

A Projected West Indies Confederation

It may seem rather absurd in the United States, but down here in this yet unadjudged republic some of the politicians are already talking of a grand intercontinental confederation, with Cuba at the helm, of course, to take in all the islands of the West Indies. It is only an

Next, south of us, only 90 miles away, is Jamaica, with an English speaking population of 440,000, and its 15,000 whites in a hopeless minority. Jamaica is rich and fruitful; but, owing to her cumbersome system of government and her distance from England, she has been bankrupted. The people are al-

black and colored people and only a sprinkling of whites. In fact, the whites have not only no voice in the government, but no acknowledged rights which any native feels himself bound to respect. The Haitians are perfectly satisfied with their own system of government—that is, they wish to keep it to themselves—but are always on the qui vive for some chance to overturn it. They could not be reckoned to come into any sort of confederation at all, being too suspicious; but the same cannot be said of the Dominicans, who occupy the larger and eastern portion of that fertile island. They are more enlightened and progressive. As the first settlement by

Haitians speak French and the Dominicans Spanish. So they would naturally ally with Cuba. Farther eastward and southward still are the famous Danish islands St. Thomas, Santa Cruz and St. John, about which so much talk has been made in connection with naval stations for the United States. The natives of those islands speak both English and Danish, and, in fact, most of them are polyglots as well as cosmopolitans, their ports having been free to foreign shipping for so many years. Eastward still lie the Virgin and the Leeward islands confederation, all English, with a sprinkling in between of

lessly black as to the complexion of their most numerous inhabitants and historically famous, Martinique having been the birthplace of the Empress Josephine. Southward of these lie the Windward islands, consisting of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, the Grenadines and Grenada, over to the eastward of them being the prosperous island of Barbados, with its population, mainly of blacks, more dense than that of any outside of China. It is famous for its rum and sugar, and also as being the only foreign land that General George Washington ever visited. Southeast from Barbados are Tobago and Trinidad, the former known as Robinson Crusoe's island and now nearly given over to the blacks, the latter the largest in this part of the Caribbean sea and with great natural resources. Trinidad lies off one of the mouths of the Orinoco and near the north coast of South America, as close as the Bahamas are to Florida. It is about 1,650 miles in a direct line from Florida to Trinidad and the same distance from Havana, while Port of Spain, its chief town, and Santiago de Cuba are 1,200 miles apart. These points represent the two extremes of the proposed confederation, which would include more than a thousand islands (counting all the islets, rocks and keys of the Bahamas) and take in people speaking Spanish, English, French, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, patois and Creole, the last being a sort of West Indian "pepper pot" composed of all the other languages mixed up with remains of the aboriginal Indian.

Should this scheme ever eventuate it is thought that Santiago, as mentioned already, would be the probable capital, situated as it is so conveniently for access from all southern islands and being preferable to Havana, especially after the railroad now building, which will connect it next year with the cities on the northern coast, is finished. The geographical center would fall on the north coast of Santo Domingo somewhere near the bay of Samana, which opens northwardly, in an opposite direction to Santiago's magnificent harbor. The capital, however, is a detail not yet settled. In fact, only the scheme in its broadest outlines has as yet been projected, and, like many other things done this way, is still in the air.

AREA AND POPULATION OF SUGGESTED WEST INDIAN CONFEDERATION.

Area in square miles.	Population.
Cuba.....	45,872 1,372,800
Bahamas and Bermudas.....	3,050 66,410
Jamaica.....	4,150 640,000
Haiti.....	12,450 1,340,000
Santo Domingo.....	20,500 300,000
Danish West Indies—St. Thomas, Santa Cruz and St. John.....	142 33,000
French Islands—Guadeloupe, Martinique and smaller islands.....	1,100 300,000
Leeward Islands—Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Virgin Islands, Dominica.....	641 130,000
Windward Islands—St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Grenadines.....	610 130,000
Barbados.....	160 102,000
Trinidad.....	1,750 270,000
Dutch Islands—Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius.....	430 22,000
Total (approximate).....	87,937 3,189,200

THOMAS OSCAR ELLINGHAM, Santiago, Cuba.

From the Farm and Anvil to Fame As a Prominent Criminal Lawyer.



One of the most recent and noteworthy advances of a man from comparative obscurity to more than local fame is that of Lawyer Robert M. Moore, whose masterly conduct of the sensational Kennedy murder case in New York has attracted attention all over the country. He has had no large experience in city practice in his brief career, being only 34 and not long resident in New York city, yet the most noted criminal lawyers say that he has taught them a great deal they never knew before. Born on a farm in Jefferson county, N. Y., he worked as a youth in his father's blacksmith shop and meanwhile attended the common schools, at 20 entered a lawyer's office, where he found his vocation. As the first important case that he really figured in was, he says, only a year and a half ago, it must be confessed that his rise has been remarkably rapid. His specialty is murder cases, and the majority of the accused murderers whom he has defended have escaped with their lives. In partnership with Mr. William Cantwell, who is two years younger than himself, he forms the aggressive personality which so impresses the jury and distresses the witnesses, while his partner supplies the legal ammunition with which to convince the judge.

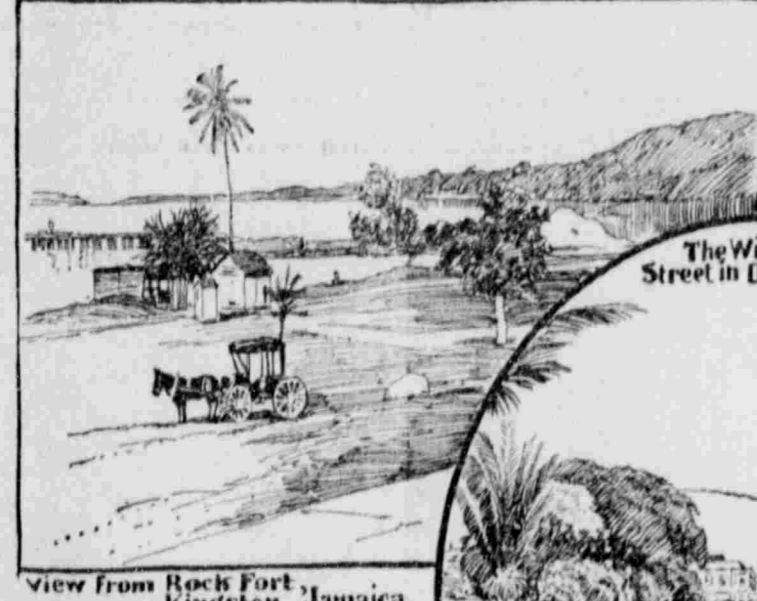
A COMMEMORATIVE PRUSSIAN COIN. ANOTHER HERO OF THE ASHANTI WAR.

The coin shown in the accompanying illustration was recently struck by command of the kaiser to commemorate the bicentenary of his empire. It is a 5 mark piece, one and one-half inch in diameter and has on one side the portrait of the famous first king of Prussia, Frederick I, who was born 1657 and died 1713, and on the other side that of the present ruler, William II, born 1859, with the dates 1701 and 1901.

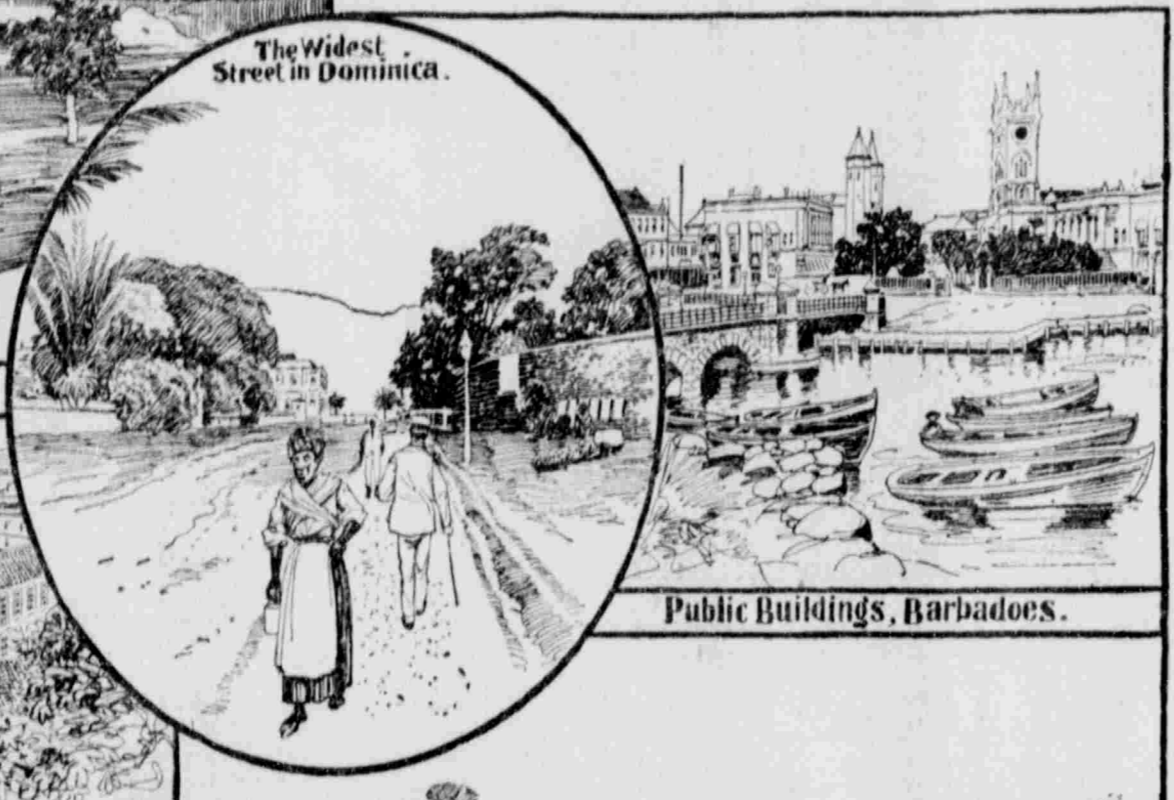
Sir James Wilcocks, K. C. M. G., whose portrait appears herewith, is the latest personage of distinction to receive the freedom of London. He is the hero of the Ashanti war, which, though an insignificant and paltry affair,



abounded with deeds of valor and resulted in the customary crop of medals, including two Victoria crosses and ten "distinguished service" orders. There were only 250 white men of all ranks in the expedition and 3,500 native soldiers. Still the rescue expedition made a gallant record, and Colonel Wilcocks accomplished a very disagreeable task. He is a young man yet, with smooth cheeks, firm chin and frank expression. He learned a great deal about the rich gold mines of Ashanti, but refuses to divulge his information to "promoters" for fear, as he says, "some fool will find out and say that I went to Africa to fight for gold."



View from Rock Fort, Kingston, Jamaica.



The widest street in Dominica.

Public Buildings, Barbadoes.



Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe.



View of Santo Domingo City.

idea as yet, to be sure, but they have got it in the "incubator," and some day or other it may hatch. The islands would constitute a great tropical republic, for Cuba, the northernmost of any account, lies along the verge of the tropics, and its resources would be about the same throughout. Its area and population I give in the appended table, and so far as population goes it would make rather a respectable showing. One of the great difficulties, of course, would be the dissimilarity of the various peoples, speaking several languages and with all sorts of notions as to government. Naturally every other voter would want to be the first president, but that is natural in all new republics and is therefore not to be wondered at.

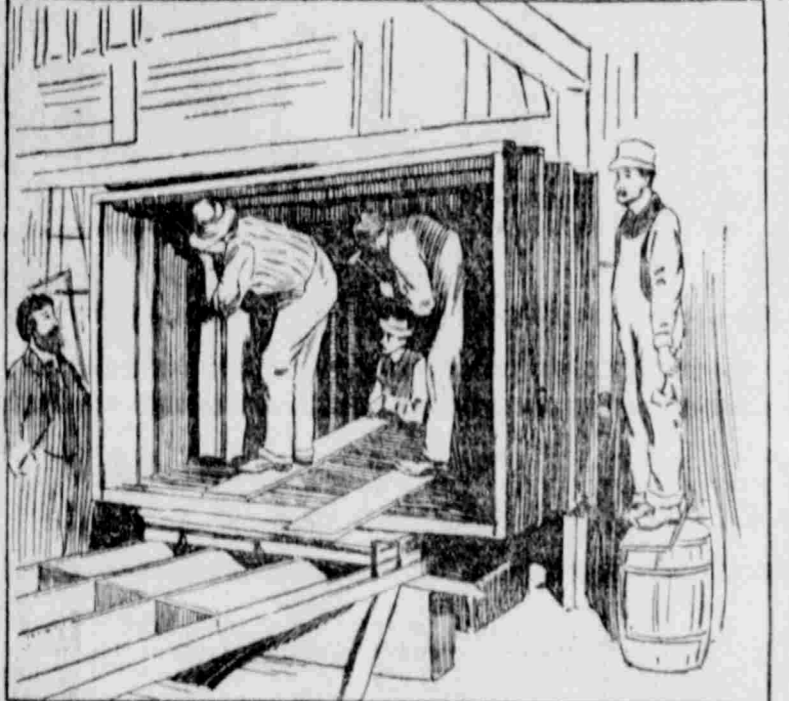
But let us see of what such a possible confederation of the West Indian islands would be composed. First, there is Cuba, with its million and a half of Spanish speaking people, one-third of whom are black or colored. She would dominate, not only from superior numbers, but owing to the vast resources of the great island.

ready discontented with British rule and desire connection with some government nearer home or else perfect autonomy. To the westward of Jamaica lies Haiti, with its large population of

Europeans on American soil was made in Santo Domingo, it is likely the Dominicans might expect the capital of the latest republic in this hemisphere to be located there, but the chances are that it would be fixed at Santiago. The

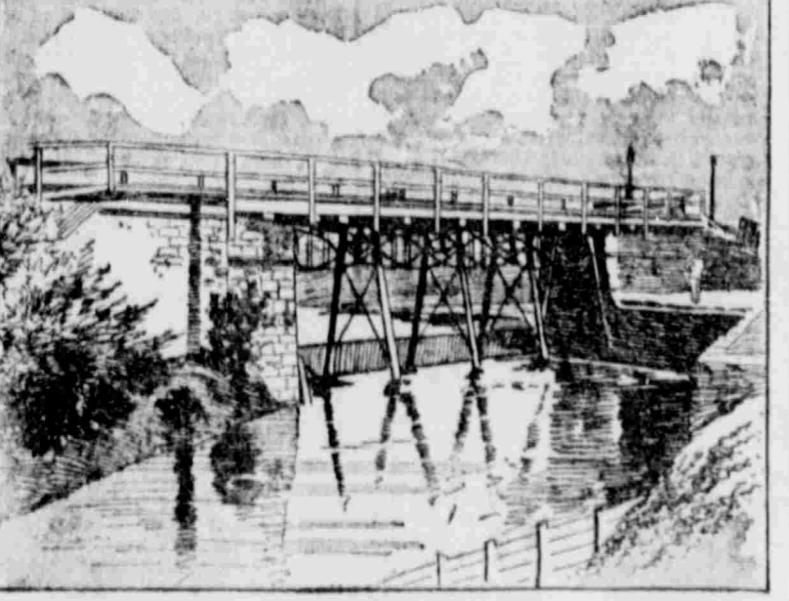
some that are Dutch and others French and Swedish. Then come the magnificent islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, both French, with the beautiful English island of Dominica between them. Both are extremely fertile, hope-

THE BIGGEST CAMERA IN THE WORLD.



It is reported that the Chicago and Alton railway possesses the largest camera in the world, and it is figured in the accompanying illustration. It is 8 feet long by 4 1/2 wide, is mounted on a flat car and requires 15 men to operate it. The camera itself weighs half a ton, the plate holders 500 pounds, and the bellows and lens travel on a truck 20 feet in length. Five gallons of developer are used to flow each plate, and finished photographs are said to cost from \$30 to \$35 each.

THE FIRST IRON RAILWAY BRIDGE EVER BUILT.



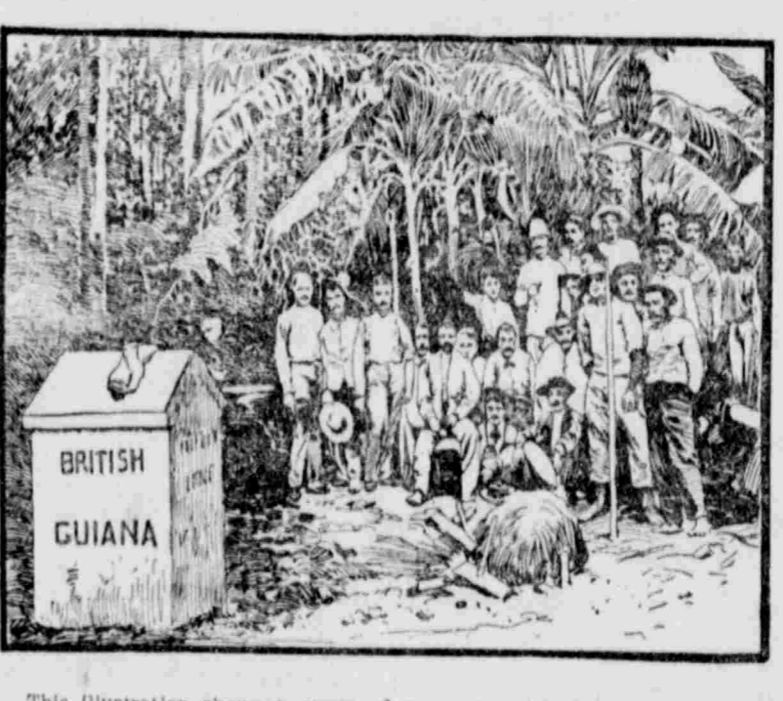
The increasing demands of railway traffic have caused the recent removal of what is generally known as the oldest iron railway bridge in the world. It was historic, too, having been built of cast iron by the great engineer Stephenson for the famous Stockton and Darlington railroad in 1825, two years before that line was opened. This road, it may be recalled, was the first ever constructed to carry passengers and was inaugurated in September, 1825. The bridge referred to and shown in the accompanying illustration spanned the Gauness, a tributary of the Wear river, ten miles west of Darlington.

THE EMPEROR AND THE CROWN PRINCE OF KOREA.



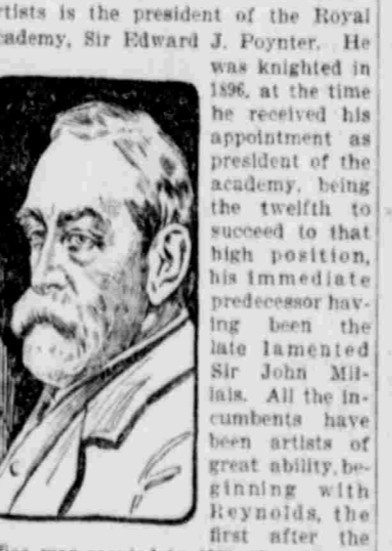
The present emperor of Korea, whose portrait, together with that of his son, the crown prince, appears in the accompanying illustration, came to the throne at the beginning of most troublous times. The direct line of the ancient Yi dynasty died out in 1864, and as the deceased king had no appointed successor there was really no hereditary heir to the throne. The next in line, however, the natural heir apparent, was the infant son of Prince Ni Kung, and the latter assumed the regency, which he exercised most despotically during the minority of his son. Under him a war of extermination was waged against the Christians, thousands of them being killed, and by his orders the crew of an American vessel was massacred. He carried out the Korean policy of exclusiveness to the letter and maintained Korea's prestige as he had proclaimed himself emperor, imbibed more progressive views. During his reign Korea has progressed as never before in her history, but at the same time Emperor Li Hsi is a despot, and his edicts are law.

SURVEYING THE VENEZUELA-GUIANA BOUNDARY LINE.



This illustration shows a group of surveyors, with their assistants, now engaged in surveying the boundary line between Venezuela and the British colony of Guiana. The boundary dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain was long in evidence as an international question, dating back to previous centuries, and was only brought to arbitration through the interference of the United States. A final decision was reached early in October, 1899, and soon after surveying parties took the field to delimit the international boundary and establish pillars of stone and masonry as permanent memorials. As the forests of Venezuela and Guiana are tropical in character, filled with dense masses of trees, matted together with vines, and the swamps swarm with alligators, snakes and electric eels, surveying in that region is not altogether a pastime. But the natives, whether whites, people of mixed blood or Caribs, are friendly and render such service as their constitutional indolence will permit.

SIR EDWARD J. POYNTER, ARTIST.



One of the most famous of British artists is the president of the Royal Academy, Sir Edward J. Poynter. He was knighted in 1896, at the time he received his appointment as president of the academy, being the twelfth to succeed to that high position, his immediate predecessor having been the late lamented Sir John Millais. All the incumbents have been artists of great ability, beginning with Reynolds, the first after the office was created in 1768, then Benjamin West, an American, Wyatt, Elshe, Eastlake, Grant, Leighton and Millais. Poynter was born in Paris, 1856, son of an architect and grandson of Thomas Banks, a sculptor. His paintings are classics in English style and have won him great renown.

THE ELECTRICAL MOTOR REPLACES THE TOWPATH MULE.



The problem of canal navigation seems to be solved since the towpath has been invaded by the electric motor, as shown in the accompanying illustration, from a photograph taken on the Finow canal in Germany. The mule in action may be more picturesque, but he is slower than the motor and clamorous. Three hours an hour was about his limit, at which point he laboriously dragged his new canal trawler there is practically no reasonable speed which may not be attained. Strange as it may seem, also, the motor car is cheaper than traction by the old method, and that is sufficient to render the ancient system obsolete, not to mention the advantages of greater speed and effectiveness.

FROM MANY LANDS.

Great Britain can build 2,300 locomotives a year against 4,200 for the rest of Europe. Every head of cattle brought into Cape Colony has to pay \$1.50 duty, and every sheep 50 cents. The Albert dock, London, is 6,450 feet long by 400 wide. The East hub at Cardiff is 400 feet long and 600 wide.

The latter is 22 feet deep and the deepest in England.

The number of clergymen, priests and ministers in the British Isles is 48,023. Great Britain uses a million tons of paper a year, of which she buys 100,000 tons abroad. Great Britain's yearly gain in population at present is only 12.5 per 1,000 compared with 14.4 20 years ago. This is due to the falling off of the birth rate. British farmers and gardeners use \$160,000 worth of fertilizers yearly. The Gothic hall at St. George's chapel was specially built for the king's marriage. The man in Mississippi who does not pay a poll tax cannot vote or serve on juries, and official returns show 23,211

white citizens have neglected to pay up this year. This neglect disfranchises them for two years.

Manitoba, equal in area to Great Britain and Ireland, has only 210,000 inhabitants. The guava tree bears fruit more months in the year than any other subtropical fruit. There are over 140 factories in Europe

employed in turning cored apples into jelly and jam.

The United Kingdom had 463 miles of tramways in 1881. In 1896 there were 908,000 copper and silver. Europe grows but 27,000 acres of maize against 73,000 in the United States. A Roman chariot has been found near Philippopolis, Bulgaria, in a tumulus. All the metal parts of the chariot and the harness were found, as well as the arms of human remains. Only 10,877,000 gold coins came from the English mint last year against 95,000,000 copper and silver. For many years during the past century national expenditure in England has coincided in millions to the year. It was 50,000,000 in 1850 and 94,000,000 in 1894.