

Porto Rico leading.

Porto Rico's display, of course, far exceeds that of Samoa. Porto Rico has a pretty little building in the group of State and foreign buildings. It is used chiefly for reception purposes as Porto Rico has placed her larger exhibits in the various big exhibit buildings of the exposition. The Porto Rico building was to have been dedicated yesterday, but Gov. Allen was unable to be present and the ceremonies were postponed, as announced several days ago. The Porto Rico commissioners, however, decided to open the building yesterday and they quickly learned, from the appreciative throngs of visitors, that Porto Rico enjoys a high place in the good will and friendly feelings of the people of this country. Hundreds of sightseers visited the building.

A novel feature of the reception in the building was the presence of pretty señoritas who served coffee to all visitors. This innovation will be a regular feature hereafter at the Porto Rico building and all visitors will find a hearty welcome and excellent coffee and charming señoritas awaiting them.

Porto Rico exhibits in the big buildings are noteworthy and very popular. As an evidence of this, a Porto Rican brought here a big case full of fine straw hats. He has sold them rapidly at good prices and has run out of many popular sizes. His sales, of course, were of hats entirely apart from his display in the official exhibit. He is amazed at the briskness of business and the rapidity of transaction among Americans. The Porto Ricans boast of their cigarette exhibit. Porto Rico cigarettes, they claim, are to be feared less than those made in the United States, as they are made of a better grade of tobacco. Porto Rico sugar is in three classes of brown sugar and two grades of white. Other interesting exhibits of Porto Rico in the Agriculture building are rice, which is shown in the shell, Porto Rico beans and peas, corn, red, yellow and white, starch from the yucca, and the castor-oil bean, occupies a part of the space. Samples of cotton are shown in glass cases. White and brown cotton are both shown. The Spanish peanut flourishes in Porto Rico and is exhibited, along with the leaf of the bay, which is used for fine bay rum. On the walls are vegetable fibers, used for cordage and twine. The Porto Rico commissioners to the Pan-American Exposition are Maj. G. W. Fishback, Dr. Gomez Brioso and T. Jose Silva.

The women of Porto Rico are represented by exhibits in the court of the Liberal Arts building, apart from the general show of products of the country in the Agriculture building. The latter occupies a conspicuous place, near the entrance from the Court of Fountains and beside the exhibit from Argentina. It is a fine display. Especially fine is the exhibit of coffee. Porto Rico produced in 1899 about 50,000,000 pounds of coffee, about 95,000,000 pounds of sugar and about 10,000,000 pounds of tobacco. The Porto Rico merchants and commissioners to the Pan-American Exposition hope by means of the comprehensive exhibit to increase the sale of Porto Rico coffee in America. The exhibit of tobacco shows the plant in its various stages of growth and manufacture, from the leaf to the finished product. There are three grades of Porto Rico tobacco, all told. Porto Rico has an excellent representation at the exposition, far greater and better proportionately than some others.

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