

Does Uncle Samuel Want Porto Rico?

Here Are the Facts About That Island. Draw Your Own Conclusions.

One of the important questions demanding attention is the disposition of the island of Porto Rico. The healthiest of the Antilles and admirably adapted by its strategic position for an outlying naval station, it is more than probable that its acquisition by the United States will be discussed as the wisest settlement of the troubles of the island.

The Spanish minister to the United States, Senor de Lome, was foremost in citing Porto Rico as Spain's last possession in America, in evidence of the blessings and content-producing properties of Spanish rule.

But it is neither because its people have been happy under the Spanish yoke nor yet because they have not made desperate efforts to throw it off, that Porto Rico is still a dependency of Spain. The Porto Ricans have long desired freedom with an augmenting keenness, and, furthermore, nine-tenths of them wish to become citizens of the United States.

In his vague references to law-abiding and contented Porto Rico, the Spanish diplomat was careful not to go into a detailed history of the island, much less to give an accurate account of the blessings showered upon it by a horde of greedy Spanish officials.

SPAIN'S FOR CENTURIES. Porto Rico has been held by the Spanish crown since the days of Ponce de Leon, who was so delighted with its loveliness that he sought there the fountain of youth, for which the island seems a fitting location. The mismanagement of an English expedition under Abercromby, rather than the loyalty of its inhabitants, saved the island to Spain in the eighteenth century, and a standing army has preserved it for her during the nineteenth.

As early as 1825 Porto Ricans attempted to gain their independence. This was years before Cuba had been freed by the torch of liberty. Indeed, at about this time the Cubans were talking oaths of eternal allegiance to the legitimate Spanish dynasty which they alone supported, when Napoleon had overrun Spain. This first rebellion was put down after a short guerrilla war. Several abortive attempts to drive the Spaniards from the island followed toward the middle of the century, but they served only as a sign of the discontent in the hearts of the people.

INEFFECTUAL REVOLTS. It was in 1868, the year of the great uprising in Cuba, that the most formidable outbreak in Porto Rico occurred. It is significant of Spain's treatment of her colonies that the leaders of the contemporaneous rebellions knew nothing of the intentions of the patriots on the sister island.

In Porto Rico, preparation was made for a great, silent rush to arms. The Spanish government was so universally detested that the prospective insurgents included a large proportion of the people. In fact, it was the number of persons in the secret that proved fatal to the plot and led to its exposure as traitors. As a result, it was necessary that the insurrection take place several weeks before the patriots were prepared. After two months' fighting the Spanish regulars were victorious and the leaders of the revolt, Dr. Ramon E. Betances, now of Paris, was captured, as was also J. J. Henna, since a New York physician, then a young Porto Rican eighteen years of age.

All prisoners were sentenced to be shot on November 4, 1868. On November 3 news reached the island of the overthrow of Queen Isabella and political prisoners were pardoned. Later they were banished.

These exiles, dwelling in many different countries, have formed the centers of active movements for the freeing of Porto Rico that have culminated in a powerful organization known as the Porto Rico Section of the Revolutionary Party of Cuba.

IN LEAGUE WITH CUBANS. The first articles of the statement of principles of the Cuban Revolutionary party, written by Jose Marti, declared that fomenting revolution in Porto Rico and helping it to reach its independence were the primary objects of the party. This led to the organization of the Porto Ricans as a part of the Cuban party. Natives of Porto Rico in and out of the country are hard at work for the independence of the island. Votes were recently taken for officers in the Section, and the hero of the rising in '68, Dr. Ramon E. Betances, was elected delegate general. Dr. J. J. Henna is the president and the head of the movement in America. The other directors of the Section are Senors J. de los Angeles, Manuel Besosa, and H. H. Todd, all of New York. Mr. Todd is the secretary.

ISLAND'S RESOURCES. The size of the island is about 100 by 37 miles and its population has reached nearly a million. The Spanish province includes two islands to the east, one of which, Vieques, is as large as the Danish island of St. Croix. The United States contemplated purchasing.

There are two fine old cities in Porto Rico. St. John's the capital and principal port, and Ponce, the largest city, several miles inland. The coast is indented into five ports of entry where there are towns.

The vegetation of the island is exuberant even for the West Indies and the products include all the fruits and woods of the tropics. Sugar, coffee and tobacco are the staples. The value of the exports, which is increasing constantly, was more than \$10,000,000 in 1896. This is far in excess of the value of the exports of any island about the Caribbean coast.

Porto Rico's mineral wealth includes rich deposits of gold, iron, copper, coal and salt. Only the salt beds are worked.

Animal life is abundant and varied. Huge herds of excellent cattle swarm over the lowland plains and in the more temperate mountain districts the celebrated Porto Rican horses are bred. All things considered, no spot on the globe is better equipped by nature to support a happy and industrious population.

INHABITANTS. The people themselves are superior in blood and industry to those of any island in the West Indies. Cuba not excepted. Of a population of 800,000 in 1896, nearly half a million were whites of unmixed blood, and but 75,000 were negroes and mulattoes. Of the "mixed" population quite 200,000

are Jebaros, an uncommon people said to be of Spanish stock with drops of the native Indian blood in them. They are small farmers and laborers. The race is a fine one, showing the regular features and small feet of the Europeans. The Jebaros are revolutionists of a name.

Nature has done more for Porto Rico than any little island could expect of her; the people have the qualities of an industrious and highly civilized race—and yet the island's resources remain mostly undeveloped, and of the three-quarters of a million of white and Jebaro inhabitants less than 100,000 can read and write.

MISGOVERNMENT. The Porto Ricans have no voice in their government, as it is directly controlled by the Spanish cortes, in which the representatives of Porto Rico wield no influence. There is no vestige of local self-government.

The situation is aggravated by the unwritten but nevertheless unbroken rule that no native of the island shall hold an official position. The "Peninsulares," as the Spaniards are called, occupy every judicial as well as military post. Their number, including the military, is somewhat under 35,000, and almost all of them are supported from the pockets of the native Porto Ricans.

These alien office holders drain the colony of its public money. Their domineering manners and high-handed actions have brought upon the hated of natives. They come to the province with the single object of making money and their venality has corrupted the public service to such an extent that bribery is now necessary in procuring a decision in every court of justice.

The taxes, which are burdensome, are raised by duties on exports as well as imports, and by a series of petty personal taxes such as none but a spiritless people would willingly stand.

These include stamp duties, a toll on railroad passengers and freight, and even on the consumption of food.

The total revenue collected in a year from this little island is \$3,947,875. Of this \$3,297,255 goes directly for maintaining the standing army and navy, whose sole purpose is to keep in subjection the people who support them. Of the remaining \$650,000, but a small share is devoted to public purposes that will benefit the people of the island, as the largest portion goes to employes of the public works all of whom are Spaniards.

MILITARY FORCES. The regular military force in Porto Rico, under the command of the Captain General, numbers 4500 men, including two batteries of artillery and two squadrons of cavalry. They are well armed and disciplined and were re-equipped by Spain in 1895. A corps of 300 police and 14 battalions of volunteers containing about 6000 men, the volunteers are not natives of the island. Since the last uprising, when a battalion of Porto Ricans went over to the insurgents, the natives have not been called upon to serve.

The naval station consists of two small gunboats with rapid-firing guns. The fortifications of the island, while impotent before modern ironclads, serve as formidable obstacles to a rebellion. At St. John's there are three fortifications on whose bastions are mounted some ancient cannon and sixteen Krupp guns of 4 and 6 calibre. These defenses have been strengthened during the last few weeks; but Morro Castle, which guards the entrance to the harbor, is an old stone and plaster building, no stronger than it is a century ago. In Ponce and Mayaguez there are old batteries, while small forts to overawe the populace stand frequent intervals along all highways.

It is not to be wondered that the people of Porto Rico, carrying, like Simbad, the weight of a Spanish old-man-of-the-mountain, have little surplus energy to expend in intellectual or commercial activity.

COMMERCIAL GROWTH. Facts and Figures as to Changes of the Past Forty-six Years.

Recent events have drawn attention to the commercial growth of the great nations of the world during the last half century, from which have resulted some instructive tabulations. A French economist, M. Jules Roche, has presented the following to expose the contrast between France and Germany.

The values of the combined exports of the ten leading commercial nations of the world of the periods noted were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Value. 1850: \$1,618,000,000; 1855: 2,415,000,000; 1860: 3,282,000,000; 1865: 4,000,000,000; 1870: 6,290,000,000; 1875: 6,450,000,000.

This table shows that the export trade of the world has increased in forty-six years almost exactly four times in aggregate value. In aggregate volume it has no doubt increased much more, since, although the prices of exported agricultural products were about the same in 1850 as in 1896, those of manufactured products, especially those composed of iron and steel, were much less in 1850 than in 1896, and their volume many times greater.

Of these great exporting nations the first four, in 1850, are also the four leading exporters in 1896, but their relations to each other and to the aggregate volume of exportations have entirely changed, standing at the various epochs named as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Value. 1850-England: \$400,000,000; France: 222,000,000; United States: 145,000,000; Germany: 125,000,000. 1896-England: 850,000,000; France: 615,000,000; Germany: 572,000,000; United States: 545,000,000.

It will be seen that the United States, after falling to the fourth place in 1850, has risen again to the third; France has fallen from the second to the fourth place, while Germany has risen from the fourth to the second place. But these tables reveal something more of the marvelous economic history of the period they include than the mere statement of the comparative exportations.

As we have seen, the exportations of the world have increased during that period almost exactly fourfold. Two of the four greatest exporting nations have increased their external commerce many a hundredfold, while two have fallen below the average rate of increase. Germany has increased her export trade since 1850 seven and a half times, the United States five and a half times, England three and a third times only, and France hardly three times.

UNITED STATES BONDS. Timely Information Concerning the Popular War Loan.

United States bonds are recognized as the most secure and stable form of obligation that investors can hold. They are attractive, not only because of the absolute security offered, but because there is at all times a public market for them on which holders can quickly sell, and they also offer the most desirable form of collateral if the holder wishes to secure a temporary loan. The fact that United States bonds are not subject to taxes of any character—federal, state, or municipal—is a valuable feature of that form of investment. United States bonds are issued in both coupon and registered form.

COUPON BONDS. A coupon bond is payable to the bearer. It may be bought and sold without formality as freely as any kind of property and without indorsements of any kind. Owing to the freedom of transfer, coupon bonds are usually preferred by persons who expect to hold them but a short time. Their disadvantage for the person who wishes to make a permanent investment lies in the danger that they might be lost or stolen, in which case the loss to the holder would be as complete as would be the loss of a bank check. The coupon bonds take their name from the method by which interest is collected by the holder.

Printed on the same sheet with the bond is a series of coupons or small certificates of interest due, which are so designed that they can be cut out at any interest period. Each coupon bears the number of the bond and shows the date of the coupon's maturity. The holder of a coupon bond, at each interest period, detaches the coupon due and presents it to the treasurer, who is payable at any sub-treasurer, and may be collected through any bank, and will usually be accepted by any merchant having a bank account, with whom the holder of the bond has dealings. The holder of a coupon bond may at any time have it converted into a registered bond free of charge.

REGISTERED BONDS.

A registered bond is payable to the order of the owner, and can only be transferred by being properly indorsed and assigned by the owner. Such assignment is made by the owner filling in the blank form on the back of the bond, and must be witnessed by some officer authorized by the regulations of the treasury department to witness assignments. The owner of the registered bond who wishes to part with it writes his name on the back of the bond in the presence of the officer; then the witnessing officer writes his name in the blank space, and affixes an impression of his official seal.

The officers who are authorized to witness assignments are a United States district attorney, clerk of a United States court, collector of customs, collector or assessor of internal revenue, United States treasurer, or assistant treasurer, or the president or cashier of a national bank, or if in a foreign country, a United States minister or consul. In cases where there is no officer within a reasonable distance, or who, through sickness or other valid reason, is unable to do so, for some other good cause, the owner of registered bonds can not go before one of these officers, the treasury department will designate some person to act as a witness.

When the owner of a registered bond deposes of it and has properly assigned it, he delivers it to the new owner, who should at once forward it to the register of the treasury for transfer on the books of the department. The register cancels the bond form in the name of the new owner, and sends it to him by registered mail. The department makes no charge for transferring bonds.

If the owner of a registered bond loses it, or if it is stolen from him, he should at once notify the secretary of the treasury. A stoppage will be entered against the bond, and, if it should be presented for transfer, the department will hold possession of the bond until the ownership is clearly established. If a lost or stolen bond is not recovered within six months, the department will issue a duplicate bond upon proof of loss and a bond of indemnity being furnished.

The interest on registered bonds is paid by the government by means of checks. In order that no mistake may be made in the payment of interest, the books of the department are "closed" for a period, varying according to the importance of the loan. The books of the four per cent. loan of 1907 are closed for the whole month preceding the payment of a quarter's interest. On other loans the books are closed for fifteen days preceding the interest payment. During this period no transfers are made, and the time is devoted to preparing "schedules" which contain the names of the owners, the amount of bonds each one holds, and the amount of interest due each one. When these schedules have been prepared and proved, they are sent to the treasurer of the United States, who immediately has checks and envelopes addressed, and in due time each check is mailed to the address of its owner. The checks for the more distant points are first mailed. Interest checks are obligations of the United States, and, of course, are good everywhere.

Coupon bonds are issued in denominations of \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$1,000. Registered bonds are issued in denominations of \$20, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE NEW BONDS.

The war loan which is now being offered will be sold to subscribers in parcels during the period of subscription, which ends July 14, 1898. The method of subscription has been made as simple as possible. Blank forms may be obtained at every money-order post-office, and at most of the banks and express offices and in these forms is clearly indicated all that it is necessary for the subscriber to fill out. The subscriber may himself mail to the Treasury department at Washington the blank form filled out, together with his remittance covering the par value of the amount of bonds for which he wishes to subscribe. That remittance may be in whatever form best suits the subscriber's convenience—in money order, bank draft, check, postoffice money order, or express receipt, or by the day the proceeds are received from

the checks, drafts, or money orders, the subscription will be entered and will immediately begin drawing interest. When the bonds are delivered, a check will be made for the principal, deducting the interest at 3 per cent. from the day the subscription is entered to the 1st of August, the date of the bonds and from which date the bonds will carry their own interest.

UNCLE SAM'S DOMAIN. With All of His Extravagance He Owns Over 600,000,000 Acres.

The idea that Uncle Sam is at present a landless old fellow has generally taken possession of the people throughout the country. This, however, is a great mistake. He still has land enough to give each one of his 73,000,000 children a nice little homestead of eight acres each and still have a ranch of over 16,000,000 acres left. In other words, your dear old uncle still owns something over 600,000,000 acres, distributed as follows throughout the various states and territories:

Table with 2 columns: State/Territory, Acres. Alabama: 52,339; Arizona: 54,400,231; Arkansas: 5,522,042; California: 43,841,044; Colorado: 4,637,284; Florida: 1,757,662; Idaho: 45,962,575; Kansas: 1,046,559; Louisiana: 845,629; Michigan: 52,243; Minnesota: 6,240,019; Missouri: 497,764; Montana: 71,422,937; Nebraska: 10,467,284; Nevada: 62,783; New Mexico: 56,983,017; North Dakota: 21,283,293; Oklahoma: 8,105,228; Oregon: 35,592,318; South Dakota: 12,270,718; Utah: 44,207,275; Washington: 11,908,336; Wisconsin: 457,107; Wyoming: 49,911,588; Alaska: 269,525,690 acres.

About one-half this vast amount of land lies, it will be seen, in Alaska, and it is very certain that this will never be available for homestead purposes, but for mining purposes its value in gold and silver is even greater than that of the balance in fertile and productive states, and is all subject to homestead laws.

Those who wish to homestead should avail themselves of the more than liberal homestead laws of the United States. This is the place for the surplus labor.

THE SPANISH SOLDIER. He is Slouchy and Lazy and Dirty, but He Can Fight When Chased Into a Corner.

From the London Mail.

The little, lissom line-men, who in all human probability are destined to meet in mortal combat the sturdy soldiers of "Uncle Sam," would be the despair of an English or a German staff officer.

Watch him as he slouches along; his tunic faded, torn, and probably minus a button or two; his red trousers frayed and threadbare; his feet cased in the clumsy, worn sandals of the country; and his hands muffled in huge green woollen gloves, between the top of which and the sleeve of his tunic is usually to be seen two or three inches of bare, brown, sinewy arm. He carries his rifle anyhow; at the trail, at the slope, muzzle foremost, slung at his back. Not an inspiring picture! Far from it. Nevertheless that the Spaniard can fight, and fight well, too, on occasions, has been proved on many a blood-stained field. At Iguadala, one of the fiercest battles of the late "Carlist" wars, when the Spaniards were chosen between annihilation and surrender, and selected the former. Despite the shuffling gait, too, he marches well and uncomplainingly. In fact, the Spanish "Tommy" never seems to tire, and he is seldom out of temper.

TWO MEALS A DAY.

Two meals a day, served at 9 a. m. and 5 p. m., constitute the regular commissariat allowances, but, in addition, he receives in some corps with coffee and soup in the early morning. Bread, and bread only, at the rate of a pound and a half per man per day, constitutes the government ration. Any additional food he has to buy from the regimental canteen. This is kept by a civilian, but the scale of prices is regulated by a regimental committee. Very little meat enters into the Spaniard's diet. Perhaps this is the reason his wounds heal so rapidly and easily. A chunk of dry, black bread, a little oil, and a clove of garlic suffices him for the day.

If to this he is able to add half a pint of wine that looks like red ink and tastes like vinegar and water, he is in clover. One thing, however, he will never consent to do without, and that is his cigarette. The number of these an average Spaniard "Tommy" will consume in the course of the day is appalling. He rolls them himself, using a yellow, dry, dusty-looking tobacco, which possesses no more flavor to an English smoker's palate than would so much chopped straw.

MILITARY SERVICE.

In theory every Spaniard must serve his twelve years in the army; but there is a wide difference in this case, all events, between theory and practice. To begin with, any citizen can discharge his liability to serve by the payment, in a lump sum, of 1,200 pesetas. This sounds a good lot of money, but it takes twenty-five pesetas to equal an English sovereign, so that he really has to disburse only about £48. Enormous numbers, even of the peasant class, have taken to availing themselves of the privilege. There has even sprung up in many of the provinces a special class of village usurers, who lend the "smart money" at a ruinous rate of interest, of course—to young men who have been "drawn." Benefit clubs, having the same object in view, are also to be seen in the agricultural districts. This has the effect of increasing the Spanish revenues; but from a military point of view it is deplorable. Besides those who honorably purchase their exemption, large numbers of young men obtain what are known as "dispensations," absolving them from serving their time under any circumstances whatever. To get one of these "dispensations" it is not necessary to be either braver, wiser, or better than one's neighbors. But one must have what the Americans call a "pull" with the authorities.

It is scarcely to be wondered at that the Spaniard peasant tries his utmost to evade the conscription; for his treatment, from the moment he dons his country uniform until the moment he is discharged, is of the vilest. He is "non-com," and treated by all nominally his pay is seventy-five centimos (75c.) a day. Often, however, for years together, he does not handle that much money in a month. The Spanish system of "army stoppages" is worked upon a sliding scale. The more money "Tommy" has "coming to him" at the

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Another Friday with its stirring scenes of crowded aisles and joyous jams of eager and economical shoppers. If the saving of money has any charm for you, you will need no urging to be on hand.

BIG VALUES FOR LITTLE BOYS. FAST COLOR WASH SUITS:

Striped Galatea, Crash, Plain White or Fancy Du... materials, 29c, 38c, 47c, 73c, 97c. Some have combination collars and cuffs; most of them are handsomely braided.

25-cent Fast Color Wash Pants for 19c.

White Lawn Blouse Waists, with embroidered collars and fronts; regular value 98c, on Friday for 39c.

All \$1.50 and \$2.00 Children's Fancy Straw Hats for 97c.

The pick of any Hat in the store for 97c.

Boys' and Children's Straw Hats for 29c. Regular 50c quality.

Boys' Blue Denim "Johnny" Overalls for 19c.

Fancy Vestee Suits for \$2.97. Handsome designs; regular value \$5.

Fancy Sailor Suits for \$1.97. Made from All-Wool Cheviot; regular value \$3.



Our Great Friday Shoe Sale.

Men's, Ladies', Boy's, Misses' \$1.50 Shoes For 97c

Russet and Black Oxford Ties and Shoes--Dongola and Satin Calf. Everybody Can Be Fitted. Every Pair Warranted Solid Leather, and on Sale on Fridays Only.

Extra Shoe Specials

Men's and Ladies' Soft Vici Kid Russet and Black Shoes for..... \$1.97

Some have silk vesting tops—regular value \$3.

Ladies' Tan Vici Kid Bicycle Boot—10 inch—for..... \$1.97

Other stores ask \$2.50.

THE MOST POPULAR BIKE DEPT. IN THE CITY

More value, more style, more wear for your money than elsewhere. Everything is here from Cap to Shoes at prices that are right.

All-Wool Bike Suits from the great Black & Meyer stock of Rochester made Clothing.

\$2.75, \$3.98, \$4.24, \$4.74, \$4.98.

Fancy Top Hose, 25c, 47c. Leather Belts, 25c, 47c. Striped Sweaters, 98c, \$1.47. Bike Shoes, 97c, \$1.29, \$1.69.

HOPKINS' SWELL BALTIMORE HATS

For Men, Are the Proper Thing. Swell English Shapes that are becoming, 47c, 89c, 98c, \$1.23, \$1.79.

THE BIGGEST VALUES IN FURNISHINGS FOR THE SMALLEST AMOUNT OF MONEY

75c Fancy Negligee Shirts for.....47c

50c Silk Finished Underwear for.....25c

50c Laundered Percale Shirts for.....21c

15c Boston Garters for Men at.....3c

Penn Clothing and Shoe House

137 and 139 Penn Avenue.

end of the month, the greater is the sum kept back for this, that, or the other.

And he dare not complain, for discipline is enforced with a relentless severity that is neither more nor less than appalling. Desertion is punished by eight years' solitary confinement. For theft the penalties are as follows: If the amount stolen does not exceed 10 reals (2s.), imprisonment with hard labor for three years; from 10 to 200 reals (2s. to £2), ten years' imprisonment; above 200 reals, death or hard labor for life. In the Spanish military code of laws there are over eighty crimes, many of them of the most trivial nature, which are punishable by death. Nevertheless, organized military revolts, known as "Pronunciamientos," are exceedingly common; and the entire army is said to be honeycombed by secret revolutionary societies. The total available strength of the Spanish army at the present moment is believed to be not more than about 200,000 men; and of this number not by any means all are efficient soldiers. Or paper, it is true more than double this number are shown. But it should be borne in mind that the Spanish War office authorities have a playful way of including in their annual returns what are euphemistically designated "available recruits." These are really undrilled men, who have never been enrolled, and who, most of them, probably, do not know the frightful of a rifle from the trigger-guard. Their only claim to be designated soldiers is that they have each signed a paper, agreeing to join the colors if called upon.