

Australian Mutton-Bird Industry.

CONSUL HENRY D. BAKER, of Hobart, presents certain facts regarding the mutton-bird industry of the Furneaux group of islands, situated to the northeast of Tasmania and under the government of that Australian state. The consul visited these islands during the month of May in order to make some study of the birds and their curious habits, and now writes from a commercial standpoint:

The interesting study of "mutton-birding" is peculiar to many of the small islands about the Tasmanian coast, particularly on Furneaux group in Bass Straits, where it constitutes the principal means of support of the inhabitants. The mutton bird, or sooty petrel (*Nectris brevicauda*), is, when full grown, about the size of the well-known silver gull of North America, and its color, at first a grayish-black, with a black head and neck. Their most important breeding places are in the vicinity of Tasmania and New Zealand, in the latter island being of somewhat different variety and white instead of black.

Every year, about Sept. 20, almost a day, these birds arrive in enormous numbers at their rookeries, and for about one month the male and female are busy in restoring their old nest or in building a new one. Where the soil is light and loose the nests are burrowed into the ground close together, but when there is sufficient shrubbery to afford shelter the birds simply deposit their eggs on the bare ground.

INCUBATION AND REARING.

As the birds are away at sea in quest of food in the daytime the nest making is carried on at night, the birds making a great noise while thus occupied. After the nests are prepared each female lays one egg, which closely resembles a duck egg, and the male and female then take turns at hatching, usually the male bird taking the first turn, while the female goes in search of food, chiefly shrimp and kelp berries, with which she returns each evening. After the lapse of a fortnight, by which time the first sinner has hatched, the partner relieves him, and the male bird will then take upon himself the responsibility of bringing in food.

By the end of six weeks incubation is complete, and the attention of each parent is bestowed upon the protection and rearing of the young bird, each now taking a daily instead of fortnightly turn, one bird always remaining with the young one while the other goes in quest of food. When old enough to take care of itself the young bird is entirely forsaken. By this time it has become inconveniently fat, so great has been the attention bestowed upon it, but it does not attempt to stir from the nest until compelled by hunger to do so. The effect, however, of a few days' starvation tells upon the bird, so that it makes a great effort and moves itself from its nest and finds its way toward the sea, and from some rocky eminence makes its flight.

It is not known where the birds go when they leave the islands, about the middle of May. The flight is extremely swift and irregular, and if the birds strike any obstruction, like a rock or the mast of a ship, the collision is usually fatal to them. The lighthouse at Goose Island, one of the Furneaux group, has to be protected with iron screens and frequently hundreds of dead birds are found at the base of it. Capt. Plinders, of the British royal navy, once computed that a flock of birds which he saw was 40 miles in length.

FURNISH FOOD AND OIL.

It is only the newly hatched mutton birds which have a commercial value, the purposes for which they are taken being for salted human food, for oil (used in tanning leather and for the lubrication of machinery), for the fat used chiefly for greasing timber skids, and for feathers. The season's work at mutton birding covers about six weeks, from about April 1 until about the middle of May, when the rookeries are completely deserted. During this six weeks period the inhabitants of the islands (about 400 altogether) earn sufficient money to support themselves in practical idleness for the rest of the year.

The first stage in mutton birding is known as oiling. A stick pointed at one end and stuck in the ground at the other serves as a kind of spit or skewer on which to fix the birds, as they are gathered. Search is then made for the young birds, and as they are caught their necks are broken by a skilful jerk of the hand and they are then fixed by the beaks to the sticks.

It is rather dangerous capturing the birds, as the rookeries are infested with poisonous snakes and frequently the mutton bird, when he puts his hand and arm into the hole, lays hold of a snake instead of a bird.

When about a couple of hundred birds

have been collected the oil is extracted by squeezing firmly the body of the bird and passing the hand gradually along toward the neck until the oil exudes from the beak. This oil, which is of a reddish color, has an odor like that of cod liver oil, and it is properly refined it might possibly be used for the same medicinal purposes. There are said to be a number of cases of benefit from mutton-bird oil to persons with pulmonary troubles, anemias, and other wasting diseases. It takes about 100 birds to produce 1 gallon of oil, which sells at 10d. to 1s. (20 to 25 cents).

The next stage in the work is called fattening, when the birds are first plucked and then the legs and wings removed; an opening is next made along the back and the skin with the fat is taken off. The skins, when a large number of them have been obtained, are "tried out" in a pot, and the fat is collected. Next in order is the process of salting. The lower joint of each leg and the outer joint of each wing is thrown away, and the bodies are then salted and packed in barrels into which is poured sea water and solid brine in order to make the water still more salty, the solution being sufficiently salt to float an egg.

AMOUNTS SHIPPED.

The birds are then shipped in sailing boats to Launceston, in northern Tasmania, where they sell at wholesale for about 19s. (\$2.50) per hundred, which nets to those who capture the birds, after paying for the salt, the barrels, and the freight, about 8s. (\$1) per hundred. About 550,000 birds were shipped to Launceston during the present season, and probably about 1,500,000 birds were retained for the local consumption of the inhabitants of the islands, with whom it is the leading article of food. After reaching Launceston the birds are shipped to other

parts of Tasmania, and to Melbourne and Sydney. The market for them appears to be confined exclusively to the commonwealth of Australia, and chiefly to the mining districts, where fresh meat is hard to get, and where the mutton birds are used as a substitute for salt pork and as a welcome change from tinned meats. The taste acquired, but once people become accustomed to eating mutton birds they seem to grow to like them.

The feathers of the mutton birds, which have a very strong odor, are mostly shipped to Germany, where it is understood a method has been found to rid them of their odor and render them fit for purposes of bedding. About 25,000 pounds of feathers were exported this year at an average of about 3 cents per pound.

GOVERNMENT REVENUE.

About one-half of the inhabitants of the islands where mutton birding is carried on are white, and the remainder half-caste descendants of the aborigines of Tasmania. The mutton birds are required to pay a government license of 10s. (\$2.50) for every person above the age of 10 years, and half that amount for those under that age, at the outset of every season. No cattle are permitted upon any crown lands, which are reserved as hunting grounds for the mutton birds, and taking the eggs of the birds is punishable by fine. Notwithstanding this protection accorded to birds there is indication that their numbers are diminishing year by year, and from four or five of the islands they have already entirely disappeared.

The two principal rookeries are at present on Chapel Island and on Babel Island, where conditions are most suitable for the burrowing of the birds, and where the best protection has been afforded against depredations by cat-

tle. The number of persons engaged in the industry is about double what it was 20 years ago, and a larger number of birds is taken every year. It is estimated that only about one-third of the young birds escape capture each season on the main rookeries. I am told that some of the birds have been shipped alive to Cape Colony for the purpose, apparently, of endeavoring to ascertain if they would breed there, but I have no information as to whether the experiment has met with success.

The Furneaux group is in latitude 49 degrees south, and longitude 148 degrees east. The climate is mild, but the winds often blow in severe gales and cause boisterous seas.

WORK DOES IT.

"Contentment is not a good thing," said Mrs. Wilkins Freeman, at a dinner in New York. "Not contentment, but dissatisfaction, is what causes progress in the world."

She smiled.

"If we look for the contented man," said she, "we will usually find him asleep when he ought to be at work."

Dress Suits for rent. Daniels, the Tailor, 67 W. 2nd St.

Pure Drugs and Prescriptions our specialty. Haffley Drug Company.

CHANGE IN TRAIN SCHEDULE.

Eastbound Los Angeles Limited, November 22nd, which will leave Salt Lake that date and thereafter daily at 12:05 p. m.

Made up Overcoats, Trousers, Suits—tailor made. Big saving. Daniels.

To those who don't insist on quality in food any other flour is just as good as

Husler's



Stylish Fur Hats \$5 to \$10 Trimmed

Not much to pay for a fur hat you say? True, but a low price hat is THE DISASTROUS one, as you are sure to bring style as though you had double or more. Largest line untrimmed styles in city.

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Including a certificate good for one Butterick Pattern. Call at our Pattern Department and see it, and we will tell you how you can get FOUR BUTTERICK PATTERNS FREE! A very remarkable offer.



Next Week's Stupendous Thanksgiving Bargain Demonstration!

Special Sales Follow Thick and Fast Throughout the Holiday Shopping Period. We Are Determined to Outstrip All Records and Blaze the Way to New and Broader Standards of Safe Economy. For next week, Reduced Prices Will Prevail Here in the Lines Representing Articles Most in Demand at Thanksgiving Time. A SPECIAL REQUEST, When Scanning the interesting Details Noted Below Please Bear Particularly in Mind That the Items Are Taken Here and There from Among Hundreds of Others Equally worthy Your Thoughtful Attention and All Will be Ready for You to See and Consider When You Make the Call.

Get the Winter Issue of BUTTERICK FASHIONS
The finest and most complete fashion book ever published.
PRICE 25 CENTS
Including a certificate good for one Butterick Pattern. Call at our Pattern Department and see it, and we will tell you how you can get FOUR BUTTERICK PATTERNS FREE! A very remarkable offer.

IN THE MILLINERY DEPT

WE MUST SELL 500 TRIMMED HATS THIS WEEK TO REDUCE STOCK AND OFFER MARVELOUS INDEMENTS IN THREE GREAT ASSORTMENTS.

At \$3.75	At \$6.00	At \$7.00
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We include HATS that sell at \$5.75 and \$6.75, beautiful, genteel models, trimmed exquisitely and copied from the leading models of the season. We will simply astonish you.

We include HATS that sell at \$5.00 to \$7.00. To buy one of these Hats during this sale insures perfection of style at a price which this season does not secure a first class Hat elsewhere.

We include HATS that have no superior at any price; marvels of fashionable headwear. This will afford the rarest sort of a Millinery Bargain, especially desirable at this time of the season.

ESTABLISHED 1864

F. Auerbach & Bro.

ONE PRICE TO ALL NEVER UNDERSOLD

You Can Effect Unusual Savings Next Week in The Most Dependable SHOES

LADIES' KNEE LEGGINGS—JERSEY FLEECE lined, all button sizes 3 to 7, worth \$1.25. For next week at.....	85c
MISSIES' KNEE LEGGINGS—JERSEY FLEECE lined, sizes 11 to 2, worth \$1.00, at.....	65c
BOYS' Calf SHOES with nailed bottoms and good heavy extension sole, sizes 2 1/2 to 5 1/2, worth \$2.50, for.....	\$1.95
LADIES' LOW CUT ALASKAS, fleece lined cloth tops, good heavy sole and best wear better than rubbers and are warmer, sizes 4 to 6 1/2, worth \$1.25, at.....	65c

Pattern Cloths at Less than Mill Prices

We have selected from our stock one hundred pattern cloths in sizes that every housekeeper uses. Some are odd cloths, others we can match with Nixons. The prices are less than were ever made in Salt Lake for the same qualities.

Be here at 8 Monday to secure your share of these Wonderful Bargains.

\$1.75	Crib Robe Blankets
88c	Hemstitched Pillow Cases
12c	Colored Marcellies Bed Spreads

Reap the Benefit of Next Week's Sale in Ladies' and Children's Underwear!

AT PRICE REDUCTIONS THAT MAKE THEM THE GREATEST UNDERWEAR BARGAINS OF THE SEASON.

Ladies' fine French ribbed silk-union Vests and Pants in a very fine excellent wearing quality, equal in appearance to silk and superior for wear, splendid \$1.50 value. Next week only.....

Ladies' extra heavy jersey ribbed fine elder down fleeced cream Vests and Pants "Harvard Make" 75c value, all sizes at.....

Ladies' wool and silk mixed "Harvard Make" Vests and Pants, jersey ribbed, the best \$1.25 Underwear next week at.....

Children's wool mixed jersey ribbed natural gray Union Suits, selling regularly, according to size from 5c to 25c, all sizes, at sale, all sizes at.....

JUST BEFORE THANKSGIVING

IN OUR CLOAK DEPARTMENT

Values That Cannot be Equalled For LOWNESS OF PRICE!

The following chosen items in Coat and Suits illustrate in a way just how the prices have dropped:

Exceptional Coat Values at \$12.50

Handsome, durable coats, of broad-cloth and kersey, in all colors and black, 50 and 52 inches long, neatly trimmed with braid and lined throughout. Worth fully \$15.50, next week they go at.....

Exceptional Coat Values at \$13.50

Long coat of extraordinary materials in the new empire effect, some handsomely trimmed, others plain. Some lined throughout with guaranteed satin, others lined only to waist. Worth fully \$17.50. Next week they go at.....

Exceptional Suit Values at \$21.75

Tailored Suits for Ladies, Misses and little women, of the finest materials and newest models possible for us to attain. Descriptions are too numerous to define. Worth up to \$37.50. Next week they go at.....

Exceptional Suit Values at \$18.75

Included in this lot are Suits that will pleasantly surprise you. Suits that will give you that chic, jaunty appearance. Here is a good variety to choose from, worth fully \$25.00 and \$27.50. Next week they go at.....

Silk & Dress Goods Bargains Galore

This will be a week of unusual opportunities in this Great Department. We shall sell high-grade fabrics at prices within reach of the most modest incomes. We show an immense assortment in every item listed in this advertisement.

2,000 yards of 23 and 27-inch Taffeta Finish China Silks, the kind used for Dresses, Waists and children's wear, the washable kind; comes in all colors, including Black and White. The regular price is 50c and 60c a yard. Monday and week, while they last, yard.....

25 pieces of 36-inch wide Taffeta Silks—the regular \$1.50 quality; the soft chiffon, also the rustling quality. Nothing as good ever shown in the market at the price. Colors Tan, Grey, Light Blue, Navy, Emerald, etc., at a yard.....

\$1.60 Dress Goods For 76c a Yard

5,000 yards Plain and Fancy All-Wool 41 to 52-inch Dress Goods, consisting of Panama Wool, Taffeta Cloth, Gyres Cloth, Prussia Cloth, etc. Regular \$1.25 to \$1.60 value, special, a yard.....

Imported Suit Patterns Regardless of Cost

150 Choice Imported Dress Patterns, exclusive styles in all the newest weaves and colors, marked for this week's selling at cost and less than cost.

Attend and Profit by Next Week's Remarkable Specials in Boys' and Youths' Suits and Gents' Furnishings

Boys' Wool Cheviot Suits

For five dollars one should get a pretty good suit for a boy—a suit that should WEAR WELL and LOOK WELL while it is wearing. We offer at a remarkably low price, suits of this kind—well worth \$5.00 each—not old stock, but new, crisp, up-to-date suits in the latest pattern. Next week special at.....

Youths' Long Pants Suits

\$8.00, \$9.00, \$10.00 to \$12.00 young men's suits in single and double-breasted styles—mostly in sizes 33, 34, 35 and 36. Special next week, your choice of the lot.....

Men's All Wool Underwear

\$3.00 pure wool underwear, the very best of make, guaranteed to be absolutely all pure wool. Worth \$8.00 per suit, on sale next week at \$1.50 per suit or, per garment, only.....

Men's Wool Flannel Overshirts

\$2.00 navy blue flannel Work Shirts, made of the quality wool flannel in either single or double-breasted style, neatly finished and securely sewed throughout. Special for the week, \$2.00 values at, only.....

MONDAY!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	NEXT WEEK!	MONDAY!
\$7.50	75c and 85c	90c	75c	\$18.00	\$4.00	25c	\$5.00 Fur Sets	\$10.00 Fur Sets	Best 75c Grade at 43c	\$1.00 Values at 49c	Ladies' Knitted Skirts	Ladies' Wool Hose	\$3.25 Value on Sale at \$2.10
White Wool Blankets	White Persian Lawn	Bleached Table Linen	Hemmed Bleached Bed Sheets	Ivory Genoa Point Curtains and \$18.00 White Brussels Net Curtains	Comforters	White Union Flannel	Beautiful fur sets of brown and black coney, with large pillow muff and full 60 inch throw. Worth \$5.00. Special next week.....	Isabella Fox sets, of rich, glossy fur, very prettily striped, worth fully \$10.00. Special next week.....	Infants' Sweaters	Nobby Belt Pins	60c grade at 39c	50c Grades at 35c	Ladies' fine ribbed or plain cashmere wool hose, with double heels and toes, best 50c values at—
11-4 size, weigh 5 1/2 lbs, at a pair—Limit 1 pair to a customer.	22 to 48 inches wide. On sale at a yard—	64 inches wide, in clover, fleur de lis, and spot designs. On sale at a yard	2 1/2 yards long and 2 yards wide, at each—Limit 6 to a Customer.	On sale at a pair—	Satin and Silko-line covered, filled with the finest White Cotton, on sale at each—yard—	On sale at a yard—	\$3.50	\$7.00	43c	49c	39c	35c	Ladies' fine French kid Gloves, in black and sizes, best \$2.25 grade. Monday, sale price—
\$4.98	49c	59c	47c	\$10.90	\$2.48	14c	\$3.50	\$7.00					\$2.10