

# Interview with the President of Costa Rica

(Copyright, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter.)  
**S**AN JOSE, Costa Rica.—I have just had a talk with Costa Rica's democratic president. His name is Don Ricardo Jimenez and he was elected two years ago by a majority vote of the people. This was in spite of the opposition of the administration and the Catholic church. However, the voters told the priests that they were electing a president and not a bishop, and they preferred Don Ricardo. The new president is democratic in his administration, and I am told he has even subleased a part of the presidential mansion to private parties to increase the government revenues. It was in the audience room of this house that he received me. The president is a man of good education and fine address. A lawyer by profession, he speaks several languages, and it was in good American English that our conversation was carried on.

**Government of Costa Rica.**  
 But first let me give you some idea of the government of this little republic. Costa Rica is the quietest and best ruled of all Central America, and its presidents are the choice of the people and not the result of revolutions, as in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras. The country got its independence about seventy-three years ago, and it was in 1847 that it formally adopted the title of the Republic of Costa Rica. It now has a president and congress, each elected for a term of four years, and that only. The president cannot have a second consecutive term. The manner of the election is by an electoral college, just as is our custom at home. I asked President Jimenez what he thought of this method. He said it was a mistake and that the best way would be to choose the executive by the direct vote of the people. The president of Costa Rica has a little different form of administration than President Taft. He has a cabinet, it is true, but he has also a government council, which consists of the cabinet and such other citizens as he may choose to appoint. The salary of the president is just about one-ninth that of a President Taft. He gets a little over \$4,000 a year, or in the money of this country, 15,000 colones.

**Costa Rica and the Canal.**  
 During our talk the Panama canal was referred to, and I asked his excellency what effect this would have upon Costa Rica. He replied that it would benefit it. Said he:  
 "It will open up some excellent lands, which we have not far from the coast on the western side of the mountains. There are large tracts there which would raise the best of coffee, and by the canal we shall be able to have a cheap outlet for that crop to the markets of Europe. In the past we have been much hampered by having only one railroad. I mean that from here to Port Limon on the Atlantic coast. That road has been controlled by the United Fruit company, whose chief interest is in the shipment of bananas, and it has let the coffee wait, knowing that it had the monopoly and that there was no other way for it to get to the coast. We have bettered that condition by building a government railway to the Pacific and we have now no trouble. When the canal is finished there will be a demand for our Pacific coast lands and that part of Costa Rica will grow."

"We expect also an increase in our traffic on the Caribbean side of the mountains. A competition has arisen as to the trade in bananas, and with two companies operating the business should greatly increase. The banana is, as you know, our chief money crop. It amounts to something like eleven million bunches a year and sells for \$4,000,000 and upward. Our exports of coffee are often in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000 per annum. Coffee and bananas are our principal sources of income."

**Investments in Coffee Lands.**  
 "Is there much undeveloped land in Costa Rica, your excellency?" asked I.  
 "There is a great deal, but it needs capital to bring it under cultivation. If we had that and the right shipping facilities we could produce nine or ten times as many bananas as now and could materially increase our coffee plantations. What we need is more money and I should be glad to see American capital brought here. The trouble with your moneyed men, however, is that they are too visionary. You show them a piece of rock with a little gold in it, and they will open their pocketbooks almost without investigation. They may also put money into bananas if they are properly shown, but a sure thing like the coffee of Costa Rica they do not appreciate. This land produces some of the best coffee of the world. The conditions of cultivation are well known, and the op-

## SUPERFLUOUS HAIR REMOVERS ARE MOSTLY FRAUDS.

A Simple Test Will Prove Which Superfluous Hair Removers Are Harmful and Worthless.

The really important problem confronting women is not how to remove superfluous hair. What concerns them most is how to prevent its more vigorous growth after each removal. This brings us to the point. It has been proven by actual test that the only way to retard hair growth, which naturally prevents it from growing out coarser and stiffer after each removal, is to take the vitality out of it, which only goes to prove that merely dissolving hair or removing it in other ways is not all that is required, because if it were, the hair which can be removed more safely with a razor and with less consequent injury than with any of the questionable depilatories.

If you are not thoroughly convinced that this is the only logical and scientific way to remove hair, and you do not mind the risk you take in using questionable depilatories, it is an easy matter to determine by a simple test whether this is true or not. It is better to do so on an unexposed part of the body.

How to make the test.—First, remove a little hair from any part of the body with any of the questionable depilatories. Then remove the same amount of hair from another spot close to it with DeMiracle. Wait a week and notice the difference. You will observe that the hair which was removed with the questionable depilatory grows out again coarser and stiffer, whereas it is just the opposite with the hair which was removed with DeMiracle. It will be plainly seen that there is hardly a trace of hair which may be accounted for by the fact that DeMiracle contains certain ingredients which not only dissolve hair, but actually take the vitality out of it, thereby retarding and preventing an increased growth.

It is because other depilatories lack these special ingredients that it is impossible for them to accomplish the same ideal result. Furthermore, it must be



JUAN SANTA MARIE  
 One of COSTA RICAN Heroes.

DON RICARDO JIMENEZ Pres. of COSTA RICA.

opportunities for money-making in it are excellent. I am hoping that your people will take up the coffee lands on the west coast as soon as the canal is open to trade.

"I suppose money invested in Costa Rica would be safe?" said I, interrogatively.

"Most certainly it would if put in the right place and with due regard to the examination of titles. We have an excellent title system in this country, and you can buy land just as safely here as you can at your home. There is no danger of revolutions and the conditions are quite as reliable as anywhere in the world."

**Why Costa Rica Has No Revolutions.**  
 "Why is it, your excellency, that Costa Rica does not have revolutionary? They are common in the other Central American republics and also in Mexico now."

"There are a number of reasons," replied Don Ricardo. "In the first place, this is a small country and our people have plenty to do to make a living without wanting to fight. Our nation is a peace-loving one. The population is not like that of Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, which is largely composed of Indian blood. The most of our inhabitants are pure whites. You will see this as you walk through the streets, and especially out through the country. You will see many barefooted and the faces and feet are as white as your own. These people are the descendants of Spaniards from the northern part of the Iberian peninsula. We have comparatively few Indians and our ancestors do not intermarry with them."

"Another reason why Costa Rica has no revolutions, continued the president, is because the hands here are very evenly distributed. We have a large number of real estate owners, and nearly every countryman has his own little farm with his patch of bananas, his garden of fruit, his fields for vegetables or grain and his little coffee plantation. The people will not leave these to go out to fight, and you cannot get them to take up arms against the government. They say they cannot leave their farms and that it pays them to remain at home. They realize they are far better off without revolutions."

**Boundary with Panama.**  
 "What is the population of Costa Rica?"

"It is less than 400,000, but the country could support many times that number. Costa Rica has an area larger than many of your states. It is bigger than Maryland, Massachusetts and Delaware combined."

"But you do not know just what land you have? I understand that the boundary between you and Panama is unsettled."

"Yes, that is so, but the amount of land in dispute is not great. The question of the boundary was first submitted to President Loubet, the president of the French republic, but his decision was so manifestly unjust that the question was again opened up and we have chosen the chief justice of the United States au-

preme court to arbitrate it. A commission of Americans is now making the surveys and mapping the boundaries, and it will soon be satisfactorily settled. This work is costing a great deal of money, however, and I am in doubt whether the cost will not more than equal the value of the lands in dispute."

"What is the feeling here as regards the United States?"  
 "It is friendly. We had some trouble with the United Fruit company, but that has passed away and the two nations are on the best of terms. We do most of our trading with you, and you sell us over half of all that we buy. The most of our coffee goes to Europe, but you still take the bulk of our bananas. I am in hopes to see the relations of the two countries come closer and closer."

**Earthquakes and the Canal.**  
 The conversation here turned again to the canal and I said to President Jimenez:

"You are living here in the earthquake belt. Some of your cities have been shaken out of existence and you are subject to volcanic disturbances every few months. Do you think that the earthquakes will ever destroy the Panama canal?"

"I would not like to prophesy as to that," was the reply. "I understand that Panama has had but few earthquakes, but one can never tell what will come. You had better ask Colonel Goethals that question."  
 "I did ask him," said I, "and his reply was that when the national capital at Washington was crumpled to earth by a quake that he would be afraid for the canal, but not until then."

"I am glad he is so confident," replied the president of Costa Rica. "I wish I could be as sure of the safety of my own little country."

**Costa Rica's Debt.**  
 I then asked the president some questions as to the debt of Costa Rica. He replied that this had now been put on a sound financial basis, and that both the foreign debt and the internal debt would in time be paid. The foreign debt amounts to about 17,000,000 colones, or something like \$3,000,000, and the internal debt is much less. The foreign bondholders met last January and approved of the settlement proposed by Costa Rica, and the debt has now been refunded at something like 4 and 5 per cent on par, but with a big discount to the underwriters, as I am told. The president of Costa Rica does not consider a public debt a public blessing, but he believes that money might be borrowed and if properly expended it would be of great good to Costa Rica.

I asked his excellency what he would do if he had \$10,000,000 in his treasury. As quick as a flash he replied:

"I would build roads. That is the crying need of this land. We have practically no highways of commerce except the line of railway which crosses the country from one side to the other. The only roads to the interior are trails, and here and there a wagon road, which during a part of the year is a river of mud. What Costa Rica needs most is cheap transportation, but I fear me it is long before we shall have what we should in that line."

**Pulling the Teeth of the Tropics.**  
 During our talk President Jimenez referred to the great work that has been done at Panama in what some one has called "pulling the teeth of the tropics." I mean the sanitation methods which have turned our canal zone from being the pest hole of the world to one of the healthiest spots upon earth. The president says that our work is being studied by many of the Latin American republics, and that new health methods are being introduced everywhere. He referred to our fight with the hookworm and the discoveries made in Porto Rico saying that Costa Rica was fighting this parasite in the same way.

The country has a medical board, which gives hookworm medicine free of charge to all who apply, and it is sending physicians out to study the disease and to treat the people. So far but little impression has been made upon the health of the country, but the work is at its beginning, and in time it will do great good. Costa Rica is noted for its live interest in sanitary matters. It is now improving the waterworks at San Jose, and is bringing in mountain water through a pipe something like eighteen miles long. A new system of sewers is being introduced, and there are New York parties here who are putting down blocks of new streets with a view to making contracts for repaving the capital.

An Up-to-Date Nation.  
 Indeed, I find this little republic inhabited by what might be called the most

up-to-date and progressive people of all the nations of Central America. It is still overlaid with the debts due to the mistakes of the past, but nevertheless it is struggling along the road of modern civilization. It has a good school system. Education is compulsory and it is said that there are more teachers in the republic than soldiers. There are 3,000 children in the primary and secondary schools and there are colleges of one kind or another in most of the cities. The government is spending almost a dollar a head per annum on its educational branch and the cost for every pupil is estimated at \$12 per year. At the same rate we should be spending something like \$80,000,000 per annum on our public schools.

The government has a secretary of public instruction and the whole country is divided up into circuits and school districts. Each district has its school board and every circuit has its inspector, who goes about and examines the schools and the teachers. Some of the high schools are supported entirely by the national treasury, but these have normal training departments to supply teachers for the graded schools. The normal schools are for both men and women and they have many government scholarships. As it is now the national government buys all the text books for the normal schools, but except in the case of the poor the children have to buy their own books.

In addition to the native schools there is a large number of the wealthy Costa Ricans who send their children abroad to be educated. The most of this class speak several languages, including the English. More of the young men go to the United States for their education than to Europe and many of the young women are sent to the colleges and convents of France.

**Books and Newspapers.**  
 One can see something of the literary tastes of the Costa Rican by a look at the book stores of San Jose. There are a number of excellent ones, and in some you will find a good supply of English, French and German literature, including our best magazines and the New Orleans and New York daily papers. As to the native press, there are a half-dozen dailies published, but they are mostly folios and look like postage stamps in comparison with the blanket sheets of our Sunday journals.

The country has also weeklies, monthlies and annuals. In Limon papers are published in both English and Spanish, and here at the capital there is one journal which is printed for the most part in red type. The advertising rates of the dailies are sometimes like \$1 an inch a month, or 12 cents per inch for each insertion. The paper used is poor and the illustrations are atrocious.

**Posts and Telegraphs.**  
 Costa Rica has a good postal system. There are about 200 postoffices, and the postal matter received in dispatch amounts to about 7,000,000 packets a year. It has numerous telegraph offices, and there is a wireless which works between Limon and Bocas del Toro. As to the rates for telegrams and cables, these are exceedingly costly. Everything is taxed, and you pay a fixed rate for your telegram and a tax for each ten words in addition. I sent a cable to Washington yesterday, and it cost me over 60 cents a word, and to this I had to add about 17 cents for each ten words or less of Costa Rican tax and 50 cents more as the Nicaragua tax, because my cable message passed through Nicaragua on its way to our capital. Indeed, the way things are taxed here is a sin. Everything pays a license, and the government itself makes all the alcohol. But of these things I may write more in the future.  
 FRANK G. CARPENTER.

### Does the Type Blur or Run Together When You Read?

If so there is probably something wrong with your eyes—which if corrected in time will save you much inconvenience in the years to come.

An examination will show whether or not you need glasses.

I don't advise glasses unless positively necessary.

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The Exmoor and the Curzon, illustrated here, are two suits which show why this is a popular store for well dressed men. Both of these suits have the distinctive character which is the biggest factor of good dress. The Exmoor, a two button double breasted garment, will be worn much by men of all ages this season, as will the two button sack Curzon. Many other styles, equally distinctive, will be found in our Fall and Winter display, consisting mostly of

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## The Secret of Developing The Form To One of Exquisite Plumpness

By MISS VALESKA SURATT, One of the Queens of the American Stage, Whose Self-Made Beauty Has Thrilled Thousands of Theatre-Goers.

THERE are thousands of women today who use electricity, hot baths, follow a diet, over-exercise, wear tight corsets, tight garters, tight collars, and wonder why their hips are so large, why their necks are so sinewy, their busts so undeveloped, and their ankles so clubby. We shouldn't blame the Chinese women for squeezing their feet into mere pegs. That is their limit of distortion. But, we alleged leaders of civilization, squeeze ourselves at the waist where we live, distort our bodies, disarrange our vital organs and wonder why some parts of our anatomy grow larger than others.

To acquire a beautiful form is much easier before you have begun to distort it than afterward. Yet, it is possible for any woman to improve her figure, and no amount of hard work is necessary.

Next to fill out hollows in the neck, strengthen sagging or sunken cheeks, and for removing wrinkles you will find the following formula one of the most effective you can imagine. It requires but a few moments of your time a day. There is no work about it whatever.

In a large bowl, pour half a pint of hot water. Place this bowl in a pan of water on a slow fire. Add two ounces of opal and continue stirring until all is dissolved. At first it will look like jelly, then it will start to cream. When it does this, remove from the fire, add slowly two table-spoonfuls of glycerine and stir constantly until cold. Keep in air-tight jar. You should be able to get opal from any good drug store and it should not cost you more than fifty cents.

Apply this cream very liberally every morning with the tips of the fingers, after washing your face. Rub well into the skin until the cream has disappeared.

This cream will not grow hair. Don't be afraid to use the cream. Put it on thick, the more the better.



Valeska Suratt



The formula I have given above is unexcelled, too, for reducing large hips. In such case, on applying the cream, rub briskly and firmly with a slapping motion, every evening before retiring. These simple formulas will solve the problem of the woman who is seeking to beautify her form. Simple, are they not? But splendidly effective.

Many inquiries have been received from women who suffer from blackheads and skin eruptions. I have never known anything which would remove blackheads and acne except the following formula which I have used with the most remarkable success.

For skin eruptions the blood must first be purified. Of this there is no question. A blood purifier which produces splendid results in a short time, make up this formula:

Dissolve twelve ounces of granulated sugar in one-half pint of water, and add one ounce of arsenic, and mix the whole together thoroughly, then add more water to make a pint. Arsenic is a liquid which you can get at the drug store by the ounce. Get it in the original package. Take one or two teaspoonfuls of this mixture three or four times a day, with a little water if desired. This is absolutely safe. Never pinch or poke at pimples. You simply make them worse and last longer.

An exceptionally large number of requests have been made for an effective hair-grower, and I will repeat the formula here for those who have not read it heretofore in these columns. This formula is unsurpassed for falling hair, dandruff, and for growing hair.

With a half-pint of water mix half a pint of alcohol. To this add one ounce of beta-quinol. Shake thoroughly, and it will then be ready to use. If you prefer you can use imported bay rum instead of the water and alcohol.

The beta-quinol you get at almost any drug store for not more than fifty cents. This formula makes one full pint of the best hair-grower and it costs you much less than a dollar.

This formula should be applied very freely after brushing the scalp generously for a few minutes all over. Rub the tonic thoroughly into the scalp with the finger tips.

## Everybody reads Bee want ads