PORTO RICO, OUR NEWEST JEWEL

The True "Pearl of the Antilles"-Striking Features of This Rich Possession.

Some of the interesting things about Some of the interesting things about Porto Rico are not generally known. In size it ranks only as the fourth of the Greater Antilles, but in point of density of population and general prosperity it takes the first place. It is one of the few countries in tropical America where the whites outnumber the attention reces. The heat harbor in America where the whites outside the other races. The best harbor in the island is Guanica, the most western port on the south coast. Yellow fever never scourges Porto Rico as it does parts of Cuba, and although most of never scourges Porto Rico as it does parts of Cuba, and although most of it is low-lying, and may be said to be very hilly rather than mountainous, it is one of the most healthful of tropical islands.

Though the harbor of Guanica where our troops landed, is the best in the island, it is not visited by much shipping. The district immediately around it is low and swampy, and unless improvements have been made within the past two or three years, the roads are not equal in quality to the main roads marked on the map. Guanica is the outlet for the produce of San German, Sabana Grade, and to some extent of Yanco which is on to some extent of Yauco, which is or the railroad. Porto Rican "rebels" have been particularly numerous in the western and southwestern dis tricts, and many thousands of people there welcomed the day of General Miles's coming as the greatest in their lives.

The largest city and the commercial

capital of the island is Ponce, which lies three miles north of the port of Ponce, on a rich plain surrounded by gardens and plantations. There are hot springs in the neighborhood, which are highly appreciated by invalids. Along the playa or beach in front of the port are extensive depots, in which the produce of the interior, forwarded through Ponce, the trading centre, is stored for shipment. the last enumeration Ponce ha population of 37,545, while San Juan, the capital on the north coast, had only 23,414 inhabitants. Ponce has a number of fine buildings, among which



A MARKET SCENE OUTSIDE THE WALL OF SAN JUAN.

are the Town Hall, the theatre, two churches, the Charity and the Wom-en's Asylums, the barracks, the Cuban House, and the market. The road between the city and the seaside is a

beautiful promenade.

The main highway of central Porto Rico runs from Ponce to San Juan in northeasterly course through Juana Diaz, Coamo and Aibonito, where it es almost eastward to Cayey, there take a winding course to the north

s far as Caguas, where it turns west Aguas Buenas, and then goes de-ledly north to San Juan through uaynabo and Rio Piedras, making n all a distance of eighty-five miles. The distance from Ponce to San Juan ta straight line is only forty-five miles. The eastern part of the island is less ensely peopled than the western, ad as the east coast is on the wind-ard side and offers less protection or shipping it is not so conveniently tuated for trade. Here all the least some distance from the coast iese towns are in the hilly region nid rich coffee and extensive graz-

Over 800,000 people live in Porto Rico, and about two-thirds of them are white. Cuba is thirteen times Rico, and about two-thirds of them are white. Cuba is thirteen times larger than Porto Rico, and its population was not double that of the smaller island even before Weyler exterminated a third of the native Cubans. Besides Ponce and San Juan, the largest towns on the island are Arecibo (30,000 inhabitants), Utuado (31,000), Mayaguez (28,000), San German (20,000), Yauco (25,000),

MENNEMENTAL DES NAMES DE LA COMPANSION D



CORNER OF THE PLAZA DE LAS DELICIAS, IN PONCE, POSTO RICO, THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL MILES'S ARMY.

Juana Diaz (21,000), and there are about ten other towns with a population of 15,000 or over.

tion of 15,000 or over.

In the past fifty years about half the population has gravitated to and around the towns, particularly those of the seaboard. They live in comfortable houses and many of them have the means to purchase all the wares of the civilized world. Porto Rico abounds in sugar, coffee, tobacco, honey and wax, which have enriched the island, and many of the people are well-to-do. A very large part of the well-to-do. A very large part of the island's trade has been carried on with the United States, whose corn, flour, salt meat, fish and lumber are imported in return for sugar, molasses and coffee. The natives have little taste for sea faring and most of their foreign trade is carried in foreign bottoms.

Porto Rico is rich in natural blessings, and for a tropical region is very healthful. For some inscrutable reason Spain has given the inhabitants far better treatment than she has the natives of Cuba. She has dealt with the island as though it were a Spanish the island as though it were a Spanish province instead of merely a colony to be bled by Spanish officials for the enrichment of themselves and the mother country. In fact, the island has been politically a province of Spain for over twenty years. Spain has had little to do directly with internal improvements in the island, but she has so far the the heavy heard off the people. ments in the island, but she has so har kept her heavy hand off the people that there was an opportunity for the spirit of enterprise to develop. The result is that Porto Rico has about 150 miles of railroad, and as much more under construction; and a system of wagon roads leading to all the important trading centres that surpass any-thing of the sort seen in most parts of Spain herself. The stretches of railroad parallel with the coast are long links in the line that is to make the en-tire circuit of the island, with short branches to all the seaports and the inland markets.

The mode of life is very similar to that of the European countries except for some slight differences due to the hot climate. Fashions for men and women alike are introduced from Spain, and especially from Paris and London. The well to do in the principal towns dress just like people in Enropean countries, men wearing woolen clothes all the year round. The liberty of the press was unknown. Articles printed in the Madrid or other Spanish papers attacking the Government could not be reproduced by any Porto Rican paper without the editors being punished, even considered ground for prosecution by the authorities in Spain.

No more than nineteen persons were allowed to meet in any place on the island without special permission of that of the European countries excep for some slight differences due to the glands.
The harbor of San Juan, the capill, is deep enough to admit large seels, but its channel communication in the well to do in the principal towns dress just like people in Enropean countries, men wearing wooldstates, but its channel communication in clothes all the year round.

copies, which is equal to that of the other papers combined. There is a local telephone company, but no water except that of the cisterns. A reser-

Life at San Juan and the other prin

San Juan, built on a small island connected with the mainland by the San Antonio bridge, is quite a beauti-

ful city, with straight but narrow streets and many fine buildings. It has several public institutions and col-

leges, several churches and seven small parks, among them the Plazuela de



A PORTO RICAN DAMSEL.

population, which some historian lace as large as 500,000, in less than a century. Every branch of the administration of the island has been conducted under a system of corruption, the law was constantly violated by the Spaniards and the natives were deprived of their rights. At eleving the Spanish or Conservative party al-ways won, notwithstanding the fact ways won, notwithstanding that it was in a large minority.

island without special permission of the Government, and a representative of the Mayor of the town had to at-tend meetings to see that nothing was done or said against "the integrity of the nation" the nation."

Licenses were required for every

thing, even for a dancing party.

These are some of the things which caused the people at Ponce to cheer the Americans who took possession of

Chief among the staple products is Chief among the staple products is coffee. The average yearly export from 1892 to 1896 was 49,229,000 pounds, valued at \$10,872,000. The area of production can be doubled. It grows almost without care.

Next to coffee comes sugar. Molasses, too, has been exported in large quantities, and the product could be increased.

Cotton has been almost at a stand-still for the same reasons as in Cuba —because of the heavy taxes imposed by Spain. Besides, coffee is more profitable and demands less care. The

products almost entirely Porto Rico's own. Like Cuba, the island has extensive mines and quarries. The principal deposits are iron, gold, copper, zno, coal and salt. Salt is the did, they could not afford to, as their wages are very small. Life at San Juan and the other principal towns is very monotonous, the only amusements being retrets or concert by the military bands twice a week and theatrical performances three or four evenings a week, matinees being given very seldom. The theatres are owned by the cities and rented to European companies travelling through the island at so much an evening.

San Juan, built on a small island

per, zhe, coal and salt. Salt is the only one worked to any extent.

Again, as in Cuba, there are scarcely any railways, and the few are short and disconnected. The wagon ways are good, outside the cities as well as in them. Water works are needed everywhere, and the drainage in all the cities except Ponce is bad. In Ponce only are there underground sewers. These flow into the harbor, sewers. These flow into the harbor, whose outlet should be widened, not only to allow the escape of the drainage, but to afford easier and less per-

GERMANY'S "WOMAN BISMARCK." ountess Waldersee, an American Girl, Has a Remarkable Influence With

As a little girl Mary Esther Lea played among the flour barrels and currant boxes of her father's grocery store on Front street in New York City. But that was many years ago. Now the little girl is a white haired and regal lady, with the title of princess. More than that, she it is who is the power behind the German throne, who is known as the "female Bismarck" and who, it is believed, brought about the Kaiser's marriage. Her title is Princess von Noer, and her title is Princess von Noer, and she is a powerful influence in the great palace at Berlin.

Her history is most interesting and unusual. Her father left Connecticut

nuusual. Her father left Connecticut in 1810 and began a small grocery business in New York City. Though he was financially successful, when he died, in 1853, he left but a very small fortune to his family. Mrs. Lea, unable to afford the expensive living in New York, bundled up her little family and went to Stutgart. Here the eldest daughter married Baron von Waechter. He soon became Ambas-Waechter. He soon became Ambas-sador from Wurtenberg to Paris, and in due course of time Mrs. Lea and her other daughters found themselves in the social set of the great French capital. Other important marriages came about. Mary Esther, the youngest girl, found a fast and affectionate friend in Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein. Through her she formed the acquaintance of the father of the princess and widower who of the princess, an old widower, who immediately fell desperately in love immediately fell desperately in love with the beautiful and bright little American girl. To compensate for marrying the daughter of a grocer the Prince gave up his title and accepted the simpler designation of Count von Noer, which was given to him by the Austrian Emperor. The groom was sixty-four years old, the bride twenty-four. Six months later the venerable husband died and his rich and youthful widow settled down in Vienna. There she won the esteem of the

Austrian Emperor, and he created her Princess of Noer in her own right.

A few years after being made a princess the one time daughter of a grocer met Count von Waldersee. A grocer met Count von Waldersee. A marriage between them took place in 1866. These two brilliant and tactful people went to Berlin, and in a few months the countess

Her particular ambition was marry her grand niece by her first marriage, Princess Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, to Prince William of Prussia, the present Emperor of Germany. The mother of the prince raised great objections, but the Princess von Noer was persistent and tactful and planning, and the wedding was calchysted. Prince William and was celebrated. Prince William and his bride were both devoted to the one who helped along the rough way one who helped along the rough way of their courtship, and their gratitude has been unceasing. When Princess Augusta Victoria became Empress she was more than ever under the



COUNTESS WALDERSEE.

sway of her American aunt. Princess von Noer's present desire is to bring about the most cordial relationship between the country of her birth and her adopted land. Her influence over the Kaiser is as strong as in the days when she made opportunities for him to meet his pretty little German sweetheart.

Trials of Field Marshals.

Thats of Field Marshats.

The London Naval and Military Record says that a new rule was recently framed for the guidance of field marshals. It was, with other regulations, put into type, and appeared in

proof as follows:
"1972 Field Marshals—Field Marshals will wear buckskin pantaloons, jack boots and gilt spurs only, at drawing-rooms, and on all such occa-

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

When to Thresh Grain.

Thresh small grains as soon as possible after harvest. The crop is never secure in the stack, and the sooner it is in the granary or the elevator the better. No matter how well a stack is made a driving storm will wet it.

For some time after new potatoes come into market the well-preserved old potatoes are best, and are pre-ferred by the careful housewife, who cares as much for nutritive value as for taste. In the old days, when some potato grated fine was always mixed with the rising bread, housewives found that the young potatoes with very little starch were not so good for this purpose as potatoes grown the previous year.

Plant Strawberries Early.

So soon as the strawberry runners have fairly rooted it is best to take them up and set them in new beds rather than wait until the plants have attained large size. The smaller plant has much less surface exposed plant has much less surface exposed to evaporation, and it will become well rooted more quickly than will those set later in the season. If the runners are cut as fast as they are put forth from the transplanted plant it will make a large crown full of buds for next year's bearing. All the buds for fruit in the strawberry are provided for the year before it is to bear, and no amount of spring cultivation can increase them. vation can increase them.

Care for Yellow Clover.

Just after the wheat harvest the Just after the wheat harvest the young clover plants, which up to that time have been protected by the wheat, are apt to suffer from the sun unless the stubble is left high. After the clover plant hardens it should be clipped, which will force out a branching structure of the grant hardens. ing growth near the ground, affording, with the wheat stubble, a sharp sickle or grass hook, and may be oc complished at small expense. The first clipping should be done about a month after the wheat is harvested, and if the ground is weedy or the drought prolonged a second clipping may be done early in September. Close attention must be paid to weeds. None should be allowed to go to seed to ruin an otherwise fair crop of

Root-Grafted Apple Trees. Most of the apple trees from nurseries are root grafted. It is so much more convenient to do this the first season than later that nine-tenths of the apple trees for sale are grafted then and allowed to root from the graft, as is certain to do when transplanted. No doubt there is a greater uniformity in trees grown by this method than if each seedling were allowed to grow as it would and then be top grafted when high enough to form a head. Many farmers believe that when a tree is top grafted it will come in bearing sooner than one grafted on a little piece of root and allowed to make the whole stock from the ground up. It is probable that the root-grafted trees are given better cultivation than those top-grafted, the latter being usually stray seedlings in out-of-the-way places, and therefore getting very little cultivation.

Raise Better Cows.

The test of milk should not be confined to one's idea of its richness judging from its appearance, for there is no sure test but that made with the perfected tester. If dsirymen will use such they will be surprised to learn that some of their best milkers learn that some of their best milkers are giving a supply very deficient in richness. The sooner this class of cows are disposed of the sooner the dairy will be on a paying basis. If these unprofitable cows cannot be disposed of in any other way, turn them into beef, and if possible raise the herd from the stock which meet the test as to richness of milk. If sevtest as to richness of milk. If several of them meet the test fairly and eral of them meet the test land as continuously under a moderate expense for food, they will form the foundation for a profitable herd. The other animals should be turned off quickly. Even if two of them have to be given for one whose milk will come up to the test it will be a pay-ing trade.

Bees and Fruit.

The fruit grower does not appreciate the value of a colony of bees as a rule, but on the other hand is inclined to look upon them as a detriment. a well known fact that bees seldom if ever disturb fruit that has not pre-viously been injured by birds or in-sects, while the value of the bees as pollen distributors is well known. Among orchard fruits especially bees are of great value, as has been proved by many fruit growers, who, until the advent of the bees, had been unable to obtain full crops or large fruit owing to the imperfect fertilization of
the blossoms by other means. In the
peach orchard, where the pollen is
scant and many of the blossoms obtain little or none through the agency
of wind or insects the bees will proof wind or insects, the bees will prac-tically solve the question of falling fruit, which is mainly due to lack of vitality from the imperfect fertiliza-tion of the blossoms. It will be neces-sary to avoid the use of the spray when the trees are in bloom in locali-ties where bees are kept.

Ca bage fulture

Cabage tuiture.

Cabbage is a very profitable regetable to grow both for home use and for marketing purposes. With proper care in storing it is possible to have it the greatest part of the year.

Market garden. desiring an early crop sow the seed very early in cold frames, hence have the plan's ready

to set out at any time when the weather and the condition of the ground will permit. But to grow for home use, early planting not being so essential, the seed may be sown later in open beds. Another way of secaring an early series. Nearly all of these produce much smaller heads than the late varieties, yet for an early supply, either for home use or the market, they answer very well. For this purpose the early Jersey. Wakefield or the early Winningstadt are good varieties. These yield fair-sized heads, and are at most only a week or so later than the earlier sorts. Have the soil rich and fine on which to sow the seed whether in cold frames or open beds, and wherever the plants should not be kept too warm. This is likely to cause too remid growth. to set out at any time when weather and the condition of the plants should not be kept too warm. This is likely to cause too rapid growth, which makes tall and weakly plants. The ground on which the crop is to be grown should be made rich by the application of manure. Cabbage plants are gross feeders and can consume considerable manure without injury. If the manure is not applied the fall previous it should be well rotted when applied in the spring and then worked well into the spring and then worked well into the spring and then worked well into the soil. As a matter of course the soil should be deeply broken and well pulverized. For early cabbage the rows may be marked off about 30 inches apart; for larger varieties a little wider, and the plants 18 inches apart in the row. To give the plants an early start, work into the soil about them about a gill of commercial about them about a gill of commercial fertilizer. When setting, if the soil is not fairly damp some water should be used about the plants. Set the plants down out the soil is the soil of the soil is not fairly damp some water should be used about the plants. plants down quite to the leaves and press the soil well about the roots. then a little loose dirt over this. This prevents evaporation and the plant from scalding. The cultivation should begin early, be frequent and thorough, to obtain rapid and large growth. Stir the soil at first close about the plants; as they grow larger, cultivate shallow, just to break the crust and to keep down the weeds.

As to insects and worms, which are so destructive among cabbage, and which are so difficult to successfully combat, we can only recommend constant vigilance and the use of the best known means for destroying them, among which slug-shot is rec-ommended.—Agricultural Epitome.

Farm and Garden Notes

Hogs at pasture need water to drink. See that they have that that is pure and fresh.

The hen likes a change of diet, and, with some grain, will eat all kinds of insects they discover in the soil or about the trees.

When the milch cow is growing fat she is not being fed right to produce the largest yield of milk, or she is not

the right breed for the dairy. The feed of chickens and turkeys should be hidden in straw, or thrown among the grass in summer, to induce the hunting for it, and that for water fowl is best put into water.

A cow will give about so much milk in a year, no matter what time she comes in, and she should be bred so as to produce milk during the whole of the season of best prices.

If the soil around the fruit trees is the soil around the fruit dees to kept loose and an occasional handful of grain is thrown in and covered, the fowls will spend much of their time scratching and will effectually prevent the borer from depositing its eggs.

The seeding of peas and other legu-The seeding of peas and other legi-minous crops, clover, etc., should re-ceive more attention as they supply the most expensive part of the fertil-izer, nitrogen, then potash and phos-phoric acid should be used in connection to make a complete fertilizer.

The use of wood ashes on the straw berry plantation gives the fruit that bright, glossy appearance so much desired and prevents the dark appearance so much like staleness to the eye of the customer, which comes on berries that have been picked for some

In its natural condition all classes of poultry were compelled to take considerable exercise in order to ob-tain food. This should be remembered in caring for domestic poultry, and feed should be given in such a manner that it cannot be gobbled

When eigh een inches high nip off the ends of the canes of blackberries and black raspberries. This will cause new laterals to grow, and these should be trimmed in the spring also. By this means the bearing surface is increased and the bush is kept low and strong.

Washing Their Loose Change

The writer happened to mention re-cently to the manager of a well-known city bank that a certain gentleman who died lately, after making a fortune as a newspaper proprietor, always had the loose gold, silver and copper in his possession washed before putting it in his pocket.

The record of a singular fact was

the result, for, said the bank man-ager: "I could not only name a conager: "I could not only name a considerable number of people who do this, but some eminent ones—one of the richest and most benevolent ladies in this country, as an instance. The coins paid away by a notoriously frugal actor-manager always have a high

gal actor-manager always have a high polish, for he has soap, soda and hot water daily applied to all the loose money he draws from the treasurer of his theatre, and all manner of comical stories are told of the brightness of his very small payments.

"Then, again, a noble Scotch duke has little bags of coin already washed and scoured, put aside for daily use, and a number of old city men I come into personal contact with seldom have an unwashed coin in their pockets. Some of them are men eccentric in other ways, but by no means all."—London Answers.

WHICH RUNS FROM PONCE TO SAN JUAN with the sea is winding and diffigure and can be navigated safely only the aid of a pilot.

In each of the leading seaports of the disagrant and the sea is winding and the sea is winding and the sea is winding and diffigure and can be navigated safely only in the aid of a pilot.

In each of the leading seaports of the disagrant and the sea is winding and diffigure and the sea is were gearly exports which a value of \$642,000. Annatto, make, cocoa, drawing-rooms, and on all such occativated.

Under the Spanish rule the vast as soon as attention was called to the fact that in such a meagre costume field marshals would create some senting marble are among the words and beautiful grained woods.

They do not care to do so, and, if they is a sea is a soon and the sea of the value of sea is a soon and the sea of the value of th

ARACTERISTIC SCENE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY OF CENTRAL PORTO RICO