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SOUTH AMERICA THE HOTBED OF REVOLUTION



The United States cruiser Cincinnati has been order to Colon and the battleship Wisconsin to Panama to protect our interests in South America. Never has the situation in the South American republics been so acute as at the present time. President Castro, of Venezuela, is now engaged in the most desperate struggle of his exciting career in an effort to avert the overthrow of his government by the revolutionary forces. At the same time Castro, harassed by internal revolt is said to be planning an attack on Colombia, where revolution also runs rife. It is believed that his ambition is to effect a union of the South American republics over which he aims to establish a dictatorship.

Being Secretary to · Congressman

To be a private secretary to a govcongressman ernor, senator, a great deal more work than most people and worry imagine. A Congressman going to Washington usually engages a man from his own state, usually from his own district. He rents his own office in Washington, and there handles all of his correspondence.

"There are a thousand and one little things," said a man who had served long in this capacity, "that I have to attend to. I am always very busy, and sleep once in a while. There are the pensions to be looked after. Old soldiers write to the congressman, asking him to aid them in securing a pension, and others to get them increased. All these letters must be answered, and some times a brisk correspondence is carried on. We receive about one hundred letters a day. All these must be opened and the contents noted.

"We have a regularly established system for tending to this mail, and try to take care of it in a prompt and systematic way. A congressman always has a great many callers, and very often I have to take them around and show them the town. We receive all kinds of odd requests, for instance one gentleman wrote to the congressman, about the time the government was making its annual seed distribution, and asked that he be sent a catalogue of the government garden seed. Another man was a trifle more modest

and only asked that he be given the agency in his town, for the distribution of the garden seed. About 15,000 packages of seed are sent to different people in my district each year. Each person who writes for seed is answered individually. Some people want autographs, and a few want pictures. If a lady writes, she invariably adds a postscript saying 'I want you to answer this, not your secretary.'

"If congress has night sessions I

all he can to aid the people of his district. He suggests the names of men who, he thinks, would make good postmasters, and helps people in every way imaginable, by securing positions for them in the various departments where

them in the various departments where this is possible.

"I seldom employ a stenographer to help out, and write all the letters myself—I have found this to be more satisfactory than trying to dictate. Even after they were written I would have to read them all over, and correct them. People not acquainted with most always have to attend. A congressman is always besieged by applicants for positions, and he always does the duties of a secretary do not know what busy men they are. Yet, like the old story about officeholders, 'few die and none resign.'"

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