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One year—\$3.00

Six months—\$1.50

Three months—\$0.75

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vance.

Commercial Importance of the
Danish West Indies.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Commercially, the most important feature of the recently acquired Danish West Indies is the fine harbor at Charlotte Amalie on the island of St. Thomas, according to a commercial survey of the islands, just completed by agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce. This survey emphasizes the convenience of the harbor as a distributing center for all of the Lesser Antilles. It lies on the direct line of communication 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 Atlantic and Pacific ports of these continents. It is 1,400 miles from New York, 1,020 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.

On 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 commerce 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 \$731,680, and this represents about 70 per cent of the imports of the three islands. Of this total, the United States furnished \$322,286 worth, the West Indies \$91,748 worth, Great Britain \$88,411 worth, Denmark \$50,778 worth, France \$13,286 worth, Holland \$12,601 worth, and Germany \$1,195 worth. The United States purchased \$273,625 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 boots and shoes, another the markets for electrical goods, and the third the markets for textiles. Each has a chapter on markets as he found them in the Danish West Indies. Boots and shoes, apparently, are seldom used by the average native, although each has a pair for special occasions. Natives of all ages are usually seen barefooted. The market for electrical goods is also limited, although it is urged that electric fans can be sold if properly pushed. Textiles, however, are in good demand, and it is in this line that prospects appear brightest for the American manufacturer. Heretofore England and other European countries have had the

TO THE PUBLIC.

The New Orleans Bee, No. 520 Conti St., is prepared to publish in its daily paper all legal and judicial advertisements and notices at the rate of three and a half (3 1/2) cents per acre line, net, instead of seven (7) cents per acre line as heretofore.

cream of the trade. Lack of interest on the part of the American manufacturer is blamed for this condition.

"The Danish West Indies, their Resources and Commercial Importance," is the title of the 68-page booklet on the new American possessions. There are chapters on education, public works, transportation, agriculture and allied industries, mineral resources, manufacturing industries, business conditions, foreign trade, and the three special chapters on shoes, electrical goods, and textiles. There is also a map and a large number of pictures. Copies may be obtained at the nominal price of 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents or from the nearest district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

NOTICE.

A general meeting of the stockholders of the Mechanics & Traders Insurance company will be held at the office of the company, 111 Carondelet Street, New Orleans, La., on Thursday, May 15, 1917, between the hours of 11 a. m. and 12 m., to consider the advisability of amending article II of the charter of said corporation and such other matters as may come before the meeting.

(Signed) T. B. NORTON, Secretary.

March 3-101

COMMERCIAL.

Spot Cotton.

Middling—
New Orleans—\$16.75
Galveston—\$16.75
Mobile—\$16.75
Little Rock—\$16.50
Montgomery—\$17.50
Memphis—\$17.00

FINANCIAL.

Bonds—
Street Railroads—Bid Asked
American Cities—\$950 00
Birmingham R. R. 4%—\$904 905
Meridian 5%—\$904 905
N. O. City R. R. Co. gen. mtg—\$1032 40
N. O. City R. R. Co. 4%—\$835 835
State and City—
City is—\$904 905
Premium bonds—\$28
Public Improvement—\$914 914
Public Improvement, new—\$914 914

INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Hartford Fire Insurance Company, of Hartford, Connecticut.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1874 and 1875 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.

Capital paid up—\$2,000,000.00
Assets—\$2,078,349.31

Liabilities, less capital and surplus—\$91,961,137
Surplus—\$78,255.11

Premiums received in Louisiana, 1916—
Fire—\$89,880.80
Marine—\$13,403.33

Total—\$42,013.96

RAGU VALLOON, Agent, 821 Gravier St.

FRANK LANGBEIN, Agent, 605 Camp St.

Feb. 28 to March 31

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For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1874 and 1875 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.

Capital paid up—\$200,000.00
Assets—\$207,349.31

Liabilities, less capital and surplus—\$18,651.137
Surplus—\$82,841.72

Premiums received in Louisiana, 1916—
Fire—\$89,773.88
Marine—\$13,403.33

Total—\$42,013.96

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