



1894

NOT THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND BUT AN UNINHABITED ROCK 700 MILES FROM RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, IN THE ATLANTIC AND REPUTEDLY THE SITE OF BURIED PERUVIAN TREASURE. IN 1893 BARON HARDEN-HICKEY, A FRENCHMAN TOOK POSSESSION OF THE ISLAND AND DECLARED HIMSELF PRINCE JAMES I OF TRINIDAD, AND APPOINTED AS HIS GRAND CHANCELLOR, COUNT DE LA BOSSIERE, A SCHOOLFRIEND. WORK HAD COMMENCED ON A DOCK WHEN GREAT BRITAIN SEIZED THE ISLAND FOR A CABLE STATION. LETTERS OF PROTEST WERE SENT TO ALL THE GREAT POWERS BUT THE RESULTANT RIDICULE RESULTED IN A DISILLUSIONED HARDEN-HICKEY SHOOTING HIMSELF DEAD IN EL PASO, TEXAS IN 1898. THE STAMPS WERE ISSUED ON 1 NOV. 1894 ALTHOUGH NO POSTAL SERVICE EXISTED.