

THE INDEPENDENT.

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Oceanic Steamship Company. TIME TABLE:

The Fine Passenger Steamers of This Line Will Arrive and Leave This Port as Hereunder.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO:

SONOMA MAY 7
ALAMEDA MAY 16
VENTURA MAY 28
ALAMEDA JUNE 6
SIERRA JUNE 18
ALAMEDA JUNE 27
SONOMA JULY 9

FOR SAN FRANCISCO:

VENTURA MAY 6
ALAMEDA MAY 21
SIERRA MAY 27
ALAMEDA JUNE 11
SONOMA JUNE 17
ALAMEDA JULY 2

In connection with the sailing of the above steamers, the Agents are prepared to issue, to intending passengers, coupon through tickets by any railroad from San Francisco, to all points in the United States, and from New York by any steamship line to all European ports.

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General Agents Oceanic S. S. Company.

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With breaker's song, give lullaby.

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Ladies and children especially enjoy the view

Per ALAMEDA, for Camarino Refrigerator—An extra fresh supply of Grapes, Apples, Lemons, Oranges, Limes, Nuts, Raisins Celery, Fresh Salmon, Cauliflower, Rhubarb, Asparagus, Cabbage, Eastern and California Oysters (in tin and shell), Crabs, Turkeys, Flounders, etc. All game in season. Also fresh Rock-raft, Swiss and California Cream Cheese. Place your orders early prompt delivery.

CALIFORNIA FRUIT MARKET
Corner King and Alakea St.

THE CAPITAL OF MARTINIQUE.

Description of the Picturesque French Island in the Caribbean Sea.

This description of the Island of Martinique is written by Robert T. Hill. It is from his book, "Cuba and Porto Rico and the Other Islands of the West Indies":

While the ship is still passing in the shadows of lofty Dominica, the passenger can see the moorings of Martinique rising from the vast expanse of the sea to the southward. Martinique is the most picturesque in outline and the most interesting of all these wonderful Caribbees—the central bead in the great necklace that encircles the throat of the Caribbean sea, and the most prosperous of these unhappy isles. Some one has given to the island the poetical name of "Le Pays des Revenants, where nature's unspeakable spell bewitches wandering souls like the spell of a Circe."

This island is second in size only to Guadalupe, having an area of 381 square miles. It is completely mountainous, culminating in the peak of Mount Pelee, 4450 feet high. This is usually wrapped in clouds, but now and then it can be seen, and its vast flanks sweep in steep but graceful slopes to the sea. Another peak near the south end is 3950 feet high, while the three-crested Carbet, near the northern coast, rises nearly to the altitude of Mount Pelee.

Every inch of this magic island, except where man has made temporary clearings, is draped in forests—forests which cannot be described, photographed or painted.

Martinique was originally settled by the French in 1665, and with the exception of twenty-two years, between 1794 and 1816, when it was held by the English, it has always been French. It is now a favored colony of France, constituting a department of the republic, with a Governor and an excellent administration, sending a senator and two deputies to the National Assembly at Paris.

The imports for 1896 aggregated about \$5,721,000, and the exports about \$5,358,000. In 1895-6 the United States sent \$1,502,332 worth of goods to the island. The foodstuffs of the United States are absolutely necessary to the life of the colony, but the United States takes almost nothing from Martinique in return. Sugar, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, cotton and rum are the principal products, and all the plantations producing these are in a flourishing state compared to those of the adjacent British islands. There are seventeen large central works and upward of 500 ordinary sugar works.

One-fourth the revenue of the island (\$1,342,000) is devoted to education. There is a law school at Fort de France, with seventy-six students. There are three secondary schools, with 487 pupils; a normal school; thirty-eight primary schools, with 10,000 pupils, and thirteen clerical and private schools. There are also two Government hospitals, military and civil, and the charge for a native in the last is 25 cents a day. At the two prisons the discipline is very mild. France also encourages agriculture by giving a bounty of 10 cents for every coffee and cocoa tree. This is to prevent the exclusive cultivation of the sugar cane. There is also a colonial bank, the object of which is to assist the planters; experts determine the value of crops and the bank advances one-third their value. If the obligation is not met by the crops, the bank carries over its

claim on the valuation of the next year's crop.

An excellent system of highways has reduced the difficulty of travelling across the rugged island. Transportation is also carried on by small coasting vessels, although in the eastern side of the island this is especially difficult as the cargoes have to be carried through the surf on the backs of men or pushed by swimming negroes—small boats through the water. France has always nurtured this colony with a tender, loving hand, giving it the best administration, helping it freely when in distress, and protecting its industries whenever possible.

The large towns are St. Pierre and Fort de France on the leeward side and Grand Anse on the windward shore. St. Pierre, on the west side (population 25,382), is the principal city. It is built on cliffs overlooking the bay of the same name, which is nothing more than a very slight curve in the shore line, vessels having to anchor in the open roadstead. It is a picturesque and beautiful place, with neat public buildings, and an interesting Creole population. The town has a handsome cathedral and other public buildings.

The First Local Mint.

One of the institutions here which has the special attention of tourists as well as the local people is the Mint, which is established on Nuuanu street, opposite Queen Emma Hall. It is interesting to enter the large main working room where general manager McDonough and his corps of assistants are at work. The cool and large lausi is a proper resting place and the vaults, where the "bars" to be minted and beer are kept present a very tasty spectacle. The Mint is open from 5:30 a. m. to 11:30 p. m. and during those hours the work never ceases. Visitors after looking over the place will find first class refreshments and the purest of liquors.

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Stores**

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The buildings are supplied with hot and cold water and electric lights. Artesian water. Perfect sanitation.

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— AND —

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— AND —

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