

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

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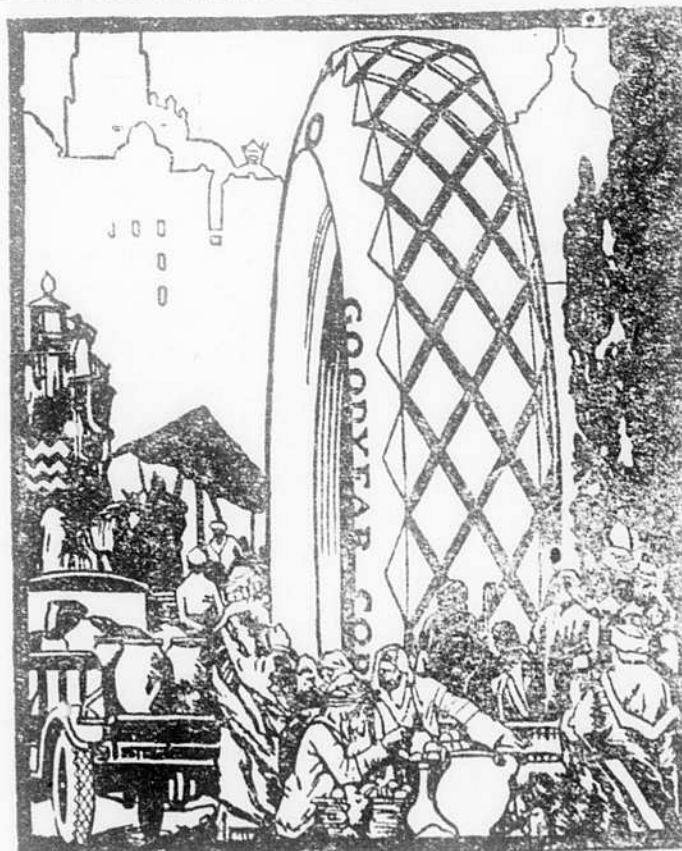
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THE DEVIL DANCERS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

The Mulford biological expedition to South America reports finding there a primitive tribe of Indians who are thought to be descendants of a people conquered by the Incas many years ago. They were discovered on the Tiqui river in the Amazon basin living in community houses holding 25 to 40 families. The women are not slaves or beasts of burden like women of neighboring tribes, but are recognized by the males as their equals in every respect. All are astonishingly neat and clean. All work is divided up equally among both sexes. Many of the women own their own canoes and go on long hunting trips like the men.

Among these Indians there is no mourning for the dead because they believe the departed go to "a beautiful place." Their chief superstition is that a "devil-devil" lurks in the jungles always ready to seize them. That is why they conduct an elaborate three day ceremony at stated intervals to ward off this evil spirit. Though the women dance with the men at the opening ceremonies they are not permitted to view the grand climax when one of the males impersonates the "devil-devil" and beats the other males—if he can catch them—with a long, ugly whip. However, if they are touched they can turn around and beat the "devil." If they succeed in driving him off they are greatly pleased. They are more or less cut up in the ordeal but fortify themselves with drugs.



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Gordon MacCreagh, ethnologist of the expedition which was headed by Prof. H. H. Rusby, of Columbia University, worked "magic" on the natives. He put a pocket flashlight in his mouth and illuminated it much to their surprise. The Indians said it was "cold magic" because the light did not burn when applied to their bodies. MacCreagh used a small magnifying glass to light his pipe and to burn some of the natives. They called this "hot magic." Gifts of small mirrors proved a great delight to the women. The natives use a poisoned arrow which kills within two minutes after finding its mark.—*The Pathfinder*, Sept. 8th.

Publication.

It is hereby brought to public notice that the Government has, this date, authorized the Reverend J. P. CHRISTENSEN to perform civil religious functions in the Municipality of Saint Croix.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, Saint Thomas 6 September, 1923.

WM. S. ZANE,
Government Secretary.