

Current Camaguey Which American Tourist Travel Will Make New



GOAT WAGONS USED BY CAMAGUAY PEDDLERS.

(Copyright 1905, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
CAMAGUEY, Cuba, Aug. 31.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Let me give you some pictures of Camaguey, the United States will hear much of it, within the next few years. It is likely to be a great tourist resort, and a baker's dozen of American millionaires have stopped here this season. Camaguey is a half-way station on Sir William Van Horn's new trunk line which connects eastern Cuba with Havana. The new port which has just been opened on Nipe bay will be the Cuban port nearest New York, and American travelers coming that way will be brought there and shipped across to Havana by steamer direct. The same will be done for those who land at Havana and wish to return across the island via Nipe bay to New York. The result will be that nearly every traveler will stop here. The Cuba railroad has already anticipated this in building a magnificent hotel, about which I may write further on.

In Camaguey.
 Camaguey is one of the oldest cities of Cuba and the oldest and most picturesque in all Spanish America. It was an Indian village when Columbus landed, and a Spanish settlement a hundred years before the Mayflower was crossing the ocean. For generations it has been one of the richest cities of Cuba, and its people are still famous for their wealth and good breeding. The city now has about 35,000. It is spread over a great plain which is dotted with palm trees and upon which graze thousands of cattle. This is the great beef country of the island. It had 2,000,000 cattle before the war, and it has about 1,000,000 today. In the past it supplied only Havana, but many of the West Indies with meat, and its bulls were noted in the rings of Barcelona and Madrid.

The houses of Camaguey are almost all of one story. They are made of brick covered with stucco, which is painted all colors of the rainbow. One house may be bright blue, the next red and a third yellow or pink. The buildings are flush with the sidewalks and the sidewalks are built with regard to the houses rather than the whole street. Along one house the pavement will be eighteen inches high, while in front of the next it will drop to a foot and the next, perhaps, to six inches. The pavements are only eighteen inches wide, except where the windows are built out over them, where they are narrowed to one foot. In walking down steps, so that it is better to take the cobblestone roadway. This, however, is narrow, and as all Camaguey drives at great speed such travel is dangerous.

The houses are flat roofed, thick walled, with great doors and lattice work windows. Many of the windows have bars in front of them so beautifully twisted that they remind one of the lace work patterns in the old buildings of India. Other windows are of wood carved and turned as in the Moorish buildings of Spain. At times I imagine myself in Granada or Madrid, again I am in Tunis and again in Egypt. Many of the windows are of a bow shape, all have shutters, but each shutter has a deep hole a foot or more square out of which the girls can look without opening the whole shutter.

Walking along the Camaguey streets one has the home life of the people through the windows and doors. Everything is open and the people go on with their work or play without minding. Here, a family is chatting or reading. There, some girls are sewing, while farther on the children are playing, sprawling about on the floor. Every one knows all about the houses of his neighbors. If Senora Smith has a new suit of furniture Senora Jones next door is bound to see it, and if Senora Jones gives a party all her friends know it and they have only to keep their eyes open while walking the streets to count the guests and know what they wear.

Girls of Camaguey. They are the prettiest I have seen in Cuba, although it may be that they look better from behind the bars. They have olive complexions, dark soulful eyes, luxuriant black hair which they coil on the tops of their shapely heads, and lips as red as ripe cherries and I doubt not more delicious. The thing I do not like about them is their use of face powders. They dust their complexions with talcum or rice flour until

they are ghastly and the darker the skin the more it is sprinkled. There seems to be no attempt to put on the powder evenly and every one uses it, from wrinkled old women to rosy-cheeked girls of 19 or 20. I am told that the custom comes out freely in the tropical climate.

Love Through the Bars.
 In most of our Spanish-American cities there are two and three-story houses, and the well people live upstairs. They have balconies extending out over the streets, and when the young people make love the girls stand in the balconies and look down upon their lovers in the streets below. There is no such courting as in the United States, the young man being never left alone with his sweetheart until they are married. It is different in Camaguey, although the sexes are supposed to keep quite as far apart before the wedding. What separates them is the iron or lattice work of the balconies, but also for the sake of work of the windows. The lover stands on the outside in the street and makes goo-goo eyes at his mistress through the bars.

Odd Street Scenes.
 Indeed, the street scenes of this city are stranger than those of any town in Europe north of the Alps. Puerto Principe is the land of the cow and the cowboy. Men, who look as though they might have come from the Argentine pampas, ride through the streets on rugged ponies. Each has a m-

chete or sword at his belt and all wear huge spurs. Great carts drawn by oxen with down-hanging heads, yoked to tongues as big as telegraph poles, drag their creaking way along, loaded by the drivers beside them. Goat wagons owned by peddlers are common, and hay wagons, bread wagons, milk wagons, all hauled by goats, are everywhere seen. Sometimes one long-bearded white or black animal does the pulling, and sometimes two, but in every case the driver walks along beside and directs the way. There are also peddlers who carry their wares in panniers on horses. There are milkmen with their cans slung to each side of the saddle, and fruit peddlers who carry oranges, bananas and pineapples about upon their ponies.

Camaguey Stores.
 There is a great deal of business done in these Cuban cities. The stores are scattered. You find them mixed up with the residences. They are oriental in style, many being more like bazaars than stores. They usually face the street, being separated from it by doors, which are taken away in the daytime so that everything is open. The dry goods stores, for instance, have walls shelved from top to bottom. The ceilings are high and fancy patterns of cloth are hung down from the roof to catch the eyes of the passer by. The shelves are filled with bright goods, as are also the counters. The clerks are polite and studious to please. As a rule the prices are as high if not higher than in the United States.

Cuban Cattle Ranches.
 This is one of the best stock growing provinces of Cuba. There are large ranches scattered throughout Puerto Principe and many big ones not far from Camaguey. The grass grows luxuriantly in this part of the island, and fortunes have been made in the past selling cattle. During the revolution and the wars which followed all the Cuban cattle were killed, and within the past few years Americans have been buying cattle in Texas, Florida and other of our southern states and shipping them to Cuba. They have also been bringing in cattle from Venezuela, Mexico and elsewhere. They are importing stock not only for beef, but also for breeding, and the result is that an American cattle industry pro-

duces to grow up here in the heart of Cuba. Many of the cattle bought are yearlings, which will sell for double what they cost if kept for twelve months. Others are brought in to fatten and sell at once, and others still to be used as draft animals. A large part of the farming of Cuba is done with the oxen. They are better than mules, as the latter are awkward in the mud and will not work well with wet feet. The oxen will pull anywhere, and a good steer will bring more money as an ox than for beef. An ox is valued according to his work. If he will plow and work in harness and has what may be termed general purpose qualities he is worth about \$80. There are ox teams which sell here readily for \$300 apiece.

Money in Stock.
 I talked last night with Captain Cushman A. Rice, formerly connected with the United States Infantry, but who is now engaged in stock farming near Camaguey. He has several large ranches and is importing cattle from the United States and breeding and fattening them for the Cuban markets. He tells me that cattle can be raised more profitably here than in North America. They require but little care and no grain, feeding out of doors the year round. One of Captain Rice's ranches two men only are required to look after 1,000 head of stock, and I have heard others estimate that one man could care for that number. I asked something as to the prices of



LADIES OF CAMAGUAY.

lands. Captain Rice replied: "Good cattle ranches within thirty miles of Camaguey do not cost more than \$12 per acre. Fairly good grazing lands within that radius can be had for \$3 per acre, and poorer land, suited for cattle as low as \$1 per acre. The best cattle land is made by clearing the virgin land of the heavy timber and seeding it to guinea grass. It is estimated that an acre and a quarter of guinea grass will keep one animal the year round.

"In one such pasture of 60 acres on my ranch Las Sophia we fed 1,300 cattle for three months during the worst of the dry season. This was more than the pasture could support right along, and we would not think of keeping that many head to the acre the year round.

American Cattle in Cuba.
 "How about importing cattle from the United States into Cuba? Does it pay?" "Of course it pays or we would not be in the business. An average Texas cow three years old or older sells in its local market at from \$20 to \$22. That cow if placed on guinea grass and used for breeding purposes will in one year give a yearling calf which can be sold for \$15 or \$20. A Texas steer, 3 three years old or over, when first landed, cost from \$30 to \$35, and when fattened on guinea grass for ten months it will yield from \$45 to \$48. This is in the local markets for beef. Beef cattle on the hoof bring 5 or 6 cents a pound, and I

have sold good grade cows, Short-horns and Herefords, not thoroughbreds, for as high as \$40 apiece. Cuba does not begin to supply its own demand for cattle, and it probably will not do so for the next six or seven years.

Cattle Diseases in Cuba.
 "How about cattle diseases?" "Cuba has no special cattle diseases," replied Captain Rice, "although we have such drawbacks as ticks and screw worms. Ticks are by far the worst; but they can be gotten off by washing the animals with a mixture of kerosene, water and salt, or with other preparations used for the purpose. The screw worms are caused by flies blowing scratches or cuts on the animals, and they are cured by the use of crude chloroform with an application of pine tar. Neither ticks nor screw worms bother fat cattle or those in good condition. They are chiefly confined to the poor among the newly imported cattle. Such cattle must be treated for them or they will get the Texas fever and die."

Hog Raising Without Grain.
 Colonel Donovan, a well-known stock man of St. Joseph, Mo., in speaking to me of the cattle possibilities in Cuba, said: "It seems to me that the market for Cuban stock will be limited to the population of Cuba brought from the states and other countries are now bringing high prices, but they were very cheap before the war, and at one time beaver sold for \$7 a head. This Cuban meat is grass fed, and it will not stand curing and shipping like grain fed meat. The grasses here grow twelve feet high, and they produce fine beef, but it does not seem to me that the meat is sound enough for general shipping."

Some Tersely Told Tales Both Grim and Gay
AFRIEND of former United States Marshal Isaac O. Barnes having died, he attended the funeral. He arrived promptly, and seated himself in the crowded room to await the services. In the past there was a very long delay and the solemn silence of the darkened room was anything but congenial to a man of Mr. Barnes' disposition. The heat also was very oppressive. Fanning himself vigorously with his hat, and sweating profusely, Barnes remained silent for what to him was a very long time. But at last, being unable to contain himself longer, he leaned over toward a solemn looking man on his right and remarked, in a hoarse whisper addressed all around the room, "I presume you were well acquainted with 'Billy'?" (referring to the deceased). "Yes, indeed," said the stranger, "he was a very fine man."

Without Prejudice.
 In a northern California town a supposed murder had been committed. The half-breed wife of an Indian had died, as the husband who had been found guilty of the crime, from natural causes, and was buried without the usual formalities being first complied with. After a lapse of two weeks the body was discovered by the authorities at the instance of a particular enemy of the accused, and how to make more from the soil by the marks of violence, as the former stated, were found upon the deceased.

Obeying Orders.
 Admiral Schlie, told in Philadelphia a story about a judge. "This judge," he said, "was sitting on the case of a man charged with putting off fireworks illegally. He was a dandy, dressed as a judge. He laid a good deal of stress on ceremony, pomp and display, and in his court there was always an abundance of reverence, as in a church.

Reed's Advice to a "Drunk."
 One day as he was leaving his office in Portland, Me., the late Thomas H. Reed was accosted by a stranger who had been drinking so freely that he was "seeing things double." After apologizing profusely the stranger managed to get the congressman where he could get a car for the depot. Mr. Reed replied: "Go to the next corner; there you will see two cars; take the first one; the other one won't be there."

Philly Record.
 The prosecuting attorney was examining the talemans to ascertain if any of them were prejudiced against Indians. Talemans Taylor was upon the stand undergoing a rather stiff cross-examination. "Did an Indian do you or your family any harm at any time?" asked the prosecutor. "No," replied Taylor. "Did you or any of your family ever have dealings or trouble with an Indian?" "No," replied Taylor, "except that my wife's mother was killed by an Indian."

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What Uncle Sam is Now Doing for Agriculture

THE Department of Agriculture has had in mind the requirements of our people in the south, where there had not been much done along the line of recuperative agriculture. We have used our explorers in southern climes abroad to find new things for our southern latitudes, and have been successful to a considerable extent. We have also taken under consideration the requirements of our people who live in the semi-arid parts of the United States, that part which does not have rainfall enough to grow such crops as are commonly found east of the 100th meridian of west longitude; the result of which work for these people in a dry country has been the introduction of the crops for their benefit, extending along the line of recuperative agriculture. We have used our explorers in southern climes abroad to find new things for our southern latitudes, and have been successful to a considerable extent. We have also taken under consideration the requirements of our people who live in the semi-arid parts of the United States, that part which does not have rainfall enough to grow such crops as are commonly found east of the 100th meridian of west longitude; the result of which work for these people in a dry country has been the introduction of the crops for their benefit, extending along the line of recuperative agriculture.

The Straggling Life.
 Many men who are in the public eye today are noted for their ability to make every waking minute count. When President Roosevelt goes for a snuff box, he slips out of the pocket of his riding coat a paper and pencil. If during his ride he should bring a reply to some difficult question brought to his attention he jots it down immediately and does not trust to his memory. President Loubet of France settles some of the monotonous questions of states at his breakfast table, when he is practically alone and before his reasoning powers are distracted by small and petty questions. Lord Rothschild commences his day's work in bed. He receives his confidential men not only in bed, but while he is dressing and breakfasting. Dr. Ingram, bishop of London, is obliged to travel a great deal and he has a special kind of electric reading lamp fitted into the inside of his carriage, so that while he is being whirled through the streets of London in the evening he can keep up his literary work.

Leaders of Norway's Revolution.
 A correspondent at Christiania describes the four leaders of the Norwegian revolution—Michelsen, Berner, Lovland and Nansen. Michelsen, minister of state, is the real head of the movement. He is a merchant, much interested in his business, overworked and in such poor health that he thinks of leaving Christiania because of its enervating climate. Berner, president of the Storting, is a man in the late sixties, dressed in a simple, deliberate in speech and action and stubbornly tenacious of his purposes. Lovland, minister of the exterior, is a farmer's son. He was a school teacher and an editor before he entered politics. He is a consummate diplomat, who knows particularly how to hide his time. As for Nansen, he helped chiefly by lending his popular name to the movement. He is, as always, was, a dreamer, and has no political aspirations.

Mr. Harriman's Method.
MR. E. H. HARRIMAN handles more detail than any other man in the United States, says C. M. Keys in the World's Work for September. He expects from his officers full details of all departments at all times. If they do not come he asks for them by telegram and expenses them that he needs to ask other men. He is chairman, president, general manager, superintendent of construction, chief engineer and traffic director of every road in his system. The regular officer in those positions are his underlings.

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character, but has not furnished the soil with any of the plant food that comes from the atmosphere. Summer fallowing does not add to the soil what it requires, and that is a humus or decaying vegetation. While the process of plowing will kill weeds and give the soil time to elaborate mineral plant food, it does not really improve the soil. This is a practice that was common in Europe a century or more ago, but has been discontinued for over half a century. In most of these countries they have discovered crops that will grow in a system of rotation and supply a plant food to the soil—organic matter, humus, etc.

Studying to Help Farmers.
 In studying the requirements of our people living in our northern states, the question has come up as to what system of agriculture might be adopted there to bring their soils back to their primitive wheat-growing strength, and at that place in our study we are not prepared to advocate any particular system of cropping, because we do not know what plants might be successfully grown in North Dakota, for example, in a system of rotation. We have been pushing the alfalfa, and it succeeds in all parts of the United States where the soil is at all adapted to it, and our people are learning to grow it; but it is not well adapted to a short rotative system where the alfalfa is to be plowed up at the end of three years, for example.

Latest Photograph of James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture.
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