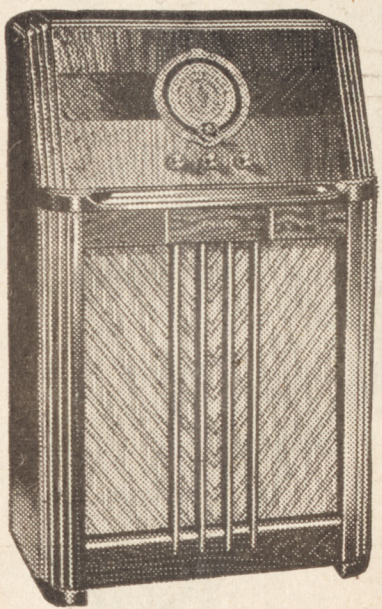


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BERMUDA, LAND OF QUIET, IS BELOVED BY TOURISTS

(By Frederic J. Haskin)
WASHINGTON—Lying 666 nautical miles from New York, 586 miles from Cape Hatteras the nearest point of land, and covering an area of about 19, square miles, is Bermuda. It is not one single island as many believe but is made up of about 15 small islands that dot the sounds and bays. As a winter playground for the wealthy, near well to do, and retired, this British colony is a close haven from the rigors of winter that now beset many sections of the United States. Seventy-five thousand tourists go there every year, and many more thousands dream of such an opportunity.

With no income or inheritance taxes, imposed, and with a general property tax so low that the owner of a \$40,000 mansion pays approximately \$10 in taxes annually, Bermuda is often referred to as a taxless country, and is a beckoning Utopia for the rich. Perpetuating the name of its founder, Juan de Bermudez, the island possesses a history rich in romance, heroic in deeds, and great in achievements.

While history is silent as to exact date of Bermuda's discovery, La Bermuda, edited by Peter Martyr in 1511, shows a map of the island's location, while the Spanish historian Oviedo in 1515 gave a description of the island and referred to it as "Island Bermuda otherwise called Garza." While history gives scant clues to attempts to colonize Bermuda in the early part of the fifteenth century, it was not until 1594 that any record of a colony is found. However, as the first known colonists found Spanish money in Bermuda, it is believed that attempts were made at colonization much earlier. In 1609, Admiral Sir George Somers and a party of Virginia colonists were wrecked near the site of St. George, eventually continuing their voyage to Jamestown. After Somers returned to Bermuda and died there, the island was colonized, in 1612, by the Virginia Company, succeeded by the Bermuda Company.

With treacherous shores, weather uncertain—rain every day or not for six months—the Bermudians well appreciate some of the great difficulties encountered by their forebears. Although Nature has not been tamed

or tempered, house construction now wards off perils of wind and heat. But in Bermuda's long history, never a life has been lost as a result of tempestuous weather visitations, and rarely is a house destroyed.

Bermuda is politically divided into nine parishes and a man has a right to vote in all parishes where he owns property. Though the franchise has not been granted to women, for years they have been fighting for the right to vote, often refusing to pay their parochial tax as one form of protest.

The Bermuda Parliament, is composed of an upper and a lower house. The Crown appoints a legislative council of nine members, four members are elected from each of the nine parishes, and these appointees and electors compose a House of Assembly. The island's Governor, the Colonial Secretary, and the Chief Justice are appointed by the Crown. The Governor is the King's representative but running true to form in politics, influential citizens dictate the island's business and political policies.

Bermuda's population is nearly 30,000, above 13,000 being white and the remainder colored. Among the white are numbered the resident tourists, and more than 1,000 Portuguese farmers. School attendance is compulsory for all races, but white and colored attend separate schools, although they attend church together and are buried in the same churchyard. Begging is not known, and rents and wages are low.

Once in the hands of negroes, agriculture is now chiefly carried on by the Portuguese. The two chief agricultural products of the island are onions and potatoes, onions being the major crop. Texas is Bermuda's strongest competitor of onions—in fact so keen that the export of this commodity has dropped more than 100,000 bushels in the past ten years. In recent years growth of Easter lily bulbs has compensated for the drop in the export of onions.

William Straith, chief instructor of Trans-Canada Air Lines pilots at uncertain—rain every day or not for six months—the Bermudians well appreciate some of the great difficulties encountered by their forebears. Although Nature has not been tamed



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