

THE DOLLAR RULES ON THE ISLANDS OF THE WEST INDIES; ARE PRETTY WELL AMERICANIZED

London, May, 5—Lovely and fascinating as the West Indies are, it is an unpleasant shock to an Englishman to find that in some of the islands which are British possessions he is treated as a foreigner says a writer in the London Telegraph. The money he offers in payment of what he buys is looked at in askance a bank note is studied minutely; he finds the shopkeepers staring at him as though he doubted his honesty.

Even in St. Vincent, the least Americanized of all islands I have visited recently, the almighty dollar is preferred to the Bank of England's note. I could not help thinking of "the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," and reflecting that the mighty had indeed fallen.

Trinidad and Jamaica are two of the most beautiful islands in the world. Who can forget the drives through the tropical jungles of Trinidad, and the wondrous, if nerve racking climb of a narrow corkscrew road to an altitude of 4,500 feet through the Blue Mountains, between Kingston and Port Antonio, of Jamaica, and the marvelous hedges of bougainvillea and brilliant hibiscus in both? Yet despite all this beauty, I was conscious of acute irritation.

Americanization

I asked myself if I was justified in being annoyed by having my hotel bill presented in dollars, and tried to soothe my feelings by arguing that, as American money had built the hotel at which I stayed, the golf links on which I played, and controlled most of the fruit, sugar and coconut plantations which I visited, it was small wonder that the Americanization of these colonies was almost complete.

It was when I discussed the matter with older men on the ship in which we were traveling, and found one and all rabid on the subject, that I felt that, although one could not blame the

Americans for taking advantage of opportunities to do business in the West Indies, there could be no excuse for Mother Country to allow things to drift as they have.

The Cuban evidently resent the Americanization of their island, but are powerless to prevent it. Still, they do put up some show of dignity, for they notify on the back of the landing card given each visitor in Havana that, should he refuse to accept Cuban currency, he may be convicted of breaking a clause of their criminal code, may find himself in a Cuban prison. As the only Cuban currency that I found was a nickel (10 cents) and a silver 25 cent piece, the risk was small.

Rum Running

Incidentally there was a kind of comic opera revolution in process when I was there, and martial law had been proclaimed, but, had I not been told so, I should never have known it, for life appeared to be perfectly normal. True, the university was closed, but universities were always closed during sporadic civil disturbances. Why is that students always give more trouble to the kings, dictators, and presidents than other members of the community?

Except by being forced by public opinion (American) to attend the anniversary service of the Maine disaster, the President of Cuba deemed it safer to stay in his palace, and for the same reason the Prince of Wales was not permitted to land during his recent visit to Havana.

If days of the old buccanteers are over, new forms of piracy have arisen in the West Indies. One is the price charged for everything; the other, far more romantic, is the active development of the rum-runner. At Nassau, in the Bahamas, ships do not fly the jolly Roger—crossed whisky bottles and a bootlegger rampant would be a more appropriate design for their flag

—nor are the crews armed with huge outlasses and pistols. A machine gun is more apt to be part of their equipment, and I feel certain that they take the same risk as in the old days.

A Plutocratic Club

When I became indignant at the amount charged for an indifferent luncheon, a waiter informed me that "Nassau is cheaper than Palm Beach." This may be, but Nassau is certainly the most expensive place that I have ever been in. Entirely Americanized, the inhabitants think in dollars as we do in shillings.

There is a club there, the porcupine Club, run entirely for and by American millionaires, and no foreigner is admitted to membership. The subscription alone is \$2,500 per annum, and twice that amount is payable as an entrance fee before admission is possible in this plutocratic holy of holies. The cheapest room at a decent hotel costs \$35 a night—and yet these wonderful caravanseries provide only paper towels for a "before lunch wash and brush up."

It is sad to feel that these lovely British possessions, full of the memories of Nelson, Hood and Rodney, are becoming less and less British and more and more American. Not a single British Motor car did I see during the visit. Occasionally I met natives who proclaimed loudly that they were proud to be British subjects, but who admitted that they would be in a pretty poor way without the American dollar.

MOON SHOOTERS

Smyrna, May 5—There is such a thing as shooting at the moon. And it is so dangerous that there is a law forbidding it. Twenty shooters have been arrested. Somebody was hurt when acting on the superstition that eclipses are due to a wolf trying to and eat the moon. Folks got out guns and tried to kill the wolfs.

MANY BARGES

Antwerp, Belgium, May 5—Belgium has 5,393 barges on inland canals and the Belgian flag flies over 1,405 craft in French waters.

THE RADIO HEARING SET FOR TODAY

R. B. Hanson, K.C., M.P., is Named to Represent the New Brunswick Government.

Ottawa, May 4—The Supreme Court has deferred for a day the hearing of the reference respecting radio control. Argument will thus begin on Wednesday instead of tomorrow.

Most of the provinces will be represented as well as the Dominion Government, but some will not be. A large array of counsel will argue the technicalities of the questions which mainly are whether radio broadcasting, unheard of when the constitution was framed, is a matter of Federal or Provincial regulation.

One of the contentions of the Dominion is that broadcasting is essentially a matter of trade and commerce and thus, Federal, while the impossibility of defining anything like provincial lines in transmission will be emphasized.

Such provinces as oppose the Dominion view, all of them will not—will maintain that radio is essentially educative, entertaining, and therefore of provincial jurisdiction. Counsel in the case will be, W. N. Tilley, K.C.; J. L. St. Jacques, K.C., and F. F. Varcoe, all of the Justice Department for the Dominion Government; Edmund Bayly, K.C., for Ontario, Aime Geoffrion, K.C., and Charles Lancott K.C. for Quebec; F. H. Crysler, K.C. for Manitoba and Saskatchewan; R. B. Hanson M. P. for New Brunswick, and L. C. Moyer for Prince Edward Island.

Alberta, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia will not be represented. A. G. B. Claxton, K.C., will appear for the Canadian Radio League.

No doubt the style experts will be successful in their campaign to bring the petticoat back, but we warn them against making a bustle about it.

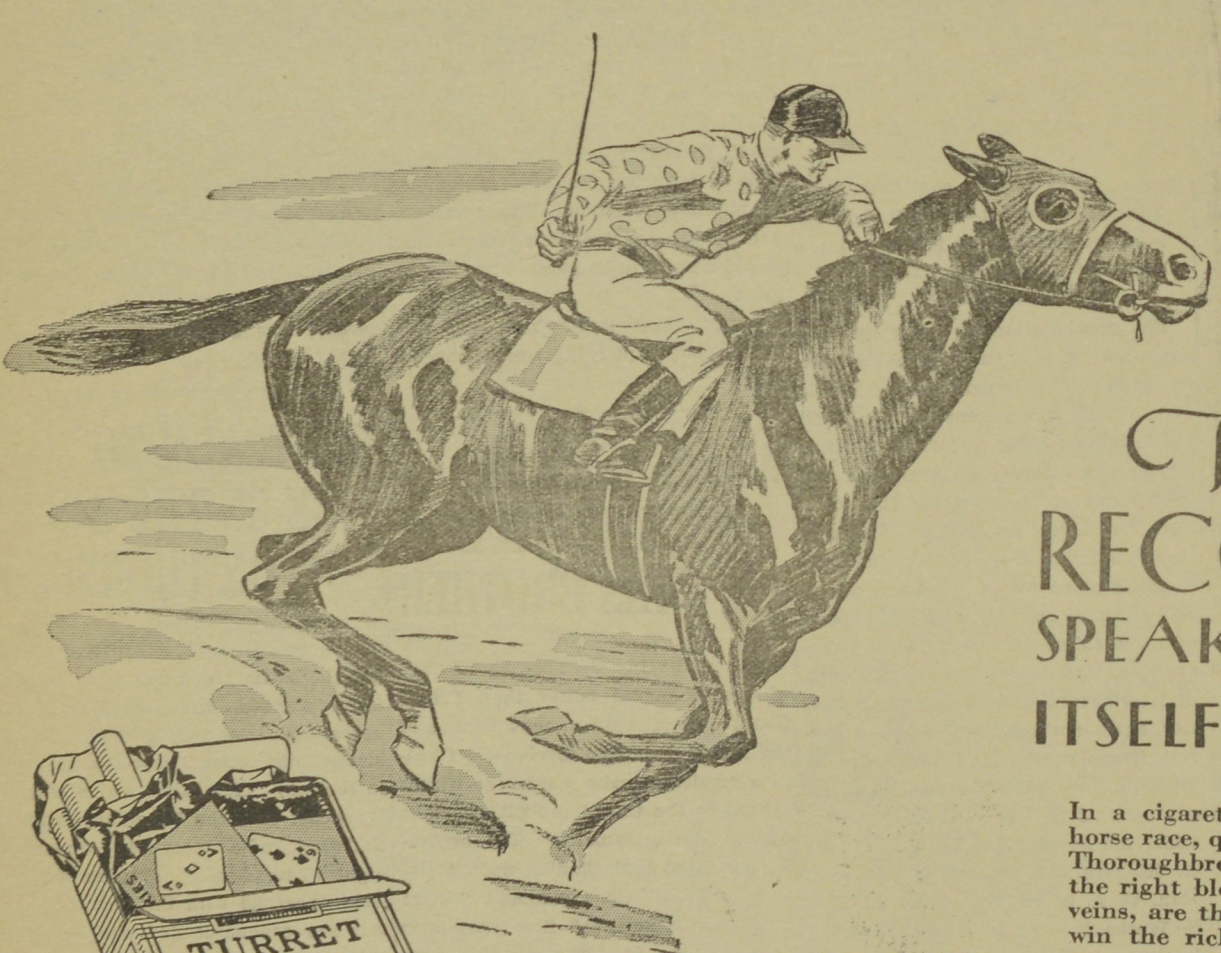
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