

Carpenier Chats with President of Panama

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OTEL TIVOLI, Ancon, Panama. —I want to tell you something about the baby republic of the South American continent. I have just had a long talk with its president in the government palace and he has laid before me the plans which are proposed for the present and future.

Before I give you my interview, however, I should like to say a word about the country and people. I have called Panama "the baby republic." It is so, in both size and age. It was born when the United States took over the canal proposition, and that was only ten years ago. It is so small that it seems little more than the stubby tail of our sister continent, and, as it looks on the map, it might have been bitten off short, were it not for North America, as one bites off the tail of a dog.

Nevertheless, the case of Panama and South America just now is that in which the tall bids fair to do something at wagging the dog. Panama is the setting of our great canal, and although it is only one-hundredth as large as Brazil, one-thirtieth the size of Argentina and one-twentieth as big as Bolivia, it will for the next two years make more news than any of them in the world's daily journals.

Panama has but a small population. The whole country has less population than Buffalo, Montreal or Cincinnati, and many of its people are Indians, some of whom have never been civilized.

Notwithstanding this, the country is rich beyond the dreams of avarice. It has a soil that needs only scratching to bring forth tropical fruits, and its hills are said to contain copper, silver and gold. It has waters in which the pearl oysters live, and islands where are supposed to be buried treasures equal to those of the Peruvian Incas.

It is a land free from debt. The government owes nothing, and in addition it has \$3,000,000 invested in mortgages on New York real estate, and from now on it will receive a quarter of a million dollars per annum out of Uncle Sam's treasury as a rental for the zone of the Panama canal.

I have been over much of the republic. A great part of it is a jungle, and of the whole considerably more than half is unoccupied. Nevertheless, it has large tracts of high pasture land in the north and there are thousands of acres of land lower down which will raise cocoa and coffee and sugar cane and bananas. A short time ago I visited the province of Bocas del Toro, which adjoins Costa Rica. There the United Fruit company has already laid out thirty or forty thousand acres of banana plantations, and it is now exporting from Bocas something like 400,000 bananas a year, or more than enough to give three bananas to every man, woman and child on the North American continent. The banana exports now amount to six or seven hundred thousand dollars a year.

Adjoining the province of Bocas del Toro is Chiriqui, which President Porras is now trying to open up by an electric railroad to be driven by the waters of the Caldera river. The Chiriqui country is high and healthy. A great part of it is more than 3,000 feet above the sea, and, as the president says, it has a climate which is perpetual spring. It is noted for its fine grass and fat stock and for the ship passing through the canal. The country has been recently investigated by the American meat trust with a view to determining whether it would pay to build a packing house here to supply the canned beef trade of the west coast of South America. It was found that the cattle on hand just now could not keep the factory running and so nothing was done.

**Fine Cattle Country.** Nevertheless, it is said that there is enough land in Panama for stock raising to support 5,000,000 head of cattle. There are parts of the country where one acre will fatten a steer, and so far there are public pastures where any one can graze his stock. The weather is so warm that there is no need of barns or sheds and the animals feed out of doors all the year round. There are also special fattening grounds where fudder plants are set out, the animals being fed only wild grasses until the time they are needed for market. It is also said that alfalfa will grow and that at least two crops can be secured during the rainy season and a third crop by irrigation in the dry time of the year. The present state of cattle raising in the Chiriqui pastures is said to be a little more than \$1 a head per annum, and I am told that this can be materially reduced if the lands are fenced.

**Americans in Coffee.** President Porras tells me that Americans have begun to take up lands and set out coffee plantations in the northern part of the republic. Dr. Dexter, the president of the National Institute, in Panama City, has just set out 5,000 trees, and he expects to have 100,000 when his plantation is in full swing. There are a number of North American families who have coffee estates near David, upon the highlands some miles in the interior. Some of these are ex-employees of the canal and others are outsiders who have come in from the United States to settle. There is one fine coffee plantation in Christiana, where 35,000 trees are in bearing, and there is a rubber estate near Montijo, bay owned by a New England company which has 60 square miles that will be set out in bananas, pineapples, coconuts and other tropical fruits. This company owns thousands of rubber trees from which it is annually gathering the sap.

At the present time the tomatoes and



The new Capitol of the Panama Republic.



Dr. Belisario Porras

Blessing the Cornerstone of the Panama Exposition.

other vegetables and fruits of the temperate zone are brought to Panama from the states. President Porras tells me that the highlands of Chiriqui will raise the finest of tomatoes and potatoes, and that a great trucking business might be developed which would supply the canal traffic as well as have a large market in the tropical lowlands.

**More Tropical Fruits.** I asked the president as to his plans for the development of the country in the raising of tropical fruits. He replied that the banana industry could be greatly increased, and that he had already begun to open up a cocoa and ivory nut industry along the Caribbean sea south of Porto Bello in the province of San Blas. He expects to build a town along the San Blas coast, and to induce immigrants to settle there and go into cocoa nut raising.

That whole region is spotted with coconut islands. The trees grow without cultivation, and they are sold by the Indians to traders, who go from island to island in boats. The San Blas Indians are semi-savage and until now they would have nothing to do with the whites. President Porras has in some way acquired their friendship, and they are conferring with the Panama government as to its plans for the development of their country. These plans include a town to be built on a beautiful bay near the mouth of the Aguada creek on the Gulf of San Blas.

**Best Coconuts in World.** As to the Panama coconuts, it is claimed that they are the best on the market, having more oil than the nuts of other parts of the world. The lathums of Panama is outside the hurricane belt and the trees are not in danger of being blown down, as in some of the West India islands. I understand that a Colon merchant is setting out 50,000 coconut palms at Nombre de Dios, and that a grove of 100,000 is being planted near Almirante bay, where the United Fruit company has its large holdings. Other groves are being set out on Panama bay and on Montijo bay, but there is no land that surpasses that of the San Blas coast and its thousands of islands in the raising of this crop. A coconut grove will fruit about five years after the sprouts are planted, and it is estimated that a grove of 10,000 trees can be brought into bearing for about \$3 per tree. When mature the trees should each net the owner something like \$1 per year.

**Local Land Law.** During my chat with President Porras I asked him to tell me about the new land laws which his government has introduced since he took office of the administration. He thereupon called in the secretary of public works, or fomento, Senor Ramon F. Acevedo, and we chatted together as to the radical changes which have been made. They affect the whole land situation and promise to rapidly develop the Panama republic. In order to understand them one must realize that Panama is different from any of the other South American countries. It belonged to Colombia, and all the lands of the isthmus were once the property of the Spanish king, the people holding them from him by lease, as it were.

Each landowner paid so much a year, and this tax was continued until the people met together and objected. They said they were willing to pay a good round sum for once and for all, but they did not want an annual tax. To this the Spanish monarch consented, and along about 100 years ago, more or less, the lands became free. They did not, however, go into individual hands. They were held in common, no one having a title to any individual tract. These were known as the tierras indultadas, and the result of such ownership was that a man would cultivate a tract of land until it was worn out and then move somewhere else and take up another.

**Title in Government.** The titles to most of the lands have remained in the hands of the government, and so at present the republic is practically in the shape of a new country, with the government having the right to allot the lands as congress decrees. President Porras and his officials have given a great deal of study to this question and it is from them that the present scheme which is now just to be put into operation has come.

These new land laws provide that, instead of selling the land as in the past, with the provision that the purchaser shall cultivate the land for five years before he is given a title thereto, the lands shall be sold outright in tracts not to exceed 5,000 hectares, or 12,500 acres, and that the title shall go to the purchaser therefor. In the past the land has been sold in large tracts, and it has been impossible for the small landowner to buy, for the reason that he could not afford to cultivate for five years before getting the

title. By the new laws he cannot buy more than 5,000 hectares of land until he has all of his first tract under cultivation or in use. Nevertheless, 12,500 acres is a very nice farm, and there are opportunities now for any one—American, European or Panamanian—to buy one such tract and hold it for speculation or cultivation as he pleases.

The prices at which this government land is to be sold are from \$50 to \$5,000 per hectare, or two and one-half acres, or at from 50 cents to \$2.00 per acre, according to the character and locality of the land. Think of getting 12,500 acres of land for \$7,500! That is one of the possibilities that Panama is now offering. Such land can be mortgaged or subdivided and sold. Formerly the poor man who took up public land could not borrow money on it, for he had no title until he had cultivated it for five years. Now he can sell a portion of his purchase or he can make a loan on it and put in such crops as coffee, cacao or rubber, which take some years to come into bearing.

**Small Holdings Desirable.** The secretary of public works tells me that this law has been in effect since last July, and that it is working well. It will bring in a population of land owners whose estates will be comparatively small, and it will lead to the immediate and active development of the country. Dr. Porras says that the government has also reserved some of its lands to give to the poor. It will allow five hectares to every poor person who can show himself to be such, and ten hectares, or twenty-five acres, to each immigrant family.

"Another thing we expect to do," said the president of the republic, "is to establish here at Panama banks of issue, with charters from the government. The laws for these will go into force very soon. As it is now, there is practically no opportunity for the small land owner to borrow money on long time. The banks here will not usually loan for more than six or nine months, and some years ago before the national bank was established, the interest paid was often as high as 10 or 12 per cent a month. These new banks will loan money on mortgages, which may extend as long as twenty years, according to contract, and the interest not exceed 5 per cent per annum. We expect that the people who will take up these public lands and pay for them will borrow money of these banks in order to develop their plantations and to maintain themselves until their lands come into bearing.

"What are you doing as to other public works?" I asked.

"We have laid out the construction plans for two railroads that will form the initial development of the interior of the country. One of these is in the province of Chiriqui, of which I have already told you, and the other is in Los

Santos, which slopes down to the Gulf of Panama. Both of these roads will be electric. Fuel of all kinds is very high here, but we have swift flowing rivers with great falls, which will give us enough electricity to light all our villages and cities, to run our railroads, and in addition move many great industries. We have already tested the Caldera river, which is to supply the power for the Chiriqui road, and also for the road which will run in Los Santos. The Chiriqui road will be about thirty miles long. It will go from David to Boquete, with a branch to Concepcion. There is now at Boquete a colony of about twenty American families. The most of them are raising coffee, but they cannot export their crop on account of the cost of carting it to the seacoast. When the road is completed, it will go down upon it. The road in Los Santos will not only develop the agricultural possibilities of that part of the republic, but will open up a mining section which is rich in copper, gold and silver. Its power will be supplied by the Lavilla river."

**Looking for Tourists.** "What do you expect to do for the tourists when the canal is completed?" "We shall make them comfortable," replied President Porras. "We have already put up several hotels in Panama and Colon and we have just now made a contract with an English firm for a big hotel to accommodate at least 500 people. This will be located on the sea, but facing the canal on the edge of Panama City. It will be largely patronized and it ought to pay from the start. We had 25,000 tourists here last year and we expect to have 40,000 during 1914. If they spend \$5 apiece, which is not a high estimate, they will leave on the isthmus \$1,000,000 in gold."

"What are your plans connected with the completion of the canal?" I asked.

"We have a number of important measures under way," President Porras replied. "For one thing we expect to have a large exposition here in 1915. This will be participated in by the countries of North and South America, and we hope that those of Europe and Asia as well. We want the merchants of the world to bring samples of their goods and show them at Panama, and we hope that many of them will leave the samples here, making a permanent commercial museum along the line of the canal. All such samples will be admitted free of duty."

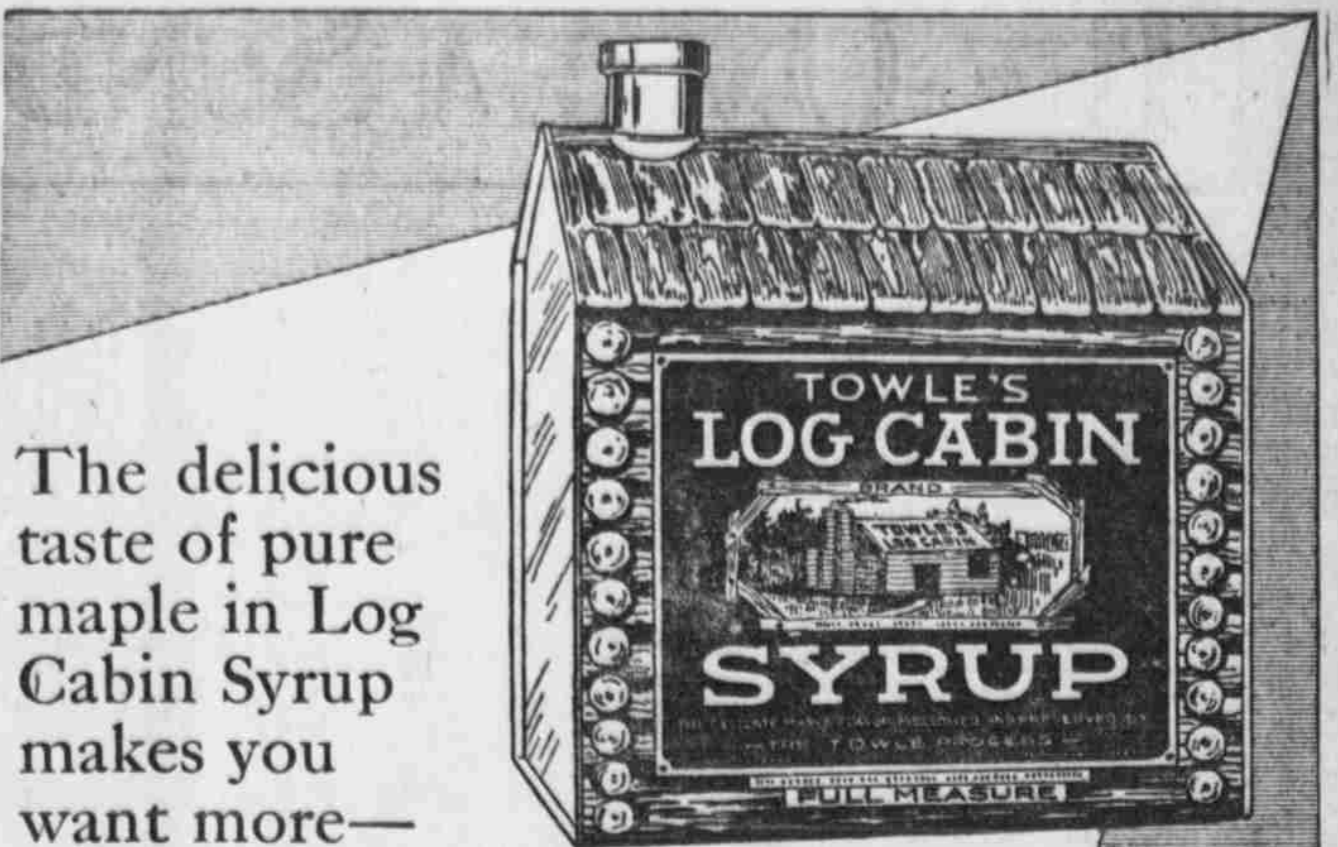
"What is another measure I am trying to further?" I asked.

"That is another measure I am trying to further, which is to establish two large bonded warehouses at either end of the canal, where goods can be exchanged and sent onward without paying duty for the privilege of making the exchange at this point. We believe that this will result in a great carrying trade, by which goods will be brought to Panama and trans-shipped. The larger lines of steamers will have their cargo of goods sent up and down the coast of the continent, and we freight for their larger vessels, upon which it will be taken through the canal and to other parts of the world."

"Is it your idea that Panama will grow rapidly?"

"Not immediately," said the president of the republic. "As soon as the canal is quite finished many of the employes will be dismissed, and for a year or so perhaps, our business may be dull. It will spring up with the increase of the traffic through the canal, and from then on there will be a steady growth in the country and cities. I expect that Panama itself will, within ten years from now, have 100,000 people, and that Colon will have half as many. As to the republic that is bound to grow as soon as its resources are used and the great opportunities we offer to investors and colonists become generally known."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



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People who've 'barrels of money' probably won't appreciate this advice. This is for the reader who knows the value of every five-cent piece, and usually it saves from 40 to 100 five-cent pieces for those who are informed. Buying medicines in driblets costs more than making a big supply yourself. Buying ordinary patent medicines means that you pay too much for syrups, corks, bottles, labels, cartons, etc. For instance, if you buy a 25-cent bottle of cough medicine, it contains about two ounces, four-fifths of which is syrup—and for 25 cents you can make one-half gallon of syrup.

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Health and Beauty Helps

BY MRS. MAE MARTYN

Grace: Certainly that brittleness of hair and your dandruff are dangerous conditions and should be corrected quickly by a proper shampoo. Get some canthrox from your druggist and dissolve a teaspoon of canthrox in a half cup of clean water. This makes an abundance of rich, cleansing lather, and rinsing leaves the scalp and hair wonderfully sweet and clean. These shampoos are very soothing to tender, itchy scalps and so invigorate the hair roots that a growth of glossy, fluffy, even-colored hair results. Canthrox shampoos are invaluable to the finest growth of hair and prevent as well as overcome all scalp and hair difficulties.

Lotta M.: Here is a simple, inexpensive treatment for hairy growths: Mix a thick paste with some powdered delatone and water. Apply to hairs not wanted and in two or three minutes rub off and the skin will be smooth and hairless. Then wash the skin to remove the remaining delatone.

Gloria: I always use a crysoto tonic for my eyes when they are weak, watery and inflamed, or use it as an eye wash when I am going to dinners or parties and wish to look especially nice. I buy an ounce of crysoto from my druggist and put into one pint clear water, then place two or three drops in each eye a few times a day until they are strong again. This eye tonic is also very good for granulated lids and will give a sparkle and delightful expression to dull, expressionless eyes.

Dolly: Your itchy scalp can be relieved and cured, as well as the falling hair, by the use of a quinine tonic which at least a dozen of my personal friends are using and making at home from an ounce of quinine dissolved in a half pint of alcohol, to which should be added a half pint of water. They use this regularly by massaging into the roots of the hair, and they claim the itching stops immediately, and the tonic improves the growth of the hair and helps nature make it beautiful and healthy.

Hortense: Indeed, you can really cure that first depressed feeling which is accompanied with such a sallow condition of the face. They are caused by sluggish blood (very common in the fall and win-

ter months) which is not properly eliminating the poisons from the system. Try this blood purifier and tonic: Into one-half pint alcohol (whiskey must not be used) pour one ounce karoena, then add one-half cupful sugar and hot water to make a full quart. Take one tablespoonful of this old-fashioned blood cleaner and tonic before each meal. This is splendid for that weak, worn feeling and restores the kidneys to normal action and the blood to a healthy condition. Its timely use will save much serious sickness.

Teacher: In your case the wrinkles and lines in your skin are probably caused by its extreme dryness. To remove them use this preparation which you can make for yourself, which will act rapidly and restore the softness and natural tone to the skin. Get an ounce of alcohol at the drug store and dissolve it in one-half pint of water. Add two level teaspoonsful glycerine. Apply this before retiring and leave over night. This will remove wrinkles, prevent crows' feet and make your face soft and satiny. Since it has removed my crows' feet I use it to clear and whiten my skin.

Anna: No, don't make yourself miserable by unnecessary dieting or indulging in violent exercise to reduce fat. Make up and take this simple reducer and your weight will soon be just where you want it: Dissolve four ounces paronin in one and one-half pints hot water; when it cools strain and take a teaspoonful before meals. This paronin reducer acts gently, is quite harmless, and entirely satisfactory results are quickly attained.

Girls: I have rejuvenated my complexion and again have the velvety rose-tint skin of my girlhood. I stopped using powder and now use this simple, inexpensive lotion: Dissolve one-half pint whiskey or hot water dissolve four ounces spirumae, then add two teaspoonfuls glycerine. This lotion dries quickly after being applied and is invaluable. Use it on the face, neck, arms and hands and it will impart to the skin that youthful purity and exaltation that it is impossible to obtain any other way. It is excellent for chaps, cold sores and to protect against fall winds, and dispels the oily, sallow, rough condition in a very short time.—Advertisement.

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Eating Meat Regular Clogs the Kidneys, Then Your Back Hurts

Flush your Kidneys occasionally with a tablespoonful of Salts to avoid danger.

Most folks forget that the kidneys, like the bowels, get sluggish and clogged and need a flushing occasionally, else we have backache and dull misery in the kidney region, severe headaches, rheumatic twinges, torpid liver, acid stomach, sleeplessness and all sorts of bladder disorders. You simply must keep your kidneys active and clean, and the moment you feel an ache or pain in the kidney region, get about four ounces of Jad Salts from any good drug store here,

take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then get fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and is harmless to flush clogged kidneys and stimulate them to normal activity. It also neutralizes the acids in the urine so it no longer irritates, thus ending bladder disorders. Jad Salts is harmless, inexpensive; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everybody should take now and then to keep their kidneys clean, thus avoiding serious complications. A well-known local druggist says he sells lots of Jad Salts to folks who believe in overcoming kidney trouble while it is only trouble.—Advertisement.

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