

## UNCLE SAM IN PORTO

QUEER FEATURES OF GOVERNMENT IN OUR NEW WEST INDIAN ISLAND

### OFFICIALS EAT UP COUNTRY

High Prices for Writing Materials and Clock Winding—Porto Rican Courts and Porto Rican Crime—Our Governor General and His Palaces—How Uncle Sam's Mail Is Carried.

Copyrighted, 1899, by Frank G. Carpenter. SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Sept. 30.—I want to tell you what Uncle Sam is doing in Porto Rico. When the Spaniards gave us the island they gave us the biggest job of reorganization we have ever had. Everything here is honeycombed with Spanish corruption. The taxes have been collected to support the officials and the island has been run for them rather than for the people. It is safe to say that there was hardly an honest official on the island at the time we conquered it, and I very much doubt whether a class of honest native Porto Rican officials could be secured today. Every man who has an office here expects to make something out of it, and for the present generation, at least, it will be hard to teach the Porto Rican anything to the contrary. The insular commission which was sent down by the president last spring finds that it is now costing more than \$300,000 in salaries to run Porto Rico. This is so notwithstanding the fact that the island is not larger than Connecticut, and that it has 800,000 people, as peaceable as any citizens of the United States. I don't believe there is any more crime here than in the United States, and there is no reason why the government should be expensive.

### OFFICIALS EAT UP PORTO RICO.

The officials have been feeding off of Porto Rico for years. It is wonderful that the natives have stood such oppression and such theft. Every man who has an office here expects to make something out of it, and for the present generation, at least, it will be hard to teach the Porto Rican anything to the contrary. The insular commission which was sent down by the president last spring finds that it is now costing more than \$300,000 in salaries to run Porto Rico. This is so notwithstanding the fact that the island is not larger than Connecticut, and that it has 800,000 people, as peaceable as any citizens of the United States. I don't believe there is any more crime here than in the United States, and there is no reason why the government should be expensive.

I have before me an estimate which the recognized officials of San Juan make for the city expenses for the year ending June 30, 1899. San Juan is a town of 40,000 people, and the estimate provides for an expenditure of more than \$336,000. Among the queer items are those for writing materials for certain officials. The city clerk, for instance, gets a salary of \$1,253, and he asked for \$350 for writing materials. One of the bookkeepers wanted \$69 for writing materials, and the secretary of the alcaide, or mayor, asked \$200 for the same reason. When you remember that pens cost one cent each and lead pencils cost 10 cents a dozen, you will see that these officials expect to spend considerable on blank paper. In the city hall expenses, I see that it costs \$180 a year to wind the clock, and that \$150 is set aside for tools to clean the building. Any one who has noticed the extraordinary cleanliness of the average Porto Rican public building will appreciate the sarcasm of this item.

In the fire department \$500 is set aside for volunteer firemen in payment for the time lost from work while at the fire. The salaries of the common school teachers are set down at \$1,200, while cleaning the schools cost \$5,700, almost half as much as the teachers' salaries. Two thousand dollars is set down for pensions to the widows and orphans of government officials, and there are other expenses equally strange.

Such items make up a large part of the government accounts all over Porto Rico. Every town of any size has its clock-winder, and this notwithstanding that in many towns it is difficult to find the clock. I venture that more money has been spent from time to time for writing materials for government clerks than has been laid out upon the roads.

### PORTO RICAN COURTS.

President McKinley expects to reorganize the courts. There is no doubt but that this should be done at once. Until it is done no foreigner's life or property will be safe in Porto Rico. At present any man can be arrested upon the mere statement of another without warning. He can be thrown into prison and kept there while his case is investigated by the judge. He may not know for what he is imprisoned and the judge will carry on his investigation without giving either the criminal or his attorney a chance to aid in or offset them. There is no cross-examination of witnesses, and statements do not require an oath to be credited. Trials are at the option of the judge, and a man may remain in jail for months without knowing why he is kept there.

One of the most efficient of the Americans who have come down here in the employ of the government is Maj. A. A. Sharpe, the judge advocate of the governor general's staff. He has been investigating the prisons and the courts, much to the disgust of the Porto Rican judges. He has already succeeded in reforming many of the jails. He found that there were 2,000 prisoners in jail awaiting trial. This was at the time he began his investigations.

Many of these prisoners did not know

why they had been imprisoned, and some had been arrested for the most trivial offenses. One man, for instance, who was charged with stealing an empty bag, had been kept in prison for five months without a hearing. Another, who stole a chicken, had been sentenced for a year and a day, and a third, who was charged with stealing a hog, had been in jail a year, waiting trial.

### THE COSTLY COCK FIGHT.

One of the queerest cases was that of a young man named Vegas, who was arrested in December, 1897, for having used in a cock fight a cock which did not belong to him. The facts of the case were that Vegas had loaned the owner of the cock a dollar and a half and had taken the cock as security. While holding it as such he had put the cock in the ring to fight a neighbor's cock, and in the fight it was killed. The owner of the cock then made charges against Vegas, and succeeded in having him arrested. He was already in jail fifteen months, asking the judges that he be tried. Whether the owner of the cock had bribed the judges or not I do not know, but Vegas at last accounts was still in prison.

### PORTO RICAN COURTS.

At present there are four classes of judges in Porto Rico. The first is a sort of police judge, who is paid by fee. He has jurisdiction over cases in which the amount does not exceed \$200, and he can hear such things as infringements of police regulations, in blocking the streets, picking flowers in the parks, etc. The next judge is a sort of a notary and grand

retary of finance, of justice and of the interior, and under them a large number of native clerks and understrappers. I do not know just how many native Porto Ricans it takes to run the government, but altogether they have a salary list of \$310,822.

The governor general has to direct the soldiers in all parts of Porto Rico. He has the general supervision of nearly everything that goes on, although there are some things which are practically independent of him.

Among these are the postoffices, which are under the postmaster general at Washington. I have spent some time in studying Uncle Sam's mail here. The postal service is as well managed as any new thing on the island. The larger cities now have American postmasters and the clerks of the money order department, who are to be found all over the island, are almost all Americans. Some of the postmasters are from Washington city, some from Texas and a number from Indiana, Ohio, New York, West Virginia, California, and other states.

While the postal system is directed from Washington, it is run to a certain extent independent of the department there.

We have in fact a postoffice department in miniature in Porto Rico. The island has an independent money order office, an independent dead letter office and a special system of postal inspectors. The head of the service is Capt. W. H. Elliott, of Indiana, who was formerly connected with the navy, but who came here at the close of the war to organize the service.

## WIRELESS TELEPHONE

IT IS SAID THIS WILL BE THE NEXT OF THE GREAT INVENTIONS

### TELEPHONING MORSE CODE

Marconi Has Another Discovery Up His Sleeve Which Will Be More Wonderful Than His First—Improvements in His Wireless Telegraph Which Will Make Signals Across the Ocean Possible.

LONDON, Sept. 22.—Marconi, the twenty-six-year-old wonder-worker, has a new marvel up his sleeve. It is telephoning without wires. He is experimenting with it at odd times, and I understand that he has the general scheme of it well thought out, and that there is little or no doubt in his mind concerning the possibility—namely, probability—of talking back and forth across miles of wireless space—perhaps even the Atlantic—as simply as we talk back and forth across a table.

paring to unfold the discovery to an admiring world. Sir William Henry Preece, who could be expected to know of such discoveries if any one did, never heard of the doctor, and the Russian embassy knew him not. The reporter who wrote the story veiled himself in mystery. It seems he had been misled into handing in an item that had been printed two years ago. There really was a Dr. Peter Steins in London at that time, and he really had made some progress toward wireless telephoning, but as he has not been heard of since it must be supposed that his discoveries didn't go far enough. So far as known, no one else, except Marconi, has done anything practical in this line.

The inventor starts for the United States this week to conduct some experiments and demonstrations in wireless telephony. It may be set down as certain that the United States navy department, and, perhaps, also the war department, will have a hand in some of those experiments. The date of his return has not been fixed, and even after he comes back the experiments in telephoning without wires will have to wait, for there are two more big steps to be made in wireless telephony before the inventor can be expected to switch off his attention to other matters.

If these two steps can be taken successfully, we actually shall have messages sent across the Atlantic without the aid of wires, and not only that, but there is a possibility that they can be sent in the next six months, and without any great expense, either.

The preliminary step in this direction will be tried some time this winter, if all goes well. It will be an attempt to send wireless messages over far greater distances than have yet been tried—possibly from Land's End to the coast of Spain.

Up to now the greatest distance over which telegraphic dots and dashes have been tossed without wires has been sixty-two miles, the message having been sent between her majesty's steamship Europa and her majesty's steamship Juno, when both were at sea and both in motion. Instruments of exceeding delicacy were required to make the messages distinct, and it was evident that to send messages to much greater distances without wires it would be necessary to find some new development of the original idea, for the instruments used in the sixty-two mile experiment were about as fine as instruments well could be.

It can be supposed here that after many experiments, Mr. Marconi has found the way to the required development. Just what the modification is he will not tell for publication, but it can be said in a general way that by means of it he can make an electric current do more work than it has done hitherto. It was thought at first that the limit of distance was set only by the strength of the current used and the height of the poles from which the message was liberated and received, but the further experiments indicate that this was not the whole truth.

In spite of the occasional interviews purporting to come from Mr. Marconi, he has talked little for publication and doesn't like to be quoted, but it can be said on the authority of one of his assistants that the new modification of his system practically is completed and has met every test except that of actual practice over a long distance. Theoretically it works all right, and as Mr. Marconi's theories seem to have a habit of according with the facts as afterward proved, it is not unreasonable to suppose that some time this winter wireless messages will be sent a distance of several hundred miles.

"And if it proves that messages can be sent without wire for a distance of, say, 300 miles, what is to prevent their being sent 3,000 miles?" I asked.

The answer was rather surprising, for it had generally been supposed that the talk of wireless telegraphy back and forth across the Atlantic was more in the nature of a dream than a definite reality—the sort of dream H. G. Wells coins into money. The answer was: "If we find that we can send messages a great distance—for example, from Land's End to the coast of Spain—there will be theoretically no reason why the system should not apply to the whole breadth of the Atlantic ocean."

"And if the experiment with a few hun-

# Sore Hands



Red Rough Hands Itching Burning Palms and Painful Finger Ends.

## One Night Treatment

Soak the hands on retiring, in a strong, hot creamy lather of CUTICURA SOAP. Dry, and anoint freely with CUTICURA, the great skin cure and purest of emollients. Wear during the night, old, loose kid gloves, with the finger ends cut off and air holes cut in the palms. For red, rough, chapped hands, dry, fissured, itching, feverish palms, with shapeless nails and painful finger ends, this treatment is simply wonderful.

## Pure and Sweet

and free from every blemish is the skin, scalp, and hair cleansed, purified, and beautified by CUTICURA SOAP. It removes the cause of disfiguring eruptions, loss of hair, and baby blemishes, viz.: The clogged, irritated, inflamed, or sluggish condition of the PORES. CUTICURA SOAP combines delicate emollient properties derived from CUTICURA, the great skin cure, with the purest of cleansing ingredients and most refreshing of flower odors. No other medicated soap ever compounded is so good for the skin, for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, scalp, hair, and hands. No other foreign or domestic soap, however expensive, is so compared with it for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Thus it combines in ONE SOAP at ONE PRICE—namely, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS—the best skin and complexion soap and the best toilet and baby soap in the world.

**Speedy Cure Treatment for Itching, Burning, Scaly Humors.** Soak hands with CUTICURA SOAP to cleanse the skin; gentle anointings with CUTICURA ointment to heal the skin; and mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT to cool the blood. Sold throughout the world. Price, THE SET, \$1.25; or, SOAP, 25c.; OINTMENT, 50c.; RESOLVENT (half size), 50c. POTTER DRUG & CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston. Send for "How to Preserve the Hands, Hair, and Skin," mailed free.

The next day he is across the channel at Dover, then you find him on a French warship, and later on he is sending messages between her majesty's vessels. The station at which you can most often find him of late has been at Poole Harbor, on the Dorsetshire coast, where he has his pole and wires in front of the hotel on the beach. His movements are complicated by the fact that he is in great demand socially. The Prince of Wales invited him to come aboard the royal yacht Osborne at the time he was laid up with an injured knee, and established communication between the yacht and Cowes Bay and the queen at Osborne house, which was out of sight behind the hills. The success of that enterprise made firm friends of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught, who have kept up their interest in wireless telegraphy and in Marconi ever since.

The young Italian does not resemble Edison in the least, so far as habits are concerned. Although he rarely talks or thinks about anything except his work, he is regular with his meals and does not indorse Mr. Edison's theory that sleep is only a foolish little weakness that we should learn to overcome.

It may be a matter of some wonder where the young man gets the thousands of dollars that he requires for his experiments. His father is a rich land owner, whose estates are near Bologna, and it was at Bologna university, studying under the clever Prof. Righi, that the boy hit upon his idea for wireless telegraphing. After the idea assumed such definite shape that there was no room for doubt about it a company was organized to supply the funds for his experiments, and also to supply the system to any one who wanted it when the instruments should become marketable. They have reached the stage now where various governments are taking an interest in them.

The British admiralty has been so well satisfied with the experiments on the cruiser Juno that they have ordered a complete set of the apparatus to be supplied to the torpedo school-ship De-

### The Best Is Cheapest.

The best accommodations for all classes of travel, either by night or day, and at the lowest rates, is via The Northwestern Line.

For day time travel there is no train equal to the Badger State Express, the finest day train ever seen in the Twin Cities.

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The famous train for all night travel is the North-Western Limited, the most luxuriously lighted and fastest train in the world.

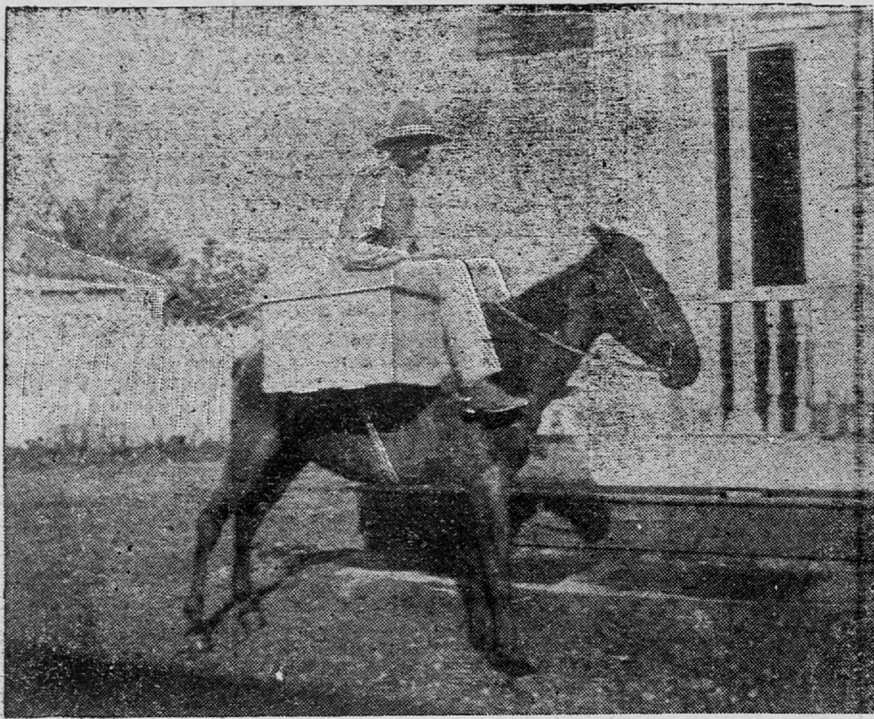
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### Commencing Sunday, Oct. 1.

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Agents, 305 Robert Street, St. Paul, and 413 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis.

### PORTO RICAN MAIL CARRIER.



Jury combined. He can issue orders for arrest, examine witnesses and state that offenders must be tried by the court. He can settle also minor civil matters. Above this is a third court, called the audiencia, the judges of which pass upon the criminal cases certified to them by the judges below. The highest court is the supreme court, which meets here at San Juan. This has six judges, and it finally settles all ordinary cases. Altogether, the courts cost Porto Rico \$100 a year in salaries alone. They should be reorganized on the plan of our American courts, as proposed by the insular commission. American judges, Spanish laws should obtain in Porto Rico.

### THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

But let me tell you something of our government here as it now exists. We are using these Porto Rican officials, but over them are the soldiers sent down by the war department. Gen. George B. Davis is military governor of Porto Rico. As such he has autocratic power. He can really do more than the president himself, being a great soldier, but it is a question of whether he succeeded well as a civil administrator.

The governorship of Porto Rico is by no means a bad place to have. San Juan is a beautiful city and one of the pleasantest homes in Uncle Sam's dominion. The military governor has the palace which was formerly occupied by the captains general during the Spanish regime. The palace is a building of three stories. It is, with its wings, about as large as the White house. It has a garden filled with beautiful flowers and its windows command magnificent views of the ocean and harbor. The house is very comfortably furnished and its large parlors are well adapted to entertaining.

The governor general has also a summer home, rent free, at Rio Piedras. This is one of the suburbs of San Juan. The house was the property of the Spanish governor general, and was occupied by the captain general when he wished to get out of the city. It has perhaps the finest garden in Porto Rico. This contains many old trees and a vast quantity of rose bushes and tropical flowers.

### THE CABINET.

The governor general has a cabinet made up of the Porto Ricans who are the heads of the departments. He has a sec-

retary of finance, of justice and of the interior, and under them a large number of native clerks and understrappers. I do not know just how many native Porto Ricans it takes to run the government, but altogether they have a salary list of \$310,822.

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### UNCLE SAM'S TELEGRAPHS.

The telegraph system is now managed entirely by the war department. It is under the signal service corps, with Col. W. A. Glassford in charge. Col. Glassford is one of the most efficient men of Uncle Sam's signal corps. He is a good executive and has become noted through a number of his experiments in the lines of thought transmission. Among other things he has sent messages further by telegraph than any other man in the world.

Some years ago he sent a message from a mountain in Colorado to one in Utah, a distance of 150 miles, by means of a heliograph. These messages were flashed from one point to the other by mirrors. The Morse telegraph alphabet was used. The dots and dashes were made by the flashes of the sun on the mirrors. The experiment attracted great attention at the time, and was a subject of general discussion in the scientific journals of this country and Europe.

Here in Porto Rico, in addition to the telegraph, Col. Glassford has established a heliograph station on the island of Vieques. His men are at the station on the island day and night, and they flash dispatches by the sun during the day and by a lantern at night to the signal corps men on the mainland, who redispach them by telegraph to different parts of the island.

Col. Glassford was with Gen. Miles during his campaign in Porto Rico. When the army was about five miles from Guayama it was necessary to connect it with that town. It was necessary to do it at once, and Col. Glassford succeeded in making the connection by utilizing the barbed wire fence which connected it with that town. This was, I believe, the first time that military telegraphing has been done in that way.

At present there are telegraphic stations all over Porto Rico. There are about one hundred men in the signal corps engaged as operators, signalists, repairmen and clerks. They belong mostly to the volunteer signal corps, and are very efficient.

Col. Glassford tells me that when we took possession of the island the most of the lines were down. The native operators could not read by sound as our operators do. They used the old Morse instruments which had printing registers, and they were surprised to see our men take down messages on typewriters directly from the wires. Many of these wires were run through the forests. They cut through the bamboo and banana plantations and were destroyed by vines with the ground. For this reason new lines had to be put up, so that a practically new telegraphic system has been made.

Today there are ten or twelve lines. The island, so situated that Gov. Gen. Davis can reach any part of it at a moment's notice.

—Frank G. Carpenter.

The secretary of the company that is supplying the money for Marconi's experiments in wireless telegraphy admitted, when asked concerning the new departure, that the inventor had been mightily interested in the subject, and had been conducting elaborate experiments with satisfactory results; but just how far the experiments have gone or how satisfactory the actual results have been he didn't wish to say. The reticence observed seemed somewhat like that of a popular novelist who has a particularly good story almost ready for publication, but is withholding it for fear it will crowd too closely on the heels of his last previous novel.

I learn, however, that Marconi has already succeeded in transmitting the first sound made by an electric spark a distance of thirty miles without wires, and could, so to speak, telephone the Morse

code today. It is easy to see that, as the principles and means of telegraphy and telephony are much alike, the advance made in telegraphing without wires shows the way for a similar advance in telephoning, and the young Italian who made the original discovery has not been slow to follow up its corollary.

The idea of telephoning without wires is not new. Some weeks ago an item was printed in London and telegraphed to America that an eminent Russian scientist, Dr. Peter Steins, had mastered the secret, and was then in London preparing to unfold the discovery to an admiring world.

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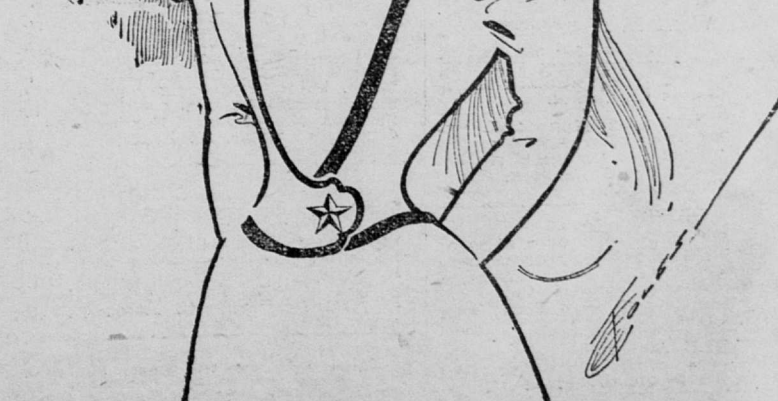
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"Have you heard she was bred in Old Kentucky?" "No. But I understand she has angel cake at every wedding."