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DECEMBER
1919



BEGINNING A GREAT NEW
MYSTERY SERIAL

“THE TRAP”

BY MAXIMILIAN FOSTER

McCLURE'S



Volume 51
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Contents for December

The Trap [Serial]	Maximilian Foster	9
Illustrations by May Wilson Preston		
The Country We Forgot	Daniel Henderson	18
Home, Sweet Home	Salisbury Field	15
Illustrations by Peter Newell		
My A. E. F.	Frances Newbold Noyes	17
Illustration by W. T. Benda		
The Last of the Duellists	Perceval Gibbon	18
Illustration by James Montgomery Flagg		
The World Is Full of Them	Royal Brown	20
Illustrations by Charles D. Mitchell		
Promises [Poem]	Theodosia Garrison	22
A Man Who Wouldn't Make Enemies	Fred C. Kelly	23
Illustration by Winemiller and Miller		
Something for Nothing [Serial]	Freeman Tilden	24
Feature Page		25
Talks With a Great American	John J. Leary, Jr.	26
Poison Gas	Cleveland Moffett	27
At Last We Escape!	Robert A. Anderson	30
Illustrations by Wallace Morgan		
The Motor Truck and the H. C. of L.	Merrill C. Horine	58
(Automobile Department Edited by Waldemar Kaempffer)		
The Function of a Trust Company	Paul Tomlinson	72

Cover Design by Neysa McMein

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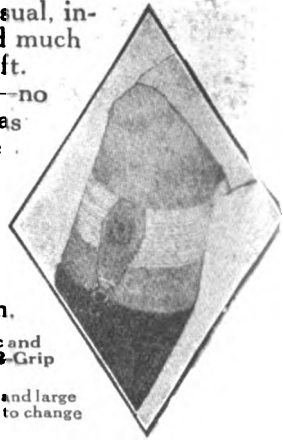
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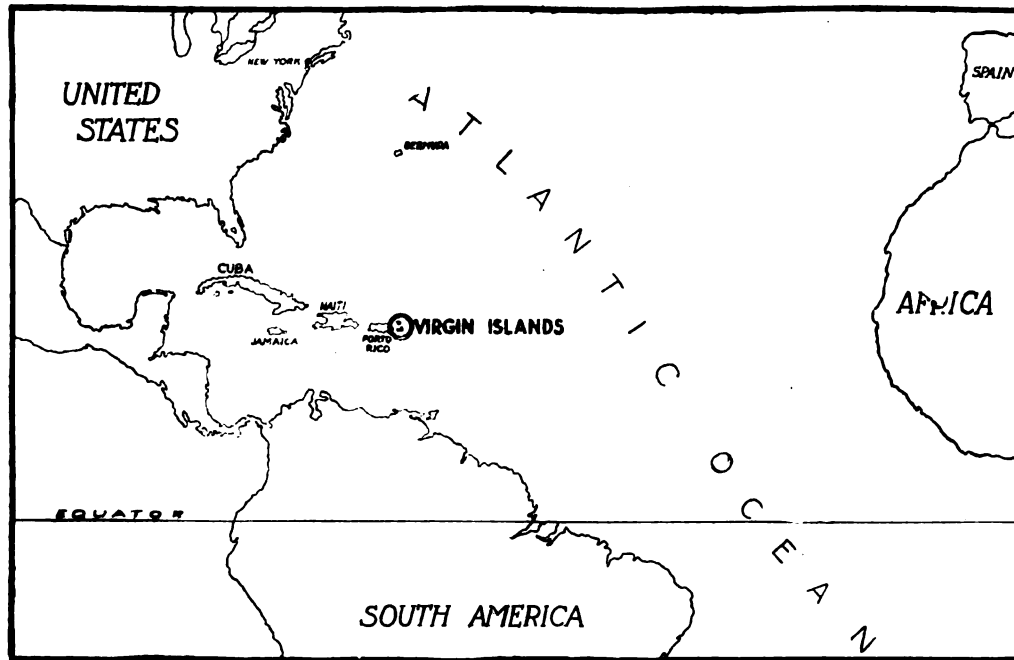
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The little town of Charlotte-Amalie, St. Thomas



The bust of Christian X still looks out over the harbor



The Country We Forgot

by Daniel Henderson

The Special Correspondent for McClure's

THE people of the United States don't care a rap about the Virgin Islands!" said a young American whom I met in St. Thomas. "Few Congressmen realize our needs, and scarcely one person in a hundred thousand knows anything about our location, our conditions, or our problems!"

What he said was true. My own experience on the steamship *Brazos* bound for San Juan, the port from which I was to sail for the Virgin Islands, proved it. There was the typical American tourist, for instance. He came lurching down the long deck, steadying his wind-beaten bulk by frequent clutches at the rail. He espied a copy of the ship's wireless in my hand, and down into a vacant steamer chair he thumped. He read the wireless reports from home and launched into a discussion of the League of Nations. I turned the conversation to the Virgin Islands. He grew apathetic. Were they near Porto Rico? No, he didn't intend to visit them — only well-known places were on his itinerary.

There were Americans on the boat whose business took them to Porto Rico. The man who sold tractors did not think there was a sufficient market for them in the Virgin Islands to justify a side trip to them from San Juan. The Hebrew clothing salesman on his annual trip through the West Indies did not see enough business in sight in this new American territory to pay him to make the trip. Americans located in Porto Rico praised the hospitality of the people of the Three Virgins, but really, it would be better for a person to spend his whole time in seeing San Juan, Ponce, and other Porto Rican towns. It seemed not so much the country we had forgotten, but, instead, the country of which we had never heard.

I had expected to find a steamer waiting to transport me to the Islands; instead I found a two-masted schooner, a Herreshoff yacht that had been built to defend America's cup from one of Sir Thomas Lipton's assaults, but which, failing in the trial races, had been forced to earn her salt in the sea lanes of commerce by carrying all sorts of cargoes. She now lay moored to a wharf in San Juan, awaiting her share of the motors, gasoline, flour, garlic, and all those varied articles which the tides of trade had cast upon this Porto Rican shore.

I glanced at her dubiously; so did the group of

young American business men who strolled down to the wharf to see me off. The *Brazos* had just plowed her way into harbor through heavy seas. It was hurricane season. Could this two-master span the eighty miles of abnormally high waves to St. Thomas without mishap? It was this boat or nothing, so I put doubt behind me and went on board.

Perched upon an odorous crate, I watched the *Virginia* load.

Here, Too, Postal Inefficiency

Down the street from the splendid modern building which houses the Federal offices in San Juan, came

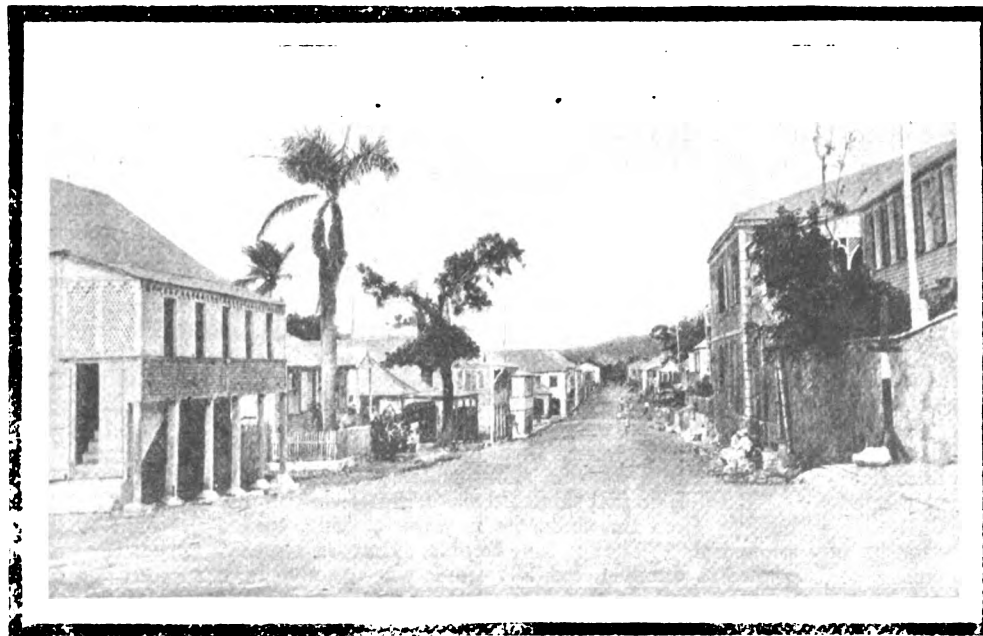
the Caribbean Sea. Later, at St. Thomas, I found that the personal squabbles and inefficient regime of the postmaster — a political appointee — were on every tongue.

My own experiences were soon to impress upon me that Uncle Sam had paid twenty-five million dollars for these Islands and forgotten to provide a way to get to them. Senators and Congressmen can visit them on battleships. The Governor of the Islands very properly has been provided with the cruiser *Vixen*; but the ordinary patriotic citizen who desires to visit our new territories from San Juan — the logical route between them and the United States — must undergo all the discomforts and privations that attend a three or four days' voyage in a primitive sailing vessel, with no food except that which the passenger himself provides, and with no other means of sleeping than in a coop on deck or in an ill-smelling cabin, the berths of which are shared indiscriminately by whites and blacks, men and women, well or seasick.

As an example of the way in which the Virgin Islanders and relatives in the United States suffer to-day for lack of ready transportation to the United States, let me cite the following case:

Father Blank is an American Redemptist Father, now stationed at St. Thomas. He received a few weeks ago a cable stating that his father, who lived in Baltimore, was seriously ill and wished to see him. No passage was procurable at St. Thomas. He came in the *Virginia* to San Juan, hoping to obtain transportation on a steamer leaving there, but was informed that all berths had been booked for weeks ahead. He tried to persuade an army transport to take him, but there was a rigid rule against carrying any one but soldiers or their relatives. As he was wondering what attempt to make next a cable came that his father was dead.

Nothing can weave the United States more closely to the West Indian Islands than steamships. On the Quebec liner *Guiana*, on which I managed to secure



What more could the tourist ask in the way of quaint charm than this little street?

the mail. The mode of transporting it was in sharp contrast to the imposing post-office from which it came. Two brown-skinned natives in nondescript attire pushed down the wharf a grocer's hand-truck, piled high with mail bags. Around the truck gathered native stevedores. Each hoisted one of the bulky, blue-striped bags to the top of his head. Up the swaying boards that served as a gangplank they went,



Rothschild Francis and a group of Radicals who want Home Rule meaning Black Rule — on the Islands

passage home from St. Thomas, were a dozen young men and women coming from the Virgin Islands and neighboring islands belonging to Holland, France and Great Britain, to go to college in the United States. Some were even going so far as Valparaiso University, Indiana.

The Forsaken Islands

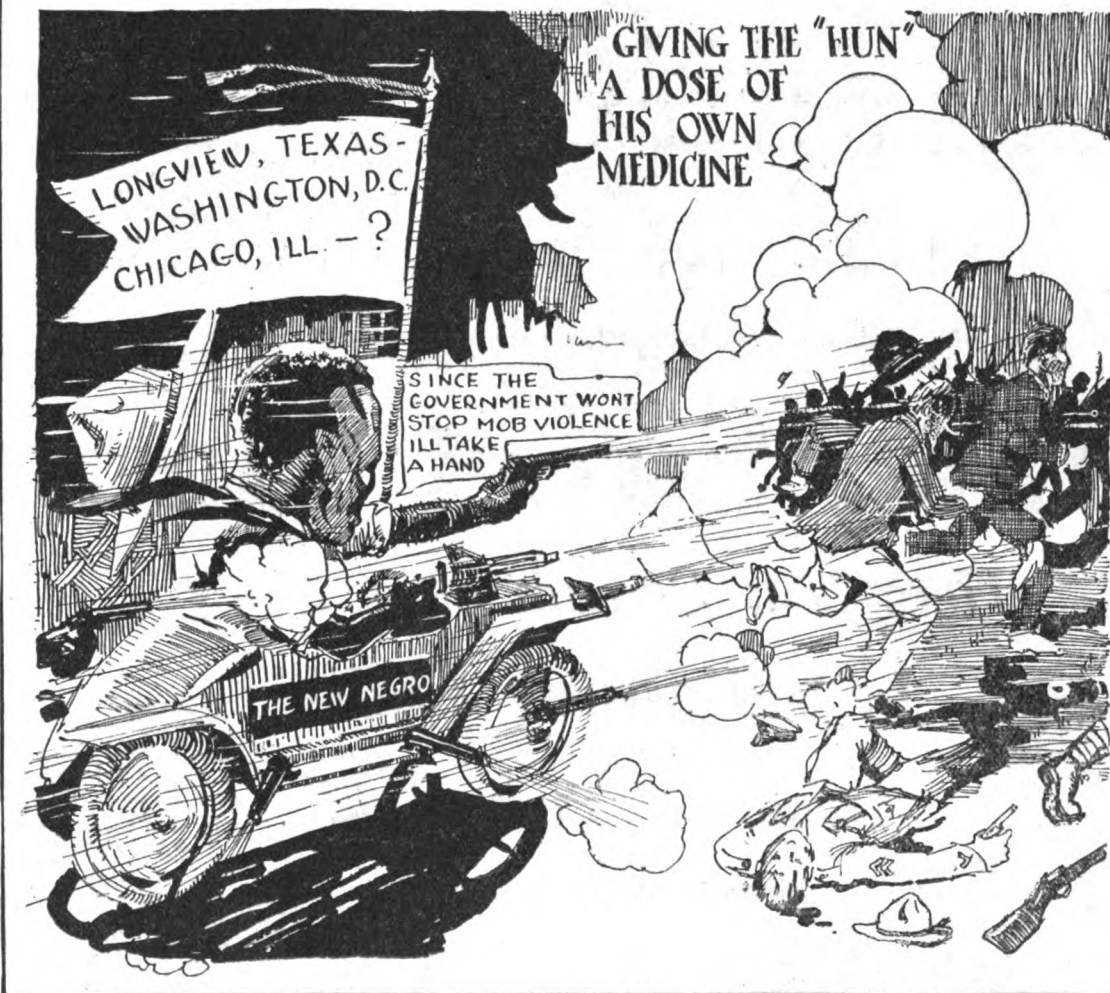
In March, 1917, the Danish flag went down over the Virgin Islands and the Stars and Stripes arose. The purchase price was twenty-five million dollars. From a military viewpoint the price may have been a fair one at the time. At the present time, even the price of five million dollars, for which the Islands could have been obtained a decade ago, seems high. St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix are the three principal islands of the Virgin group. St. Thomas and St. John lie close together and constitute one governmental territory. St. Thomas and St. John have an area of forty-eight square miles — about twice the size of the District of Columbia. Ten thousand people live on St. Thomas and about one thousand on St. John. The inhabitants of St. Thomas are crowded into the town of Charlotte Amalie, which spreads out around St. Thomas Bay.

The town is built on a series of hills that form an emerald horseshoe about the turquoise waters of the harbor. The houses run from the beach up the hills, as if they intended to cover the summits, but half-way up they seem to tire, and leave the peaks unconquered. The cluster of white and red steeples and roofs surrounded by palms and tropical flowers, with the yellow beach and blue water at its feet, gives you the impression that you are entering a quaint and lovely town, and the rumors that have come to you of discontent and contention and misery seem unbelievable.

On the outskirts of Charlotte Amalie dwells a little community of white French fishermen. The natives call them Cha-Chas in contempt. They are fishermen, desperately poor. They live in hovels that are worse than those occupied by the blacks, yet they possess a code of morals that few of their contemners

FORCE, FORCE TO THE UTMOST--FORCE WITHOUT STINT OR LIMIT!

—WOODROW WILSON



A cartoon from a revolutionary negro paper, printed in New York and circulated in the Virgin Islands by the Francis group

can boast; and — what few of the other races here can say — they marry their own kind and keep their white strain pure.

Forty miles south of St. Thomas lies St. Croix, the largest and most beautiful of the Virgin Islands, with an area of eighty-four square miles and a population of about 15,000. Christiansted, the capital, and Frederiksted, its rival, lie twenty miles apart, at opposite ends of the island, with a fair road connecting them. Christiansted has facilities for a fine harbor if the reef that bars its entrance could be dynamited. Frederiksted, the port nearest St. Thomas, has its harbor on the open sea, yet due to its south-west location, it is well sheltered.

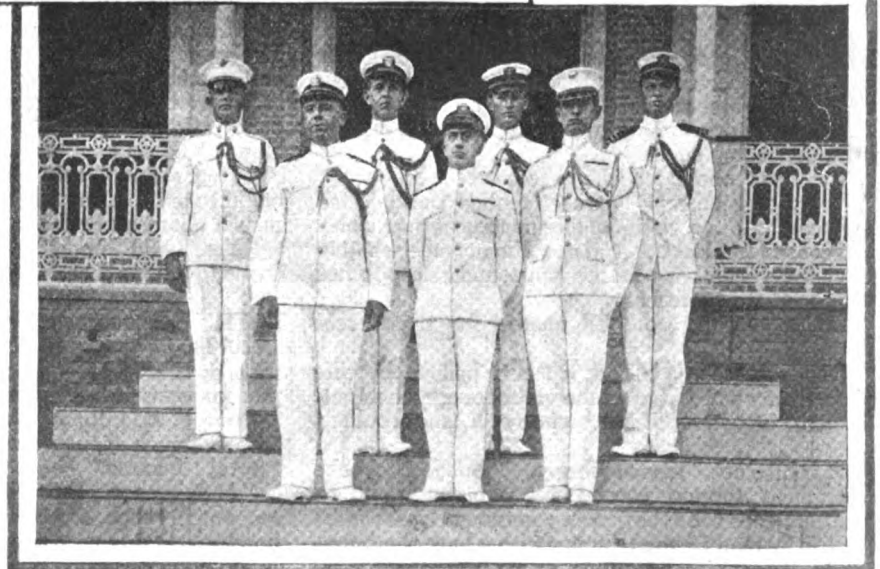
Too many human problems press upon us for discussion to permit me to dwell upon the tropical loveliness of these Islands; the humming birds that peek out of your sugar dish as you eat; the pet deer that in St. Croix are almost as common as dogs; the friendliness and courtesy of the people; the pirate castles and legends; the turbaned street merchants; the cool ever-blowing trade winds and healthy climate;

the blue waters in which bathers revel the year round; indeed, all those charms that have made neighboring islands winter paradises for northern people. Given a larger American colony, and prompt and comfortable steamer service, there are big inducements here for private capital to erect a chain of American-conducted hotels on the green hills overlooking these shores.

American or Danish

It adds a piquancy to these towns, even if it makes one reflect that we have forgotten to create an American atmosphere here, to find Danish traditions and customs still prevailing. The Danish settlers themselves are neighborly, industrious, and well-intentioned people; yet an American visiting the Islands remembers the enormous purchase price and wants at least an American atmosphere to show for it. In Charlotte Amalie, I heard the native band play "The Star Spangled Banner," and watched Old Glory rise to keep its daily vigil over the harbor; yet under its folds I saw the bust of a Danish king looking out over the harbor, as if it were still under his dominion.

The street corners still carry sign-posts bearing



Admiral Oman and his staff — efficient administrators of the Islands

Danish street names, such as: "Tolbodgade," "Kongegade," etc., the last syllable in each case meaning "street." Larger than any American business inscriptions are such signs as "Den Dansk Vandske National Bank" and "Det Vestindiske Kompagnie." These signs, it is true, have painted under them their English meanings, which are, respectively, "The National Bank of the Danish West Indies," and "The West India Company, Ltd."

The chief inconsistency with American customs is that of the money used on these Islands. Uncle Sam, when he bought them, made concessions to Denmark that do not appear to be "good business." The most glaring is the one made to the National Bank of the Danish West Indies, by which the exclusive "monopoly to issue bank notes" is continued for the term of years set forth in the original charter by the Danish government — until the year 1934. Thus we have the anomaly of an American territory dealing for the next fifteen years almost exclusively in Danish money. The yearly budgets of the three islands is made up in terms of Danish francs — a franc being equal to 20 cents of United States money. I sent a porter into the post-office at St. Thomas to procure me change for a dollar bill, and he came back with five francs and a "bit" piece in his hand — the "bit" represented the premium allowed on the American dollar. To make matters simple for Americans, it is stated in English on each coin just what its value is in United States currency. On the notes, however, there is no such translation. You read in English that the bank will pay to the bearer on demand five francs in gold; the value of five francs is left for you to discover. When an American goes to draw a check for, say ten dollars, he writes its equivalent in Danish money.

The bank officials are accommodating, and American business men in the Islands find no fault with them — yet to permit this Danish institution to

continue its peculiar monopoly implies that even at the beginning we forgot that new American business men might come to these Islands and want to use the currency to which they had been accustomed.

Denmark had more money than she knew how to use. Here were loyal subjects who thought they had been injured. Money would salve their wounds. To each apothecary the king made a grant of \$30,000.

Two years have elapsed since then and each apothecary is doing business at the same stand, with no American rivals in sight. Business is booming. They carry side lines of American canned goods and confections. They will continue to prosper during their lifetime, and each has stowed away at good interest — \$30,000.

The Benevolent Pooh-Bah

Like one of Gilbert and Sullivan's immortal characters, "Pooh-Bah," who filled simultaneously the office of First Lord of the Treasury, Lord Chamberlain, Attorney General, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Privy Purse and Private Secretary, is G. C. Thiele, who is Judge of the Town Court, Judge of the Dealing Court for the administration of debts, Police Master, and Member of the Colonial Council by appointment. As policeman he arrests a man; as police judge he tries and sentences him. Hearing these things you enter his

office in a critical mood, but you meet a modest, good-natured, obliging young man who smilingly confesses himself guilty to the crime of performing so many duties, and who ventures an explanation that makes you go back and reconstruct your preconceived opinion of him.

The reason is this: Until its new code of laws goes into effect several months hence, St. Thomas is being administered under the old Danish laws. Judge Thiele was formerly the assistant judge, and when his superior resigned he took his place. He is of Danish birth, but when the transfer was made he gladly complied with that section of the treaty that permitted him to become an American citizen. He then was perhaps the only man in St. Thomas who thoroughly understood the [Continued on page 70]

A Congressional Committee was appointed this Fall to examine into the condition of affairs on the Virgin Islands. Several months before that Committee undertook this work, McClure's Representative made a tour of these Islands, studying social, industrial and political conditions there. This article reveals the discouraging and startling conditions which our Senators and Representatives will find in our newest American possessions.

A planter stated with a chuckle that one of the reasons he voted for the income tax was that the Danish bank would have to leave some of its large profits in the Islands, for the upkeep of the country, instead of sending them all to Denmark.

A humorous instance on Danish methods is found in the apothecary shops, one of which is located in each town. Each of the apothecaries had been granted by the Danish Crown the exclusive right to operate in its locality. When the announcement came of the purchase of the Islands by the United States, and when it became known that the Danish bank had been protected, the apothecaries complained to the king that they had been overlooked, and were now subject to American competition.

"Home, Sweet Home"

Here is a Scream of a Story

by Salisbury Field

Author of "Twin Beds"

Illustrations by Peter Newell

IT was toward two o'clock of a summer's morning that Officer Corrigan entered the Locust Street Police Station conveying a bewildered and dejected little man. Jimmy Briggs, reporter for *The Morning Press*, who happened to be present at the time, surveyed the good-natured big Irishman and his diminutive prize with interest.

"What you got, Corrigan?" he asked.

"You can search me, Jimmy," Corrigan replied.

"Maybe he's sick like he said he was but now says he ain't — and maybe he ain't. Anyway, his wife ain't his wife, and he don't live in the house he lives in. If you want to know any more, you'd better talk to him yourself."

With that, Corrigan crossed to the desk to make his report to the Sergeant, a grizzled, barrel-shaped man with a face of iron and heart as soft as a marshmallow.

Scenting a story, Jimmy turned to Corrigan's captive with an engaging smile.

"Well, how about it?" he asked.

"Everything he says is true," replied the dejected little man. "I'm a victim of circumstances over which I had control but lost it. And now I'm not sure whether I have the disease, or whether I'm sound asleep in bed and this is all a nightmare."

"You're not in bed. I'll answer for that," said Jimmy.

"Well, somebody's in bed, if I'm to believe my wife — if she is my wife," replied the victim of circumstance.

"Though, of course, if I'm not myself, she wouldn't be."

"Of course not," agreed Jimmy. "But just for sake of argument, suppose you tell me who you would be if you happened to be the person you thought you were."

The little man favored Jimmy with a look of admiration. "Now we're beginning to get somewhere," he said. "It would be a blessing if the police force was composed of men as intelligent as yourself."

"It would," agreed Jimmy. "But that's too much to expect. What did you say your name was?"

"I didn't say. But my name should be William McMasters, and I should live at 2327 Elm Avenue. I've an envelope in my pocket addressed to that name and number," he added eagerly. "Here!"

Jimmy took the envelope and examined it with due deliberation. "William McMasters, 2327 Elm Avenue. Right!" he said. "We'll call this Exhibit A."

"That's fine," said Mr. McMasters. "Maybe I ought to tell you, though, that I addressed that envelope myself about an hour ago."

"Yes," said Jimmy gravely, "I think you owed it to me to tell me that. Been out with the boys?"

MR. McMasters replied sadly in the affirmative. "That's the worst of it," he said. "I may not always do the right thing, but I always want to. Besides, you know what women are."

"Sure!" said Jimmy, who, being twenty-four, knew twice as much about women as he would at forty-eight.

"Sure! I know."

"And even if that envelope I gave you doesn't amount to much, I've still got this." Mr. McMasters now gravely produced a key from his pocket and handed it to Jimmy.

"Correct," said Jimmy, taking the key. "Exhibit B. Exactly. We're doing pretty well."

"So now," said Mr. McMasters, "you know all."

"Well," admitted Jimmy, "I do know more than I did. But if your name is McMasters, and you do live at 2327 Elm Avenue, and Exhibit B is, as I suspect, the key to your front door — then why don't you go home?"

"Ah!" replied Mr. McMasters. "That's it."

You see, when I should have gone home I didn't want to, and when I did go home that policeman brought me here. Of course he may have been right, for my wife is an exceptional woman, and if her husband was really in bed . . ."

"Excuse me," said Jimmy hastily. "Before we go into that I'd like to have a talk with the officer that brought you in."

"All right," said Mr. McMasters. "Only I would like to find out whether that key fits the front door of the house I was telling you about before I go to jail."

"Cheer up!" said Jimmy. "You're not going to jail."

"But I am in jail," objected Mr. McMasters.

"No, you're not," said Jimmy. "This isn't jail, it's only a police station. Now try and pull yourself together while I have a talk with Corrigan, and then maybe I'll take you home."

"It's a frame house," said McMasters wistfully, "a white frame house with green shutters. And there's a monkey-puzzle tree in the backyard."

Alas! The only result of Jimmy's interview with Officer Corrigan was to deepen the mystery.

"He's a nut, I'm telling you," declared that worthy man. "I was there, so I ought to know. The thing to do is to take him over to the Receiving Hospital and have the Doc put him into bed. When he wakes up maybe he'll know what's what."

"But how about my story?" protested Jimmy. "If he goes to sleep, then he can't talk, and I'm sure there's something behind all this."



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M. L. QUINN CONSERVATORY, Studio H L, Social Union Building, Boston, Mass.

unkindly but without increased interest. "I th—thought you might use it in connection with the January sale," Jimmy plunged on. "You m—might say that—the necktie on the right was priced at one seventy-five and would be found at the second counter at the right, just inside the main entrance, for instance."

Marston's eyes became keener. "What are the advantages?" he demanded. "M—moving things always attract more attention. They—they would want to see what the pencil was writing and then they'd see the article and know exactly where to find it...."

MOST women seem to have no trouble finding bargains," Marston broke in. "But men do. They always feel lost in a department store and they don't like to ask questions. But if you told them j—just where to find it they—they might come in. They'd get the habit more and —"

Marston's expression changed swiftly. "I understand," he said briefly. "Got any other ideas?"

"Not—not just now," confessed Jimmy. He felt that he hadn't been given half a chance to explain the one he did have.

"Well, a man that has one idea will have another—especially if he cultivates the habit," commented Marston. He turned and made a memorandum on a desk pad and Jimmy rose. It hadn't been so bad—Marston hadn't eaten him alive. Yet he felt disappointed.

"You're still on the ribbon counter?" asked Marston.

"Yes, sir."
"Well, you'll have a chance to get better acquainted with the rest of the store from now on. Know anything about window-dressing, arrangement, lighting effects, and so forth?"

"No, sir, but I—I've studied advertising."
"Good enough. That will help. You'll have a chance to learn the other things while we are trying out this scheme of yours."

Jimmy stared, swallowed, and swallowed again.

"You're going to try it?" he blurted out. It was Marston's turn to stare. But when he had taken in Jimmy's expression, his eyes grew kindly. "I'll try anything once. I'm going to have you transferred to the window-dressing department, with a little more to start on. If you make good—that's up to you—you'll get a lot more."

"Th—thank you," said Jimmy, and managed to withdraw.

IT was no incarnated young man who returned to the ribbon counter, however, but a calm young conqueror. The "Look who's back again" was a shaft that never reached him. He could afford now to jeer at those who had jeered at him. Instead he kept silent and impressed them the more.

"On the level, Jimmy—did you put it across?" they wanted to know.

Jimmy, however, refused to be interviewed. Man that is born of woman never tastes the full sweetness of the fruits of success until a woman has shared them with him. To Jimmy, at that instant, there was but one

member of the other sex in the world. And she, one may be sure, was not the girl who, eyeing herself in her mirror the night before, had said, cryptically:

"If I had the money to spend on clothes that she has, I could look that way, too."

In Liberty Hall, on the Common, Elizabeth Marston glanced at her wrist-watch for the fiftieth time in five minutes. "And I told her I had an important engagement at twelve," she reflected, crossly.

From her watch her eyes went to the door, through which the errand relief should have entered five minutes before. She saw, not the wished-for form—but Jimmy. He hesitated an instant, crimson and confused.

"Oh, damn!" said his goddess, under her breath—she *did!*

"I—I kept my promise," he murmured. "So I see," she acknowledged, managing a perfunctory smile.

At that instant her relief rushed in with: "Oh my dear, I'm so sorry. But I positively couldn't help it—the car got caught in a traffic block...."

Elizabeth Marston turned to Jimmy. "I've got to run along," she said. "Miss Fales will register you, Mr. —" She looked at him inquiringly.

"Gillespie," supplied Jimmy, miserably. An instant later Elizabeth Marston passed out of the door and out of his life—without a single backward glance.

Registering over with, Jimmy wandered aimlessly about the Common. Whatever his dismal conclusion, his heart wasn't really broken. He had not been in love with Elizabeth Marston; his feeling toward her had been what psychologists term a fixation; that which Jimmy was suffering from now was a vacuum—which, as everybody knows, nature abhors.

Ahead, a girl fed peanuts to a flock of pigeons which no change of season can evict from the Common. They fluttered about her. One rose tentatively to her arm, making a pretty picture. Jimmy half took this in, but so introspective was his mood that it wasn't until he was almost upon her that he recognized Jane Stewart—Jane Stewart in the least expensive of furs, but wearing one of those small hats which she set off in a way to make it a madness and a lure to the feminine purchaser. She recognized him at the same instant and—curiously enough—blushed as vividly as he could have.

"I—I feed them often," she murmured, eyes and voice queerly shy.

Jimmy nodded. She bent her head to watch the pigeon pecking at the morsels in her hand. About her was a sweetness, a suggestion of the inevitable, maternal tenderness which all true women have for creatures that are little, or weak, or who need them. Jimmy, watching her, felt somehow restored.

"I—I got that idea," he broke out, suddenly.

She glanced up. "You did! Oh, I'm so glad!"
The pigeon, startled, hovered a moment and then decided that two was company and three a crowd. Jane Stewart brushed slim-gloved fingers prettily.

"I knew you would," she assured him, shining-eyed. "Tell me about it."

Jimmy took a deep breath.... The bright January sunshine sprinkled them with its splendor; the wind, though east, was clean and blood stirring—concrete blocks, pulsations of traffic and other pedestrians did not exist.

And Jimmy, unfolding his idea, began to glimpse another and yet bigger one. Perhaps it was the way she looked up at him from under that little hat, her eyes so sweet and so interested.

"I knew you could," she said, again, when he had finished. "And you'll make good, too."

Now surely it was not strange that there should be other noons. Nor does it pass human understanding that Jimmy as completely forgot all about another young woman as if she had never existed. Or is it to be wondered at that the *Jin-Jer Jar* should intervene with:

"The S.P.C.A. has two new members. Jimmy Gillespie, our new window dresser, and Jane Stewart, of Millinery, go up to the Common every noon to feed the pigeons. Learning how to bill and coo, Jimmy?"

WHAT was strange, however, was that Jimmy, who would have once made an instant resolve never to go near Jane Stewart again, was afraid now only that she might resolve never to come near him again. The fear drove him up to the fifth floor where, after a brief search, he discovered her behind a screen. She held a hat in her hand and was perking up a bow. As he came upon her she looked up quickly—and blushed furiously. Something in his eyes held hers. He hesitated, and then drew the *Jin-Jer Jar* from his pocket. "Did—did you see that?" he asked, trying to smile casually, and not being any too successful.

She took it quickly and, as she finished, even the tip of one small ear, peeking through the curve of her hair, grew gloriously crimson. "Oh!" she protested sharply, without raising her eyes. "That's simply awful!" Jimmy took a deep breath, like a swimmer about to take a long, long plunge. "Is—is it so terribly awful?" he asked. His voice seemed no part of him.

In spite of herself she raised her eyes and—but perhaps that scurrilous sheet, the *Jin-Jer Jar*, gave the best account of the sequel:

"When Miss McManus, of Women's Millinery, found Jimmy Gillespie and Jane Stewart behind a screen up on the fifth floor last week she quickly murmured, 'Excuse me, and backed out. They never even noticed her! But be calm, girls, it's all right. Jane is wearing a brand new ring that must have set Jimmy back considerable. We understand that Jimmy will be led to the halter some time in June and that his vacation this year will also be his honeymoon."

Jane said that that, too, was simply awful and Jimmy professed to agree, as an almost-married man should. Nevertheless, it is to be recorded that he clipped it and carried it around with him and seemed to take great joy in reading and re-reading it at odd moments.

The Country We Forgot — [Continued from page 14]

It is, of course, distinctly un-American for a judge to act as chief of police and trial judge as well, and the quicker this rule is changed, the better; yet one leaves the Islands with an opinion that coincides with that of all of Judge Thiele's American associates; that he is too fair and too valuable an administrator of justice for his adopted country to be lost to Uncle Sam.

The Passing of the Pirates

THE port of St. Thomas was once the rendezvous of pirates whose "Jolly Roger," terrorized the Spanish Main. The decaying castles of "Bluebeard" and "Blackbeard" on these shores are pointed out as the former abodes of two of the choicest of these cutthroats.

Such men are only traditions now, but it appears that up to the time the United States purchased the Islands the pirate spirit existed in a more subtle and refined form.

The St. Thomas signal station would show that there was a new ship about to enter the harbor. Out to meet it would go representatives of rival concerns, each begging the cap-

tain to appoint him his agent for obtaining supplies. The skipper having chosen one, this individual would take the captain, engineer or steward ashore; provide wine or women for his entertainment, and, when the mariner was sufficiently befuddled through such hospitality, would get his signature to a receipt for ship's stores that was two or three times more than would be delivered by the agent.

The same condition is said to have existed in regard to coaling—many a skipper or engineer would find that he had signed a receipt for hundreds of tons more coal than he had actually received, for which the owners of his boat must eventually pay.

These practices were stopped when Old Glory rose over St. Thomas Harbor. The honest business man—and there are many of them in the Virgin Islands—has now a fair show for the trade of the port, and the captain of a vessel does not now need to pass by St. Thomas for fear of overcharges. When the maritime prosperity of this port is renewed, its business will be conducted on a sound basis.

The Haunt of the Hurricane

THE Virgin Islander discusses hurricanes very much as we chat about the weather. The lot of the official weather observer is a hard one. Each building is provided with hurricane doors and shutters in addition to the usual ones, and when warning of a cyclone comes all these must be closed. In the case of the Redemptist Fathers, who have both houses and churches to protect, it takes forty minutes to shut all their doors and shutters. When this preparation is made by the people, and no hurricane comes, they are vexed at being put to the unnecessary work; but if, on the other hand, a hurricane came without the observer having warned them of it—a tirnado of criticism is hurled at him.

Women Coal Passers

ONE of the unique scenes at St. Thomas is the line of strapping colored women who serve as coal passers on the coaling deck of purchased the Islands the pirate spirit deflected union members and idolize George

Moorehead, the negro organizer who obtained for them an increase of pay from one cent to two cents a basket.

The baskets of coal weigh about 100 pounds, yet these women carry them on the tops of their heads without steadying them with their hands. Sometimes a man-of-war comes in to coal with a band on board. The band plays while the coaling goes on — perhaps there is an ulterior motive behind this.

Life in St. Croix and St. Thomas has been rendered vastly more enjoyable by two bands organized by our navy, and composed entirely of natives. They play in the public squares, morning and evening, at the raising and lowering of Old Glory, and on three evenings a week give a programme that is hugely enjoyed by the native population, to say nothing of the Americans. Whenever the band marches through the town it is followed by a singing, swaying crowd of dorkies.

Marriage Without Ceremony

AMERICAN standards of race purity are thrown to the winds here. The population may be considered as a mixed race. In America our census inquiries show four classes of persons: single, married, widowed or divorced. In the Virgin Islands a fifth class is added, which includes a large portion of the native population — those who live together without the marriage ceremony.

When a priest or minister remonstrates with this class there comes a variety of excuses: the white men who owned or had charge of the estates on the Islands under previous governments set the example, and the couple concerned are only following in the footsteps of their masters; or a man will give the excuse that when he lives with a woman and regards her just as his "keeper," she will do the housework and in addition go out in the fields and work with him, but if he makes her his wife, then she realizes that she is more independent and will not work in the fields; or, a couple will say that they do not know yet whether they want to live a life-time as man and wife, and, therefore, must have what is equivalent to a trial marriage. The trial will run on for years, children will be born and grow up but still the ceremony does not take place. Another excuse, generally given by a woman, is that she wants to have a fine marriage ceremony, and must wait until she and the man she lives with can save up enough money to afford it. This last excuse the priests and ministers use as a means of getting such couples to marry. A wedding ceremony elaborate enough to satisfy them is planned and the long-delayed step is at last taken.

In one case an old native woman stood up as bride, in the full array of white garments and orange blossoms, surrounded by her children and grandchildren!

Since the American missionaries began work on the Islands they have laid stress on the importance of marriage. One priest informed me that while formerly in his parish there were five marriages a year, last year there were thirty-seven.

One day, in making a religious survey of a certain sugar plantation, the observers went round with the native overseer of the place. They called at his home, saw his family, consisting of a wife and three children, and then began their tour. Outside a certain hut they met a grinning, half-naked urchin whom the overseer carelessly greeted. In another spot they met a little girl. When the census takers asked their names and parentage, the overseer said:

"Those are my children."
"How is that?" asked one of the observers, "I thought we met your entire family when we started out!"

"Oh," answered the man, without the slightest indication of shame, "those are my outside children!"

Unions thus formed are dissolved as carelessly as they are begun, and because of the thousands of deserted women and children, poverty and sickness are increased. Vigorous work must be done to save the children of these parents from following in their footsteps.

Business Opportunities

IN St. Croix, facing the harbor, stood a distinctly modern American building — the ground floor devoted to stores, the upper to offices. Gold letters painted on its stucco front told me that within this place were centered a half-dozen American industries.

In an up-stairs room, clad in a cool white suit, I found a well-groomed American attending to business with the alertness and

despatch characteristic of lower Broadway in Manhattan, but very amazing in this land of lazy ease.

This man was Robert L. Merwin, a native of New York State, former consular agent for the United States in St. Croix when the island was a Danish possession, and now perhaps the most representative American business man in the Islands. He is agent for the Quebec Line, Lloyd's, the New York Board of Underwriters, and has a dozen other business irons in the fire. In addition to these many interests, he is Chairman of the Colonial Council for Frederiksted and is also Chairman of its Poor Commission.

I cite Mr. Merwin's activities to show the opportunities that await Yankee ingenuity and capital in these territories.

Merwin's great grandfather settled in Milford, Connecticut, in 1642, and all of Merwin's ancestors are buried there. Merwin, despite his home-loving forebears, came to St. Croix in 1885, when he was twenty-two years old, to establish a branch house for L. W. and P. Armstrong, West Indian shipping merchants with headquarters in Connecticut. Merwin, after six years of West Indian experience, went into business for himself. Now, when a concern in the United States, England or Canada seeks representation in St. Croix, all inquiries lead to him.

Men like Merwin and his son Miles, who is now ending his war term in the Navy and coming back to St. Croix to join his father in business, are fair examples of other outposts of American business I found in the Islands. For the development of these territories there should be more of our opportunity-seizing business men there.

The use of Danish currency led to a panic in St. Thomas a few weeks ago when the value of the Danish dollar fell to 72 cents, and some of the business houses, it is said, went so far as to refuse to take Danish money in exchange for their goods. The value of the American dollar rose from \$1.04 to \$1.27 — this change in the rate of exchange following one that had taken place all over the world. Thus, where five Danish francs formerly equalled an American dollar, six are now required.

This depreciation of Danish currency, in which money wages were paid, naturally led to discontent among the laborers, and to calm the disturbances among them employers agreed, temporarily at least, to pay them a bonus equal to the amount of depreciation. If United States currency prevailed in the Islands, such panics would be avoided.

Have We A Sinn Fein Of Our Own?

A FEW months ago, Rothschild Francis, a negro representing a group of native workers in St. Thomas, presented to a committee of Congress a petition setting forth a list of grievances that indicated that there was something rotten in the former state of Denmark.

Were the grievances presented by this delegate true? Was there poverty and misery and mis-rule in the Islands? Had we forgotten that here were thousands of new Americans with problems and aspirations similar to ours, waiting in vain to enjoy the blessings Uncle Sam usually pours out with generous hand on those who come under the guardianship of his flag? It was in search of answers to these questions that "McClure's Magazine" sent me down 1500 miles of blue water to the Virgin Islands, a trip which, upon resolution by Senator Kenyon, Congress has now authorized a committee of Senators and Representatives to take.

Rothschild Francis is listed in a Commercial Directory of these Islands as conductor and manager of the Eureka Orchestra "Amateur Brass Band," vice-president of The American Historical Research Society; organizer of the St. Thomas Section, Socialist Labor Party of America (which society is stated to be "the pioneer of socialism in the Virgin Islands"); and president of the United Laboring Association. His original trade, I heard, was that of shoe-maker. In the September issue of a negro publication he is hailed as president of the Workmen's Council, "One Big Union." The negro labor element in St. Thomas elected him to be a member of the Colonial Council, in which, I was informed, he showed evidence of possessing "gray matter."

The work of Francis — and of the other labor leaders — is supported by dues of twenty cents a week [Continued on page 75.]

Do you want legislation based on "facts" like these?

The Federal Trade Commission, it seems, would like to show that the packers are getting control of the food supply of the nation.

If it were true, the commission ought to have no trouble in proving it. Every detail of the packing business has been open to them.

But the idea is absurd — and an absurdity cannot be proved.

* * *

The commission has published a list of some 640 articles said to be sold by the packers.

This list is a gross exaggeration.

90 of the items listed are not sold to the outside trade by Swift & Company but are supply and repair materials, such as brick, cement, etc., used in construction and maintenance.

Glaring duplications appear also. Sausage was listed 37 times under different varieties. Strictly beef products and by-products were classified as over 60 different items.

* * *

As a matter of real fact —

Aside from meat and meat by-products, Swift & Company regularly handles only butter, eggs, cheese, poultry, canned goods, lard substitutes, soap, and, to a very small extent, dried and salt fish. And it handles only a small percentage of the volume of these sold to the trade.

It is natural and logical, of course, that Swift & Company should handle these auxiliary articles.

Practically all of them are sold to retail shops. And plus this is the matter of plain economy. Swift & Company, by handling these auxiliary products, reduces overhead costs all down the line and gives cheaper meat and better service to the public.

That Swift & Company can serve the public at a profit of only a fraction of a cent per pound from all sources, is possible in large part because of these products.

* * *

We do not believe that intelligent, fair-minded American citizens want legislation based on the kind of "facts" the Federal Trade Commission is using to fight the packers. Such "facts" are vicious and grossly unfair and can do nothing but harm to everybody concerned.



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14.—Farson, Son & Co., 115 Broadway, New York City, will send upon request an interesting circular regarding the Cadet Hosiery Company, 8% Preferred Stock. Send for Circular C-T.

15.—Gerard & Company, 35 Wall Street, New York City, will send upon request some interesting booklets dealing with new offerings of securities.

16.—Francis & Company, 1 Wall Street, New York City, will be pleased to send upon request some interesting circulars describing a variety of new investments.

17.—The Twenty Payment Plan was originated by Slattery & Company, Inc., of 40 Exchange Place, New York City, and has been in successful operation for a great many years. Booklet describing the plan in detail.

18.—"We're Right on the Ground," by E. J. Landers & Co., of Grand Forks, N. D., covers Farm Mortgages from the Northwest. Free.

19.—"The 14 Points for Investors" is the title of a pamphlet for experienced as well as new investors which contains many topics of absorbing interest. It is issued by I. D. Noll & Company, 170 Broadway, New York.

20.—Judson G. Wall and Company, 10 Wall Street, New York City, will be glad to

send upon request a circular describing a new issue of Overland Tire stock. Send for Circular MC-1.

21.—A "Banking by Mail" plan which has stood the test, is explained in Booklet "D," of the Citizens Savings & Trust Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Write to the Bank and it will be mailed you without cost.

22.—Each number of Dunham's Investment Digest, which is an interesting bi-monthly publication devoted to current comment and analyses of securities readily marketable, and offering market profit possibilities, reviews many prominent independent oil, mining, Standard Oil, industrial and motor companies. Tables of current quotations and coming dividends contained are extremely handy for ready reference. The current number may be obtained from the publishers, Dunham & Company, 43 Exchange Place. Ask for 3-CC.

23.—Perkins & Co., Lawrence, Kan., will send free a list of farm mortgages. Send for list 718.

Upon request from readers, McClure's Financial Department will arrange with above named firms to furnish promptly the booklets mentioned in this column. In sending request for booklets, please order them by number.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, OF McCLURE'S, PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT NEW YORK, N. Y., FOR OCTOBER 1, 1919.

State of New York
County of New York
Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Arthur S. Moore, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of The McClure Publications, Inc., publishers of McClure's, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are:

Publisher, The McClure Publications, Inc., 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.
Editor, Frederick L. Collins, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

Managing Editor, Charles Hanson Towne, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

Business Manager, Arthur S. Moore, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of the total amount of stock.)

The McClure Publications, Incorporated, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

Frederick L. Collins, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

Cameron Mackenzie, 61 West Tenth Street, New York, N. Y.

Arthur S. Moore, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

Horace W. Paine, 76 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Estate of S. H. Moore, 27 Cedar Street, New York, N. Y.

Frederick P. Warfield, 25 West Forty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

Elizabeth Collins, Scarsdale, New York

Holland S. Duell, Yonkers, New York
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2803 Scarborough Road, Cleveland, O.
George H. Fitzgerald

448 Madison Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Herbert Kaufman, Tarrytown, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state). None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee, or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

THE McCLURE PUBLICATIONS, Inc.,
A. S. MOORE, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of September, 1919.

[SEAL] Edwin Brown, Notary Public, Bronx County, No. 50, Bronx Register's No. 2128 (Certificate filed in New York County, No. 201.) New York Register's No. 1263. (My commission expires March 30, 1921.)

The Country We Forgot

[Continued from page 71]

levied on each member. Rothschild Francis was sent to the United States on money contributed by the members of his labor union, and while in the States had received additional money from The Virgin Island Protective League, a body of colored men, natives of the Island, who now live in New York City. He stopped in New York on his way home to address a meeting of the latter group, and was heralded in their circulars as—

The Honorable Rothschild Francis—
Labor Agitator, Race Fighter and
Legislator

While I was in St. Thomas I saw the officers of his union selling in the streets copies of the September number of a New York publication entitled "The Messenger: The Only Radical Negro Magazine in America," a publication every article of which flamed with hatred for the white man and with incitements to violence. It was illustrated with cartoons condemning the Booker Washington type of leadership and showing the "new negro" in a speeding motor car equipped with automatic rifles and revolvers, shooting down crowds of fleeing white men — to make America safe for the colored man. Next to an article advocating that the American negro adopt Bolshevism, appeared

an article by Rothschild Francis on the need of changed conditions in the Virgin Islands. In introducing Francis the editor also bestowed on him the title "Race-Fighter." This paper by Francis was by far the most temperate article in this hate-creating publication, yet the association of himself and his fellow-workers with so vicious a propaganda, leads one to question whether Francis is the right type of leader for the easily swayed negro element. Rival labor leaders say that he has embraced the dangerous doctrine that all things belong to the laboring class, and is in favor of short cuts to ease and prosperity instead of the old-fashioned but true principle that the way to prosperity is through faithful, productive work.

The claim of Francis to be the leader of the working people was thrown into doubt when a colored member of a larger union handed me this prepared statement concerning Rothschild Francis's "Working People's Committee":

"It does not represent more than about two hundred of the laboring population of this island, and these are for the most part malcontents from the largest labor organization extant in St. Thomas, which is known by the name of the "St. Thomas Labor Union," whose en-

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tire membership stand at present over two hundred strong. The president of this institution is George A. Moorehead, the most popular labor agitator ever known here, as the recorded membership of the union testifies; hence it is easy to understand from these facts that Francis is not the accredited representative of the working people. Francis has barely succeeded in influencing a few by blatant and unreasoning appeals to the ignorant crowd, but the more intelligent class of laborers will have nothing to do with him and his movement."

One of the things Rothschild Francis advocated in his petition to Congress was a change in the present legal system by which a judge tries a prisoner without jury, subject to review of his decision by the Governor.

Trial by jury, for which Francis asks, is theoretically a fair and American principle. On these Islands, however, the population is 7.4 per cent. whites; 17.5 per cent. white and negro blood; and 74.9 per cent. negro blood. The negro element is very largely composed of men of untrained and primitive minds. Thus the jury box would be filled with colored men, swayed too often by negro lawyer-orators who have been inflamed by Bolshevistic principles and whose principal stock in trade is to rail against the white men who supply the capital and brains necessary to the prosperity of the Islands.

Another of the pleas of Francis is for "Suffrage based on manhood." At present the right to vote is extended to male citizens who are twenty-five years of age, whose personal income amounts to three hundred dollars a year, or who own real estate or other property yielding an annual income of sixty dollars. This law thus insures that only responsible men can cast a ballot. The tendency is to give the native franchise as soon as he has the intelligence and education to use it rightly, and a wholesale granting at present of the vote to the ignorant classes would tend to make of the Virgin Islands another disrupted Hayti!

Francis also appeals for a "reconstruction of the school system in direct accord with the American conception." Plans to do this were completed before Francis left the island. Beginning with the Fall term schools were being conducted in accordance with American principles; and compulsory education was in force.

More of justice is present in the plea of Francis for a Homestead Act that will turn over uncultivated land to the people. The tragedy of St. Thomas, from an industrial standpoint, is that if there is not sufficient work in the harbor, the great mass of working people have nothing else to do. These have been drawn to the town by the larger wages paid for harbor work, and once a town resident, it is hard to get the negro to go back to the land.

"Yes, I know Rothschild Francis," said the black "boatic" who ferried me ashore, "I gave some money to help send him to the States."

"What is he trying to do up there?" I asked.

"He wants to better conditions for us working-men down here. You see, this harbor can't support all the workmen—not enough ships comin' in. See all that land"—he swept his arm around to include the uncultivated hills that girded the harbor—"it is mostly owned by people who live in Europe. Them people will rent land to laborers, dollar an acre a month, but after the laborer puts it under cultivation, if times are bad and he can't pay up, the land is taken away from him and thrown back into bush for stock-raising." We want it fixed so laborers can work the land and make this island self-supportin'."

In St. Thomas the soil is almost hopeless at present. If this land is to be opened to the native, the United States should first furnish agricultural experts to prepare it for cultivation and instruct the negro how to work the soil. Though the land-owners protest that the average negro is too shiftless to work the soil, incentive should be given to the ambitious and hard-working negro to become a property owner. The policy, if extended, of allotting small holdings of land to the laborers, will do much to keep them on the Islands and promote their ambitions. Instead of charging the negro a rental that he cannot afford to pay, some fair-minded planters have adopted the plan of letting him work it on a profit-sharing basis. If this were made the universal practise, a Homestead Act would be unnecessary.

This "Working People's Committee" asks, too, a law to regulate the scale of wages in St. Thomas. The Government, however, has done all that is possible to set the example to private employees. In a public statement it has set forth the rule that:

"Every citizen of the United States residing in our Islands should have an opportunity to earn for himself or herself by honest, healthful toil, a decent, healthful living," and has announced that while it cannot improve its labor policy upon local communities,

... "it will welcome the public approval and support of its policy, which will become in reality the labor policy of the Virgin Islands of the United States."

It is true, as Francis states, that the housing conditions of the native laborers on the Islands are miserable and insanitary. Their shelters are called "rooms" instead of houses, and their large families eat, sleep, bathe and entertain their friends in the one room.

On St. John's Island, where there is no town and are no industries, the poverty of the natives is extreme—one wonders how they manage to exist on the little food available. Most of them live on two meals a day. For breakfast they use sugar dissolved in hot water; for dinner, a piece of dried fish with a portion of "Fungi"—which is corn meal boiled in a bag and then squeezed dry.

The average native will not work on Saturday, Sunday or Monday. While he is kind and gentle and usually well-behaved, he is also lazy and improvident. If he can work two days a week at a wage of 80 cents a day, the \$1.60 thus gained is considered by him sufficient to provide for his wants for a week. The present school authorities have been forced by such conditions to advocate, not the license which some of their misguided leaders seek, but instead a law which will compel the native to work at least long enough each week to provide food and clothing for his children, in order that these may be able to attend school.

During recent weeks a famine has developed in St. Thomas. The laboring classes, with their meager wages, are confronted with prices for necessary foods which put them beyond reach. Eggs are being sold for seven cents each; wheat flour costs nine and one-half cents a pound; a one-pound loaf of bread sells for eleven cents.

Meats are comparatively cheap in comparison with the prices of other foods, but the price of foodstuffs as a whole, coming at a time when industry is slack, and there is little opportunity to earn money, is such as to increase the bitterness of the poorer classes.

It is the opinion of representative men of the Islands that the chief thing which Rothschild Francis came to the States to advocate lies in the clause of his petition which asks that natives be permitted to fill all public offices whenever qualified. As most of the native citizens are colored, this clause aims to fill the offices with colored men. Civil service rules apply on the Islands and there appears to be nothing to prevent the native holding office when he fits himself for the task. A Sinn Fein movement is undoubtedly at work among the negroes of the Islands, but native ability does not strike one as having reached the stage where things will go efficiently without the brains and executive ability of the white American.

The Jungle Strain

"Take up the White Man's burden,
And reap his old reward:
The blame of those ye better,
The hate of those ye guard—"

AMONG the colored people on the Islands, who outnumber the whites ten to one, are a half-dozen labor agitators, with a score more enterprising young colored men waiting for a chance to step into their places. A negro who, if born in Africa, might fill the office of a tribal chieftain, becomes in these Islands a labor leader, and is surrounded with as much pomp and secures as much homage from his circle as an African clan bestows on its king.

The career of George A. Moorehead is a case in point. Business men in St. Thomas regard Moorehead as the natural leader of his people and prefer to deal with him rather than with his rivals. They say that he is free from Bolshevistic tendencies, and preaches to his people that to earn more pay they must produce more. The St. Thomas Labor Union, as has been said, far out-

numbers any other body of workmen in St. Thomas. Moorehead originated the first successful strike at St. Thomas by which the men and women coal passers received a substantial increase.

One of the saving elements in the race situation is that, once a negro labor leader rises to power, and deals with white men as the representative of the laborers, he comes to see that the future of his people depends on these men who supply the money and brains for the development of the Islands, and gradually becomes conservative.

In St. Croix, D. Hamilton Jackson, once a violent agitator, has calmed down recently, and this has given an opportunity to Morris Davis, a negro of the most dangerous type.

One day, Davis, originally a field laborer, walked into the grounds of a St. Croix planter. "I hear there are workers on this estate who don't belong to our union!" he cried. One lone toiler was pointed out as having declared his intention not to belong to the union. Thereupon Davis ordered a "walk-out." The director of the estate hurried to the scene and demanded of Davis what his business was.

"I want justice!" foamed Davis. The director pointed out to him that in his agreement with the labor union no clause had been inserted forbidding him to employ men who did not belong to the union. "In the face of my contract, is it justice for you to interfere with my laborers?" he asked.

The only reply Davis made was to order the plastic negroes to leave the grounds. His influence was strong enough to draw them off that estate and five neighboring ones, and to tie up the work of these estates for two days during its busiest season.

The real labor leaders repudiated the action of Davis when they heard of it, and induced the workmen to return. Davis meanwhile busied himself in forming a union of the stevedores at Frederiksted, embittering them by speeches against white employers.

A False Strike

HERE is one of the reasons for skepticism toward labor on the part of West Indian employers:

A certain engineer in a sugar factory located near San Juan, told his employer that parts of the machinery needed overhauling and that the plant had better be closed down for a few days.

The engineer had little acquaintance with labor conditions and was amazed when the factory owner said to him:

"All right, I am on good terms with the local labor leader. I will pass him a little money to call a strike. Then we won't have to pay the men while we shut down."

The plan worked. The labor leader called the men off their jobs; they went happy in the prospect of a holiday that was at the same time a rebuke to "Capital." A few days later their leader told them that the strike was called off; and back to the factory they went. The machinery was working now in fine shape. Only three people knew that the wages saved by the employer had gone to pay the bill for repairs.

It was largely due to the incendiary talk of Morris Davis that the little garrison of Marines that were recently withdrawn from Frederiksted and stationed at Christiansted were sent back post haste by the Governor. I visited a sugar planter on his lovely estate in St. Croix, where, for every white face, one saw a hundred black ones. While I sat on his porch hearing him tell of the negro uprising of 1878 in which his brother was killed by the blacks, I listened to his daughters and their companions dancing to the music of a Victrola, apparently as care-free as if they were in the heart of New York. The United States can forget many things about these Islands but let it never forget that living in lonely sections of the island of St. Croix are families of pure Anglo-Saxon blood, the men, women and children of which are as much in need and as much entitled to police and military protection as those in the most populated sections of our country.

No American is more needed in the Virgin Islands than the Marine; no one is more wanted by its white inhabitants; and yet no one has a lonelier existence than this same "Devil Dog."

A Vanished Naval Base

THERE is as yet little to show that the much-heralded prosperity which America's possession was to bring to St. Thomas.

harbor is on its way. The German Hamburg-American Line was the principal customer of this port before the War. It built a great dock and its steamers touched here twice a week. It was the transshipment port or Germany for its trade in South America and this line alone made St. Thomas a thriving place. The gap left by the War, and by the shutting out of the German interests, has not been filled. Where in pre-war days an average of fifty ships a day visited the harbor, there are now barely a half-dozen.

The United States Shipping Board, to help matters, has recently made this a stopping port for its ships bound to and from South America, and is building two oil tanks to apply its oil-burning vessels with fuel. The oiling dry-dock, which is one of the harbor's main facilities, is in active operation.

Danes still retain control of most of the harbor's facilities, and are anxiously waiting for Uncle Sam to send prosperity to the port. The Danish West Indian Company, Ltd.,—a subsidiary of the East Asiatic Company—operates the coaling pier and controls certain parts of the harbor. During the War the United States, fearing that some of its stockholders were of German birth, tried unsuccessfully to procure a list of them. Whether such was the case is problematical; but one fact would have been revealed that few people know: that the principal shareholder is Prince Axel, cousin of the king of Denmark.

Mr. H. P. Berg, managing director of this company, a shrewd business man with wide shipping experience, believes that the prosperity of St. Thomas as a shipping center will be swiftly restored if American capital invests money to improve the present facilities of the harbor, and to restore the different outlets for which St. Thomas was the center before the War. He holds that, owing to the great increase in the cost of ships and in their running expenses, the future shipping of the world, in order to save time and money, must be planned so that large ocean liners will touch at easily accessible ports and there transship their passengers and cargoes by smaller and cheaper vessels to their destination. St. Thomas is admirably fitted to be such a center. Steamers from Europe and America would find it convenient and economical to stop here and connect with smaller steam or motor ships plying between it. Thomas and the islands and countries bordering on the Caribbean Sea. Thus shippers throughout the world could forward their goods on bills of lading via St. Thomas. This would not only restore the prosperity of the harbor interests, but benefit the merchants as well. Mr. Berg also advocates making St. Thomas a "free port," so that American or foreign merchants can store goods intended for transshipment there or any length of time, without paying duty on them. This would make St. Thomas an emporium, with ample supplies for quick shipment, thus enabling American merchants to keep ahead of foreign competition.

These measures, however, are predicated upon first bringing to St. Thomas the necessary ships.

Wards of the Navy

THE administration of the Islands by Rear-Admiral Oman and his staff is painstaking and efficient. The business men of St. Thomas and St. Croix agree that the new Governor is democratic, easily approachable, and faithful to the interests of both territories. Around him are a staff of elected naval aides, under the leadership of Commander N. R. White, a human dynamo who has served in his present capacity since the United States took possession of the islands, and who plunges heart and soul into every plan that will help the Islands. These aides are young, clean-cut and "on their toes" to make their administration reflect honor to the United States. Yet, for all the devotion to duty of these men, it is plain that we have forgotten them too. Where millions of dollars would be required to bring the islanders out of their poverty-stricken and diseased and uneducated condition, Congress allotted them at first only one hundred thousand dollars, and any other sums allotted them since have been miserly in proportion to the crying needs of the islanders.

We have forgotten to give them money for schools—though education will do more than anything else to save the boys and girls of the Islands from the evils that surround them. There are only nineteen public schools on the three islands. In the country districts the children walk four miles over

hills five hundred feet high. The average salary for teachers is \$24 a month. The problem of getting teachers is made still harder by the fact that, due to a Navy rule, the teachers receive only temporary appointments. The country schools have no desks; the children sit on benches without backs. On the wild island of St. John, the school director, Henry C. Blair, travels on horseback over steep mountain trails. Here the schools are eighteen miles apart. In some districts of St. Thomas and St. Croix, for lack of schoolhouses, rooms are rented from the Moravian Church. There is need for manual training teachers for high schools and night schools. There is no encyclopedia in the schools and even the school directors are forced to go without reference books. There is no map of any town, or of the Virgin Islands, in any of the schools. There is only a three-months' supply of paper on hand. The supply of text-books is only half of the amount needed. There are no white teachers; the native teachers now employed were either trained in Denmark or in Moravian schools; these, however, have gladly embraced the American school methods now in operation.

We have forgotten to provide free libraries in the various towns. There is not even a dictionary available now for public use.

We have forgotten to provide the money needed in the hospitals. Our efficient American doctors have changed the former inefficient methods of child-birth, so that now expectant mothers are brought to the hospitals in ambulances. This has materially reduced the number of deaths from child-birth. Milk stations have been established; and babies are weighed and examined weekly. The infants are considered wards of the hospital for a year. These methods have reduced infant mortality 50 per cent. When the dearth of money for hospital equipment was most acute, the Red Cross came nobly to the rescue with \$60,000 worth of much-needed instruments and equipment, but there is need now for volunteer Red Cross nurses in all of the hospitals.

We have forgotten to provide adequate funds for sanitation. The streets, public gutters, markets and squares are kept clean and tidy, but none of the towns has a sewage system. In St. Thomas the harbor is used nightly for a dumping ground, and in St. Croix conditions are equally bad.

In Christiansted during the last year a fire occurred that caused a large loss of property. This loss was due mainly to the shortage of water supply, which is solely derived from cisterns that catch the rainfall. The cisterns are few and water is generally scarce. The fire engines often cannot operate for lack of water.

We have forgotten to supply adequate quarantine facilities to support Captain Liston Paine, the Chief Quarantine Officer, in his work of keeping contagious diseases away from St. Thomas. A sum sufficient to acquire Water Island, located where the vessels can be boarded before they enter the harbor, is the recommended location.

Above all, we have forgotten to provide for a survey by experts of the agricultural, geological, labor, social, moral and industrial conditions in these Islands, so that their undeveloped or retarded resources can be swiftly utilized.

St. Croix is the most fertile and productive of the three islands and can easily be made self-supporting if irrigation can be successfully brought to it. It was suggested by a leading citizen of St. Croix that bonds be issued for these improvements by the group of planters who would benefit by the work, and that the issue be guaranteed by the United States.

Roosevelt's Faith in the Islands

THE purchase of the Virgin Islands will cost the United States Government scarcely more than it would pay to build and maintain a dreadnaught. So it would be with the Virgin Islands. Uncle Sam should be prepared to keep their resources up to the same high standard that marks his other colonial possessions. Then, if war comes, he will have a naval station that will be worth to him a score of dreadnaughts.

The speaker was Merwin, of St. Croix. The time was shortly after the beginning of the World War. The man who sat listening to Merwin was Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, then making a tour of the West Indies, and paying an especial visit to the Virgin group, in the purchase of which he was strongly interested.

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The Colonel's interest extended far beyond the mere acquirement of this naval base. He realized that the Islands should be kept up in accordance with American traditions. It was this feeling that led him to bring his fist down on the table between Merwin and himself and to say with characteristic earnestness:

"That is the best argument I have ever heard for the purchase and upkeep of these islands!"

THE Navy Department is now doing its work of administration efficiently. If, however, the naval officials at Washington cannot secure from Congress the money needed to carry out the improvements for which here is a crying need, they cannot hope, however good the personnel, to administer the Islands in a way that will reflect entire credit on their department. A banker returning from his second trip to the West Indies shrewdly pointed out to me another handicap that goes with a naval administration. Officers of the Navy, he remarked, have, as a matter of course, had little commercial training. The biggest problem the United States faces with regard to this new country is a business one — to make it self-supporting. The banker's suggestion was that, if the Navy Department is to continue in charge of this territory, it should have the co-operation of our biggest captains of industry in planning and carrying out the development of these plantations and cities, so that the Virgin Islands will prove to be a paying investment for the nation.

As I left St. Croix the native band was playing for "colors" and the last strains I heard as I turned homeward were:

"Tis the Star-Spangled Banner,
O long may it wave,
O'er the land of the free and
the home of the brave!"

Yet how can our flag wave splendidly and honestly over our new territories if Congress and the people of the United States forget and desert the little group of pioneer Americans who are struggling amidst loneliness and hardships to make these Islands as clean and healthful and prosperous as is the homeland?

Poison Gas

[Continued from page 51]

lose. If the air contains a heavy concentration of phosgene, say one part in 200, death comes very quickly by absolute destruction of the lungs, but it kills at far weaker strengths than that. If a man should take a breath or two of air containing phosgene at a strength of one part in 2,900 or 10,000, he might suffer no serious results, but five minutes of breathing in such an atmosphere would almost certainly prove fatal.

"Phosgene will kill even when much more diluted than this, even at a concentration of one part of gas in 100,000 parts of air, if breathed for half an hour or less, if the person has a weak heart. In the case of feeble concentrations it is not so much the destructive effect on the lungs that kills as the delayed action on the blood and heart through the lungs. For this reason any exertion on the part of a gassed man may prove fatal. Many soldiers have felt quite well after being gassed and have gone about their duties — only to fall suddenly dead."

TWO months before the Armistice the Germans put over the last novelty in gas attack, this being the famous "Double Green Cross Shell," which was counted upon to work extraordinary havoc among the Allied forces. The green cross designated an asphyxiating shell and the doubling of it meant that an extra kick had been provided. This double-cross shell was made with two chambers, one filled with liquid phosgene, the other with high explosive, the idea being that the Allies could not distinguish this from a non-gas shell and would suffer both the ordinary explosive effect and a complete surprise gassing effect. This was supposed to be the last word in frightfulness.

The result proved, however, that German chemists had blundered again; they had double-crossed themselves, for the Allies were able to recognize this gas shell by its wobbling sound and flight, and its asphyxiating power was practically nil, because the terrific explosions scattered the gas entirely too much for deadly concentrations.

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