

Peru Is Rich With Food

PERU'S coastal waters are teeming with enough fish to feed the world, and her islands are all veritable bird sanctuaries, according to Robert Cushman Murphy, who has just returned from six months' exploration in South America with 500 photographs and 10,000 feet of motion picture film.

The "wonderful fish and bird life" of Peru, Mr. Murphy attributed to the Humboldt Current, a body of oceanic water which flows along 1,500 miles of the coast.

Mr. Murphy called attention to the guano or fertilizer deposits of Peru, which, he said, may be doubled by the conservation methods devised by Francisco Ballen, a Peruvian, who he described as "one of the most far-sighted and able economists in the world."

The value of the guano deposits, he said, was also due to the action of the Humboldt Current, the cold winds from which, blowing over the arid land, preserved the fertilizing qualities of the bird lime.

The guano birds were enumerated by Mr. Murphy as the white-breasted cormorant, (commercially worth \$15 a pair in Lima); the pelican and two species of gannet.

In the period from 1840 to 1908, Mr. Murphy said, many of the birds were killed off and it is only in recent years that efforts have been made to conserve this important resource of Peru.

They mind their business with enthusiasm

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and from these he conducted his researches and experiments. Guano, he said, is the best fertilizer known for sugar cane and before the war vast quantities of it were shipped to the United States.

Ocean freight rates, Mr. Murphy said, might be affected by the competition which has sprung up since the close of the war. Within the last six months, he said, eight or nine steamship lines—Dutch, Italian, British and American—are now stopping at Peruvian ports.

Mr. Murphy, who is 34 years old and a graduate of Brown University, is a director of the Explorers' Club. His expedition to Peru was aided financially by the American Museum of Natural History and the American Geographical Society.

PROHIBITION IN ENGLAND.

"As Well Dry Up the Atlantic," Papers Say.

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The Liverpool Post, commenting on the proposed fund says: "It argues a poor appreciation of the character of the British people and of the conditions in this country that such a madcap 'pussyfoot' tactics on the scale now threatened opens the door to international ill-feeling that might prove very mischievous in the present state of the world."

"America has chosen prohibition for itself. It is not absolutely inconceivable that Great Britain may some day follow the example. But it will be as a result of American methods, the more likely effect of which might be to discredit the prohibition idea, and even to retard temperance progress on lines that are likely to appeal to the British temperament."

"We should be so much obliged if our good, kind friends of America would refrain from doing us good," says the Globe in an editorial. "Unregenerate creatures that we are, we do not like it, and we have a sort of idea that they might find enough to occupy them at home. The fox which has lost his tail is generally willing to assist in the decapitation of the rest. All the same we do not think the plan will be successful."

Commerce in the Antarctic.

Events moved forward the other day toward the commercial exploitation of the Antarctic when representatives of the British Ministry of the Air, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and the Royal Society met at the Mansion House on invitation of the Lord Mayor of London to discuss the plans for the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition, which will leave England early next summer.

J. L. Cope, who will lead the expedition, outlined its methods and purposes, and his hearers may very well have been impressed by the way in which such modern inventions as wireless communication and successful aviation come in to help and make possible the commercial development of what has so long been considered a hopelessly remote region.

It will determine the position and extent of mineral and other deposits of economic value, gather data concerning the localities and migrations of whales with a view to creating a new whaling industry, investigate meteorological and magnetic conditions in the Ross Sea and at Cape Ann (Enderby Land) in connection with their influence on Australasia and South Africa, and circumnavigate the Antarctic continent.

Grave-Diggers Scarce.

England is experiencing a grave shortage of grave-diggers. Offers of a 150 per cent. increase in wages have been spurned, applicants for work preferring to remain idle or accept something less remunerative.

"I'm keeping clear of burying jobs until they fetch me," said Oswald Burton, an ex-soldier who was offered a job as grave-digger. "I'll look around."

London undertakers, at their wits' end to supply the demand, are able to give but one reason for the scarcity of cemetery labor.

On Thursday, April 1st, Peter Davis, one of the best known residents of Roblin, passed to his last rest. He was born in Westplains sixty-eight years ago. Mr. Davis had been in ill health for about seven weeks.

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