

lish in Cuban waters, including the final effects of the rivalry between Philip III. of Spain and Elizabeth of England. The second section covers the period of the Dutch influence which reached its apogee in 1628, when the famous Piet Heyn captured the Spanish fleet in Matanzas Bay—a great blow to Spanish prestige. In this episode and others of less prominence (as, for instance, the exploits of Cornelius Corneliszoon Jol, called “Peg Leg” in Cuba, Miss Wright has made an excellent study of Spanish navigation, the fortification of Havana, and Spanish commerce in the West Indies. Many important movements are touched on, such as the development of the shipbuilding industry in Cuba.

The second work consists of narrative, plentifully interlarded with quotations from original manuscripts. It is to be regretted that Miss Wright did not reproduce any manuscripts entire in an appendix as in the first work. However, her narrative is better than that of the first work. Both titles together form important source material for the study of Havana and Cuba.

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*The Cuban Situation and our Treaty Relations.* By PHILIP G. WRIGHT. (Washington, D. C.: The Brookings Institute, 1931. Pp. xiv, 219. \$3.50.)

This volume (No. 42 of the Publications of the Brookings Institute) belongs to that group of books written in English which Cubans, unless they can read English, should have available in Spanish; and to this book belong the recent volumes on Cuba by C. E. Chapman and L. H. Jenks, both among the principal references used by Mr. Wright. The volume deals with the relations between Cuba and the United States and their influence upon the present Cuban situation. This reviewer believes, however, that Mr. Wright did not go far enough, for he has limited himself to the treaty relations and has paid scant attention to those political considerations which have affected the economic situation.

While he points out, for instance, that United States investments in Cuba were responsible for the vast development of the sugar industry and the consequent overproduction, he has given little or no hint that a wise nationalistic program in Cuba would have maintained

a proper control over Cuba's lands. Such a course would have prevented the virtual alienation of twenty-five per cent of the most fertile lands and United States investments would have been kept within reasonable limits. Corrupt Cuban politics have much for which to answer in this regard, as well as in many other directions in Cuba, and have much to do with the present deplorable condition of the island. Sugar producers have been allowed to import cheap Negro labor from other West Indian islands, thus lowering the standard of living; while sugar producers have been able to buy private port rights. The alliance between sugar investors and Cuban politicians has resulted in a burden on the Cuban people of \$42,000,000, and an artificial restriction of crops embodied in that foolish attempt to control the world market—the so-called Chadbourne Plan.

It is a pity that Mr. Wright did not make an extended study of the Chadbourne Plan. The favoring of sugar production in Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands has affected Cuba most adversely, bringing starvation to many laborers because of crop restriction. Cuba does not have the economic structure of the United States and cannot support any system of fictitious prices. The part played in the United States by investors in that country to secure the reciprocity treaty and to bring about a protective tariff for domestic producers is excellently portrayed; but there is little in the book to show the misery produced in Cuba by the alliance of corrupt politicians and sugar producers.

Scarcely over twenty pages are devoted to an unsatisfactory account of the history of Cuba prior to the war of 1898. The short, but keen study of the Platt Amendment and the reciprocity treaty is excellent. A very frank exposition is made of interventions under the Platt Amendment, in which, side by side with the intervention of 1906 are placed those concerned with the veteranist movement, the Negro uprising of 1912, the unfair Gonzales "notes", and General Crowder's mission to Cuba. The "gentlemen's agreement" of several years ago, by which the presidential term was increased to six years, and the statement of July 17, 1930 (never fulfilled), relative to electoral legislation should also have been included in this list of interventions.

The reelection of the present president in 1928 is mentioned as having been brought about by an amalgamation of the three political parties of Cuba. Perhaps the author is unaware that Cuba has no

real political parties, but only skeletons of parties which are controlled by cliques—a condition ruling since 1919.

It is correctly stated in the volume that the present administration has promoted public improvements, but the public debt has risen from \$97,000,000 in 1925 to \$270,000,000; and many of the improvements were unnecessary or unwise. It should be noted also that the appropriation for the army is out of all proportion to the need or the population.

However, Mr. Wright's volume is a very honest one. It contains an excellent survey of the Cuban sugar industry and the conditions affecting it. Skilful use is made of sugar statistics and the comments thereon are accurate. Perhaps the most important fact omitted is that the first sugar mills in Cuba were established by virtue of the economic support of Philip II., and that since that time they have been an economic drag on Cuba. The sugar industry—always a parasitical growth—has never been able to pay its expenses with its own resources in normal times. It depended on slavery for its prosperity in former times and now the masked slavery of the West Indian laborers is unable to save it. Some sort of economic euthanasia is needed for industries which have developed into monstrosities as is the case with Cuba's sugar industry.

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*Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America.*

By ELIZABETH DONNAN. Vols. I. and II. [III. in course of preparation]. (Washington, D. C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, Division of Historical Research, 1930, 1931. Pp. x, 495; lxii, 731.)

The 480 documents presented in these two volumes illustrate the history of the African slave trade from 1441 to 1807. "Though the emphasis has been placed upon the English trade to the British West Indies", the larger topic of the traffic to the new world carried on by several European nations has received some consideration. Divided into two parts, volume one deals with the period from the time the traffic "became a part of European commerce until the end of the seventeenth century". Volume two carries the subject down to 1807, when British and American legislation outlawed the trade. When volume three comes out, it promises to shift the emphasis to the connection of the thirteen English mainland colonies with the traffic.