

## For the Boys and Girls

### ROBINSON CRUSOE'S ISLAND

BY W. B. KELL.

I suppose that for most boys who have read the "Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," the very name of Juan Fernandez has been lost to them lest he should be taken to be a mere charmer. It is, I think, its fifty black and green hills, and wooded as it was, as exciting in itself, as for us to imagine what kind of life can be had about the sea, especially of much more favorite places than home.

Then they may come to the island on a map, point it out to their neighbors, who have formed certain ideas of the place—helped, no doubt, by the imagination of artists.

A little is known of the old Spanish navigator, Juan Fernandez, who was for many years governor of the island previous to 1845; his left an interesting account of its vicissitudes under Spanish and Chilean rule.

Several times has it, like the Chilean and Peruvian coasts, suffered severely from earthquakes: and a tidal wave, followed one of these about the middle of last century and destroyed thirty-five lives. Another earthquake occurred in 1835, and several others since.

Some years ago an attempt was made to colonize the island with some Tahitians, but the project failed. The cheapness and abundance of land in Chile and the few ships that call probably render the cultivation of the island a profitable speculation.

Of the three harbors or bays on the coast—Port English on the south-east, Port Juan on the west and Cumberland Bay on the northeast—the last is said to be the best by far, as vessels of 1,000 tons can anchor within a cable's length of the pier, and plenty of fresh water and fruits are to be obtained at the head of the bay.

The island is about eighteen miles long by six broad, is somewhat mountainous, and its shores abrupt. One portant, which owing to its shape, is called Punta del Pescado, is about a height of more than 3,000 feet above sea level, nearly 1,000 above the coast.

The heights of volcanic origin, and heavy rains, precipitation and floods, however, are some of the most terrible, and would be a constant source of trouble.

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But the sound of the church-going bell  
These valleys and rocks never  
were sighed at the sound of a bell,  
Or, smiled when a Sabbath appeared."

So far as "the sound of the church-going bell" is concerned, the verse is as true now as it was two centuries ago, for one solitary farmer, with perhaps at times a dozen men and boys, who go over Valparaiso to assist him in looking after his sheep and goats, and cultivating a little land, are all the population of the island; and they probably feel about as lonely when they are as Robinson Crusoe and his black man Friday, in Defoe's entertaining book.

Few are the ships that call, and rare the visitors, there being but very little trade, and the farmer finds many comforts for the little money that he makes from his little possession.

The naturalist may visit the place with interest, but the entire ideas connected with such a place as a human residence are pensive and lonely.

Gives even a feeling of grace,

And reconciles man to his lot."

"But the sea-fowl is gone to her nest,  
The beast is laid down in his lair;  
Even here is a season of rest.  
And to my cabin repair.  
There is mercy in every place,  
And mirth, encouraging thought,  
Gives even a feeling of grace,  
And reconciles man to his lot."

Selkirk died at the age of forty-seven years; but Defoe makes his hero, Robinson Crusoe, like Agnes of

Tahiti, but was tossed by land and sea, and undergoes numberless hardships, both by sea and land, even long after he is married, and sixteen years of age. And when, at length, he returns to London, after ten years and nine months absence, he alights with the old man of seventy-two, as he says:

"And here, resolving to harken myself no more, I am preparing for a longer voyage than all these, having lived a life of infinite variety, and learnt sufficiently the value of contentment, and the blessing of ending our days in peace."

**Reserved Forces.**

It is often the case that success in life depends upon what may be called reserved forces or reserved power.

The individual has in store certain physical, moral or intellectual forces which he brings into action whenever they are needed.

Benjamin Disraeli, on making his maiden speech in the House of Commons, was met with shouts of derisive laughter, in closing, he said:

"I have begun many things, and have often succeeded at last. I will sit down now, but the time will come when you will hear me."

The time came when the House of

Commons not only heard him, but acknowledged him as its leader, and as the prime minister.

Daniel Webster possessed great reserve power. His mind was not well fitted to consider any question of law or statesmanship which might be submitted, but it was well stored with knowledge.

His famous speech against Hayne

is a fine example of the vastness of the intellectual forces he had in reserve.

The speech (the first of the two) was delivered after brief preparation, but,

in the wealth of knowledge it displayed,

in the closeness of its logic, in its beauty of style and eloquence, it has seldom, if ever, been equaled in American oratory.

This reserve power of Disraeli and of Webster contributed to the success of their work.

The means of attaining this power

chiefly to read much and the rough-

and, what is more essential, to think constantly and carefully.

Train the mind well, store it with

knowledge, and it is prepared with

the stock of intellectual forces which

can bring into play whenever the de-

sire is made.

Most readers of English poetry are familiar with the interesting but pensive verse of the poet Cowper, as he says, "supposed to be written by Alexander Selkirk during his solitary abode in the island of Juan Fernandez."

The author of poor Selkirk or the lame was much less exciting than Defoe represents it, or instead of his main Friday to help him to shoot the bears, wolves and savages there were, we have said, no bears or wolves to shoot, and no one, "saint or savage," man, woman or child, to keep him company, save only the wild goats, rats and seabirds which inhabited the place. His firelock and his Bible were his only comforts.

The land, which they belonged to

Spain, and now to Chile, is said to

be useful as a place of call for ves-

sels proceeding from the Atlantic by way of Cape Horn to Peru or California, or from Valparaiso to Sydney or Melbourne.

But a century and a half ago only

there was no trade to San Francisco, for it was not then built; California gold had not been discovered, Peruvian guano was unknown to commerce and British emigrants had not begun to seek fresh fields and pastures new in Australia and New Zealand, and Williams Christian missionary, or Selwyn, Prickett or Pattison, Hunt or Gulick, had begun to civilize the savages, cannibals, then inhabiting the various groups of South Sea Islands.

Long, therefore, had Selkirk to wait for the call of an English ship,

though of Spanish he saw several

passes, and two anchored near

shore.

Religion! what treasures untold

Resides in that heavenly word!

More precious than silver and gold,

Or all that this earth can afford,

He Eats it Religiously.

How do you want your steak done?

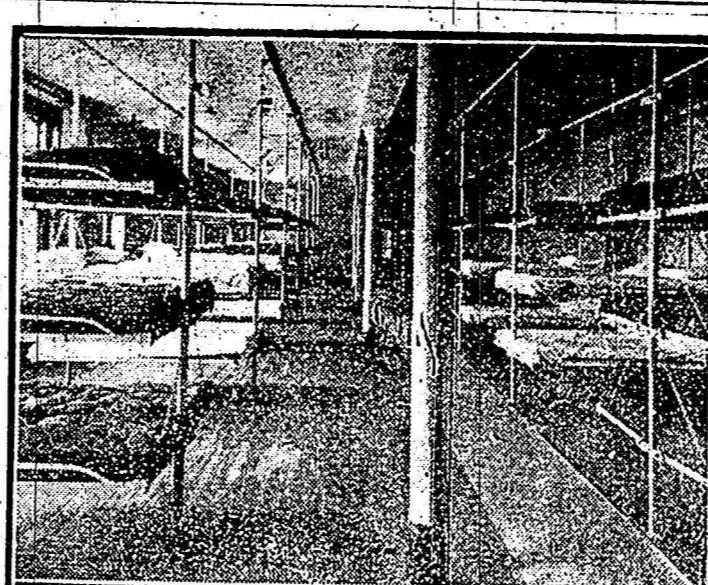
Huh! Whatcha mean?

Why just medium.

Nothing Else.

Teacher—Does the question puzzle you?

Pupil—"Not at all. It's the answer."



One of the dormitories for men in the immigration hall of the Canadian National Railways at Winnipeg.

## THE BEAUTIFUL DELPHINUM

The delphinium is an extensive, forms spires, Tongues of yellow velvety flowers, which forms a spike-like aspect that culmaceous, a beautiful annual and perennial plant of the crowfoot family. The spikes terminate in long, slender, pointed, each spike bearing approximately 60 species. It is often form long, slender, delicate, narrow, lanceolate leaves, which are deeply cut with sharp, serrated edges, and pointed at the apex.

The early origin is not definitely known, although the indications are that the plant is a native of the north, rather than subtropical regions.

The native or wild larkspur is rarely found in any color except shades of blue and bluish-purple. Some of the cultivated strains present more vivid colors, although it permits to run out by infrequent divisions, they become very pale, deteriorating to an insipid, unattractive white. A loss of the annuals seen growing in gardens, day-lily, slate-blue and pinkish-lavender. Canard combined, they present pictures of appealing loveliness. A charming new cultivated variety, "Dame Edna" in color has long stems and spurs. It is known as tall, stock-flowered." Still another, and one ideal for cutting purposes is the "Newport Scarlet."

In Gardens and Abroad.

While supposedly a strictly garden flower, the delphinium has long since escaped the confines of the home, slow to grow, and runs wild in the moon, between tufts and fields, and along the high ways, and has taken on some of the characteristics of the wild larkspur. Delphiniums are particularly popular in England, where they are known as "bluebells."

There is every reason why this trade between the two countries should grow a very substantial rate, with the coming into effect of the treaty. Canada and the West Indies are diametrically opposite in condition and production.

A scrutinizing comparison of garden delphinium with the vagabond of the fields and mountains reveals a noticeable similarity of form and color, but those plants which are cared for in the wild, experienced cultivation have a very short, thick spur, and long, dense flower-racemes that make them particularly satisfying specimens for the garden.

Both the annual delphinium and the perennial delphinium are among the most attractive garden flowers to-day. The delphiniums are of many regal appearance, with their tall, dignified stalks, bearing racemes of queerly

## CANADIAN TRADE WITH WEST INDIES

### Two Countries Are Diametrically Opposite in Condition and Production

### SUPPLY OUR TROPICAL REQUIREMENTS

\$11,006,149 in 1925. The Dominion exports to that country in 1926 had a value of \$14,250,877, as compared with \$11,973,349 in the previous year. In 1900 West Indian imports from Canada had a value of \$801,613 and her exports to Canada \$1,673,163. In 1929 the figures were respectively \$21,093,144 and \$10,865,263. An analysis made at the end of 1924 shows that 17.8 per cent. of the West Indies' imports were Canadian and that 2.2 of the islands' exports were to the Dominion.

There is every reason why this trade between the two countries should grow a very substantial rate, with the coming into effect of the treaty.

Canada and the West Indies are diametrically opposite in condition and production.

In respect to the supply of tropical requirements, the two countries are in complete contrast.

Contract for the steamship service

between Canada and the British West Indies, as called for under the new

treaty between the two countries, has been awarded by the Dominion Government to the Government Merchant Marine, arrangements have been made for the purchase and building of new boats to fulfil the details of the contract, and operation of the regular service can be expected as nearly as possible within the time stipulated in the agreement. The services required under the agreement, toward which the West Indies will contribute \$227,450 per annum and Canada an equal or greater amount, are to be provided by the West Indies.

Eastern group. (a) Fortnightly ser-

vices, passenger mail and freight, from Canadian ocean ports to the year round, calling each way at Bermuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, Trinidad, and Jamaica. (b) Fortnightly freight services from Canadian river ports in summer and designated ocean ports in winter, calling both ways at Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Kingston, Jamaica. (c) Fortnightly freight services between the said Canadian ports and Kingston, Jamica, direct, alternating with service (a). (d) Fortnightly passenger and freight service between Kingston, Jamaica, and British Honduras, to be operated by a small steamer connecting at Kingston with the passenger vessels operating under heading (a).

**Increased Preferences Increasing Business.**

The award of the steamship con-

tract, with the assurance of operation

within a reasonable time, brings nearer the actual giving effect to the trade treaty, signed in 1925, and which has been so anxiously awaited, particularly by the West Indies.

With the treaty coming into effect increased preferences will be granted, by the two countries to each other.

The commodity which Canada purchases to the extent of between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 annually, shipped direct will enter Canada free as against a duty of 50 cents per ton via the United States as has largely been the practice.