

**SPECIAL CONSULAR  
REPORTS - NO. 65.  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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**CHARLES H. ALBRECHT & FRANK ANDERSON HENRY**

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

A. H. BALDWIN, Chief

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# DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

By

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Supplemented with data from report of General Receiver  
of Dominican Customs



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1914

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE,  
*Washington, May 14, 1914.*

SIR: There is transmitted herewith reports by American consular officers on the commerce and industries of the Dominican Republic, which have so much general reference information concerning that Republic and its development that it is deemed advisable to issue them in monograph form. Facts have been taken from the report of the Receiver General of Customs and from other sources which should make it a useful compendium for consultation as to the country's trade, resources, etc.

Respectfully,

A. H. BALDWIN,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

TO HON. WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,  
*Secretary of Commerce.*



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

### GENERAL FEATURES.

Although, next to Cuba, the largest of the West Indies, the island which is divided between the Dominican Republic and Haiti is the least known and offers the greatest possibilities for future development. The Dominican Republic, occupying more than two-thirds of the island, contains a population of only 650,000 to 700,000, scattered over an area of approximately 19,300 square miles, while the population of the Republic of Haiti is estimated at several millions. Its area is thus about equal to that of the States of Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The population is composed mainly of creoles of pure Spanish descent, and a mixed race of European, African, and Indian blood. There are, however, many Turks and Syrians, especially in Santo Domingo city, where the dry-goods trade is almost exclusively in their hands. The language spoken is generally Spanish, but on the Samana Peninsula there are a few hundred farmers, some of whom speak corrupt English. These descended from the American negro immigrants of 1828.

### FAVORABLE GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION—DISTANCES TO FOREIGN PORTS.

The Republic is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by Mona Passage (which is 70 miles wide and which separates the island from Porto Rico), and on the west by the Haitian Republic. The geographical position of the island is very favorable, being between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and thus in the path of ships to and from Europe passing through the Panama Canal. The following table shows the distances, in nautical miles, between the principal ports of the Republic and those in Europe and America:

Distance from—	To New York.	To Cadix, Spain.	To South- amp- ton, Eng- land.	To Havre, France.	To Hamb- urg, Ger- many.	To Haha- ma, Cuba.	To St. Thom- as, West Indies.	To La Gua- ira, Vene- zuela.	To Colon, Pana- ma.
	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>
Santo Domingo.....	1,523	3,125	3,885	3,825	4,305	935	295	500	810
Monte Cristi.....	1,545	3,285	3,995	4,035	4,415	945	415	730	840
Puerto Plata.....	1,255	3,185	3,925	3,965	4,345	710	345	660	810
Samana.....	1,355	3,090	3,850	3,890	4,270	820	260	565	970
Sanchez.....	1,370	3,105	3,869	3,905	4,285	825	275	580	985
San Pedro Macoris.....	1,505	3,100	3,860	3,900	4,280	965	270	490	825
Azua.....	1,590	3,190	3,940	3,980	4,360	880	350	510	750
Barahona.....	1,605	3,195	3,965	3,995	4,375	870	365	500	740