

The Tibet of South America and Its Ruler

Copyrighted, 1914, by Frank G. Carpenter. APAZ, Bolivia—I have just met the grand lama of the South American Tibet. His name is Senor Don Inmael Montes. He is the president of the republic of Bolivia, and his capital, La Paz, might be called the high Andine Lhasa. In his conduct President Montes pursues much the same policy as his prototype of the Himalayas. He keeps to himself and does not give out newspaper interviews for publication. He governs his people in his own way, and practically without let or hindrance. Like the "Lama" of the scriptures, "He says unto this man come, and he cometh; and to that man go, and he goeth, and to a third do this, and he doeth it." I am not sure as to the wording of this quotation, but it describes President Montes. He is the big man of Bolivia, and I am told he is doing all he can to advance it along the lines of the development of its Great natural resources. Like President Wilson, he has all sorts of new schemes under way. He is building railroads, establishing banks and playing with other financial matters in such a way as to cause great annoyance to the bankers and brokers. He is like our president also in that he has big things to play with. Since I came here some weeks ago I have devoted my time to learning about the country and people. I have met men from every large city, and with the maps before me have gone over the country with Don Manuel Vincente Bolivian, the chief of the bureau of statistics. I am surprised at the size of the republic, and at its enormous undeveloped resources.

Tibet of South America.
I have called Bolivia the Tibet of South America. Of all the lands upon earth, it kisses the sky next below the Himalayan highlands. It has more high mountains than any other country outside of Asia, and its mighty plateau is excellent in altitude only by that of Tibet. Within its borders are more than a score of mountains that approximate four miles in height, and upheld by these, a great tableland twice as far up in the air as the high plateaus of the Rockies. Overlooking the plateau from the west are the snow-capped peaks of Omerape, Sillama, and Huallari, all rising from 20,000 feet to 21,500 feet high, and there are four other volcanoes that are almost as high. On the way to the ocean you pass several smoking volcanoes; and, scattered over the country, the mountains that surpass anything on the North American continent excepting Mount McKinley, in Alaska. The plateau itself is almost 12,000 feet high, and in many places it rises far above that.

That gives one some idea of the general altitude of the republic. It must be remembered, however, that Bolivia has also vast tracts of lowlands. On the east the land slopes down to some of the large tributaries of the Amazon, giving it every fruit of the tropics and the temperate zones. Right here in La Paz you can buy bananas and oranges, and also apples, peaches and pears. Quinoa, a grain that will grow only at 13,000 feet above the sea level, grows well on the plateau, and at the same time Bolivia has the rubber, cocoa and coffee which require tropical heat. The country has all altitudes, all climates and all sorts of resources. It can produce every crop known upon earth, and prospectively it is one of the richest lands of the world.

Third Largest Republic.
I wonder if you have any idea of the size of Bolivia. Situated here in the heart of the continent, with a great desert between it and the ocean, it is the third largest of the South American republics. It contains altogether more than 700,000 square miles. It is one-fourth as big as the United States proper, six times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, more than three times the size of Germany or France, and three times as big as Austria-Hungary or the Spanish peninsula. The republic extends from north to south as far as from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and it is almost as wide as from New York to Detroit. All of our New England and middle states and all of the southern states except Texas, taken together, would just about cover Bolivia, and the high plateau upon which I am writing is so large that it would make more than eight Massachusetts, without touching the slopes of the mighty peaks that skirt some of its edges.

This mighty country is yet in the making. In other letters I shall describe its enormous resources in tin, copper, silver and gold, and also its vast pastures, upon which hundreds of thousands of cattle are now running wild. Bolivia is one of the most thinly populated of the good lands still left upon earth. It has less than one-tenth as many people as the city of Chicago, and the most of these are Aymara Indians, who work for the whites and mixed breeds, and who are of no creative force whatsoever. The country has only two or three people to the square mile.

No Large Cities.
Bolivia has no large cities. This town of La Paz has perhaps 80,000, and the next town in size, Cochabamba, has only about one-third as many. This is no notwithstanding Cochabamba is located in one of the most fertile valleys of all South America. Sucre has less than 15,000, and Potosi, which has added more than \$1,000,000 in precious metals to the wealth of the world, is still smaller. Cruro, the chief tin mining center, away down in the desert, does a great deal of business, but it has very few people, and altogether there are probably not more than 200,000 in all of Bolivia who are living in towns. Outside are large herds of what are given over to the Indians, and in eastern Bolivia are pastures covered with grass that are equal to the Argentine Republic in their wonderful fertility. Indeed, the whole of the republic is full of agricultural and mineral possibilities, and it awaits only the advent of capital and enterprise to make it become a live, active force in the work of the world.

The movement toward the taking up of the wild lands of Bolivia and the investigation of their resources has already begun. I can see that great changes have been made within the last five years. When I first came to La Paz I traveled across the plateau on a stage, and when I left here for Cruro, on my way to the sea, I rode for three days on the gallop behind a team of four mules. It was at Cruro that I caught the little narrow gauge railway that runs across the desert and nitrate fields to the port of Antofagasta. At that time La Paz had no railroad, and the most of Bolivia was accessible only by muleback and foot. Today there are three systems of iron tracks from the capital to the seacoast; and within a short time La Paz will be within three days by rail of Buenos Aires. The gap in the railroad at Arzobispo, and Bolivia is now only about 100 miles, and this gap will be closed by iron tracks within less than a year from this writing.

See Money for Railroad.
The beginning of the railroad era here was the sale to Brazil of the Acre terri-



The National Capitol

tory, near the headwaters of the Amazon. For this the government was paid over \$10,000,000 and it was decided to use this sum for new railroads. The money was taken to New York, and it was American enterprise and American engineers who laid down the first tracks of the system. Other moneys were borrowed and up to about a year ago more than \$10,000,000 had been spent. There are now several lines under construction and the new roads projected are now more than 1,000 miles.

I can see great changes in La Paz. The capital has sprung into new life, and it seems to be more enterprising than Lima, although the latter is almost twice its size. New buildings are going up everywhere, and masons and carpenters are working in every part of the high basin in which the capital lies. The streets are full of traffic. As you go along them you are jostled by donkey trains and llama trains, and, I might also say, by trains of Indians as well, for much of the goods is carried through the streets on the backs of the natives. The city has now an electric car line, but the streets are so narrow that the cars have to run on one side, the trolley arms being fastened to the walls of the houses.

Time Brings Changes.
When I was last here there was not a public cab in the whole city, and you could number the private carriages on your fingers and toes. Now there are many four-horse cabs drawn by mules and also fine private turnouts that go galloping along up hill and down. When I came into the city my trunks were taken from the depot on the backs of Indian cargadores, who charged me about 20 cents each for carrying 300 pounds a distance of more than a mile. Within the last decade La Paz has practically doubled in size. It has extended over the basin, and is beginning to climb the sides of the hills. The street car line now runs about two miles down the valley, through the crack in the sides of the hole where the city is built. There is one suburb called Baracas and another Miraflores. In the latter President Montes is said to own most of the property, and there Mrs. Montes is building an insane asylum as a charity for the capital.

The buildings in the heart of La Paz have been greatly improved. Right in the center of the city is a beautiful plaza filled with grass, flowers and trees, and on one side of this has been erected the new Bolivian capitol building, in which congress meets. On another side is the president's palace, or the white house of the Bolivian republic. It was there that I was received by President Montes. The building is being improved, and the masons are now working at it. I went up a staircase made of the purest white alabaster from the quarries of the Desaguadero river, not far away, and the magnificent parlor in which I was received was decorated with statues and paintings.

Building New Cathedral.
Just next to this palace building is the La Paz cathedral. It has been in course of construction for two generations and more, and parts of it have been torn down again and again. The walls are now about seventy-five feet in height, and there are some signs of their approaching completion. This cathedral is being built through a tax upon all the goods that come across Lake Titicaca. If I am rightly informed the levy is 10 per cent, and it is to be continued as long as the work of building goes on. There are some unkind skeptics who allege that the building will never be completed, as the makers are desirous of continuing the receipts from these imports. As to this I know not, but just now they are doing some work that seems useless, and the workmen are not pushing the job.

Country Has Two Capitals.
This country is in the singular position of having two capitals. The legal capital is at Sucre, where the supreme court holds its sessions and where is the seat of the archbishop. The real capital is La Paz. It is here that the president lives, here congress hold its sessions, and the real work of the administration is done.

The government of the republic is modeled much like that of the United States in that it has a president and a legislature who act as to federal matters; and a number of provinces and departments that are administered by prefects and subprefects, or, as we might say, by governors. There are nine departments and fifty-five provinces. The capital of each department has its municipal council, and the subdivisions have municipal boards. The territories in the northeast of the republic and in the Gran Chaco, on the border of Paraguay, are governed by two delegates.

The president of Bolivia has his cabinet just like President Wilson, and the legislature is composed of a senate and house, nominally elected by the vote of the people. The president receives a salary which at the current rate of exchange would be \$7,200 a year. The senators get about \$200 a month during the sessions, while the deputies or men of the lower house are paid \$15 for each day they attend. These salaries are low, but I am told that some of the officials, like some we have in the United States, actually grow rich during their terms.

Have Religious Liberty Now.
As to religion and education, Bolivia is rapidly changing from a Catholicism to the recognized religion of the state, but of late years religious liberty has been freely permitted, and there are now Protestant mission schools scattered here and there over the country. The Catholics receive from the state about \$80,000 a year, of which \$5,000 is devoted to the spreading of the faith among the Indians. The government gives some money to the Protestant mission schools. It annually appropriates generously toward the American institute of La Paz, and also to a similar school in Cochabamba. I am told that it will give more to Protestant schools for girls as they are established. All of these institutions are

entirely remodeled, a screened porch 200 feet long added, a tango promenade built and many new features secured. Music every afternoon and evening. Dancings. A place where rest, recreation and comfort meet on common ground. Write for Rates and Descriptive Circulars. OAKS HOTEL CLEAR LAKE, IOWA.

New Women's Party in England Will Support Laborites

LONDON, June 27.—Such aristocratic names as the countess of Aberdeen, Lady Brassey, Lord Courtney, Lord Lytton, Lady Strachy and Lady Frances Balfour appear as officers in a new woman's suffrage organization which is pledged to support labor party candidates to Parliament. Its title is the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, and its policy nonpartisan and non-militant. But inasmuch as the labor party is the only one pledged to the cause, labor candidates will be supported even against "tried friends" of other affiliation. The fight, according to the organizers, will be concentrated on the present liberal cabinet with a view to forcing its early retirement. And the liberals, who are accused by the militants of "tormenting women in jail" will have to face the opposition of the suffragettes as well as of the propertied classes. Mrs. Henry Fawcett is president of the union.

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Private Yachts Are Searched for Arms

LONDON, June 27.—The search of private yachts for rifles and other war supplies for Ulster, which has been instituted by the admiralty, is not without its humorous side, since the naval officers commanding the patrol are the guests of the Royal Ulster Yacht club and are permitted to go ashore for tea and tennis. But they are not allowed to remain for dinner, by order of the first lord. The commanders of the searching parties, which board every yacht entering the port or meet them on the sea, fraternize daily with the amateur skippers suspected of gunrunning.

Ever since the report, said to be false, that 3,000 more rifles for the Ulstermen had been landed recently from a private yacht in a cave below Belfast, the destroyers patrolling the Irish sea have been instructed by the admiralty to challenge and board all private yachts, which, to all accounts, are thoroughly searched.

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The Home Beauty Parlor

By Betty Dean

Beauties: Economy is no excuse when, for a small sum you can make at home a full pint of the very best soap and hair tonic as follows: Put 1 ounce quinine (from your druggist), into ½ pint alcohol, then add ½ pint water, rub a little at a time well into the scalp and dandruff and excess will quickly disappear. Continued use of the quinine tonic will restore the soft fluff and beautiful gloss to brittle, faded hair. The timely use of this tonic will always keep your scalp healthy and your hair beautiful. This tonic is very soothing to tender, itching scalps.

Brown Eyes: For a harmless eye tonic dissolve 1 ounce crystals in 1 pint clear water and you will have as good an eye tonic as money can buy. This is excellent for tired, inflamed or aching eyes and quickly relieves granulated lids. Only 2 or 3 drops are required in the eye at a time and its use frequently overcomes the need for glasses.

Coro B.: To stop gaining weight make up this simple, harmless formula at home and take a tablespoonful three times a day and you will soon be rid of the trouble. In its pure form it dissolves 1 ounce paraffin (which all good druggists have in stock). This treatment does not call for dieting and is gentle, yet positive, in reducing fat. When your weight is sufficiently reduced stop the treatment and your face will be solid and skin free from wrinkles.

Teacher: You ask for a good wrinkle-eraser. Use plain almond cream-jelly, the most effective thing I know for eradicating wrinkles and fine lines. It is made as follows: At home dissolve 1 ounce almond oil in ½ pint cold water, then add 2 teaspoonfuls glycerine. After it is thoroughly dissolved, apply generously to skin and massage lightly the long way of the wrinkle. This treatment energizes the stunted tissues, lifts the crease and they gradually assume their correct proportions.

Florence: I find the best treatment for faded, "stringy" hair or dandruff is to shampoo regularly with a tablespoonful of castor oil dissolved in a cup of hot water, which will restore its color, fluff and sheen and so incorporate the hair-roots that the hair will come in thick and long. This makes plenty of thick, cleansing lather that loosens and dissolves all dust, dandruff and excess oil. Rinsing leaves scalp and hair wonderfully sweet, clean and healthy.

Athlete: Try using this simple lotion, which will insure you against freckles and protect your skin from stinging winds: Dissolve 4 ounces apraxum (from any drug store) in either ½ pint hot water or witch hazel and add 2 teaspoonfuls glycerine. Apply sparingly to neck, face and arms and rub lightly until it vanishes. The apraxum lotion is superior to powder because one application lasts an entire day. Shiny skins, oiliness, pimples and other complexion upsets disappear quickly, and its use is a benefit to the finest complexion.

Betty Dean's Beauty Book #5. (Advertisement.)

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