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Facts About Virgin Isles Recently Bought by America, Were Danish West Indies

WASHINGTON.—The results of a census of the Virgin Islands (formerly the Danish West Indies) have just been published in an octavo volume of 114 pages. The inventory was made, at the request of the secretary of the navy, by the bureau of the census of the department of commerce, under the supervision of Mr. Eugene F. Hartley, chief statistician for manufacturers of the census bureau.

The report shows that by this latest territorial acquisition the area of the United States was increased more than 132 square miles this area being practically that of the three principal islands, St. Croix (Santa Cruz), St. John and St. Thomas. There are in addition about 50 small islands or cays, the largest about 1 mile square.

Interesting and significant is the fact that while the United States ac-

quired title to the Virgin Islands by treaty with Denmark on August 4, 1916, after negotiations of more than half a century, the language of the people is English, though the islands

were under the Danish flag for 243 years.

In 1917 the value of the exports from the United States in the islands was \$1,416,342, and of the imports from the islands \$1,259,697.

Population.

The population was on November 1, 1917, 26,951, and comparison with earlier censuses shows the population has steadily decreased, from 42,178 in 1835 to 26,951 in 1917. Of the total persons in 1917, 19,322 were white, 19,322 were negro, and 4,669 mixed. The sex distribution was 11,393 males and 14,622 females. The returns showed 5,271 persons, or 24.5 per cent of the population 18 years of age or over, to be illiterate. The population of each of the three principal islands in 1917 was as follows: St. Croix, 14,901, St. Thomas 10,151, and St. John, 959. The islands contain three

They Must Feed Their Mascot Goats



The goat, which is supposed to be able to live on the most barren land, cannot find enough to eat on the devastated western front. St. John's

British soldiers who have made massacres of goats must feed them. But they don't mind. The goat seems to be one of the favorite mascot.

quired title to the Virgin Islands by treaty with Denmark on August 4, 1916, after negotiations of more than half a century, the language of the people is English, though the islands

cities—Charlotte Amalie, on the island of St. Thomas, with a population of 11,477; and Christiansted and Frederiksted, on the island of St. Croix, with populations of 4,574 and 2,152 respectively.

Agriculture.

Agriculture and animal husbandry engaged 80.81 of the total population as owners, managers or tenants, on the 430 farms or "estates" on the islands. These farms embraced 69,892 acres of the 84,781 acres included in the total area of the islands. Of the 430 farms reported, 162 were operated by white farmers as owners, managers or tenants; 270 by negroes, and 58 by mixed-blood farmers. The average size of farms is 162.5 acres, of which an average of 91.7 was reported as improved and 70.8 acres as unimproved. The total value of farm property is given as \$2,706,911. The number of farms reporting livestock was 291, the value of which was given as \$322,921. The total value of all crops for the year ending October 31, 1917, was given as \$522,806, sugar cane contributing \$442,120 and hay and forage \$80,686.

Manufactures.

The number of manufacturing establishments in the islands was 84, of which 61 were located on St. Croix, 2 on St. John, and 21 on St. Thomas. The number of persons engaged in manufactures was 842, of which 485 were wage earners. The capital invested was \$1,429,524; the value of materials used \$781,417; and the value of products \$1,292,247. Of the total value of products, cane sugar contributed 197,338; bread and other bakery products, \$32,514; and hay, \$28,745. The manufacture of sugar from cane employed 62 per cent of the wage earners, 78 per cent of the capital, and produced 80 per cent of the total value of the products of manufactures. Distribution and hours of labor of the gainfully employed, by sex and age, are interesting features of the population and manufactures statistics of the report.

Fisheries.

The census of the fisheries of the islands, the first ever taken, shows a total of 380 persons engaged in the industry, with capital invested of \$11,002, and a total catch for the year valued at \$14,426.

In addition to the sections devoted to statistics of population, agriculture, manufactures and fisheries, an introductory chapter of the report gives much interesting information of the geography, history, climate, etc., of the islands, and maps and illustrations are interesting features of the publication.



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