

# PORTO RICO TODAY

## AMERICANS A FACTOR IN INDUSTRIAL LIFE OF ISLAND



CANE TRAIN AT CENTRAL CONSTANCIA

HOISTING FIVE TONS OF CANE

Prior to the war with Spain Americans knew little about the island of Porto Rico, and the island knew little about its near neighbor, America. But now that has all been changed. It is only ten years since the island came under the control of the United States, and in that time Americans have settled in the island and are now to be found in almost every industry there. In fact the chief industries, such as sugar, tobacco and fruit, are almost entirely controlled by American capital.

The sugar industry, which is by far the most important, has had a phenomenal growth in the last decade.

Formerly the plantations, scattered throughout the island, but more especially in the coast regions, were operated independently. The cane was raised, the sugar was made and was shipped by each estate. This method, of course, necessitated a very primitive and inefficient process. The power was almost without exception furnished by oxen operating a small set of rollers, into which the cane was fed by hand. The boiling of the juice and the crystallizing of the sugar was done in open pans, with the result that a large percentage of the sugar was not recovered. Hence Porto Rico became famed for her fine molasses, while little or nothing was ever heard of her production of sugar.

To-day on nearly every estate the old mills have fallen into disuse or have been dismantled, the rollers used in road making and the pans for cattle to drink from, for sugar making by individuals is a thing of the past.

American companies have established what are known as "centrals" and have made it for the interest of plantation owners to send their cane there to be made into sugar. These companies have established railroads with branches running into all estates to bring the cane quickly and easily to the mills.

In most cases the "central" has a general supervision over the estates with inspectors who advise the latest methods of cane culture, install irrigation systems, encourage the opening of new lands, often forwarding money for such work, and in general promote the culture of more and better cane.

Besides owning several plantations some of the larger "centrals" gather and grind the cane from 60 or more plantations extending along the coast sometimes for 30 or 40 miles and far back into the mountains.

The advantage to the plantation owner is very evident in that his work and responsibility end when his cane is raised, cut and loaded upon the companies' cars which come by means of portable tracks into his very fields. The efficiency of the modern and elaborate method of sugar making more than makes up for the division of profits.

These sugar houses are equipped with the latest and best machinery. No expense is spared in this respect, for by the saving of even the smallest percentage of additional sugar the amount saved in the manufacture of a season's crop, often 25,000 tons or more, is enormous.

Connected with the sugar houses are laboratories with a corps of chemists, who by continued analysis at every stage in the process of manufacture control it so that the maximum amount of sugar is obtained, and the finished product is kept up to the standard desired by the refiners in the "states."

This process of manufacturing the sugar occupies from six to eight months in the year, the rest of the time being given up to repairs and improvements.

With the exception of the laborers, who are of course natives, these places are operated by Americans, and during the grinding season you find many colonies of them situated far from the cities in the midst of the cane country. Some men holding positions which demand their attention the year round have settled with their families at these "centrals," but for the most part those required but for the busy season go north for the rest of the time, where the social and climatic conditions are more agreeable.

The social life is of course very limited in these places, owing to the fact



A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF THE HEIGHT OF CANE

that they are situated so far from the cities that, with the very poor means of transportation, it is very difficult to reach them.

At the largest "centrals" you find but six or eight families living in separate houses, and a clubhouse housing 30 or 40 unmarried men or men without their families.

But even among themselves some social life would be possible were it not for the fact that these people come from so many social classes themselves.

The lack of schools for the children has been a great drawback to men carrying their families with them, but there is a plan under consideration now for the government to establish schools at some of the larger "centrals" for American children. This will probably be the means of inducing more men to carry their families with them, and eventually greatly improve the social life.

Probably the school-teachers form the largest class of Americans on the island, but, of course, they are very widely scattered. In the larger cities of San Juan, Ponce and Mayaguez, you find a great many American teachers, both men and women, and probably in these three cities are to be found as many Americans as in the rest of the island.

San Juan is the center of American civilization in Porto Rico, and has been from the first. There are the government officials, and most of the men in business of a commercial nature.

However, in traveling about the interior of the island and in the smaller coast cities, the larger part of Americans you meet are teachers. In every town large enough to be called such, you find a school over which floats the American flag, and in which the English language is being taught. Often the only English-speaking person in the whole town is the teacher, and it may be a long, hard trip by coach or on horseback to the next town.

Among a strange people, where the language, food, customs, etc., are so hard to become accustomed to, it often proves a hard life.

But in the larger towns the conditions are much better. Here you generally find more than one teacher, better school buildings, and a higher class of people, with whom it is easier to mingle.

The tobacco business has already grown to vast proportions under American management, as is evidenced by the constantly increasing consumption of Porto Rican cigars in the United States. In every town or village, even among the mountains, tobacco is still raised and cigars are still made as they have been for generations, but the new tobacco raisers have planted hundreds and in one case over 1,000 acres in a stretch, which may be seen entirely covered by cheese cloth to subdue the light and improve the quality. This industry has by no means reached its height, and, indeed, has the prospect of a vast future growth.

The coffee raising is also worthy of mention, although not developed as yet to any great extent. Coffee is raised mostly among the mountains and Americans have taken it up but little. However, it has been pronounced the finest coffee in the world by President Roosevelt, and when the market for it is made it will undoubtedly offer a broad field for American interest.

There are also a large number of minor industries which men from the United States have entered and at which they are making fortunes. Among these are the raising of pineapples, coconuts, rice and vegetables which are sent to the United States for winter use.

## END THE ROBBERY

### DEMAND OF WESTERN FARMERS FOR TARIFF REFORM.

Great Agricultural Section of the Country Has Paid Taxes to Robber Trusts Long Enough—"Protection" a Farce.

The bulk of surplus cash in the United States is owned by western farmers. They deposit it in their local banks, whence it flows through various channels to the eastern money markets for investment.

At a recent national gathering of presidents of insurance companies the statement was made that money is a drug in the market. The insurance men are in close touch with the financial market, as they have prodigious surpluses to invest. Just now the market is flooded with the hoards of thrifty investors.

The singular fact is that while the east is just recovering from a money panic the agricultural west had no panic to recover from. The farmers have had no hard times for a series of years. They were still buying automobiles and luxuries when panic-stricken eastern banks were issuing clearing house certificates.

The working capital of banks, railroads, factories and mines comes in the main from the small accumulations of thrift put out at interest. The greatest creditor of all is the American farmer. While bumper crops and high prices for agricultural products prevail the farmers will remain supreme in the creditor class.

The farmer keeps up the country banks and stores, which in turn support the great marts of industry in the cities and manufacturing centers. Wall street and the speculators merely levy toll on the teeming industry of the nation. The tariff barons get their share of the spoils through indirect tariff taxation.

Practically everything the farmer has to buy yields a tax to some robber trust. If he would improve his buildings he must pay a tax to the lumber trust. If more implements are needed the harvester trust gets its pound of flesh.

So it runs through the whole list of necessities and luxuries. The trusts tax the farmers like all other consumers without giving anything tangible in return. The alleged "protection" of tariff schedules is a mockery, as far as the farmers are concerned. Their coinage of wealth from the soil needs no artificial protection.

It is to lessen plain tariff robbery that western farmers demand genuine tariff revision.

### Protection "Logic."

"The London Standard has discovered that on the average American wages are 2 1/2 times as much as British wages. In declaring that the difference is due to the protective policy the Standard shows a logical mind."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Why then are not wages higher in Germany and France than in England? The conditions of life in all three countries are practically the same and not different as they are in England and America. Yet in England under free trade wages are far higher than in Germany and France under protection. Moreover wages in America were higher than any in Europe in the beginning because of natural conditions that still obtain, and the argument for a tariff was that our "infant industries," having to pay wages so much higher than European industries had to pay, ought to have protection equal to the difference until they got established. But now we have it that protection is what makes high wages. How can a thing be both cause and effect? First wages are higher and therefore we must have protection; second, protection has made wages higher and therefore it must be maintained. Verily, such is protection logic.

### Tariff Taxing the Small Home.

The ambition of every thrifty wage earner or soil tiller is to own his home. These modest abodes are the fruit of self-sacrifice and plodding industry.

The lumber trust sits in the gates of prosperity and takes toll of every home builder of modest means. It taxes every stick of finished timber that goes into the dwelling. It taxes the plain, unpretentious furniture. It taxes the farmer's barn where he houses his crops, and the sheds for his livestock.

### Two Cents and \$29,240,000.

A Michigan man is serving a 30 days' jail sentence for pilfering a two-cent stamp from Uncle Sam. You can't get by with a thing of that valuation, but if it's something like \$29,240,000, for instance—well, that's another story.

Mr. Roosevelt will try to capture a kleene-boc, a kahau and Nelson Morris & Co., but so far as the anthracite coal trust is concerned it may stamp and rage through the jungle at will.

## PLANKS INTENDED TO DECEIVE?

### Hard to Put Other Construction on Republican Utterances.

Mr. Taft's position with regard to the equitable limitation of negro suffrage in the south, as defined in his address to the North Carolina society, had the support of the best sentiment at the north. His opposition to the "grandfather clause" of the proposed Maryland constitutional amendment shows a "spirit of fairness and equality" which has received general endorsement.

But in view of Mr. Taft's liberal attitude toward the reasonable restriction of negro suffrage, what does this plank of the Republican platform of 1908 mean?

"We declare once more and without reservation for the enforcement in spirit and letter of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution, which were designed for the protection and advancement of the negro, and we condemn all devices that have for their real aim his disfranchisement for reasons of color alone as unfair, un-American and repugnant to the supreme law of the land."

Mr. Roosevelt on October 27 last wrote to the president of the Virginia Bar association:

"I do not believe that there is a single individual of any consequence who seriously dreams of cutting down southern representation, and I should have no hesitation in stating anywhere and at any time that as long as the election laws are constitutionally enforced without discrimination as to color, the fear that southern representation in congress will be cut down is both idle and absurd."

Yet your Republican national platform of 1904 declared:

"We favor such congressional action as shall determine whether by special discriminations the elective franchise in any state has been unconstitutionally limited, and, if such is the case, we demand that representation in congress and in the electoral college shall be proportionately reduced, as directed by the constitution of the United States."

The virtual repudiation of the Republican platform declarations of 1904 and 1908 by the president and the president-elect raises an interesting question of party honesty. Were these planks embodied in the platforms merely to humbug negro voters in the north?

### The President and the Courts.

In his statement the president truthfully says that he has no power whatever to do anything in regard to the recent decision of Justice Wright in the contempt cases. In order to show his entire impartiality, he refers to the fact that he took no action in the matter of the \$29,000,000 Standard Oil fine. This reference rather weakens the force of his statement, for it will be remembered that he severely criticized the judges who reversed the decision of Judge Landis, while for Justice Wright he has no criticism. The president took no action in the Standard Oil case while it was, as it is now, in the courts. He took no action, for the very good reason that there was nothing that he could do. But he gave the judges a rather fierce lecture. In the present case he says:

"Whether the president does or does not think the sentence of Mr. Gompers and his associates excessive is not at present of consequence, because he cannot take any action or express any opinion while the case is pending before the courts."

That is true. He can do nothing and he ought not to criticize. We are glad to know that the educational process to which he has been subjected is having its effect.—Indianapolis News.

### No Longer "Infant Industries."

The news from Washington that Republican congressmen are seeing a great light on tariff reform is gratifying. Extensive revision downward as a result of the tariff hearings and advices from the country is now anticipated. Certainly the predictions of free lumber, free wood-pulp and paper, free hides and leather products, with heavy cuts in the wool and steel schedules, point to genuine revision. The "infant industries" can no longer conceal their adult proportions.

### From His Throne of Money Bags.

Andrew Carnegie, made colossal rich by iniquitous tariff schedules, issued a Christmas message to the world. It is worded in truly regal style, and the bumptious naivete with which this citizen tells all his fellow citizens why they should be thankful and contented beats even the record of the Nine Tailors of Tooley street who on a celebrated occasion issued a proclamation beginning: "We, the people of England."

The real cost (of steel) this year is the highest in years because so few rails are made.—Charles Schwab to the Ways and Means Committee.

Cut the tariff, drop the price, then, and it will be cheaper to make them; for demand will double.

## CAUGHT.



"I'll give you a penny if you can spell fish."  
"C-o-d."  
"That ain't fish."  
"What is it, then?"

## MIX FOR RHEUMATISM

The following is a never failing remedy for rheumatism, and if followed up it will effect a complete cure of the very worst cases: "Mix one-half pint of good whiskey with one ounce of Toris Compound and add one ounce Syrup Sarsaparilla Compound. Take in tablespoonful doses before each meal and at bedtime." The ingredients can be procured at any drug store and easily mixed at home.

### A Running Broad Jump.

"One day," related Denny to his friend Jerry, "when Ol had wandered too far inland on me shore leave Ol suddenly found that there was a great big haythen, tin feet tall, chasin' me wid a knife as long as yer arm. Ol took to me heels an' for 50 miles along the road we had it nip an' tuck. Thin Ol turned into the woods an' we run for one hundred an' twenty miles more, wid him gainin' on me steadily, owin' to his knowledge of the country. Finally, just as Ol could feel his hot breath burnin' on the back of me neck, we came to a big lake. Wid one great leap Ol landed safe on the opposite shore, leavin' me pursuer confounded and impotent wid rage."

"Faith an' that was no great jump," commented Jerry, "considerin' the runnin' start ye had."—Everybody's Magazine.

### Satisfaction.

Stern Officer (on German frontier)—Passport, sir!

Gentle Graduate of Yale—Jerushy John! Forgot all about—that is, I did not know I had to show it here. I—well—hold on! Here! (Produces a be-ribboned and be-sealed document) Here you are at last. Excuse me, I did not know you were the proper officer.

Officer (tries to read the Latin)—Ha—Dicitum—Ha—His Emporium—Ha! (Returns sacred parchment.) Yis, sare! It is sufficient! Excuse mi! It is of the high royal household. Special envoy. Much apolige. Hourry! Go at once.

Graduate (relieved)—Great Scott! That was a close shave! That's the best thing a Yale diploma ever did for me.—From the Bohemian.

### Mice on the Pillow.

"I'm not so much afraid of mice as some women," said she, "but I don't like them in my hair. The other night I finished a biscuit I was eating after I went to bed and naturally left some crumbs about, not meaning to, never thinking of mice.

"Well, about the middle of the night I heard scampering, and there were the mice all over my hair, trying to get at those crumbs.

"I tell you, I gave one shriek, sprang up, lighted all the gas in the room and sat up the rest of the night watching that pillow."

### HER MOTHER-IN-LAW

#### Proved a Wise, Good Friend.

A young woman out in Ia. found a wise, good friend in her mother-in-law, jokes notwithstanding. She writes:

"It is two years since we began using Postum in our house. I was greatly troubled with my stomach, complexion was blotchy and yellow. After meals I often suffered sharp pains and would have to lie down. My mother often told me it was the coffee I drank at meals. But when I'd quit coffee I'd have a severe headache.

"While visiting my mother-in-law I remarked that she always made such good coffee, and asked her to tell me how. She laughed and told me it was easy to make good 'coffee' when you use Postum.

"I began to use Postum as soon as I got home, and now we have the same good 'coffee' (Postum) every day, and I have no more trouble. Indigestion is a thing of the past, and my complexion has cleared up beautifully.

"My grandmother suffered a great deal with her stomach. Her doctor told her to leave off coffee. She then took tea but that was just as bad.

"She finally was induced to try Postum which she has used for over a year. She traveled during the winter over the greater part of Iowa, visiting, something she had not been able to do for years. She says she owes her present good health to Postum."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.