

## THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Area, 19,325 square miles. About the size of New Hampshire and Vermont. Population, 674,000; 34 per square mile. Railway mileage, 150.

This part of the island, after having been ceded by Spain to France in 1785, returned to Spanish control from the downfall of Napoleon to 1822, when it united with Haiti. Owing to Haitian aggressions, however, it asserted independence in 1843 to 1861, when for a second time it claimed Spanish protection. Since 1865 it has been an independent republic. In 1907 a convention was signed between the United States and the Dominican Republic for the purpose of securing peace and development to the latter by intrusting the administration of customs to United States officials, thus cutting off pecuniary inducements to revolution, and the contracting of unnecessary debts with foreign nations. The revenue is devoted to public works, such as improvement of ports, construction of railroads, building of bridges, irrigation plants, sanitation of cities, etc. Travel and transportation are at present by mule over difficult roads; except for some private tracks, there are but two railways, though others are building or projected, and many sugar estates have private lines.

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The laws are very liberal to foreigners; American capital to a considerable amount is already invested and great interest is aroused in that direction. In the southwest and the interior the rainy season is from April to November, while in the extreme east it begins and ends a month later. It is hot and humid on the low lands, but among the mountains cold enough for frost. The republic is divided into twelve governmental departments, the interior ones being almost uninhabited.

**SANTO DOMINGO**, capital. Population, 25,000. 1535 miles from New York. Founded, 1496, as *Isabela*, by the brother of *Columbus*. The inner walled city covers about 200 acres, but the newer town is spreading beyond. Its cathedral was founded in 1514; within it is a fine modern monument commemorating the sepulchre of *Columbus*. Until the cession of this part of the island to the French in 1785 the bones of the discoverer rested here, but were then removed by the Spaniards to *Havana*. Since that time other remains have been discovered in this cathedral, which it is claimed with considerable show of justice are those of the great Admiral. There is a handsome bronze statue of *Columbus* in this city, a new congressional palace, and other improvements. The port has no superior for safe and commodious anchorage, although a bar obstructs the entrance.

The republic has six open ports besides the capital. *Azua*, the most important on the south, 83 miles west of *San Domingo*; rains scarce but wells and streams abundant. *Barahona*, 150 miles west of the capital, coffee the best on the island; fine cabinet and dye-woods. *Samana City* on the bay of the same name, 75 miles north of the capital, and on the northwest section of this bay.

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**SANCHEZ.** Population, 3000. 1355 miles from New York. Terminus of the railroad to *La Vega* (82½ miles), with branch to *San Francisco Macoris* (9 miles).

**PUERTO PLATA.** Population, 7,500. 1255 miles from New York. Good anchorage and extensive trade in tobacco. Railroad to *Santiago de los Caballeros*, the most important interior town (42 miles), distant from the capital 160 miles, which is to the southeast.

**SANTIAGO.** is in the center of the finest agricultural region of the republic. Population 14,000; altitude 2000 feet. It is one of the oldest cities of the new world; it has been attacked by French buccaneers, burned by fires, shaken by earthquakes, and destroyed by revolutions. Its plaza, in which a market is held, is surrounded by modern buildings. Large tobacco trade, mostly in hands of Germans.

**SAN PEDRO MACORIS.** Population, 6000.