

### U. S. ISLAND HAS NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### IS CARIBBEAN SEA POINT

#### Is Lighthouse Location and Said to Be Landing Place of Columbus; Details of History

A small limestone formation, rising out of the Caribbean Sea is the only island possessed by the United States which is absolutely without any government. The nearest approach to a government for this island of Navassa is the jurisdiction which the United States Lighthouse Service, a bureau of the Department of Commerce, exercises over it, for on the formation has been erected a lighthouse for the guidance of American ships and incidentally the ships of the world which make their way from the United States to the Panama canal.

**Our First Island**  
Probably not one American in 10,000 is aware that such an island belongs to the United States and yet it was the only island this country owned prior to 1898. Navassa is but a mile and a half in length and a little more than a mile wide. The island became the property of the United States in 1857 when Peter Duncan took possession as a citizen of the United States. The island, which was uninhabited and was not claimed by any other nation, was annexed in accordance with the Guano Act of 1856, says the Christian Science Monitor.

Three lighthouse tenders now live on the island and are its only inhabitants. It is their duty to see that every night two beams of 47,000 candlepower sweep around the horizon with clocklike regularity. The beams of the light may be seen in clear weather 20 miles away from the lighthouse. The steel and concrete tower of the lighthouse is 150 feet high and is set on the highest point of the island.

**Where Columbus Landed**  
Undoubtedly, Navassa is the island at which Columbus made his first stop as he approached the West Indies, says George R. Putnam, commissioner of lighthouses. It has been established, Mr. Putnam says, that as the windward passage route between Cuba and Haiti and obviously the island now known as Navassa would probably have been the first bit of land he sighted as he approached from the south. Three other lighthouses are maintained in the Caribbean Sea by the United States but they are all automatic lights mounted on small projections of rock.

On the southerly side of the Strait of Gibraltar, at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea, stands another lighthouse about which there are interesting facts to be known. At present it is the only lighthouse outside of its own territory which the United States assists in maintaining.

This lighthouse was provided for in a treaty of 1865 between the Government of the United States and a number of maritime nations of Europe. Later 13 countries were associated at its maintenance. The annual appropriation by the United States is now \$386, under the control of the state department.

#### COMING PROGRAMS OF CHICAGO CIVIC OPERA

#### Brilliant Period of Season In Year Ends; Features to Be Presented

The most brilliant period of Chicago's Civic Opera is at hand, leading through the week to the gala New Year's eve performance on Saturday Dec. 31, when Johann Strauss' merry and melodious operetta "Die Fledermaus" will be sung in English under its name in the vernacular, "The Bat."

The sparkling holiday week will follow a pre-Christmas week rich with inviting offerings for those who seek the inspiring tranquility of grand opera after the turmoil of a day of Christmas shopping. Thursday, Dec. 22, brings a revival of "The Juggler of Notre Dame," with Mary Garden in one of the choicest gems of her remarkable repertoire. Saturday, Dec. 24, afternoon's matinee will be one of the most popular bills of the season, "Madame Butterfly," with Edith Mason and a big cast, and on Saturday night "Tosca" will be sung at popular prices. This Christmas eve offering will introduce Leone Kruse in her first American performance of the name role, Fernand Anseau as the painter, and Luigi Montesanto in his colorful and electrifying performance of the villainous tyrant of Rome, Vittorio Trevisan and other familiar artists will complete the cast. The opera will be followed by a big ballet.

The usual Sunday matinee will be dispensed with on Christmas day, as commutators who constitute the principal patronage Sunday afternoons are assumed to be too busy at the festive board to venture to the Auditorium. The rush will start Monday, Dec. 23, evening when "La Gioconda," one of the most lavishly cast operas in the repertoire will be sung with Rosa Raisa, Cyrena Van Gordon, Augusta Lenska, Charles Marshall, Cesare Formichi and Chase Baromeo in the leading roles, and Roberto Moranzoni conducting. The ballet will take part in several scenes, adding the famous "Dance of the Hours" as its final contribution of the evening.

Tuesday evening's repetition of "Louise" will bring into service the identical cast which made the revival of the famous French music drama so brilliant an affair recently. Mary Garden, Fernand Anseau, Maria Claessens and Vanni-Marcoux will be prominent in the cast of thirty-five, singing under Giorgio Polacco's leadership. The ballet will appear in the brilliant Montmartre scene.

"Linda di Chamounix" will be sung for the last time this season on Wednesday night and it also will mark Tito Schipa's last appearance of the season. In addition the cast will include Toti Dal Monte, Lorna Doone Jackson, Luigi Montesanto, Virgilio Lazzari, Vittorio Trevisan and a distinguished cast. Roberto Moranzoni will conduct.

The season's first hearing of "Lohengrin" is announced for Thursday evening, when the great Wagnerian masterpiece will enlist the services of Leone Kruse, Cyrena Van Gordon, Rene Maison, Robert Ringling, Alexander Kipnis and Howard Preston. Miss Van Gordon is familiar as Ortrud, but Miss Kruse, Mr. Maison and Mr. Ringling are new, and favorite members of the company this season. Henry G. Weber will conduct the revival.

There will be no performance Friday night. "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame" will be sung Saturday afternoon by Mary Garden, Cesare Formichi, Edouard Cotreuil, Jose Mojica, Desire Defrere, Howard Preston and Antonio Nicolich, Giorgio Polacco conducting.

With the New Year's Eve bill of "The Bat," Saturday night, the company will make one of the most interesting departures which has ever marked its history, by presenting an operetta with all the lavishness which brings the regular grand operas of its repertoire to so magnificent a standard of achievement. The lengthy cast of the world-famous Johann Strauss masterpiece will include such notables as Rosa Raisa, Irene Pavloska, Elinor Marlo, Alice d'Hermandy, Lucille Meusel, Charles Hackett, Forrest Lamont, Jose Mojica, Lodovico Oliviero, Giocoma Rimini, Virgilio Lazzari, and Chase Baromeo. In addition, Mme. Toti Monte will be heard in an interpolation in the second act. Another item contributing to the brilliance of the performance will be the insertion of a ballet, to be danced by the entire corps, to Strauss' waltz, "The Beautiful Blue Danube," though the original "Fledermaus" waltz will naturally be retained in the score. "The Bat" will be sung in an English translation. Henry G. Weber will conduct.

#### BY AUTO BEST METHOD OF GOING TO FLORIDA

#### Opinion of Writer in Magazine Who Has Made Survey of Southern Land

Vacationists who plan to go to Florida during the winter are advised that making the tour by automobile is the best and cheapest method, and that the cheaper the automobile the better, by Frederick Lewis, who has just made a preliminary survey of the southern playground for a nationally known magazine.

Citing the experiences of many tourists, he declares that the roads in the Carolinas and Georgia are bad but not impassable and that the tourists' camps in most of the towns and cities encountered afford lodging and food at far more reasonable prices than can be found at the hotels.

Touring by train himself, Mr. Lewis accomplished a thirty day visit, stopping at the leading hotels of seventeen cities, at an expense of about \$360. He included Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Ormond, Daytona, De Land, Orlando, Winter Park, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Belleair, Miami, Coral Gables, Miami Beach, Hollywood, Boca Raton and Palm Beach in his itinerary as representative cities.

"Going north with the weather," says the writer, "is not a cheap diversion but it is a delightful one. Many people lighten the return journey from Florida by staying a few days in Georgia, the Carolinas or West Virginia. Few also fail to miss the national capital, Washington, on either the trip south or the return." He recommended such stops as Savannah, Ga., which he calls a delightful old southern city of the shade tree type; Augusta, which "lives for golf alone"; Charleston or Camden in South Carolina; Asheville or Fincastle in North Carolina, and Hot Springs and White Sulphur Springs in the Virginias.

"Palm Beach," he adds, "is the best resort in the western world despite the funny people who go there."

#### U. S. DEBTORS PAYING MUCH MONEY JUST NOW

Dec. 15, European governments will pay the United States treasury some \$26,571,000 on their war debts to the United States. If this is paid, the debtor European countries will still owe the treasury some \$11,700,000,000.

On the date given, Great Britain will pay \$2,575,000; Czechoslovakia will pay \$1,500,000; Belgium will pay \$1,125,000; Poland will pay \$1,000,000.

Small payments will be made by Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The treasury has charged off as a bad debt the \$250,000,000 loaned to Russia and \$16,000,000 loaned to Armenia. The American people will be obliged to settle these two bad debts by taxes.

#### GIVE WOMAN ANYTHING NOWADAYS, DAYS-EXPERT

#### Time Was When There Might Have Been Limitation on Gifts; Not Any More

"The day when a man could safely give a woman only books, candy or flowers for Christmas is past," declared Charles Ovington, proprietor of one of the largest gift shops in New York, in a recent interview.

"Time was," he continued, "when anything that suggested the slightest intimacy, such as slippers or hose, for example, was considered indelicate and the gift of jewelry to a sweetheart was pretty much a declaration of engagement. Nowadays, however, he can give a girl in whom he is interested almost anything that he would give his sister. This seems to me all right. It is a part of the new frankness that exists between men and women. I'm old enough to be old-fashioned, but I confess that I like the new way and it isn't because I sell gifts, either."

The New York merchant added a Christmas axiom in warning women not to give men anything too expensive. "If the present is more costly than he could afford to give, somehow or other he feels that something has been put over on him and he feels embarrassed and resentful," Mr. Ovington predicts that handkerchiefs will still rule as favorites among gifts this year and that one hundred million will change hands on Christmas morn.

#### WANT MORE TELEPHONES IN CALCUTTA, REPORT

An effort is being made in Calcutta, India, to foster a wider use of the telephone, because in that city, attending to errands personally are the chief cause of traffic congestion. It is felt that many of these errands could be taken care of by telephone.

At present there is only one telephone for every hundred persons in Calcutta as compared with twenty-five for every hundred persons in New York, 9 for every hundred Parisians, 7 for every hundred Londoners, 4 for every hundred persons in Kobe, Japan, and 1.5 for every hundred of the population of Shanghai.

#### ALL THAT GOES UP

Don't praise a man to the skies unless you feel that he can stand the inevitable drop back to earth.—Farm & Fireside.

#### Fed Up

"And are you satisfied with married life?"  
"Yes. I've had enough!"

# Greetings

A kindlier thought you never knew.  
That prompts this Christmas wish for you

## Merry Christmas

After a successful year, we realize that the good will of our patrons and friends is our most valuable asset. The spirit of the season brings to us renewed appreciation of old associates and the value of new friends. May your Christmas be a happy one and success attend your new year is the cordial wish of

### MEIERHOFF HARDWARE CO.



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