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DOLLAR DAY

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AGENTS

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Haiti, the Land of the Lure

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE ISLAND THAT UNCLE SAM HAS RECENTLY TAKEN UNDER HIS PROTECTING WING

THE NAME Haiti means "a land of mountains." An experienced traveler in the West Indies declares that "these islands are politically turbulent in exact proportion to the ruggedness of their physical contour." Apparently, then, Haiti has a natural born right to the most revolutionary of them all. Mighty mountains, spouting flashing rivers from their heights, rise from its shores. But the Haitian republic has a better record than the neighbor with which it shares the island. Since the final separation of Haiti and San Domingo, 50 years ago, Haiti has gone through only 10 revolutions to San Domingo's 69.

It is surprising, in view of the shaky political conditions in the Black Republic, that foreign capital has shunned Haiti, except as exploiters have taken advantage of the Haitian's passion for office holding and fondness for graft.

Within a little more than 50 years after the Spanish settlement of Haiti the native inhabitants had been virtually exterminated. By the treaty of Ryswick in 1697 Spain ceded the country (that is, the western part of Hispaniola) to France. The extermination of the natives had already led to the importation of blacks from Africa, and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Haiti became a country of large plantations owned by French landholders and worked by slaves. At the beginning of the French revolution the population was overwhelmingly black. In 1793 the English invaded Haiti. The French authorities offered freedom to all slaves who would enroll themselves as soldiers in the army of defense. In the next year a decree abolishing slavery was published. It was largely due to the black soldiers that the English were driven out.

Haiti would be, as an enthusiast

describes it, "one of the most desirable places of abode in the world" if the elements of desirability consisted solely in "the wonderful fertility of the soil, the healthful climate, the equable distribution of rainfall, the numerous rivers, the vast plains and valleys, the gorgeous scenery and the agricultural potentialities." Another traveler's praise of the Haitian landscape goes further into details: "In the first place, it is a never-ending surprise to find in tropic latitudes so many different kinds of country. Try to imagine a very mountainous region, so varying in altitude and rainfall and in the resulting climate and vegetation that as you ride across it from Caribbean to Atlantic you pass through Bermuda, Arizona, the foothills of the Canadian Rockies and first class conventional tropics resembling the most luxuriant parts of the neighboring Antilles, Cuba and Porto Rica. Haiti is as surprisingly varied as that. One day for companions he may have pines and cedars and the next, still riding north, by some latitudinal magic be whisked a thousand miles south to follow a trail through cocoa and royal palms, ducking low-hanging clusters of bananas."

The mineral wealth of the country is large, but exact scientific information is lodged in the hands of mining companies, who are awaiting suitable political conditions. Haiti is principally an agricultural country. Stick anything into the ground and it will grow. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that one can actually see plants grow. At any rate, the plantations are looked at rather than cultivated by the shiftless laborers. The heavy rains knock off the coffee berries when they are ripe, seed them, and the result is the wonderful jungles of coffee bushes, whose fecundity is nowhere else equaled. Coffee is the principal crop. In-

deed, Haiti suffers from too much coffee. Haiti is economically dependent on the coffee crop. It supplies the bulk of the revenues of the government and the meagre demands of the peasantry of the mountains and valleys, whose business it is—chiefly that of the women and children—to gather it and bring it to the seaport towns on their heads and on the backs of donkeys and horses. Virtually all the Haitian coffee has been shipped to Europe, principally to Germany and France. The German market has been lost and none gained to take its place. Efforts have been made in recent years to introduce Haitian coffee into the United States; but notwithstanding its excellent quality, the American importers will take little of it.

Voodooism, with all its horrible, barbaric rites, still flourishes among the people, and its priests have always exerted considerable influence on the government. But notwithstanding the general ignorance of the people, Haiti has developed a considerable literature, written in French, the official language of the country, and some of it is of a high order. Haiti has its national heroes, of course; but of these the murderous Desalines is held in highest esteem. The name of Toussaint l'Ouverture, a name familiar to every American schoolboy, and one which will live as long as history, is almost forgotten in Haiti.

A monument to Christophe, a mulatto, who became Haiti's first president in 1807 and later assumed the royal title of Henri I, "King of the North," is the great citadel of La Ferriere. He constructed it of solid masonry on the summit of a mountain 5000 feet high. Some of the walls are 80 feet high and 16 feet thick. The vast fortress has many subterranean passages and secret chambers, in which it is supposed that some of his hoarded wealth is still buried.

In 1842 an earthquake partially destroyed the structure; but the colossal ruins still attest the gigantic work of a hero and the world wonders now how the work was done and how the material for the construction and the armament ever got to the top of the mountain. The whole enterprise is clouded in mystery and romance. The citadel covers the peak, dominates the surrounding country, can be plainly seen from the harbor of Cape Haitien, and is frequently visited by tourists.

WOMEN STUDY MEDICINE

Large Increase in German Schools Since War Began

[By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.]
BERLIN, Oct. 8.—Women have taken advantage as never before of the absence of men from the various German universities to strive for the higher education that not so many years ago was denied them.

The number of women studying medicine shows the largest increase, rising from 975 to 1150. Five years ago there were but 512. There are 2258 studying philology and history, against 2120; 862 studying mathematics, against 761; 170 studying political science, against 132; 73 studying law, against 57; 42 studying dentistry, against 51; 7 studying theology, against 16; and 12 study pharmacy, against 14.

The southern German universities have suffered losses, and the Prussian institutions have gained, in number of women students.

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TREATY IS RATIFIED

HAITIEN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TAKES ACTION TODAY

Upper House Must Now Act on the Matter—Vote is 75 to 6

[By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.]
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 7.—The Haitian Chamber of Deputies ratified the new treaty with the United States by a vote of 75 to 6, and awaits the action of the upper house, according to advices today from Admiral Caperton.

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Perry & Nicholson

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The advertising columns of a good newspaper like the COOS BAY TIMES are a true "People's Forum." Their message is to all the people. They are open to every one with an honest proposition to present in a clean way. They are interesting because they are bubbling with the enthusiasm of a "real message." They are informative and constructive. They are helpful because dealing directly with human needs.

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