

THE NEW HAVANA.

How Cuba's Capital Looks Under the New Government.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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HAVANA.—Havana is growing like a bamboo shoot. It had 255,000 people five years ago, and the census gave it 60,000 more in 1902. Its population is now over 300,000, and there are those who, like Sir William Van Horne, believe that it will in time approximate a million. There are less than a dozen cities in the United States larger than Havana. It already outranks Detroit, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Louisville or Kansas City. It is twice as big as Omaha or Memphis, and away ahead of Newark, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Columbus or Toledo. It is growing in wealth, likewise, and is more and more every day the commercial, business and social center of Cuba.

THE NEW HAVANA.

My last visit to Havana was made more than 20 years ago, in company with Senator John Sherman, then president pro tem. of the senate and acting vice-president of the United States. Vice-President Hendricks having died, by the then law had President Cleves had died in office Mr. Sherman would have succeeded him, and when we reached Havana the papers referred to him as the vice-president of the United States. To show the condition of the Island at that time I need only instance that a plot was gotten up by some brigands to kidnap Mr. Sherman and hold him for ransom. The plan was to capture our party during a trip we were making to a sugar plantation far from the city, and would surely have been carried out had we not at the last moment changed our route and visited another plantation. The story of the plot was never given to the newspapers, but Senator Sherman firmly believed in the truth of this statement, and it has always been a great regret to me that I was not able to be the only correspondent to chronicle the real kidnapping for a vice-president of the United States.

At that time Havana contained a hundred thousand less people than it does now, and the city was 20 years behind its present condition. It was dirty to an extreme. Stark-naked children could be seen in the poorer quarters and the braying and other heavy traffic was done by great carts pulled by ox teams with drivers shouting to their horns. There were no street cars and no modern improvements of any kind.

TODAY Havana has a good electric car line, with more than 50 miles of track and something like 200 motor cars. The street car company took in last year gross receipts of more than \$1 million dollars, and it promises to be a very profitable corporation. The car lines are now being built out to the suburbs, and they will probably extend the system to the neighboring country. I have never seen cleaner cars nor cleaner car conductors than those of Havana. The men dress in light gray linen suits. They are polite, and they handle the traffic in a gentlemanly way.

A CLEAN CITY.
Indeed, Havana will compare favorably with any town in Holland or Switzerland. It is better than Zurich, where the policemen arrest you for throwing paper on the street. Washington, Boston and New York are dirty beside it. The streets look as though they were

washed and swept every hour. There is no dirt in the cobble, and the upper stories like the floor of a Dutch kitchen do not know what they do with the garbage, but so far I have yet to detect a vile smell.

During my last visit I found the natives ragged, and many of the poor were half naked. Today every one is well dressed, and the poor are cleaner than Americans of the same class. All are busy. Wages are high and the propensity to do work is strong. The death rate is lower than that of our best cities. It is about 14 per 1,000, and, thanks to the American intervention, this city has become one of the healthiest in the world.

OLD AND QUAI

Havana is one of the quaintest cities on the American hemisphere. It is more so than any South American capital, which is not true of European capitals of the Americas, which is more picturesque or more interesting. It is a combination of the Spanish and Moorish, with slices of North and South American mixed in. As you look at it from the sea it forms a mass of bright color, its buildings rising almost straight up from the water, interspersed with green trees. On the coast of Havana, with a sea wall in front of it, against which the gray waves dash high into the air. On the other side of the harbor entrance stands Morro castle, more picturesque than any castle of vie blanca, and on the hills beyond it are barracks and fortifications. Coming into the harbor the entrance is not more than 1,000 feet wide. The sea is of deep blue orange, due to light green sand, and you now see that the houses are painted all colors of the rainbow, which seem brighter than usual under the dazzling light.

IN THE HAVANA HARBOR.

The Havana harbor has altogether an area of about 20 quarter-section farms. It is three miles long and two miles wide and it winds in and out among the hills. It has many small ships, boats from all parts of the world being allowed to dock there in it, with the wreck of the Maine in the center.

Cuba has a commerce of about \$150,000,000 a year, and three-fourths of it passes through Havana. It is very expensively handled, as one may see by the great lighters which are used for loading and unloading the ships. The lighters companies are opposed to the American steamship companies, and season no such concessions have yet been granted. The cost of the lighters is about \$3,000,000 per annum, or, in round numbers, at least 2 per cent on all the goods taken in and out of Havana.

THE MAINE WILL BE RAISED.

In going to and from the steamer during the past few weeks I have had occasion to call upon the Maine. Of course a small portion of the vessel is still above water and this is red from the accumulated rust. About a year ago a contract was made with the government by an American named De Wyckoff to remove the wreck from the harbor. The work was to be done at the expense of the contractor, who was to pay \$5,000 to Cuba, and in exchange to be given a title to the property recovered. A vessel with a capital of \$600,000 was incorporated at Washington, D. C., last fall to do this work, and connected with it was Dr. E. L. Gorrell, the well known engineer and others. So far nothing has been done, but I understand that the contractors expect to build a water-tight cofferdam next year. The trip from Mobile to Cuba is only 49 hours. Leaving Tuesday evening you are landed in Havana Thursday morning after a sail more delightful than that from Baltimore to Boston. The ship is good, the rates are low and the accommodations comfortable.

The Southern Pacific Railway company has a steam sailing every Saturday from San Fran, which arrives at Havana on Monday. This passage is from 40 to 48 hours, about 12 hours being consumed in going down the Mississippi river. The Peninsula and Occidental Steamship company has steamers from Tampa, Fla., and also from Miami, which take you in little more than a day from the United States to Havana. The Tampa boats leave Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights, and the Miami boats on Saturday and Sunday.

All of these lines are overcrowded, and the same is true with the boats from New York. The latter belong to the Ward Line, which piles between New York and Mexico via Havana, and also has large steamers sailing to Havana direct. The fastest of these ships make the trip in three days. I understand that the Ward will put on a new line of steamers, which will go from New York to Nipe bay, a new port of northeastern Cuba, and that through tickets will then be sold from New York to Havana, landing the passengers at Antilla, the port on Nipe bay, and carrying them across Cuba by railroad. It is probable that ships will be put on from New York to Jamaica, calling at Nipe bay, so that Jamaican passengers will be able to come to Havana on their way to and from New York.

At present there are regular steamship lines from Copenhagen to Havana connecting this Island with Antwerp, Havre and Bilbao, Spain, and Spanish steamers from the Spanish ports which call thrice a month. The North German Lloyd has steamers from Bremen to this port and the Hamburg-American has monthly sailings from Hamburg.

It Has 300,000 People and Grows Rapidly—The Harbor and What Will Be Done With the Maine—New Steamship Lines—Cuba as a Winter Resort—American Tourists—Flagler and Havana Hotels—The Houses of the Rich in the City and Suburbs—What Americans Have Done For Havana.



THE MALACON AT HAVANA MADE BY AMERICANS.

From a Photograph Taken for the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

is to be entirely removed by next December.

AMERICAN STEAMSHIPS FOR CUBA.

There are five American steamship companies which now have connections with Havana. One of these companies here from our several ports. They were crowded all last winter and they are making preparations for a great increase of travel during the coming season. I came to Cuba from Mobile on the steamship Saratoga, which is operated by the Munson company. That service was put on for the first time last season and the vessel has not been able to carry all the passengers. It has been crowded and has paid so well, that Mr. Munson expects to have additional steamers next year. The trip from Mobile to Cuba is only 49 hours. Leaving Tuesday evening you are landed in Havana Thursday morning after a sail more delightful than that from Baltimore to Boston. The ship is good, the rates are low and the accommodations comfortable.

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OUR NEW WINTER RESORT.

Cuba in fact is fast becoming a winter resort for Americans, and if the present health conditions prevail, which seem probable, this island will be the Riviera of our continent. There were three times as many American tourists here last year as ever before, and were it not for the lack of hotel accommodations the travel would be enormously increased. I talked with one of the leading railroad managers of the island, and was told that the several American tourist associations were anxious to send parties to Cuba, but that this was discouraged because there was no place to take care of the crowd. There are only about a dozen hotels in Havana, and these are generally of small capacity. There is no such thing as an American hotel in the Island, which one excepts that of Carnegie, which was opened last January by the Cuba railroad and which has I am told, done a good business, even though it is located in the center of the city.

The hotels here are built on the Spanish style, with enormous rooms and long stairs. Their elevator service is not good and they have had so many Americans this year that they have been forced to charge extra for what pleased and get it. Indeed, they have charged Americans considerably more than the ordinary rates, and nevertheless have had to turn away guests. I understand that Mr. Flagler, the famous Standard Oil millionaire who runs a big hotel business in Florida, has been looking over Cuba with a view to building some hotels there. If he does so, they will probably be more profitable even than his Florida properties.

The rates of the better class hotels in Havana are from \$3 to \$10 and upward per day on the American plan during the season and about \$1 per day on the European plan between times.

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The traveler will find Havana quite as interesting as any city on the continent.
Parts of the town seem to be slices

and the houses are often in the shape of great brass hands, lions' heads or in other quaint patterns. The windows are also large and covered with bars or a lattice-work of iron. The Cubans do wonderful work in wrought iron, and some of the door screens remind one of the marble lace work at Delhi and Agra. Many of the windows have no glass in them, they may usually open during the evening and one sees the family sitting and chatting in the rooms while the stars are above the streets.

Nearly every Havana house has a balcony or porch extending out from the second or third floor. In some streets, such balconies are upheld by columns so that one can walk long distances and keep out of the sun.

As you go along the streets you can learn much of the recent history of the country from the houses. The houses have no gardens in front and very few have gardens inside. They are in the patio, or the interior court about which the house is built. Upon this court all the rooms open. The kitchen may face it, and if there be horses and carriages they will have their places in other rooms beyond. Some of the patios are paved, and some have fountains in the center.

The houses of Cuba are nearly all flat roofed. The roof is often used for drying clothes during the daytime, and as a lounging and chatting place for the family in the evening. The latter is especially so of a moonlight night.

THE PALACES OF THE RICH.

Some of the houses I have described belong to Havana's millionaires. This is a wealthy city and it has magnificent residences. Just below the Inglaterra hotel, where I was staying, between it and the sea, the Inglaterra hotel with fine homes, and, indeed, costly houses are to be found here and there all over the city. A curious thing is that the good and bad are mixed together, a carpenter's shop or a blacksmith's establishment often adjoining the house of a rich man, and a cobbler or tinner living below the homes of well-to-do people, which here are largely upon the second floor.

Speaking of the front doors of Havana, it is remarkable how many of them have the neat holes so common in the interior cities of Europe. These are perforated brass slits so fastened over a hole in the door that one can peer out and see who is knocking before she manifests her presence. If the caller is an agreeable person, her ladyship throws open the door and is glad at home, but on the other hand, if he is a creditor or some one she does not wish to see, he may knock and knock and no one will hear. In Europe this contrivance is called a Judas slit.

HAVANA SUBURBS.

Some of the most beautiful homes of Havana are outside the city. The suburbs have been growing ever since the

Doctors said He would not Live.

Peter Fry, Waukeff, Pa., writer of "After Death," was ill with the best physicians in Waynesburg, and still getting worse, the doctors advised me if I had any business to attend to I had better attend to it once, as I could not possibly live another day. His son was recommended to me by a friend and I immediately sent my son to the store for it and after taking three bottles I began to feel better and continued to improve until I was entirely well. Sold by P. J. Big Drug Co.

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