

### Ruled by the Spirit of Revolting Reptile

Scientists Sojourning in Dutch Guiana Find Djuka Bushmen Revere Supernatural Elements Attributed to Boa Constrictor Alligator and Cottonwood Tree

#### WOMEN APPRECIATED

On the edge of the northeastern side of South America there is a unique civilization little known to the white men of this continent. We know of the strange life of the Congo, of the fascinating customs and the ever-present danger of the African jungles because adventurers and explorers by the hundreds have brought from the Eastern tropics the entrancing facts of their experience.

But of the bush Negro or Djuka of Dutch Guiana; of them and their craftsmanship, of their customs and their medicine, little has been told. These black men of Surinam are not native to this hemisphere. They are transported people. Brought to South America as slaves in the days of buccaneering and trade in human flesh, they revolted successfully in the middle eighteenth century and have since retained their freedom.

The Negroes of the north sloughed off nearly everything that was native and African, completely yielding to the influence of Caucasian civilization and eager to imitate its customs and emulate its standards, but the Djukas of the Dutch Guiana bush held fast to the primitive habits of their African ancestors.

At the American Museum of Natural History is a collection consisting mostly of carved wood implements recently brought by Dr. Morton C. Kahn of New York City who, accompanied by Howard A. Raugh, went to Dutch Guiana in the interest of the American Museum of Natural History and the Cornell Medical College, with which latter institution Dr. Kahn is associated.

#### Are Artists.

"The Djukas decorate practically everything," said Dr. Kahn. "Even their paddles for stirring pots are finely shaped and delicately engraved with designs handed down from those known among their African ancestors. They are a very artistic race, and a Djuka artist gets more consideration as a prospective husband than a member of the tribe who is a less competent wood-carver."

"Of course, the first consideration is, can he hunt, fish and provide successfully for a family as well as himself. But having determined on his prospective bride and her family want to know what kind of a craftsman he is in the working of wood, for art in that country is considered manly."

#### Women Control Children.

"The Djuka woman stands higher in the social scheme than in many savage tribes, as those Negroes have a matriarchal system of descent. She has greater control over her children than her husband, and her parents and the maternal uncle of the children also have a hand in the upbringing of the young."

"A man can't get a wife by showing prowess with the bow and gun and the carving knife and then lay down on the job and expect to keep her. He also has to keep up producing beautiful wood carvings for the use and edification of his wife, and if he gets lazy in providing food and incompetent in carving he is apt to lose her. She can get a divorce from her indolent partner by proving to the council of the tribe that her husband has deteriorated as a provider and as an artist."

Descent Traced Through Mother. While the descent is traced through the father and the headship of the village passes to the gran-man's sister's male child, yet the society does not discriminate against the man who has the capacity to make the jungle

and river yield sustenance for two wives. An exceptionally rapid and competent craftsman can do successful hunter may maintain two wives. It seems probable that the artistic instinct has been cultivated by the social organization which requires the men to please the women with the carving of elegant domestic tools and utensils. Spoons and pot-stirrers may take days of patient carving and accomplish their purpose as household tools no better than a plain stick, but still the men work on and not only carve but inlay some of the things with hardwood.

#### Value Art.

"The curious fact about the Djukas," said Dr. Kahn, "is that while they consider an article of utility nearly worthless without having been submitted to the skill of the wood-carver, they pay little attention to the wooden representation of their gods."

"This is not accidental or due to religious indifference. They see a spirit in nearly everything that lives or is. Rocks, trees, animals—all have a supernatural element within them, but the Djukas have no fear that the god will be displeased if he is not treated to an elaborate image. They have a firm conviction that religion is a quality that comes from within and is not stimulated by exterior objects. Each village has its god, and they hold as semi-sacred the boa-constrictor, the alligator and the cottonwood tree, which they call the 'con-con-dree.' Over and above this world of spirits they believe in an overruling god of the universe."

The Djukas revolted in 1759. They developed military leaders and an uncanny knowledge of the swamps and tracks of the jungle which trapped and decimated their white masters. The Dutch and their British allies found it impossible to make headway against them because the jungle swallowed up almost every force which attempted to penetrate the camps of the Djukas.

A truce was made and friendly relations established, but the Djukas, 177 years after this colonial war in a hemisphere where the whites overran and wiped out Incas, Aztecs and other Indian tribes, still retain their independence and occupy some of the main waterways into the interior of the country.

#### Proud of Independence.

"The Djukas are very proud of their independence," says Dr. Kahn. "They have no feeling of inferiority in respect to the whites. The white man has nothing that they cannot do without and they trade or not, as they choose."

"The bush Negro may use a shotgun, buy some trade brass for bracelets around his wife's arms or legs, make an exchange for lengths of cloth and axes, but the white man does not control the Negro's necessities. He likes a bit of candy and uses tobacco by soaking the leaves in water, using the liquid for sniffing up the nose, but otherwise he lives on what he grows in the way of crops and the game of the jungle and the river fish."

In the Surinam jungle the Negro, unlike some of his African brothers, has not succumbed to the white man's virus. The Djuka is pure black and his proud of his skin and his kinky hair. He tolerates no race admixture and the Negro of the bush looks down upon the black man who lives in the Dutch towns. They have an abhorrent term which they apply to the town black, "backashlaf"—backra meaning white man and shlaf meaning slave.

#### Control Hinterland.

"The Negroes still control the hinter parts of the river roads into the interior, the Upper Surinam, the Saranama and the Marowayne, and their villages are chiefly above the cataracts of these three streams. There is no other way to enter the interior, and those who travel and trade do so because the inhabitants tolerate them."

While the African colored man works under the law of a white master and the unrestricted exploitation and the unrestricted exploitation scandals of Putnamay and Kimberley and recent charges of peonage in Kenya, in Surinam the bush Negro trades or works as he wills.

"The white man obtains from the Negro only what he is willing to give," says Dr. Kahn. "There is no conflict between the Dutch and the Djukas. The Dutch control is most considerate and tolerant. Each side realizes that the present situation is a satisfactory one and the Dutch make no attempt to impose upon the Negroes."

Besides the protection given them by nature, the Djukas' feeling of superiority is based upon the world-mouth literature of the successful rebellions.

Maintain Saga of Deeds. They have maintained from generation to generation a sort of saga in which the names of the leaders, the stories of the big battles, the anecdotes of magic protection against white men's bullets and the incidents of individual heroism and cleverness have been preserved. The history is told in a literary or ceremonial language which is composed largely of modified African words. It is noble speech or "despee-talkee," which means what it sounds like—deep-talk, while the common speech is talkee-talkee, a mixture of African, Dutch, French and English.

"One of my guides who was from the town and spoke 'talkee-talkee' could not understand 'despee-talkee.' It is an interesting fact that the

### Three Literary Giants



"Big Wigs" of letters fall to agree. "Do We Agree?" was the somewhat inappropriate title of a debate between George Bernard Shaw (left) and Gilbert K. Chesterton (right), which took place in London the other night. Hilaire Belloc (centre) acted as chairman.

Djukas have completely forgotten everything about themselves before their transportation to Dutch Guiana. Their history begins with the rebellion and they know nothing of Africa.

"The Djukas respect themselves and those who visit them. This pride does not spill over into arrogance and they are as courteous as one would expect to strangers in whom they have no great curiosity or special interest."

#### Must Have Good Will.

"You cannot travel far in that country without their good will. Alone, a white man would be helpless in the jungle; he cannot live without the help of the Djukas and they are so competent to look after themselves in that environment that they regard the helpless white man as a weaker creature because of his inability to cope with the conditions of life in the jungle."

"News of one's arrival is sent up the river by the beating of drums. There is a tom-tom code and this drum is wireless telegraph to the arrival of a visitor. If you have made a bad impression, this negative report is well known throughout the community and you will find that they do not care to trade with you or assist you."

In the Upper Surinam River I did not find them anxious to trade any way. I had the assistance of E. W. Rogall, chief forester; Alexander Wolff and W. M. Strang, men of much experience in the country, and the whole-hearted co-operation of the Dutch authorities, and the natives only sold me stuff as a favor and because my guide explained that I had come a long way and greatly admired the products of their handicraft. Like candy, but will not accept it in trade, feeling that it should be thrown in as a bonus.

The collection of household articles, paddles, implements, drums, etc., which Dr. Kahn brought here is one of the first of its kind in the country. He paid for it mostly in tobacco leaves and candy.

#### Follow African Fashion.

"The women and some of the men beautify themselves by raising scar tissue on the body and face," he said. "This fashion of embossing the body is done by cutting the flesh in patterns of short straight lines and then rubbing charcoal into the cuts. These become raised like welts and few women without a pattern of this kind somewhere on their face or body have any claims to beauty."

The occasional traveler coming out of Surinam has reported that the medicine men of the Djukas have developed a remarkable system of therapy and that they know how to combat the jungle fever and the bite of the snake. The anti-snake concoction is said to be so powerful that a person who has rubbed it into a cut on the skin or taken it internally turns away the snakes in his vicinity. However, Dr. Kahn says that there is little real proof of this.

"This snake medicine," said Dr. Kahn, "is made by arranging a dead snake's head with its tail thrust into its mouth. This is slowly baked over a fire and the remains ground into a block powder. I did not get an opportunity to investigate their system of therapy, but found upon inquiring in the town that the snake cure is well thought of by some of the people."

"I also learned that the Djukas have a medical center up the river, and sick men and women are often taken up to this town, spelled Dahomey but pronounced Daumay. "As the bush is very thick, the Negroes live along the river. They have trails through which they hunt the peccary, the tapir and the ogoti with shotguns and sometimes they crash for some distance through the undergrowth, but the villages are all on or near the waterways. The clearings are one or more miles apart and each village is governed by a captain or gran-man."

"Far up in the interior lives the king of the river—the gran-gran man—and he is the lord and ruler of the captains of the villages. The Djukas plant quite some cassava, peanuts and the like, and this, with hunting and fishing, provides for most of their needs."

Workmen in ancient Britain are said to have been paid in salt. In those days a man had to be literally worth his salt to hold his job.

### Premier Reviews Canada's History

Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King at Women's Canadian Club

#### IMPORTANT ROLE

A rapid review of Canada's history, as a land of mystery first, sought by explorers and adventures, as a French colony later, then a British Dominion playing an important role in the community of British nations, constituted the main part of the address delivered by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Premier of Canada, before the Women's Canadian Club at Montreal recently.

The history of yesterday was always so recent that no one ever knew much about it. Mr. King said and this was particularly true of the history of Canada. Only during the Confederation celebrations had most Canadians become fully aware of the greatness and rapidity of Canada's development.

Every nation likes to have a historical background, and people naturally dig back to remote days in search of their national origin. People some time said Canada's history went back 469 years to the discoveries of Jean Cabot. It was not until a century later, however, with the settlement of Champlain in 1608, that authority began to be established in Canada and Canadian history began.

Then, 150 years ago, with the change of national government from French to British rule, came the opening of another era. And 60 years ago when Confederation came to be, Canada had advanced to be a group of small colonies. To-day that grouping was so preserved that it was possible to visualize the origin of Canada's civilization and the development toward Confederation.

While one thought of Quebec as the oldest part of Canada, there were, on the Atlantic shores, three British communities, now known as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. At one time these provinces thought it a good thing to get together and form themselves into a province. Mr. King thought it would not be a bad idea if they would carry that scheme out to-day. But then, there was one large province known as Canada, and these three settlements, which decided to become one. In 1776 the whole of Ontario had been part of Quebec under one government with it. And as a matter of fact it was largely due to the French settlement in Quebec that Canada was to-day a British Dominion, for when the United States broke away from the Empire, if the French community had been hostile to Britain, the British settlements would undoubtedly have gone with the rest.

Separate Provinces. After the revolution the United Empire Loyalists really founded Ontario, and after some years Ontario and Quebec were made separate provinces.

A little girl was travelling in a tramcar with her mother, a woman of very slight build. Presently an extremely stout woman boarded the car, and sat down opposite the little girl. The train started off with a jerk, and the child contemplated the woman opposite her for some minutes, then, turning to her mother, inquired in a loud voice: "Mother, is that all one lady?"

Looking from her drawing-room window, a lady saw, as she thought, a poor wretch of a man shivering under a lamp-post. In a moment of pity she sent him a ten-shilling note wrapped in paper on which she wrote the words, "Never say die!" The next night there came a knock at her door. The man who knocked was the one she had seen under the lamp-post, and in handing five pounds ten shillings to the lady he remarked, "Here's your money, lady. Never Say Die won't at ten to one, and you were the only one who backed it. Happy to oblige any time, remember!"

"Hard on the purse." "My, but the girl you travel with is easy on the eyes." "Very—but hard on the purse."

### History's Most Expensive Party

Exclusive "Tea-for-Three" Costs Lady Houston \$7,500,000

#### DEATH DUTIES

Chancellor Maintained the Right to Tax Estate of Late Husband

London—The most expensive tea-for-three in history—with Lady Houston, widow of Sir Robert Houston, multi-millionaire shipbuilder; Chancellor of the Exchequer Churchill, and Sir Douglas Hogg, chief legal officer for the Crown, discussing high finance over the cups—has enriched the Government by \$7,500,000.

After the third cup of tea Lady Houston wrote the Chancellor of the Exchequer a cheque for seven and a half million. The Chancellor put it in his pocket and ordered another cup of tea around. Shortly thereafter the party broke up with Mr. Churchill giving Lady Houston a paternal pat on the back.

The huge payment represented a compromise figure between the \$12,000,000 which the Government said Sir Robert's \$35,000,000 estate owed in inheritance tax, and whatever reduction Lady Houston could negotiate.

Sir Robert, who left his entire fortune to the wife he married late in life, had one great hobby—to escape the inheritance tax. A few years ago he made his legal residence in Jersey, Channel Islands, where there is no inheritance tax. But the Government maintained he was a resident of England.

It was a posthumous stroke of irony, therefore, which gave the Government \$7,500,000.

"The idea of negotiating with Mr. Churchill my own settlement of the tax came to me spontaneously," Lady Houston said.

It might be added, in this connection, that the Government impounded her \$2,000,000 yacht in which she likes to ride the seven seas.

"I sent a telegram to Mr. Churchill saying that I wished to present to the Government my share of the tax as an act of grace."

"The Chancellor invited me to tea at the Treasury in Whitehall. Sir Douglas was there," she added.

"We discussed settlement of the tax between sips of good tea."

"Finally I borrowed Mr. Churchill's pen and signed a cheque for one and a half million pounds—without missing a sip."

"Absolutely, signing of the cheque did not spoil my tea. We parted happily. Sir Douglas with his hood, Mr. Churchill with my cheque and I with his pat on my back."

#### Slips That Cost

Mankind is growing less sure-footed. In spite of better pavements, sidewalks, floors and stairways the percentage of accidents due to slipping, stumbling, tripping or loss of balance is steadily going up. Thoughtlessness on the part of the victim is the explanation given by the State Industrial Commissioner. Employers in New York State paid \$6,500,000 in the last twelve months in compensating 18,000 workers who fell. Only half of that number were injured in like manner in 1923. On stairs the causes for falling might have been eliminated with a little more care. Catching the heel of the shoe and misjudging the step are prominent in the explanations.

Ladders that slipped, boxes, chairs, tables or other makeshifts used in trying to reach something account for hundreds of accidents. Wet floors were charged with 700 slips on level surfaces sustained by restaurant workers and cleaners who should have been on guard against that condition. Dishes or packages, persons who fell while walking on level surfaces outnumbered those injured by falls from elevators, but their falls were not so serious. As a matter of economy the employer is now trying to make his premises safe, but the worker seems still to entertain the idea that accident chooses its victims according to their luck.

All this should inspire Canadians with a great lasting pride in the vast development and wonderful progress Canada had made in so short a space. It should also inspire a great respect for the unity of the great British Empire or Commonwealth of nations, which had made the progress and development of the British Dominions possible. That unity was something that would endure and something of which Canadians could well be proud.

### Holiday Games For the Kiddies

A NEW MOTHER GOOSE GAME

For this game ask Mother or someone who remembers Mother Goose to write the first line of a number of rhymes on separate slips of paper and to number the slips. Betty, please hand one to every child and we shall begin.

The child who has Number One must stand up and call out his line, holding his slip of paper above his head. The child or children who can finish it must jump up quickly repeating the remainder of the rhyme. The one who finishes first and says it correctly takes the slip of paper from the hand of Number One. Many times several children are finishing the rhyme and trying to grasp the paper at the same time, and this makes it very exciting. Of course, we shall remember to be very polite and good-natured if someone else gets through first. You'll need a referee to decide who first finishes correctly. The other children should follow with their lines and the one holding the most slips at the end wins the game.

#### A New Dish for Late Suppers

An excellent dish for the late supper on cold winter evenings when something hearty is not welcome is recommended by a writer in the Home Institute of the December "Dollmator." The dish is cold pork pie.

The recipe for this English dish is as follows: 3 lb. lean pork, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 onion, chopped, 1 tablespoon chopped parsley, 1/2 pint water, 3/4 teaspoon pepper, 1/2 teaspoon sage.

Cut the pork in very small pieces. Add seasoning and water. Line a deep dish with short pastry, pour in the meat, cover with pastry and bake in a moderately hot oven two hours. When cold, this becomes nicely jellyed. Any bones from the meat may be covered with water and allowed to simmer slowly to make a stock to use in place of the water.

#### "Meet the Wife"

A delicious bit of exalted writing by the "renowned reporter" is found in the world's account, recently, of Dwight Morrow's reply to the Mexican Consul's speech of greeting at Laredo:

"Now it might have been expected it would have been natural enough—that a man, a banker by profession, unaccustomed to speech on public occasions, in a foreign land, speaking to a foreign mind and character, would be stiff, or, at best, formal. And in Mr. Morrow's case there was his self-imposed resolution not to commit himself with President Calles. So he had to choose his words. He chose them to perfection."

"It was very kind of you to take the trouble to come here to welcome me," he said. "I think you very much. May I present you to Mrs. Morrow?" In other words, the Ambassador, summoning every mental resource of the banker and diplomat, said to the Mexican official, "Meet the wife."—New York Evening Post.

#### A Flashlight Trick

A new use for an ordinary flash light is to make cut-out paper men dance upon the wall in a dark room. Mother or sister can easily cut out a dancing man. Next, get Daddy's flash light and turn out the lights in the room.

Now hold the dancing man by his hat in one hand and the flash light, turned on the wall in the other. Inside the circle of light on the wall the dancing man will appear, enlarged or not, according to how near you stand to the wall. Now, by keeping the hand holding the dancing man perfectly still, and moving the flash light up and down, the man will dance in a lively manner on the wall.

#### A Christmas Salad

Hollow out tiny rosebud beets, leaving a cup-fill with finely chopped celery, previously marinated in a highly seasoned dressing. Arrange a few capers over the top. Fold drained horseradish into mayonnaise (1 boiled dressing (about one tablespoon to a cup). Arrange two or more beets to a serving depending on their size and pour the mayonnaise around and between them.

"Severe punishment in school makes a permanent impression on the child mind," says a psychologist. The Brand of Cans, as it were.

"Mother goes to the Methodist Church," said a little girl to the new neighbor. "And isn't your father of the same denomination?" "I don't know exactly what daddy is, he don't go to church with mother. Uncle Robert said daddy must be a Seven Day Absentist."

Theatrical agents sometimes have to be rather cruel. One day a somewhat faded woman called to apply for the position of chorus girl. "Sorry," said the agent, tactfully, "you're too late." The applicant, knowing this was not true, burst into a volume of abuse, ending with, "I don't believe I'm too late at all!" "Oh, yes, you are," said the agent. "About 15 years."

### Baldwin Takes Stock

There is a tradition in British history that the Prime Minister should take an informal account of his life at the banquet given by the Mayor on the day of his accession to office. The custom has been observed for many years that the Mayor of London should invite the Prime Minister to a banquet at the Grosvenor Hotel, and the Mayor of London should invite the Prime Minister to a banquet at the Grosvenor Hotel.

Premier Stanley Baldwin, disappointed the banquet of the far wider circle of interested observers. Not only a general survey of his life, especially as they impinge on the policies of the Prime Minister, but a general survey of his life, especially as they impinge on the policies of the Prime Minister, but a general survey of his life, especially as they impinge on the policies of the Prime Minister.

The keynote of his speech, unstinted praise given to Mr. and Mrs. Stresemann for their efforts in the cause of European peace, could more clearly the swiftness with which policies change or how the nation rapidly and yet imperceptibly changes its mind, after the sounding of the bugle by the Prime Minister, and in the sentence opinionated by the man Foreign Minister and statesman of the House of Commons.

"Britain, France, Germany, the protagonists of the great yesterday, now meet and equals to advance the cause of our common civilization," Stanley Baldwin, and in the sentence opinionated by the man Foreign Minister and statesman of the House of Commons.

What France and Germany done in the quenching of last in the diminishing of misdeeds years can be achieved by the nations with a common sense where the flames of hatred are still rampant, a hindrance of the cause of world peace and the realization of civilization.

In appraising the statement of Little Entente and the smiling of Europe that which Mr. Stresemann have been out to win did not intend to mislead efforts already made but point out that the admission many to the League and the election displayed by the Great especially during the months, had made the realization of the smaller nations, their opportunities richer. In Poland, Masaryk in Czechia and Paschich, the two Greater Serbia, have accomplished great deal under a heavy burden. Yet so far their activities have largely confined to domestic life.

"The time has come," says Baldwin, "to widen the horizon of their vision, to come out into the eradication of international reds and to ally the combined our common civilization."—Star.

### Interesting Data

Plants Bloom Out of Season When Their Light Altered

By controlling the sunlight reaches certain plants. It is found possible to force them out of season, earlier or later than their usual period. Experiments have been made with dahlias, African violets, poinsettias, Gladioli, and late varieties of chrysanthemums. It now appears that the plants bloom in direct relation to the length of the daylight period.

"With this to guide the floriculturists trick the flowers into blooming at unusual seasons. This is done by covering the plants for them into the cellar for a few days before sunset each day produces sunlight conditions imitating Autumn, with a shortage of daylight, and the plants earlier. Conversely, it has been found that lengthening the short days of Autumn and Winter with the electric lights of proper intensity vents these plants from flowers their normal season.

It is even possible to force out parts of some plants to at different seasons. A motorist left his car at restaurant while he had lunch emerging, however, he observed a constable was standing guard. So he quickly withdrew just thought swiftly. Having certain reasons for not desiring another exit by a rear door, and home, telephoned to Scotland Yard and said that his car had been half-an-hour later. The police phoned to say that the car had been discovered outside restaurant, and would the please call there for it?

The dear old lady was in church, and entered as the organ was rising to sing. "Don't be late," said a voice, "don't be late, my account!"

Flub: "What caused that to-day?" Deb: "Two motorists the same pedestrian."



Captain R. H. McIntosh Who, out to establish English long distance record in flight to India, is now reported lost.