ADMINISTERING SANTO DOMINGO FINANCES

Statue of Santo Domingo over Columbus Tomb

The Old Cathedral of Santo Domingo

Portion of the Tomb of Columbus Within the Cathedral

W.W. Vick

By selecting Walter W. Vick of New Jersey as receiver-general of the customs of the Dominican republic President Wilson assigned him the task of continuing a novel experiment in national finance. Bankruptcies and receiverships are common enough in commercial enterprises, but the Dominican experiment is the first case in which a nation after being plunged into involuntary bankruptcy has accepted a third party, another nation to act as receiver of its revenues and stand between it and its creditors during the settlement of its outstanding obligations.

The soundness of this commercial practice as applied to governments is shown by the fact that today the Dominican republic has more money to spend for proper purposes than ever before, besides paying the interest on a loan and setting aside each year a sum for the payment of the principal. When the receivership is terminated Santo Domingo is likely to enjoy the distinction of being the only Latin American government not saddled with a burdensome foreign debt.

The United States government is the custodian of the Dominican revenues, and stands sponsor not only for the conservation of the public funds but also for the settlement of the republic's debts. This arrangement has lasting force by virtue of a treaty between the United States and the Dominican republic, in which the conditions of the receivership are set forth. Under this treaty it was that President Wilson appointed Mr. Vick as the representative of the government of the United States to administer the receivership.

Mr. Vick is not, technically speaking, in any way connected with the Washington government. His salary is paid by the Dominican government. The same is true of all the expenses of the receivership. These include the salaries of a number of Americans who serve as his assistants. His own salary is $6,500 a year, and he also gets living quarters.

Mr. Vick is regarded as exceptionally well qualified for the place. One of the advantages supposed to lie in the American receivership is that the customs revenues are by it removed to neutral hands and are no longer to be preyed upon by aspiring revolutionists or grafting officials. From 1905, when the first temporary arrangement went into effect, until 1912 Santo Domingo had its first long period of freedom from revolution and internal strife. The neutralization of the customs receipts has been regarded as the cause of this peace in the turbulent republic. In 1912 there was continued political disturbance, but even during the revolution the custom houses remained unmolested by either faction in the struggle. It will be Mr. Vick's task to continue this absolute security of the customs receipts and maintain perfect neutrality toward all the contending political factions in the island.

European intervention in Santo Domingo seemed certainly when President Roosevelt intervened in behalf of the republic. The Dominican government was saddled with a foreign and domestic indebtedness amounting, with interest, to about $30,000,000. Far from paying the interest, the Dominican government was increasing the debt by about a million dollars a year. As a result of centuries of misrule the revenues were being dishonestly dissipated. A succession of revolutions had reduced the government simply to a source of graft for which many factions were contending. In this situation the European creditors in 1904 demanded a settlement, and were prepared to take over the revenues of the government if their demands were not granted. As the Dominicans were unable to do what they asked, European intervention seemed certain.

The United States then negotiated the modus vivendi, which was to hold in force while a treaty was being negotiated. The treaty under which the receivership is now conducted, was ratified by the United States senate and the Dominican congress and went into effect July 8, 1907. Meantime under the modus vivendi there had been issued bonds of the Dominican government to the amount of $20,000,000. This was for the purpose of making a settlement with the foreign creditors and paying for certain public improvements necessary to the utilization of the island resources. Though the nominal debt was $30,000,000 it was scaled down by the United States in making allowance for fraud and dishonest claims to about $17,000,000.

The bonds bear interest at 5 per cent, making the annual charge for the service of the loan $1,000,000 a year. It is provided in the treaty that each month the American receiver-general shall pay to the Guaranty Trust company of New York, the fiscal agent of the loan, the sum of $100,000. This is $200,000 in excess of the annual $1,000,000 required, and the balance is applied to the amortization of the bonds. In addition it is provided that whenever the collections for any year shall exceed $3,000,000, half of the surplus shall be applied to the amortization of the bonds.

Highly satisfactory progress has been made toward the repayment of the principal of the $20,000,000 loan, inasmuch as the revenues of the republic have nearly doubled under the American receivership. After the expenses of the receivership have been paid and the interest charges and sinking fund taken care of, the Dominican government gets what is left. Far from being a hardship, the effect of the receivership has been to give the Dominican government more money for its own purposes than it ever had before, even in the days when it did not pay a cent on its indebtedness. The first real roads in the republic, outside of the towns, have been built with funds supplied by the receivership, and other public improvements have been made possible.

What the receivership has really done for the Dominican government is shown by the fact that whereas the customs receipts were only about $2,000,000 a year before the receivership, the receipts for 1912 were $3,642,861. This is the highest figure ever attained, and collections for the first four months of the present calendar year indicate that the total receipts for 1913 will exceed $4,000,000.

W. E. Pulliam, Mr. Vick's predecessor, effected many reforms in the administration of the Dominican customs which will assist Mr. Vick materially when he takes charge. It was found that one reason for the small receipts lay in the dishonesty of the collectors. The men whom the American receiver expelled from the service found difficulty in understanding why there should be any objection to their modest peculations. Similarly, it was found that other men in the customs service were grafting by permitting goods to enter without duty upon payment of tribute to them. This, of course, many importers were only too glad to do.

One of the remarkable features of the effects of the receivership is that receipts were increased through the reduction of the customs dues. A cut of 50 per cent was made in the export duties and a reduction of 15 per cent in the import duties. The result was to increase both exports and imports.

The former receiver-general found that while such articles as champagne, silks and automobiles, used solely by the rich, were being admitted practically duty free, the cotton cloths, which are the sole source of clothes for the poorer classes, were being taxed almost 100 per cent. Mr. Pulliam induced the Dominican government to reverse this arrangement, with salutary effect both upon the condition of the poorer people and upon the state of the treasury.

Though Mr. Vick will be the head of the only non-political government department in all Latin America as custodian of the customs receipts; he will really be a tremendous factor in the political stability of the republic. With the American minister he is the personification of the pledge of the United States that the Dominican government shall conduct itself honorably in its financial obligations to foreigners. The office of the receiver-general and the American legation in Santo Domingo city are the bulwarks of Dominican stability, peace and good government.

As a result of this peculiar relation of the United States to Santo Domingo the Washington authorities have been obliged to take a friendly hand in the settlement of the Dominican political troubles. The rebellion which followed the tyrannical rule of Eladio Victoria and his dictator-like nephew, Elfredo Victoria—the latter a soldier who got into power in the confusion following the assassination of President Caceres—was really settled through the intercession of the United States. A commission, of which Brig. Gen. Frank McIntyre, chief of the bureau of insular affairs of the war department, was one of the members, brought about the compromise by which President Victoria and his nephew retired from the government and the prelate of Santo Domingo, Archbishop Nouel, came in as temporary president, to hold office until general elections could be held. This compromise was effected last December, but a few weeks ago Archbishop Nouel relinquished his task and went to Europe in search of lost health. Without any turmoil or disorder the Dominican congress elected Jose Bordas, a senator who had joined in the rebellion of 1912, to succeed him. Only the influence of the United States kept more trouble from breaking out upon the withdrawal of the archbishop.

The city of Santo Domingo, the capital of the republic, is full of historical associations. It is the site of one of the first settlements made in the western hemisphere by Christopher Columbus. At the entrance to the harbor stands the ancient stone fort and castle erected by his brother, whom Columbus made governor of the colony. Half a mile further up the Ozama river stands a great tree, to the great trunk of which tradition says Columbus tied his ships.

Just around the corner from the offices which Mr. Vick will occupy are the ruins of a great cathedral, the first stone church ever built in the western world. Near by on the old plaza of Santo Domingo, stands the new cathedral, itself centuries old. In it lies a metal casket said to contain the bones of the great admiral. The Spaniards thought they took the bones of Christopher Columbus to Havana, but there is evidence that they took those of his brother, the former governor.

AT THE OPERA

"There were about 4,000 persons out to hear 'Parsifal' the night I went," remarked Mrs. Grim to her husband.

"Is that so?" responded Grim. "I didn't know there were so many deaf people in the country."

"What are you talking about?" demanded his wife.

"One thousand people slightly deaf, not altogether deaf, deaf and middling deaf."

"I don't see the point yet. 'Parsifal' isn't for deaf people, though parts of it are rather stormy."

"Deafness is really an advantage at any of Wagner's blowouts. But what I meant was that at such places of entertainment there is always one deaf man to every three or four persons who can hear.

"I'm sure I don't object in the least to the deaf people being there. But I do object to the people who go there with the deaf people. There is always a person who persists in explaining things to the deaf person. The explanations are uncalled for, and the deafness is perhaps a sort of protection against them.

"The last time I went to hear the opera I paid $8 for a seat. Every one kept asking me if I was going and then every one always looked supercilious when I said no, so I finally changed my mind and went. Having paid so much for a seat, I wanted to hear the music.

"Hanged if an old lady, deaf as a post and rich as cream, didn't line up right behind me! There were four friends with her, all anxious to talk to her. I think she owned the theater, because no one objected to the recitations on the part of those who were with her.

"The old lady couldn't hear a thing! Everything had to be repeated three or four times. Even then there were some things she never did hear. I got interested in the game and wanted to take a hand. At one stage they were all trying so hard to get her to comprehend that I could hardly stand it. They didn't know how to talk to a deaf person. They didn't enunciate clearly. I was always good at enunciation.

"At last, when they were all talking together, unable to get the old lady to comprehend at all, either through stubbornness or meanness, I rose elaborately from my seat and turned and faced them.

"'Excuse me,' I said, 'but can I be of assistance? Let me try.'

"With that I placed my two hands around my mouth and shouted loud and clear:

"'They say your dress is coming open in the back!'"

A. D. 1925.

"Why did she withdraw after receiving the nomination?"

"They told her, if elected, she would become a member of the common council, and you know how particular she is."—Judge.

OVERHEARD AT THE PARTY.

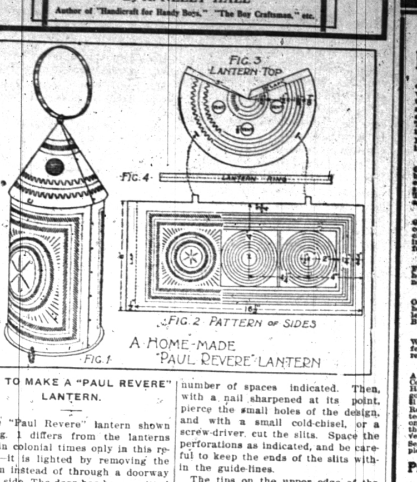
Ted—Why do you think Miss Cutlowe is clear gold?

Ned—By the way she withstands the acid test when some of the other women look at her.

New Ideas for Handy Boys

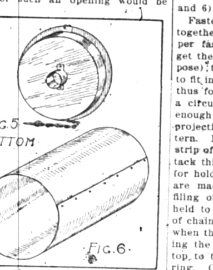
By A. NEELY HALL

Author of "Handicraft for Handy Boys," "The Boy Craftsman," etc.



HOW TO MAKE A "PAUL REVERE" LANTERN.

The "Paul Revere" lantern shown in Fig. 1 differs from the lanterns used in colonial times only in this respect—it is lighted by removing the bottom instead of through a doorway in the side. The door has been omitted to make the construction simpler; however, if you wish an exact copy of the colonial style of lantern, you may make a door and hinge it in place with pieces of wire. The proper size for such an opening would be 3½ inches in width and 6½ inches in height.



The best material for the lantern is No. 20 gauge sheet brass. You can buy this from almost any dealer in sheet metal. If you have any difficulty in getting brass, however, you can use tin, which is generally easy to obtain. An empty varnish can, or a large paint can will supply you with plenty good enough tin.

Fig. 2 shows a pattern of the lantern sides. Fig. 3 shows a pattern of the top, and Fig. 4 shows the top ring. The right-hand portion of the patterns for the side and top pieces shows the main measurements for the design to be perforated on the metal, and at the left the design is shown as it looks when perforated. After laying out the lines to the given measurements, divide up the spaces between into the number of spaces indicated. Then, with a nail sharpened at its point, pierce the small holes of the design, and with a small cold-chisel, or a screw-driver, cut the slits. Space the perforations as indicated, and be careful to keep the ends of the slits within the guide-lines.

The tips on the upper edge of the side piece slip through the slots cut in the top piece (Figs. 2 and 3), and hold the top to the sides when bent over, while two holes near the bottom edge are made to receive the pins which hold the bottom in place (Figs. 1, 5 and 6).

Fasten the ends of the side pieces together with brass shanks (brass paper fasteners will do if you cannot get the brass shanks sold for the purpose); then cut a circular block of wood to fit in the bottom end of the cylinder thus formed (Fig. 5) and fasten to it a circular piece of brass of a large enough diameter to make a ¼-inch projection beyond the sides of the lantern. Make a candleholder out of a strip of metal, as shown in Fig. 5, and tack this to the base block. The pins for holding the bottom in the lantern are made out of two screw-eyes, by filing off the threads, and these are held to the bottom with short pieces of chain to keep them from being lost when the bottom is removed for lighting the candle. Before fastening the top to the sides, prepare the lantern ring. Cut a strip of metal ½ inch wide and 17 inches long (Fig. 4), bend it over along the center to make it stiff, and then bend it into a ring and clinch the ends together like the sides of a tin can are clinched. Wire the ring to the peak as shown in Fig. 1.

Of course you want your lantern to look very old, so the metal should have a more or less rusted appearance. A good antique green lacquer for brass can be prepared by making a solution of one part ammonia muriate, one part ammonia carbonate, and twelve parts water. Apply this with a rag or brush, after first thoroughly cleaning the metal. Several applications of the lacquer will improve the depth of the finish. If you have made your lantern out of tin, the best thing to do is to expose it to water and the air until it has acquired a good coat of rust.

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DUTCH WOMEN TO CELEBRATE

A century ago Holland regained its old independence and right of self-government, and the Dutch people propose to celebrate this event by a series of exhibitions illustrative of the progress that has been made during the intervening years.

The Dutch women decided that they required a special exhibition in order to show how their sex has advanced during the century, so they have planned for a display, from May to October.

One part of the exhibition will show a middle class house of one hundred years ago, and particularly the kitchen, where all the cooking for the house was done and provisions were kept. The domestic will not be the only side of the life of the Dutch women of 1813 illustrated. Their opportunities and achievements in art, literature, music and sports will be noted, together with the industries outside the home. In those days many women were overworked as seamstresses and diamond workers, and endured a treadmill existence.

The 1813 part of the exhibition will be held in an old house, surrounded by old trees and a garden in the style of the period. In striking contrast to this part of the exhibit will be the 1913 buildings. Here will be shown how woman's field of work outside the home has grown, and how new inventions in machinery have lessened or eliminated much of the household labor of earlier days.

Model houses designed by women will prove how important a factor hygiene has become, and there will be rooms in which the work of women as writers, artists, teachers, trained nurses, etc., will be given recognition, while the suffragists will have a room to themselves. What Holland is doing for the women of her colonies will be revealed in the colonial department.

The exhibition will take place in Amsterdam, and men and women of distinction in many fields are expected to give lectures and addresses in the women's section. Lady Aberdeen, president of the International Council of Women, is scheduled for a visit in May.

But He Wouldn't.

"He swore he was willing to die for her, and begged her to dispatch him on some hazardous enterprise."

"I guess she didn't do it; she is still keeping books."

"She told him to go over to the City of Mexico and announce himself as a candidate for the presidency."

Charley Knew He Was Married.

"Let's see, how long have you been married, Charley?"

Charley paused, thinking heavily.

"Oh, I don't know," he replied. "Six or eight months."

That's all—a stray bit of conversation overheard between clatters in a place where men resort at noonday to eat. Two other men, sitting near Charley and his interested friend, heard the answer and exchanged eloquent glances. Maybe they were married men.

Presently Charley and his elderly acquaintance departed. The two remaining at the table eyed the husband of six or eight months' standing with interest.

"What do you know about that?" began one, lamely enough. "He doesn't know how long he's been married. I wish his wife heard him. I'll bet she can tell the months, weeks and days offhand."

"Well," said the other, "I never heard of a man in the workhouse who couldn't tell exactly how many days he'd been in, and how much it would be before he'd be out. But, then, I suppose it's different with lifers."

But of course the latter speaker may have been a married man, at that.

Guilty!

In a certain small village the justice of the peace, in the pursuance of his duties, had to hear and judge cases that were brought before him, and also to perform occasional marriage ceremonies. He found it difficult to dissociate the various functions of his office.

The instance given by the Berliner Illustrite Zeitung was a wedding. Everything had gone smoothly until he asked the bride, "Do you take this man to be your husband?"

The bride nodded emphatically.

"And you, accused," said the justice, turning to the groom, "what have you to say in your defense?"—Youth's Companion.

Long Had Confidence of Royalty.

Lord Knollys, confident of the royal house for forty-five years, is about to retire. He has served three monarchs, and has been described as "the most tactful man in Europe." As private secretary he has looked after all the king's correspondence, attended to all his dispatches, and organized the hours of his majesty's audiences. King Edward trusted him implicitly and invariably acted on his judgment, and King George found in him a wise and valuable adviser.

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ERROR EASILY TO BE SEEN

Miner Went at Once to the Root of the Trouble, as He Had It Sized Up.

A miner, who was proud of his boy's attainments at school, one evening picked up a home lesson book and read from it a quotation which ran like this: "Some books should be tasted, some swallowed, and some chewed and digested.—Bacon." Turning to his boy, he said:

"What's this, sonnie? Thou doesn't eat books at school, does tha? I know you are very clever, but you cannot do those nanny-goat tricks, I'm sure. I'll warrant that'll be one of those printer's errors, sonnie."

"Oo, no, father," said the boy. "Metaphorically speaking, we eat books."

"Nowt, you cannot fool me like that," said the father. "I didn't go to school very long, but I ken that's one of those printer's errors. Why, sonnie, can thou not see? He's put the word 'Bacon' in the wrong place. It should be: 'Some bacon should be tasted, some swallowed, and some chewed and digested.—Books.'"

Way to Woo Sleep.

The following method is described as one which is almost certain to woo slumber with success. On going to bed you assume a comfortable attitude in which every muscle is relaxed but not the attitude in which you are accustomed to go to sleep, though something resembling it. Every movement, coughing, yawning, are strictly repressed, especially the desire to turn over. The same attitude is maintained without change, constantly resisting the longing to move or turn over.

As a rule, by the end of 15 or 20 minutes of this persistent maintenance of the same attitude you will find yourself growing very drowsy and then, just as the desire to turn over becomes absolutely uncontrollable, you turn with the least possible effort, and assume the position in which you habitually go to sleep and natural sleep follows at once. This method, it is claimed, seldom fails and should be given a thorough trial, at least before resorting to a drug to bring sleep.

Narrow.

"The trouble with you, Biffels, is that you don't live within your income."

"Good heavens! If I lived within my income I couldn't breathe."

Heartless Parent.

"What's Jobbins so elated about?"

"That boy of his again. He has taught the innocent little fellow to say, 'I should worry.'"

Well Met—
A Good Appetite
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NOT A STORY OF TRAGEDY

Reads Like a Clipping From "Dare-devil Dick," but the Sequel Is Not an Unhappy One.

The grim, muscular looking man eyed his victim malevolently. "I have been looking forward for a long while to the time when I should have you in my power," he said relentlessly. "You probably thought yourself safe, because I kept away from you so long, didn't you?" he went on sneeringly. "But all this while you were living in fancied security I have bided my time, knowing that sooner or later I should get you where I wanted you. And now that I have you, you are going to die—do you hear me?"—his voice rose, harsh, raucous, incisive. "To die! And I purpose that others of your family shall die with you!"

He paused and regarded his victim gloatingly. The latter spoke no word, nor showed signs of shrinking from the fate that threatened him, although one might have fancied that he cast an appealing glance at another man who stood not far away. But although the latter must have been cognizant of what was going on, he showed no disposition to interfere. Rather, he looked on with an amused, cynical expression.

"I shall waste no more time talking to you," resumed the first speaker vindictively. "I am too impatient to put an end to your miserable existence for good and all. I knew you wouldn't try to resist," he added contemptuously.

Then with a quick movement he brutally seized his helpless victim and stabbed him with such force that the sharp steel penetrated through the body. Then he ate him.

For it was September first.—Lippincott's.

New Standard.

Knicker—Is she interested in the tariff bill?

Bocker—Yes. She says she won't marry a man who doesn't pay an income tax.—New York Sun