

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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THEY'RE GOING HOME —to Tristan

ON 17th March, the islanders of Tristan da Cunha leave England to return to their lonely island in the South Atlantic.

It is the next chapter in a story that began on 10th October, 1961, when the island's volcano erupted, spilling out red-hot lava, 150 feet thick. The islanders were hastily evacuated to Cape Town, and were eventually brought to Britain and put into billets in an ex-RAF camp in Calshot, near Southampton.

Fourteen months later, while they were still in the camp, they held a ballot to see how many of them were willing to return and resettle on the island. The voting was 148 to five in favour of going back.

The reasons why

Why do the islanders want to go back to this forbidding, lava-strewn island? Why do they want to turn away from modern life, with only themselves and the sad sound of the surf and wind for company?

They are used to a life much more like that of our ancestors than our own. On Tristan it is a full life for them, with much time spent in winning a living from sea and soil and little time for what we call amusements.

They are not used to our traffic, our crowded travelling and the noise that we have forgotten to notice. They just want to be where they're happy—on Tristan where they belong.

An advance party is already on Tristan, preparing for the homecoming. Life will not be easy for them. But it is the life they know and love and we can only wish them every success. (See Pages 6-7)



NOT-SO-FROZEN MUTTON

Some interesting facts about how moorland sheep managed to survive the recent long spell of snow have come to hand from Mr. John Woodcock, Northern Area Secretary of the National Farmers' Union.

EXERCISE is just as important to sheep as it is to humans, says Mr. Woodcock, and even in the worst of weather sheep provide themselves with exercise grounds.

When gales spring up, driving the snow into deep drifts, the sheep take extra precautions. They know the lie of the land and they take shelter in the lee of a dip, or under an overhang of rock on the moors.

Three weeks in a snow tunnel

Then, as the snow piles over them, they trample out a space for exercise. Sometimes it is as long as a cricket pitch, and they can live in this tunnel for two or three weeks.

The sheep also seem to know that strong winds will blow the snow off the rounded summits of the moors and leave the taller heather exposed. They tunnel their way out towards these summits and the farmer knows he will find them there when the blizzard is over.

Their method of tunnelling is for the younger, stronger sheep to go first. They do the hardest work and are followed by the weaker sheep and lambs.

How do the sheep know the way?

How do they know which way to go? Some farmers think the sheep respond to the light filtering through the snow. They tunnel in the direction of the strongest light, because the snow is thinner there. Other farmers think they tunnel in the direction where there is least weight of snow.

But whichever theory is right, they find their way out of the drifts unerringly by the shortest possible route.



Brighton Schoolgirl Makes Film Debut!

DURING the latter part of last year Columbia Pictures decided that their film, *The Candy Web*, should be introduced by girls from 14 of the countries where it would eventually be shown.

Each girl selected would be photographed alone in the first ten minutes of the film as narrator, and also play the part of

a student at a girls' school in Switzerland. Competitions were accordingly arranged, and the girls were finally chosen and sent to Hollywood.

The competition for Britain's entrant was won by Alexandra Lendon Bastedo, a 16-year-old Brighton schoolgirl, who was chosen from 4,000 entrants. Alexandra was chosen not only

for her looks, but for her voice and intelligence. She speaks fluent French, German, and Italian.

The film is now completed, and will be shown in this country early in April. So Alexandra will soon be having the thrill of seeing herself on the screen for the first time.