DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1901.



The Islands, Which Are Likely to Come Into the Possession of the United States, Cover About 127 Square Miles, and Have a Population of About 30,000-Something About Their Resources,

they

tions on the police force.

New York heat.

always made

which

New York prices.

on which the city is built, and from my

house I could see Porto Rico fifty miles to the west, and with the naked eye

could see the palms and mills at St. Croix forty miles south. The thermo-

meter registered between 90 and 95 de-

grees in the shade nine months in the

welcome

HE Danish West Indies have | cooking only, houses require no firecome into public notice on ac-St. Thomas has a cab system which count of the negotiations now actively being carried on between the United States and

the Danish government by which the three islands-St. Thomas, Et. John and St. Croix-are likely to become the possessions of the United mountains like goats.

States at a lower price than this country was willing to pay for them many years ago.

The islands cover about 127 square miles, and the population is estimated at about 30,000. Denmark has been the possessor of the Islands since 1671, but they have never been a great source of revenue, and for many years it has cost Denmark much money in excess of the revenue to maintain them. A former resident of Charlotte Amalle, the largest place on the island of St. Thomas, in speaking of the sentiment of the peopeople as to annexation, said:

"The white population and nearly all the sugar producers are in favor of annexation, but the blacks are opposed to the scheme. There are comparatively few whites on the islands, not more than 15 per cent of the population. The blacks are of a superior class, and, hav-ing the same rights and privileges as the whites, they naturally fear that their condition would suffer if they became American citizens. There is no such thing as a color line there. Education is compulsory, and all the children. white and black, go to school between the ages of 7 and 13. In the churches there is also an absence of all distinction as to color, and there is certainly no line drawn in business. The Dane recognizes a man for his worth, and never thinks of excluding his neighbor from social, business or religious functions because of his color. In the col-onial council at St. Croix there are two black men, and they fill the places with credit to themselves and to the satis-faction of their associates. Intermarriage between natives and whites is nothing unusual, and clergymen of the various denominations never refuse to perform the marriage ceremony be-tween white and black men and women.

"There seems to be a misunderstand-ing in the United States as to the language used by the people in the Danish West Indies. The fact is that everybody speaks English, and, although the official language is Danish, English is used in the schools as well as in the court of Justice

St. Thomas has no agricultural importance. A few onions and other vegetables are raised there, but not enough to supply the 10,000 inhabitants, and the shippy deverything that is used at the table is sent from the United States. The place has a fine harbor, large coal wharves and a dry dock, and among its larger buildings are the government house and a hotel. On the island of St. Croix Fredericksted and Christiansted are the chief towns. These places have a population of about 1,000 each.

One of the peculiarities of the houses in the Danish West Indies is that they have no chimneys. The kitchens are all detached, and as fire is used for bers -New York Tribune.

secure a large and permanent supply. Exactly how comity between states is to be secured will depend on Congress. It may be needful to revise the Constitution before we can reclaim the desert. Then let it be revised. No issue before the nation is so important. We cannot say in our easy, scornful fashion that these are matters that concern only posterily. Posterity is our own fiesh and blood, and he who would

consign that to any disadvantage is a barbarian. The moral and insterlal prosperity and political power of the American people depend on its dis-placement from foul, dense centers of is usually a surprise to the visitor. The horses and cabs are not of the showy population, and its easier diffusion over healthful spaces of country. With the arid regions of the West under control kind, but the price is in keeping with the outfit, 10 cents a mile being the regular fare. People who travel in the country ride on little pones, which are made of foot and scamper over the mountains like reach citizen, and add immensely to our hu-man resources. We shall, moreover, be

Denmark maintains an army on the doing that which it is a providence islands of about 250 men. These are of this republic to do, and that is to volunteers recruited from the veteral show to other nations the way to a corps in the home country and sent to the islands for a term of six years. larger wealth, a larger health and a maniler state. They have guard and barrack duties to perform but those who have trades

A patriot, a man of genius, a man of eastern culture and of western experi-ence is President of the United States. may work when they are not on duty, and when their term of service is over He could signalize his administration in no greater and in no more excellent receive free transportation home or if they desire to remain, receive posiway than by identifying it with beginnings of the great work and of the great duty of reclaiming the West "The clearness of the air at St. Thom-as," said a former resident of the place, on the lines the Eagle sets forth today. "may be judged by my experience. I lived on the highest of the three hills Brooklyn Eagle.

EXPOSED BY A MOUSE.

Woman Who Claimed to Be Blind Suddenly Yelled.

year;, but one feels comfortable, and Just why some women stand in morome of my friends who were in New tal terror of a harmless little mouse, York during the hot season last year went home to St. Thomas to escape the though ready to face suffering and real danger with calmness and fortitude not often found in members of the other "The low price of wine does the peo-

sex, is a mystery which is likely to retain all of its present-day impenetra-bility. A certain oculist in town has given a good deal of study of this and other unaccountable ways of women. ple more harm than the warm weather. For 6 cents one can buy a bottle of native wine, and half of that will settle the strongest man. The people are hespitable to a fault, and strangers are Not long ago he had a splendid chance to see how easily a woman can be thrown from her poise at sight of the "People in this part of the world are surprised to hear this, but it is just as little rodent named. A young woman wearing colored glasses and accomas that the hurricane stories from St . Thomas and St . Croix are nearly all panied by her mother called to consult him. They wanted from him a certifi-

exaggerations, for there are no more hurricanes there than there are in the ate of total blindness, frankly declar-Southern States of this country." ing that such a document would secure There are thirty-two sugar estate on the island of St. Crolx, the product of for the daughter certain aids and adintages not otherwise procurable goes to one concern in New They came to him, they said, because

York. But in order to protect growers who are not in this combination the of his professional prominence. The oculist examined the girl's eyes Danish government has established sugar stations where growers bring losely, but could find no indication of defect. That might be so and blind-ness still exist, however, so tests of defect. their cane for sale. It is ground in mills belonging to the government, and the strongest light were brought into use, but the girl declarel she was ab-oblutely unable to distinguish between the producer receives pay based on the

in bright literary style.

The water about these islands is so light and darkness. Other tests, some of clear that the bottom may be seen at them quite painful, were also tried, but

any point, and it abounds in fish. Very little fishing is done, but many people predict that it will not be long after the United States has the islands before arge canning establishments will started there A sail of half an hour from the east

end of St. Thomas takes one to St. John, which has a population of about '00. There is much grazing land on this island, and with a small investment profitable stock farms might be established there. The inhabitants of this island are nearly all blacks. The chief judge of the island fills several other important offices. He is the chief of police, the postmaster, the head of the truant school which is situated on the island, the wharf master and custom call on the following day, giving him

when the girl arrived at the time ap-pointed the doctor had her securely blindfolded with a heavy bandage. Then he held up a live mouse by the tail about a fact from her face and told his assistant to remove the bandage. The moment the obstruction was removed the girl screamed with fright at the wriggling rodent and sprang to the other side of the room, completely thrown off her guard and exposed as a would be swindler. The doctor was so much pleased with the success of his experiment that he allowed her to go without police escort .-- Chicago Chroni-

FRICK'S MUSHROOMS. Millionatre's Beds Supply His Own Table and His Freinds.

Henry C. Frick, millionaire ironmaster-who once told some of the secrets of the Carnegie company that excite popular sympathy as demonstrating how difficult it is to "make both ends meet" in iron and steel making-is a great lover of mushrooms, and a high successful cultivator of them, Nor does he cat, himself, all that he raises. Last Saturday about forty pounds of the edible fungi from his beds in the Homestead district were distributed by Mr. Frick among his friends, a dinner consignment or two reaching the tables of New Yorkers. One of these said last night up at the Metropolitan club that these mushrooms were the first fine yield of this season from the Frick beds, and that they were simply "out-of-sight

"These mushroom beds of Mr. Frick," explained his friend, "have been built as 'lower bunks' in a wing of the new annex to his Homestead conservatories. The bunks are shut out from a closely buttoned flap of black oil cloth dependent from the frame. The upper frame is filled with plants that thrive in the mushroom temperaturesuch as cyclamen, lilies and roses. Vis-itors at the conservatories never dream, as they wander down this wing admiring the bloom, that concealed by the strong black curtain are the mushroom clusters in all stages of development." In charge, as head gardener, is David Frazier, while an assistant of his named McCall is the special caretaker of the mushrooms. For more than thirty years McCall was a successful mushroom grower for the English markets,

The Frick cultures are separated into three seasons. One crop sown two months ago has been yielding mush-rooms for ten or fifteen days past; a second crop will be ready for midwinter, and a third will appear for con-sumption in March. After that the cul-ture is abandoned, owing to the pres-ence of slugs and grub-worms.

There are three feet or so of soil-loam and compost-in the bunks. The temperature of the bed is kept at about all were borne with patience. The 100 degrees at the time of sowing the doctor was puzzled. To all appearances "spawn," as the thread-like plant is the girl was blind, but he could not find where the defect lay. However, he was

apart in ragged shreds for the spawn sowing. The spores on the threads de-velop in fourteen days, then soon push through the loam. The first mushrooms are usually gathered in six or eight would certainly be out of the question for the most skillful marksman to hit would certainly be full marksman to hit weeks. Hundreds of fungl, ranging in size from a small pea to umbrellas of or five inches in diameter, dot the beds in the Frick conservatories.-N. Y. Commercial.

BEES FOR USE IN WAR. Homing Pigeous to Take a Back Seat for Honey Makers.

From Russia, by way of the British war office, comes a suggestion to the ef-fect that honey bees be tried as mili-

tary messengers in place of homing gets back to its cote from a great dis-It was urged that for such purposes tance .-- Buffalo Courier.

such a carrier of intelligence. As for their size and small carrying

The cathedral of St. John the Divine, now being built in New York, when completed will be one of the most

power, a bee could transport a good deal of freight in the shape of docunents, if the latter were transferred by micro-photography to a minute piece of This piece of paper might be fastened

to the insect's back, and on the arrival of the little messenger at its destina-tion the writing could easily be en-

The homing instinct of the bee is as

comprise Li's name and lineage.-New York Commercial.



NEW YORK TO HAVE A NOTRE DAME.



imposing pieces of architecture in America. The work of erection which is well under way will take from start to finish over fifteen years and the cost is estimated at \$7,000,000. Great interest is being manifested in the progress of this magnificent architectural triumph by the whole country. The above is an exclusive photograph of a model of a section of the cathedral. It is made by permission of the architects, Heia and Lafarge,

\$.1000 FOR A RAZOR.

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A barber, whose shop is run in connection with one of the best known bath establishments in town, has just paid a fabulous price for a razor-\$1,000, it is said. He bought it of a Boston "tonsorial artist" in whose shop it was left to be honed by the barber traveling in the suite of Li Hung Chang in 1896, and never called for. It was used on the face of the famous Chinese diplomat daily for nearly two years. The blade is completely covered with Chinese charstrong as that of a pigeon, and its method of finding its way to its hive is the same as that whereby the bird or four Chinese hieroglyphics. They



There Are 500,000,000 Acres of Unirrigated Lands Which Are Yet in the Fublic Gift-Tree Planting Has Increased the Springs, Deepened the Brooks and Augmented the Rain and Dewfall-Words of Encouragement From the East.

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America's high destiny justifies the extension of its principles over new lands; it justifies the accessions of alien territory and the preachment to strange peoples of doctrines which will lift them out of barbarism and idleness; but, surely, it calls for the redemption of her own territory before any other thing. Of our country but a small part is inhabited. Nearly a third of it on the farther side of the Missouri is so thinly settled that whole states do not compare in population with single cities in the east, and vast areas are not habitable under present conditions. We can add hundreds of thousands of square miles to our hab. itable domain by converting the arld region to fertility. And albeit there was a time when a proposition of that sort would have been as awe inspiring as the turning of the Atlantic into the Sahara, the experiences of the past score of years have shown it to be entirely feasible. We have on our tables every sum-mer Colorado melons. They are the present standard of excellence. They

were grown in a region in which, ac-cording to an old government report, no human being could long exist, save

the Indian, who lived by hunting ani-mals that have since disappeared.

There is an immense significance in

that fact. It sows that the desert is not all desert; that much of it can be reclaimed as the farms of Colorado have been reclaimed from the sur-

rounding waste of alkall, sand and

sage brush. Even the desert of the southwest, the most forbidding corner

of the earth, has yielded itself to the gracious influence of water, and in spots where once the winds caught up

the sands and whirled them in ghostly yet stifting columns across the face of the earth, the grass grows high, roses

bloom and stately palms mingle their shade with that of deciduous trees. In

the east we are sweeping away our

forests, mile on mile, exterminating the spruce, the pine and poplar, to feed

the spruce, the phile and poplar, to be the saw and pulp mills, and are thereby exposing the soll to the blaze of the sun, destroying the vegetable mold, converting the hills to eminences of rock that are washed bare by rains

instead of storing them and causing the country to suffer from extremes of

drouth in summer and from floods in spring. But it is hopeful of the future of the country that while this devasta-

mented as they have been by the vast herds of animals that have traversed them, and they wait only the magic of moisture to burst joyously into bloom. In Egypt and other countries where irrigation is necessary to pro-duce crops, the yield is more abundant than in areas of corresponding size that depend on rains. Organic matter is apparently stored in the earth and conlusions based on something over a thousand analyses are that the desert soll west of mid-Kansas is richer than the country east of the Mississippi by an average of three times as much potash, six times as much magnesia and fourteen times as much lime. The settler has often to contend with salt. The but that is readily soluble and easily washed out of the ground.

Here, then, is raw material of fertil-ity, abounding. It would be absurd in this people not to use them. It does not imply expenditures for manures in order to obtain a yield of crops. Every river that courses through the country is turbid with mineral riches. In and about Tucson it has been found that the actual market value of the plant foods carried to an acre in an ordinary irrigation system is over \$9 a season-more than the average farmer thinks of spending for fertilizing material in almost any part of the world.

There are in our West 500,000,000 acres of arid land which are yet in the pubobtained through individual efforts to reclaim the desert, and when one considers what might be done by federa management, imagination is startled and gladdened by the possibilities. It is an empire that lies fallow beyond the mountains, an empire wherein millions who now overcrowd our cities may live in the comfort and freedom that are denied in stony towns. To make homes for these millions it will be nec-essary that the government prepare the way. The cost and the labor are too vast for personal undertaking. For-ests must be planted to insure constancy in water supply; reservoirs must be created by damming valleys, in order that the supply may be ample in volume; canals and drains must be due across the country for miles, with gates and dikes and other such appliances: and there must be uniformity in laws respecting rights to use of water. Most of the arid land is in what have recentv become states, but by the same authority or co-operation whereby forest reserves and national parks, Indian and milliary reservations and experiment stations have been secured for public uses the needed ponds and cannis could he created

tion goes on in the older states, the newer ones are applying the scientific correction of these evils and are even And, apart from the immediate gain of this great conversion of the Arzeri-can desort, the gain, that is, to settlers alding nature in planting. Eastern rivers are shrinking and western ones and to the industries which they will create, is the profit of the whole counwill gain. Parts of New England are threatened with desertion, while the West grows. The men of the West try by the increase in its output and the guarantee of permanence in im-proved climatic conditions. For water had to confront the conditions that we are slowly creating in the East, and they proved themselves equal to the task. In overcoming the difficulties they dehas a tendency to recreate its supply Irrigation in the West has made tree planting feasible; tree planting in turn has increased the springs, deepend the brooks and increased the rain and dewveloped a splendid race. It has been a matter of surprise to the investiga-tors to find that arid land was the best tors to find that arid land was the best land. The desert has not parted with its stores of nutritious matter, aug-1 must rise an hundred. Wrong, partial

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