

For America's Future Safety

Are the Danish West Indies destined to become a great naval base for the better protection of the Panama Canal Zone?

IF DENMARK finally cedes her West Indian possessions to the United States, she has threatened to do on several occasions, about 138 square miles will be added to the territory over which the American flag flies, and our government will come into possession of one of the finest harbors in the West Indies—a valuable naval base and coaling station long coveted by political and military authorities in Washington. This is according to a writer in the New York Times Magazine.

St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and the other tiny islands and rocks which compose the Danish West Indies are not intrinsically valuable. Their land is poor, their crops are small, their population is becoming smaller year by year; for several years their revenue has been decreasing and they have been a financial burden to Denmark, but they lie in a strategic position with regard to the Atlantic trade routes leading to the Panama canal, and for that reason they have a potential value in the scheme of defense which must be worked out to protect that great waterway against an enemy.

The chief surprise in Washington's announcement recently of the negotiation of a treaty with Denmark for the transfer of the islands to the United States was the price—\$25,000,000—which the convention fixed. In 1865 Secretary Seward offered \$5,000,000 for the islands and increased the sum to \$7,500,000 two years later. In 1902 the Roosevelt administration agreed to pay \$5,000,000, but the upper house of the Danish rigsdag refused to ratify the convention, which the United States senate had ratified on February 17. Possibly Denmark will eventually be willing to accept less than \$25,000,000, for an influential element in that country is anxious to sell the islands. Moreover, the islanders themselves apparently wish to improve their economic condition, and it is highly probable that they would vote to place their future in the hands of the United States. They voted in favor of the transfer 50 years ago and they have less to lose and more to gain at this time.

The reasons that induced the United States to try to purchase the Danish West Indies toward the close of the Civil war apparently hold good today, with certain modifications. During the Civil war the federal government had no naval base in the West Indies, and when it was necessary to refit warships on duty in the Caribbean the vessels were compelled to take a long voyage to find a shipyard. Now, however, the United States has naval bases in Cuba and Porto Rico, but these are not considered sufficient to guard the trade routes and the Atlantic entrance to the Panama canal. San Juan, the chief port of Porto Rico, has a spacious anchorage, but unfortunately the water is comparatively shallow and the harbor is suitable only for the smaller class of war vessels.

On the other hand, the harbor of Charlotte Amalie, in St. Thomas, is deep enough to float the largest battleships without danger, and there is another good anchorage called Coral Bay in St. John. With proper fortifications, naval men believe that St. Thomas would provide a serviceable and virtually impregnable base—a sort of American Helgoland in the Caribbean. The port of Charlotte Amalie has long been one of the great coaling stations of the world. It has shipyards, drydocks and repair shops, and besides being a port of refuge it is the headquarters for several lines of passenger and freight steamships. Undoubtedly the port's proximity to the Panama canal gives it an importance which may account for the high price the United States is asked to pay for the islands.

It has been said at various times that Germany is opposed to the sale of the islands, hoping that some day a modification of the Monroe doctrine would enable her to acquire them for naval purposes. Whatever truth there may be in this statement it is certain that the United States will allow no foreign power to take control of the Danish West Indies, even though they are not brought under the American



flag. Thus the hopes of Germany or any other power that covets the islands are doomed to disappointment.

Last February a Copenhagen dispatch told about a pamphlet having been published by M. Hageman, a planner of the islands, who advocated their sale. He was pessimistic about their future. Their sanitary condition was bad, he said, infant mortality had reached a rate of 62½ per cent, while the population was decreasing at an alarming rate.

The decrease of population—most of the inhabitants are colored—is perhaps the best index of the gradual impoverishment of the Danish West Indies. In 1825 their population was 46,000; in 1841, 41,000; in 1890, 32,000, while the census of 1911 fixed the number at 27,086.

Absentee landlordism, combined with land monopoly, has induced poverty and discontent in the islands, and the people have cast envious eyes upon Porto Rico, from which they are separated by only a few miles of water. They have seen Porto Rico and her people flourishing under American rule, while the sugar plantations of their own islands have steadily yielded less, and individually the people have become poorer. The result is that many negroes have emigrated from the Danish West Indies to Porto Rico and the United States, and having tasted the benefits of American government, they are undoubtedly willing that their brothers still under Danish rule should change their allegiance.

It would hardly be fair to accuse the Danes of misrule in the West Indies. Their failure, which is acknowledged by their willingness to sell their tropical possessions, has been due to various causes, economic and social. It was not many years ago that the British government had to make grants to several of its colonies in the West Indies in order to avert financial disaster, and the Danish islands have had to contend with the same economic conditions, while possessing fewer natural resources than the British islands.

If the United States takes control of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John it is probable that they will again become prosperous. The black man will take up the unused land he cannot get now, new capital will go in, and the sugar growers will have better facilities for marketing their crop—the staple product of the islands. And the islanders themselves will feel quite at home with officials who speak English, for they have always refused to use Danish, the language of their rulers.

The Danish islanders have a measure of self-government, and it is reasonable to assume that they would demand similar rights from the United States.

Like all islands of the West Indies the Danish possessions have had a checkered history. They changed hands several times in the days when the nations of Europe fought for sea power and a share of the wealth of this hemisphere. Columbus discovered the islands on his second voyage. They were then inhabited by Caribs and Arawaks. In 1657 St. Thomas was

PERIL OF FLY NOT FULLY REALIZED

By DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON
Commissioner of Health of Pennsylvania

Reams have been printed about the danger from the house fly. Despite all that has been said it is a self-evident fact that people do not understand how real is the danger from these pests. If they did a single season would be sufficient to wipe out the dangerous nuisances. Let people once understand the part that the fly plays in the transmission of disease and they will look upon anyone who maintains a condition which breeds them as a public enemy to be summarily dealt with.

There is much wasted advice about swatting the fly and trapping the fly. What we must learn to do is to exterminate it by doing away with all breeding places.

While it has not been definitely proven what the fly has to do with infantile paralysis, we have good reason to believe that it takes a part in the spread of the disease. That they can and do carry the germs of typhoid fever and other diseases we know. It is a wise mother who screens the baby's crib.

Thousands of children under one year of age die annually who would be saved if the fly were eliminated.

America Was Discovered by St. Brendan, Irish Legend

The first discoverer of America, according to a tradition firmly held by some superstitious Irishmen, was St. Brendan. Brendan lived in the sixth century, and, according to legend, fitted out a vessel and sailed westward in the hope of discovering an island supposed to contain the paradise once tenanted by Adam and Eve. He was accompanied by 14 monks, and the ship was "victualled for seven years."

After sailing forty days and forty nights they came to an island, where they found "a hall with tables spread with good meat and drink." They then sailed on for a long time, and came to another island, "wherein were the whitest and greatest sheep they ever saw." After stopping for a time they proceeded with the voyage, and came to a third island, called "the paradise of birds." After wandering about for seven years, from island to island, St. Brendan and his monks returned to Ireland, where they astonished the natives by tales of the wonders they had seen.

In spite of the wild and improbable features of this legend, it was for centuries accepted as truth, and the Spanish government sent out several expeditions in search of the islands of St. Brendan. The St. Brendan legend formed one of the causes which led to the discoveries made by Columbus.

Mobility of the Individual

By DR. JOHN H. FINLEY
Commissioner of Education, State of New York

The whole problem of society, generally, is to determine to what degree the mobility of the individual shall be restrained, predestinated and merged in the aim of all the collectivity.

I translate this experience into the terms of our everyday life, and I make it graphic to myself by thinking that every man has an imaginary uniform, an imaginary uniform of his own measurements always in readiness in home or shop or office or in some public locker, that he may don at call of his community, state or nation, or perhaps of a world need: when under compulsion he goes to vote, to pay his taxes, to fight against dishonesty, inefficiency or waste, to inform himself upon public questions or upon public duties; when, in short, he performs any one of the hundred offices that are required of him as an efficient unit in an organized society. I am today a maker of meerschaum pipes, a peasant gathering my harvest, a college professor, a surgeon. Tomorrow I slip on this invisible garment, and I am a selfless, nameless, numbered patriot. And the next day I am working at my delicate pipes again; I am back in my field, or at my desk, or in my private laboratory; that is, if I am not killed or wounded in battle or suffocated in the trenches.

FAVORITE OF THE FILMS



Marguerite Clark.

Former comic opera star who stilled her voice to become a player in the silent drama.

No Mail for Eight Months.

For eight months in the year no mail reaches the coal miners in Spitzbergen, but they are now able to get the world news twice a day by wireless telegraph.

Poultry Scratchings

By C. S. Anderson of the Colorado Agricultural College.

If you take pride in marketing good eggs at a good price, consider the following:

Do not keep mongrel stock. They are not high producers, and their eggs are not uniform as to size and color.

Keep laying hens separated from sitting hens.

Gather eggs twice daily in warm weather.

The sale of infertile incubator eggs never will help you to establish a higher market price for your product.

Separate the male birds from the flock except during the breeding season. Fertile eggs are poor keepers.

Market eggs in a standard egg case. Never haul to town over rough roads or in an open basket or pan exposed to the hot sun.

You will have a larger number of "firsts" if you market at least twice a week.

In keeping eggs provide a dry, cool, well ventilated place. Fertile eggs must be kept below 65 degrees to check germination.

Eggs are affected easily by bad odors. Do not keep in a musty grain bin, or in the vegetable cellar, or where they can absorb the odors of kerosene and gasoline.

In France Woman Usually Is "Man" of the Family

The French woman is the "man" of the family as a rule. This was illustrated in our hotel in Paris, where madame attended to the office and ran everything, while she kept her husband on the go from early till late doing the upstairs work. Practically all the "chambermaids" in Paris are men.

The first thing we noticed on reaching Paris was a woman cab driver. Most of the street hucksters and vendors are women—but they are husky specimens, who are well able to look out for themselves. Some of the cries of the hucksters are very musical. We are specially taken with the call of the fishwomen, who in announcing for instance "bon maquerons"—"good mackerel"—would sing a regular little song.

As you go along through Paris you are struck with the large number of women who run stores and all kinds of enterprises. They invariably keep strict accounts, and after closing hours they will be seen poring over their ledgers. It seems rather strange that the French women should never have made any special demand for the suffrage or other "rights of women"—perhaps because they realize that they already rule the roost.—Paris Letter in Pathfinder.

Clever Plants

The cleverness of some plants is indisputable. A sundew, or fly-eater, deceived by a piece of chalk, seized it in its tendrils, but upon discovering the fraud immediately withdrew them. A fly, held just out of its reach, did not tempt it to move, but as soon as it was brought a little nearer the plant prepared to take possession of it. Darwin showed that a begonia had a habit of searching for a hole to insert its tendrils into, and even of withdrawing the tendrils to insert it in another hole, if the first proved unsuitable.

Nor is this power of selecting confined to any particular class. Climbers like the lianas will refuse to coil round a branch not strong enough to bear their weight.

David Cline of Philadelphia has completed without an accident 45 years as a railroad engineer.

Fashion's Decrees.

Dark blue promises to be as smart as ever.

Heavy embroidery distinguishes some handsome gowns.

Shirred skirts are in evidence—but are of many, many kinds.

New street and afternoon gowns are frequently finished with soft, wide sashes.

One unusual frock had an apron of satin in front and back—the gown itself being of taffeta.

Orange and black stitching, in heavy stitch, marks the backs of some of the white glaze kid gloves.

Some of the wrist-length glaze gloves of white have little cuff sections of black lace, laid flat against the white kid.

Gray is a favorite color in the gloves of the year. There are heavy gray suede gloves, there are dressed kid gloves in gray and there are gray washable fabric gloves, all smart in appearance.

Some girls give you a kiss as if they were having a good time.

Some Laugh at These

Explained.

"How do you conquer your elephants when they get on a rampage?" queried the new reporter.

"Oh," replied the manager of the menagerie, "we have an ex-baggage master to look after them."

"An ex-baggage master?" exclaimed the astonished pencil pusher.

"Yes," explained the other with a look that indicated his sorrow for the other's stupidity. "It requires a man who has had experience as a trunk smasher. See?"

Hot and Cold.

Omar—I made a cool hundred at the race track last week.

Heiny—That's good. What did you do with it?

Omar—Oh, it soon burned a hole in my pocket.

Equal Rights.

Newsed (a week after marriage)—By the way, dear, don't sit up for me tonight, as I may be detained downtown until after midnight.

Mrs. Newsed—Oh, very well. And in case you should get home before I do, kindly leave the gas burning in the hall, will you?

Somewhat Different.

"Has the parson got through with what he had to say?" queried the man who had been enjoying a nap.

"Yes, long ago," replied the man in the adjoining pew, as he tried to strangle a yawn. "but there is no telling when he will conclude."

Business Point of View.

"If I could write a play as great as 'Hamlet,' I would be content to rest on my laurels," said the ambitious author.

"And the chances are," replied the successful theatrical manager, "if you

wrote a play as great as 'Hamlet' in these days and times, you would be compelled to rest on your laurels for lack of any other support."

His Helpmate.

"Never mind," said the poet as he tossed the rejected poem on the floor. "I'll set the world ablaze yet!"

"And just to help you get the conflagration started," said his better half, as she picked up the widow MS.

"I'll light the fire in the cook stove with this."

Sympathetic.

"I have lost the manuscript for a book of poems that it took me nearly five years to write," sighed the long-haired party.

"Too bad!" rejoined his friend.

"But, of course, your loss is the public's gain."

Spitful.

"I have fully made up my mind never to marry," said the first dear girl.

"What's the matter?" queried dear girl the second.

"Has your father lost all his money?"

Thought It Settled.

They had been trotting in double harness for six long months.

"Why is it," queried the young wife, "that you never make me any presents like you used to before we were married?"

"Well, it's like this," explains the victim of leap year, "after acquiring a title to a piece of property, a man naturally supposes there are no more installments to pay. Get me?"

Lace was known in Venice at an early period, and was not unknown to the Greeks and the Romans.

Things You May Not Know.

Russia has a land area of 197,155,587 versts, equal to 8,147,118 English square miles, or one-seventh of the land surface of the globe.

The use of sulphur of oxide on aluminum wire in order to produce insulation for electrical purposes is being adopted and the process is now being applied to copper wire.

The yate, which is one of the hardest woods of Australia, seems to be the strongest timber known, with an average tensile strength of 24,000 pounds to the square inch, which approaches iron.

The game of baseball was seventy years old on September 23, according to an authority who states that the first game ever played took place in 1845 on a vacant lot in what is now lower New York city.

The oldest man in Louisiana is dead in the person of John Shay, one hundred and thirteen, who was born in County Kerry, Ireland, served in the Civil war as a Union quartermaster and then settled down in the Sunny South.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS

The first sewing machine of which there is authentic record was patented in England in 1755, 81 years before the first American machine.

The net investment of the United States reclamation service at the beginning of the present fiscal year was approximately \$100,000,000.

W. C. Condit has completed 50 years as pastor of Ashland (Ky.) Presbyterian church. He succeeded his father and never has held any other pastorate.

It is said that the amethyst used to be worn to promote temperance and sobriety, the chrysolite to ward off fevers, the onyx worn round the neck to prevent epilepsy, the opal to cure weak eyes and the topaz to cure inflammation and keep the wearer from sleep-walking.

Gold and copper bells served as money among the peoples of Mexico and Central America before the time of the American Indian. The gold bells of Costa Rica are exquisite examples of metal work; many of them are modeled in the form of birds, monkeys and grotesque heads.

Cost of government meat inspection is said to amount to four cents per capita annually.

The Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company (Ltd.), of Johannesburg, is by far the largest power and lighting company in South Africa, and it supplies from its four large stations nearly all the gold mines and reef towns with both power and light transmission being by three-phase long-distance, 40,000 volts overhead. Distribution is by 20,000 volts under ground and 10,000 overhead.

In some of the small streams in the interior of Honduras there is a quantity of small fish whose eyes protrude above the surface of the water, serving probably as insect-hunting periscopes.

Among the Chinese a particular species of dog is said to be reared for the table. It is a small dog of a greyhound shape, with a muzzle much more elongated than in terriers. The flesh of black dogs is preferred to that of animals of any other color on account of the greater amount of nutriment the black dogs are supposed to possess.

BITS OF INFORMATION

Electrical railways in the United States represent a value of about \$750,000,000.

So thoroughly have the men been instructed to avoid it that trenchfoot is now regarded as a crime among Canadian troops in France.

Turkey's celebration of victories is said to be done by order of the police, a heavy fine being the penalty for not putting up the flag when one is told to do so.

Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon reports that according to press advices from La Paz, crop conditions in Bolivia are worse even than had been anticipated. Early frosts having injured, if not completely ruined, the potato and barley crops.

Tables of tidal currents for the Pacific coast in the vicinity of San Francisco and Puget sound have been published in order to make immediately available information relative to currents derived from observations by the United States coast and geodetic survey. Further information is to be available.

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IRON POSTS SUPPORT WIRE

German Idea That Makes Their Trenches Only a Little Way From Being Impregnable.

In the Atlantic Monthly Mr. Edward Morley describes a very clever improvement the Germans have made in their barbed-wire defenses. The wires are usually fastened to wooden posts, of course, but the Germans have found a better support for them. He writes:

"After we had taken the German trench, our men set to work to remodel it, shifting the parapet to the other side, building little outpost trenches and setting barbed wire. The latter job was done in a wonderfully short time, thanks to German thoroughness. For the wooden stakes to which the wire is tied they had substituted soft iron rods, three-quarters of an inch thick, twisted five times in the shape of a great corkscrew. This screw twisted into the ground exactly like a corkscrew into a cork. The straight part of the rod, being twisted upon itself down and up again every ten inches, formed six or seven small loops in a height of about five feet. Into these eyes the barbed wire was laid and solidly secured with short lengths of tying wire.

"First cutting the tying wire, we lifted the barbed wire out of the eyes, shoved a small stick through one, and turning the rod with the leverage of the stick, unscrewed it out of the ground, and then, reversing the process, screwed it in again. The advantage of this rod is obvious. When a shell falls in the midst of this wire protection, the rods are bent and twisted, but unless broken off short they always support the wire, and even after a severe bombardment present a serious obstacle to the assaulters. In such case wooden posts are blown to smithereens by the shells, and when broken off they let the wire fall flat to the ground."

Hopeless.

"That man were just talking to seem to be perfectly normal," remarked the visitor who was being shown over the insane asylum.

"And yet he's one of the very worst cases we have," replied the attendant. "That man thinks he can get as many miles out of a gallon of gasoline as the agent who sold him his car said he could."

Too True.

"John, dear, I wish you'd leave me some money to-day. I've got a lot of shopping to do."

"What do you need money for? You've got charge accounts at three different stores."

"For goodness sake! Don't you know yet that you can never find what you want at the store where you have a charge account?"

Sure-Thing Seekers.

"Some people consult fortune tellers about investments."

"Yes," replied Mr. Dustin Stax. "But I can't see any sense to the system. A fortune teller who could give reliable advice would quit work and get rich playing her own information."

Courteous Agreement.

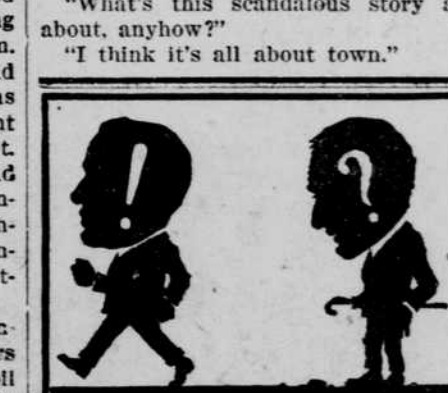
"He—You may brag of your father's farming, but what did he know about live stock? Now, there wasn't anything that my father didn't know, especially about raising mules."

She—"Nobody would doubt that who ever met you."

Its Usual Course.

"What's this scandalous story all about, anyhow?"

"I think it's all about town."



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