

## Virgin Islanders Organize to Capture Tourist Trade

They Are Enthusiastic Over the Future of Their Location as an All-Year Resort, but Need Capital for Development.

It is because of considerable interest on the part of Americans that the Virgin Islands, and the fact with regard to the islands lead to the hope that the American people are not at all informed of their latest possessions, that this letter is written.

It is a fact that the people of Denmark, Germany, England and France are better informed concerning the Virgin Islands than are the people of the United States. This is due to the close contact and association of the Europeans mentioned with these islands and their people in time zone. However, the area is so small that our people on the American Continent, being a people of superlatives, have not had time to devote to studying them.

The Virgin Islands of the United States, comprising St. Thomas, St. John and St. John, an area of 132 square miles, lie about 1,400 miles southeast of New York. They were discovered by Columbus during his second voyage, in 1492, and were at different times occupied by Dutch, English, Spanish and Danish settlers. The United States finally purchasing them for \$2,500,000 and taking possession on March 15, 1917.

There has been considerable comment on this purchase, some going so far as to say that the United States got a squeezed lemon. The argument against this is that the United States bought the islands primarily as an outpost of defense, their location being such a strategic one that it was early realized what a mistake they would be in the hands of an unfriendly nation. It should be taken into consideration that the cost of three good warships would far exceed the price paid for the islands, and the maintenance of the ships would have to be taken into account plus the fact that their period of usefulness would be comparatively short.

On the part of the natives, there is a complaint that the United States bought the islands and then forgot them. This, however, is not borne out by the facts, for considerable attention has been given to the islands by the national government. The national government has appropriated approximately \$250,000. A grant of some \$150,000 for building reservoirs was also provided, and the last Congress passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for building public highways in St. Thomas, which amount is not available, however, due to the failure of passage of the deficiency appropriation.

By executive order the islands were placed by the late President Harding under the administrative control of the Navy Department, and a number of naval officers were loaned to the civil government. The complaint that the officers are not sympathetic toward the natives is not real, for, as a



THE DUCHESS OF YORK AND PRINCESS ELIZABETH  
Every Canadian mother looks for pictures of this delightful youngest member of the Royal Family.

## Much Interest Taken in Canada

Hon. Robert Forke Says Britain and Scandinavia Are Impressed

Ottawa—Throughout the British Isles and the Scandinavian countries there is evidence of keen interest in Canada and the opportunities in Dominion offers to desirable settlers, according to Hon. Robert Forke, Minister of Immigration and Colonization who has just returned from a tour of those countries.

Mr. Forke left Canada early in May from the time he arrived in London. He "until he sailed for home at the end of July. His time was taken up with the work of his department, except for a few days' visit to his old home at Gordon, Berwickshire, Scotland, which he left 45 years ago for Canada.

The Minister had numerous conferences with representatives of various organizations who are interested in immigration to Canada.

The most important business, however, was with the Overseas Settlement Department, or that branch of the British Government directly responsible for the administration of the Empire Settlement Act. Several schemes, it is stated, were negotiated and particulars of two of these have already been published. One settlement agreement which provides for the cooperation of provincial governments and which also involves an expenditure of \$5,000,000 covering a period of 10 years; also a scheme providing for the settlement of 500 British families in the Province of New Brunswick within the next six years.

The details of other schemes negotiated are not being made public, pending ratification by the provincial governments concerned.

Mr. Forke also visited the British Government training farm at Claydon, Suffolk, and was impressed, not only by the keen interest taken by those undergoing training, but also by the efficient, practical methods adopted by those in charge of the farm. The course of training comprises the handling of horses, the operation of various agricultural implements, clearing land and dairy work.

At the training farm at Caterick, Yorkshire, he saw ex-soldiers being trained for farming in the different overseas Dominions. The course at Caterick includes the ordinary agricultural operations, the care of live stock, dairying and hog and poultry farming.

From Britain the Minister went to

## Mother With 24 Children Feeds All on \$11.25 a Week

London—The maternal champion, sixteen sons, 24 children include ship of England "has been won" by three sets of twins and twelve are London's mother, Mrs. Emily Lane, has just given birth to her twenty-fourth child. Tambidge, a town of 16,000, is justly proud, since Mrs. Lane also harbors another mother with 24 children. Two mothers, large families she gave the reporter with forty-seven children, there's a record.

What surely is a record is how Mrs. Lane feeds her army of a family. Her family eats only 50 cents' worth of meat but spends 30 cents on jam, Canned milk, sugar, rice, flour, cheese, soap and tea range (in the other named) from 50 cents to 15 cents per week. There are no luxuries, and the children look forward to Sunday, when there is a small piece of plain homemade cake for each of them.

The Lane family, now twenty-three strong, lives—and thrives—in a cottage of six tiny rooms.

## PEKING'S SUPERSTITIONS REVIVED BY WAR MISERY

Priests of Lamaism Reaping Rich Harvest by Performing "Bestowal of Power Ceremony"; Sell Charms to Recipients

Peking—The misery of the Chinese people, due to sixteen years of civil war, is reviving ancient superstitions which have been neglected for a generation or more, but which are once more being tried in the forlorn hope that they will help to mitigate conditions.

One of the most interesting and obscure of these superstitions is that of "the bestowal of power," or wang-fu ceremony. This old over-nam—which translates literally into "power-give ceremony." This old over-nam, which had not been seen in Peking for more than thirty years, but which had long been popularly known by 8,000 miles to the westward of the borders of Tibet, has been revived in Peking by the priests of Lamaism, who are reaping a rich harvest in fees.

The bestowal of power ceremony is given to 300 persons at a time and is supposed to make the recipients immune to old age, illness and death as long as their faith does not falter. The Lama priests make the ceremony as ornate as possible, and as a rule the candidates are kept on their knees in the temple courtyard during nearly three hours of incantations, anointings and long prayers.

SPRINKLED WITH HOLY WATER  
First, the head priest, attended by many understudies in yellow robes, goes up and down the lines of supplicants and pours holy water on the head of each from the pun-ba or jar of life. This holy water contains in essence saffron, and is supposed to be akin to an elixir of life.

After the jar-of-life rites are finished the paper image of some Lama saint, usually Jizang, the holder, is glued to the forehead of each person in the kneeling throng.

The priest then takes the bestowal of power ceremony, which is then followed by a little red pill made by the priest, and the secret of its composition has been carefully guarded for centuries. The pills are a thick thread of red silk which must be worn around the neck. Each recipient is blessed as this is put over the head.

It may be a coincidence, but every person who has taken the bestowal of power ceremony is then told that if he or she has a bad result he must have many understudies in yellow robes, a new sash, and that hands properly go up and down the lines of supplicants and pours holy water on the head of each from the pun-ba or jar of life. This holy water contains in essence saffron, and is supposed to be akin to an elixir of life.

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## New Motor Fuel Put Germany in Van for Production

Washington—The prospect for commercial production of oil from coal is indicated in the news from Germany, which is regarded here as of wide importance, industrially, commercially and even politically.

It is taken to indicate that Germany, deprived of many of her assets by war, has put her technical ability to work and has developed something that will make costly importations unnecessary, and also put her in an advantageous position commercially with other nations.

England, in particular, it is pointed out, has depended upon her coal distributed all over the world, to support her commercial empire. She has been experimenting with synthetic gasoline but has reached no such advanced stage as Germany, nor has France, which has also been conducting experiments.

Little attention has been paid here to this new development in Germany. It has been regarded generally as a laboratory matter only, but now comes the report that crude oil and gasoline obtained from coal will be put on the market before the end of the year and that the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has made a deal with the German dye trust. In 1928 Germany is expected to produce synthetically 20 per cent of the nation's consumption of gasoline and within a few years to obviate the necessity of importing any. She may even enter the foreign export field.

## Winner of Derby Is Kept at Home

Britain Pays \$300,000 for Call Boy to Escort Derby Winner to American Sportsmen—Horse Taken Rank With New-Exportable Art

The English Derby is expected to have taken rank with the objects of art in England, because Sir Henry Dreyfus paid \$300,000 for the winner of the Derby, for the purpose of presenting the horse to American sportsmen. There has been negotiation in England, as elsewhere, regarding letting valuable paintings and other art works go to the U.S., but this is perhaps the first time that a horse has been purchased to keep in the home country.

It cost Sir Henry the highest price that has ever been paid for a horse in France, which has also been conducting experiments.

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## The Prince Acts For a Film

Make-up of Grease and Powder and He Rehearses His Part Time and Again

## "THIS IS TERRIBLE"

Greased and powdered like a professional cinema actor and obeying in detail the instructions of the director, the Prince of Wales has been left for Canada to act in London in the creation of the film "Remembrance," which is being produced by the British Legion, and will be on public exhibition on Armistice Day.

The scene in which the Prince took part was the final piece of photography necessary and was enacted in a replica of his study in York House which had been erected at the Pathe Studios in Warrington, London.

When approached some time ago with a request that he would appear in the film for the benefit of the funds of the Legion, the Prince readily consented and gave all the assistance he could to the producers in staging a realistic scene.

For Armistice Day  
After being made up the Prince, who was wearing a lounge suit with a British Legion tie and badge, went into the studio and took his stand before the cameras, holding a poppy. "This he placed in his buttonhole, and after a moment's pause turned to the desk, where he sat down to write a letter to Earl Haig.

The letters, commemorating Earl Haig on the success of the Poppy Day celebrations, will be shown on the screen in the course of the film.

The Prince went through all the movements of writing and folding the letter. He patiently submitted to half-a-dozen rehearsals in order that the scene might be satisfied with the scene, and showed himself fully appreciative of the deliberate movement necessary in film acting.

The actual scene in the film will occupy about 200 feet, and with the captions, will last about four minutes. There was a merry laugh when, in the dressing room, the paint was removed, and the Prince's face, rather sore (as observed), was freshly powdered.

The Prince remarked as he looked at his watch, "I must be off. I'm lunching with my brother at the Guildhall."

"That's wrong"

In conversation with Mr. Wynne, the film director, the Prince expressed great interest in the production of British films. He said the Americans had better facilities, better weather, and more money, but he was sure that within the next year or two this country would beat them at their own game.

A number of well-known cinema actors have taken part in the film, which justifies war scenes produced with the

## Considerate

Maud reached for the telephone and demanded a number.

"Is that you, Edward?" she asked.

"Speaking," he replied.

"You remember I told you last night that on no account would you be permitted to enter our house again?"

"Shall I ever forget it?" replied Edward.

"Well, we have decided to move, and I thought you might like to know our new address"—Ted Bits.

"If the League of Nations would only agree not to have another war until the last one is paid for, everlasting peace would be assured," Lord Dowar.

## College To-day

Visitor—"Nothing stirring on the campus, I see. Vacation is on?"

Student—"Not much. The crew has gone to Hillsport, the baseball team is on the southern trip, the track squad is trimming everything in the West, and 90 per cent of our faculty is attending scientific conventions abroad—the highest percentage of any American university"—Outlook.

## Motor Bus Figures Reveal Big Growth

Motor bus statistics just compiled by the American Automobile Association contain the following outstanding facts for 1926:

Total number of motor buses in use, about 80,000.

32,425 buses were used in common carrier service.

32,800 buses were used in carrying school children back and forth from home to school.

Total passengers carried by buses were 2,335,000,000.

Of the passengers, 2,100,000,000 were transported by common carriers.

Investment in rolling stock, terminals, garages, etc., were approximately \$455,000,000.

Gross revenue of common carrier bus lines was nearly \$300,000,000.

Taxes paid by motor vehicle operators are estimated at \$712,000,000.

## The Bank Magician

"Hear you're studying sleight of hand. Aren't you going to hold your job in the bank?"

"Sure! Only it don't pay enough."

Wife—"I say the doctor told me about my loss of memory."

"What did he do?" Wife—"Made me pay in advance."

## REGULAR FELLERS—By Gene Byrnes



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