

ITALIANS AND VENEZUELA

Many European Emigrants in Republic.

POLITICAL DOWNFALL

Claims a Liberal Constitution—Private Property at Mercy of Generals and Governors—No Redress for Foreigners—Members of Parliament Treated Like Criminals.

The Italian colony in Venezuela is next in importance to the Spanish and numbers 10,000 souls, says the Chicago News. Of course, naturalized Italians and their descendants are not counted in this number. If they were the colony would be twice as numerous as it is. Italians are scattered everywhere around the country. As a rule they are engaged in trade on a very small scale and many work for the few American and German firms, which almost enjoy the monopoly of Venezuelan commerce. But there are some great Italian firms as well, such as Boccardo, Invernizio and Mondotti, and these have begun to import Italian products, competing successfully with English and German goods of a similar kind. There are, besides, several industrial concerns run and financed by Italians, the most important being the coal mines at Naricual, the railways between Guanta and Barcelona and the harbor works at Guanta. These concerns cannot thrive in a country which affords absolutely no security for capital and where the law is either ignored or violated during the frequent revolutions which succeed each other with painful regularity.

Since 1811, when the independence of Venezuela was recognized, there have been over fifty large revolutions, not counting the lesser ones that run into hundreds and all these are classed under different names and distinguished by different colored flags. In order perhaps to show that they form part of the national institutions of the country. The origin of revolutions in Venezuela is to be found in the struggle for supremacy between the white and colored population, but by their frequent repetition they have become the cause of a complete political degeneration and at the present day the object of a revolution is always a more or less organized fight among brigands for political power and a scramble for the pilfering of the public treasury. Every change of government is either preceded or followed by a revolution. The armies of the republic are recruited among the criminal classes and Ncomedes Zuloga, the compiler and commentator of the civil code of Venezuela, after regretfully admitting as much in the preface of his work, goes on to say that as the chief offices of the state are given to men from the army, Venezuela is governed by a class of persons who, in any other country, would have peevled the prisons.

The constitution of the republic is very liberal. Individual property and inviolability of correspondence are guaranteed, while freedom of trade and a free press are supposed to exist as well. Besides military conscription is abolished, though, strange as it may appear, both the government and revolutionary armies are kept up and raised by means of forced recruiting and wholesale pressing of free citizens. Private property is at the mercy of generals and civil and military governors, who are at liberty to annex it whenever they get a chance.

Even members of parliament are treated like criminals in Venezuela and the president very often issues an order for the arrest of any member whose political opinions are at variance with his own. Property is subject to seizure or destruction by the government or the revolutionists. The coal mines at Naricual were furnished with an expensive plant, railways, stores and many buildings for the miners and their families. One fine day a body of troops came on the spot, fired on the Italians and then proceeded to destroy and burn down everything they came across. What could be saved from the wreck was carried away by the governor of Barcelona, who utilized the materials in building a country house on an island in the river Neveri.

Cases of wanton devastation are very frequent. Two Italian brothers who had rented a vast tract of land, and after long years of labor had reclaimed it and had it under crop, were suddenly expelled from the country and their property destroyed, simply because they were suspected of having revolutionary ideas.

The armies of this republic that defies with impunity the great powers of Europe are truly wonderful in their way. General Matos during the revolution he headed was in command of no less than fifteen army corps. Each of these was under a general in chief command, two division generals, two generals of brigade, a chief of staff, also a general and many other superior officers, while each army corps consisted of 1,000 men! The men are barefooted and almost unclad. Their only attempt at uniform is half a dried pumpkin, which they wear on their heads during the march and which they use as a water bottle and a soup dish in camp. This wonderful head-gear is called "tutuma."

PALMA'S PRESIDENCY

Held the Title Thirty Years Before He Was Installed.

Tomas Estrada Palma, did not consider it extraordinary that he, a country schoolmaster of New York State, should be transformed suddenly into president of the republic of Cuba. In his own mind he had been the legal possessor of the high title nearly thirty years before he was installed on May 20, 1902. Had not the revolutionists formally elected him their leader between skirmishes with the Spanish tyrants in the ten-years' war? To his peaceful neighbors at Central Valley, where he conducted his school for eighteen years of the waiting period, he said little, but the few who knew his history had heard how he persisted in claiming the office even in the midst of his captivity in a Spanish fortress.

"I am president of the Cuban republic," he had said to his guards, when they demanded his "occupation" in the course of a census at the battlemented prison among the Pyrenees in 1878.

His election, therefore, after the Spanish-American war, he looked upon merely as a restoration of his rights. With no special elation, though with the modesty that has always characterized him, he leaped out of enforced obscurity into the Havana palace once occupied by the gay-lived captains general of Spain, as if he had been accustomed to his position in all the decades of retirement. He went about the complex task of running a government with as much apparent confidence as he had shown when he established a private academy to tide over his banishment.

President Palma was born in 1835 in the province of Bayamo, where his father was a rich land owner and cattle raiser. The boy had all the advantages money could give him. He studied under a private teacher at home and finally was sent to Spain to enter the university at Seville. There he was graduated in the law, and it was his intention to become a barrister in Cuba. That he was never to achieve this ambition was due to the spread of the revolutionary fury. His return to the island was followed by the mutterings that preceded the long fight for liberty. His father died, and it devolved upon the young man to manage the estate. The war began. The Spaniards, besides confiscating his lands, captured his mother and practically tortured her to death.

"They tortured her in an effort to extort from her information she did not possess," he said, in describing his bereavement years afterward, "and they left her wandering for days, she was rescued, too late to save her life."

Casting his lot with the revolutionists, giving them what ready money he could raise and fighting with them whenever the chance came, he quickly rose to leadership, was chosen a deputy and finally became president of the provisional government. This government was a migratory one often as the enemy made it necessary; but it was recognized by the natives none the less, and Cuba Libre continued to look upon Palma as its chief with Gen. Maximo Gomez as his secretary of war.

While on a march with a few troops Palma was captured by the Spanish captain, Mozo Viejo. Having spent a few days in Moro Castle, Havana, he was sent to Spain, where he spent ten months in various prisons, his last stop being in the fortress of Figueras, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. It was there that he again proclaimed himself president of the republic. When they left him go free, in 1878, the ten years' war was over, and Spain had tightened her grip on the island to such an extent that it was useless for him to return.

Whatever may be the weakness of Tomas Estrada Palma, there is no lack of self-possession in his makeup. And along with this quality he has skill at organization and industry. That he has combined personal modesty and unflinching politeness with mental fitness for the office has been no doubt a supplementary cause of his success in avoiding trouble for so long.

Affected By Heat. Cambodia is a tropical country, but its King suffered so much from heat while in Paris that he had to have his patent leather shoes cut off his swollen and inflamed feet. It was French leather, perhaps, more than French climate that troubled the monarch.

The population of Bombay is within less than 20,000 of the million mark.



Tomas Estrada Palma.

OUR AMAZING PROSPERITY

Facts and Figures of the Past Five Fat Years.

WITHOUT PRECEDENT

Effect of Farmers' Opulence Widespread—Wonderful Leap in the Fortunes of the Country—Influence of Foreigners—What Insurance Reports Show.

Through five consecutive years the United States has enjoyed a degree of prosperity without precedent in half a century, and perhaps not in its history.

The immediate cause of this amazing leap in the fortunes of the country is analyzed by Carl Synder in Moody's Magazine.

The last five years of farm production have been doubly exceptional. We have known phenomenal crops associated, sometimes with large acreage, sometimes with high prices.

This triple combination has been known to occur in a single year; perhaps once or twice, as in 1881 and 1882, for two years. It has never before been known for five consecutive years, and it will probably not be known again within the lifetime of the present generation.

Our principle crops in order of total value are, corn, hay, cotton, wheat and oats. The total value of these five crops for the last five years of the last century amounted to \$9,000,000,000. The returns for these same crops for the first five years of the new century were more than \$14,000,000,000, a sheer advance of more than 55 per cent.

These crops represent a little more than half the gross yield of the nation's farms. We may then roughly compute that the immediate supporting population of the country received on an average \$2,000,000,000 per year more for its labors, through these five astonishing years, than what might be regarded as its normal return.

The aggregate values for all farm products for the year 1905 were estimated by the department at more than \$6,000,000,000. It would probably be difficult to show that ever before in history has farming received so high a return.

It is perhaps no exaggeration to say that in consequence of these five unprecedented years, the American farmer is in a position of greater economic independence, not to say opulence, than has ever before been known to a tiller of the soil.

There were in 1904 and 1905 nearly 8,000,000 individual depositors in the savings banks of the country alone. Their deposits were three times greater than all those of the United Kingdom, or Austria, or France, and half again as large as the hoards of thrifty Germany.

More than 5,000,000 individuals in the United States are paying in annually to life insurance companies more than \$6,000,000,000 per year. This exceeds \$100 for each policy and represents in large part a saving bank account.

The actual amount of money per capita in circulation in the country has been rather more than doubled in thirty years; it was only a little more than \$15 per head in 1877 and 1878. It now exceeds \$31. Immigration passed the record mark of 1882 in 1903 and again in 1904, reaching the unprecedented figure of more than 1,000,000 in 1905. It will be curious to observe whether financial history will repeat itself in the coming years, and a sharp depression follow the incoming of this foreign flood, as it did in 1873, in 1884 and in 1893.



Admiral Nicholas Skrydloff

Has been entrusted with the unenviable task of restoring order in the Black Sea fleet of Russia, which was seriously disturbed by the naval riots and mutinies. He was born in 1844 and has won a magnificent record by his bravery in several wars. He is known as the "bull-dog admiral" and is known to rule with an iron hand. He has been given special powers to enable him to suppress the disturbances.

London Insane Asylum. The city of London has seven asylums for the insane, each costing \$2,433,250 for erection and \$389,400 for yearly maintenance. The yearly increase of patients to these institutions is about 500.

PRINCIPLES OF EXTRADITION

Criminals Subject to Capture Despite Treaties.

The fact of the matter is that the principle of extradition exists among all civilized Powers, even when for some one reason or another it is not covered by any hard and fast international conventions, and requests for the surrender of criminals addressed by one Government to another are granted on the ground of international courtesy and comity, even in the absence of treaty stipulations. This practice not only prevails among the Christian countries of Europe and of the Western Hemisphere, but has likewise been to all intents and purposes adopted by Asiatic and North African states, such, for instance, as Morocco. Thus the United States has on quite a number of occasions arrested and surrendered foreign fugitive criminals here in response to applications from governments with which no extradition arrangement existed at the time.

President Lincoln in 1863 caused the arrest and the surrender to the Spanish authorities of a man of the name of Arguelles in the absence of any extradition treaty with Spain. Arguelles, who had been the Lieutenant Governor of a province in Cuba, was charged with a number of atrocious crimes against common law, among the minor accusations being one to the effect that he had sold into slavery several hundred negroes, illegally brought from Africa.

On the authority of Secretary of State Seward he was arrested by a United States marshal and turned over to the Spanish police officers, who took him back to Havana for trial. A motion was at once made in the United States Senate calling the President to account in the matter, arguing that in the absence of a treaty of extradition and of Congressional legislation touching the surrender of fugitive criminals to the Spanish Government he had exceeded his powers as chief magistrate.

To this Secretary of State Seward replied to the effect that the President had given up Arguelles under the rules of international comity, which prescribe as a matter of courtesy the compliance with demands of this kind addressed by one civilized Power to another, and he added that Mr. Lincoln had likewise acted in the affair in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of the United States, which is not only in favor of the principle of affording asylum to fugitive criminals from abroad, but distinctly averse thereto.

There are certain important principles that play a preponderant role in present system of extradition. One of these is that no prisoner who has been surrendered to a Government which has demanded his extradition may be tried or punished, after his surrender for any other crime than the one for which he has been extradited. The object of this is, of course, to prevent fugitives surrendered for common law crimes being punished more severely for political offenses. But the result of it is that a man who has been extradited on a charge of forgery could not be tried for murder and punished for that offense, even though that crime were discovered only subsequent to his extradition.

Another equally important principle is to the effect that extradition should be refused for any offense that is not regarded as a crime by the law of the land upon which the demand for surrender is made. Thus there are certain offenses in the monarchical states of Europe that would not be considered as crimes in this country, and in no possible way can the stipulation of the extradition treaties be twisted so as to enable the American surrender of foreigners subjected to charges of this kind abroad.

The one drawback to extradition is its expense and, owing to the latter consideration, hesitation often takes place before any recourse is made thereto. In fact, it leads in the cases of crimes against property to the feeling that a resort to extradition is merely an increase of the pecuniary losses already sustained and that it is preferable on this account to permit the criminal to escape without the further waste of money to secure his punishment. Few people have any idea of the thousands of dollars that frequently have to be paid in order to secure the extradition of a clever criminal who possesses sufficient means to employ the service of shrewd and sharp lawyers cognizant of all the possibilities of the *habeas corpus* act.

The latter in America, as in England, is justly venerated as the potent of the bulwarks which guard the liberty of the citizens. But it may be questioned whether this admirable safeguard does not sometimes become an instrument for baffling the pursuit of justice in cases which can of themselves admit of no reasonable doubt and for the prevention of their extradition.

London a Milling Center.

The metropolis is a growing milling center. Within the past three years its milling capacity has been increased by about 150 sacks per hour. The milling capacity of the metropolis—namely, 550 sacks of 280 pounds per hour—is equal, at 140 hours per week, to a weekly capacity of 77,000 sacks, or an annual capacity of 4,000,000 sacks. Liverpool, the most important milling center in the United Kingdom, has an hourly milling capacity of 650 sacks and a yearly capacity of 4,700,000 sacks.

FAMOUS IRON MOUNTAIN

Famous Ore Deposit Only a Red Hill Now.

PRESENT CONDITION

It Has Paid \$7,000,000 to the Company Recently Dissolved—Experts Once Said the Ore Was Inexhaustible—A Town Which is Becoming a Picturesque Ruin.

Nothing is left of the famous Iron Mountain save a mound and a memory. The Circuit Court of St. Francois county dissolved the Iron Mountain Company recently upon the unanimous petition of the stockholders, and the assets have been divided and the concern has gone out of existence. That was the ultimatum and final end of Iron Mountain as a mining proposition, says a Farmington, Mo., correspondent of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Fifty years ago Government experts pronounced the iron ore in the mountain "practically inexhaustible." Twenty-five years ago there were experts who held the same view. It was believed that the entire mountain above ground and far into the bowels of the earth beneath the surface of the surrounding valley was a mass of almost solid iron ore, averaging 65 per cent pure iron. Thirteen years ago, however, the Iron Mountain Company suspended operations on the extensive scale of the preceding quarter of a century, and since then the taking out of ore had been carried on but sporadically and in comparatively small quantities. There is still some ore left in the remains of the mountain, but not enough to work in paying quantities.

Though the enthusiastic expectations of the earlier geologists were not to be realized, the fact that the Iron Mountain Company, capitalized at \$5,000,000, paid nearly 300 per cent dividends on its capitalization in about twenty-five years of active operations shows that this played out mountain was by no means a failure. From a hill 218 feet high, its base covering about 500 acres, and from an adjoining knoll called Little Iron Mountain, much smaller in area, a production of \$7,000,000 in iron is in every sense remarkable.

When Iron Mountain first began to yield ore, sixty-one years ago, its location was practically a wilderness. The country was but sparsely settled. The roads were merely dirt trails through the woods and up and down the rocky hills. There were, of course, no railroads.

It was not until 1855 that the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad was built from St. Louis to Iron Mountain and a little later extended to Pilot Knob to haul the ores to St. Louis.

The town of Iron Mountain in its palmy days was a mining camp of unique interest. Though the town contained approximately 6,000 people, including perhaps 2,000 miners and furnace hands, there was practically no rowdiness. About fifteen years ago the town began to dwindle and after the practical suspension of operations in 1893 the dwindling process was quite rapid. At present the population numbers scarcely 100 and for several years, until two months ago, even the post office was abandoned and the few remaining people received their mail at Middlebrook, three miles south. At present there is not a single store or business institution in Iron Mountain.

An Army Without Mercenaries

And so, if you will, let us go look at the French army. Now in all the world is there an army whose past is quite so glorious; nor is there in the present an army better worth studying, for more than any other it has reconciled equable democracy with that monstrous and illogical thing—militarism. France has no mercenaries—the professional soldier, who makes a business of soldiering and find a livelihood in it. Indeed, in Europe only England and Turkey maintain the old-style mercenary army. In France, military service is a personal duty that every citizen owes to the country. That is the first article of the new military law. There is the second article: "The military service is equal for all. There is no exemption save for physical disability. It lasts for twenty-five years." Every Frenchman serves, and no one, unless he is French, is permitted to serve in the French army. It is a part of citizenship—of good citizenship, I should say, for criminals and all those condemned in the penal courts are excluded. Special regiments exist, however, for bad citizens, and in the African battalions they may reconquer an honorable civic state. No one may enter the public service unless he is eligible for election to office—who has not paid his debt of military service to the country. By the new law every Frenchman must wear the uniform for two years; and then, until twenty-five years have gone by in his life, he may be called under the flag, either for a short period of drill or, should war come, to fight as best he may.—Success Magazine.

In a dry goods store in Blackpool, England, is a comfortable smoke room, where gentlemen accompanying ladies will find coffee and cigars free of charge.

SHOE MAN'S PREDICTIONS

and Well Served in the Future.

Under some circumstances the saying "a shoe is worth a horse" is not far from the truth. It is not far from the truth, for the shoe is the horse's hoof, and the hoof is the horse's shoe. The shoe is the horse's hoof, and the hoof is the horse's shoe.

"To be sure, the most used shoe is the upper jawed, having soles of twisted, high toes, but he provides the finest of leather and insists that the boots for his soldiers shall be made. His inspectors look after the shoes at every process in their manufacture, and any short cut of leather or negligently placed nails might result in corns or sores that are pointed out with condemning fingers and the boots are thrown aside."

"Once in a while the style in army shoes changes and then a big batch of shoes will be thrown on the market, which merchants eagerly gobble up. The man who buys these shoes will not get a new style army shoe, but he gets the finest shoes on the market for high grade leather and good workmanship."

"The United States Army marching shoe of to-day has a cap and is a shoe for a man to be proud of. The cap is not only over the toe, but across the heel, and it gives just that touch of ornamentation which the well dressed man likes."

"Its sole is only moderately thick and the leather is the best box calf. It is eight and a half inches high. It has five eyelets at the bottom of the lacing, then five hooks, and at the top of the shoe is another eyelet—a combination of fastening which has been tried out and found to be the best for getting the shoe on quickly and for strength."

"The garrison shoe is built on similar lines, only it is six and a half inches high and has a plain toe. Some of them have caps at the toe and heel, but for the most part they are plain."

"Contrary to popular belief, Uncle Sam does allow his soldiers boys to wear a low shoe or Oxford, although it is never worn on the march. There are more for undress and are made of dongola kid and are called "crissum shoes."



General Antonio Pagano

Who has served in the Venezuelan army and is a military leader.

There was a time ago, when crowning quite an undertaking, a man who had wanted three was brave in the associate, was a spirit.

writer was speaking a professional. He made a living by the pen, and he was a man of letters. With the recent progress of the French Revolution, he had a new idea. He had a new idea. He had a new idea.

These are the days of the new military law. It is a personal duty that every citizen owes to the country. That is the first article of the new military law.

Because of their physical disability. It lasts for twenty-five years. Every Frenchman serves, and no one, unless he is French, is permitted to serve in the French army.

There is the second article: "The military service is equal for all. There is no exemption save for physical disability. It lasts for twenty-five years." Every Frenchman serves, and no one, unless he is French, is permitted to serve in the French army.

That which is past is gone, and is not to be brought back. It is not to be brought back. It is not to be brought back. It is not to be brought back.

There are some things that are not to be brought back. It is not to be brought back. It is not to be brought back. It is not to be brought back.