ST. DOMINGO.

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and the republic of Hayti, a line carefully surveyed and marked by monuments nearly a hundred years ago, described and established by the treaty of 1777, and repeatedly reaffirmed in subsequent treaties, all of which refer to it as the undisputed boundary. It is deeply imbedded in the history of the island. It marks the separation of different languages, different national traditions and characteristics, different modes of holding and surveying the soil, different peoples. In 1821 the people of what is now the Dominican republic threw off the Spanish yoke and proclaimed a republic. At this time the boundary was undisputed and the republic included all the Spanish part of the island—or, in other words, all east of the line of 1777. In 1822 the Haytien President, Boyer, acquired possession of the whole island and it remained under one government until the revolution of 1844 resulted in the expulsion of the Haytien rulers and the re-establishment of the independence of the Dominican, or Spanish speaking portion of the island, except a few interior valleys on the Dominican side of the line, in some of which there has been an almost constant struggle since that time, the Haytien and Dominican forces alternately occupying the disputed territory. Of the disputed territory the Haytiens have had practically constant control, the towns of San Rafael, San Miguel and Las Caobas. The Banica Valley, east of these, with Banica as its principal town, and the Neyba district to the south, have been alternately overrun by both governments. The attention of the Commission had been drawn to a map issued by private parties in our own country, claiming to be based on a Haytien report made on this subject in President Geffrard's time. The boundary given in this extends from a point just east of Monte Cristi, on the north shore of the island, in a nearly north and south line, to a point on the south shore nearly opposite the island of Alta Vela. Whether the Commission be right or wrong in judging that any infringement on the Dominican country has been based on usurpation, and is, therefore, null, The claim to any such line as that above indicated must seem preposterous to all conversant with Dominican or Haytien affairs. The town of Monte Cristi, which, by the way, should be under Haytien control, was, at a recent visit of a member of the Commission, found to be inhabited by a Spanish speaking people, with Dominican authorities, and no one seemed to be at all aware that it had been claimed since 1864 by any other government than the Dominican. As to the Banica valley and the Neyba district, the people claimed to be Dominicans, and by all that could be learned have never considered themselves otherwise. The Commissioners made inquiries regarding the foundations for Haytien claims, outside the line of 1777, both of intelligent persons living in Hayti and of the Haytien ex-President Geffrard, now in exile, residing in Jamaica, and from neither source could they obtain any direct or presumptive evidence for the Haytien title, nor could they learn of anything which could be construed into an acknowledgment of it by any Dominican government. The Commissioners were informed by Dominican authorities, that the Haytien government had more than once offered to purchase the territory in dispute, but that the inhabitants of Hayti above mentioned deny. The only claim to this district which the Haytien government could assert was based on an occupation by Haytiens of a portion of the Dominican republic, whose government had not been able to oust them by force. The extent of Dominican territory within the old boundary of 1777 is found, by a careful computation, made under the direction of the Commissioners, to be 22,512 square miles. The portion of this already referred to as having been mainly in Haytien occupancy has an extent of about 1,000 square miles.

GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS.

The Commission, as directed by the resolution of Congress, made diligent inquiry to ascertain "what proportion of the territory is covered by foreign claims, or by grants and concessions, and generally what concessions and franchises have been granted, with the names of the respective grantees." The following list, condensed from an official report furnished by the Dominican Secretary of State, will be found in the accompanying documents, and, as shown by the testimony, gives an answer to the inquiry:—

To A. W. Fabens, or a company organized for the purpose, dated July 3, 1868, of a portion of the public lands, with the condition of making a geological survey. This is a contract authorizing Fabens, by himself or any company organized for the purpose, to make a geological examination and survey of all the provinces and districts at the expense of the company, reports to be made every three months, as the survey progresses, to the Dominican Government, to enable a fair estimate of the mineral and agricultural lands of the country to be examined; also an annual report; said company to have one-fifth of the public lands so surveyed, the remaining coal lands, to be set apart as the quarterly reports are rendered. This survey is now in progress. The parties owning the franchise and paying the money are chiefly New York capitalists. The testimony of the geologist in charge of the survey, Professor Gabb, gives details on this subject, and his annual reports, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of the original contract.

To E. M. Funkhouser, of New York, October 7, 1867, for a line of mail steamers between New York and New Orleans and the Dominican republic, with a provision that five per cent of the import and export dues on merchandise carried by said line be allowed to the owners of the steamers. This line is now run by Spofford Tileston, of New York.

To Ed. H. Hartmont to take guano from the island of Alta Vela, in consideration of a loan of May, 1868.

To Fr. B. Fisher, of New York, September 9, 1869, grant to build a railroad from Santiago to Yura or Samana Bay.

To Feliz Montecatine, August 3, 1867, renewed and extended April 5, 1870.

To Shumacher and Angenard for a railroad from Ozama river to San Christobal.

To Julian Grangerard, June 3, 1870, for building a railroad from Azua to Las Caobas.

To Levi Gullame, November 5, 1870, for constructing telegraph lines necessary in the republic.

To Charles Baez, May 18, 1870, for rent of salt works at Neyba.

To Telesforo Velez, for saltworks at Beata Island.

To W. L. Cazeneau, May 23, 1866, to introduce immigrants and establish colonies. (Void.)

To Davis Hatch, September 27, 1866, for working rock salt mines of Neyba and building railroad thereto from shore at Barahona. (Void.)

To P. A. Delgardo, to take guano from Alta Vela. (Void.)

To E. H. Hartmont, February 1, 1869, for building railroad from Monte Christi to Santiago and the Yura, river donation lands bordering the road to be made by special grant. (Void.)

To Edward Prime and Edward P. Hollister, July 4, 1869, extended September 2, 1869, to establish a national bank. (Void.)

To E. H. Hartmont, to work the Samana coal mines in case a loan of £450,000 should be effected. (Void.)

To the Industrial and Progressive Company, November 5, 1866, to work the copper mine at El Cobre, St. Cristobal; to W. L. Cazeneau, January 15, 1867, copper mine at Monte Nubes, St. Cristobal, and to Jose Marie Matuey, July 13, 1868, copper mine at Mane Matuey and at Loma de la Base de Diamarte, St. Cristobal. The last three were consolidated under the law of August 10, 1870, to Cambiaco & Co. October 24, 1867, copper mine at Boca de Cuajo, Upper Haina, St. Cristobal, to St. Domingo Company—Geological Survey Company, February 25, 1870—the mining circuit Buenaventura, Upper Haina, San Cristobal, by virtue of geological survey; to be modified to conform to geological contract.

To Feliz Montecatini, March 17, 1867, mining district in Cuajo, San Cristobal (void), renewed to Shumacher & Argenard, July 28, 1870.

To San Domingo Company, September 16, 1870, mining district of Carnee.

The Dominican government has made no grant or concession of land to any foreign government or nation except the United States.

To the grants to foreigners by the government above enumerated must be added some by municipalities. Of these the only ones which seem to the Commission to require notice here are those to certain parties, citizens of the United States, of lands and lots in the village of Santa Barbara on the Bay of Samana, granted by the authorities of that town from its property as follows:—

To J. P. O'Sullivan, December 1, 1868, of 930 feet fronting on the harbor, and extending back several hundred feet, varying in depth in different parts, at sixty-two dollars per annum rent for twenty-one years; also eighty-four feet and ninety feet to the same at four dollars rent for each. December 11, 1869, these leases are made perpetual, provided there be no law to prevent the same.

To J. W. Fabens, December 11, 1869, of 1,683 feet, fronting on the harbor, in perpetuity, at $112 per annum. These grants cover a large part of the unoccupied available front of the harbor.

There was also a lease by the municipal government of the city of St. Domingo of a wharf front, of limited extent and importance, to W. L. Cazeneau. The Commissioners were not unmindful of various rumors which had been circulated on determining that concessions of grants of land were made to officials of the government of the United States when the treaty of annexation was negotiated in 1869. No pains were spared to ascertain the exact truth on this subject. In addition to an examination of all grants from the government of the republic the Commission further carried their researches to all municipal grants by the town of Samana, where rumor had located the supposed grants. The officers of the municipality and the records were carefully examined. Inquiry was also made of the authorities of the city of St. Domingo. After this investigation the Commission can declare, without hesitation, that there was no particle of evidence to the color of evidence for these charges. In order to be assured that the treaty furnished to us was a true and full copy of the original in the archives of the Dominican government they thought it important to examine the original carefully, to determine whether either the treaty or the annexation or the annexation treaty contained any concession or grant or secret clause favoring any United States official. This they did in the presence of the President and his cabinet in the formal manner which will be found set out at length in their journal of date, February 16, 1871. It was ascertained that no such clause was contained in the treaty or annexation. They read to the President and his Cabinet, as will be found in their journal of the same date, that no such grant or concession was made in any way in connection with the negotiation or preparation of the treaty. The terms of annexation desired, the terms and conditions on which the Dominican government and people desired to be annexed, were embodied in the treaty negotiated in 1869, which provided for the annexation of that republic to the United States as a territory. In discussing this subject the President and his Cabinet manifested a liberal and accommodating spirit. He said:—"We are willing to stand by that treaty; but we do not insist upon any particular provision in it. It was drawn up by your own government. By it we give you everything we have except the public lands. If we were asked what change in the treaty we desired we would answer this:—When that treaty was negotiated we expected that this government would be speedily turned over to the United States, and so it was provided that the annual rent of Samana Bay—which, we supposed, would only have to be paid for a short time—would be deducted from the million and a half to be paid to the Dominican republic. But this long and harassing delay has compelled us to carry on this government without pay, and though many difficulties, for nearly two years longer, and we would it not be right and fair to allow that rent to be paid for this period of delay without deducting it? We do not insist upon this as a condition precedent, but refer it to the sense of justice and the magnanimity of the American people."

At the suggestion of the Commission the Dominican government could assent to the annexation, the Haytiens of a portion of the Dominican republic, whose government had not been able to oust them by force. The extent of Dominican territory within the old boundary of 1777 is found, by a careful computation, made under the direction of the Commissioners, to be 22,512 square miles. The portion of this already referred to as having been mainly in Haytien occupancy has an extent of about 1,000 square miles.

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