





## The Berrien County Record.

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W. D. KIRKPATRICK, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1871.

## SAN DOMINGO.

We surrender a large amount of space, in this issue, in order to lay before our readers President Grant's San Domingo message, and also the Report of the Commission sent to that Island. This we do that our readers may know for themselves the exact nature of this much discussed question, so far as it is concerned by the United States. Read the message carefully, and the Report of the Commission, and then decide whether the President is not fully vindicated.

## President's Message Accompanying the San Domingo Commissioners' Report.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have the honor to submit herewith to the two Houses of Congress the report of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the joint resolution approved January 12th, 1871. It will be observed that this report sustains all that I have heretofore said in regard to the productivity and healthfulness of the Republic of San Domingo, the capacity of the people, and their peaceful character. It is due to the public, as it is certainly to myself, that I should here give all the circumstances which first led to the negotiation of the treaty for the annexation to the Republic of San Domingo of the Island of San Domingo, and the reasons which induced me to accept the same, and the reasons which induced me to accept the same, and the reasons which induced me to accept the same.

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report that the interests of our country and of San Domingo alike, in the annexation of that Republic. In view of the difference of opinion upon the subject, I suggest that no action be taken at the present session, beyond the printing and general dissemination of the report. In the next session of Congress, the people will have considered the subject, and formed an intelligent opinion concerning it, to which opinion, deliberately made up, it will be the duty of every department of the Government to give heed, and no one will more cheerfully concur to it than myself. It is not only the theory of our Constitution that the will of the people, constitutionally expressed, is the supreme law, but I have ever believed that all men are wiser than any one man, and that if the people, upon full presentation of the facts, shall decide that the annexation of the Republic is not desirable, every department of the Government ought to acquiesce in that decision. In again submitting to Congress the subject upon which public opinion has been so long and so earnestly expressed, I am, I trust, indulging in a single remark. No man can hope to perform duties so delicate and responsible as pertain to the Presidential office, without sometimes incurring the hostility of those who deem their opinions and wishes treated with insufficient consideration; and he who undertakes to conduct the affairs of a great government as a faithful public servant, if sustained by the approval of his own conscience may rely with confidence upon the candor and intelligence of a free people whose best interests he has sought to observe, and can best with patience the censures of disappointed men.

(Signed) "U. S. GRANT."  
EXECUTIVE MANSION, APR. 5, 1871.

**San Domingo Commission Report.**

The report opens by giving the resolution under which the Commission of Inquiry was appointed, and in accordance with which resolution they traversed the Dominican Republic from end to end in several directions, either by their agents or in person. One Commissioner crossing it from south to north, and others from east to west. They spent several weeks at the Capital, in daily conference with the President and chief officers of the government, in examining official records, and (as at all other places) in constant intercourse with the people, and taking the testimony of witnesses. They visited the vicinity of the western border of the country, where it was reported that there were disturbances, and remained a week at the capital of the neighboring Republic Hayti, where some supplementary investigations were made into the political status, condition and form of the government.

**THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.**

The present government of the Dominican Republic is in theory a constitutional Republic. According to its constitution the government is divided into three branches, executive, legislative and judicial. The first consisted of a President and Vice President, elected by an electoral college for a term of six years, with a difference of three years in the time of their election. Both President and Vice President are ineligible to the Presidency for the following term. The President appoints the Council of State, consisting of Ministers of Public Instruction, Interior, Police and Agriculture, of Public Works, Commerce, War and Marine. On one of these four ministers the duties of Minister of Foreign Relations devolve, at the will of the President. The legislative branch of the government consists of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies, elected by the primary assemblies, and has two members from each of the provinces of San Domingo, and one from each of the provinces and districts—nine members in all. These hold office six years, and may be re-elected. Each province and district has a government, and each parish and military post has a commandant, nominated by the Executive, and are responsible to him. The towns are governed by a gamitator, or council elected by the primary assemblies for three years. The judiciary consists of a Supreme Court, whose seat is at the capital, with a President, four Ministers, and one Attorney General, who are chosen by the Senate from nominations made by the Electoral College, and who hold office five years. In every province and district there is a court of first instance, sitting in the respective capitals, consisting of judge, prosecutor and attorney general, all nominated by the Executive, and holding office for five years. It was found that this court had, in many parts of the Republic, fallen into disuse. Finally each town and parish, or commune, has an alcalde appointed by the Executive, and holding office at his pleasure, and corresponding to our justice of the peace. In this latter the practice is certainly far better than the theory. In all parts of the Republic it was found that the alcaldes held office virtually during good behavior, and not one was found whose character did not inspire respect.

**CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.**

The Commissioners found the government organized and in complete operation in all its departments, exercising every function of legitimate government, with Gen. Baez as Chief magistrate, in full and peaceful possession of all parts of the Republic, except on its western border, which is disturbed by insurrectionary leaders, aided by Haytiens and political intrigues. These are incited to be extraordinarily active at the present time, by fear of annexation to the United States. From all that the Commissioners could ascertain, President Baez has the respect of a great majority of the Dominican people for his administrative abilities, and the strong attachment of many leading men, who regard him as the only statesman among them who represents the nation against domestic factions and foreign foes. In the year 1848, after five years of anarchy, consequent upon the expulsion of the Haytian power, Gen. Baez was regularly elected President of the Republic. It appears that he was chosen as a man by, his education, fortune and public services, would be most likely to secure general confidence and to heal the wounds inflicted by civil and foreign wars. In one delegation of the leading citizens who tendered to him the Chief Magistracy, was Gen. Gabriel. There is audible testimony to the fact that under him, despite the difficulties that have beset him, the Republic has enjoyed as much liberty as any of his predecessors.

care to allow, and more tranquility than they knew how to give. Nor do the Commissioners find that the present appearance of the present administration of that Republic, who has now, who ever has had, any claim to the Chief Magistracy by a title superior to that of the present incumbent. Whatever technical defects there might have been in his original title to the office, it was confirmed by a national convention, and ratified by the assent and support of the people. The frequency of civil commotion during the long period, and the consequent insecurity of property, have paralyzed industry, discouraged accumulation, and so impoverished the country that for the last two years the financial resources of the government, as its officers informed us, have been inadequate to pay its expenses.

**THE INSURRECTIONS, WHICH STILL EXIST.**

The insurrections, which still exist, are headed by Cabral and Luperon. The former of these is universally conceded to be more important, but neither has a distinct flag, nor a regularly organized army. The Commissioners find that Cabral does not claim to be the legal head of the Republic; that he does not claim to represent the principal constitutional or legal authority, and this is shown by the fact that, in his proclamation, and in a communication to the Commission, he styles himself "Chief of the Revolution," and a journal pretending to emanate from him at San Juan, but well understood to be printed at the Haytian capital, is styled the *Bulletin of the Revolution*. As to Luperon, the testimony at both Cibao and on the coast, is that he is simply a bandit, and stained with crime. He has not, so far as could be learned, distinguished himself in any manner, his main exploits being in sundry robberies, and occasional operations on the coast. By the latter means, however, he was furnished with by insurrectionary leaders on a neighboring island. The disturbance of which Cabral is at the head has its seat in the western part of the Republic, on the Haytian frontier. The force immediately at Cabral's command does not exceed a few hundred men, who, in case of emergency, force into their service the male population upon whom they can lay their hands. It has been claimed that he has controlled the Dominican port of Barahona and received supplies through it, but this certainly is no longer the case. On the other hand it is charged by the present Dominican government, that he has received supplies through Hayti, and that Haytian soldiers and arms have been at his disposal. The Commissioners obtained evidence of this from many sources. They also examined Haytian prisoners, speaking only the language of the Haytiens, and having in their hands the Haytian flag, and the Haytian seal. The Commissioners believe that the Haytiens have yielded only their own forces and resources, they would long ago have been put down. Their whole importance is derived from the help of foreign intriguers, and from the fact that behind them stands the Haytian nation, which has nearly three times the population and revenue of the Dominican Republic, and which has never relented in its aggressive policy, and at whose head is a President, elected by a bloody insurrection, involving the murder of his predecessor. Behind Haytian aggression are other causes to aggravate the difficulties of the Dominican Republic; among them are, provincial jealousy between the north and south sides of the island; the number of military chiefs heading small clans in various districts, and the convenience which neighboring islands afford for revolutionary and insurrectionary operations. All these difficulties, the Commissioners believe, would disappear should the Dominican Republic be effectively protected by a connection with a strong nation. Local self-government in the island has been greatly obstructed by internal difficulties and disturbances, yet many town councils still preserve an efficient existence, and are composed of members of good character and ability.

**THE SPANISH OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND IN 1861** was found to have been consummated by fraud, and to be most unsatisfactory and oppressive in results, civil and religious, threatening danger to the Masonic fraternity, a large and influential order in the island, and the re-establishment of slavery either by importation or the reduction of the inhabitants to bondage. The people revolted and drove the Spanish into strongholds on the coast, where the soldiers died by wholesale of malignant fevers, engendered in close and filthy barracks, devoid of all sanitary appliances. Of the Spanish losses no exact data could be obtained. The best opinion seemed to be, that the Spanish sent in all about 85,000 troops, of whom between 60,000 and 80,000 were lost by desertion and other causes.

## FEELING IN REGARD TO ANNEXATION.

Although bitterly disappointed in the results of Spanish annexation, the people, who were soon involved in new revolutions, cease not to look abroad in the hope of relief. To the surprise of the commission, in almost all parts of the country, even in the remotest, the people were found to be familiar with the question of annexation to the United States, and have discussed it among themselves with intelligence. All classes, in all parts of the Republic, were consulted; magistrates and justices of every grade, official, civil and military, and in the forests; swine thrive in great numbers; sheep are very few; poultry is plentiful; wild guinea fow are being seen in many parts of the island; horses are raised in great numbers, and only the marauding expeditions have prevented a great development of the business of stock raising.

## 2. ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE FEATURES OF SAN DOMINGO

is the diversity of natural growths in different localities, which give rise to extensive internal commerce.

**ROSES AND FRUIT.**

Insects and noxious reptiles are not found more abundantly than in the interior of our old States.

**FOREST PRODUCTS.**

In forest products there is an astonishing variety, including the choicest cabinet woods. Oak, pine, lignum vitae, and an immense stock of medicinal and commercial woods, many houses being built of mahogany.

**MARINE RESOURCES.**

The fisheries, once flourishing, have, during later years, fallen to neglect. At an earlier period, in the history of the island, more attention was paid to marine resources and tunny fishery was carried on

around the shores of the island, supplying the market for salt and allowing export to other colonies. Both the surrounding seas and rivers of the island are well stocked with fish. Many kinds of the black fish, or grampas, a small member of the whale family, are somewhat abundant on the north shore, where several are caught every year, and the Rio on the east, and the bay on the south, both the green edible species, and the hump back, are abundant in the deep sea, a few miles from land.

**THE PEOPLE.**

The people of San Domingo are of mixed blood, honest, temperate, industrious, destitute of prejudice of class or color, to whom pauperism, beggary and high crimes are, practically, unknown. Among the popular vices is petty gambling, extensively indulged in by the Spanish population.

**RELIGION.**

All are Roman Catholics, except the American emigrants, who are Methodists and Baptists, although no intolerance or religious persecution can be discovered.

**THEIR INDUSTRY.**

The people, generally, own land, which they cultivate, though agricultural operations are limited by lack of market and frequent political disturbance. The Dominicans are not adverse to work when sure of a reasonable reward. Labor is in "abundant supply at \$10 or less per month."

**TEACHERS.**

Few schools exist and the people are generally uneducated, though the commissioners believe that opportunities for education would be eagerly improved, the Dominicans being possessed of shrewdness and much native ability. Only one small and poorly equipped printing office exists in the Republic.

**POLITICAL CAPACITY.**

The general political capacity of the people is regarded favorably, there having been for years neither slavery nor caste spirit to deprive them of their manliness. The courage and devotion shown in the insurrection abundantly prove their capacity for self government and regular political action.

**POPULATION.**

The commissioners estimate the actual population of the Republic at 160,000, more than fifteen-twentieths being native Dominicans. White blood preponderates largely; a majority being much nearer white than black.

**RESOURCES.**

The resources of the country are vast and various, and its products may be increased, with scarcely any other limit than the labor expended upon them. There is evidence of mineral wealth in several parts of the island. The geologists of the expedition report the existence of ore of iron, copper, lead, zinc, silver, and a little lignite, coal, salt and petroleum. Iron ore is abundant, easy of access, and will doubtless be made available for the cheap production of pig iron. The copper ore is of a fair degree of richness and beds have been opened to a slight extent. The reported coal at Samana Peninsula and in the neighborhood of Puerto Plata was examined and found to be lignite, of the value of about \$10 per ton. The Haytian or English coal. The gold region is extensive, and though worked anciently, is at present but little known. It invites patient exploration by practical miners. The salt deposits in the mountains near Neyba are believed to be extensive and valuable. The salt can be quarried out of the ground, and a chemical analysis made for the commissioners shows it to be of sufficient purity for commercial purposes.

**CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.**

Summarily and practically viewed for agricultural purposes, there are five classes of lands in San Domingo, viz:

1. Mountain slopes and valleys. These are mostly of good produce, and are in limited regions where rain is deficient, as on the south slope of the coast range, northeast of Monte Christ.

2. The extensive region of Llanos, lying east and north of San Domingo city, and of the Cibao range; this is all admirable pasture land. A large portion of it is capable of profitable cultivation. It is intersected by wooded valleys and groves containing much excellent timber.

3. The rolling plain of Vega, which is generally wooded and is the finest body of agricultural ground on the island.

4. The Dog lands, like a portion of the plain of Azua and the valley of the Yagui, which are, in part, of very rich soil, and are intersected by wooded valleys and groves containing much excellent timber.

5. The red clay lands, mostly along the coast, underlain by a coralline of limestone. These are wholly covered with timber. They are not generally very rich or deep, but are susceptible of profitable cultivation. The vicinity of San Domingo is particularly fertile, and the soil is of the class of soil. Hardly any portion of the island is not capable of cultivation, and taken as a whole, is one of the most fertile regions on the face of the earth.

**PRODUCTS OF THE ISLAND.**

The agricultural products include all tropical fruits and vegetables, as well as common staples. Sugar is produced in considerable quantities, and the yield is much greater than in the island of Jamaica, even though aided by artificial irrigation. Fifteen annual cuttings from the original root are common, and an abundance of fuel gives San Domingo an additional advantage over the neighboring islands in this branch of industry.

The mountain regions are noted for the culture of coffee and cacao, and valuable fibrous plants. The product of wax and honey is surprisingly large, thousands of hives of honey being destroyed for the sake of wax alone. Wild ginger and indigo grow everywhere in the greatest profusion, and cotton is raised near Azua. Cinchona is successfully raised on the high mountains, and many of the vegetables and fruits of the temperate zones are produced in abundance. The country is everywhere adapted to the cultivation of tobacco, and three crops of Indian corn are raised annually, although the most valuable natural grain is rice, of which there are more than 40 distinct varieties. Tropical fruits are found growing wild. The country is noted for its abundant forage of the best quality.

**DOMESTIC ANIMALS.**

Immense herds of cattle feed on the great savannahs, and though they were multiplied ten fold they could not exhaust the abundant pasturage. They can be bought for one cent per pound on the hoof. Goats abound in the mountain districts, and in the forests; swine thrive in great numbers; sheep are very few; poultry is plentiful; wild guinea fow are being seen in many parts of the island; horses are raised in great numbers, and only the marauding expeditions have prevented a great development of the business of stock raising.

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**ROSES AND FRUIT.**

Insects and noxious reptiles are not found more abundantly than in the interior of our old States.

**FOREST PRODUCTS.**

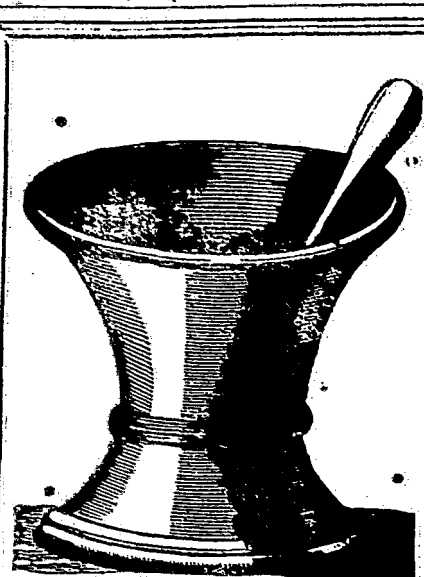
In forest products there is an astonishing variety, including the choicest cabinet woods. Oak, pine, lignum vitae, and an immense stock of medicinal and commercial woods, many houses being built of mahogany.

**MARINE RESOURCES.**

The fisheries, once flourishing, have, during later years, fallen to neglect. At an earlier period, in the history of the island, more attention was paid to marine resources and tunny fishery was carried on

addressed the Senate in a three hours' speech against the San Domingo annexation. While differing from the President, he accord





## The Berrien County Record

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1871.

To Advertisers.

The "Record" is the best Advertising Medium in the Berrien County, having a larger circulation than any other paper in this part of the State.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Notice in Attachment.—Ross & Son vs. Nichols Distilling Co. Dress and Clock Making.—Mrs. M. M. Wilson. Livery Stable.—P. M. & P. Co. All persons, etc.—D. E. Beardsley & Co. Reapers and Mowers.—H. G. Hipp & M. Jewell.

Just received, etc.—Wm. H. Fox. Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.—R. V. Pierce. For Hand and Machine Sewing.—J. P. Coats.

German Readers.—Leisner, Trexler & Co. One Week for One Dollar.—Hopkins & Will.

Dr. S. S. Fitch's Family Physician. \$150 for Eagle Brick Hand Machine.—Frey, Shookler & Co.

Bloomington (Ill.) Nursery.—F. K. Phoenix. Fragrant Sapoline.—Fragrant Sapoline Co. Vegetable Palmatory Balm.—Cutter Bros. & Co.

Yingar.—F. Sago. Agents! Read This.—M. Wagner & Co. Direct from Paris.—T. Q. Shookler. Avoid quacks.—J. B. Card.

A CARD.

As many of my friends have inquired, whether I will give my further attention to the making of law, I take this method of making known my intentions in this particular.

I shall continue to attend to all business before the courts in this village, to foreclosures in Chancery, and to cases in Circuit Court that will not be contested. I do not wish to be bothered with collections, or writing dunning letters. Will only undertake claims and accounts that are to be paid. I wish to further state that, being a Notary Public, I will make a specialty of conveying and drafting of papers, and to those who will trust their business in this line to me, I will insure correctness, neatness and accuracy. W. D. Kinkadee.

Serrisette.

All persons indebted to Dr. G. H. McGin will settle the same with the undersigned, immediately. The accounts and notes have been left in my hands for collection. It can be found at my residence on the corner of Front and Detroit Streets. JOHN HROOS.

Buchanan, Nov. 28, 1870. 801f

Notice.

Those who are indebted to the late firm of Baker & Matthews are requested to settle their accounts by cash or note immediately. The books can be found at their old stand—now grocery store of Baker and Wirtz. Attention to the above will save trouble and greatly oblige. 8-6f BAKER & MATTHEWS.

RELIGIOUS.—Blder G. Sickafosse will preach next Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, at the United Brethren Church. All are invited.

COMMENTED.—Work on laying the stone for the foundation of Welch's new brick was commenced on yesterday.

GALLEN.—The bill incorporating the village of Galen passed the committee of the whole in the House on Monday.

Ask your Druggist for Barr's Pectoral Elixir.—For sale at Osborn's.

PASSED.—The bill enlarging the corporate limits of Buchanan passed the committee of the whole in the House at Lansing, on Monday. The bill has already passed the Senate.

SCHOOL.—The Spring term of the Union School commenced on Monday, under the direction of Prof. J. W. Carus, Principal.

DRESS MAKING.—Mrs. Wilson has again moved her dress making establishment down town, over the Post Office. See her new advertisement.

IT IS A FACT that Noble did succeed in buying his stock of Boots and Shoes cheaper than has been bought since the war. Go and see them, and you will say so too—cash.

Mr. Theo. L. Reynolds assumed charge of the Post office April 1st, and removed it on Saturday evening to the building occupied by Wm. Ricahy, State street.—St. Jo. Traveler.

WHITE LIME.—Messrs. Smith & Sons keep constantly on hand a supply of the Ohio, Genoa White Lime for sale.

BROOMS.—Our neighbor, across the way, Mr. Boyes, knows how to make a good broom. We have never seen anything better than he manufactures in the broom line.

JAM FULL of Boots and Shoes at Noble's, cheaper than anywhere else in the county—cash.

PLANT TREES.—Don't let the spring pass without planting on your lot a few more shade and ornamental trees.—Don't.

GOOD OPENING.—We know of no better opening anywhere than to start a pump factory in Buchanan. There is good power that can be obtained cheap, and a man that understands the business could do well, without investing any great amount of capital.

The best Tea in the market at Smith & Sons Grocery and Provision Store.

RETURNED.—We notice our former townsmen, J. H. Roe and A. Bliss, have returned to Buchanan, after a sojourn of some eight months at Mount City, Ill. They report the timber in that section green, and vegetation nearly two months ahead of Michigan.

FOR SALE.—A pleasant house and lot for sale. Enquire at the Record office.

SNOW.—For a little time on Tuesday afternoon snow was flying in the air, and the atmosphere was quite wintry. It vividly brought to mind the snow storm of the 18th of April, 1870, when the buds were so badly killed. The cold, however, this time, terminated in a very slight frost, without injury to the fruit.

READ THIS.—George Churchill has on hand a good assortment of hoes, shovels and spades, which he offers at lower prices than ever before. He also keeps on hand nails and general hardware. Don't forget to call on Churchill, foot of Day's Avenue, Buchanan, if you want anything in his line.

Get your job work done at the office of the Berrien County Record. It is the largest and most complete Job Office in Southern Michigan. The work is done the cheapest and best. Call and see specimens.

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