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Add water to milk— You weaken the milk. Add soft wheat to flour-You weaken your flour. Cheapens it too. Soft wheat costs less—worth less.

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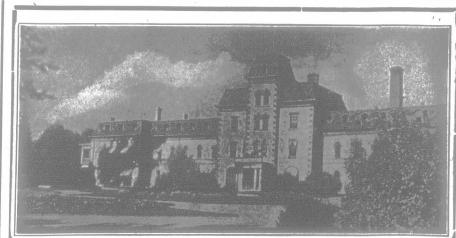
## Pirate Treasures of Cocos Island.

Cocos Island, the alleged hiding place of millions in pirate treasure, has been brought into the limelight once more by a suggestion that the United States should acquire a lease of the island, as a coaling and military base in connection with the fortification of the Panama The advantages offered by the island for such purposes are Situated only five hundred miles from Panama, and the only island in the Southern Pacific Ocean having a fresh water supply, nearer than the Galapagos group, its strategical value is assured.

The Government of Costa Rica, to whom the island belongs, was approached by the United States some years ago for a long term lease, but nothing came of the negotiations at that time.

Cocos Island has attracted the attention of more treasure hunters at various times than any other spot of similar size on the face of the globe. And small wonder, for the island is supposed to be the hiding place of coins, jewels, gold, and other valuables worth sums running into millions of dollars. No one knows the certain location of the treasure; it is believed to have been deposited at various times by pirates in caves and other natural hiding places. But earthquakes have since altered the physical configuration of the island; the caves have been wrecked by subterranean upheavals so that even though the exact location could be decided upon, the work of recovery would be exceedingly difficult.

Cocos Island is a volcanic speck on the Pacific Ocean, and belongs to Costa Rica. It is three hundred miles off her coast, and five hundred miles from Panama Bay, the western end of the canal. The island contains less than nine hundred square miles, and rises precipitately into a peak, Mount Inglesias, twenty-eight hundred feet high, shooting straight up from the



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There are two small harbors, and it is abundantly supplied with fresh water that runs down from the mountains, being the only island in that region so favored. Wild pork, sea turtles, and cocoanuts (from which the name is derived) have afforded sailors fresh provisions in these harbors ever since Balboa sailed up the coast.

Cocos is uninhabited except by the Governor. He is a German by birth, and described as a huge person physically He went there more than twenty years ago with a small colony; but is the only one left, as he employed himself to the Costa Rica Government to guard the hidden treasure from unauthorized hunters who might come seeking it. Frequently he visits the mainland to report, and sometimes travels to the United States.

Whoever finds the treasure must pay Costa Rica fifty per cent. salvage, and reckon with Peru's claim. Also let no one believe that the treasure is to be picked up by merely forming an expedition and sailing away to Cocos after it. Originally, the valuables were concealed in caves, which had been washed by the sea in a mountain cliff; but about thirty years ago there was a great earthquake in South America, and it is believed that at that time massive slides of rock were shaken down which crushed out and buried these caves. An expedition that would recover this wealth must be prepared to expend at least thousands of dollars in drilling the rocks or washing away the debris by hydraulic placer work-

BONITO'S AND THOMPSON'S CACHE.

It appears that about 1812 a Spaniard of high lineage was cruising Caribbean waters as a licensed privateer, for the purpose of protecting galleons that were conveying gold bars from Indian mines to the courts of Spain and the Vatican. His real name has always been protected by the Spanish Government; but it does