

THE LADRONES AND CAROLINES.

Value and Beauty of These Much-Discussed Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

A QUEER PEOPLE WITH QUEERER CUSTOMS.

Far out in the Pacific, where the map looks as if a charge of bird shot had peppered a spot no larger than your thumb, the American flag is flying over the Ladrões. They are but specks on the face of the deep. Yet there is an empire of island wealth amid the rarest scenery in the world. An earthly paradise it is called.

The capture of the Ladrões by the United States with a seizure of the Carolines just to the south of the group makes them of new interest to Americans.

The Ladrões are a chain of volcanic islands extending north and south from latitude thirteen degrees twelve minutes north to latitude twenty degrees thirty-two minutes south and in longitude about 146 east. They were discovered by Magellan, March 6, 1521, and named Ladrões from the supposed stealing propensities of the natives. Later, in 1668, the islands were named Marianas, in honor of Maria Anne, of Austria, the widow of Phillip IV., King of Spain. The inhabited islands are Agrihan, Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam. On the other islands are volcanoes spouting fire and steam. The mountains range from 1000 to 3000 feet high, about the altitude of the highest of the Catskills.

The Spaniards have controlled the islands without interference or serious trouble from the natives. There is a small garrison at Agana, the capital, where the Governor-General has resided. Many natives of the Caroline Islands have been imported into the Ladrões and the races are interestingly mixed. The blending of the tall, copper-colored, curly-haired, long-bearded and mustached Carolinians with the Philippine-looking Ladrões, with their dark Malay skin,



A LADRONE BELLE.

has given a new tint to a large number of young men and women.

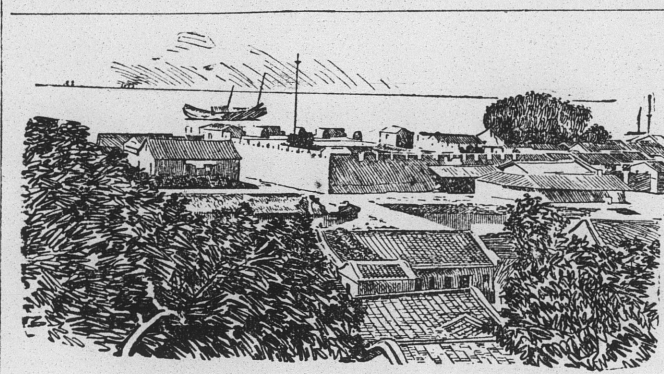
The chief products for sustaining life are coconuts and bread fruit. They grow spontaneously everywhere. It is said that one coconut tree will feed a man. A grove of the fruit trees to the islander is what a herd of cows is to the Pennsylvania farmer.

These, with the tons of fish in the lagoons, which are natural fish ponds, are responsible for the profound indolence of the natives. They can support life without laboring. Some of the bread fruit trees are ten or twelve feet in diameter. A single tree is considered equal in life-supporting capacity to two acres of wheat. Then there are other products—guava, corn, ordinary wheat, bananas, figs and arrowroot.

The islands forming the Ladrões,

possessing 30,000 inhabitants, and now a place of segregation for lepers, with a population of 300; Agrihan, of no importance; Rota, with 500 inhabitants, and Guam.

Guam, or Guajan, the southernmost and largest of the islands, is thirty-two miles long and has a population of about 9000, two-thirds of whom are in Agana, and nearly all the rest upon the seaboard, the country inland being almost without inhabitant. Agana,



BAHLDONAP, A TYPICAL TOWN IN THE CAROLINES.

the capital, is also a convict settlement. It is beautifully clean, and possesses good government officials, a hospital, schools and a church. The Spanish residents have usually numbered about twenty, and the regular soldiery about 200, all quartered here. The militia, comprising about all the male population, is commanded by native officers. The civil government is similar to that of the Philippines. Postal communication has been quarterly.

When first discovered the Ladrões had a population of about 60,000. Not one of the original race survives, and the islands are peopled chiefly by Tagals and Bisayans from the Philippines, mixed descendants of South American Indians, a colony of Caroline Islanders who founded Garapan in the Island of Saipan, and numerous Chamorro-Spanish half-breeds. The census of 1888 reports a population of 6476 in Agana, and a total of 10,172 in all the islands, 5034 being males and 5138 females. There are eighteen schools in the Island of Guam. Only ten per cent. of the Ladrone Islanders are unable to read and write. Spanish is the recognized language; but many of the natives speak a little English. The climate is good and equable; seventy degrees to eighty degrees Fahrenheit is the range of the thermometer.

The present population are described as "wanting in energy, of indifferently moral character, and miserably poor." They are descended in part from the original inhabitants, called Chamorros; and from the Mestizos, a mixed race formed by the union of Spaniards with these natives.

On the island called Saipan a colony from the Caroline Islands, which lie to the south of the Ladrões, was established some years ago. These people are the most active and enterprising inhabitants of the Ladrões.

Spain has derived no revenue from these islands, and has done little to civilize the people. At one time a few small schools were started, but they were soon abandoned.

In 1856 an epidemic destroyed one-third of the population.

August and September are the hottest months, and the rain-fall in the summer months is very heavy. Agana, the capital, is well built of timber, and many of the houses have tiled roofs. There are twenty small villages on the islands.

So little has been done to civilize the people that they live in about the same primitive fashion as characterized them when Europeans first visited them.



THE BUSINESS SECTION OF AGANA, PRINCIPAL TOWN OF THE LADRONES.

beginning at the northernmost, are Farallon de Pajaros, an active volcano 1000 feet in height; a group of three rocky islets known as the Urracas; Assumption, a partially active volcanic peak 2848 feet in height; Agrihan, seven miles in length, mountainous, and the northernmost inhabited island; Pagan, having three active cones, and peopled by a few natives; the uninhabited islands of Alamagan, Guguan, Sariguan, Anataxan and Farallon de Medinilla; Saipan, fifteen miles long, fertile, and having about 1000 inhabitants; Tinian, originally

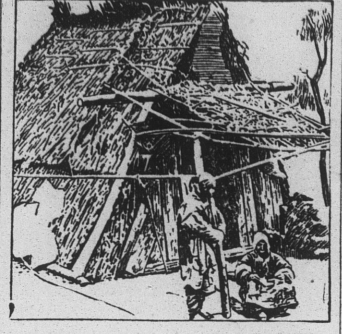
In one thing the people of the Ladrões excel all the natives of the Polynesian islands—this is their faculty for building and sailing a wonderful water craft with a lateen sail. Sailors of all nations for over 300 years have admired their skill with these vessels.

They are built entirely without metal, and the largest of them will carry about seven men.

The boat has an outrigger which is carried on the lee side to prevent upsetting. It is said that these boats make wonderful speed, and that they

can lie closer to the wind than any other sailing craft known.

Customs, superstitions, dress, re-



NATIVES AND HUT IN THE LADRONES.

ligion, etc., prove that the people of the Ladrões have a common origin with the other races of Polynesia, but they have lived so long by themselves that they have a distinct language. Some writers have argued that the race is of American origin, while

others hold that they are an offshoot of the Japanese.

Goben, the French writer, who studies the people on the spot, says of them:

"The natives are not so dark as those of the Philippines, and are larger of body than the average European. They lived on roots, fish and fruits, and were extremely active, and quick. Many of them lived over 100 years."

Another French writer says that he saw them dive and swim so well that they caught fish in their hands under water.

In character the Ladrões are gay and amiable, loving pleasure, and spending much of their time in outdoor amusements.

The women are usually lighter in color than the men, and many of them are extremely beautiful, with luxuriant hair reaching almost to the ground.

The Carolines are like the Ladrões, only more extensive in number and area, and densely populated. The islands are widely scattered into three great groups, the eastern, western and central. Spain originally claimed all the groups, but Germany recently took the Marshall Islands. The central or main group, now belonging to Spain, comprises forty-eight smaller

groups, making a total of four or five hundred islands.

Among the products of the country are rice, corn, wheat, sugar, cotton, tobacco, indigo, bread fruit, castor oil and kindred necessities of life. Among the curious natural features are the palm trees, that produce vegetable ivory; banyan trees that grow downward, the seeds being planted by birds high up in other trees, deposited in bark and crevices, sending down rootlets to gather sustenance and moisture from the soil.

Another tree bears a fruit so offensive in odor that no man not in practice can endure it, but once in a month the fruit tastes so deliciously that he cannot stop eating until it is devoured.

The women of the Carolines are neat and attractive at home or among their coconut trees. The men are industrious—everywhere displaying ingenuity and gentle thrift.

The Caroline Archipelago consists of thirty-six minor groups, of which the nine following are the principal: The Palaos or Pelews, Yap, Uluthi, Uleai, Namonito, Hogolen or Ruk, the East and West Mortlocks, Bonabe or Ponape, and Kusaie, otherwise called Ualan or Strong's Island.

The Pelew group contains some 200 islands and islets. The principal isle, and is Bad-el-Thaob, which in area is equal to all the rest put together. The most important of the others are Koror, Uruk, Tapel, Malk, Peleleu and Angaur. The population of the Pelews is estimated at some 3000, but is probably much more. The language is a very peculiar and bizarre Malayan dialect, somewhat akin to that of Sulu

Archipelago. The principal products are turtle shell, copra and beche de mer (Holothuria), which in the Chinese markets brings as much as \$400 gold per ton.

There is always civil war going on in the group between the various tribes, and a firm hand is needed to keep things in order there. Captain Butran, of the Velasco (lately sunk at Manila), who visited the group in 1885, gives these natives a good name. Captain O'Keefe, however, a wealthy trader of Yap, gives them a doubtful reputation, putting them down as a folk of piratical and turbulent character.

The enormous quartz wheels, the famous and curious stone money of Yap in this group, were quarried in the Island of Kokiai. In olden times there was great commercial activity here, and the Yap and Pelew folks went on extended voyages of trading and conquest. Bab-el-Thaob is rich in good timber. Great quantities of yams, bread-fruits and coconuts are grown. Alligators are found in some of the creeks, and a peculiar kind of a horned frog. There are two kinds of snakes, which the natives called Bersoik and Nguus, both somewhat venomous. There is abundance of good pasture for horses and cattle. Goats are plentiful, probably introduced by the early Malayan settlers.

The Spanish have done next to nothing to show their occupation, and everything goes on much as before. There is no Spanish garrison. The country is well worth opening up to honest and energetic trade.

There seems to be no limit to the ingenuity of man in devising sensations to please the public. Especially is this true in the matter of training animals to perform feats which at first seem impossible. One of the smallest of insects, the flea, and one of the largest of animals, the elephant, have been put through a course of training which has resulted in their performing

feats which seem almost supernatural. However, it remained for Mr. Will H. Barnes, of Sioux City, Iowa, to train an animal which was generally considered to be the dullest of quadrupeds, namely, the elk. His efforts have proved beyond a doubt that the elk is by no means lacking in intelligence, and his famous diving elks elicit admiration and wonder from all who see them perform. Mr. Barnes secured the elks when they were young, and though it required unlimited patience, he finally succeeded in breaking them in harness. While training the elks, the owner noticed that they seemed utterly indifferent to what height they jumped from, and he then conceived the idea of teaching them to dive. The process was a slow one, but now, after two years of labor, they have attained a marvelous degree of ability in this feat, as they make a headlong plunge of fifty feet into a tank of water. Herewith is presented a cut representing the elk making the dive. As will be noticed, the animal makes a headlong plunge with his feet extended.

Strategy in the Ranks. Captain J. W. Pratt has told a mighty military story that came to him somehow from the big camp of the United States volunteers at San Francisco. An infantryman had over-stayed his liberty. Detection meant a fine and perhaps some imprisonment, with the most disagreeable sort of police duty. The infantry chap was a genius. He pinned strips of white paper down the legs of his trousers. Then he made officer's shoulder straps out of banana skins. Then he boldly walked right through the line, answered "officer," and accepted the night honor of the sentry.—Pacific Commercial Advertiser.

The Impossible. He—"What would you say if I were to steal a kiss from you?" She—"But that is impossible." He—"Impossible! Why so, pray?" She—"Because you can't steal anything I haven't got, and no one has ever given me a kiss—see?"—Chicago Post.

The Old Bookkeeper at Lunch. An effectual way of getting rid of cockroaches is to place slices of cucumber over the floor they frequent at night. They devour this greedily, and it destroys them.

In making jelly it must be borne in mind that the less stirring there is the better. If stirred too much the jelly is not clear, while the tendency of sugar to granulate is increased by stirring.

A Sanitary Drinking Fountain. In Rochester, N. Y., it is proposed to introduce a drinking fountain whose water supply will be delivered as a short, vertical jet or fountain. The person using it places the mouth over the jet and drinks without touching anything but the water itself. This avoids contamination from other users of the fountain.

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Secretary of the Interior Bliss hears that 20,000 sheep have been ejected from Yosemite National park. The public is warned against impostors throughout the country who are conducting Red Cross Societies.

HELPS FOR HOUSEWIVES. Broiled Herring. Scale and cut off the heads; clean and dry them with clean cloth. Season with salt and pepper, dredge with flour and broil over a bed of good coals. Serve with onion sauce. Three medium sized boiled onions, chopped fine. Boil cup milk, add tablespoonful each of butter and flour, braided, season. When smooth and hot pour over the onions.

Pickled Eggs. When eggs are plentiful housekeepers should seize the opportunity to pickle them. Boil the eggs until hard, then lay them in cold water. Remove the shells, and put five eggs in each quart fruit jar. Scald as much vinegar as will be needed; add a few slices of freshly boiled red beets, some celery seed, peppercorns, mustard seed and a pinch of mace. Fill the jars containing the eggs with the boiling vinegar and seal at once. Pickled eggs are a palatable addition to broiled or baked fish, and also are very good eaten with lettuce salad and mayonnaise dressing.

Fruit Custard. Take a can of peaches or any kind of fruit and drain off all the syrup and put the fruit in the pudding dish; take a quart of milk and put it over the fire, when it comes to a boil stir in this mixture: The yolks of two eggs, a half cup milk, one tablespoonful of cornstarch, a pinch of salt and two tablespoonfuls of sugar, all thoroughly mixed, and let boil two minutes, stirring all the time; then add carefully the syrup; take off the fire immediately and pour over the fruit; now take the two whites of the eggs and beat to a stiff froth, adding three tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and two drops of essence of rose; spread over all, and brown in a quick oven. Serve cold.

Gingerbread Like Mother Used to Make. An old-fashioned molasses gingerbread. The following are the proportions: One-half cupful of molasses, one-half teaspoonful of ginger, one saltspoonful of salt, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one tablespoonful of clarified beef dripping—or you may use butter, though the dripping is the better—one-fourth of a cupful of hot water, boiling, and one cupful of flour. The ginger, soda and salt are added to the molasses; the softened dripping is then put in, and the mixture beaten well; next the boiling water is added, then the flour; beat again thoroughly, pour into a well-greased shallow pan, and bake in a hot oven. It will take about twenty minutes to bake the loaf.—Woman's Home Companion.

Celery Sandwiches With Mayonnaise. For celery sandwiches with mayonnaise boil slowly for fifteen minutes four eggs; remove the shells and chop the whites very fine, or put them through a vegetable press, mixing with them a little shredded celery. Cut the crust from the end of the loaf of bread, butter the loaf, cut off a slice a quarter of an inch thick, put over it a goodly layer of the white of egg and celery, then a layer of mayonnaise, then a layer of the yolk of egg put through a sieve, and over all another slice of bread pressing the whole together gently. With a sharp knife cut off the crusts, leaving the sandwich perfectly square. Cover a meat-plate with lettuce leaves, arrange the sandwiches on them, cover with dampened lettuce leaves, and stand aside for twenty minutes. Sandwiches made in this way may be kept fresh from early morning until evening, consequently are particularly nice for picnics.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Household Hints. A basket kept on a swinging shelf is the proper receptacle for eggs. Keep potatoes and all root vegetables in box or bin in a dry cellar. Cranberries may be kept for months in crocks or jars and covered with water. Cold vegetables and the like must be covered if not kept in a wired cupboard. Milk should be as far as possible separated from other food and kept clear and cool. Freshly made tea and coffee stains may be removed by at once stretching the part over a bowl, and slowly pouring boiling water through it. In preserving berries or any other fruit liable to fall to pieces, if a small lump of alum is added to the fruit while cooking, it will make it firm. Raw potato with a bathbric will remove stains from steel knives and forks, and stains can also be taken out of tinware and brass in the same way. Two tablespoonfuls of washing soda dissolved in a gallon of boiling water makes an excellent disinfectant for the kitchen sink. Pour in while boiling hot. An effectual way of getting rid of cockroaches is to place slices of cucumber over the floor they frequent at night. They devour this greedily, and it destroys them. In making jelly it must be borne in mind that the less stirring there is the better. If stirred too much the jelly is not clear, while the tendency of sugar to granulate is increased by stirring.

THE MARKETS. PITTSBURG. Grain, Flour and Feed. WHEAT—No. 1 red, 78¢ 80¢ No. 2 red, 75¢ 76¢ CORN—No. 2 yellow, ear, 41¢ 42¢ No. 2 yellow, shelled, 38¢ 39¢ Mixed oat, 28¢ 29¢ OATS—No. 2 white, 28¢ 29¢ No. 3 white, 26¢ 29¢ RYE—No. 1, 48¢ 49¢ FLOUR—Winter patents, 4.50 4.65 Fancy straight water, 4.10 4.15 Rye flour, 3.00 3.25 HAY—No. 1 timothy, 9.00 9.50 Clover, No. 1, 6.00 6.50 FEED—No. 1 white mid., ton., 18.00 19.00 Brown middlings, 15.00 16.00 Bran, bulk, 18.00 18.25 STRAW—Wheat, 4.50 5.00 Oat, 4.50 5.00 SEEDS—Clover, 60 lbs., 1.00 1.10 Timothy, prime, 1.45 1.60

Dairy Products. BUTTER—Elgin Creamery, 20¢ 21¢ Ohio Creamery, 18 19 Fancy country roll, 18 15 CHEESE—Ohio, new, 8 9 New York, new, 8 9

Fruits and Vegetables. BEANS—Green, # bu., 50¢ 6¢ POTATOES—White, # bu., 2.00 2.05 CABBAGE—Per bu., 75 1.00 ONIONS—New Southern, # bu., 2.25 2.50

Poultry, Etc. CHICKENS—Per pair, small, 50¢ 60¢ TURKEYS—Per lb., 14 15 EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh, 12 13

CINCINNATI. FLOUR—No. 2 red, 85¢ 90¢ WHEAT—No. 2 red, 72 73 RYE—No. 2, 50 50 CORN—Mixed, 34 34 OATS, 23 24

PHILADELPHIA. FLOUR—Patents, 4.50 5.00 WHEAT—No. 2 red, 76 77 CORN—No. 2 mixed, 37 38 OATS—No. 2 white, 32 33 BUTTER—Creamery, extra, 20 EGGS—Pennsylvania firsts, 12 14

NEW YORK. FLOUR—Patents, 4.50 5.00 WHEAT—No. 2 red, 76 77 CORN—No. 2, 34 34 OATS—White Western, 33 34 BUTTER—Creamery, 19 EGGS—State of Penn., 13 14

LIVE STOCK. Central Stock Yards, East Liberty, Pa. CATTLE. Prime, 1300 to 1400 lbs., 5.10 5.15 Good, 1200 to 1300 lbs., 4.75 4.80 Tidy, 1000 to 1150 lbs., 4.75 4.90 Fair light steers, 900 to 1000 lbs., 4.25 4.70 Common, 700 to 900 lbs., 3.70 4.10

HOES. Medium, 4.12 4.15 Heavy, 4.10 4.12 Roughs and stags, 3.40 3.65

SHEEP. Prime, 95 to 105 lbs., 4.40 4.50 Good, 85 to 90 lbs., 4.30 4.35 Fair, 70 to 80 lbs., 3.80 4.00 Common, 3.25 3.80 Spring lambs, 4.25 4.75

TRADE REVIEW. An Unusual Number of New Orders Have Been Placed Now That Peace is Established.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade reports as follows for last week: Prospects of peace have had a curious influence on business contracts, not quite explainable on common sense grounds. Nobody really feared disaster, or exhaustion of national resources, and nobody feared that anybody else was afraid of either. Yet orders unusual in number and size have been placed since Spain asked for peace. In some industries the gains have been large for about two weeks, while in some textile manufactures it has only begun to appear this week, but it involves a considerable increase in the working force.

Crop prospects are on the whole more encouraging, for the government's latest report as to corn is much larger than the commercial estimates, and its cotton return promises a heavy yield, while allowance is made for its habitual error in its wheat return. Money markets show no sign of possible disturbance, securities are stronger, and there is no harmful speculation in stocks or products. Italy has the financial outlook been more nearly unclouded.

The general holding back of grain by farmers and consequent heavy shrinkage in western receipts has reduced the visible supply below all past records, but everybody understands that at this date many times that quantity is almost within a day's run of Chicago. The more effective change is the decrease in exports, which have been only 3,273,919 bushels of flour included, from both coasts, against 3,822,974 bushels last year, showing but a slight increase of half a million bushels for two weeks, compared with last year.

The iron and steel trade fully supports inferences drawn from recent events. The demand for steel is so heavy that some of the biggest concerns have been buying one taking 40,000 tons, advancing the price at Pittsburgh from \$14.50 to \$15.25, which was at last refused. Bessemer pig is steady, and other pig there and at eastern and western markets generally, but rails have been advanced by eastern makers to \$18 per ton. The makers of structural beams have advanced the price \$1 per ton, and makers of merchant pipe have advanced the price 5 per cent, while plate makers are crowded to the point of refusing orders, both east and west, and bars are stronger, with many mills engaged for weeks ahead. Illustrating the demand are reports of orders for 20,000 tons structural work more, and big orders at Philadelphia for cast pipe and 6,000 tons elsewhere.

Eastern works now appear to be crowded to their utmost capacity as the western have been for some weeks. In the minor metals there is heavy buying.

The aggregate sales at the three chief wool markets have been only 5,432,700 pounds for the week, about a third of the sales in the same week of 1897, while in 1892 for the corresponding week the sales were 7,151,600 pounds.

For the week failures have been 196 in the United States against 239 last year, and 18 in Canada against 35 last year.

NEWS NOTES. Friends say that President McKinley is enjoying the best of health. Miss Grace Parker, of Cincinnati, took a headache antidote last Monday and died 15 minutes after.

Secretary of the Interior Bliss hears that 20,000 sheep have been ejected from Yosemite National park. The public is warned against impostors throughout the country who are conducting Red Cross Societies.

A Sanitary Drinking Fountain. In Rochester, N. Y., it is proposed to introduce a drinking fountain whose water supply will be delivered as a short, vertical jet or fountain. The person using it places the mouth over the jet and drinks without touching anything but the water itself. This avoids contamination from other users of the fountain.

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