; Reeve Dr. L. W. Dales, Newmarket; Deputy Reeve F. G. Gardiner, Forest Hill, who were accompanied by J. D. Lucas, County Solicitor.

The appointment of former Inspector William Miller, Toronto, to prepare a survey and report concerning the proposed reorganization of the York County Police Force was given a mixed reception by members of York County Council today.

"While it is true that the Warden and county Commissioners were within their right and authority in making the appointment, yet it does seem that it would have been far more prudent if the special committee so

recently appointed to consider the question had been consulted before any such drastic step was actually taken, involving expense as it will," declared Reeve B. J. Wheeler, Scarborough, when approached by The Globe and Mail today.

Deputy Reeve Frederick G. Gardiner of Forest Hill also regretted that the committee had not been consulted. "It cannot be overlooked that the appointment was actually made on the eve of a conference between that special committee and the Attorney-General," he added.

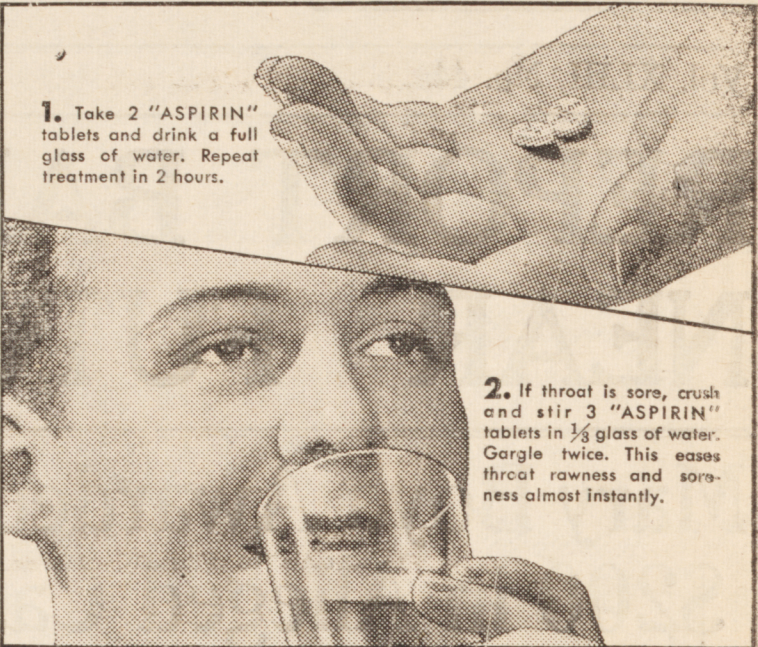
After-Dinner Speaker Getting Away From "Uh's" and "Ah's"

CHICAGO, Feb. 22—The annoying "uh's" and "ah's" are being educated out of the after-dinner speaker's vocabulary.

Dr. Clarence Simon, Professor of Speech Re-education at Northwestern University, made that claim today after visiting speech departments of colleges and elementary schools in forty States.

"The day of the poor speaker is drawing to a close," he said. "The widespread attention now being given to speech instruction is certain to raise the level which the public will demand."

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The "Aspirin" you take internally will act to combat fever, cold pains and the cold itself. The gargle will provide almost instant relief from rawness and pain, acting like a local anesthetic on the irritated membrane of your throat.

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