

HAITI

Area, 10,200 square miles. Size of Vermont. Population, 2,000,000; 137 per square mile. Railway mileage, 64.

The western portion of the island, while under Spanish and French rule, was, of course, a white colony, rapacious, rich, and luxurious, served by an African slave population driven to work but otherwise left to practice the primitive and savage customs of their native land. Many of these, with the mulattoes, who became in time numerically important and were gifted with superior intelligence, were carried by the French commanders, *d'Estaing* and *Rochambeau*, to serve in the American war of independence. When fired by the news of the French revolution they spread a determination for freedom throughout the island. The whole black population responded and fought till all the whites were murdered or driven from Haiti, and the higher class mulattoes were sold as slaves to the Spaniards of the eastern section of Santo Domingo. Among these blacks, however, arose a master spirit, *Toussaint Louverture*, who, but for the treachery of France, might have subdued the savagery of his people and brought them forward on the road to civilization. He was succeeded by *Dessaline* "The Emperor"

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and by *Christophe* the tyrant who built the palace of *Sans Souci*. Independence of France was proclaimed in 1804 and has not since been contested, although not till 1862 did the United States recognize it. Education has always been generously encouraged, and many of the wealthy send their children to France and speak excellent French. Religious freedom has always been guaranteed. The Roman Catholic Church, in 1869, undertook missions here and several Protestant denominations have feeble settlements. But the people are either devoted to Freemasonry or practice a secret "Voodooism," hard to understand or influence.

Coffee is the measure of the prosperity of the republic (mostly shipped to France and Belgium). Logwood, mahogany, and sandalwood, cotton and cacao are abundant, but native indolence has delayed agricultural and commercial possibilities. Negroes from the United States have several times been invited to immigrate, but the experiments have not been so successful as have those from Jamaica. The present government, while showing tendencies toward a military despotism, yet contains principles of a liberal character; the laws and forms of procedure are based on those of France. The republic is financially prosperous and has no quar-

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rels with foreign nations. It is divided into five departments and has eleven ports of entry, visited by more lines of steamships than any other island in the West Indies. Interior communication is difficult, though railroads and improved post roads are projected. The country is mountainous though not so high as to reach the frost line.

The rainy season is from April to October, but in the interior the rains run into the winter months. Contrary to conditions in the Dominican Republic, there are many populous towns in the interior; for example, *Léogane* (population, 30,000), *Mirebalis* (25,000), *Gros Morne* (22,000), etc.

PORT AU PRINCE, capital. Population, 60,000. 1367 miles from New York. At the head (eastern end) of Gulf of Gonaïve; volume of business as great at that of any port of its size in the world. Not attractive in appearance; dilapidated wharves, ill-paved and unlighted streets. National palace and most other structures of wood. Fires frequent; earthquakes not unknown. Hottest place in the West Indies, but not unhealthy; good water supply. Pleasant resorts on the mountain side at elevations from 5000 to 6000 feet, as at the old French town of *Petionville* (15,000). Railroad from capital to *Lake Assiel*, 28 miles.

CAPE HAITIEN, or "The Cape." Population, 30,000. 1288 miles from New York. A picturesque town on the northern coast, second in size in the republic. In French times called "Little Paris." Center of prosperous district and increasing business interests. Heat

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modified by trade winds. Nine miles south into the interior is the town *Milot*, in the vicinity of which are the imposing ruins of the palace of *Sans Souci*, and citadel of *La Ferriere*, built by Christophe at an elevation of 5000 feet, and destroyed by an earthquake. Railroad to *Grande Riviere*, 15 miles.

PORT DE PAIX. Population, 10,000. Good harbor backed by a rich country. *Ile de la Tortue* opposite the fort, first point occupied by the French, 1530; famous for its mahogany. Railroad from this port through the valley of *Trois-Rivieres* to *Gros Morne*, thence through the great central plain to the River *Artibonite*.

MOLE ST. NICHOLAS. Population, 12,000. Columbus landed here but it was not settled till 1764. In spite of its superb harbor, which has been called the "Gibraltar of the new world," immense sums of money have been spent on its forts and walls, although they are now in ruins.

AUX CAYES. Population, 25,000. On the Caribbean side of the lower arm surrounding the Gulf. Once most populous and thriving town. Harbor improvements under way.

JEREMIE. Population, 35,000. A little town inside the Gulf, noted as the birthplace of *Alexandre Dumas* the Elder. Exports excellent cacao.