

Bahama Still Leader In Sun And Scenery Business

By HAL BOYLE
NASSAU, Bahamas, March 13 (AP)—A flight of wealth from more disturbed lands may bring this colorful sea-girt British archipelago—long a playground of the rich—its fourth flood tide of prosperity since Christopher Columbus landed in 1492.

First privileged class to enjoy this blue and coral paradise were the pirates, including the notorious Blackbeard. He impressed the happy natives less with his bloodthirsty executions than by his genial habit of tying sulphur matches into his tremendous beard and setting them afire.

Prosperity came again during the blockade running days of the American Civil war, when the desperate South sent over its cotton and household treasures in exchange for guns and ammunition. This trade enabled British colonial officers to build most of the government buildings still standing in Nassau.

Prohibition Profits

Profits garnered during the prohibition era, when stateside rum runners found here ample supplies of Scotch and rum, supplied the funds for the island's fine roads.

One local liquor dealer made so much money—the activities were all legal on the British side—he built a fine 35-room steel-anchored mansion on a ridge overlooking the sea.

"Him and his wife lived alone in dat big house," said a native taxi driver. "Him on one side—her on d' udder."

The biggest boom came during the war, when Nassau was a great airbase, and local employers still complain of the effect high wages had on the native population.

"It ruined their character," one said. "They don't want to go back to the old standards—and that's all the island will support."

Native women are less choosy than the men. Winter residents can hire a maid for \$4 a week—"with basket." The "with basket" clause means she has the

right to tote food leftovers home to her own family.

Businessmen now see as their only hope to avoid a slow decline the influx of foreign capital by investors attracted by the climate and the colony's freedom from income tax.

British See Future

"This year an unusual number of people came from the united kingdom," one businessman said. "A lot of English people are investing here and we've had more lords and ladies than you could shake a lognette at. These people are convinced the Bahamas have a good future."

In any event the food and weather are better than in England. There are unofficial reports that the British labor government is considering action to halt the flow of cash here from the financially-beleagured home islands. Bahamans have resisted all pressure from Britain to help in this program by adopting stiff local income taxes.

"We need investors here, and an income tax will scare them away," is the Bahaman position.

"This has always been a resort for wealthy people, and in normal times we must have them to exist. Our 700 islands are scattered over 70,000 square miles of ocean and aren't suitable for much large-scale agricultural development."

So the Bahamas are back in business as a high-priced tourist farm, selling sand and sea, sun and scenery—the enduring gold that Columbus missed.

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No Surplus Goes To Reds

WASHINGTON, March 13 (AP)—Paul H. Bonner, former official of the state department's foreign liquidation commission said today that none of the United States surplus property being sold in Europe is going into Russia.

He added that he had no way of knowing whether surplus property was transferred after it was sold, but said he believed there had been no transfers.

Bonner estimated that the government had disposed of surplus property costing about \$2,825,000,000 in Europe and will dispose of about another \$800,000,000 worth this year, exclusive of ships, aircraft and railroad equipment.

Catholic Mother Of 1947 Named

CHICAGO, March 13 (AP)—Mrs. Math Lies of Andale, Kas., the widowed mother of 14 children, Tuesday night was presented the medal for "the Catholic Mother of 1947" by Samuel Cardinal Stritch, archbishop of Chicago.

Mrs. Lies, who has operated a 56-acre farm since the death of her husband in 1931, said in an interview:

"Do things for your children with a smile, and they will smile back. Be with your children as much as you can. Pray, because the Lord is the giver of many great things."

Two of Mrs. Lies' 16 children have died. Of the 14 living two daughters are nuns, one son is a priest and another is a doctor.

Marine Reserves To Hunt Plane

SEATTLE, March 13 (AP)—A renewed hunt for the marine transport plane which disappeared December 10 with 32 men aboard will be undertaken next week by a party of 21 marine corps reservists.

The party, on skis, will be commanded by First Lt. Karl F. Seydel, 11th reserve infantry battalion, and hopes to cover a 200-square-mile area.

Eugene Murder Trial Proceeds

EUGENE, March 13 (AP)—Eugene L. Florence of Elmira Junction, first prosecution witness in the trial of Mrs. Virginia Harington, charged with the second degree murder of her husband, told the court late yesterday of a cafe party the night Eugene Harington was killed in his home.

Florence told the court that after the party broke up, Harington reappeared at the Florence home at 2:30 a. m. and asked the real estate man to accompany him to one of his sawmills.

There they met Sam Murphy, a watchman, and while Harington was phoning his wife, Florence said he overheard Harington say, "You have a drawerful of guns."

In the defense preliminary statement, it was asserted the shooting January 28 was the climax of a long period of drinking by Harington and that the defendant killed her husband in self defense.

New York Post Editor Dies

NEW YORK, March 13 (AP)—Edward P. Flynn, 41, executive editor of the New York Post and the Bronx Home News, died early yesterday in a plunge from a window of his eighth floor apartment during a fire there.

"I'm trapped, I'm going to jump," Flynn was heard to call before he plunged from a kitchen window of the smoke-filled apartment, police said.

Police said Flynn's body fell to the skylight of a one-story building extension, scattering glass on the beds occupied by Mrs. William Logan, wife of the apartment superintendent, and their daughter, Elizabeth. They were not injured.

Firemen quickly brought the fire under control.

Flynn had worked on the Baltimore Sun and the New York Journal before joining the Post's staff in 1936.

He is survived by his widow, Deborah Flynn, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Judith, of New York City, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Flynn, and a sister, Mrs. Ruth Johnson. The

Business Recession Seen Coming Soon

PORTLAND, March 13 (AP)—A business recession is just around the corner, Lawrence Ottinger, president of the U. S. Plywood corporation, predicted today.

"The recession is coming because people are getting tired of paying \$15,000 for \$6000 homes, and that applies to everything else," Ottinger said.

He added, however, that some industries with a heavy demand, such as plywood and other lumber products, would not be affected.

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JEWEL THEFT
BOSTON, March 13 (AP)—Five well-dressed jewel thieves today slugged a guard and snatched a \$25,000 tray of brooches and diamonds from one of Boston's biggest jewelry stores, Kennard and company, in the fashionable Ritz-Carlton hotel.

Store officials told police the loot might even run to \$50,000.

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