

FAIR-OFF FALKLANDS

A BRITISH COLONY THAT HAS AN OVERFLOWING POPULATION.

Several Times Abandoned Because They Were Bleak and Barren, the Islands Proved to Be Ideal Sheep Ranches and Now the People Flourish.

In one respect the English colony known as the Falkland Islands is the most remarkable portion of the Americas. In spite of the facts that the islands are treeless, that the climate is not only bleak but also cold as to prevent all kinds of agriculture save only a few hardy garden plants, that the islands are situated where communication with the rest of the world is impeded by natural difficulties, here alone of all the regions of the Americas has man flourished so well that the population has increased the country to a point where a surplus is produced that must emigrate.

According to Mr. R. M. Routledge, formerly a Government official there, who has recently described the present condition of the islands in the Scottish Geographical Magazine, Port William, on a bay in the largest of the Falklands, is a remarkable village. A single street runs along the beach on the south side of the bay. It is a mile and a half long, and has at one end the Government buildings in a field some acres in extent, and at the other a hotel very fittingly named "First and Last." The houses are built of wood and corrugated iron. There are three churches—Protestant, Catholic and Baptist. There are two public schools, one Catholic school and a private school. There are two hotels, while saloons abound, and from these a good revenue is derived, for beer is largely consumed, and not much blame attaches to the people, for the water is for the most part collected from off the houses after rain.

It is noted that the Episcopal Church is a new structure, built at a cost of \$40,000, after a former structure had been destroyed by "what is known as a pest slip, by which a large part of the town was also carried away." That is the natural fuel of the islands but some of the wealthier people of Port Stanley import coal.

Besides Port Stanley, there is another village in the group that is named Darwin. Outside of Port Stanley and Darwin there is neither church nor schoolhouse, nor any other public highway than the sea. The group includes nearly 200 islands, large and small, and the area of land fit for pasture is estimated at 6000 square miles. Every foot of this has been taken up. Most of it is held under lease from the Gov-

Women whose faces are disfigured by unsightly eruptions, pimples and blotches too frequently fail to understand that these are but the outward symptoms of inward disorders. They resort to various cosmetics, ointments and powders, not knowing that all the while the trouble is not in the skin, itself, but in the system. It is sometimes abominably dangerous to use outward applications, for if the skin alone is cleared, the disease is likely to attack some internal organ of the body, where it may prove fatal to life itself.

In the majority of cases these unsightly skin diseases are due to two things, weakness and disorders of the distinctly feminine organism, and impurities of the blood caused by them. The woman who suffers from disease in a womanly way will soon suffer in her general health. Her stomach, liver and other organs will fail to perform their proper functions, with the result that the blood becomes impure. Left to herself she will probably resort to cosmetics and ointments. If she consults a physician he will tell her that the stomach or liver only is at fault. Her distinctly womanly ailment is really the first and only cause. For this she should resort at once to Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It acts directly and only on the delicate and important organs concerned. It makes them strong and well. Then a course of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will purify and enrich the blood, and make her a new woman. Medicine dealers sell both remedies.

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The subscribers offer for sale their Lobster Factory, and Premises at Guinness Cove, L. I., consisting of three-fourths of an acre of land, with main buildings 117 feet long, by 25 feet wide and 12 feet post, shingled roof and walls, two floors laid with six inch shingled spruce flooring, boiling house attached to the south, and 1 1/2 feet square, and 8 1/2 feet post, bath house on west side is 10 feet square, and 7 1/2 feet post.

—ALSO—
Dwelling house 28 1/2 feet long by 23 feet wide and 12 feet post, lower flat all plastered and attached, 14 feet square, and 8 feet post. The dwelling house with about one third of an acre of land, will be sold separate if desired. If not sold before Tuesday the 15th day of December next, the whole will be offered at Public Auction, on that day at one o'clock P. M., on the premises. For further particulars, apply to
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ernment. The land is divided into sections of 6000 acres, and anyone can hold as many of these as his inclination and means will permit. Quite a number of islands are held by individuals who live Robinson Crusoe fashion, or at best, a man with his family only on each island. On the larger islands the holdings range from 6000 acres up, and each holder, living alone on his holding, is thus well high as isolated as if he lived on an island. All travel over the island is by horseback alone. There is not one wheeled vehicle outside of Port Stanley. There being no roads, and the land being divided by wire fences, a traveler, when crossing any island, must needs employ a guide to find the gate.

Of course, since the houses are so far apart, the children of these ranchers get no education save only such as their parents give them, and that is of only the most primitive character. They learn to herd and shear sheep; to pack the wool for market and sell it; to buy supplies at the store (the trade of the island is practically the monopoly of one company), and deposit their surplus money in the Government savings bank. Most of the boys learn, in addition to this, to handle the sloops and small schooners that are found in large numbers there.

All the available land having been occupied, the gradual increase of the population finds no place to occupy. In consequence, the young people go away to the unoccupied lands of Patagonia and Terra del Fuego, taking as an inheritance the surplus sheep of their parents, for the sheep have increased until all the pasture is occupied.

The scenery of the islands is at once barren and picturesque. Grass makes them green, but there is not a tree in the group. Every attempt to cultivate trees, even the rugged beeches of Terra del Fuego, has failed. The surface of the islands is undulating and even rugged, some of the mountains rising 2000 feet above the sea. There are absolutely barren rocks and precipitous gulches. More interesting still there are "rivers of stone"—streams in the mountains whose courses are marked only by the winding banks, filled with broken rock, beneath which the torrents of water run. The water may be heard, as it roars along, but is never seen.

In the mountains there are still to be found wild cattle, and wild fowls in great numbers inhabit the coasts, but the people are not much given to sport.

The climate is also interesting. Snow never falls to a depth of more than an inch, while the fresh water ponds freeze no more than a mere film of ice. On the other hand, the thermometer runs usually from 30 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, while the wind blows so steadily and so hard that the people of the interior, are said to have a gait peculiar to the region—a gait in which they bend to the gale, and tack to windward like a sailing ship. It is nevertheless a healthy region, the death rate being no more than six in a thousand annually, and the appearance of the people is hale, hearty, and rosy-checked. In connection with the climate it is worth mentioning that the water, have a chill, peculiarly their own, that is so penetrating that no one has ever plunged into the sea for a bath there and returned to the surface to relate his experiences. At least that is what Mr. Routledge says.

While the people of the ranches live a solitary and lonely lives, society at Port Stanley seems to have an attractive life. There is a social club with a reading room and a library, and meetings to hear and discuss papers and essays, but not politics. They have balls twice a month and theatricals and concerts occasionally, everything being done, of course, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor. They have a rifle team that has been beaten but once.

"They Never Touched It."

To those worthy souls who every now and again start out to annihilate the oycycle, we respectfully submit the following little boy's story, which was told several years ago by the San Francisco Examiner, to illustrate some similarly impractical crusade:—

One time there was a young gote wick felt butty, and there was a ole ram wick lay in the road, half asleep, a chune his cud. The gote he had been shet up in a paster of his life, an had never saw a ram, and sed to his sister, the gote did, "You jest stan still an se me wip that freck off the face of the ertth." So the gote he went up before the ram an' stomp't his feet an' shuke his head real frifutl, but the ram he dident git up, but only jes kep a chune his cud and wotched out between his lishes. Bime by the gote he backed off and tuk a run, an' then arose up in the air an' come down with his hed on the ram's hed, wack! The gote's hed was busted, but the ole ram he never wank his eye. Then the ole ram he smiled with his mouth, an' sed to the butte gote's sister, "Pears to me, miss, that kangaroo of yours is mity careless where he lites; he come gum dasted near makin me swoller my cud."

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MESSAGE TO MEN

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STYLES AND MATERIALS FOR CLOTHING

Little Girls.

The first little frocks that demand attention in the winter season are those for school wear. Even very small girls have their own ideas as to how they should dress at school, and it is positive cruelty to dress a child in a way that makes her unhappy, particularly now when there are so many pretty styles to choose from. There are two patterns for skirts—one gored, and one made in straight breadths. The former is quite on the fashion of a woman's gown, with the front breadth narrow as the top and wide at the bottom, but while there are not so many gored, and the skirt is not exaggeratedly full, great care must be taken to have the front and side breadths fit well; just a little fullness can be allowed, but not enough to make it apparent.

The straight all-around gathered skirts are not as fashionable as they were, but many mothers like them as being more youthful. If a child is at all inclined to be stout, these straight skirts are not pretty, for of necessity they have a great deal of fulness around the hips; but where a child is slight, the fulness is more becoming than the gored skirts. Plaids in all sorts of materials are considered smart and are generally made up with the straight skirts. A pretty French model has the waist with quite a full blouse-effect in front, straps over the shoulders, and put on in yoke fashion, with belt and bands around the sleeves to match, of white satin an inch and a half wide, braided in a Grecian pattern with black soutache braid. This on a gown of red and black plaid is immensely effective, without being too elaborate. Another plaid gown of green and blue has a yoke pointed back and front of plain blue cloth; this is braided with narrow and wide braid, and a band of the same finishes the belt. An all-plaid gown unrelieved by trimming is not always becoming, and these different effects relieve the hard look. Plaids are greatly in favor in plaids, and an exceedingly pretty frock in the red and white and yellow plaid which is always so becoming is prettily trimmed with bands of narrow black velvet ribbon, finished with loops and tiny gilt buttons. Four of these straps are put over the shoulders just a little way apart, form a belt, and the band around the wrist and neck. Tiny gold buttons on the black velvet look very bright and youthful, and the whole frock is as smart as one could wish.

The different chevots are much used for school frocks. Blue and black, red and black, and the different browns are considered the best. The blue and black require considerable trimming, or else they will look too old. They are generally made with jacket fronts trimmed with black braid, but even these are not suitable for very young girls. A pretty model of a brown chevot has the gored skirt and a plain waist which has revers turned back from the waist to the shoulder and covered with lines. This looks youthful and pretty, and is most becoming. It has also a belt and collar of brown surah. The regular all chevot frocks are made with the gathered skirts, and the waist full in front, but tight-fitting in the back. They are sometimes trimmed with braid, but the braid must be put on bands or a yoke of some bright color otherwise it will make the material look too dull and heavy.—Harper's Bazar.

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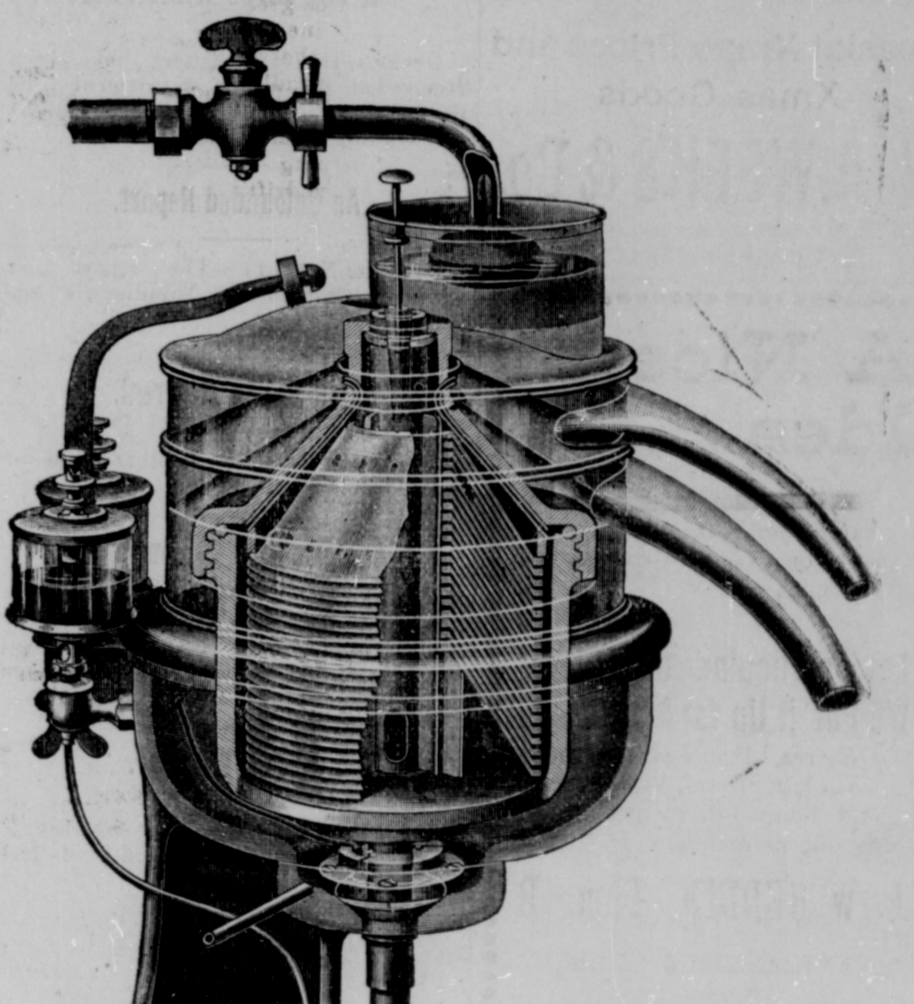
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