



THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

L. S. ROWE, *Director General* PEDRO DE ALBA, *Assistant Director*

THE PAN AMERICAN UNION, now 56 years old, is an international organization created and maintained by the twenty-one American Republics: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Originally known as the International Bureau of the American Republics, it was established in 1890 in accordance with a resolution passed April 14 of that year by the First International Conference of American States, which convened at Washington in October 1889. April 14 is celebrated annually throughout the Americas as Pan American Day.

The work of the Union was greatly expanded by resolutions of the Second Conference, held at Mexico City in 1901-2; the Third, at Rio de Janeiro in 1906; the Fourth, at Buenos Aires in 1910; the Fifth, at Santiago, Chile, in 1923; the Sixth, at Habana in 1928; the Seventh, at Montevideo in 1933; and the Eighth, at Lima in 1938. The creation of machinery for the orderly settlement of inter-American disputes is one of the outstanding achievements of the Pan American system.

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the Pan American Union is to promote friendship and close relations among the Republics of the American Continent and peace and security within their borders by fostering constructive cooperation among them. The Union is supported by annual contributions from all the countries, in amounts proportional

to population, and its services are freely available to officials and private citizens alike. Its affairs are administered by a Director General and an Assistant Director, elected by and responsible to a Governing Board composed of one member from each American Republic.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

The administrative divisions of the Pan American Union are organized to carry out the purposes for which it was created. There are special divisions dealing with foreign trade, statistics, economics, intellectual cooperation, music, juridical matters, agricultural cooperation, travel, and labor and social information. All these divisions maintain close relations with official and unofficial bodies in the countries members of the Union. The Columbus Memorial Library contains 135,000 volumes and 2,400 maps. The BULLETIN of the Pan American Union, published monthly in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, is the official organ of the institution. For a list of other publications of the Union, see the inside back cover.

PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCES

The Pan American Union also serves as the permanent organ of the International Conferences of American States, usually referred to as the Pan American Conferences. In addition to preparing the programs and regulations, the Union gives effect to the conclusions of the Conferences by conducting special inquiries and investigations and by convening or arranging for special or technical conferences in the intervals between the International Conferences.



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ILLUSTRATION AT SIDE: THE GARDEN OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION





GUATEMALA CITY

The Petén region lies far to the north of the Guatemalan capital.

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BULLETIN OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

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Guatemala's Intriguing Petén Problem

ATHERTON LEE

Director of the Department of New Crops of the United Fruit Company

THE Department of the Petén, the center of the Old Empire of pre-Columbian Mayan Indians, is the northernmost part of the Republic of Guatemala, and comprises approximately one-third of the surface area of the Republic.

The Petén has a fascinating background of Mayan archaeology. Whereas now the population of the region is less than one person per square mile and Guatemala as a whole has 78 per square mile, the research of Oliver Ricketson¹ has shown that the Maya from the period 600 B. C. to 1400 A. D. reached concentrations of population in the Petén somewhere between a mini-

mum of 270 people per square mile and a maximum of 1,083 per square mile. A conception of these high concentrations of population can best be obtained by comparison with the 1940 figures from the United States, where we had an average of 44.2 people per square mile; New York state has 281.2, California 44.1, North Dakota 9.2, Utah 6.7, and Nevada 1.0 per square mile.

If one takes Ricketson's estimate of 50 percent of the land as cultivable, there would have been a pre-Columbian population for the Petén somewhere between 1,876,500 as a minimum and 7,531,000 as a maximum, the latter more than double the present-day population of all Guatemala. It is notable that this density of the Petén population was dependent entirely on agriculture for maintenance, for there are no evidences of industrialization by the Maya. Thus the conclusion seems logical that in pre-Columbian days

In presenting this paper the author is enthusiastic in praise of the archaeologists as a professional group for having developed an extensive background of information on the basic natural factors, such as climate, geology, and soils of remote parts of Central America, upon which advances in agriculture can be based.

¹Ricketson, Oliver G., *Uaxactun, Guatemala. Group E, 1926-1931, Part I: The Excavations, The Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D. C., 1937.*

the soils were sufficiently fertile and other environmental factors sufficiently favorable to support a high density of population.

According to Sylvanus Morley,² these Indians had made many advances in civilization: "The Maya excelled the Egyptians and Babylonians in their knowledge of the heavenly bodies" and one thousand years earlier than our forebears they had devised a calendar as accurate as our own Gregorian calendar. They had "all essentials of our own modern arithmetic . . . at least five centuries before the Hindus had developed the

² Sylvanus Griswold Morley, *Yucatan, home of the gifted Maya*, *The National Geographic Magazine*, Vol. LXX, November 1930, p. 591.



Courtesy of Dr. Tozzer

THE OLD MAYA EMPIRE

The geographic position of the pre-Columbian Old Maya Empire, which included the present-day Petén, was in the northernmost part of Guatemala and southern Mexico.

fundamentals of Arabic notation in India."

The archaeologists have discovered and uncovered many large Maya buildings, showing that the people must have had an advanced, well developed organization to erect them. Some of the ruins show large courts for a game combining features of handball and soccer. There is evidence that the people for most of their history were peaceful and untroubled by wars. Thus it is clear that not only did the soils of the Petén support a dense population, without aid of military tribute, but also yielded production with sufficient ease to allow time for research, the arts, and sports.

The geological origins of the soils of the Petén are similar to those of northern Yucatan and Cuba, being of Tertiary and Cretaceous limestones, according to Cyrus Lundell.³ Of present-day central Petén, Lundell says: "The savanna soils are fertile; they yield satisfactory crops with the removal of grasses and other weedy growth." Of southern Petén he says: "The entire region, except small pine areas, in the vicinity of Dolores, is covered with luxuriant broad-leaved forest."

Emerson and Kempton,⁴ working in Yucatan, just north of the Petén, report yields of corn of 33 bushels per acre on newly cleared but unplowed fields, but "in the fertile hill country, they [the yields] are doubled or even trebled." According to the Guatemalan Department of Agriculture,⁵ the average yield of corn for the country as a whole in 1930-1931 was fourteen bushels per acre. Thus such evidence indicates an environment much more productive than the average in the Tropics,

³ Lundell, Cyrus Longworth, *The Vegetation of the Petén*, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1937.

⁴ Emerson, R. A., and Kempton, J. H., *Agronomic investigations in Yucatan*, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Yearbook No. 34, pp. 138 to 142, 1935.

⁵ *Estadística agropecuaria, cuadro 16, Siembras de Maíz, 1930-1931.*



Courtesy of the Carnegie Institution of Washington

A SMALL MAYAN PYRAMID

One of the intriguing examples of ancient Mayan architecture uncovered by the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Uaxactun, in the Petén.

for corn and other crops favored by limestone soils.

Dr. Morley, describing agriculture in adjacent Yucatan, with soil types similar to those of the Petén but with less rainfall, estimates that the average small farmer there, with sixty man-days of labor each year, produces five times as much corn as his family of five can consume; corn, he estimates, constitutes 75 to 85 percent of the present-day normal diet. He concludes that it was the ease of living which gave surplus time to the Maya to organize and build their large market places and temples and to develop their arts and sciences.

Other crops known to have been grown by the pre-Columbian Maya were cotton and cacao; bees were kept for honey and the turkey had been domesticated.⁶ The writer observed small dooryard plantings of

sugar cane, mangos, avocados, papayas, plantains, tomatoes, and pasture grasses, and these evidenced not only the considerable fertility of some of these soils of the Petén, but also favorable climatic conditions. Soils of similar origin in Cuba have unusual records for long-term production of sugar cane and corn.

Ricketson has established that the climate of the Petén in pre-Columbian days was probably identical with that which exists at present. The warm moist climate of England, which owes its character to the Gulf Stream, is known to have been identical in 600 B. C. with that which exists today. Since the Gulf Stream is dependent upon the Equatorial Current for its origin, then it is concluded that the Equatorial Current must have been influencing the Petén in 600 B. C. as it does today. The identity of climate is perhaps more concisely established by the finding of timbers in the old Mayan ruins of the same tropical tree species which exist in the Petén today.

⁶ Thompson, J. E., *The Civilization of the Maya*, Field Museum of Natural History Leaflet No. 25, Chicago, 1927.



Courtesy of the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

LUXURIANT VEGETATION IS TYPICAL OF THE PETÉN TODAY

Lundell published rainfall records for a ten-year period in the northern Petén, showing an annual average of seventy inches of rain distributed over eight to nine months of the year. Less rainfall than this produces fine sugar cane and corn yields in many countries. There is heavier rainfall as higher elevations are reached in the southern Petén. It can be concluded that there is adequate rainfall and a favorable climatic environment for many crops.

Although the cause for the disappearance of the Maya is not definitely known, the most readily accepted theory, and that which coincides best with the known data, is that of C. Wythe Cooke⁷ of the United

⁷ Cooke, C. Wythe, *Why the Mayan cities of the Petén District, Guatemala, were abandoned*, *Journal Washington Academy of Sciences* XXI, pp. 283-287, Washington, D. C., 1931.

States Geological Survey. He pointed out the great extension in the Petén of swamps, known as *bajos*, which are "flat plains with almost no perceptible relief." "The *bajos* evidently once were lakes. They are still lakes during the rainy season, but have been so nearly filled with silt that a slight depression of water level, due to run-off or evaporation, reduces them to ponds, or drains them completely. The source of the clay that fills them is the soil of the uplands, black, carbonaceous clay formed by the decomposition and solution of limestone and mixed with organic matter."

House mounds with evidences of Mayan occupation have been found by the archaeologists in the midst of these *bajos*, and Cooke points out that such locations are accessible through the extensive

swamps only with great difficulty. However, they would be easily accessible by canoe. From this and additional geological background, Cooke's conclusion is that in the days of the Maya the Petén was a land of extensive and numerous lakes. Water transportation was simple, convenient and adequate, and water supplies were no problem. A conception of this beautiful productive land of lakes and clear streams with rich black limestone soils can be obtained from some of the few remaining lakes and rivers existing now, and some of the small areas in cultivation near them.

Cooke continues: "The Mayas were an agricultural people and needed much cleared land to raise the quantities of corn required to feed their large population. The rate of erosion of the soils must have been enormously accelerated when the forest was cut and the cultivated soils were exposed to the full force of the torrential rains." He concludes that soil erosion caused a silting up of the lakes and waterways which gradually eliminated easily

accessible water supplies and convenient easy water transportation. Simultaneously, the erosion was steadily removing from the cultivated lands the rich top-soils which through various biological processes accumulate much the greatest concentrations of crop nutrients. Entomologists say that mosquitoes would increase under these conditions. With fertility of upland cultivated soils impoverished, increasing pressure of population, shortage of water in dry seasons, and easy transportation made impossible, livelihood became much more difficult. Morley indicates that migration was slow and took the direction toward northern Yucatan where subsurface water was nearer the ground level, and particularly to Chichén-Itzá where all-year water supplies were assured.

According to Ricketson, malaria is of European origin, and since Europeans did not reach the Petén until after the Mayas had disappeared from that region, the assumption that malaria was the cause of their disappearance does not seem logical. Not all malariologists will agree that the



LAKE PETÉN

The town on the island is Flores, the capital and largest city of the department. The picture shows the varied and rolling nature of the land between waterways.

Courtesy of J. Harold De Veau

evidence is as definite as this. Certainly, however, malaria existed in Europe and was known to be rampant in Italy, Spain, and Portugal in the days of Columbus. In any case, malaria can now be controlled in the Tropics, as is evidenced by the banana plantations under similar environments; it is clearly not a factor which will preclude utilization of Petén soils and climate.

In summation it may be said that there is today an area of eight and one-half million acres, much of which is apparently rich fertile land, with some clear lakes and rivers still present, and with rainfall distribution better than in many areas in the Tropics. Except for wild chicle, this area lies almost completely unproductive.

The obvious productivity of the region in Mayan days, the productivity of nearby Yucatan soils, and the productivity of soils of similar geologic origin in Cuba, all raise the inquiry as to why this region should not be productive today.

Although the present tangled vegetation, swamps, and wild life are forbidding to those unaccustomed to such environment, the country is traversed by mule trails and spotted with airfields; to those familiar with the reclamation of tropical swamps and bush country on other soil types for banana cultivation, these are conditions of every-day environment and accepted as readily susceptible to development for pleasant, interesting living.

In the centuries since pre-Columbian civilization, the renewal of natural vegetation has greatly healed the upland damage from erosion from which the Mayas suffered. But even more important

are the possibilities of lowering the water levels in the extensive areas of *bajos* or swamps, whose soils are accumulations of the rich topsoils of the higher lands. These soils can be expected to be as fertile or more fertile than anything which the pre-Columbian Maya had available. Present-day agricultural engineers would seem to have unusually intriguing opportunities in lowering these water levels with modern tools such as bulldozers and drag-line equipment. Transportation problems also exist, but in this day and age of engineering and diplomacy, these should not even rate as problems.

If to the knowledge of the great prosperity of the Petén in pre-Columbian Mayan days is added present-day knowledge of agricultural engineering, public health, cheap postwar aviation and advances in the sciences of the plant and animal industries, it seems logical to conclude that there are possibilities of a well-populated, prosperous community in a pleasant, fertile countryside.

A second conclusion is logical—that if the Mayan Indians could independently develop such an advanced civilization a few centuries ago, they have the germplasm, if given a favorable environment, to share in and contribute to our present-day civilization.

To hundreds of thousands of industrious descendants of the intelligent pre-Columbian Maya, now attempting to farm in unfertile eroded upland areas, the utilization of science in the Petén may offer a much easier living and sufficient margin above a comfortable livelihood for the education of their children.

Brazil's New President General Eurico Gaspar Dutra

ON JANUARY 31, 1946, General Eurico Gaspar Dutra was inaugurated as the new President of Brazil. Elected by a margin of over three million votes on December 2, 1945, General Dutra succeeds Getulio Vargas, who governed Brazil from 1930 to October 1945. Chosen at the same time was a new National Congress, which will also serve as a Constituent Assembly.

General Dutra was born in Cuiabá in the state of Mato Grosso on May 18, 1885. He attended the municipal school in that city, a day school in another town, and finished his preliminary studies in the secondary school in Cuiabá.

Enlisting as a private in the army in 1902, at the age of 17, he was sent to military preparatory and tactical schools first in Rio Pardo and later in Porto Alegre. In 1904 he married Carmela Leite; they have two children, Emilia and Antonio João.

The young cadet studied at the Brazilian Military School in Rio de Janeiro from 1904 to 1908, becoming an officer candidate in the latter year. In 1910 he was made a second lieutenant, and from that time he rose steadily through the ranks, being promoted to first lieutenant in 1916, captain in 1921, major in 1927, lieutenant colonel in 1929, and full colonel in 1931. From 1917 to 1924 he attended the *Escola do Estado Maior* (General Staff School).

He was made a brigadier general and the Director of Military Aviation in 1932. Three years later he attained the rank of General of Division, and took over the command of the First Military Region.

In 1936 President Vargas appointed



General Dutra Minister of War, and he held that post until August 1945. He came to the United States in 1943 as an official guest of the United States Government, and visited the principal war plants and military training camps in this country.

It was General Dutra who organized the Brazilian Expeditionary Force that fought on the side of the United Nations in Italy until the end of the war in Europe. In November 1944, he visited the front lines and saw Brazilian troops in action.

General Dutra is the sixteenth President of Brazil. His term of office under the present Constitution is six years.

Antonio Rocha

Representative of Colombia on the Governing Board of the Pan American Union

THE Government of the Republic of Colombia, in compliance with Resolution IX of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace, designated as its delegate *ad hoc* to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union Dr. Antonio Rocha, a distinguished lawyer and statesman.

Dr. Rocha was born in the town of El Chaparral in the department of Tolima on November 11, 1899. He received his early education at Bogotá in the Colegio Mayor del Rosario, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy and Letters in 1917. Five years later, he obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Letters and in 1923 that of Doctor of Laws and Political and Social Science from the same 300-year-old institution.

His education completed, Dr. Rocha returned to Tolima to occupy the position of judge of the Circuit Court in Ibagué from 1923 to 1926, after which he rose to be magistrate of the Superior Court of the same city. From 1927 to 1930 he was engaged in establishing a branch of the Agricultural Mortgage Bank in Ibagué. In 1930 he was named Governor of Tolima, an office which he held until 1932, when he began a two-year term as the representative of Tolima in Congress. In 1935 Dr. Rocha was appointed a justice on the Supreme Court, of which he became Chief Justice in 1937. While he was still in this high position, he was chosen by the Government to take the portfolio of Minister of Industry and



Labor, and in 1938 that of Minister of Foreign Affairs. At the end of 1938 he retired to private life to devote himself to the practice of law.

In 1943 the Government again solicited Dr. Rocha's valuable services and placed him at the head of the Ministry of Education. Designated Minister of Government in 1945, he also retained oversight of the Ministry of Education, to which he returned as Minister in June of the same year. He occupied this post when appointed last September to represent his government on the Governing Board of the Pan American Union.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rocha was reelected in 1940 to a seat in the House of Representatives, and in 1942 became Senator for the department of Tolima for a term to expire in 1947.

Dr. Rocha has been professor of civil and mercantile law in the National University, the Universidad Republicana, and the Faculty of Law of the Colegio Mayor del Rosario, all in Bogotá. He is

the author of *De la Prueba en Derecho, Derecho Mercantil Colombiano y La Propiedad del Petróleo en Colombia*. Venezuela has made him a Grand Officer of the Order of the Liberator, and Panama has conferred on him the Cross of Balboa.

Dr. Rocha was present at a meeting of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union for the first time on November 21, 1945.



Luis Quintanilla

Representative of Mexico on the Governing Board of the Pan American Union

EARLY in January 1946 Mexico, complying with Resolution IX of the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace, sent a delegate *ad hoc* to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union. He is Ambassador Luis Quintanilla, one of Mexico's outstanding career diplomats, who has twenty-five years of experience in international affairs and is already well known at the Pan American Union because of his service from 1935 to 1942 as Counselor and Minister Counselor at the Mexican Embassy in Washington.

Dr. Quintanilla was born in Paris on November 22, 1900, and his early education was received there. He received his bachelor's degree, and a few years later his master's, at the Sorbonne. In the meantime he came to the United States and attended Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and while stationed in Washington he obtained his doctorate in philosophy and political science from Johns Hopkins University in 1938.

As a very young man Dr. Quintanilla entered Mexico's diplomatic service and the years have taken him to many countries in both the Old World and the New. He has held posts as secretary, counselor, minister counselor, and chargé d'affaires in Mexican legations or embassies in Guatemala City, Rio de Janeiro, Paris, and Washington. In January 1943 his Government appointed him Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, where he had the distinction of being the first ambassador from any Latin American country ever to be accredited to the Soviet



Union. After two years in Moscow, he was called to Mexico in order to act as a technical adviser to the Mexican Delegation at the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace that met at Chapultepec in February-March 1945. His next assignment was the United Nations Conference at San Francisco, where as a member of the Mexican Delegation he won recognition both at home and abroad by the introduction, accompanied by a stirring address, of the resolution barring the Franco Government of Spain from admission to the United Nations Organization. This resolution was approved by acclamation, without a

single dissenting vote from the forty-nine delegations assembled at the Conference.

At the close of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco, Dr. Quintanilla returned to Mexico and was thereupon named Mexican Ambassador before the Government of Colombia. After he had served four months at Bogotá, the Mexican Government appointed him to his present post of special representative, with the rank of Ambassador, on the Governing Board of the Pan American Union.

In addition to his gifts in the field of diplomacy, Dr. Quintanilla is widely known and recognized for his many other talents. He has taught political science, specializing in Latin American affairs, at The George Washington University in Washington and at Harvard University. He is the author of the book, *A Latin American Speaks*, published early in 1943, just prior to his departure for the Soviet Union. Six editions of the book have been exhausted, and he is now working on a revised edition. He is likewise the author of several volumes of poetry and

plays, has written many articles for magazines and newspapers, and is at present doing a series of columns for the Washington Post, the general title of which, *A Latin American Speaks*, is taken from his book on the Americas. Possessed of a vibrant personality and a refreshing straightforwardness and frankness of expression, he has also achieved no small reputation as a public speaker.

To his new post on the Governing Board, Dr. Quintanilla comes well equipped with the broad knowledge gained from practical experience and from earnest study of the Inter-American System—assets that may be coupled with a deep and genuine interest in world affairs in general. As a member of the Governing Board he will have opportunity to devote his talents and energy directly to the cause of inter-Americanism which he has so diligently sponsored for many years past.

Ambassador Quintanilla made his first official appearance as a member of the Governing Board on January 9, 1946.





Photograph by Christine H. Kempton

CELEBRATING THE FOURTH CENTENARY OF TOCUYO

"People danced in the ancient plaza and in the immense patio of the Convent of Our Lady of the Angels."

Tocuyo Celebrates its Fourth Centennial

CHRISTINE HUDSON KEMPTON

Tocuyo, one of Venezuela's oldest cities, passed its four hundredth anniversary last year.

Its cobbled streets have been scrubbed, its houses painted, the churches reroofed and even an old monastery restored to its former lines; the whole a colossal job, and one that has taken years to accomplish. A former narrow, dusty road that led to the town has been broadened into a smooth highway, and now Tocuyo is

ready for the world to see—a town centuries old yet freshly new and beautiful.

A grand fiesta was held and thousands came to witness the celebration of Tocuyo's founding. A country fair on the outskirts of the city displayed Venezuelan products and handiercrafts. Solemn ceremonies were held in the churches. Rockets burst, people danced in the ancient plaza and in the immense patio of the Convent of Our Lady of the Angels.

On the second day of the opening the spacious cloisters of the convent were packed to the roof with those who came to witness the folk dancing in the patio to weird and inimitable music. The animated *joropo* and *tamunangue* produced a fascinating display. No fiesta in Latin America, of course, is complete without the *Conquistadores*, and there they were, in brilliant costumes, dancing in carnival fashion around a maypole.

Tocuyo, from both an historical and an architectural point of view, is one of the most interesting towns in Venezuela. It is more truly Spanish Colonial than any other. Yet in spite of its antiquity and the fact that it has been visited twice by severe earthquakes, the city is far from being a relic. The pride of its citizens, many of whom are direct descendants from the early founders and the conquistadors themselves, has prevented Tocuyo from falling into decay. Its plaza, filled with magnificent trees, palms and flowers, has been maintained throughout the years. Its ancient streets made with stones meticulously laid down by the early Spaniards are in good condition.

In 1545, a band of Spaniards, led by Juan de Carvajal, marched up from Coro, Venezuela's first place of settlement, and in the name of the Spanish crown, founded on the banks of the Tocuyo River the city called *Nuestra Señora de la Pura y Limpia Concepción de El Tocuyo*, Our Lady of the Pure and Stainless Conception of the Tocuyo.

It is always of curious interest why and how the early Spaniards chose their places of settlement. Through stupendous effort, this particular band from Coro on the Caribbean coast, walking for weeks through trackless forests and over deserts, where there was nothing to indicate that there was anything ahead, finally arrived in the rich Tocuyo valley. Reward was theirs for centuries to come. Fertile

farms produced wheat, cattle, and corn. They ground the grain and shipped it across Lake Maracaibo to Maracaibo and Coro. They grew flax and wove it into a fabric which they called *lienzo de Tocuyo*. Much of this they shipped to Spain. All this produced enough to develop the little pueblo into a beautiful city and to give to its citizens, who brought with them old-world tastes and culture, the opportunity to live in true Spanish style.

Their houses today, though following the patio plan of the Spanish house that one sees throughout the country, have added dignity. Their doorways are decorated with the raised plasterwork so dear to the Colonial's heart; their patios are spacious and brimming with flowers. Stout columns uphold the *caña amarga* roofs of the covered corridors around the patios. Carved cornices ornament many of the façades and in one case, carved animals—bulls and sheep—decorate the windows and entrance door.

Tocuyo, perhaps more than any other community, contributed great men to the country, and there is scarcely a block that does not contain some point of historical interest—houses of men who became famous in the arts or in education, or who actually helped construct and weave the lasting fabric of Venezuela.

From here went forth Diego de Losada, down into the valley of San Francisco, and founded Caracas in 1567. It was then called Santiago de León de Caracas and in 1829 was made capital of the country. About the same time Díaz Moreno departed to found Valencia, and in 1552 Juan de Villegas to establish the city of Barquisimeto. These are three of Venezuela's most important cities today. Tocuyo was like a mother who sends her sons forth into the world while she herself remains behind to live out her life in quiet dignity.

The history of the city, however, is not without its gruesome side. The archfiend of Venezuela at the time was one Lope de Aguirre, who terrorized the country by fire, rape, and general murder. He came to the country from Lima, Peru, after a sensational journey of several thousand miles. A party of nine hundred had started out to make its way down the rivers in search of El Dorado. Many died of hardships, many more were killed by Lope de Aguirre, including the leaders. Nearing the end of the journey, the faithful Indian women who had accompanied the party were given to the cannibal Caribs.

On the island of Margarita, where there were, and still are, rich pearl fisheries, Lope ransacked the city, garroted the alcaldes and other prominent citizens, and hanged the governor.

From Margarita he made his way to the mainland and then marched into the in-

terior and up into the highlands, where his terrorizing continued. He hanged the beautiful Ana de Rojas and three Franciscan friars and burned the church at Barquisimeto. Here he was captured, and here "accordingly they gave him a blow on the head from which he dropped dead at once; they cut off his head and carried it to Tocuyo, where they held a great celebration . . . and every year they hold it in commemoration on the Day of the Apostles." So wrote an early Dominican priest.

Even today the mysterious and feared swamp fires that burst forth spontaneously on the *llanos* or plains are known as *aguirres*.

The new highway that runs from Barquisimeto to Tocuyo leads through country very much like parts of our own southwest desert land with tall pipe-organ cactus and a rim of purple mountains around the



Photograph by Christine H. Kempton

ENTRANCE TO THE COLONIAL MUSEUM

The doorway of a restored mansion is decorated with the raised plasterwork dear to the Colonial's heart.

CHURCH OF SANTA ANA

Erected about 1600, this church is one of the Spanish colonial buildings that make Tocuyo the Williamsburg of Venezuela.



Photograph by Christine H. Kempton

edge. Here and there a white chapel exactly like those built by our own padres sparkles in the sun. Mud huts with thatched roofs, the homes of goatherders and lime burners, bring the scene back to Venezuela.

As one drives along, it is difficult to understand why, when there are so many beautiful and fertile places in which to live in Venezuela, rich localities along the rivers where one could grow bananas and corn or in the highlands where it is cool, anyone should choose to live in this hot, dry, infertile region.

Yet it is interesting country to drive through, for there is spectacular scenery at every turn of the road. Dropping off this high plateau into the green valley of Tocuyo, with its miles of sugar cane, is a delight never to be forgotten. The mountains around are magnificent. The high domes and towers of Tocuyo's old churches

soon come into view; the first, the pink dome of La Concepción, is one of the oldest in the city.

In its interesting churches, Tocuyo stands ahead of any other city in the country. They are the most truly Spanish and the least marred by modern ideas of church art, from which many of Venezuela's churches unfortunately suffer.

The first Catholic orders to arrive were the Franciscans and the Dominicans. The church of San Francisco, built in 1587, still stands facing the plaza, its huge buttresses and colonial doorways giving it great dignity.

Santo Domingo is a notable edifice. Begun in 1575 as a small hermitage with monastery attached, it was remodeled two hundred years later to its present form, and though wracked by earthquakes and for many years in disuse, it was restored in time for the anniversary celebration. Its fine

proportions, simple façade, and interior plaster decoration make it one of the most interesting churches in Venezuela.

Concepción, built in 1625, still has its original tower, and the rest of the church has been beautifully restored. It faces what was once the plaza of the city, and is now the parade ground for the barracks beyond. There are several other churches to be seen.

The people of Tocuyo are far from living in the past, however. The city is progressing and with far more grace than is generally found. A large modern school, a fully equipped hospital, a Government Building, and a Center, with library and recreation facilities, for the use of the laboring man are among the new developments.

The women of Tocuyo are a part of its progress, a measure of advancement in any Latin American country. They played an important part in the success of the Quatercentennial, arranging a ballet, costumes, and folk dancing. There is a

Woman's Club interested in civic affairs. The women are in large part responsible for the new Colonial Museum, just opened.

The fine old residence acquired for the museum is in itself an historical monument showing the pattern of living of the Tocuyanos in colonial days. Spacious patios and high-ceilinged rooms contain portraits, old furnishings, and chandeliers. An interesting colonial feature is the painted design on the wall, chair-rail height, a substitute for the bright colored tiles so much used in Spain and in Mexico. Since this Moorish luxury was not to be had in Venezuela except in small quantities, painted walls were used instead.

Those who are planning a tour of South America might well include Tocuyo as a place to visit. It lies in the state of Lara. A famous writer once said that Lara was Venezuela's Castile and Tocuyo her Toledo. To a citizen of the United States Tocuyo might be called the Williamsburg of Venezuela.



Campeche, Yucatan

LUISA GREGORY

THE picaresque era of the Caribbean was alive with high adventure and the promise of buried treasure. Although its galleons and pirate sloops belong to the past, it left a heritage, a legend of romance and splendor. The tide of civilization has washed away most of the traces of that swashbuckling period, leaving behind isolated landmarks as evidence of its reality.

Campeche, a sprawling colonial town, is one of the few ports of the Caribbean that is still redolent of the past. Its walls, built as a protection against the pirate marauders of the sixteenth century, still stand. And the way of life, too, has changed only imperceptibly over the centuries. Time has scrued the city well. It has laid down a soft patina of color that no modern craftsman could reproduce. The houses, their outlines blurred, their colors muted, have become part of the landscape, rather than evidences of an intruding civilization. It would be more truthful to call it seascape, for Campeche by its location is one with the sea. The Caribbean runs almost up to the doors of the houses and establishes an intimacy with the city that is uninterrupted and unchallenged.

The plaza is the heart of the town where Campechanos, young and old, take their nightly stroll. In the center a brightly colored fountain plays against a background of pensive *canciones* and the tangy salt breeze tempers the tropical night. Custom decrees the manner of the promenade. There is a circular movement of groups, formal as a dance pattern, reminiscent of a cotillion. The men, in the inner circle, saunter close to the fountain



Courtesy of Luisa Gregory

LOOKING OUT TO SEA

The blue-green gulf fills the eye with its grandeur.

in a clockwise direction while the women drift casually counterclockwise around the periphery.

About the plaza are the shops of the master craftsmen. The skills of the past have been retained and the tradition of patient and painstaking quality has been preserved. Hammock makers proudly display the products of their looms, woven in broad bands of rose and white cotton thread and having an elasticity and sturdiness that is a tribute to the skill of the weavers. The workshops still produce gold filigree pendants and chains of exquisite artistry, rich in Mayan motifs. From the shells of huge tortoises hauled from the sea are fashioned fantastically beautiful ornaments inlaid with mother of

pearl. Bracelets, earrings, and necklaces bear witness to the creative artistry of the craftsmen; especially fine are the magnificent tortoise combs that are still a basic part of the costume of the Mayan girl. With some of the most precious woods in the world available here, the woodcarvers have become masters. Logwood, mahogany, and cedar are used in intricate inlays on massively carved furniture. Rosewood is fashioned into delicate jewel cases, and fine guitars meet the critical appraisal of a musically gifted people.

The economic center of the town is rooted in the market place with its age-old habits. In the cool early mornings the native men and women come in from the outlying districts to set up their stalls. To them it is important not only to sell but also to exchange confidences, and gossip, and discuss the news of the day with the townspeople. The market is a folkway, an integral part of their lives, multifaceted in its social and economic relationship with the community. Even if he were offered a fabulous price, the *paisano* would no more forego the activity of market day than he would fore-

go the celebration of a fiesta. His philosophy is a far cry from the stereotype of commercial industrialism; it has always been focused upon living. And, despite the insecurity and poverty of his life, he possesses a dignity and humanity that dwellers in northern lands often seem to have overlooked.

As you enter the market place, waves of color and smell fight for dominance. Piles of red snapper, pompano, and baby shark, caught that morning in the gulf, line the tables. The rich fruits of the tropics, papaya, mango, guava, and a variety of others foreign to the northern palate, are there in abundance. The drama of the market lies in its sudden contrasts. Upturned tortoises writhe grotesquely in their shells while sinister black vultures form a funereal ring around them. Brillo and Nescafé mingle with earthen water jars and Oaxaca ware. And the white embroidered *huipiles* of the Mayan women stand out in classic relief against the monotonies of prints and cotton calicoes.

Saturday is the grand market day in Campeche. It carries an air of festivity



CAMPECHE

Campeche, a colonial town on the Caribbean, is still redolent of the past.

Courtesy of Luisa Gregory



Courtesy of Luisa Gregory

THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

The old palace stands on the plaza where townspeople, young and old, take their nightly stroll.

that is characterized by the profusion of color and variety. Although we came at seven in the morning in order to get the choice offerings, we were met by such a throng of marketgoers that we thought that we were at a fiesta. With a courage born of a lack of knowledge, we slung our baskets over our shoulders and waded in. Wandering from stall to stall, we received our first lesson in shrewd trading. Bargaining is part of the tradition of the market. A respected custom which tests the mental agility and confidence of the buyer and seller, it has a ritual and orthodoxy which must be observed. The face of the buyer must be impassive, his attitude non-committal. For once he shows his interest, he is lost. If he is indiscreet enough to be visibly enthusiastic he must pay the price for having forfeited the initiative. If, on the other hand, the sale is conducted with restraint and finesse the results are usually well worth the technique employed.

The market spills out in an overflow of pots and pans that is halted only by the

armed sentry guarding the Governor's palace. The palace, close to the market place, is the seat of Government, and very literally so, for every Campechano sits beneath its Spanish portals at one time or another, seeking shelter from the noonday tropical sun. The Governor's Palace also serves as the central bus depot for the local *camión* or *guagua*. And here are always to be seen little family groups, laden down with baskets of edibles and household supplies, comfortably chattering away the intervals between bus arrivals. Technically buses run on a half-hour schedule but the schedule is very elastic. Getting into and staying on the bus requires the agility of a mountain goat. For the aisles are perilously piled high with packages of all descriptions. Apparently there are no laws that limit the size and type of transportable articles. Piles of potatoes and onions find equal favor with huge twisted ox-horns and leaking pots of soup.

The bus leaves the square and turns into the long wide avenue that separates the

local dwellings from the sea. The unexpected sweep of the blue-green gulf spreads to the far horizon and the eye is filled with its grandeur. There is a quality of unreality about the suddenness with which the vista springs into view—on one side the commonplace of the town, on the other the magic beauty of an unending sea. On the right the wharf jets out to meet the white-sailed cargo ships steaming in from Veracruz, and running in amicable embrace with the sea is the promenade shaded by the tall, gracious coconut palms and the sturdy broad-leaved fig trees.

The long line of the promenade is broken by a huge mass of ruins which upon closer inspection emerges as a part of the old system of fortresses around the city. The Government has pressed it into service as a barracks for the use of the soldiers. The practicality of the people has saved it from the fate of uselessness and decay to which most historical monuments are doomed; the thatched roofs perched high above the turrets show a friendly disregard for the mustiness of antiquity.

The bus route takes us to the barrio of San Román, a suburb at the back of the city. Here an almost perfect fortress still stands. When the pirates were repulsed from Campeche they swung around to lay siege to the rich prize of San Román. The inhabitants were forced to build strong high walls with a wide moat to protect the citadel. The moat, reminiscent of Sir Walter Scott's tales, still encircles the fortress and although now dry and unused lends an air of romance to the gates of the barrio. A wide avenue of flamboyants glowing against the sky en-

phasizes this feeling. The houses of San Román lead away from the moat.

Over a hundred years ago Campeche was a flourishing port and ships from all over the world would put in for repairs. Because of the precious wood that is found in abundance here, it was a center for shipbuilding. Its famous dockyards built and repaired the vessels that roamed the seas from Europe to North and South America. Its world-famous sailors frequently were graduates of the illustrious Nautical Schools of Spain. The wealthy of Campeche lived in San Román. Their houses were famous for the beauty and the richness of their interiors. Even today, these homes contain the treasures brought from the shores of France. Empire mirrors, Sèvres vases, delicate porcelains, and giant breakfronts can be glimpsed through the high open windows, and the classic formality of marble floors and spacious rooms provides a graceful setting for the art of another age.

For the "art of another age" is the *leit-motif* of Campeche. Its low, flat-topped houses, its narrow winding streets and Churrigueresque churches; the ancient plazas lined with bougainvillea and flamboyants; the sunken hulls of pirate ships in the harbor; the quaint blue water carts and the shops of the craftsmen; all these serve to pull time backward and link it to the tempo of another era. It may be that the spread of industrialism will break the spell that binds Campeche to the habits and the customs of its forbears and to its moats and buttressed ramparts. Until then, it remains a slumbering paradise rich with "remembrance of things past."



THE CATHEDRAL AND NATIONAL PALACE, MANAGUA

Planes making a round-trip cross-country flight between the capital and the Atlantic coast return in six and a half hours.

Air Excursion in Nicaragua

EDWARD HEILIGER

Former Librarian, American Library in Managua

"This next airport we're coming into is unique. First I have to take a deep dip to the left, then one to the right, hit the downhill landing strip at the very beginning, and then brake with everything I've got. We don't go into this place if there is more than a five-mile tailwind. It is a one-way airport. We always have to come in and go out the same way."

The pilot spoke these words with his hand cupped over his mouth in my direction. The noise in the cockpit was considerable. I ducked out of the co-pilot's seat and finding my way back to where ordinary people ought to be, I waited for the landing with my face glued to a window. Everything went as the pilot had said, but we were very close to the ground in



MOMOTOMBO AND LAKE MANAGUA

Lake Nicaragua and Lake Managua, which is smaller, look together somewhat like a figure 8.

the doing. We narrowly missed a cow that was feeding on the air strip. When I stepped out of the plane I was startled to find the propeller of the plane was only some ten feet from the embankment that ended the field.

If you asked a Nicaraguan which of two men was a Nicaraguan and which a Costa Rican, he would indicate the Nicaraguan as a "Nica" and the Costa Rican as a "Tico." When Nicaragua started its new airline a few months ago, people called it "La NICA." They hired Americans as local manager, operations manager, and pilots. The co-pilots are Nicaraguans. They bought American planes (Boeing B247's, Pratt and Whitney engines) and began service to all parts of Nicaragua.

My two years in Nicaragua have been spent along the populous Pacific side of the country. About two-thirds of the country is in the Atlantic watershed.

This area is largely unsettled and much of it is unexplored. I was surprised to learn that between breakfast and lunch on one day I could visit two gold mines, cross the country to Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic coast, go south to Bluefields, and fly back across the entire country to Managua. So this is the story of a morning off in modern Nicaragua.

The *National Geographic* man who was down here several years ago aptly titled his photogenic report *Land of Lakes and Volcanoes*. As our plane swung around to set its course to the east and begin the morning's flight, it floated across the neck of a figure 8 formed by two large lakes. The one to the south, Lake Nicaragua, is the largest fresh-water lake between Lake Michigan and Lake Titicaca. It has the only fresh-water sharks in the world. Near the center of the lake is a high symmetrically shaped volcano called "Con-

cepción," which has been in active eruption for about a year.

The smaller northern lake, Lake Managua, was very blue. Momotombo, its large volcano, which rests on the north shore of the lake, was not smoking. Its cone projected sharply above the horizon, while to the west its smaller brother, Momotombito, barely touched the horizon.

Looking below, we saw the highway going back into Managua from the airport. The shadow of the plane travelled with us, growing smaller as we gained altitude. As we rounded the end of the lake, we passed over a house surrounded by a square of very tall palms. Our eyes followed the path of the highway as it left the lake's edge and climbed up into the hills, and we took a backward glance at Lake Managua and counted only three very small boats on the whole lake.

On clear days the view across the lake from Managua to the northeast is arresting. The distant hills have an unreal appearance, reminding one of the old illustrations in the Jules Verne books. When we passed over these hills, I noticed they were bare and red. A few minutes later the pilot pointed below and said that judging from the contours the land was rich in minerals. It is used as ranch land now. The farms of the country are largely concentrated near León and Chinandega.

Fifteen minutes after taking off we were flying in the cool air at 7,000 feet, traveling 140 miles per hour. The pilot offered me the co-pilot's seat. He pointed out a distant mountain peak which he used as a landmark on clear days. It rose directly behind Bonanza Mine and is called Cola Blanca (white tail). The pilot calls it Cathedral Mountain, because of its shape. We were heading about thirty degrees northeast. About twenty minutes after take-off he pointed out a large open area to the right which had the unusual virtue

of offering a place to land in case of trouble. The Nicaraguan co-pilot named a small village ahead "Muy Muy" (very very). Later, on the map, I spotted an even smaller town not far from there called "Muy Muy Viejo" (very very old) which is more satisfactory to the human mind that always seeks an answer.

We had started from the airport at 7:30 a. m., and shortly after 9 o'clock we crossed a large wooded valley. The Río Grande winds across the valley and gives the mahogany-hunters a way to get their lumber down to the Atlantic. Mountains were ahead. Smaller valleys to the north had clouds lying in them. We were flying at 7,300 feet and the pilot said he often went to nine and ten thousand feet to clear the 7,000-foot mountains ahead. The co-pilot pointed to a large escarpment to the right ahead, and declared that there was enough water power on that slope for electricity for all of Nicaragua, if proper development were made. He called it "Musun." I looked at it, and made reservations for his mental exuberance.

The pilot, a young fellow who had been brought up in St. Joseph, Missouri, and whose family now lives in Miami, told me something of the joy of flying in Central America. After five years of flying with TACA, he had gone to the States attracted by an offer to be a test-pilot for Boeing. After eight months of routine "boring" work testing B29's, he decided to join La NICA. Thinking now of that one-way airport at the Siuna gold mine, I can understand the charm of an aviator's life in this "new" country.

While he was regaling me with accounts of the boiling area in Lake Nicaragua, which was now occasionally throwing water 200 feet in the air (a year ago Jimmy Angel told me of a similar place in Lake Managua, but never of such strong action), we were losing sight of Concepción and

Momotombo. They were barely visible to the rear and the mine at Siuna was barely visible ahead. The time was 8:13. To the north a high distant range of mountains in Honduras could be seen. The Tuma, a branch of the famous Prinzipolka River, was below in a heavily wooded unsettled area. Our altitude was 6,100 and our speed 154. ". . . and I think these small earthquakes we have been having lately and Concepción's eruptions and this activity in the lake are all going to add up to something big. Perhaps we will have a new volcano come up out of the lake, or another big earthquake like that one in 1931."

At 8:24 the co-pilot pointed to a mountain about 25 degrees off our course to the north (we were still going about 30° northeast) and identified what he claimed was the highest mountain in Nicaragua.

The pilot pointed below and off to the west and south and said that an American corporation had recently taken over about 500 square miles of this unexplored country.

Suddenly, ahead and below us, a silvery winged shape approached. It was the TACA plane coming up from the mines to which we were going. Our pilot dipped his wings gently in greeting and in a matter of seconds they had passed. Below us was a curious sugar loaf formation with vertical strata. The mine was close at hand. After hearing about the difficulties of this airport, already recounted, I went back into the plane to wait.

The only way to get into Siuna is by air. A new airport is almost ready to open. The rock used to make the airstrip has gold in it, but not enough to make processing worthwhile. So, although the landing strip isn't solid gold, there is basis for a joke. Someone said it has been called the "Million dollar airport" because it cost so much to build it.

In five minutes some straw-hatted boys had taken the freight out of the nose of the plane and we were on our way to Bonanza. As we rose I could see the town and then the red-roofed mine buildings. The pilot pointed out the manager's house at my request. I had talked to the manager, Frank Cameron, in Managua the day before. He had said that they took one of the smaller buildings for their house so that a hospital and other facilities for everyone's use could have the larger places. From the air it looked far more pleasant than any other mining community I have ever seen.

The pilot said the Bonanza mine was twenty minutes ahead, but we spent only fourteen minutes from take-off to landing. It was over very mountainous country, and the air was rough. There is a trail connecting Siuna and Bonanza; I should like to know how long it takes to make the trip on horse or mule. We passed over a dam and power plant. The high mountain back of Bonanza makes the air current act to keep an approaching plane up, so we had to make an almost complete circle before landing. The airstrip was very narrow and short, but it was two-way. The red tin roof of the airport building had BONANZA in white letters on it. Outside was a pile of mill balls and a regiment of cyanide cans. A palm-thatched hut was on the other side of the landing strip.

"Forty minutes due east, and we shall be in Puerto Cabezas." Considering the winds we met, his 2-minute-off prediction was pretty good. We passed over the dirty grey town and the red-roofed mine buildings at Bonanza. When we had cleared the mountain, a great level wooded country that seemed endless spread out ahead of us and to the south and north. A semi-circle of clouds faced us. "Watch 'em grow. That's why it's rough." Off



Photograph CIAA

A FARM IN NICARAGUA

The Pacific side of the country is populous, but the Atlantic watershed is largely unsettled.

to the right below was a Moravian mission. The pilot said he usually went north to Waspan on the Río Coco, but today we were going directly to Puerto Cabezas. Waspan is a rice-growing area and has a Catholic mission. I met some American sisters a few weeks ago who were on their way to Waspan. It seemed the end of the world to me then, and it still does.

This huge flat area below extends from Costa Rica to Guatemala. The possibilities for future settlement must be great. About 9:30 we noted the "Banana Farm." It is an abandoned United Fruit Company effort. The Panama rust forced the removal. We were flying 150 miles per hour at 3,650 feet altitude. The pilot was telling me something of the history of smuggling in the area north of us, par-

ticularly at Cape Gracias a Dios (thus named by Columbus). The sight of Puerto Cabezas ahead changed the conversation to the airport we were about to descend upon. It is the finest airport in Nicaragua and has 6,000 feet of runway. It was put in for U. S. Army antisubmarine patrol work, but was never used for that.

As we were coming down gradually, I made note that at 9:37 at 3,100 feet the outside temperature was 70 degrees. At 9:45 at 2,200 feet, the outside temperature was 78 degrees. On the ground, I only know it was hot.

An exceptionally strong north wind made it impossible to use the main east-west runway. We tried, then we circled over the large savannah below, out over the ocean, and in over the town. The

beach looked fine, but no one was swimming. I was standing behind the pilot and co-pilot. The former seemed worried about the landing and told me to brace myself well. The shaking we got from that wind when landing was more than I expected, though, and I was thrown off my feet. It was 9:58, exactly two and a half hours after the take-off in Managua.

The airport men who hurried around the plane unloading baggage, etc., were negroes, not Indians as in Managua. They all spoke both Spanish and English. English is the dominant language along the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. The manager of the airport is a negro who graduated from a Y. M. C. A. school in Cleveland. He told me about the oil drilling going on north of Puerto Cabezas and

what it might mean to the city, and about the richness of the country up the Prinzapolka River. Another man (that I talked to had more pessimistic views: "The land around here is no good. Those army barracks have never been used. That old barracks over there was used by the Marines."

The NICA plane that left Managua when we did, but was coming via Bluefields, was to take me on its return trip. It arrived at 11:10. The operations manager, Wynn, was at the controls. He used the main strip and managed to land, but he admitted it was very difficult. About 600 pounds of air freight for Siuna was transferred to the plane I had come in on and two passengers boarded the plane, which started back for Managua via the



Photograph: CIAA

SURFACE GOLD MINING

Air transport has greatly stimulated the working of Nicaragua's rich gold deposits.



AIR VIEW OF NICARAGUA

mines as we had come. The plane was gassed up by a new-type gas pump that lifted some 35 gallons a minute from the large cans below into the gas tank. The pump was light and required no priming. Wynn was charmed with it.

We took off into the wind on the short runway and settled before the wind, which now became a help instead of a hindrance. We flew over the ocean, watching the sandy palm-lined beach. Every few minutes we would see a palm-thatched village with a dozen or so widely separated houses. The villages were cleaned of brush and had about as many tall palms as houses. The arms of the sea made many lagoons, islands, and bays.

We passed three large river openings on the way down and each had its town. After the take-off at 11:41, we passed the Cuculaya River at 11:58, the Grande at 12:15, and the Escondido at 12:32. These rivers stretch away into the seemingly endless wooded area. From about 12:17 to 12:28 we went the length of a large bay called Laguna de las Perlas (Lagoon of the Pearls).

Favored by the wind, we made this 148 miles to Bluefields in 59 minutes. Going up a few hours before, the trip had taken an hour and twenty minutes. The airfield in Bluefields is the poorest at any of the large ports in Nicaragua. It is downhill and short. It is necessary to hit the

strip at the beginning and brake hard. I had hoped to hear some of the famous Bluefields English, but we stayed only a few minutes. What little I had heard in Managua from Bluefields visitors had quite a twang and a limited vocabulary. Rising over the town, we saw that the houses had yards rather than patios, and very little seemed to be going on anywhere. The rusty corrugated roofs and the lack of good beach were made up for, from my bird's-eye view, by the quantity of beautiful green grass around the houses.

The Escondido River, which we followed after leaving Bluefields, is part of a new main artery of traffic that is being established across Nicaragua. At Rama, where the river divides into two branches, the road begins, and it goes through to Managua. We covered the stretch from Bluefields to Rama in twenty minutes, but saw only three boats (one flatboat and two canoes). By boat it takes some five hours at least, I am told. The "Rama Road" looms large in the country's thinking and is just about ready to do its work. The country between Bluefields and Rama looked like jungle. Only a few clearings were cut out here and there, mostly along the river. Because of the thick verdure, much of the country looked like a close-packed head of cauliflower, only green in color.

Whenever we passed over a small cloud, I noticed that we caused a rainbow-like circle to appear on the cloud. The shadow of the plane was always in the center of the circle.

Soon after we left Rama the mountains came into view, with Concepción in the distance. The northern branch of the river grew small. I became intent on timing the eruptions of Concepción. They came about every seven minutes. Several months ago, when I was timing it from a place near Rivas, the giant puffs came every three minutes. Early this year, when my wife flew over the volcano with Jimmy Angel, a huge rock apparently about the size of a small house was blown high into the sky near them.

As we neared Lake Nicaragua, at a point not far from Concepción, towns began to appear. The largest of them was Juigalpa with its gridiron pattern of tile roofs. We reached the lake flying at 6,000 feet, and Momotombo showed directly ahead of us. The Pacific Ocean was clearly visible. We left the lake before going far enough around to fly over Granada. After a last look at Concepción as it gave another puff, we began to lose altitude. The shadow of the plane was growing larger as we passed over the house with the square of tall palms. We hit the ground at 1:59, six and one-half hours from coast to coast and back.

This airline is no doubt a sample of many that are opening up land-locked areas in Latin America. The men that are operating them are doing pioneer work of the first importance. Tourists from the States will find them useful in visiting out-of-the-way spots that are often much more interesting than those on the traditional "tour" routes.

Streamlined English

The Teaching of English to Students from Latin America in the English Language Institute of the University of Michigan

A. D. THIESSEN

Librarian, Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization

BECAUSE of the great advances in teaching and research in the United States of America during the last few decades, and because also of the great increase in prestige arising from American participation in the war against the Axis powers, many more students than ever before have begun coming to American universities. Many of these students are coming from the Latin American countries. They enter every faculty and every profession, from that of Library Administration to Public Health, in an effort to acquire a knowledge of United States methods and later to introduce them in their native countries.

American universities demand that foreign students shall have a knowledge of English sufficient to enable them to profit

from attendance at lectures, and most of the students that come have about one year's training in English of the usual academic standard. Many teachers felt that this was inadequate, and as these students are here either on scholarships or under their own steam—in any case, are spending or having much money spent on them—they urged that something be done to increase the English ability of these visitors.

After consultation with the State Department at Washington in 1938, members of the English Department of the University of Michigan agreed to receive students from foreign countries, particularly from Latin America, for a two months' intensive course in English language instruction.

DR. CHARLES C. FRIES

Dr. Fries is noted for remarkable principles of teaching English to foreign students.



Courtesy of the University of Michigan

Dr. Charles C. Fries, a professor of English in the University of Michigan, has been from the beginning the dynamo charging this system, and under his direction a large and able staff of teachers has been recruited and trained to develop and apply some of the quite remarkable principles of language teaching inspired by him. Of course, Dr. Fries has his experience as editor of the *Early Modern English Dictionary* and the researches of the Linguistic Institute to support him in his language work, but his originality and skill, and the enthusiasm he inspires in both students and teachers, are some of the strongest factors making for the undoubted success of this experiment.

Perhaps the next greatest reason for the success of the English Language Institute of the University of Michigan is the fact that for two months all the language resources of Dr. Fries and his staff are combined with the will and energy of the Latin American students in a full-time effort to acquire a working knowledge of English. The University has provided an "English House" for its foreign visitors, and at all times, particularly at meal-times, there is a large number of persons on hand to speak English well in an endeavor to translate American living into English language experience.

Another factor was Dr. Fries's discovery that there is a shortest distance between two points, if you know what the two points are. In this instance the two points are: *a*, the language habits of Spanish-speaking persons, and *b*, the language habits of English-speaking persons. These have never been carefully scrutinized before. As a result of this study a large body of words and expressions, in English, that resemble words and expressions already used by the visitors in their own language, was gathered. Difficulties arising from unequal analogy were

anticipated and guarded against, by avoiding the use of certain expressions until they had been prepared for.

Older methods were tried and adapted, not rejected. Grammar is still being taught, but only the kind that matters. Philosophical subtleties and niceties have no place in a curriculum that aims at "getting there" without delay. Word order was found to be a more important subject of attention than the difference between the predicate nominative and the predicate adjective. Instead of wasting the pupils' time with such words as "Am-oamasamatamamusamatisamant," from which can be extracted the language of love if one knows how, it was found more useful to teach whole sentences like the following: "I like you very much," indicating carefully the rise and fall of the voice, and the delicate crescendo and diminuendo in various parts of such a sentence. Grasping the voice or tone pattern of English was found to be more important in quick apprehension of meaning than an exact knowledge of sentence structure. The caress in the voice, as it differs in English and Spanish, has to be learned, as well as the phrasing.

It has long been known that tone pattern and rhythm play an important part in conveying meaning; but most people have felt that these are instinctive, and, therefore, more or less the same in all languages. A careful study of these tone patterns in both English and Spanish was made at Ann Arbor, and as a result of these investigations a limited number of them was selected from English for use in language drill. The effect, both in helping the Latin Americans to understand English and in helping them to make themselves understood, was remarkable. However, a very surprising phenomenon has been observed in students who take the two months' course and then spend two years



Courtesy of the University of Michigan

JAMES B. ANGELL HALL

Since 1938 more than 600 Latin Americans have been trained in the two months' intensive English course at the University of Michigan.

in the United States in pursuit of their course of study. A number of these students come to Ann Arbor again just before returning to their own country, and, from language tests applied at that time, it has been found that while the students have not lost any of the intonation patterns taught them two years ago, they have *not* acquired any new ones, even though their command of English may have increased very greatly.

The old academic grammar and translation method has long been known to be slow. The direct method, while plunging straight into the stream of spoken language, produces results only partially sat-

isfactory. With it, after the first thrills, progress becomes laborious and unsure. Basic English, too, offers much that at first is very valuable. Its word list of 800 to 850 units is well chosen; and the introduction of "operators," words that mean little in themselves, but are necessary to express an action, was a great contribution. But confinement to such a list is restricting and also misleading. The innocent-looking word "set," for example, is one of the 800, but upon investigation it is found to have at least 174 distinct meanings of its own. Very soon the English-aspirant discovers this disconcerting fact and begins to make mental multiplication of 800 by numbers

all the way up to 174, and suspects that he has been "gypped."

In Michigan the direct method is used, combined with other methods. The composite method may be called the oral method. The pupils learn by speaking and being spoken to. They are told the Spanish equivalents of English words and sentences, if necessary to save time; and there are lessons in grammar and a certain amount of translation, although oral composition in English is preferred to translation. The subject content of the course has been carefully compiled to provide English suited to the immediate mental environment of the students whose origin and aim are known. Well-planned drills emphasize points that carefully elaborated tests have found to be important. Each student has the benefit of being taught by several teachers, and therefore of hearing a variety of English speech; and, of course, the colloquial approach, rather than the bookish, is constantly remembered.

One point of drill arises from the well known fact that in Spanish there are only five vowel sounds. English has eleven and French as many as nineteen. It is obvious that the shortest distance between French and English is considerably different from that between Spanish and English. A person accustomed to making only five vowel sounds will pronounce them carelessly, allowing himself wide latitude and lack of precision. In such a language the little letter *i* will represent a sound something like English *ee*, and a Latin American, speaking, as he thinks, very carefully, will pronounce the English word *live* as *leev*, while on another occasion, when a similar word occurs he might pronounce *leave* as *liv*. In his own language the distinction is not significant. Naturally, a great deal of attention is paid to drill in the pronunciation of vowel

sounds. At first many of the students are not even aware of a difference in sounds the distinction of which seems vital to an English ear. There is a long distance between some of these points.

The application of scientific method in the study and teaching of language is of recent origin, and American teachers have reason to be proud of their war time achievement, when large numbers of Americans were trained quickly in the languages of many Axis countries to the specific end of winning an important war quickly. The Linguistic Society of America deserves the praise that has been accorded its contribution to the war effort; but to Dr. Charles C. Fries and his loyal and energetic staff goes the credit for applying new and original methods to an old but persistent problem.

Since 1938 more than 600 persons from the Latin American countries have been trained in the two months' course at the University of Michigan. A set of textbooks has been written for the especial benefit of speakers of Spanish and Portuguese origin. Among the students who have come to Ann Arbor, Michigan, have been high ranking civil servants, heads of university and government departments, distinguished teachers and doctors, cabinet ministers, and, perhaps, almost as important as these known men and women, there are those other persons of great promise who have yet to make their mark and appear likely to do so. All of these persons receive the same democratic attention and undergo the same drills in vocabulary building, pronunciation, intonation and grammar; are subjected to the same language tests; and, of course, they profit to the full extent of their ability, having the benefit of a carefully planned program that eliminates, as only scientific method can, the old blind alleys, and chooses the short-cuts.

William V. Griffin Retires from Service

WILLIAM V. GRIFFIN, Chief Clerk, who began his work for the newly organized Pan American Union in 1890, as a boy of fifteen, retired at the end of 1945 after 55 years of active service. On December 29 the staff of the Pan American Union assembled in the office of the Director General to do honor to Mr. Griffin and to join in the good wishes which Dr. Rowe voiced in the following words:

We have gathered here to-day to express our farewells and our warm felicitations to our friend and fellow-worker William V. Griffin, Chief Clerk of the Pan American Union, who is retiring after 55 years of loyal service to this institution.

Mr. Griffin came to the Pan American Union a few months after it was created by the First International American Conference. Thus it has been his privilege to accompany the Union from its earliest beginnings and through the years in which it has been achieving the important position it now occupies in the concert of the American nations. Few indeed are the men who have had the honor of serving so long and so faithfully an institution destined to draw together the peoples of a whole continent.

Mr. Griffin:

As you retire to enjoy the well-earned rest to which all good workers are entitled, we wish you to know that with you go our heartfelt wishes for your personal happiness in the years to come.

At the same time it gives me great pleasure to place in your hands this gift,¹ which we hope will bring you many hours of enjoyment, and which carries with it the assurance of our deep regard for you.

After a few words from the Assistant Director, Dr. Pedro de Alba, the company adjourned to the Gallery of the Heroes, where Mr. Griffin was guest of honor at a luncheon tendered by the members of the staff.

¹ A complete set of golf clubs.



The Governing Board of the Pan American Union passed the following resolution at its meeting on January 9, 1946:

WHEREAS, Mr. William V. Griffin on December 31st last retired as Chief Clerk of the Pan American Union after more than fifty years of loyal and devoted service to the organization, and

WHEREAS, during his long career covering the entire period of the institution, Mr. Griffin showed unwavering loyalty and rendered outstanding service to the Pan American Union,

The Governing Board of the Pan American Union

RESOLVES:

1. To extend to Mr. Griffin the warm thanks and deep appreciation of the Board for his many years of faithful service and for the invaluable

contributions he has rendered, both to the institution and to the cause of Pan Americanism.

2. To place this resolution on the minutes of the Board, and send a copy thereof to Mr. Griffin.

All the members of the Pan American Union staff, new and old, regretted Mr. Griffin's departure from their daily life.

His uprightness and devotion to duty, his kindly interest in every one, his ready wit, and especially his helpfulness in advancing young people who, like himself, entered the staff in a minor capacity, left memories pleasant to recall and an example worthy of being followed.



Women of the Americas

Notes from the Inter-American Commission of Women

The Chairman's activities

SRTA. Minerva Bernardino, the chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, attended the first Assembly of the United Nations in London as a delegate of her country, the Dominican Republic. She was one of the few women to be honored by such an appointment. This is the third international conference that Srta. Bernardino has attended in the same capacity within the last year.

Before going to London, Srta. Bernardino made a visit to her native country, where she was fêted by a number of women's organizations. At a ceremony that took place in the University, she created an annual prize in memory of her sister, Dr. Consuelo Bernardino, which will give financial assistance to the best woman student of gynecology.

Argentina

In 1945 several groups of Argentine women were formed for the purpose of instructing women on the evolution of social and political principles designed to promote

world organization. Among these are the Centro Femenino de Cultura Cívica and the Centro de Educación Cívica de la Mujer. These centers offered a series of lectures by outstanding authorities who, after their talks, answered questions from the audience. Among the topics discussed were the Argentine constitution, democracy, international conferences, women in the postwar world, and the social, political, and legal status of Argentine women. Such lectures have been largely attended, not only in Buenos Aires, but also in other cities, reports the Argentine member of the Commission.

Bolivia

The Bolivian Embassy in Washington has informed the Inter-American Commission of Women that among the important changes which have been introduced into the Bolivian constitution are some that improve the legal status of women. Among these are the right to vote and hold office in municipalities, the juridical equality of husband and wife, a family subsidy based on the number of children, the principal

of investigation of paternity, and the legal equality of legitimate and illegitimate children.

Brazil

The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the scene of a meeting several months ago attended by the Minister, by Dr. Osorio Dutra, Chief of the Division of Intellectual Cooperation, by Professor Pedro Calmón, a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, and by several women who have long been known for their leadership in the Brazilian feminist movement. The Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that Brazil had every intention of giving women representation in the diplomatic services and in the various government departments.

Dr. Pedro Calmón reviewed the steps taken in favor of women at the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace held last year in Mexico City and made special mention of the part played by the Brazilian delegation in connection with the Inter-American Commission of Women and the inter-American system.

A committee which will be advisory to Srta. Leontina Licinio Cardoso, the Brazilian member of the Commission, was formed. It consists of Dr. Bertha Lutz, Dr. Maria Lourdes Pinto Ribeiro, Dr. Orminda Bastos, Sra. Jerónima Mesquita, Sra. Maria Eugénia Celso, Sra. América Xavier da Silveira, Sra. Zuleika Lintz (a consul), and Srta. Cora Cobo and will meet in the Foreign Office.

Cuba

Cuba was represented at the International Congress of Women held in Paris last November by five delegates appointed by the government: Nila Ortega, labor representative; Uldarica Mañas of the Lyceum (a well known club); Mercedes Alemán, a lawyer; Herminia del Portal, a journalist; and Lola Soldevilla de Mujals, a government representative.

Dominican Republic

Last December there was held at Santiago de los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic the Second Congress of Dominican Women. This took place three years after women in that country entered upon the full exercise of their political rights. It was opened by the President's wife, Sra. María Martínez de Trujillo. Srta. Minerva Bernardino, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and Sra. Amalia C. de Castillo Ledón, the Mexican member of the Commission, who were visiting the Dominican Republic, were elected honorary presidents of the Congress.

A number of resolutions were passed. Congratulations were sent to Cordell Hull and to Gabriela Mistral, to whom the Nobel Peace Prize and Prize for Literature were awarded last year.

Panama

In Panama City the National Union of Women has opened some evening courses in adult education.

Pan American Union NOTES

THE GOVERNING BOARD

Approaching conferences

THE Government of Colombia has chosen December of this year as the time for the meeting in Bogotá of the Ninth International Conference of American States. In accordance with custom, the Governing Board of the Pan American Union has appointed a committee of its members to draft a program and the regulations for this important assembly.

The Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Continental Peace and Security will take place at Rio de Janeiro at a date still to be fixed. This conference will implement a provision of the Act of Chapultepec by drawing up a treaty against aggression by an American or non-American nation against the peace and security of an American republic.

June 1, 1946 is the date set by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union for the convening of the Inter-American Conference of Experts on Copyright Protection. It will meet at Washington. It is hoped to reconcile the various provisions in existing instruments on this subject, to add others applicable to modern conditions, and to incorporate the results in an inter-American convention.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Third Pan American Conference of Agriculture, the Board has recommended that an Inter-American Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources meet at Washington in June of next year. The

Government of the United States will issue the invitations.

The Inter-American Economical and Social Council

The following committees of the Council have been appointed:

- COMMITTEE I—PRODUCTION
Delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Guatemala.
- COMMITTEE II—COMMERCE
Delegates of Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the United States.
- COMMITTEE III—TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM
Delegates of Brazil, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- COMMITTEE IV—FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CREDITS
Delegates of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.
- COMMITTEE V—SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND LABOR
Delegates of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
- COMMITTEE VI—COORDINATION AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTER-AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Delegates of Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.
- COMMITTEE VII—ADMINISTRATION
Delegates of Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and the Dominican Republic.
- COMMITTEE VIII—SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENEMY PROPERTY
Delegates of Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Mexico, and the United States.

Frequent meetings of the committees have been held.

The Americas and the War

THIS LIST was begun in the April 1942 number of the BULLETIN, and is now concluded as of V-J Day, September 2, 1945.

BOLIVIA

48a. April 10, 1945. Presidential Decree requiring the declaration of stocks of crude, semi-manufactured, or manufactured rubber, providing that shipping permits must be obtained by holders of such stocks for their transportation from

one part of the country to another, and making other pertinent provisions. (*Boletín Comercial, La Paz*, October 15, 1945.)

COLOMBIA

167a. July 31, 1945. Resolution No. 489, National Price Control Office, extending the authority of the National Price Control Office over rents (see Colombia 90f, Bulletin, March and April 1944) to cities of 5,000 or more inhabitants. (*Diario Oficial*, September 24, 1945.)



Pan American News

Message of the President of Bolivia

ON AUGUST 6, 1945, President Gualberto Villarroel of Bolivia delivered a state-of-the-nation message to Congress, covering Government activities during the preceding year.

In outlining Bolivia's foreign relations during this period, President Villarroel stressed the country's participation in the various international conferences, and its close cooperation with the other American republics and with the United Nations. An important agreement was signed with Argentina on communications and oil, and the demarcation of the Bolivian-Argentine and the Bolivian-Paraguayan

frontiers was brought to virtual completion. Steps were taken toward the resumption of diplomatic relations with Italy, and on April 18, 1945, diplomatic relations were opened with Russia.

Turning to domestic affairs, the President spoke at length on the activities of the Ministry of National Economy. He pointed out this Ministry's attempts to alleviate the commercial difficulties, caused by the war, by lightening internal trade restrictions, cooperating in the distribution of imported goods, and providing credit to assist in the purchase of vital commodities. In 1944 exports amounted to \$77,554,000 (U. S. cy.), and imports to \$42,076,000, giving a favorable balance of \$35,478,000.

Tin exports in the first half of 1945 amounted to 21,496 tons as compared with the 17,505 tons exported during the same period in 1944. However, the production of wolfram, antimony, lead, zinc, and sulphur decreased during the first half of 1945.

In spite of the difficulties in obtaining necessary equipment, petroleum production reached 6,174,000 gallons during the first six months of 1945—a slight increase over the amount produced in the corresponding period in 1944.

The Mining Bank extended its activities favoring the development of small-scale mining. Small mining enterprises exported 3,200 tons of tin in 1943, and increased the amount to 3,573 tons in 1944. The Registry of Mines listed 8,276 concessions for the year, covering over 1,000,000 acres. Concessions for gold-bearing deposits numbered 755.

The Government continued its efforts to stimulate and protect national industry, guaranteeing to manufacturers the sale of their products at remunerative prices. Registered industrial establishments now total 1,232, and the value of industrial production rose from 881,701,000 bolivianos in 1943 to 1,009,057,000 bolivianos in 1944. (A boliviano equals approximately \$.024 U. S. cy.) New industries established during 1944 included plants manufacturing edible oils, rubber goods, insecticides, plastic articles, and wooden toys.

The National Quinine Factory was reorganized, and production between August 1944 and June 1945 amounted to 2,205 pounds, valued at \$60,000.

In reviewing the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Colonization, the President called attention to its fruitful research program and to the agricultural scholarships granted for study in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico. The

Service of Agricultural Development continued its work of assisting farmers by facilitating the acquisition at cost of farm machinery, and providing technical advice, seeds, fertilizers, fungicides, and agricultural tools. The National Registry of Lands has made 2,423 concessions of land, covering over 57,394,000 acres.

Serious difficulties in Argentine transportation facilities resulted in the shipping to Bolivia during 1944 of only 48,074 tons of wheat out of an expected 82,680 tons. This situation was somewhat alleviated by the United States Government, which sent 18,578 tons at the same price as Argentine wheat.

In regard to the activities of the Ministry of Finance, President Villarroel stated that treasury receipts during 1944 amounted to 1,277,167,000 bolivianos, and expenditures to 1,275,185,000 bolivianos, leaving a favorable balance of 1,982,000 bolivianos. The 1945 budget was balanced at approximately 1,252,908,000 bolivianos. The President called attention to the inclusion in this budget of 46,430,000 bolivianos for roads, 13,869,500 bolivianos for the support of orphans and other minors, and 70,668,000 bolivianos for pensions for the aged and the infirm, as well as 25,108,000 bolivianos for subsidies for Pension Banks.

Between December 31, 1943 and June 30, 1945, the internal debt was reduced from 739,235,000 bolivianos to 728,490,000 bolivianos. During the same period the external debt decreased from 2,547,231,000 bolivianos to 2,541,678,000 bolivianos. Bolivia had over 29 million dollars of gold and exchange in its Central Bank on June 30, 1945—an increase of more than 10 million dollars over the figure for December 31, 1943.

In spite of the Government's action in limiting state or individual credits in the Central Bank to the amount held on

December 31, 1943, the circulating medium rose from 1,958,000,000 bolivianos on June 30, 1944, to 2,290,000,000 bolivianos on June 30, 1945. This was largely a result of greater purchases of bills of exchange from exporters. In order to decrease these purchases of bills of exchange, the amount of cash holdings required of commercial banks was increased.

The cost-of-living index increased 7 percent between December 1943 and May 1945—a moderate rise in comparison with that which took place in some of the other American republics.

The President emphasized particularly the work of the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Welfare. He pointed out that during the period being reviewed labor unions were stimulated, and national congresses of miners and railroad workers were held, with Government support. Employment offices and free legal services for workers were established in various parts of the country. The Second Workmen's Housing Unit, consisting of 50 houses, each costing only 48,000 bolivianos (about \$1,152), was completed, and several others are in the process of construction.

The remodelled and modernized Oruro Hospital was opened in September 1944, and the hospitals at Capinota, Totora, and Challapata have been virtually completed. The Busch Hospital at Trinidad is also nearly ready for occupancy, and construction is being carried on in many other hospitals throughout the country.

The General Office of Maternity and Social Assistance was created during the period covered by the message, and the first dispensary for mothers and children was set up in Copacabana. Plans have been made for the immediate establishment of others in various parts of the country. Fifty-five students, representing

every department in the republic, are studying nursing on Government scholarships.

In July 1945, 33 contracts were signed with the Inter-American Cooperative Public Health Service, providing for various health services to be carried on with funds appropriated by the United States and Bolivian Governments.

Turning to the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, the President showed that considerable progress had been made in spite of wartime handicaps. A total of 130 miles of roads was completed between August 1944 and August 1945, including the important 26-mile highway between Oruro and Independencia. The mixed Argentine-Bolivian Road Commission began studies in August 1944 on the international highway, Orán-Tarija-Potosí. Important hydroelectric projects are under construction in Sucre, Cochabamba, and Tarija.

Railway construction was advanced on the Vila Vila-Santa Cruz, the Sucre-Camiri, and the Corumbá-Santa Cruz lines. The mixed Bolivian-Brazilian Commission carried on studies for the Cochabamba-Samaipata-Santa Cruz railway.

In reporting on the work of the Ministry of Education, Fine Arts, and Indian Affairs, the President spoke first of the agreement signed with the American Educational Foundation providing for a program of educational cooperation between Bolivia and the United States.

The amount destined for educational purposes in the 1945 budget was 193,521,000 bolivianos, or 15.5 percent of the total. This represents an increase of 14.4 percent over the amount spent for education in 1944.

A complete reorganization of the country's educational system is being studied, and projected general regulations have been prepared to cover education in

general. primary education, secondary education, teaching certificates, and educational conventions; in addition, new plans are being formulated for literacy campaigns, and advanced pedagogical courses.

New schools for Indians have been established throughout the republic, and during the first part of 1945, 326 such schools were founded by the Indians themselves, with their own resources. A General Cooperative Plan on Indian Education submitted by the Government of Peru was studied and returned to Peru with the suggested modifications of the Bolivian Ministry of Education, Fine Arts, and Indian affairs. (See p. 233.) In addition to its educational provisions, this plan includes measures for the development of agriculture and the general improvement of rural living conditions.

The newly-founded Department of Culture, created to coordinate the Government's cultural activities, prepared various cultural extension courses for workers and secondary school students, and organized a National Symphony Orchestra.

Message of the President of Cuba

On September 17, 1945, President Ramón Grau San Martín, who took office on October 10, 1944, submitted to the opening session of the Cuban Congress a report on the first year of his administration. The message covered the executive branch of government in great detail; certain sections of it, relating especially to national economy and progress, are presented here in condensed form.

Since the Cuban Cabinet includes no Minister of Economy, it devolves upon the Treasury Department to handle not only the financial and credit operations of the nation but also the development of the Government's general economic plans

for the stimulation of production and the utilization of national resources. Two definite steps were taken during the year under consideration to advance industrialization: the waiver of import and consular duties and fees on industrial machinery and equipment destined for the development of new industries, for public services, and public works; and a system of broad tax exemptions for new industries during their initial years of operation. These measures are aimed at helping to stimulate enterprise and private initiative and channeling balances accumulated during the war years toward undertakings that will in the long run be of benefit to the entire national economy. Seeking at the same time to coordinate industrial and agricultural development, the Government made the tax exemptions for new industries proportionate to the amount of Cuban raw materials used by the industries. This in turn is expected to lead to increased production of native raw materials and the introduction of new ones, thus achieving eventually a more diversified agriculture to go hand in hand with the new industrialization.

As for national finance, tax collections started out well in 1945. In the first quarter of the year receipts were 12 percent above collections for the same period in 1944. Customs receipts showed an 11.3 percent increase; land taxes increased 33 percent; and the same tendency toward marked increases was shown in national lottery receipts, the tax levied on financial operations, the cement tax, the income and luxury taxes levied in 1942 as a war measure for increasing federal income, and in other miscellaneous special funds. The President reported that a tax reform plan is under study and that a reform would soon be submitted to the consideration of Congress. On June 30, 1945, the national treasury had a balance of 39,332,000 pesos.

The nation's total debt as of June 30, 1945, was 104,706,000 pesos (the Cuban peso is equal to the U. S. dollar), of which 97,488,600 pesos represented foreign debt and the remainder domestic debt. Debt amortization during the first six months of 1945 was 2,915,700 pesos, and on July 15, 1945, bonds amounting to 1,016,700 pesos were redeemed.

Comparing the first six months of the years 1943, 1944, and 1945, the President presented figures showing that Cuba's foreign trade balance was favorable in each of the corresponding periods. In 1945 exports were valued at 255,760,000 pesos and imports at 109,736,000 pesos, which gave a trade balance 208 percent above 1943 and 22 percent above 1944 for the same six-month period. On the basis of these figures, the President forecast that the trade balance for the full year 1945 would reach an unprecedented level. Its increase was due basically to two factors: (1) an increase in exports, particularly sugar and tobacco products; and (2) the restrictions to which exports were subject in Cuba's principal supply markets. The United States was the main market for Cuban goods, having absorbed 76.9 percent of total Cuban exports in the first half of 1945. However, trade with European markets began to improve in 1945, after having fallen to an extremely low point during the war. In the first half of 1943 European markets took 8.5 percent of Cuba's exports; in 1944, 7.0 percent; and in 1945, 14.8 percent, England and the Soviet Union being the principal purchasers. Imports during the first half of 1945 likewise showed an increase in both value and quantity. The total value was 109,736,000 pesos, 22 percent above the same period for 1943 and 11 percent above 1944. Eighty-one percent of imports came from the United States, with Mexico, Argentina, the United Kingdom, and In-

dia supplying a high percentage of the remainder.

The Office of Price Regulation and Supply, a war agency established in May 1942, effectively carried on its task of controlling prices, use, and distribution of articles of prime necessity, said the President, in order to prevent scarcities and an undue increase in the cost of living. The industrial section of the office, concerned with regulating trade in construction materials, had a hard job to do in supplying materials to rebuild and to repair damage done by the hurricane that struck the island in October 1944. Through the efforts of that office, all needed quantities of materials such as building paper, nails, tubing, wire, etc., were made available, in spite of shortages, for use in the afflicted areas.

The President reported that the Ministry of Agriculture, faced not only with the general difficulties resulting from the war but also with one of the gravest droughts in Cuba's history, nevertheless succeeded in reducing the effects of these adverse factors to such a minimum that a most optimistic outlook could be entertained for the near future. Greater agricultural and livestock production was the key note of the Government's general plan. No effort was spared to see that farmers obtained fuel and other necessary materials; farm prices were fixed for many products; fertilizers were widely distributed; and distribution of seeds was made as follows: rice, 1,200,000 pounds; corn, 500,000 pounds; yams, 600,000 pounds; and sweet potatoes, 12,750,000 tubers.

Rice production increased notably in 1945 despite the drought, but the fact that 75 percent of national rice requirements must still be imported makes necessary still more intensive measures to develop domestic production. Peanuts are being developed on a trial basis among small farmers, tenant farmers, and farm owners

in the province of Pinar del Río. Recognizing that a wider use of farm machinery is fundamental to agricultural progress, the President noted that the Ministry of Agriculture is working to aid both large and small farmers in that respect. The Government has taken steps to acquire as soon as possible 130 tractors of various types, as well as a quantity of other farm machinery, to be made available to farmers, especially small farmers, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, at a cost limited to maintenance and operational expenses.

Nor was the stock breeding industry neglected, its development being a part of the general plan for improved production. A cattle census taken in 1944 showed a total of 3,885,141 head, a decrease of 1,464,653 or 27 percent from the total recorded in the 1940 census. As a step toward increased production, a presidential decree prohibited as of September 30, 1945, the slaughter of bulls for public consumption. Campaigns against livestock diseases were unremitting, and outbreaks in various parts of the country were effectively brought under control in 1944-45 by the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture. These and similar measures are expected to help in bringing the livestock industry back to former levels.

A reforestation plan was also carried on, a total of 191,928 young trees having been distributed in 1944-45 by government nurseries.

Figures made available by the Office of Forests, Mines, and Waters showed that in the first six months of 1945, Cuba produced 68,107 tons of copper, of which 13,768 tons were exported. Chromium exports totaled 25,514 tons and manganese 60,150 tons. Naphtha extracted from the Motembo deposits totaled 1,071,795 gallons, and at Jarahuca 1,303,068 gallons of petroleum were produced.

In the field of public education, the President reported that a new study plan for rural schools was in preparation, adjusted to national standards and aims but in harmony with local needs. When completed it will, it is hoped, lead to greater practical returns for the rural pupil. A system of classification for teachers, both urban and rural, was also in progress; a census of unemployed teachers was taken; elementary schools were reclassified; and school equipment in 126 school districts was repaired for use, pending the acquisition of new equipment.

Outstanding in the educational program was the question of the school children's health. Government concern for this important aspect of child welfare found expression in many ways: school lunch rooms were established in many schools throughout the Republic, supplemented by the Nutrition Service, which examines the children, checks on their diet, and watches their physical condition and development; a tuberculosis survey was undertaken in all schools; the number of school dental clinics was increased to 70; in the few places where typhoid and other epidemics occurred, the School Health Service carried on both preventive and educational work, all to good effect; home visits by qualified medical personnel for sick children were started in Habana in April 1945; general health education was conducted regularly through classroom lectures, booklets, and films; and for the first time in Cuba the Government established a social service office for school children, the principal aim of which is to smooth out the difficulties of maladjusted pupils and help them fit into the general educational program.

The 392,689 public primary school pupils registered in 1943-44 increased in 1944-45 to 498,286. Speaking of the percentage of literacy, the President re-

ported that in 1943, in cities of 25,000 or more, the proportion of literates was 90.9 percent; in the rest of the Republic it was only 64.4 percent, both figures being lower than those in the 1931 census. Furthermore, according to the 1943 census, among the people more than 20 years of age, the percentage of illiterates in the Republic was only 22 percent, while among those of 10 to 19 years, it was 27 percent. This indicates a decrease in public instruction. Despite the fact that new schools were established, their increase was not proportionate to the increase in population. To the 498,286 public school children should be added 72,000 who receive instruction in private schools, but the President estimated that approximately 481,000 children, or 45 percent of all those of school age, are without instruction. This alarming situation calls for immediate school construction, he said, particularly in rural areas where the percentage of illiteracy is much greater than in cities.

Under the present administration the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare was organized into seven divisions: the National Board of Health and Public Welfare; the General Health Office; General Social Welfare Office; the Nurses and Midwives Service; the office in charge of campaigns against syphilis, leprosy, and skin diseases; the Child Guidance Center; and the National Public Assistance Corporation. The results achieved through this set-up were satisfying in all respects, the President stated. (It should be recalled that he is a physician.) The General Health Office reorganized the street cleaning and garbage disposal services in the city of Habana; made a survey of aqueducts and water supply systems throughout the Republic, and took steps in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works to effect certain improvements;

and made much progress in eliminating sources of malaria infection in Habana and other cities. The same office also had charge of campaigns against typhoid fever and parasitic diseases. In the case of the latter, which are more prevalent in rural areas, the Health Office worked most diligently throughout the country to improve the sanitary conditions of the rural home. The office supervised the installation of 1,000 latrines a month in rural schools and homes and secured the cooperation of land owners and sugar mills in bettering living conditions and sanitary facilities for workers. Medicines are provided free to needy persons suffering from parasitic diseases.

In October 1944 public works were suspended by presidential decree, pending an examination of their status. The study showed many irregularities in contracts and many of the latter were forthwith annulled. Later new bids were called for and the work resumed. Among accomplishments of the year under consideration were one new hospital and reconstruction and repairs at two others; a new model rural school and repairs at several other schools; and repairs to a number of public buildings. Construction or repair work was started on 8 hospitals and asylums, 10 schools, and a workers' housing project in Habana. Highway work was carried on to some extent in both Habana and Camagüey provinces, and 3 new bridges were built and 16 repaired.

Between labor and employers relations were generally harmonious through the year. The Labor Ministry succeeded in settling by conciliatory means some differences that arose, and legislation on behalf of labor was forthcoming as needs became apparent. Outstanding among such measures were the decrees regulating piece work done in the home; fixing

wage scales for maritime, railway, sugar, and textile workers; freezing salaries and wages; regulating labor conditions for chauffeurs; providing for paid rest periods; and fixing the summer working day.

As for foreign affairs, the President stated that Cuba will continue its traditional foreign policy and will concentrate particularly at this time on full cooperation with the United Nations in solving the complex problems of world organization for peace.

Postwar measures in the American Republics

Import, export, price, funds, and other controls

Several Latin American countries have recently adopted measures suspending the rationing of tires and tubes, or have made other provisions tending toward facilitating their acquisition or production. Among these are Chile, where rationing was lifted as of September 1, 1945 (*Diario Oficial*, September 12, 1945); Mexico, which by a decree dated December 4, 1945, repealed the requirement of turning in a used tire on purchasing a new one (*Diario Oficial*, January 8, 1946); and El Salvador, where controls on new truck tires and tubes were removed and control over the importation, trade, and use of natural or synthetic rubber was transferred from the defunct Committee on Economic Coordination to the Commission for the Purchase, Sale, and Distribution of Foodstuffs, subject to supervision by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The same decree in El Salvador also repealed legislation that regulated trade in and exportation of nationally produced rubber and removed restrictions on the acquisition of new or reconditioned trucks, trailers, and other motor vehicles. (*Diario Oficial*, December 26, 1945.) Ar-

gentina, which in January 1945 had temporarily prohibited the production of automobile tires for general distribution, again authorized such production by means of a decree dated September 27, 1945, and at the same time fixed a system of priorities for tire distribution. Brazil made new provisions pertaining to control over the production, distribution, and consumption of rubber manufactures, in accordance with standards established by the Agreements Control Commission of Washington (*Diário Oficial*, November 14, 1945).

As of November 1, 1945, Guatemala repealed wartime legislation that had set up gasoline and fuel oil rationing, but by another decree dated November 10, 1945, a system of priorities for official or national use of such fuels was instituted (*Diario de Centro América*, November 10 and 17, 1945). In Haiti gasoline rationing was terminated as of October 31, 1945 (*Le Moniteur*, October 29, 1945). Restrictions imposed by Mexico in February 1942 on the production, assembly, sale, transfer, etc., of motor vehicles were amended to the extent of allowing assembly plants and dealers to engage in their respective operations without securing prior permits for each operation. (*Diario Oficial*, January 8, 1946.)

In El Salvador a sweeping decree approved December 22, 1945, repealed a long list of decrees that during the period from 1942 to 1945 had applied import and trade controls. Among the goods thus released from further restrictions were copper wire and cable, iron, quinine, and construction materials. The same decree also removed various price control provisions. (*Diario Oficial*, December 26, 1945.) A Treasury resolution in Venezuela, dated November 27, 1945, listed over 70 articles of foodstuffs, construction materials, clothing, fuel, raw materials and manufactures, medicines, drugs, and apparatus which were declared to be ar-

articles of prime necessity, thereby making them subject to price, distribution, and consumption controls by the National Supply Commission (*Gaceta Oficial*, November 27, 1945.) An Argentine decree of September 26, 1945, prohibited the exportation of uranium (*Boletín Oficial*, October 17, 1945), while another Argentine decree of September 29, 1945, continued in effect previous restrictions on the consumption of electric current. Haiti repealed a decree-law of June 2, 1941, which established a committee charged with the control of exports to countries other than the United States, if such exports might directly or indirectly serve for purposes of war (*Le Moniteur*, November 5, 1945).

Effective January 22, 1946, Mexico repealed its wartime prohibitions against the importation, exportation, transport, or holding of United States currency or trade therein (*Diario Oficial*, January 25, 1946). Haiti likewise repealed its restrictions relative to control over the importation and exportation of foreign currency. Travelers arriving in or leaving Haiti may now have in their possession any amount of foreign money, but United States currency is restricted to bills of not more than 20 dollars. Any United States bills of higher denominations will be taken up at the Customs Office, sent to the Bank of the Republic, and kept in a special blocked account. (*Le Moniteur*, November 5, 1945.)

Wages and rents

Mexico amended its law of September 23, 1943, on emergency wage increases for low-paid workers. The amended article provides generally that the emergency compensation is compulsory, but that workers can obtain increases in wages only in cases where it is economically possible for the enterprise to grant such increases; that enterprises that are unable to

meet the emergency compensation may present their cases in accordance with the Federal Labor Law; and that the minimum wage authorities may amend wage scales in accordance with the Federal Labor Law. (*Diario Oficial*, December 29, 1945.)

The Mexican decree of September 28, 1945, which lifted the suspension of certain constitutional guarantees that had been in force during the war, was itself amended by a decree of December 28, 1945, continuing in effect until repealed by later legislation the rent ceilings established in 1942, 1943, and 1945. (*Diario Oficial*, January 21, 1946.)

In Argentina rent control, first applied in 1943 and 1944, was continued in effect until December 31, 1946, by means of a decree dated November 21, 1945 (*Boletín Oficial*, November 23, 1945).

Expansion in production of food crops and livestock products in the Caribbean area has been proposed by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain. This is one point of a 30-point program for the economic development of the United States and British territories in the Caribbean made public on January 14, 1946, in a report issued in Washington and London.

The joint pronouncement was based on the recommendations of the first West Indian Conference held in Barbados in 1945 under the auspices of the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission. That Conference, at which the delegates were themselves representatives of the peoples of the area, recommended action by the home Governments on seven general subjects: local food production; expansion of fisheries; reabsorption into civil life of persons engaged in war employment; planning of public works for the improvement of agriculture, education, housing, and public health; health protection and

quarantine; industrial development; and possibilities of expansion of the Caribbean Research Council. (*The Department of State Bulletin*, January 27, 1946.)

The American Republics in the United Nations Organization

In the first General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, of which Dr. Eduardo Zuleta Angel of Colombia was temporary President, two of the seven vice presidents were from American countries, namely, the United States and Venezuela.

The seven committees of the General Assembly were: the Steering Committee, provisionally composed of fourteen members: the President of the General Assembly, the seven Vice Presidents, and the chairmen of the other six committees; the Political and Security Committee; the Economic and Financial Committee; Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee; Trusteeship Committee, of which Dr. Roberto MacEachen of Uruguay was chairman; the Budgetary Committee; and the Legal Committee, Dr. Roberto Jiménez, of Panama, chairman.

All these committees, with the exception of the Steering Committee, were composed of representatives of the fifty-one members of the United Nations Organization.

Three of the eleven members of the Security Council are American Republics: Brazil (until 1948), Mexico (until 1947), and the United States (permanent).

The Military Staff Committee consists of the Chiefs of Staff, or their representatives, of the United States, the United Kingdom, the U. S. S. R., France, and China.

Five American countries are among the eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council: Colombia (until 1947), Chile (until 1949), Cuba (until 1948),

Peru (until 1948), and the United States (permanent).

In four ballots by the General Assembly and the Security Council, each voting independently of the other, fifteen of the world's leading jurists were elected on February 6, 1946, to the bench of the International Court of Justice, one of the five main organs of the United Nations established by the United Nations Charter.

Of these fifteen, named from seventy-two candidates, five represent the American Republics: José Gustavo Guerrero of El Salvador, last president of the old court (until 1955); Isidro Fabela Alfaro of Mexico (until 1952); Alejandro Álvarez of Chile (until 1955); José Philadelpho de Barros Azevedo of Brazil (until 1955); and Green H. Hackworth of the United States, hitherto legal adviser to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes (until 1952).

The election of Judge Hackworth marks an historic milestone in American participation in a world court. Although a United States citizen had been a justice of the former Permanent Court of International Justice, the United States was never a member.

One of the eight assistant secretaries general of the United Nations is from the Americas: Dr. Benjamin Cohen of Chile, in charge of information.

The Assembly fixed the seat of the United Nations in the United States. The second meeting of the Security Council was scheduled for March 25 in New York.

Draft Declaration of the International Rights and Duties of Man

The Inter-American Juridical Committee, which sits at Rio de Janeiro, has prepared a Draft Declaration of the International Rights and Duties of Man, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Resolution IX of the

Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace. This Declaration is to be incorporated into the draft charter for the improvement and strengthening of the Pan American system, which after consideration by the governments members of the Union, will be acted on at the Ninth International Conference of American States to be held at Bogotá next December. Twenty-one topics are discussed at some length. They are:

1. Right to life
2. Right to personal liberty
3. Right to freedom of speech and of expression
4. Right to freedom of religious worship
5. Right to freedom of assembly
6. Right to freedom of association
7. Right to petition the government
8. Right to own property
9. Right to a nationality
10. Right to freedom of family relations
11. Right to be free from arbitrary arrest
12. Right to a fair trial
13. Right to participate in elections
14. Right to work
15. Right to share in benefits of science
16. Right to social security
17. Right to education
18. Right to equality before the law
19. Rights and duties [are] correlative
20. Incorporation of Declaration into municipal law
21. Procedure in cases involving aliens

The report is signed by Francisco Campos, F. Nieto del Río, Charles G. Fenwick, and A. Gómez Robledo.

Haiti's commercial and financial situation, 1944-45

September 30, 1945, marked the end of the 1944-45 Haitian fiscal year. Figures published by the National Bank of the Republic show that the country once again benefited financially from war conditions. With many principal world markets cut off from regular pre-war sources of supply, there was a continuing demand for

Haitian export products, and Haiti's customers paid higher prices for Haitian sugar, coffee, bananas, and other goods. There was some difficulty because of trade restrictions imposed in the United States and because of lack of shipping facilities in obtaining all the goods from abroad that Haitian importers might have consumed, but the consequent reduction of imports combined with a substantial increase in export values resulted in the creation of a larger trade balance for Haiti than any recorded since 1918-19.

Exports for the year ended September 30, 1945, were valued at 85,561,000 gourdes (the gourde is pegged at 5 to the dollar), an increase of 6 percent over the 1943-44 figure of 80,542,000 gourdes. Imports for the same period were valued at 65,770,000 gourdes, a decrease of 18 percent from the previous year's total of 80,155,000 gourdes. As a result, Haiti ended the year with a favorable trade balance of 19,791,000 gourdes, compared with 387,000 gourdes in 1943-44. Each of the past four years has closed with a favorable trade balance for Haiti, the cumulative figure for the four years being 24,649,757 gourdes. This record is unique in Haitian annals.

Chief among the items which helped to swell the total of Haitian exports in 1944-45 were coffee, bananas, sisal, handicraft products, and essential oils. The growth of trade under the latter two headings was particularly marked, mahogany wares and sisal handbags being the principal items in the handicraft export trade. Total handicraft exports in 1944-45 were valued at 6,150,000 gourdes, as compared to a value of 2,963,000 gourdes in 1943-44. The export of essential oils (lime, vetiver, neroli, and amyris) increased from 894,500 gourdes in 1943-44 to 1,831,000 gourdes in 1945. The combined values of these two classes of exports were sufficient in

1944-45 to give these products fifth place among Haitian exports; they were exceeded only by coffee, bananas, sugar, and sisal exports, in the order named. Cotton exports declined by 3,832,000 gourdes in 1944-45, but at the year-end considerable stocks were being held for export at a later date. By a wide margin coffee is the principal Haitian export commodity. In 1944-45 it accounted for more than 40 percent of total Haitian exports.

Total government revenues during the fiscal year 1944-45 amounted to 41,890,000 gourdes, or 480,000 gourdes less than 1943-44 collections. However, the year's receipts may be considered as satisfactory since they were considerably above the annual average and, with the exception of 1943-44, the highest since 1928-29.

Customs receipts, which provide approximately 75 percent of total national revenue, amounted to 30,553,000 gourdes in 1944-45. Import duties totaled 22,657,000 gourdes, or 1,847,000 less than in 1943-44. Export duties totaled 7,656,000 gourdes, compared with 6,423,000 collected in 1943-44. Duties on coffee exports accounted for the greater portion of the increase of 1,233,000 gourdes.

Internal revenue receipts in 1944-45 again established an all-time high record, having amounted to 10,550,000 gourdes, as compared with 10,489,000 in 1943-44, the previous record. Income tax collections in 1944-45, amounting to 4,634,000 gourdes, represented 49.9 percent of all internal revenues. Since no increase in rates occurred during the year, the rise in collections reflects greater business profits and improved collection methods. As an indication of how much the income tax revenues mean to the public treasury, it may be noted that the 1944-45 income tax collections were greater than combined internal revenue receipts for any year prior to 1928-29 and were almost equal to total

internal revenues for a year as recent as 1940-41.

With the exception of the fiscal year 1929-30, an all-time high record was established during 1944-45 in the amount of fiscal expenditures. The total of such expenditures was 42,516,000 gourdes, or 495,000 more than during 1943-44. The various government departments and services increased their expenditures by 3,305,000 gourdes, while payments on the public debt declined 2,810,000. However, in connection with the latter, it is pertinent to remark that in 1943-44 all payments provided for by contracts or special agreements were met, and in addition, 4,000,000 gourdes were paid toward the end of the year as an advance on the amount due in 1944-45. A similar advance payment of 4,000,000 gourdes on amounts due for 1945-46 was effected in September 1945.

The relatively favorable revenue returns in 1944-45 made it possible to close the fiscal year with an unobligated treasury surplus of 3,283,000 gourdes, in spite of the fact that disbursements totaled 42,516,000 gourdes. The unobligated surplus at the end of 1943-44 was 4,778,000 gourdes.

The gross public debt of the Republic as of September 30, 1945, amounted to 52,936,000 gourdes, as compared to 60,460,000 gourdes at the end of September 1944 and 70,419,000 at the close of September 1943.

Constitutional changes in El Salvador

After months of careful deliberation, the Constitutional Assembly of El Salvador issued a decree on November 29, 1945, reinstating the Constitution of 1886 as the supreme law of the land. In order to adapt this Constitution to present-day

needs, the Assembly made extensive amendments. Many of these are derived from the Constitution of 1939 or the 1944 amendments to that Constitution; others are innovations in Salvadorean constitutional law.

The first amendment expands and clarifies Article 3 on the limits of El Salvador's territory. Another modifies Article 5 (prohibiting any entailment of property) so as to include the two exceptions allowed by the Constitution of 1939: (1) Trusts created in favor of the nation, charitable or cultural institutions, persons legally incapable of managing their own affairs, or infants *en ventre sa mère*; (2) family property.

New provisions include the amendment to Article 12 (on religious freedom), exempting churches from paying a property tax, and recognizing the Catholic Church as a legal person. The amendment states that churches of other denominations may obtain such recognition through due process of law. Another innovation is the removal of the provision in Article 33 that education provided at Government expense must be non-religious.

Certain exceptions to the article requiring advance compensation for expropriated property were taken over from the Constitution of 1939. Such exceptions now include land needed for road building or aqueducts as well as property seized as a result of war or public catastrophe. The 1944 amendment allowing the seizure of the property of nationals of enemy countries was also incorporated in the present Constitution.

The 1886 Constitution provided for only one brief regularly scheduled session of Congress per year; under the 1945 amendments, there will be two regular sessions, February 1 to June 30, and August 1 to December 31.

Only four Ministries were provided for in the Constitution of '86; this has been amended so as to allow as many as are considered necessary by the Executive. Also amended was the provision that natives of other Central American countries as well as of El Salvador were eligible for the office of Minister; as under the Constitution of 1939, only native Salvadoreans are now eligible.

The section on *Public Finance* from the 1939 Constitution has been substituted for that on the *National Treasury* in the Constitution of 1886, the only change being the elimination of the final article, which exempted public credit institutions from the supervision of the Court of Accounts.

Also taken over from the 1939 Constitution was the section on the *Public Ministry*. This Ministry, directed by the Attorney General, represents the State and society in seeing that the laws are obeyed, that justice is meted out quickly and efficiently, and in protecting the interests of minors, the poor, and all those incapable of defending themselves. However, the 1939 Constitution provided that the Attorney General would be under the Minister of Justice, whereas the new amendment makes the Public Ministry autonomous. Another change is that all members of this Ministry will now be appointed by the President, whereas under the 1939 Constitution the latter appointed only the Attorney General and certain specified members.

Perhaps the most important innovations in the 1945 amendments are found in the section on *Family and Labor*. Although this section contains some of the general principles found in the chapter of that name in the 1939 Constitution, its provisions are much more extensive and specific.

The State is to protect the moral, physical, economic, intellectual, and social

welfare of the family. It will assist in the acquisition and upkeep of small units of rural property, and in the construction of comfortable and healthful houses for the rural and urban population.

Labor is defined as a social duty and a social right, and the State undertakes to employ every means in its power to provide work for those who want it, and to guarantee a good standard of living to the laborer.

The labor code that will govern the relations between capital and labor will include provisions for:

1. Minimum wages for each zone and type of work, determined periodically by commissions composed of an equal number of employers and employees, and presided over by a Government representative.
2. Equal pay for equal work.
3. Maximum working days, established according to sex and age.
4. One day of rest per week in addition to national holidays and paid vacations after one year.
5. Special protection for the labor of women and children.
6. Adequate compensation for accidents occurring at work, occupational diseases, and unjustified dismissals.
7. Careful regulation of working conditions and safety measures.
8. The irrenunciability of the legally established rights of labor, although labor contracts may establish further privileges.

Other articles in this section state that obligatory Social Security will be established, with the collaboration of the Government, employers, and employees; that the State will promote social welfare, credit, and savings institutions, as well as all types of cooperatives; and that the executive branch of the Government will create the organisms that it considers necessary to maintain equilibrium among the various factors of production. The right of workers to strike and that of employers to impose lockouts are to be regulated by law.

Certain minor changes, some carried over from the 1939 Constitution, were made in the impeachment procedures provided for in the Constitution of 1886.

The Electoral Law is to be revised in order to regulate the right of suffrage for women, which was granted in 1944.

The current President and Vice President, who came into power in 1945, will remain in office until March 1, 1949; the terms of the Justices of the Supreme Court and of the Courts of Second Instance will end on March 31, 1947. Article 113 of the 1886 Constitution, providing for popular election of municipal officials, was suspended until December 31, 1946, and present incumbents will hold their positions until that time.

Brazilian cotton goods

One of the noteworthy changes in Brazil's economic structure during the war was the impetus given to the textile industry by foreign buying. Before the war Brazil had a small-scale market in cotton goods with Argentina and other South American countries, but at present Brazilian mills are supplying cotton textiles to 48 countries throughout the world. During the first eight months of 1945, cotton goods sales were as follows:

	Tons	1,000 cruzeiros
Africa	2, 240	122, 518
North and Central America	1, 920	91, 644
South America	9, 807	586, 277
Asia	143	4, 301
Europe	1, 232	59, 962
	15, 342	864, 702

It is possible that some of these markets may decline when world conditions return to normal, but indications are that Brazi

has secured a strong foothold in South Africa and in the Portuguese colonies in Africa, as well as in Turkey.

Industrial workers in Medellín

Colombia's first industrial census has called attention to the rapid industrial development that is going on in the Department of Antioquia, particularly in and around the city of Medellín. Manufacturing establishments with five or more employees were registered in this census. The Department of Antioquia had 1394 such establishments, and in the Medellín valley alone more than 800 were found.

Medellín factories seem to be employing chiefly local workers, young and unmarried, and not organized in labor unions. Of the 32,000 workers in these 800 Medellín establishments, only a third, less than 8,000, had ever been married, and even fewer, less than 7,000, had any labor union affiliations. Women formed slightly more than three-eighths of the total number. Almost all of the 32,000 employees were born in Antioquia, and almost all could read and write; only four percent of the men were illiterate, and only three percent of the women.

Oil in southern Chile

The oil that Chile has been hoping to find for nearly thirty years has been discovered in Magallanes as the result of a thorough search which the Government Development Corporation has been carrying on since 1942. In September 1945 oil studies were begun on the main island of Tierra del Fuego, part of which belongs to the Chilean territory of Magallanes. In December oil was found in a trial drilling at Springhill, toward the north of Chile's western part of the island. The first yield

came from a depth of some 7,400 feet, with a flow estimated at about fifty gallons a minute, and appeared to be based on an area of nearly ten square miles.

Discovery of oil within the nation's borders holds great possibilities for Chile. If the supply proves to be abundant, the oil will bring a measure of relief to some pressing economic problems by improving communication among different parts of the country, by reducing the pressure on imports, and by facilitating increased use of machinery to promote Chile's industrial and agricultural development. Oil resources will be commercially exploited under supervision of the Government Development Corporation.

Dominican economic progress

A new factory, employing about 400 persons, under an employee-participation plan, has been opened in the city of San Cristóbal. This enterprise manufactures paper products, is engaged in printing and binding, and has a sewing department which makes clothing and allied products. The workers, in their capacity as associates, will participate in profits, and as an extra stimulus the company will distribute cash prizes to those who excel in their work. Its wage rates are higher than average.

The sewing department, in addition to making military and civilian wearing apparel, is now filling important orders for flags for Central American Governments. The management has acquired modern machines which will be installed in new buildings.

Twenty-three irrigation canals were recently opened in the Dominican Republic. They will irrigate the most distant and needy sections of the country, and have a capacity of 9,933 gallons per second, irrigating an area of 69,000 acres.

Other irrigation projects nearing com-

pletion are seven canals with a capacity of 6,683 gallons per second, irrigating an area of 53,000 acres; and the canal of Navarrete, in the province of Santiago, with a capacity of 3,170 gallons per second, irrigating an area of 31,000 acres.

Sixteen more canals, which will solve the irrigation problems of the Republic, are being planned, and will have a total capacity of 5,587 gallons per second, irrigating an area of 51,000 acres.

According to figures published by the Director General of Statistics the year 1944 was a record year, not only in volume of exports, but in dollar value. Exports of sugar, cacao, molasses, coffee, cassava-starch, lumber, shoes, rice, beer, cigarettes, etc. weighing 1,060,732 metric tons and valued at \$60,269,328, were sent abroad.

Avianca in Colombian hands

Colombians obtained national control of their cardinal air lines when a new issue of stock in AVIANCA, the national aviation company, was sold to Colombian buyers last September, thereby placing the majority of the company's stock in the hands of Colombians. AVIANCA (Aerovías Nacionales de Colombia) is Colombia's great commercial air line, and aviation is of preeminent importance in Colombia's economy. Overland travel is made difficult by the three lofty spurs of the Andes which divide Colombia from south to north; railroads and highways are hard to build, and do not connect to form a network over the country. The air lines are therefore a vital point in the country's internal communications.

Aviation developed early and rapidly in Colombia because of these topographical features. The present organization, however, dates only from 1940, when Saco

(Servicio Aéreo Colombiano) was merged with SCADTA (Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aéreos), the German company which controlled most of the lines, to form a new company, AVIANCA, in which Pan American Airways was the only non-Colombian stockholder. Since that time Colombian representation in the management and in the actual flying has been steadily and rapidly increasing, while the administration continues as before to be responsible to the Colombian Ministry of War.

Transfer of majority control in September 1945 was accomplished by issuing 100,000 new shares of stock, with purchase rights distributed pro rata among existing stockholders. The block of new shares which would thus have been assigned to Pan American Airways, the largest single stockholder, was then, by agreement between Pan American Airways and AVIANCA's directors, offered to Colombian buyers who were not already stockholders. The shares were promptly and eagerly subscribed, and the board was therefore able to make a geographical selection of buyers, so that AVIANCA ownership is distributed among different parts of the country.

Cement production in Chile

Two hundred thousand tons or more will be added to Chile's annual production of cement by the new plant opened last September at Juan Soldado, a few miles north of La Serena. The output of this new factory, with the additional 100,000 tons a year produced as a result of the enlargement of El Melón plant at La Calera, will probably make it possible for all of Chile's cement needs to be supplied from domestic sources. Difficulties involved in importing cement to meet a rapidly growing demand have constituted one of the bottlenecks of

Chile's expanding industry, and cement production has therefore been one of the important items on the program of the Government Development Corporation.

The Juan Soldado plant is located in the heart of the rich limestone deposits of the province of Coquimbo, and has been provided with five miles of railroad to connect it with the northern network of the state railroad system at a point near La Serena. There is an ample and dependable water supply to operate the plant's 12,500 kilowatt power plant, which will furnish power not only for the cement factory but also for industrial and home use in the province of Coquimbo. Shipment of such quantities of cement as will be produced at Juan Soldado will greatly overtax the harbor of Coquimbo, so that authorities believe Coquimbo's port facilities will have to be remodeled on a much larger scale, or else the cement plant will have to be provided with wharves of its own at Punta de Teatinos.

Bolivia and Peru begin cooperative educational program

The Ministers of Public Education of Peru and Bolivia recently signed in Arequipa an important agreement establishing plans for the furtherance of Indian education in the two countries and for joint action toward the solution of the Indian problem in general. The agreement contains twelve basic principles, reached after careful deliberation on the part of the representatives of the two neighbor Republics.

The Indian question was considered as a social, economic, agrarian, educational, and juridical problem, which requires the cooperation of all the official organizations of Peru and Bolivia. It was resolved that cultural advances must be incorporated

into the lives of the Indians in order to increase the social value of this group which has already demonstrated its ability to contribute to universal civilization.

Among the general principles adopted was that rural schools should stress the teaching of practical agricultural skills, thus increasing the productivity of the Indians. The schools founded or enlarged in accordance with the Arequipa agreement will be open to all the inhabitants of rural areas without distinction of any kind, so that the essential and practical knowledge they offer may reach as many as possible.

A supplementary provision calls for a careful study of the geographic, economic, and health problems of the Lake Titicaca region. Periodic conferences will be held by the teachers and educators appointed by the two countries to consider ways and means of utilizing to the best advantage the resources of this district. The first of these conferences was to be held in Bolivia on December 15, 1945.

This agreement is the most far-reaching cooperative step ever taken by the Peruvian and Bolivian Governments to solve their common Indian problem in all its fundamental aspects. In stressing the educational aspects, the two Governments have recognized the fact that education is the basis for the incorporation of the Indian into national life, and an essential factor in his progress and general well-being.

Colleges for Colombian women

Liberal arts courses of university grade are to be offered to Colombian women in institutions of learning which will soon be opened under government auspices. The new schools will be called *colegios mayores de cultura femenina*, to distinguish them from the *colegios*, the traditional secondary schools, which in Colombia provide not

only work covered in high schools of the United States but also a year or two more, so that the *bachillerato* which is given to graduates of the Colombian *colegio* puts them on a level with the sophomores or juniors of American colleges.

From the *colegio* the Colombian goes on to the university, and for several years the National University has been open to women. But university work is largely professional, and few women have cared to undertake it. Many more, it is believed, will be eager to take advantage of the liberal arts courses offered in these new schools.

The *colegios mayores* will admit girls who have graduated from *colegios*, and will confer university degrees. They will offer courses in letters, including languages, history, and philosophy; in arts, including music and decoration; in science, including chemistry, bacteriology, and other sciences; and in "social activities," a field which will take in various phases of home economics as well as the studies required by the increasing number of Colombian women who are preparing to be social workers. There will also be courses open to women who have never completed the formal secondary work of the *colegios*, but have been able to qualify themselves for studies of university grade.

The new colleges will be autonomous. They will be established by the Colombian government in cooperation with authorities of the Department or city where the school is to be located, or of a university already existing, and the government will share expenses with the cooperating authority. In Bogotá the government is working with the National University and with the Upper Normal School; in Medellín with the Central Femenino de Antioquia. Cartagena and Popayán are also to have colleges organized in 1946, and other cities in later years.

Peru establishes free secondary education

Public education in Peru took a significant step forward when, on October 27, 1945, the Congress of that country passed a law providing for free secondary education. Eligible for this privilege are all students who have successfully completed their studies in the public primary schools, and who are not failing in more than two subjects in their secondary work. The secondary course in Peru is of five years' duration.

Benefiting from the law in 1946 will be at least 100 secondary school students in the provincial capitals, 200 in the department capitals, 300 each in the regional secondary schools of Trujillo, Chiclayo, Huánuco, Huancayo, Ica, Puno, Cuzco, and Iquitos, and 500 in certain specified schools in Lima, Callao, and Arequipa.

The President was authorized, beginning in 1946, to include in the national budget the funds necessary for the fulfillment of this law.

Mexico's literacy campaign

The first official progress report on the results of Mexico's campaign against illiteracy was recently issued by the office in charge of the campaign. Figures were released covering the period March 1, 1945, the date the campaign began, to December 31, 1945. During those nine months, in the Collective Teaching Centers scattered throughout the country 278,284 persons completed their lessons in reading and writing. Of this total 155,759 were men and 122,525 women. These figures do not include reports on results in the States of Jalisco and Sinaloa and the Territory of Quintana Roo.

The general registry of persons attending the Centers showed a total of more than a

million at the end of 1945. Although the law of August 21, 1944, that authorized the campaign, provided that examinations of those who completed their studies should begin on March 1, 1946, the Secretary of Public Education, as Executive Director of the campaign, authorized school inspectors and teachers at the end of December 1945 to proceed immediately to examine all those who were ready to terminate their studies at the Teaching Centers, in order to make way for others.

Although exact figures were not made available, according to the campaign office the direct person-to-person teaching method is also giving results as satisfactory as those obtained in the Teaching Centers.

To provide additional funds, an official decree dated November 21, 1945, declared the campaign to be an instrument of public utility and provided for the addition of a 1-centavo stamp to all first-class mail in the Republic. The entire proceeds of the sale of these stamps are being allocated to campaign expenditures.

Nutritional research in the Caribbean area

An extended nutritional research program to promote the health and well-being of residents of the Caribbean area was recently announced. It is a joint project of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Pan American School of Agriculture of Honduras, which is sponsored by the United Fruit Company.

This research project is an outgrowth of the work which has been conducted by Dr. Robert S. Harris and his colleagues of the Institute, who, during the past few years, have made similar investigations in Mexico under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. In the course of the studies in Mexico it was found that the diet is not as deficient as previously

supposed; in fact, it is superior in certain respects to the diet of many parts of the United States.

Viewpoints in nutrition are changing, the announcement said. Instead of undertaking to provide the inhabitants of tropical countries with more milk, more butter, and more eggs, all of which are either difficult or impossible to produce in the tropics, it is now believed possible to develop in each country a diet which is easy to produce, and which may supply the necessary proteins, calories, minerals, and vitamins which are required for adequate human nutrition. This dietary would be cheap because it would be composed of native foods of high nutritive value.

It is stated that over the centuries the aboriginal inhabitants of the Mexican highlands, by a process of trial and error, have learned to utilize in their diet native plants of unusual value. Dr. Harris has particularly laid stress upon one wild plant, known as *malva*, which contains vitamins in unusual variety and quantities. While it is not a particularly tasty herb, malva meets a deficiency in the diet which would otherwise be hard to fill. It is hoped and expected that other plants may be found in Middle America which have unusual dietetic value.

Data on the investigation now beginning, which will include specimens of all edible plants in Middle America with complete notes on their characteristics, distribution, and uses, will be sent to the laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge for analysis by nutritional biochemists. This painstaking work, which will take several years to produce practical results, is the kind of basic research necessary for the nutrition and health program of every nation, the announcement stressed. This is a pioneering program, as the Central American area possesses many food plants not known

elsewhere and not previously analyzed.

The Pan American School of Agriculture, which will collaborate with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in this nutrition program, is directed by the well known authority on tropical agriculture, Dr. Wilson Popenoe. Founded and endowed with permanent maintenance in 1941 by the United Fruit Company, the school gives free tuition, board and other benefits to students from all parts of Middle America.

Social reforms in the Dominican Republic

A bill, designed to replace the legislation covering minimum wages, was submitted to Congress by President Trujillo October 8, 1945. Some of the important provisions are:

1. The Dominican worker will receive at least a subsistence wage.
2. The President is given power to fix basic salaries.
3. A workers' representative will be a member of the National Committee on Wages.
4. Employers are now permitted to pay a higher daily wage than that previously set by law.

An important part of the President's plan of social welfare is the creation of a day nursery. One will be opened soon which will take care of the children of mothers who work as servants in the homes and hotels of Ciudad Trujillo. The children who meet the requirements for admittance to the nurseries will enjoy all kinds of care and comforts, and will doubtless benefit from the change in diet. In addition to clothes and food, the children will receive the care of a doctor and nurse. They should show physical improvement, surrounded as they will be by ample light, pure air, and hygienic conditions.

Three hundred and eighty-four schools

served more than 691,675 free breakfasts to children during the months of April-June 1945, and a constant increase is expected in the number of pupils benefiting from this service.

Bolivian concerns required to establish stores for employees

The Bolivian Government has recently issued a decree requiring all enterprises away from population centers to establish stores carrying such necessary articles as food, dry goods, clothes, fuel, non-alcoholic drinks, cleaning implements, daily papers, and a few basic books.

In all such stores merchandise must be offered at cost plus 10 percent to cover the expense of administration and waste. No coercion may be brought to bear on employees to patronize the stores, and their establishment does not exclude free commerce in the areas in which the enterprises are located.

Company stores selling at prices below cost are prohibited, and companies that had conducted such stores are required to raise their prices and make compensatory adjustments in wages.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare will supervise the prices, the quality of the goods, and the selling conditions in the stores, as well as decide where new stores must be established. It will also fix fines in cases of infraction of the law.

Enterprises with more than 500 workmen are obliged to employ a physician to supervise the diet of the workers and the purchase of foodstuffs by the stores. The physician will send semi-annual reports to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on the nutrition of adult workers, and the growth and weight of child workers and workers' children. Public dining rooms must be established in the districts indicated by the Ministry.

Peru launches extensive housing program

The Peruvian Government is initiating an extensive housing program, to be carried on in Lima, Callao, and other cities throughout the Republic. Detailed plans for this program have been worked out by the National Housing Commission with the cooperation of the Ministry of Development and Public Works.

Seven developments are contemplated in the Lima-Callao area, three located between the two cities, one north of the Rimac River, one on the eastern outskirts of Lima, and two near the Limatambo Airport. Each of these developments will cover an area of 74 acres, and will include, in addition to residential apartments, separate schools for girls and boys, a football field, basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts, a swimming pool, a church, a civic center, a marketing and commercial center, a theater, a restaurant, and a parking area. Each will accommodate 1,000 families.

Privately owned land chosen by the National Housing Commission for these projects will be purchased, or, when necessary, expropriated. The *Pro-Desocupados* organization (an agency assisting the unemployed), has been ordered to begin paving and sanitation work on selected sites immediately.

This comprehensive housing program is expected to go far in solving one of Peru's oldest and most serious social problems.

Employment of United States citizens in Latin America

Under this title the Division of Labor and Social Information of the Pan American Union recently issued an eighteen-page mimeographed report, which sets forth cer-

tain general and fundamental considerations that should be kept in mind by those who think they might like to go to Latin America to earn a living. The following is a summary of some of the principal points:

Although Latin American jobs may be available to a limited extent for properly equipped persons, the outlook is not nearly so promising as many reports would indicate. Certain factors operative in Latin America which affect the chances for employment of United States citizens must be taken into account. These factors are: 1) the trend toward nationalism as manifested in legislation restricting the employment of aliens, immigration policies, and the expanding programs of vocational and technical education; 2) low wage and salary levels and lower living standards than those in the United States; and 3) the uncertainty as to economic conditions in the postwar period.

A tendency to curb the employment of foreigners by legislative measures has been evident in Latin America for many years. Today, legislation which restricts the hiring of aliens is in force in all the Latin American republics, and it has been at least partly responsible for the policy adopted by American firms operating in those countries of drawing upon the local labor supply whenever possible.

The history of Latin American immigration policies in the last twenty years reveals the same restrictive tendency observed in the legislation just mentioned. In the 1800's and in the first two decades or so of this century, Latin America was open to practically all immigrants, but with the wave of unemployment which struck in the early thirties, this liberal policy was replaced by a highly restrictive and selective one.

Today, unless an immigrant is a prospective agriculturist, investor, or exceptional

technician, he cannot gain admission to certain countries. In others, aside from the actual limitation of the number of foreigners who may be admitted, measures have been adopted to make entry difficult or to eliminate those considered undesirable. For example, in some instances immigrants are barred unless they have, among other things, good health and a minimum sum of money. Once an immigrant has succeeded in entering a Latin American country, he has to surmount the obstacles created by the alien percentage laws.

Although the needs of the future and the dislocations caused by the present world conflict may bring about some change, there is little possibility of a return to the old policy of unrestricted immigration.

Certain requirements must be fulfilled, as a rule, in order to secure employment in the Latin American republics:

(1) One of the most obvious requisites is a knowledge of the language of the country in which employment is sought. Fluency in a foreign tongue is particularly essential for effective business relations. Spanish is the official language of all the Latin American republics with the exception of Brazil and Haiti, in which Portuguese and French respectively are spoken.

(2) An ability to adjust to an entirely new environment is very important. Certain so-called "invisible factors," such as unusual climatic conditions, strange foods, and a different mode of living in Latin America require a flexible person who can readily adapt himself to completely unfamiliar surroundings.

(3) No less important is an acquaintance with the customs and habits of Latin Americans in business as well as in their personal life. It is considered desirable in this connection that the candidate for a Latin American job have some knowledge

of the history and economic geography of Latin America.

(4) A requirement which cannot be emphasized enough is the necessity of obtaining a position in this country prior to going to Latin America, whether it be with a United States firm operating in Latin America, or, more rarely, with a native enterprise or a Latin American government.

(5) If an American is hired on other than a limited contract to serve in the Latin American branch of a United States firm, he must plan to spend a number of years abroad.

(6) Last but perhaps most important of all is the possession of skills which are lacking in Latin America. There is an ample supply of nationals who can fill unskilled or routine white collar jobs. The provision "equal pay for equal work regardless of nationality" which appears in the alien percentage legislation of several countries also militates against the American with no special qualifications. Hence, it is difficult for the alien to compete with natives unless he has abilities not available locally. As already mentioned, Latin America's great need is for technical experts. Until enough nationals are available to meet this demand, foreigners who can qualify as engineers, scientists, and specialists in transportation, management, and manufacturing will be the ones most likely to obtain Latin American positions.

The report goes on to discuss opportunities in the following fields: skilled and unskilled labor; secretarial and clerical work; engineering and specialized technical positions; executive and administrative posts; social work; teaching; foreign service; other professional employment; sales promotion and public relations; and farming.

Other factors entering into a realistic appraisal of the employment situation in Latin America have to do with visas, cost

of living, the reaction of Latin American workers to the employment of foreigners, and industrial development.

We see by the papers that—

- A Bureau of Standards has been created in *Chile* under the name of Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Tecnológicas y Normalización. Government departments and offices are required to ask the bureau to set up any standards needed in connection with their work that are not created by their own personnel.

- An instrument for the transfer of *Panama's* water and sewer system from control of the United States to Panama and a contract for the administration of the water system by the Panama Canal were signed in Panama City December 28, 1945.

Under the terms of the transfer, the water and sewer systems became Panamanian property as of January 1, 1946, but the operation and administration of the water system will be carried on by the Panama Canal until Panama has properly trained personnel.

- Passing upon the case of a young woman about to be discharged from a Bogotá bank, a *Colombian* labor office has ruled that marriage of an employee gives the employer no grounds for dismissal.

- The National Housing Commission in *Argentina* was abolished in 1945 and replaced by a Housing Bureau in the Department of Labor and Social Welfare.

- The Ford Motor Company's two rubber plantations in *Brazil*, at Fordlandia and Belterra on the Tapajos River, were bought by the Brazilian Government by decree of December 26, 1945, for a token payment of \$250,000. The investment was said to be \$9,000,000. The progress of synthetic rubber manufacture and labor

problems are said to have influenced the decision.

- In 1945 *Venezuela* imported a number of shipments of automobile tires and tubes from *Brazil*.

- The report of the YPF (Argentine National Oilfields) for 1944 showed a production of 2,600,000 cubic meters, 57,000 less than that for the preceding year. This is considered to be the result of the impossibility of obtaining new machinery and replacements. The profit earned was 70.6 million pesos, while that for 1943 was 89.8 million pesos.

- *Venezuela* has recently authorized several rural banks to act legally as Small Farmer Cooperatives. The authorization is by virtue of recent resolutions of the Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Stock-raising. These Banks are located in Cazorla, State of Guárico; La Grita, State of Táchira; Chejendé, State of Trujillo; and Atures, Amazonas Territory.

Executive Decree 299, of December 15, 1944, arranged for the Bank of Agriculture and Livestock to continue the granting of credits to the Rural Banks, and provided one million bolívares to be used exclusively for this purpose.

- Volunteer teachers in the second phase of *Guatemala's* anti-illiteracy campaign are to be prepared by two weeks of special instruction, and will then be paid for their work if they teach classes of ten or more.

- In accordance with a fellowship program undertaken by the Governments of *Panama* and the *United States*, a Fellowship and Scholarship Selection Committee, appointed by agreement between the two governments, has selected eight Panamanian students to receive fellowships. These students have been placed by the Institute of International Education in the Universities of Pennsylvania, Southern California,

Indiana, Syracuse, and Ohio State, and Arkansas Polytechnic College, with the Social Security Board, and with the Inter-American Educational Foundation, Inc. Their fields include medicine, finance, social service, agriculture, and social security. The expenses of these fellowships will be shared by the Panamanian and United States Governments.

- The First Juan Gualberto Gómez Prizes, awarded annually in Cuba for the best article, the best piece of reporting, the best photograph or the best graphic information, and the best newsreel, were given in 1945 to Guillermo Martínez Márquez for his article "The 1945 Sugar Crop" published in *El País*; Guillermo Gener, for his piece of reporting entitled "In the Heart of the Sierra Maestra there is a Valley of Death," published in *Prensa Libre*; Generoso Funcasta, for his photographs of "The Arrival of President Grau," and to Eduardo Hernández Toledo for his newsreels entitled "Cyclone," "Big Fire," and "Considerable Damage," shown by *Noticiero Nacional*. Señor Hernández Toledo won first, second, and third prizes in his category. The first prizes consist of \$1,500 and a gold medal, the second of \$1,000 and a silver medal, and the third of \$500 and a bronze medal. They are offered by the President of Cuba with a view to improving the nation's press.
- The Brooklyn Museum has been showing gold, silver, and jade ornaments made in America before the time of Columbus. They are notable not only for their craftsmanship but also for their artistic quality, which may well inspire the designers of

today. Readers of the BULLETIN will recall the illustrations of similar gold objects from Colombia in the March number.

- In a ceremony held on October 26, 1945 in Panama City, Andrés Cristóbal Toro, blind young Panamanian, was presented with the Helen Keller Gold Medal for Literary Excellence, a distinction given to writers chosen from those of the Americas and the British Empire. The Medal was awarded by the Braille Institute of America for an essay written by Señor Toro since his attainment of facility in reading by the Braille system.
- The Senate of the Dominican Republic has approved a law whereby students enrolled in official high schools and normal schools are exempt from the payment of all fees. The certificates granted by normal schools, and the diplomas issued by the National Council of Education, are to be tax-free.
- In November 1945, the Bolivian Congress authorized the Executive branch of the Government to borrow up to \$12,000,000 for use in stimulating agriculture, mining, and industry in that country. The money will be borrowed from the Central Bank of Bolivia or from other domestic or foreign credit institutions, for five to ten years.
- On January 18, 1946, at the Second National Assembly of the *Partido de la Revolución Mexicana* (Party of the Mexican Revolution), voted to change the party designation to *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (Revolutionary Institutional Party). The PRM, henceforth to be known as the PRI, is by far Mexico's largest political party.

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