

INTERESTING NOTES ABOUT ISLE OF CUBA

GLEANED ON RECENT TRIP

Lester B. Colby Tells of Many Important Commercial Fea- tures of Island; Ex- ports, Imports

by Lester R. Colby
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Cuba imported from the United States in 1926 not less than 133,000,000 huevos. Huevos is Spanish for eggs, barnyard variety. Cuba paid more than \$3,000,000 for these eggs. They came largely from our own central west.

Members of the Good-Will Trade Cruise of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce have learned much of the trade possibilities of Cuba. At a dinner given to the seventy-nine members of the party at the Sevilla hotel, W. L. Schurz, economic advisor to the government of Cuba, an American and formerly with the United States Department of Commerce, said:

"The United States now has close to \$1,500,000,000 invested in Cuba. Only in Canada have we such a large stake as here. Cuba ranks fifth among the nations as a seller to the United States and seventh as a buyer of American goods. In both respects she is ahead of all other Latin-American countries.

Imports

"During the last twenty-two years more than two-thirds of all her imports have come from the United States and about four-fifths of all her exports have gone to the United States. Cuba normally buys from the United States close to \$200,000,000 worth of merchandise each year and ships to the United States between \$250,000,000 and \$350,000,000 worth of goods. Sugar is by far the largest item.

"Thanks largely to the excellent communications with Cuba you people of Illinois are already doing a fine business with this country through your exports to Cuba considerably exceed your purchases. When I was with the United States Department of Commerce I became fairly familiar with your industrial production and I believe no state produces a wider variety of good in demand in Cuba than Illinois.

"The outlook is for a still wider interchange of goods as the productive capacity of Cuba is developed and diversified. With no other Latin-American country is the United States so closely linked both commercially and sentimentally; with no other have our relations been so cordial and satisfactory."

On the Docks

On the docks at Havana we saw ships unloading cargoes of sacks. Investigation proved them to be filled with potatoes—from the United States. Our exports of potatoes to Cuba in 1925 were valued at \$1,755,000.

Lard, bacon, hams and shoulders—packinghouse products chiefly from Chicago—entered Cuba from the United States in 1925 to a value of \$20,288,000. Illinois has seventy shoe factories so it is presumed this state supplied its share of the \$7,085,000 worth of boots and shoes imported from the United States during the same year.

For the last three years Cuba has averaged to import more than \$12,000,000 worth of cotton cloth from the United States yearly. In the same period imports of condensed milk have run from \$2,500,000 to \$4,400,000 a year. In 1925 we sold to Cuba \$9,815,000 worth of wheat flour, \$5,448,000 worth of sugar mill machinery and \$4,790,000 worth of automobiles.

Sugar Chief Crop

Sugar is Cuba's export crop. Sugar exports to the United States in 1923 totaled \$331,926,000; in 1924 it was \$313,165,000 and in 1925 only \$199,780,000. We received more sugar from Cuba in 1925 than ever before but the price was less!

The low price of sugar today is Cuba's tragedy. It has brought about a serious financial depression and many of Cuba's sugar growers have gone broke.

Tobacco is Cuba's second export crop. For the last three years the average tobacco exports to the U. S. have run around \$22,000,000 yearly. And the tobacco growers have complaint, too. They complain that our tariff wall has placed them at the mercy of American tobacco interests.

They are pleading for the right to gain entry to the American market by parcel post. They want to be able to ship their cigars and tobaccos to American purchasers in small quantities—a right denied them now. Cuba's present depression, its financial men declare, is largely due to tariff walls.

Speakers who outlined Cuba's problems even hinted at retaliation. Under pressure of financial depression they feel the situation keenly.

President Machado, we learned, is giving Cuba the squareest and most progressive government it has ever had. Cubans generally and Americans living in Cuba appear to have the utmost faith in his integrity and honesty.

Road Building Plan

He has taken a leaf out of Illinois' book of progress and has let contracts which will mean, very soon, a complete concrete road system from one end of the island to the other. When you stop to realize that Cuba is 750 miles long, or within 150 miles

of the distance between New York and Chicago, you will the more appreciate the size of the undertaking. President Machado is also organizing in a scientific way a plan for greater diversification of crops in Cuba. He realizes that much of the nation's present trouble is due to the fact that it is practically a two-crop country.

Coffee Also

Coffee grows well and of excellent quality in the eastern districts of Cuba. However, as an industry it was almost forgotten during the years when sugar was highly profitable. He is also experimenting with rubber, cacao and fiber plants. Our own International Harvester company is raising sisal, for making binder twine, on its own Cuban plantations.

General Enoch H. Crowder, ambassador of the United States to Cuba, joined the Illinois party as soon as it stepped on Cuban soil and remained with the party at all times during the two-day stay in Havana.

"I'd like to sell you these trousers," insisted the tailor.

"Aweel, I micht," agreed the cautious Sandy, "if the price is guid an' if ye'll include two pairs o' suits with them."

INDIAN YOUTH NEVER HAD SEEN INDIAN CLUB

TEACHER TELLS OF THEM

Interesting Description of the Progress Made in Civilizing School in New Mexico

Indian clubs for Indian boys and girls who had never before heard of them (the gymnasium kind) made up the only contents of a package recently sent from the Chicago Junior Red Cross office to the Camp Indian school at Shiprock, New Mexico.

Correspondence between the Indian school and the Cornell school, Chicago, began in February when the two schools exchanged valentines through the Junior Red Cross inter-school correspondence program, the purpose of which is to unite by better understanding and by friendship the youth of all the nations of the world. The Indian children's interest was later fanned by a box of baskets filled with candy Easter eggs.

Did Not Recognize Them

One of the northern Juniors mentioned "Indian clubs" in his note with the Easter offering, to which an Indian boy replied that no one at their school knew what "Indian clubs" were, but expressed a desire to have some.

Their teacher, Miss Lydia S. Plesse, says that her pupils came from the very "wilds" of New Mexico to attend the camp school at Shiprock, which is thirty miles from the nearest town, Farmington.

"Of course," she says, "they didn't know a word of English when they came here a year ago. They were so undisciplined that when they were told to go to bed some of them lay on the floor under the bed, and others sat on the desks and put their feet on the seats. Indeed, they have seen scarcely anything that white boys and girls know about.

Civilized Now

"They are so civilized now, though," she says, "that a stranger would never guess that they were just out of the camps."

The Indian pupils are going to learn to use the Indian clubs in their class exercises soon.

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