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Subscriptions are invariably payable in  
advance.

Commercial Importance of the  
Danish West Indies.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Com-  
mercially, the most important feature

of the recently acquired Danish West  
Indies is the fine harbor at Charlotte

Amalie on the island of St. Thomas, ac-  
cording to a commercial survey of the  
islands, just completed by agents of the

Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Com-  
merce, of the Department of Com-

merce. This survey emphasizes the  
convenience of the harbor as a distribut-  
ing center for all of the Lesser An-  
tilles. It lies on the direct line of com-

munication between European ports  
and the entrance of the Panama Canal,  
as well as in direct line for vessels  
plying between the Atlantic ports of

the two Americas or between the At-  
lantic and Pacific ports of these  
continents. It is 1,400 miles from New York,  
4,020 miles from the Atlantic entrance

of the Panama Canal and 480 miles  
from La Guaira, the chief port of  
Venezuela. Its location commands the  
Virgin Passage to the Caribbean Sea,

the easternmost gateway to that body

of water.

St. Croix is the largest, wealthiest,  
and most thickly populated of the

three islands. It is about 40 miles  
southeast of St. Thomas and has large  
areas of very fertile soil. The town of

Christiansted, on this island, was the  
seat of the Danish colonial government,  
but Frederiksted, with a much better  
harbor, is more important commercially,

doing approximately 80 per cent of

the import and export business of the

island. Sugar is the principal product

of St. Croix, although some excellent  
sea-island cotton is grown. The scenery  
is unrivaled in the Antilles, though

not so typically tropical as some of

the other islands.

The island of St. John is grown

the bay tree, from which is obtained

the oil used in the manufacture of bay

rum. The Bureau's report states that

the major part of the bay rum of com-

merce comes from the Danish West

Indies.

The foreign trade of the islands has  
not been of great importance. Imports

at St. Thomas for the fiscal year ended

March 31, 1916, were valued at \$73,680,

and this represents about 70 per cent

of the imports of the three islands. Of

this total, the United States furnished

\$332,286 worth, the West Indies \$91,748

worth, Great Britain \$88,411 worth,

Denmark \$50,778 worth, France \$13,-

296 worth, Holland \$12,601 worth, and

Germany \$1,195 worth. The United

States purchased \$73,625 worth of

goods from the islands in 1915.

The report issued by the Bureau of

Foreign and Domestic Commerce is the

work of three special agents who

stopped over on their way to South

America. One is studying the Latin

American markets for boats and shoes

another the markets for electrical

goods, and the third the markets for

textiles. Each has a chapter on mar-

kets as he found them in the Danish

West Indies. Boots and shoes, appar-

ently, are seldom used by the average

native, although each has a pair for

special occasions. Natives of all ages

are usually seen barefooted. The mar-

ket for electrical goods is also limited,

although it is urged that electric fans

can be sold if properly pushed. Tex-

tile, however, are in good demand, and

it is in this line that prospects ap-

pear brightest for the American man-

ufacturer. Heretofore England and other

European countries have had the

## INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SEC-  
RETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPART-  
MENT.

## ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Insurance Company of America, of  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, pu-

blished in conformity with Sections 1871 and

1875 of the Revised Statutes of the State of

Louisiana, as amended and re-enacted by Act

126 of 1916.

Capital paid up..... \$1,000,000.00

Assets..... 23,792,499.89

Liabilities, less capital and surplus 11,392,499.89

Surplus..... 5,400,000.00

Premiums received in Louisiana, 1916

Fire..... \$11,524.22

Marine..... 71,790.87

Total..... \$18,325.09

Losses paid in Louisiana, 1916

Fire..... \$12,437.28

Marine..... 10,870.83

Total..... \$23,308.11

Marine.....

Total..... \$31,606.11

Marine.....

Total..... \$36,106.11

Marine.....