

# Opportunities for Americans in Venezuela

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Venezuela, perhaps more than any of the other Latin-American republics, has been lifted conspicuously into public view within the last decade. The reasons for this prominence are somewhat complex, and it is unnecessary to dwell upon them, though it may be said that back of political and geographical considerations lies the great, disturbing, elemental factor of natural riches.

There are a number of earnest, intelligent Americans of high character, who are making careful, scientific investigation of the country's natural resources. There are, too, some important American enterprises in that country in which large sums of capital have been invested. Doubtless greater sums of money have been put by Americans into asphalt properties than into any other kind of business venture in Venezuela.

There has been, of late, a good deal of controversy concerning the ownership of certain valuable asphalt deposits, but the questions at issue are now in process of peaceful adjustment in the Ven-

ezuelan courts, a procedure consistently urged by the government of the United States. Much misinformation has been circulated in reference to these matters, but what was really being discussed and done in an official way has not been disclosed.

It is not unreasonable to assume, however, that that intelligence which has safely guided the distinguished and highly creditable foreign policy of the United States through the perplexing and difficult mazes of European and Chinese diplomatic affairs may be trusted to dispose of any differences which may arise between the government of the United States and that of Venezuela in a just, patriotic and enlightened manner.

Venezuela has a republican form of government; General Cipriano Castro is the provisional president. A new constitution has recently been adopted which contains many of the salient features of both the constitution of the United States and that of France. Two important innovations appear in it, one making the ministry responsible, as it is in France, and the other change increasing the term of the president from four to six years.

A presidential election will take place some time in the summer or autumn of this year and the candidate then chosen by the ballots of the people will be inaugurated on the 20th of the following February. The chances are that General Castro will be elected president. He is esteemed a successful military man and has suppressed every revolutionary uprising that has taken place since he came into power. He has an army of several thousand men and they are being carefully drilled.

Venezuela has, too, a small but not inefficient gunboat squadron. It is composed of six or seven vessels, the largest of which is the former American yacht *Atalanta*. This vessel has been converted into a gunboat and carries one 3-inch gun and several 6-pounders, all of the most modern and efficient type. The Venezuelan troops are armed with Mauser rifles and they are improving in marksmanship.

Foreigners in Venezuela are not a large factor in point of numbers, but they play an important role in the business and development of the country. As there are about 40,000 Spaniards down there, they are more numerous than any other foreigners. The Italians come next in point

of numbers, and then, perhaps, the English. This latter contingent is composed almost wholly of colored people from the British West Indies; the number of white British subjects from the United Kingdom itself is very small. Some of the most important commercial enterprises of the country, however, are conducted in a very successful manner by Englishmen, and the capital invested in them comes from English sources.

The breakwater and dock facilities at La Guayra, the picturesque and scenically interesting railroad from La Guayra to Caracas, and the large telephone system of the federal districts, with its extensive long-distance circuits, are successful and highly creditable English enterprises.

At present the Germans probably have larger investments in Venezuela than any other foreigners, and the bulk of the commercial business of the country is in their hands, although half of the products are bought by the people of the United States.

No American should invest in a foreign country without a thorough, accurate, trustworthy knowledge of the property or business into which he proposes to put his money. I have received hundreds of letters from the United States requesting information in respect to the resources of Venezuela, and have many times been asked by would-be investors for advice. The uniform reply in such cases has been: "I am glad to give you as much general information as I properly may, but before you invest a penny go to Venezuela and make an adequate investigation on your own account."

Considering what may be said here or elsewhere about the resources of foreign countries, I trust that this bit of advice may be heeded by my countrymen who are seeking investment abroad.

One point of supreme significance which the Germans have clearly grasped, and which has not been adequately comprehended by Americans, is the truth that in order to get something of lasting value out of a country it is necessary to put something into

pressing need of a large influx of well-meaning foreigners, who are willing to remain and aid in the development of the country. In the interests of American commerce in general, as well as for the advantage which may come to the immigrant, I earnestly hope to see at least a few small American colonies successfully planted some time on Venezuelan soil.

Venezuela has been magnificently endowed by nature with abundant and varied resources. For more than four centuries men in quest of gold have been seeking her shores. Sir Walter Raleigh fancied that the fabled El Dorado lay somewhere in the valley of the Orinoco river. The discovery of the El Callao mine some twenty years ago seems to have justified his belief in the abundant resources of the country. This mine in a few years produced upward of forty millions of dollars' worth of gold. It is stated, and it is one of the richest mines of which there is authentic record.

One hundred miles south of the Orinoco river lies a great expanse of territory—millions of acres in extent—much of which is known to contain gold, iron, copper and other valuable minerals. It is the firm conviction of highly competent engineers and other investigators who have carefully explored this region that when the extent, value and comparative accessibility of its resources are once thoroughly understood, a strong and it is to be feared turbulent, stream of immigration will flow to it, and the spirited scenes which marked the development of South Africa and the Klondike will be re-enacted in eastern Venezuela.

Save in a few instances, Venezuelan gold fields have not been exploited by men with large capital, competent experience and a knowledge of modern mining machinery and methods. This gold region does not attract the placer miner, for the reason that the best deposits are quartz, and for their reduction an extensive plant is necessary.

Another obstacle to the rapid development of the Venezuelan gold fields is, and has been, the belief that the climate of that section of South America is a particularly unwholesome and deadly one. It is true that during certain months people who go into the Orinoco valley from the north, and who do not take precautions of a reasonable nature, are likely to contract malarial fevers; but diseases of this kind may very largely be avoided by proper attention to food, diet, water and clothing.

So far as I can ascertain much of the so-called gold region of Venezuela is probably no more insalubrious than were large portions of our western states when the settlers first broke the soil. There is in the Venezuelan gold regions an abundance of good water and a number of powerful waterfalls capable of being utilized in a commercial way.

The gold fields of Venezuela also suffer grievously from lack of adequate transportation facilities. They lie not more than one hundred miles from the banks of one of the world's finest rivers, yet the miner has to transport all of his supplies upon the backs of donkeys, which makes life at the mines, and the operation of them, very expensive. The gold has to be brought out in the same manner. The vital need of the region is a railroad connecting it with some point on the Orinoco river, and when this is built probably the long-expected "awakening" will take place.

The mineral resources of Venezuela are by no means confined to gold. Asphalt, sulphur, copper, asbestos, petroleum, coal and iron are found. On the Orinoco river, about seventy-five miles from its mouth, is situated a remarkably rich deposit of valuable Bessemer ore. These mines have figured in diplomatic correspondence between Venezuela and the United States for upward of fifteen years. They are soon to be exploited in a large way.

FRANK B. LOOMIS,  
United States Minister to Venezuela.



PINS BOYS WAITING AT BOTTOM OF ALLEY.

## Bowling and Its Effect on Players

Away back in the beginning of the twelfth century some resourceful genius originated the game of bowling. The pages of history do not contain the name of the father of the sport which has come to be one of the most popular in the catalogue of athletic amusements.

That history does not disclose the identity of the father of bowling is not surprising to the student of the game. For several centuries after its introduction in England there was a pronounced opposition to it—an opposition not to be reckoned with lightly, for the reason that it had its foundation in the very fountain head of the kingdom. The founders and promoters of the sport perhaps did wisely in maintaining a discreet silence. The kingly wrath, which might have descended upon the heads of the ones upon whom responsibility for introducing an unwelcome pastime might have been fastened, can easily be imagined.

### Interfered with Archery.

In the very beginning bowling was a popular amusement. It attracted old and young and its enjoyment appealed to men in every rank and station. It was just this popularity that brought it under the ban. The depreciation of the game existed because the king of England was concerned lest the practice of archery, considered by him to be so much more important to the military spirit of the kingdom, should suffer. Even though the sport was not countenanced by the government, its practice continued until the beginning of the eighteenth century. Then all bowling alleys were suppressed by law and the game continued to number its followers principally among the wealthy and aristocratic.

No country residence was deemed complete unless it was supplied with a bowling green, and the outdoor game was a most popular one. Royalty patronized it extensively and prime ministers and judges were said to be adepts at a game, in which participation by the rank and file of the people was denied.

In later years the dis-favor in which the sport was held was dissipated entirely, and now bowling is indulged in at will by the subjects of King Edward. While the American games of bowling are an outgrowth of the sport as originally practiced in England, there is a great difference between the ancient English and the modern American game.

The game of bowls in England as played today is very similar to that played when the sport was first introduced. An outdoor bowling green has a smooth turf surface and is from ninety to 150 feet in length. At one end a small white ball is placed. It is called the "jack." The game consists in throwing the bowl so that it will rest close to the "jack." The bowls are oval and biased so that an expert bowler can deliver a curve.

### Popular in America.

In the United States bowling was introduced long years ago. Its popularity has been expanding from year to year and at the present time the indulgence in the various games played on bowling alleys is something extraordinary. Nowhere has an alley been instituted but that novitiates have developed into full-fledged enthusiasts. From coast to coast and from the Dominion line to the gulf there is perhaps no city or town wherein there are not a large number of people who could quite properly be enrolled as devotees of the sport.

Bowling enthusiasts are found among all types and conditions of men. The clerk whose salary is a modest one brushes elbows in the bowling alley with the bank president. The student meets on a common ground the professional man whose name is not unknown to fame. The player who is skillful in his manipulation of the balls finds among his admirers, in many in-

stances, the head of the firm or corporation for which he works. To one at all familiar with bowling it is idle to argue in favor of the sport. That one appreciates full well its advantages and benefits. To the uninitiated, however, it may not come amiss to quote a well-known authority on the subject.

"To my mind," he said, "there is no sport that brings such genuine enjoyment to one as bowling. There is a fascination about the game that grows upon one and the man who starts in to play a casual game often finds himself, before he realizes it, a great enthusiast. The sport is a healthful one. The player exercises all of the muscles of the body. It promotes, too, accuracy and decision—requisites in a good bowler.

"It is a mistake, I think, for a beginner to start using the large balls, unless he has an exceptionally well muscled and strong right arm. In the beginning it is well to employ the smaller balls and gradually work up to the big ones that are used in tenpins. I have known more than one of my acquaintances to become discouraged at the start because of a lameness in the arm and shoulder following the initial trial at the game. This is altogether unnecessary if the novice will exercise a little judgment and not bowl too long at a time until he becomes accustomed to the exercise."

### Plenty of Room for Choice.

Bowling offers a diversity of games. The most popular is tenpins, which is primarily an American game. In London and throughout England there are few tenpin alleys and the pastime is not much practiced there, but in the United States it is the popular game in bowling. In all American bowling games the alley used is the same. A regulation alley is made of a hard wood, high-polished surface. It is not less than forty-one nor more than forty-two inches in width and is sixty feet long, from the center of the spot where the head pin is placed to the foul line. There is a run back of the foul line of fifteen feet.

In tenpins the maximum sized ball is one twenty-seven inches in circumference. Smaller ones may be used, however, at the discretion of the players. The game consists in knocking down as many of the pins as possible. Each player has two chances to roll the ball in each frame and there are ten frames to a game. The player who is fortunate enough to topple over all the pins with his first ball scores a strike. The maximum score is 300 and can be made only by twelve consecutive strikes. In Omaha this score has never been made. Several of the more skillful bowlers, however, have made splendid scores. King Denman, whom the accompanying pictures show in different positions assumed by bowlers, stands at the head of the local devotees of the game.

Small balls are used in all of the more popular games aside from tenpins. In point of favor ninepins, four-back, cocked-hat and seven-up rank in the lead in the small-ball games.

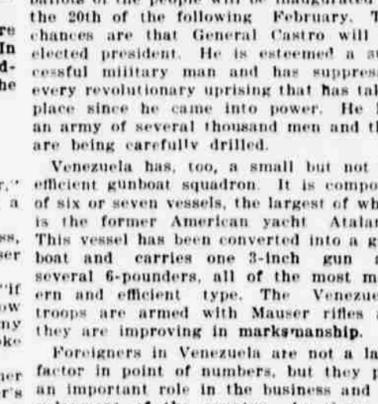
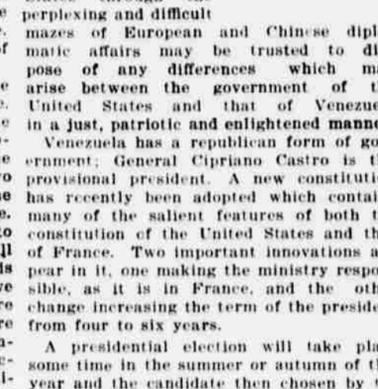
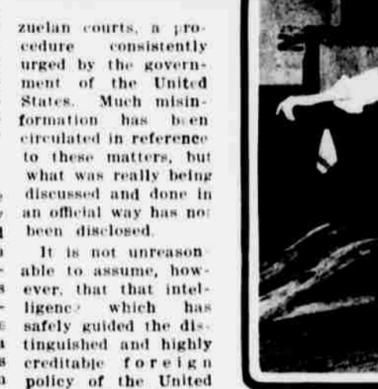
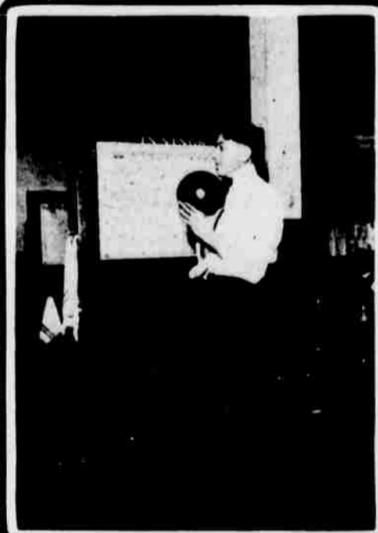
### Anecdotal

Detroit Journal: "I find myself too poor," faltered Sir Walter Raleigh, "to keep a servant."

"Well?" rejoined the good Queen Bess, with froideur, for she chanced to be crossing than two sticks this day.

"Your majesty," quoth the courtier, "if I have no servant, who, pray, is to throw an ewer of water over me as I enjoy my pipe, exclaiming: 'Where there is smoke there surely is fire?'"

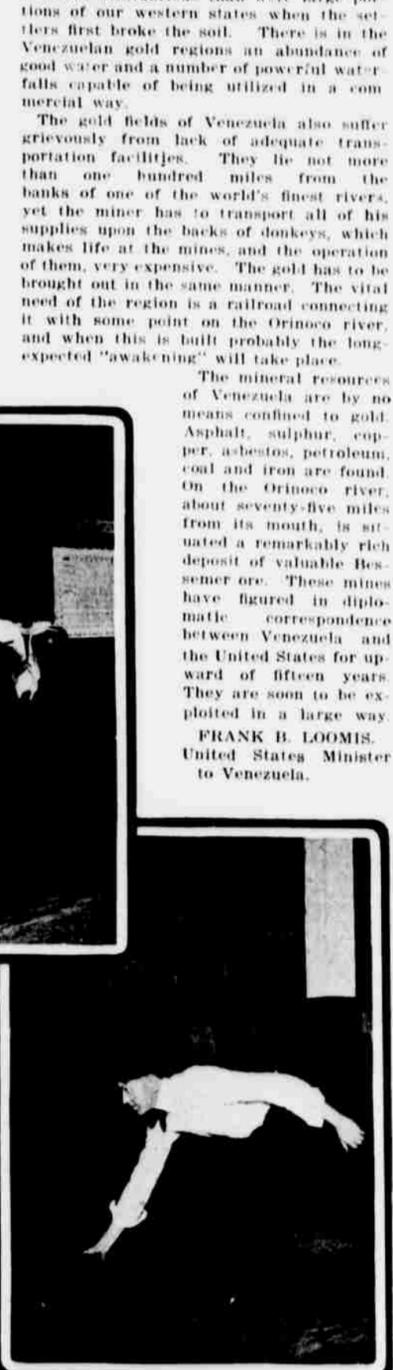
Even the Tudor could not find it in her heart to stand in the way of Sir Walter's having an anecdotal side to his character; accordingly, albeit it was with no very good grace she drew an order upon the royal exchequer.



it. The Germans have put time, intelligence and money into Venezuela. One effect of their activity there is the attracting of German immigrants, and the advent of every fresh German arrival makes a greater demand for goods of German origin.

In seeking a market for their products in South American countries it is of the highest importance for American manufacturers and exporters to take a broad view of international commercial affairs and understand that the planting of a few American colonies in any Latin-American country will create a steady, substantial and growing demand for the product of American mills and farms. It is in this way that foreign trade in new countries may be most surely and easily developed.

Venezuela has immediate and



KING DENMAN, AN OMAHA EXPERT, IN THE FOUR ATTITUDES OF BOWLING.