

### Tourists Throng Cuban Metropolis

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geons and forgotten, or thrown down a chute which emptied into a shark's nest. Old Spanish cannon still lie around the walls, consumed by rust. As the guide said, with modern methods of warfare, it would be useless to fortify these places again, but they felt safe with the protection of Uncle Sam not far away in case of war.

The Cubans seem to appreciate what the United States has done for them, and Americans are very welcome. A number of monuments have been erected in honor of Americans, and Wilson avenue is the name of a boulevard in the exclusive residence section.

Havana is a city of half a million people, including 30,000 Chinese, and appears to be very prosperous. Many new handsome buildings have been erected, and now building, in late years. A new capitol building a replica of the one at Washington, is under construction and will cost several millions. One of the handsome structures facing the park is a Cuban club which cost five millions. The club has 60,000 members. With the exception of new streets, built in late years under the republic or under the reign of General Wood during American occupation, the streets are narrow and look like alleys. Sidewalks are two to four feet wide, with the street just about wide enough to allow passage of autos. The traffic problem, however, is well regulated by one-way traffic in all narrow streets. It is remarkable the way the native drivers wind around through the narrow streets, but they keep up a continuous honk, honk, every time they come to a cross street, which seems to be understood, but is an unceasing clamor that is hard to get used to. Most of the cars are of American make. In fact, we did not notice any other make of cars. There were very few closed cars. We passed a large assembling plant of Fords, but there are less Fords in Havana than in most of the smaller cities of the United States.

Havana has many large stores that are modern and have large assortments. Prices are generally higher than in the states, except on a few articles. Most all build-

ings are of Spanish architecture, with barred windows and high ceilings. The small shops are open to the streets, with iron sheetings to pull down at night. Above all stores are living quarters, with barred windows and balconies, where the families sit at night. The evening is the recreation hour. The mild tropical air, with the soft warm breeze from the gulf makes the evening a delight. We have seen no mosquitos here and but few flies. There are no screens on the doors or windows, and do not seem necessary. At each end of the Central park, extending several blocks in each direction, is a promenade in the middle of the wide boulevard, with no streets crossing except at each end, and this thronged from 8 o'clock until midnight with men, women and children parading the walk, or resting on the many marble benches at the side. The conventional shawl and large earrings easily mark the Cubans from the tourists, and many very attractive señoritas, with husbands or chaperones, add a charm to the scene.

The annual carnival started today and the mardi gras will be in full swing. The city is full of visitors, many attracted at this time, but our time was up, so we came home. On a trip through the city we visited two large cathedrals, one the oldest in the city and the other the fashionable church of grand magnificence, containing many fine paintings and religious works of art.

A visit to the Columbus Memorial cemetery disclosed elaborate burial places, all of the graves being stone, cement or marble vaults, on top of the ground. In one section of the cemetery is the burial place of the poor, whose surviving relatives are required to pay rent for the final (?) resting place of the deceased. A failure to pay rent causes the body to be taken from the grave and the bones thrown into the boneyard, a small square enclosed by high walls. The gates were opened to us for inspection and we could see the accumulation of skulls and bones exposed to the weather. This is an old Spanish custom and prevailed in the Philippines until abolished by the United States government.

A country drive took us to a large sugar mill, where the cane, brought in by ox carts and railroad cars, is converted into raw sugar. We were shown all the pro-

cesses and it was very interesting. There is but one refinery on the island, and that is at Matanzas, 75 miles from Havana, where Hershey, the chocolate king, owns a large sugar plantation and mill, and has also connected the place with Havana by an electric railway. Mr. Hershey has a very fine home in Havana.

A visit to the Tropical beer gardens, where beer is served free by the brewery, was not the least interesting part of the trip. The brewery is situated in a picturesque ravine formed by a small river or creek, where a dam forms a pond for water power for the large brewery. Roads and walks are beautified by coral reefs and flowers with a central space under large shade trees fitted with tables and chairs for those who wish to partake of the refreshing beverage in the cool shade.

A country and yacht club, with a large park and an 18-hole golf course, is an attractive spot. A visit to a Cuban farm offered a little amusement where a cock fight was staged, although the spurs of the fighters were wrapped to prevent a killing. A boy climbed a royal palm tree, and a native was making pottery. Many coconut trees were being started from the full husk of the nut, to be replanted later. Tobacco, pineapples and garden truck were being raised.

We were disappointed in the appearance of the country, expecting to see prosperous farms and luxurious vegetation. The tropical storms seem to keep the country rather desolate and barren of trees except palms. Many large trees were lying along the roadside where they had fallen while even the palms, which seem to stand the wind better, had their tops badly whipped and torn. A few sugar cane fields were not very high and much smaller than in the Hawaiian Islands, but they mature in much less time. Most of the land is uncultivated, and am told that the whole island is in the same condition. A good many banana trees are seen, but very little fruit, on account of the storm. On the whole it looks like an undeveloped country, much the same as Florida, although the soil is much more fertile. Herds of dairy cows look in fine condition, as do the horses.

The weather is about the same as southern Florida, except that the minimum never goes below 60

and the maximum not much above 90. The statement was made that there are no snakes or poisonous insects on the island. There are a few alligators in some of the rivers. There is very little fishing off the coast of Cuba on account of deep water all along the shoreline, so Cubans come to the Florida coast to fish.

A lottery is operated by the Cuban government, the next drawing taking place February 28. Most of the small shops have tickets for sale, and many old women peddle tickets on the streets and around the parks. We saw many of the poor people buying tickets at the small shops, evidently spending all their small change in this way. Licensed gambling is also allowed by the government as a source of revenue, in addition to license fees collected from the various liquor and cigar stores.

There are many negroes in Havana, and there is every blend of color in the natives who intermarry with negroes, Chinese, etc., while the apparently pure Spanish descent are white, with large dark eyes and hair.

We were again fortunate on the return boat trip, as the weather was ideal, with no one sick. Presumably there were many disappointed fish, as we could see them occasionally looking up to the rail of the boat with a beggar's plea to drop something. One fish jumped four feet out of the water.

Most of the apples on sale in Havana were from Hood River. There were also Hood River d'Anjou pears, all in good condition and selling at 10c each.

#### Tourist Season Closing

Miami, Fla., March 7, 1927.

The tourist season is drawing to a close and many stores are putting on clearance sales, a large number of the smaller shops announcing that they will close and move north. It has been hard to get real definite information as to the real status of business here. There is a wide variance between the optimist and the pessimist, and just how fast Florida will continue to grow, especially as to year-round residents, is more conjecture. So far as I can see, Florida has but one asset of any consequence, and that is climate. This, of course, will always bring a crowd of winter tourists from the north, especially from the New England states, which will increase as population increases and as completed hard surface roads and accommodations for motorists make it easy and attractive for tourists to spend a long or short vacation to shorten the winter of those residing in the colder sections.

There is a half-heartedness prevailing in general in the city, as one might expect after the collapse of the real estate gamble, followed by the devastations of the hurricane. Many have lost their life savings in real estate speculations, with several suicides as a result. A few are so disheartened and disgusted that they are offering lots at 10 per cent of what they paid for them to clean up and get out. The real estate market as a whole is flat. It is a rare thing to see any building going on, while many uncompleted structures can be seen all over the city. One man said there were twenty million lots for sale in Florida in a hundred different cities, towns and resorts, and he may not be far wrong. Yet a few of the larger projects are going ahead as usual, some of them maintaining large, expensive offices in the city, with a free ride and lunch for anyone who will take the trip and look over their proposition.

To get a better idea of what was doing in this line, I was one of a party in a large sight-seeing bus, which went to Hollywood, 20 miles north of Miami. It is probably the largest real estate project in Florida, exceeding in size Coral Gables, although not nearly as far developed. The company maintains an office on the most prominent business corner in the city, where a Marimba orchestra

plays every evening to attract a small crowd followed after each number by a short lecture, extolling the advantages of investing in Florida in general and in Hollywood in particular.

The bus left at 10:30, the man in charge pointing out the prominent buildings and places of interest as we passed along the Bay Shore drive and Dixie highway. Our first stop was at Mable Bay, a small natural lake inside the shore line of the ocean, and on the boundary line between Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale. A huge dredge is making a harbor out of the lake which will have a depth of 35 feet, and will then cut a channel to the ocean 1,000 feet wide, with a 300-foot, deep channel, bordered on each side by jetties. They claim it will be the only harbor on the east coast that will admit any vessel afloat, and hope to have it accepted by the United States government as a naval base, with a dry dock. The sand from the bay is used to fill in the land west to the highway to a depth of five or six feet. It is a \$6,000,000 project.

Hollywood was started five years ago by J. W. Young, who made a success in putting over several subdivisions in southern California. The corporation is eight miles along the ocean front and seven miles back towards the glades. Two small towns were taken in, and they now claim a population of 20,000. Large boulevards 120 feet wide extend through the main part of the tract, with parks, golf links, canals, artificial lakes, etc. A very large high class hotel is at the end of the drive that extends to the beach, where a fine bathing beach for surf bathing and a casino with a large swimming pool afford a part of the recreation for guests. Another smaller hotel near the business center and a few apartment houses have been built. Four miles west is a new addition being opened up, with a nice hotel now open. A drainage canal is being dug and grounds laid out for two more 18-hole golf links. This is the section where the high pressure salesman made every effort to get the party to sign on the dotted line. The cheapest lot in the wilderness of palm-trees and

small pines was \$1700, and better lots up to \$5400. This included improvements of streets and sidewalks. There are no sewers, septic tanks being used. We were offered a 25 per cent reduction, with a quarter payment down, balance long time. In this new section we saw only two houses and the hotel, but were told where hospitals, schools, public buildings, etc., were to be built. Hollywood is a restricted district, like Coral Gables, and no cheap houses are allowed to be built. There is territory enough for a city the size of Portland, with no chance for the common people who have to work for a living to own a home, and not much chance of employment if they did. Well, I let the opportunity of a life time slip by, to the disgust of the salesman.

Coral Gables seems to be making good as an exclusive city and is partly surrounded by the city of Miami. There is so much money already expended that it will probably have a successful ending, yet it would seem that there was a limit to the number of wealthy people who will come to southern Florida and build homes costing from \$10,000 to a million dollars, to be used but a few short months in the year. However, the statement was made in a daily paper that their sales average \$1,000,000 a month. Not many people care to spend the summer months here, although the summer climate is better than in many sections farther north.

The horse racing closed Saturday for the season, and is one of the attractions for the winter tourists. There are also three greyhound race tracks, which are well patronized. We drove out in the country 10 miles to see the dogs race one evening and it was quite a novel sight to us. The track is about a half-mile circuit. Around the track a mechanical rabbit is speeded on an electric wire. Eight dogs are put into a box and the rabbit started. A man with a flag gives the signal as the rabbit passes the box and the dogs are released by lifting the door, and the way those hounds try to catch that rabbit creates as much excitement as a horse race. The rabbit is (Please turn to page 5,

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