

**THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC.  
1907. PP.11-97**

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**DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

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# *The Dominican Republic*

## CHAPTER I.

**Geographical Position—Boundaries—Advantageous Situation—Distances between the Principal Ports of the Republic and other Ports in Europe and America—Area—Population—Climate—Temperature—Seasons—Winds—Healthy Condition—Vital Statistics—Topography—Mountains—Valleys and Plains—Hydrography—Ports and Bays—Adjacent Islands.**

**GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.**—The Dominican Republic, commonly called Santo Domingo, occupies with the Republic of Haiti, the island named *Hispaniola* by Columbus, the first European settlement in the New World.

This Island lies between  $17^{\circ} 36' 40''$  and  $19^{\circ} 58' 20''$  north latitude, and  $69^{\circ} 18'$  and  $74^{\circ} 31'$  longitude west of Greenwich, or in the midst of the Antilles or West Indies; almost opposite Central America; about 50 miles southeast of Cuba, and the same distance west of Porto Rico; 1,245 miles from New York; 500 from Florida; 1,440 to the south of the central New England coast; about the same distance from Mexico; 480 miles from Venezuela; 740 from Colon; 3,850 from Southampton; 3,900 from Havre, and 4,270 from Hamburg.

**BOUNDARIES.**—The Dominican Republic is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, the nearest land being some of the smaller islands on the eastern portion of the Bahamas group; on the east lies the Mona passage, 70 miles wide, which separates the island from Porto Rico, and contains the small islands called Mona, Monito and Desecheo; on the west lies the Haitian Republic, while to the south extends the Caribbean sea. The island is separated from Cuba by the San Nicolás channel or Windward Passage, 48 miles in width, and from the island of Jamaica by the channel bearing that name, 100 miles wide.

ADVANTAGEOUS SITUATION.—The geographical position of the Republic is so privileged that it lies between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, in other words, on the path of all the ships to or from Europe passing through the Panama Canal. If the prosperity of the Republic is now most promising, no one can foretell what it will be when the Canal is open. The importance of Santo Domingo will increase tenfold, commercially, industrially, and strategically. No ship will cross the Canal on her way to Europe, the western coast of North, Central, or South America and Mexico, or on her way to the Far East, without passing through the Mona Pass, opposite the splendid bay of Samaná. The country lies right in the way, as all other routes to and from the Canal are either less safe or longer than the route through the Mona Pass, between Santo Domingo and Porto Rico. There are other passes, such as that between Cuba and Haiti, the San Antonio pass between Cuba and Mexico, and the various channels between the several islands of the Windward group. None of these, however, offer the same advantages the Mona Pass affords, not only as the shortest route, but also because the ships taking this route may call at ports in the Dominican Republic for provisions, repairs, etc.

On the other hand, the proximity of the Republic to the greatest marts of the world, makes the country peculiarly suitable for all kinds of investments. There are but two Latin American republics, Mexico and Cuba, nearer the United States than the Dominican Republic; none, however, is nearer to European ports, so that there will always be a market for Dominican products abroad.

DISTANCES BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL PORTS OF THE REPUBLIC AND OTHER PORTS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA.—The following table shows a comparison of distances between ports in the Dominican Republic and those of Europe and America, the miles being nautical :

Dominican Ports.	New York.	Cadiz, Spain.	South-ampton, France.	Havre, France.	Hamburg, Germany.	Havana, Cuba.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Santo Domingo.....	1535	3125	3885	3925	4305	935
Monte Cristi .....	1245	3235	3995	4035	4415	645
Puerto Plata .....	1255	3165	3925	3965	4345	710
Samaná .....	1355	3000	3850	3890	4270	820
Sanchez .....	1370	3105	3869	3905	4285	835
San Pedro Macoris.....	1595	3100	3860	3900	4280	965
Azua .....	1590	3180	3940	3980	4360	880
Barahona .....	1605	3195	3955	3995	4375	870

  

Santiago, Cuba.	Mayaguez, Porto Rico.	Ponce, Porto Rico.	San Juan, Porto Rico.	San Thomas, Danish W. I.	La Guaira, Venezuela.	Curacao, Dutch W. I.	Colon, Panama.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Santo Domingo ....	415	160	190	230	295	500	810
Monte Cristi .....	235	295	345	345	415	730	840
Puerto Plata .....	300	225	275	275	345	660	910
Samaná .....	415	135	185	190	260	565	970
Sanchez .....	430	150	200	205	275	580	985
San Pedro Macoris. 445		130	160	200	270	490	825
Azua .....	380	220	240	285	350	510	750
Barahona .....	370	235	255	300	365	500	740