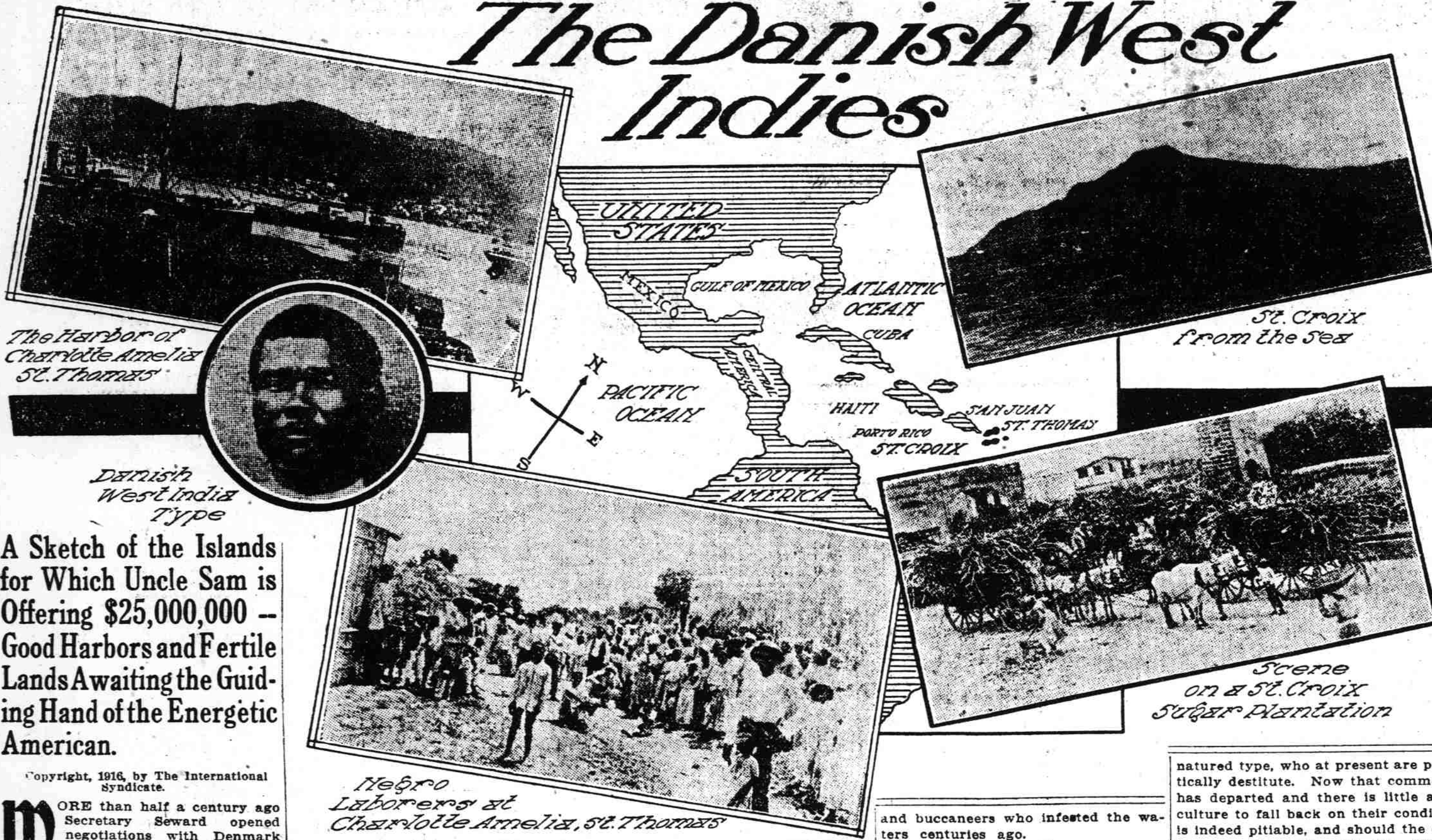


# The Danish West Indies



**A Sketch of the Islands for Which Uncle Sam is Offering \$25,000,000 — Good Harbors and Fertile Lands Awaiting the Guiding Hand of the Energetic American.**

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**M**ORE than half a century ago Secretary Seward opened negotiations with Denmark for the purchase of the Danish Islands of the West Indies group. Although his undertaking was not successful it led eventually to a formal treaty in 1902 by which Secretary Hay expected to obtain possession of the islands. The price at that time was \$5,000,000. The agreement, however, was rejected by the Danish Parliament supposedly through German influence. From time to time the bargaining was resumed, but it is said that the sale was always blocked by Germany, although some diplomats declare that the opposition came from the Danish aristocracy—an opposition which still exists. The sentiment of the natives of the islands is for the change for although Danish is the official language English is generally spoken and the islanders would welcome the regime of the United States, having felt for years that prosperity would be the result of such an alliance, and it is understood that they are to have a say in the matter.

**Islands of Value in Wartime.**

Naval officers regard these islands as the most valuable for any European Government wishing to quarrel with the United States, and have always urged that it was of the highest importance from a strategic point of

view to keep them from falling into unfriendly hands. St. Thomas has one of the best harbors in West Indies, land-locked on three sides surrounded by hills from which drift down the most fragrant breezes in the world, and large enough to shelter at least two hundred ships.

The three islands of St. Croix, St. John and St. John, in the order of their size and population, have been under Spanish, British, French and Dutch flags at various times. They were first known under the name of the Virgins, being so called by Columbus in 1493 as he swept past on his way to Santo Domingo. They are tropical in character, though not all are exuberantly fertile.

**Rare Tropical Beauty.**

Five days sailing from New York brings one to St. Thomas with its hills covered with dense foliage for ever a thousand feet above the sea and at their feet tiny villages nestling by sandy beaches with cocoanut palms fringing the secluded coves. Not much is to be seen by the tourist in St. Thomas although the town of Charlotte Amalie is picturesque and scrupulously clean. There is one straight level street along the waterfront, while shorter streets run sharp-

ly up the hills often so steep that they are built in flights of steps. The main street is like those of all West Indies towns—filled with tobacco shops, Panama hat stores and fruit stands where tropical fruit is offered at bargain prices. There is a tiny plaza near the landing filled with shade trees and flowers, a delightful spot and a favorite place for the officers from foreign ships to spend their evenings.

In the rear of the "breathing spot" stands an old Danish fort dating from the seventeenth century—a quaint relic of by-gone days with its obsolete cannon. There a few Danish soldiers while away their time smoking, playing cards and sleeping.

Most of the residents of the islands live in or near the town as the visitor will discover when he climbs to the top of the hill, where he may look over the entire island and see very few inhabitants in the outlying districts. The view from these hills is grand in the extreme as they command not only the island of St. Thomas but that of St. Croix to the south and St. John to the east. All about one finds reminders of the early occupation when fortifications were erected against the raids of pirates

and buccaners who infested the waters centuries ago.

The island is replete with beauty of tropical scenery and just north of the harbor, separated from it by a hilly, narrow cape, is a great horseshaped bay of the most remarkable shade of turquoise blue water. Its waves lap a sandy beach beneath nodding palms and make it the real beauty spot of the island. Before the European War when ships from all parts of the world came into Charlotte Amalie it was the favorite picnic ground for tourists and men from the ships, and hundreds bathed in its limpid waters, but today it is deserted except for a few pickaninnies who play about in its water like so many fish.

**Rendezvous For Pirates.**

A century ago the bay was a famous rendezvous for pirates who laid in wait for an opportunity to sail forth and prey upon the merchantmen passing through the Caribbean Sea. The fishing here is excellent and at present furnishes the greater part of the food of the inhabitants. A few deer are to be found in the hills, but apart from these there is nothing to attract the hunter. To those who are fond of boating the bay offers a charming place for this sport.

The population of thirteen thousand are mainly negroes of a good-

natured type, who at present are practically destitute. Now that commerce has departed and there is little agriculture to fall back on their condition is indeed pitiable, and should the deal between Denmark and the United States go through our Government will face a relief problem to save its new wards from starvation.

**Bay Rum Staple Article.**

There is little manufacturing of any kind except the bay rum industry, and this too has been practically ruined by the war on account of the difficulty in shipping it to market. This bay rum, for which St. Thomas is noted, is made by macerating the leaves and berries of the bay tree with pure new rum and then distilling the mixture by passing it through a "worm." It is regarded as the best bay rum in the world, and is, in fact, the only perfect product of that article. In the tourist days it was quite the thing for the visitor to the islands to bring home a supply of St. Thomas bay rum.

**Sugar Industry Poor.**

Fifty years ago the sugar industry of the islands was an important one, bringing in large revenue, but improved methods of manufacture in more developed countries and outside competition proved too much for it and now in St. Thomas it is suffering from stagnation and decay. The cane at present grows wild and under proper care the industry might be revived. White people are few and the blacks do not know how to help

themselves. The white men who reside there are Danish officials, a few plantation overseers and shopkeepers. The majority of the latter closed up shortly after the beginning of the war and left the islands, consequently the Danish West Indies of today are inhabited almost solely by the black man. The climate is not conducive to energy and the agricultural parts of the islands have been gradually going to waste.

One of the sights of the town during the tourist days was watching the women coal ships, for this was done almost wholly by women who could carry a bushel basket of coal nicely balanced on their heads with apparent ease. Another sight familiar to the tourists was the expertness of the swimmers—boys who swam out to meet incoming vessels and who would dive for coins thrown overboard by the passengers—catching the coin before it had sunk six feet in the water. Although the water about St. Thomas is infested with sharks the natives have no fear of them and the diving boys will actually swim among the sea monsters and chase them away from the ships. There is no record of one of these boys being injured at the game.

**St. John Island.**

St. John Island, too, has been practically given over to the blacks although its rare tropical beauty deserves a better fate. Coral Bay has the reputation of being hurricane proof and has good anchorage places in deep water. Like St. Thomas, it was once the rendezvous of pirates whose existence here at one time is shown by the rusty cannon scattered over the island in fortifications which have now fallen into decay. The woods of St. John are literally alive with birds—wild pigeons, doves and daily tinted humming birds predominating.

**St. Croix.**

The island of St. Croix was so named by Christopher Columbus when he came through the Caribbean in 1493 on his second voyage. It has a population of twenty-five thousand—mostly blacks, but with a larger sprinkling of whites than are to be found on the other islands. Most of the planters are of Irish extraction

and they make rum and sugar, using the most improved machinery. Like St. Thomas, the people have chosen English as their tongue, although many of the negroes speak a jargon of English and Danish mixed.

There are two towns on this island—Christiansted on the east, and Fredriksted on the west. It was at the latter in 1867 that the old United States frigate *Monongahela* went ashore during a tidal wave. After the storm passed the frigate was left standing erect among the houses of the town. The natives thought that the United States had come to take possession of the island and not until they were again on the water could they be assured that the landing of the ship in their midst was an accident.

This island is by far the richest of the three and several splendid plantations are owned by Americans. The island of St. Croix has long been more American than Danish as its trade has been with the United States instead of with Denmark. It possesses admirable roads, some following close to the edges of the coast and affording glimpses of beautiful bathing beaches where huge piles of pink conch shells may be seen ready to be burnt for lime. Other highways lead to the hills and to the various sugar and pineapple plantations, while the most attractive of all runs between the cities of Christiansted and Fredriksted. All along this road one sees the old ruined windmills once used to grind the sugarcane. Today American made machinery does the work and the tall chimneys of the sugar mills rise amid the cane.

Denmark did well to hold on to her real estate until the wave of preparedness swept over the United States. The only value these islands can possibly be to our country is to keep them from falling into the hands of a foreign foe and in such case become a menace to the Panama Canal, affording a harbor for hostile ships. The advantageous situation of St. Thomas and the excellence of its harbor was recognized by the blockade runners during the Civil War who frequently made it their rendezvous. It has often been called the Gibraltar of America owing to its natural impregnability irrespective of fortifications

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## MAY INJECT NEW ISSUE INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS

### Use of Information Secured From Mails by British Censors.

#### Forecasted, It is Believed, by Secretary Lansing's Statement at Variance With Position of Lloyd-George in Parliament.

Washington, Sept. 11.—A declaration by Secretary Lansing today that he considered information secured by censors from the mails should be used only for military purposes was believed to forecast injection of that issue into the negotiations with Great Britain over mail seizures.

While no inquiry has been sent regarding the statement in parliament of David Lloyd-George, the British war minister, that information "gleaned by the censors properly could be put to any public or national use," Mr. Lansing said he had read the war secretary's speech and that the matter might become a subject of diplomatic negotiations.

The first step probably would be a request for a definite statement of the British government's policy regarding use of information, specially trade secrets, falling into the hands of the censors.

Secretary Lansing said he was studying the retaliatory legislation passed last week by Congress, but whether the powers it confers on the President will be used depends upon the future developments and the outcome of diplomatic efforts.

The British reply to the last American note on mail seizures is expected this week. Allied diplomats expressed hope today that no definite action would be taken by this government while the whole trade dispute is under negotiation, predicting that any retaliatory action might result in a trade war. It is understood that while the Allied embassies here cannot act officially until instructed by the grand trade consul at Paris, they intend to bring this feature of the situation informally to the attention of the State Department.

### A. C. L. CONDUCTOR CHEATHAM ASSAULTED BY PASSENGER

#### Rocky Mount Man in Arrested and Placed Under Bond.

(Special Star Correspondence.)

Rocky Mount, N. C., Sept. 11.—Much indignation has been expressed here over the severe assault alleged to have been made by E. G. Simmons, a commercial agent of the Western Union Telegraph Co., upon Capt. A. B. Cheatham, one of the oldest and most respected conductors of the first division of the Atlantic Coast Line. The attack on the conductor occurred on train No. 50 from Petersburg to Richmond Saturday night or early Sunday morning and the report indicates that Mr. Simmons would probably have fatally cut the conductor had not other passengers in the car interfered, and in fact, a passenger who assisted in overpowering Mr. Simmons and dragging him from the conductor was slightly cut. Both parties are known here, while Captain Cheatham's duties have thrown him often in this city and he is well known and held in high esteem by a large circle of friends.

According to eye witnesses to the incident, the commercial agent, who was traveling on a card pass, resented the request of the conductor that he sign an identification slip and tore up the blank furnished him. When the conductor returned and proffered another with a request that the railroad's regulations be complied with, Mr. Simmons is said to have been outspoken in his criticism, but the conductor left it with him, and when he returned a few minutes later Mr. Simmons met him in the aisle with an open knife, it is said. Making the attack on the unsuspecting conductor, it is said, he slashed him about the head and face and felled him into the aisle, and was finally pulled off by passengers in the coach.

The conductor was given medical attention promptly, but he had lost a great amount of blood, while several stitches were necessary to close the wounds, and he is under medical attention at his home in Richmond. Mr. Simmons was arrested in Richmond and promptly gave a bond of \$750. The trial is to occur some time this week, the case will be prosecuted, so it is declared, by both the railroad and the brotherhood of Railway Conductors.

**BIG SNAKE GOES TO SCHOOL.**

**Drops Down Flue Into School Room at Lanefield—No Harm Done.**

(Special Star Correspondence.)

Warsaw, N. C., Sept. 11.—Some excitement was caused at the Lanefield school, three miles from here, when on last Friday afternoon a large black snake, more than a yard long, crawled down the chimney flue and dropped to the floor. Fortunately, it was after school hours, and almost the entire school with the two teachers were engaged in cleaning up the school grounds. One of the pupils, a girl of 16, who had become tired of sweeping, and had gone in the school room to rest, the only occupant at the time, and as his majesty went for one door, running against the feet of one of the boys on the outside, she made a hasty exit from the other.

### ELKUS FINDS LITTLE CHANGE IN BERLIN AND VIENNA.

#### Conditions of Life Virtually Normal, Predicts Wilson Victory.

Berlin, Sept. 11 (via wireless).—Abram I. Elkus, the new American ambassador to Turkey, who stopped in Vienna on his way to Constantinople, is quoted by the Neue Freie Presse as stating to a member of its staff that his impression of Vienna as well as of Berlin was that conditions of life there were virtually unchanged. The amount of food was apparently enough and, thanks to the capable organization, he thought a sufficiency of provisions seemed assured.

Mr. Elkus, according to the newspaper, says he felt assured of the reelection of President Wilson, who, in addition to the other qualifications, had the greatest of all in having preserved peace for the United States and in representing the idea of world peace.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 11.—Julius Selzer, of St. Louis, was re-elected clerk of the University, the presiding officer of the Concatenated Order of Hoo Hoo, and New York was selected as the next place of meeting at today's business session of the 28th annual convention of the organization.

### HOPE WOMEN WILL ADOPT THIS HABIT AS WELL AS MEN

#### Glass of hot water each morning helps us look and feel clean, sweet, fresh.

Happy, bright, alert—vigorous and vivacious—a good clear skin, a natural rosy complexion and freedom from illness are assured only by clean, healthy blood. If only every woman and likewise every man could realize the wonders of the morning inside bath, what a gratifying change would take place.

Instead of the thousands of sickly, anaemic-looking men, women and girls with pasty or muddy complexions; instead of the multitudes of "nerve wrecks," "brain fags" and pessimists we should see a virile, optimistic throng of rosy-cheeked people everywhere.

An inside bath is had by drinking, each morning before breakfast, a glass of warm hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it to wash from the stomach, liver, kidneys and ten yards of bowels the previous day's indigestible waste, sour fermentations and poisons, thus cleansing, sweetening and freshening the entire alimentary canal—before putting more food into the stomach.

Those subject to sick headache, biliousness, nasty breath, rheumatism, colds; and particularly those who have a pallid, sallow complexion and who are constipated very often, are urged to obtain a quarter pound of limestone phosphate at the drug store, which will cost but a trifle, but is sufficient to demonstrate the quick and remarkable change in both health and appearance awaiting those who practice internal sanitation. We must remember that inside cleanliness is more important than outside, because the skin does not absorb impurities or contaminants; the blood, while the pores in the thirty feet of bowels do.

### DR. LAURO MULLER HONORED BY PAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY

#### Brazilian Minister Guest at Luncheon in New York—On Vacation.

New York, Sept. 11.—Dr. Lauro Muller, the Brazilian minister of foreign relations, in this country on a vacation, was guest at a luncheon given here today by the Pan-American Society of the United States.

John Bassett Moore, president of the society, welcoming Dr. Muller, recalled that Brazil was first to extend official recognition to the Monroe Doctrine and declared at the time there existed no misgivings as to its purposes. He defined the doctrine as "an invitation to the American nations to extend to one another mutual support in the preservation of an inalienable right of independence and self government against attack from beyond the seas."

Dr. Muller, responding, declared Brazil had done all it could to further the movement of Pan-Americanism.

An exhibit of this kind, besides advertising your county, may have a very decided influence in securing a permanent manufacturing plant in your town. Write to the State Forester, Chapel Hill, N. C., who will be in charge of this exhibit.

Philadelphia, Sept. 11.—The Lehigh Valley Railroad Company today appealed to the United States Supreme Court from a decision of the Federal District Court here, dismissing the suit for an injunction to restrain the Interstate Commerce Commission from enforcing under the Panama Canal Act, the separation of the railroad company and the Lehigh Valley Transportation Company, a Great Lakes subsidiary.

### For All Complexion Ills

If the skin be colorless, sallow, muddy, over-red, blotchy or freckled, notice as ordinary mercurized wax. It literally takes off a bad complexion, absorbs the dead and near dead particles of surface skin, gently, gradually, causing no inconvenience at all. A new complexion is then in evidence, clear, spotless, delicately soft and beautiful. One ounce of this wax, procureable at any drug store, will rejuvenate even the worst complexion. It is used like cold cream.

### Buffalo Lithia Springs Hotel

Located in the most delightful section of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, this famous health resort will, this season, be under new management—MR. C. E. GRAHAM

who has had many years' experience in the management of leading hotels in the east and south, will have charge, with a competent staff of heads, cooks and servants. All conditions combine to make Buffalo Lithia Springs the most desirable resort. Those coming for treatment find in the curative waters a proved remedy for kidney and bladder troubles, while those seeking amusement may indulge in their favorite recreations.

On Norfolk Division of Southern Railway. Rates and full information on request.

Owned and operated by the BUFFALO LITHIA SPRINGS WATER COMPANY, Buffalo Lithia Springs, Virginia.

### RECEIVER IS NAMED.

For Champion Lumber Co.—Liabilities \$3,000,000

(Special Star Telegram.)

Greensboro, N. C., Sept. 11.—Petition in bankruptcy was filed here today against the Champion Lumber Co., of Sunburst, Haywood county, liabilities estimated at \$3,000,000. It is understood the company will admit insolvency. J. J. Campbell, vice president of the company, was named receiver.



The picture illustrates the \$50 Columbia model.

Other models from \$15 to \$200.

Demonstrations at any time in our store or on approval in your own home.

## FLORIDA EXCURSION Tuesday, September 26th

### via SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY CO.

FARE FROM WILMINGTON			
Jacksonville	\$ 8.00	Tampa	\$10.50
St. Petersburg	\$10.50	Sarasota	\$11.00

Tickets sold to Jacksonville limited returning October 3rd; Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota tickets limited returning midnight, October 6th.

For tickets, schedules, reservations, or any information, apply C. M. ACKER, Union Ticket Agent, Phone 1102-W. R. W. WALLACE, City Ticket Agent, Phone 178.

H. E. PLEASANTS, Traveling Passenger Agent, Wilmington, N. C.



Green's Drug Store, 109 Market St.