



THE SPACIOUSNESS OF THE ROOMS AFFORDS PLENTY OF ROOM TO DRESS

Culebra having a height of 660 feet. The Pacific side is even more broken along the shore.

Five miles inland from Colon is Gatun, site of the famous dam. Ten miles from Panama is Culebra where the great cut through the hill is made. The tourist will note that there is a constant stream of vessels passing through the Canal. It is one of the few, if not the only government owned property, which really pays a return on the investment. Vessels do not pass through the Canal under their own power, except while traversing Gatun Lake. They are controlled by electric engines called "mules," which, hitched to the vessels, bow and stern, by wire cables, guide them through the gigantic locks with little difficulty. The precision with which the Canal is operated excites admiration.

Great White Fleet tourists are given an excellent opportunity to view the canal, as a converted torpedo boat destroyer takes them part way through the waterway—the remainder of the trip is made by rail and they are guests of the famous Tivoli Hotel which together with the equally well known Washington Hotel in Colon is maintained by the United States Government as a resting place for tourists.

Panama on the Pacific side of the Isthmus is picturesque with its fishing fleet anchored below the walls and a few miles distant across the great Savanna, the ruins of Old Panama.

Pedro Arias de Avila founded old Panama on August 15, 1519, and the colony became the most important in Spain's American empire.



CAFE VERANDAH ON A SHIP OF THE GREAT WHITE FLEET

The city was the centre of the Spanish colonial government and by a decree of Charles V, dated February 26, 1538, the governor was given jurisdiction as far as Nicaragua to the north and all the Spanish Provinces to the south, as far as the Strait of Magellan, including the Provinces of Cartagena, Chile, Peru and what is now Argentina. After Pizarro conquered the Inca empire in Peru the city of Panama became the port from which the enormous wealth of gold, silver and precious stones was poured into Spain as a result of the sacking of the Inca temples.

The city was connected with the Caribbean port of Puerto Bello by a paved highway which continued to be the only method of transportation across the Isthmus until the railroad was built in 1848-1855.

When Panama was at the height of its glory it outclassed even the capital of Peru in commercial activity and wealth.

The capture of Panama by Henry Morgan is one of the most remarkable military exploits of the age. The expedition numbered 1200 men. The march across the Isthmus was a tremendous undertaking and the men nearly starved. The Spaniards had swept the countryside clean and Morgan's men were actually forced to eat their leather bags. An old chronicler said, "They made a huge banquet upon those bags of leather which doubtless had been more grateful unto them if diverse quarrels had not arisen as to who should have the greatest share." It took the little force ten days to cross the Isthmus. The



PARK AND BRIDGE WITH PANAMA CITY IN THE DISTANCE

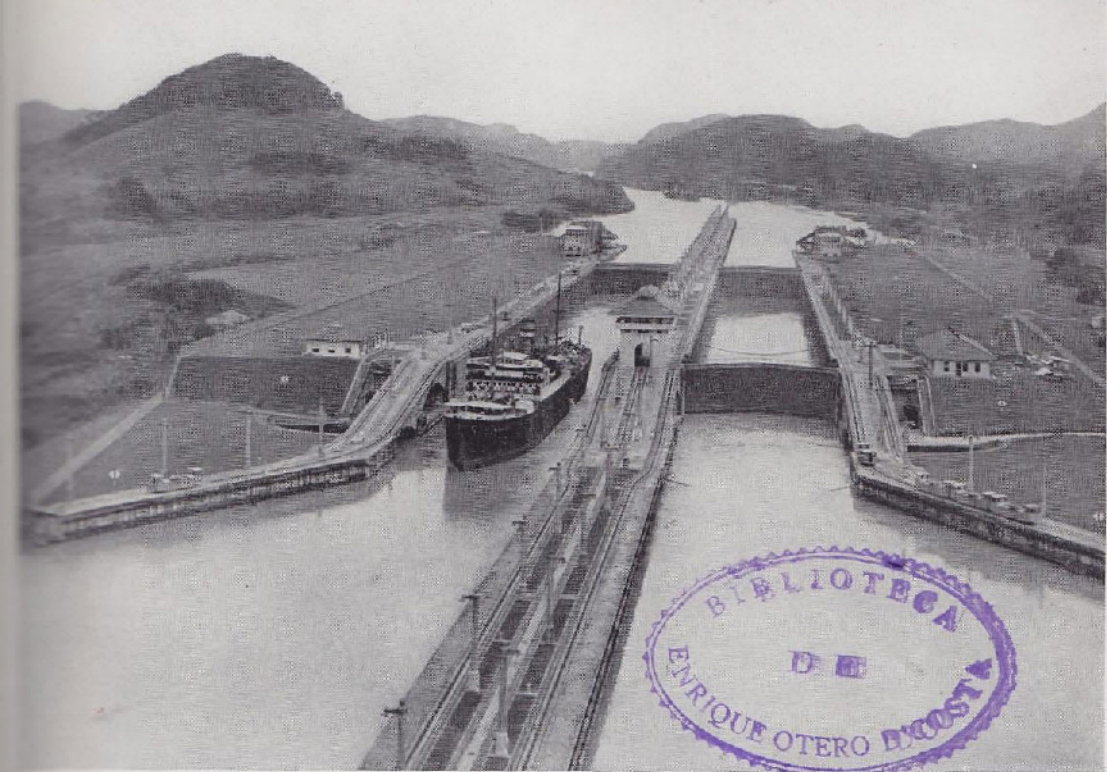
governor of Panama had ample news of the approach of the Buccaneers. He had two squadrons of cavalry, four regiments of foot and a huge number of wild bulls, driven by a number of Indians—the idea being that the bulls were to be driven down the causeway along which it was expected the Spaniards were to arrive, trampling the attacking force under foot. Morgan, however, abandoned the main causeway and made his approach to the city by a roundabout road.

The actual fighting lasted only for two hours and the old chronicler states, “At the end of this time the greatest part of the Spanish force was ruined and almost all killed—the rest fled away.”

Morgan issued an order to his men forbidding them to drink and later in the day because he could not get certain information he desired, the town was fired. The houses of the city were built of cedar which burned easily. The fire raged without ceasing for four weeks until practically the entire city was razed to the ground. Murder, rapine, torture—every kind of cruelty was practiced and finally the Buccaneers marched away on February 24, 1671. Morgan carried away with him 600 prisoners, mostly women and children and 175 beasts of burden laden with gold, silver, and jewels.

The city was obliterated and it was not until two years later that a new walled Panama was founded below the hill of Ancon, seven miles from the old site.

When, out of the welter of the revolution of 1809-1824, Simon



A WONDER WORK OF ENGINEERING—THE PANAMA CANAL

Bolívar founded his great Colombian Federation in 1821, made up of the provinces of Ecuador, Venezuela and New Granada—Panama elected to join that republic. Bolívar died in 1831—the confederation fell to pieces and from it emerged the separate republics of Ecuador, Venezuela and New Granada. Panama remained a part of New Granada. In 1858 New Granada became known as the United States of Colombia. The name was later changed to the Republic of Colombia. Panama continued as a department of that country for eighty-two years—from 1821 to 1903—and on the third of November 1903, Panama declared its independence and became a separate Republic.

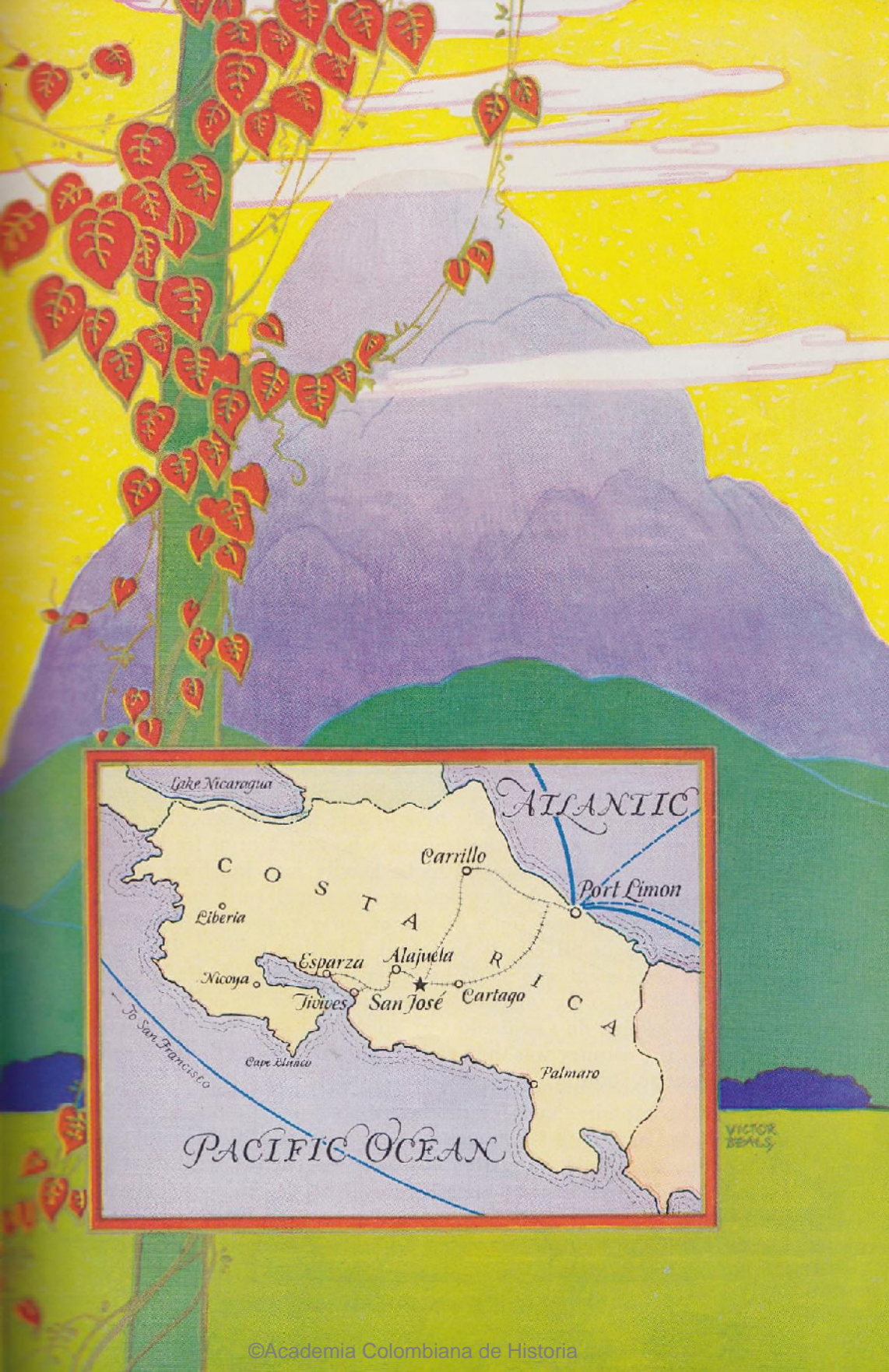
In recent years Panama has made wonderful advance and economic progress. Panama realizes that her future prosperity depends upon her opening up the country and much has been done in the construction of new highways.

Panama is an outstanding example of the efficiency of American sanitary experts. During the time of De Lesseps and his coworkers, yellow fever claimed a fearful toll among the laborers in the Canal Zone. In the vigorous clean-up which followed the American occupation, yellow fever was eliminated and malaria was controlled. It is a matter of fact that there has not been a case of yellow fever since 1906, and the entire Isthmus which, fifty years ago, was known as a focal point for disease, is today a pleasure resort visited annually by thousands of tourists.

COSTA RICA

THE beauty of Costa Rica is in itself worth a trip to the Caribbean. Purple mountains piled against the sky, white houses flashing on the hillsides, a snowy crescent of beach gleaming through a lacework of cocoanut palms.

Costa Rica is a progressive little republic whose agriculture and industry have justified the name the Spaniards gave it, "Rich Coast."

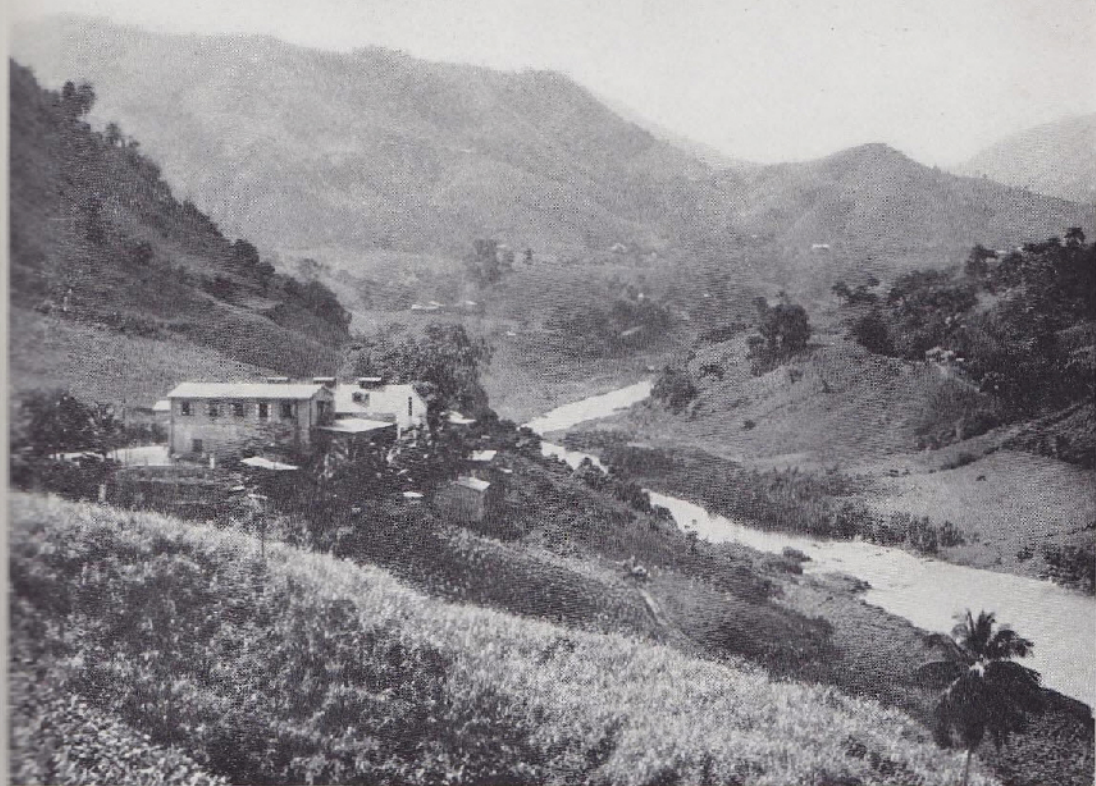




THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION MAY STILL BE SEEN IN THE TROPICS

COSTA RICA The Republic of Costa Rica, literally “rich coast” in Spanish—and appropriately so named by them—is not quite as large as the State of West Virginia. It has an area of 23,000 square miles and a population of 380,000. The Republic obtained its name when Columbus on his fourth, and last, voyage was given some golden ornaments by the Indians who met him as he landed. The Indians were first disposed to be kindly but, incensed at the treachery of the Spaniards, they destroyed the small settlement which Columbus founded; and for a matter of forty years the aborigines successfully fought all efforts to found a lasting colony. The first permanent settlement was made by Herman Sanchez de Badajoz in the year 1540, when he founded a city named after himself. In 1565 one Juan Vasquez de Coronado was appointed governor of Nueva Cartago, as the country was then called, and established Spanish rule over the entire country.

When the captain-generalcy of Guatemala was set up Costa Rica was included and, with Guatemala, formed a part of the viceroyalty of New Spain. As such its history is closely interwoven with the history of this viceroyalty. On September 15, 1821, the independence of the Central American States was declared at Guatemala and upon the formation of the Central American Republic, Costa Rica became a



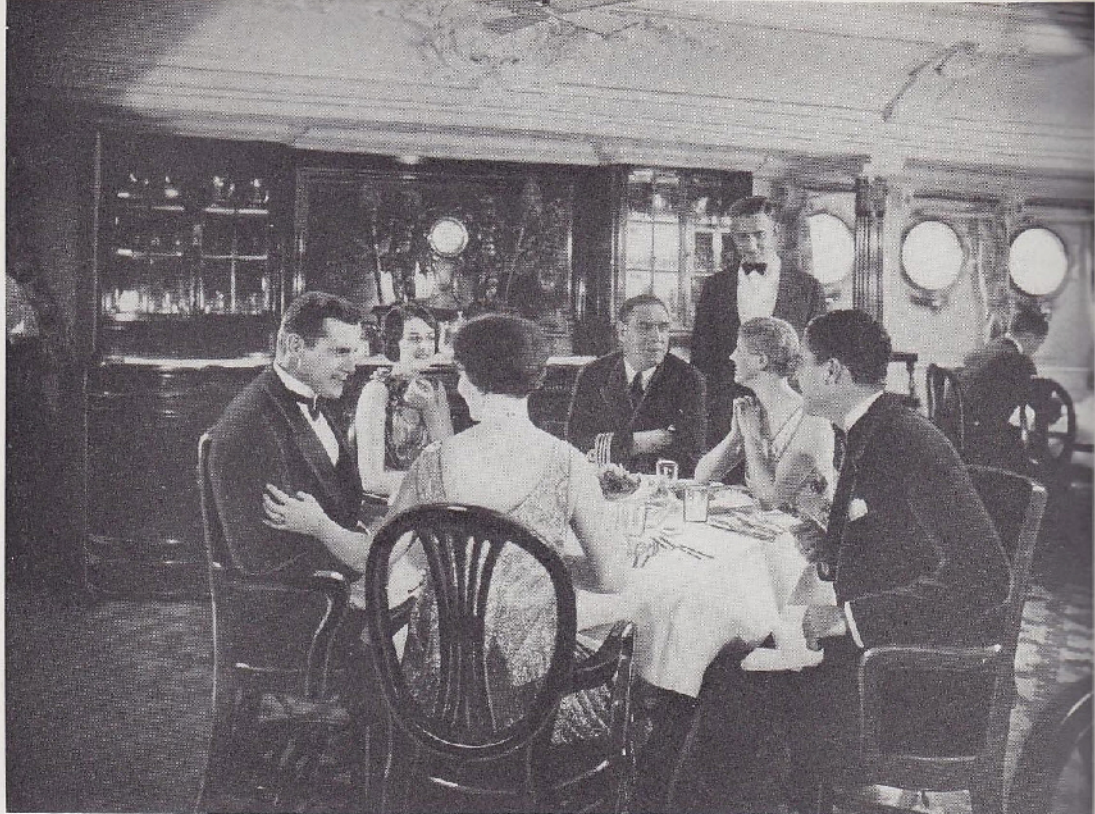
WHERE SKY AND MOUNTAINS MEET

State of the Union and with it in 1822 was annexed by the Emperor of Mexico—Augustin Iturbide.

The empire was short lived and a constitutional congress which met in Guatemala in November 1824, proclaimed the Central American Federation. Upon the falling to pieces of the Federation Costa Rica declared her independence on April 1, 1829. Costa Rica's constitution was formally adopted on January 21, 1847, and in its final form with some slight alterations was re-adopted in 1871.

The present day voyager, while he can evoke easily enough the picture of the intrepid old captain sheltering from the slow, smooth undulations of the easterly swell under Grape Cay, is spared the annoyance of wading ashore and beating off bands of hostile Caribs. A maximum of modern convenience seems to have been attained without demolishing the tropical luxuriance of the place, for the city is invisible behind a grove of magnificent Indian laurels save where a few houses climb the green bluffs behind the plain. Indeed it is not easy to keep that same tropical vegetation where it belongs. It is one of the foremost differences between the northern and the central zones, that in the latter human beings are engaged in an active struggle with the plant life. There is something almost sinister in the relentless energy and indomitable intrusion of the vegetation.

Costa Rica holds a prominent place among the Latin-American Re-



DINING SALOON—WHERE YOU EAT THE FRESHEST AND MOST DELICIOUS OF FOODS

publics in the cultivation of the banana, sending out from her fertile valleys nearly twelve million bunches annually of this delicious fruit. The wealth of Costa Rica is derived not only from bananas, because almost anything can be grown in Costa Rican soil owing to the graduation of the climatic conditions from the coast to the mountain summits, but coffee, cacao, oranges, grapefruit,—can all be produced on the plateaus, the soil of which is of unexampled richness. The coffee plant was first introduced into the country in 1796 by Francisco Javier Navarro, a Spaniard living in Cartago, who brought it to that city from Havana, Cuba.

Cacao production has increased during recent years, and the bean is becoming one of the principal exports.

The mining industry is in a fair condition and is being encouraged and stimulated by the government.

Port Limón is a well built seaboard town nestling amid the deep green of jungle and banana groves. From here the tourist betakes himself to the railway which runs through the low-lying coast lands and tropic jungles up the glowing valley of the Reventazon to Cartago and San José, a hundred miles in the interior.

It must be remembered that Port Limón and the banana country are only a formal and rather distantly related introduction to Costa



EVERY CONVENIENCE IN A MINIMUM PRICED STATEROOM

Rica. The country the Spaniards knew and loved and their descendants likewise know and love is the table-lands 3,000 feet above the sea. It is here that a delightful civilization has grown up, more charming and more thoroughly Spanish than Spain itself and it is here that the coffee plantations are situated, which bring wealth and contentment to families who genealogically extend back to the days of the conquistadores.

Like all the countries of Central America, Costa Rica has a wide plain on the Atlantic side, a gradual rise to the table-lands in the centre of the Cordillera and a sharply pitched descent to a narrow plain on the Pacific coast. On the Atlantic coast the soil is the rich mold of innumerable generations of tropical forests; on the table-land is the "red earth" of agricultural wealth and on the Pacific side a black volcanic sand which tinges even the seashore.

The ride from Port Limón to San José is one of the loveliest in the world. The tropical forest is radiant, there is an ever present view of the river tumbling over the rocks just below the railroad, a magnificent and ever changing vista of valleys and high hills that clothe the perspective with jewel-like settings. Toward the end of the journey the vistas lengthen, distances become shrouded in a lovely purple and above all loom the great mountains, the most impressive of which



COSTA RICA—SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA

is Irazú as it rises above old Cartago. From the summit of Irazú both the Atlantic and Pacific can be seen—the only spot in Central America where this is possible.

The tourist in Costa Rica will find much to wonder and exclaim at. For instance, there are the famous ox carts of Costa Rica with their wheels of one solid piece of wood—mahogany or Spanish cedar, four feet in diameter and three inches thick, painted in fascinating reds, blues, grays and mauves, in designs of radiating harmonies. And you will note that the color scheme is invariably carried out to the oxen which draw the carts. The oxen are invariably matched as to color but seldom as to size.

San José is an interesting city. It has a Museum containing a priceless collection of Central American pottery, a collection of Mayan gold idols as fascinating as anything from Etruria—it has a theatre that cost a million dollars to build and really looks it, and a Cathedral so wonderfully proportioned that it is a joy to gaze at. And the beauty of San José is not confined to its clean rose bowered streets and architectural developments. There are flowers always, everywhere—geraniums on bushes four feet high, orchids transferred to riotous gardens, gladioli and dahlias and gardenias—begonias whose blossoms measure eight inches across. In and around San José, Cartago, Heredia, Alajuela, are hundreds upon hundreds of coffee plantations. And a

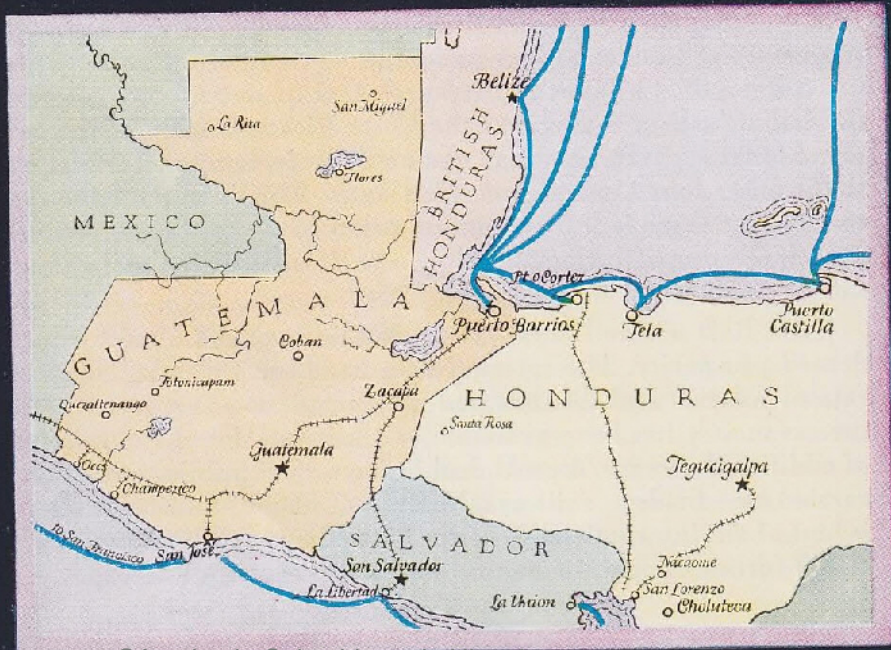


GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND PLAZA—SAN JOSÉ


coffee plantation is a garden—white and fragrant in blossom time and red berried with shiny fruit like holly when the crop is ready to be gathered. Part of the distinct charm of Costa Rica lies in the sense of aristocracy possessed by her people. The women are beautiful with a dignity all their own and a beauty famous throughout the Americas. And on the male side, Costa Rica aristocracy has furnished intellectuals and the men who today in commerce maintain the standards of the country in business and culture. And of noteworthy interest is the individualism that marks the Costa Rican. It makes for a sense of national separateness that one actually feels toward his attitude to the other four Central American states. This is in part due to the reason that there is little communication between the countries but principally due to the fact that the Costa Rican is serene in the thought that he is sufficient unto himself.

Costa Rica within the last few years has enjoyed almost unprecedented prosperity. The internal debt has been refunded at a lower rate of interest and this has had a tremendous effect upon agriculture as money has been available at a low rate for the development of additional acreage. A great deal in the way of public works is being carried on—bridges, railways, highways, school buildings and, what is best of all, internationally Costa Rica enjoys excellent credit and a stable form of government that has long been undisturbed.

GUATEMALA



VICTOR
BEALS



IN GUATEMALA “with the climate which must have existed in the Garden of Eden”, as one writer puts it, one comes upon the footprints of the vanished Mayas. These highly civilized people had become only a memory when the Dons first came to the Spanish Main, but to this day their records remain, carved in fantastic monoliths. True, the jungle grows in their market places and shrouds their temples, but enough has already been revealed to promise a thrilling chapter in the history of ancient races, once the jungle is cleared away and their records read.

On the train ride from Puerto Barrios to Guatemala City one floats through a fantasmagoria of color. Tree-high banks of flowers, gorgeous in their variety and woven in a mat of graceful vines, almost hide the forest which they mantle. Waves of sweet perfume pulsate through the open window, and myriads of orchids flash by almost within arm’s reach.

In this tropical Eden live a festival-loving people whose primitive passion for music fills the night with choral singing to the accompaniment of Spanish guitars, marimbas, and queer native wind instruments.

Guatemala City, perched in its mile-high eerie, is a fitting capital of the mountainous little country which the Aztecs called “Land of the Eagle.”



WHERE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS MEET

GUATEMALA Second in size and from a scenic standpoint, loveliest of the five Central American Republics, is slightly larger than the State of New York. It is the "Switzerland of America." There are extinct volcanoes soaring up into the sky, beautiful lakes, so blue that they shine like sapphires in a sea of green. There are fertile valleys, magnificent forests and a capital, Guatemala City, which is the most urban place in all Central America. In years to come Guatemala will be a wonderful tourist resort for it has the charm of antiquity and the beauty of modernity and a people whose natural inclination it is to welcome and make at home the visitor within their gates.

Just how far into the dim past the history of Guatemala extends we do not know. There was a Neolithic civilization in the highlands of this country that antedates the Christian era. This civilization waxed and waned and then in the fourth century another sprang up to take its place. With no metal tools, with no draft animals,



A "CARRIER" OF GUATEMALA WHO CAN LIFT HIS WEIGHT IN WASHTUBS

the ancient Guatemalans built temples which are strongly reminiscent of Egypt; and their astronomic observations were more perfect than those of the Persian Magi. Their methods of computing time—their calendar—was more perfect than our own. And then, whether it was from war, or disease, or inherent weakness of stock, we do not know, the race became decadent and the curtain rises on modern Guatemala when a lieutenant of Cortez, one Pedro de Alvarado, conquered the land and enslaved its inhabitants.

In 1527 Alvarado founded the City of Guatemala. The first city was short lived and in the year 1542 it was rebuilt on the site of what is now the old city, which was itself destroyed in the year 1773. In 1776 the present city was laid out on a site twenty-five miles northeast of Antigua. After several unsuccessful efforts independence was achieved by the countries comprising the former Captain-generalcy of Guatemala on September 15, 1821. In January of the following year Guatemala became a part of the Empire of Mexico. In 1823 upon the abdication of Iturbide, Guatemala elected to become an inde-



EL MERCED WITH ITS PICTURESQUE RUINS

pendent nation, free and independent from Spain, Mexico or any other State. Included in the federation headed by Guatemala were the present states of Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. General José Ara was the first President of the Federation. The Union did not last and Guatemala finally established an independent government on April 17, 1839.

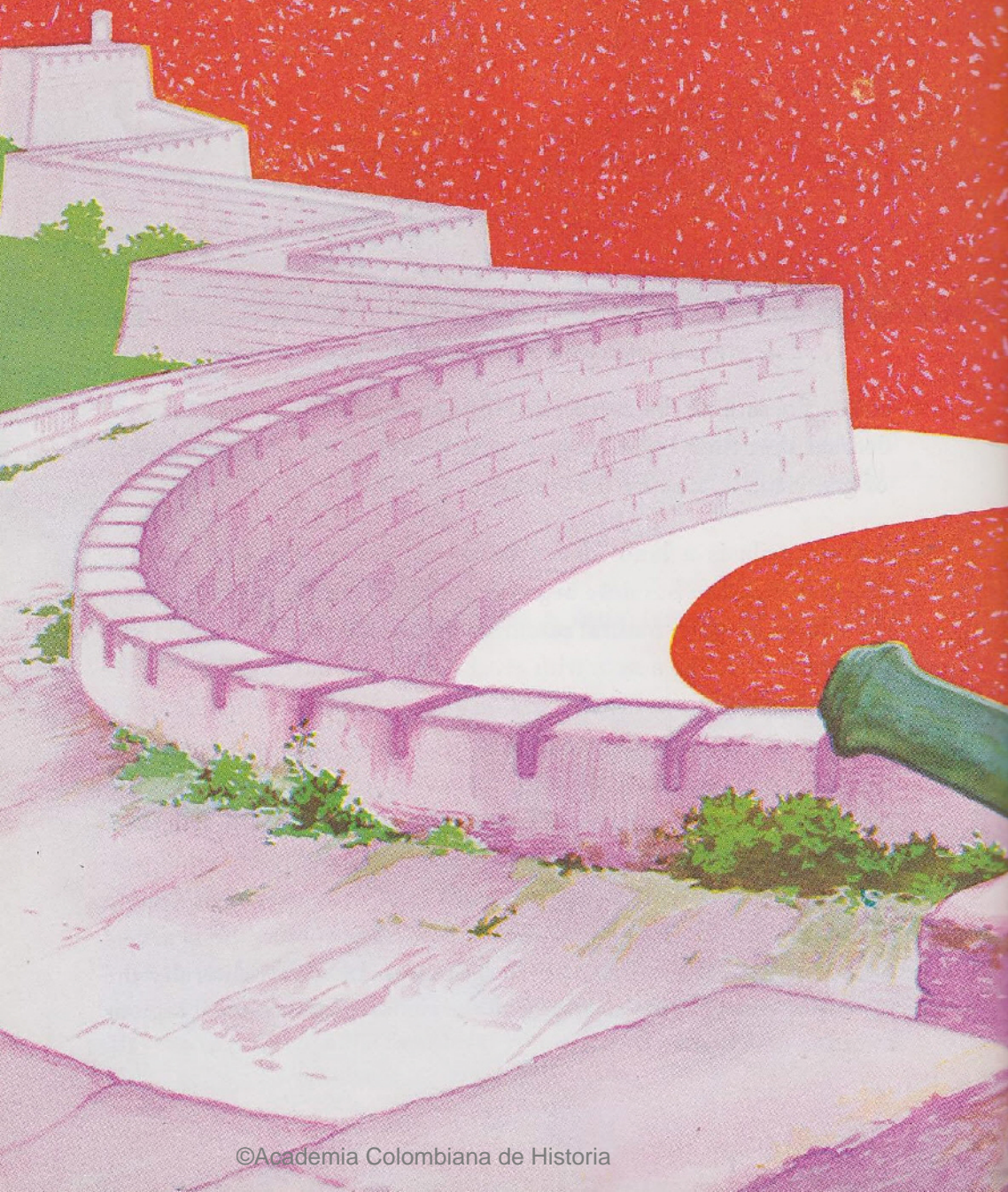
The trip from Puerto Barrios on the Atlantic side to Guatemala City—197 miles—will repay the tourist. The first part of the journey is over the coastal plain with magnificent mountains presenting ever changing pictures in the middle distance. The real climb begins after passing the picturesque tropical town of El Rancho. The approach to Guatemala City is through fields of corn and wheat and for the first time the tourist notices the low narrow valleys filled with rich “bottom lands” which mark the highlands of Guatemala. Here is a soil of unparalleled richness, fit for the raising of temperate zone food crops the year round, for we are five thousand feet above the level of the sea in a region of perpetual Spring.



MARKET SCENE IN THE HIGHLANDS OF GUATEMALA

The approach to the chief city of Central America is through an avenue of beautiful pine trees making an unusual and fragrant entrance. The population of Guatemala City is officially put at 130,000. Here are modern shops, a delightful hotel and a warm welcome which seems to radiate from within. There is something lovable about this fine old city, situated amid scenes of primitive simplicity, for here it is possible to see one of the most wonderful pictures of Indian primeval life that can be found anywhere in the world today. Turn where you will you will see Indians in the dress of their villages, the men in cotton and wool of somber colors—the women in dresses of dark blue or crimson wool with elaborate jackets embroidered in silk. Through the streets of the capital these patient, friendly people travel in hundreds with their big packs in which are carried nearly all the food and much of the raiment that are needed in the capital—vegetables, fruits and flowers, pigs and chickens, pottery, basketry and little bales of hand woven woollens. The Guatemalan Indian is a reason unto himself—he never loses his identity for he knows that he is the national labor of the State. The plateaus of Guatemala from

COLOMBIA



JUST a little sea jump from Cristobal lies Colombia, the heart of the land of yesterday. Of course, here again you are on the trail of Morgan and Drake.

Get the beautiful Spanish pronunciation of Cartagena—"cah-tah-hay-na." This quaint old walled city was the center of Indian population long before Columbus sailed.

Then there are Santa Marta, Puerto Colombia, and Barranquilla. It may be said conservatively that Colombia is a veritable gold mine for the lover of romance, and its setting is a masterpiece of tropical beauty.





BRINGING A LOAD OF BREAD TO MARKET

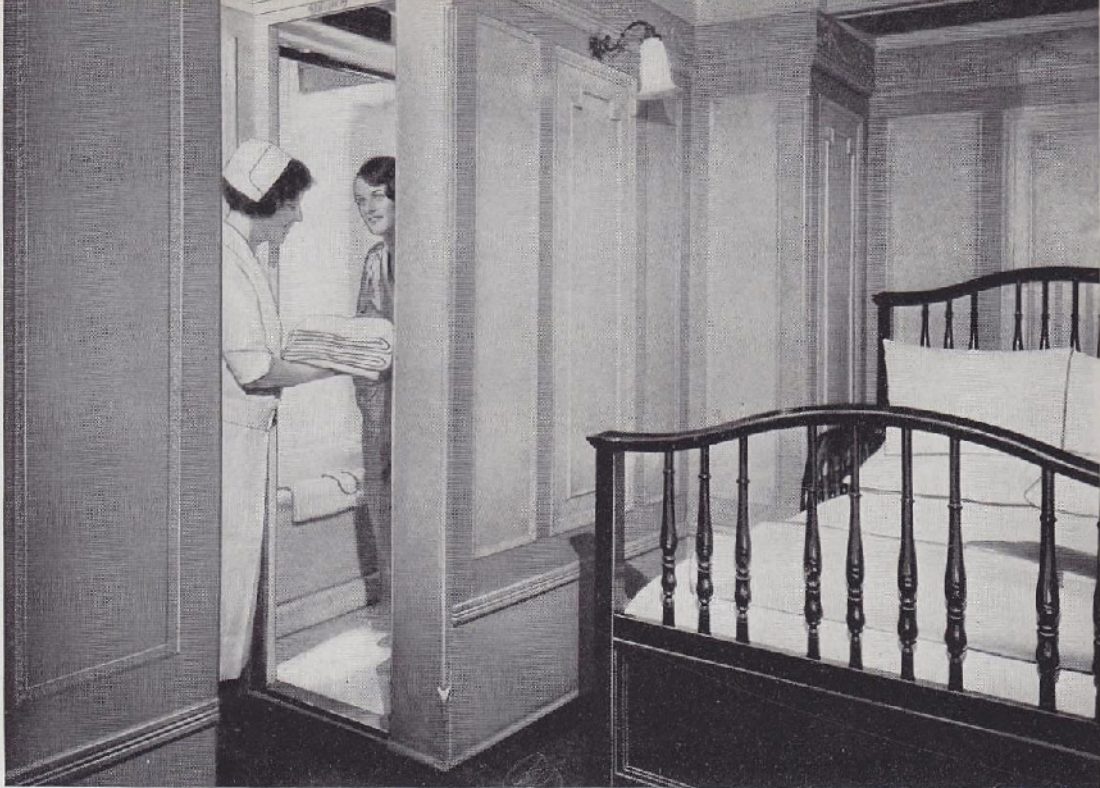
COLOMBIA Northernmost country of South America, twice the size of Texas, or containing nearly 477,000 square miles. It possesses more natural wealth than any country in the world. There is gold in practically all parts of the country—the most important gold producing department being Cauca, Antioquia, Narino, Tolima and Bolívar. There is an abundant supply of copper, lead, mercury, manganese and coal—practically all the emeralds in the world come from the Muzo Mines in the Department of Boyaca—salt mining is carried on near Zipaquera and Nemocon. A great deal of platinum is found in the mines at Atrato, San Juan and other regions of the Choco. This region contains one of the richest platinum deposits in the world. Iron is found in the Department of Cundinamarca. There is asphalt in the upper Magdalena District and in the Departments of Boyaca and Cundinamarca. Year by year production increases and in addition to the vast wealth which lies beneath the ground there is much rare timber, medicinal shrubs and with but a small part of the country under cultivation, Colombia is second to Brazil in the quantity of coffee produced and each year sees additional acreage of cacao, tobacco, coconuts, rubber, sugar-cane and vanilla. In the higher altitudes vegetables, grain and wheat are raised



AN UNUSUAL STREET SCENE OF COLOMBIA

and there are hundreds of thousands of head of cattle on the *llanos* of eastern Colombia and on the Sabanas de Bolivar.

The Andean mountains which traverse Colombia consist of three ranges known as the western, central and eastern Cordilleras which unite in the southern part of the country. The principal rivers run north and south in the valleys between these ranges. The Magdalena, principal commercial highway of Colombia, flows in a northerly direction between the eastern and central chain of mountains. It is navigable for nine hundred miles. Like the Nile, the Magdalena is divided into two parts—upper and lower—separated by the rapids of Honda. The lower Magdalena is navigable by large steamers from Barranquilla to La Dorada, the lower terminus of the La Dorada railroad. The upper Magdalena is navigable by small, shallow draft steamers from Beltran, the upper terminus of the La Dorada to Girardot the terminus of the Girardot railroad (for Bogotá) and, if the water is high, as far up as Neiva. Other important streams flowing north into the Caribbean are the Artrato, the Sinu and the Leon. On the western coast there are a number of rapid streams which rise in the mountains and flow into the Pacific. Among them are the Dagua, the San Juan, and the Patia—the latter is the only stream that has succeeded in forcing its way through the Andes to the Pacific.



STATEROOM WITH WELL VENTILATED PRIVATE BATH

The first European to behold Colombia was unquestionably Columbus who, on his fourth and last voyage, in 1502 sailed along the Colombian coast for a considerable distance but made no effort to settle the country or to conquer the Indians.

In 1508 Alonzo de Ojeda was granted the land east of the Darien River, which was set apart as the Province of Uraba. Ojeda succeeded in establishing a settlement on the coast after several furious battles with the Indians but his attempts to conquer the Chibcha Kingdom situated on the highlands of the interior were fruitless.

In 1536 Jimenez de Quesada with Pizarro's lieutenants Benalcazar and Frederman made their way through to the plateau and through the tact and diplomacy of Quesada strife was avoided. The Chibchas were a highly civilized people, comparable to the Incas of Peru. Friendly relations were established and Quesada built a settlement on the site of the present city of Bogotá where he sent out a series of small parties to explore the surrounding country. Spain then set up the province of New Granada and in the year 1718 made it a viceroyalty. The first viceroy was Antonio de la Pedrosa y Guerrero. Under twelve successful viceroys New Granada maintained its entity until 1810 when the citizens of Bogotá drove the last royal representative away from the city. There were revolutionary movements in various parts of the

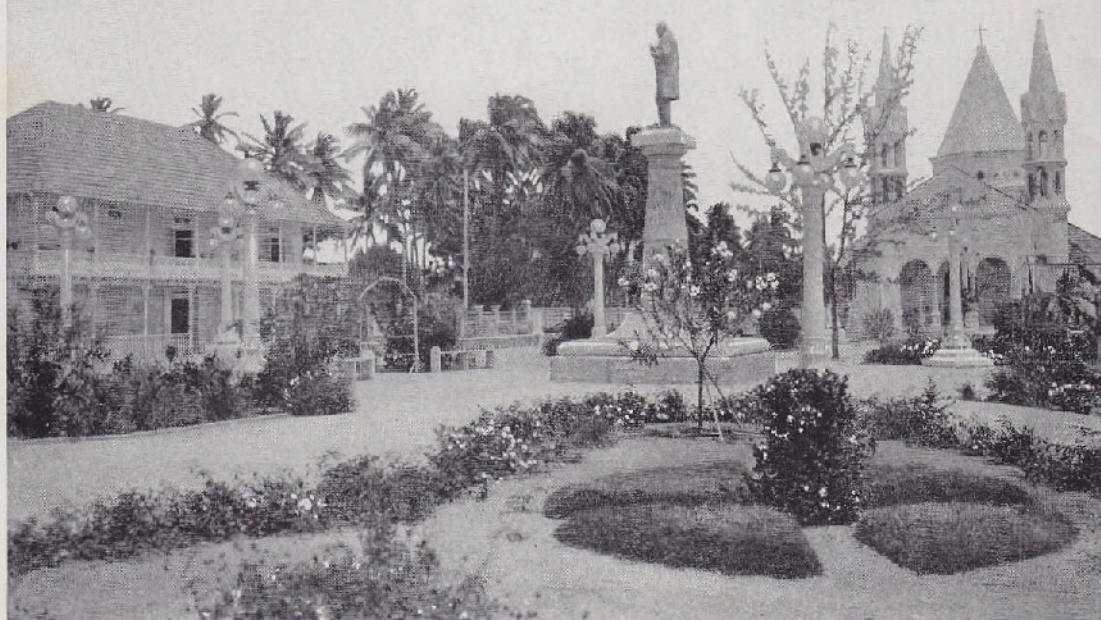


LIBRARY AND WRITING ROOM—FOR QUIET AND READING

country and on August 7, 1810, the patriots under General Simon Bolívar and Santanda defeated the royalist forces at Boyaca. Bolívar effected a union between Venezuela and New Granada and on December 17, 1819, the Republic of Colombia was born. Two years later Bolívar was elected the first president of "Greater Colombia." Ecuador joined the union in the year 1822, but when Bolívar died on December 17, 1830, the union was dissolved and the Republic of New Granada came into existence on November 17, 1831. Still later was born the Granadine Confederacy, then the United States of Colombia and the Republic of Colombia. The final step was taken in 1886 when the Republic abolished the federal union and the sovereignty of the several states and adopted a unitary republic form of government with a constitution modeled after that of the United States.

The modern history of Colombia really commences in 1525 when Rodrigo de Bastides founded the city of Santa Marta. The city of Cartagena was founded eight years later and by 1536 these towns had gained so much commercial importance that they were made the headquarters for the Quesada expedition against the Indians of the interior.

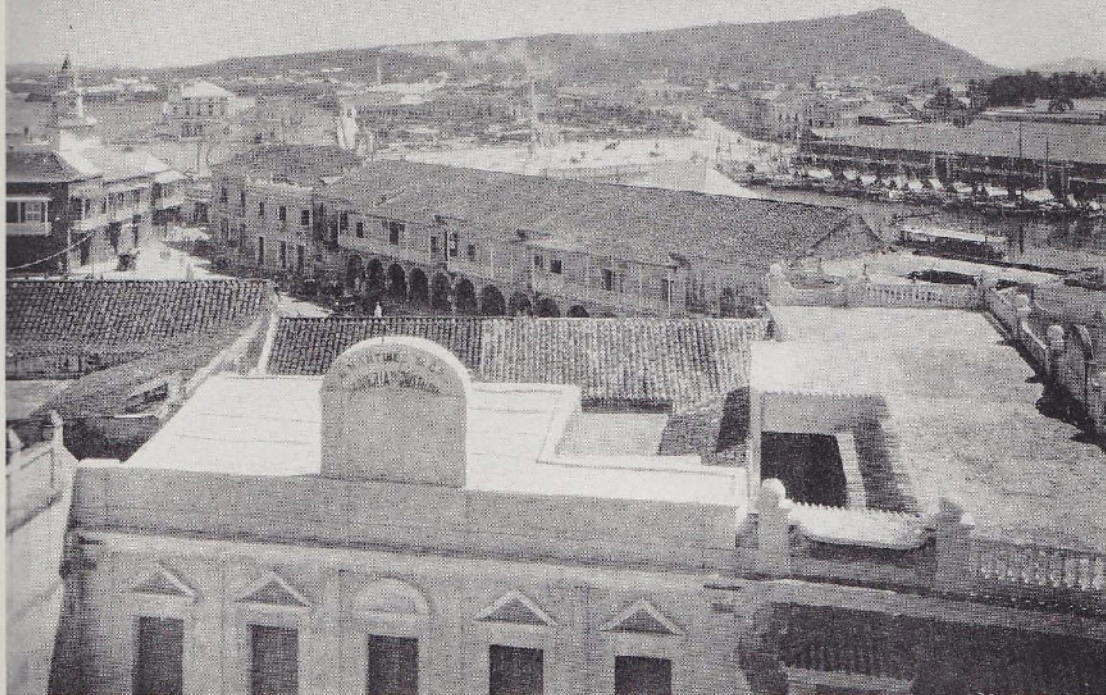
The coast towns had a troublous existence. They lived in constant



MEMORIAL CHURCH OF SIMON BOLÍVAR—LIBERATOR OF COLOMBIA

dread of marauders from the sea. Santa Marta was sacked time and time again, while Cartagena and Puerto Bello were always looked upon with envious eyes by English and French buccaneers. The famous sack of Cartagena in 1586 is made memorable by the presence of Sir Francis Drake. In addition to the booty which his men took from the citizens he obtained 110,000 ducats ransom under a threat to fire the town. The last sack of Cartagena occurred in 1697 when Pontes, the French buccaneer, obtained an easy victory. It may be said that Cartagena's inability to withstand sieges was largely due to the decay of civil and military authority under the dominance of the inquisition. Visitors are still shown the house where the officials of the "Holy Office" held their extraordinary sessions and there still remains some of the implements of torture used on those who had incurred the church's displeasure.

In 1741 Admiral Vernon, of Jamaican fame, attempted to capture Cartagena. The siege lasted for several weeks. The attempt of the British was unsuccessful. They were compelled to retire and so ended the last attempt of the English to gain a foothold on the north coast of South America. It was felt in Spain that the defeat of Vernon had justified the cost of the massive fortifications that surrounded Cartagena and with renewed confidence the country enjoyed a somewhat more enlightened form of government and a fair measure of progress.



A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE CITY OF CARTAGENA

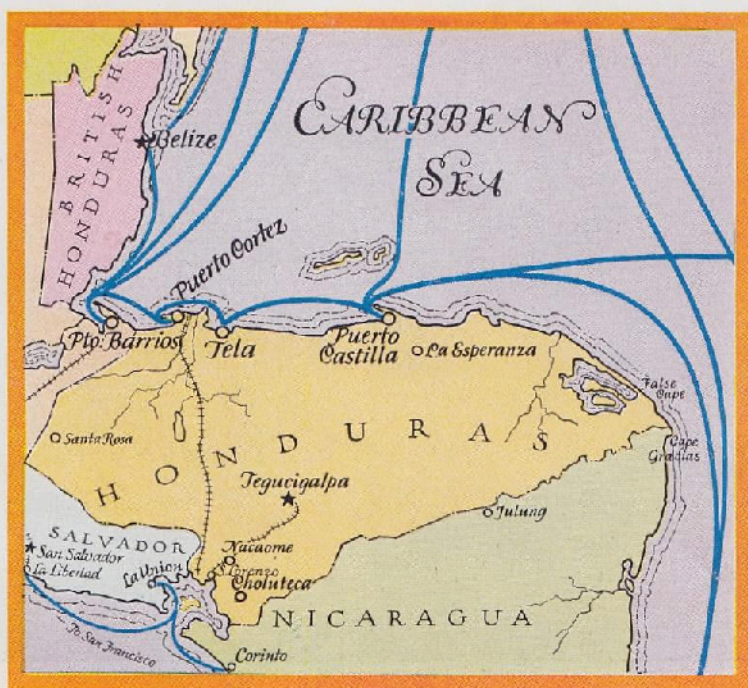
The supreme moment in Colombia's history was during the brief period when General Bolívar was the foremost leader in South America. By his genius and power of command he lifted Colombia to a position of prestige throughout the continent.

Colombia is a country of intense nationalistic feeling; although in recent years an effort has been made by the enlightened statesmen of the country to secure capital from abroad and to welcome industrial and agricultural development of the country.

Santa Marta in colonial days was a city of some importance, but owing to the fact that gold was not found in the vicinity its general appearance twenty-five years ago resembled that of one of our "boom" mining towns. It had no commerce and no industry and its buildings were gradually being wrecked to help build Barranquilla which had begun to become of some importance as a port of entry. The banana industry has brought much wealth to Santa Marta. Hundreds of men have accumulated riches and retired, thousands have made good wages, brought up their families and enjoyed life because of the fruitful acres which year after year produced fine bananas. The tourist to Santa Marta will enjoy a visit to the rich banana lands in the vicinity of Rio Frio and to the house which has become a shrine where General Simon Bolívar died at San Pedro de Alejandrino.

HONDURAS





HERE giant mountains rise abruptly from the sea. No wonder the Spaniards named the country Honduras which means "depths," for they had much difficulty in finding good anchorage in the deep waters along its rugged coast.

Famed already for its mahogany and cedar, it is rapidly becoming equally famed for its scenic beauty.

Here, too, as in all these lands of the Caribbean the traveler comes upon the trail of the old explorers. It was Hernando Cortez, conqueror of Mexico, who made the first settlement in Honduras. And to this day much of the charm of this little country is to be found in its quaint Spanish customs, handed down from the stirring days when she was writing her share of the history of the New World.

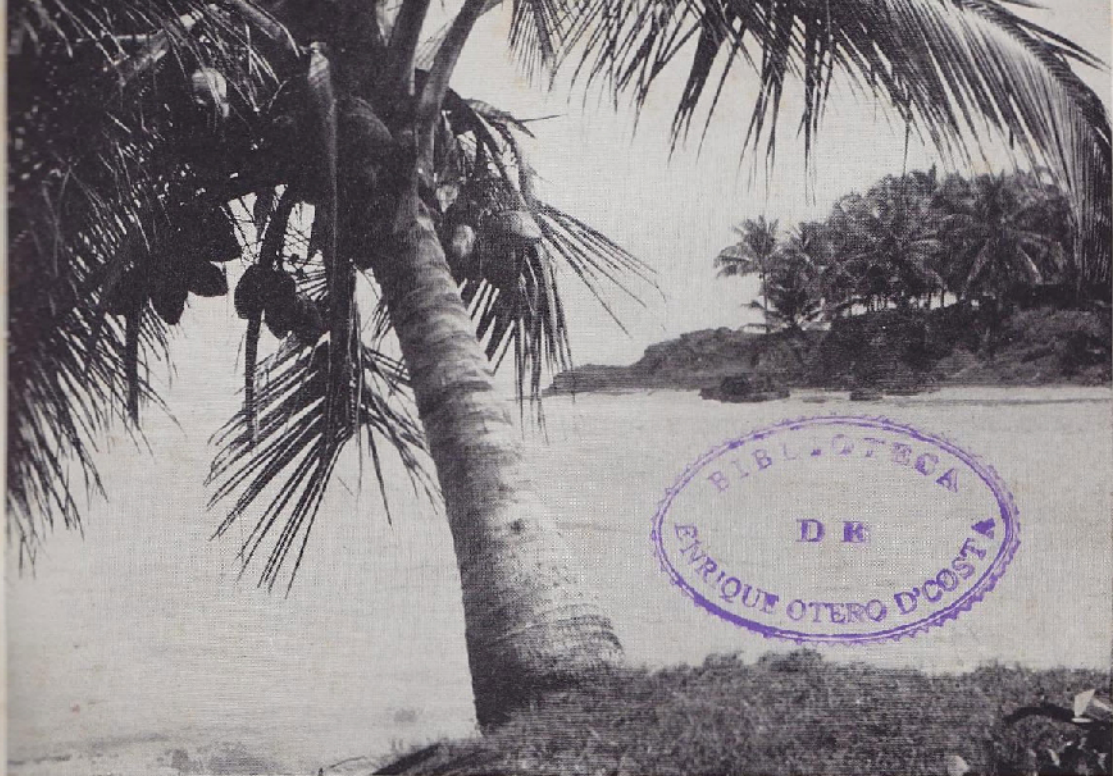


STREET SCENE IN HONDURAS

HONDURAS Third largest of the Central American Republics, approximating in size the State of New York with its area of 46,382 square miles. The country is generally mountainous. It has a number of fertile plateaus and valleys, among them the plain of Comayagua, forty miles in length, nearly all of it given over to cultivation.

The Honduran forests are rich in rare cabinet woods of which mahogany is most important. Large quantities of bananas are exported together with sugar-cane, coffee, coconuts, rubber, indigo, hides and precious metals. Nearly all of the sarsaparilla flavoring extract used in the world comes from Honduras.

Columbus really discovered the continent of America when he landed at Cape Honduras and founded the little town of Trujillo on the bay of that name; this was on his fourth and last voyage, August 14, 1502. The Indian inhabitants were subdued by two of Cortez's lieutenants—Pedro de Alvarado and Cristobal de Olid. Cortez himself, after his conquest of Mexico, came to Honduras in 1524, and it was largely due to his diplomacy that the country was finally brought under Spanish rule. In 1539 Honduras was made part of the captain-generalcy of Guatemala, which marked the passing of the ancient Quiché Kingdom of Guatemala. During the 16th and early 17th centuries Honduras was harried by the French, Dutch and British

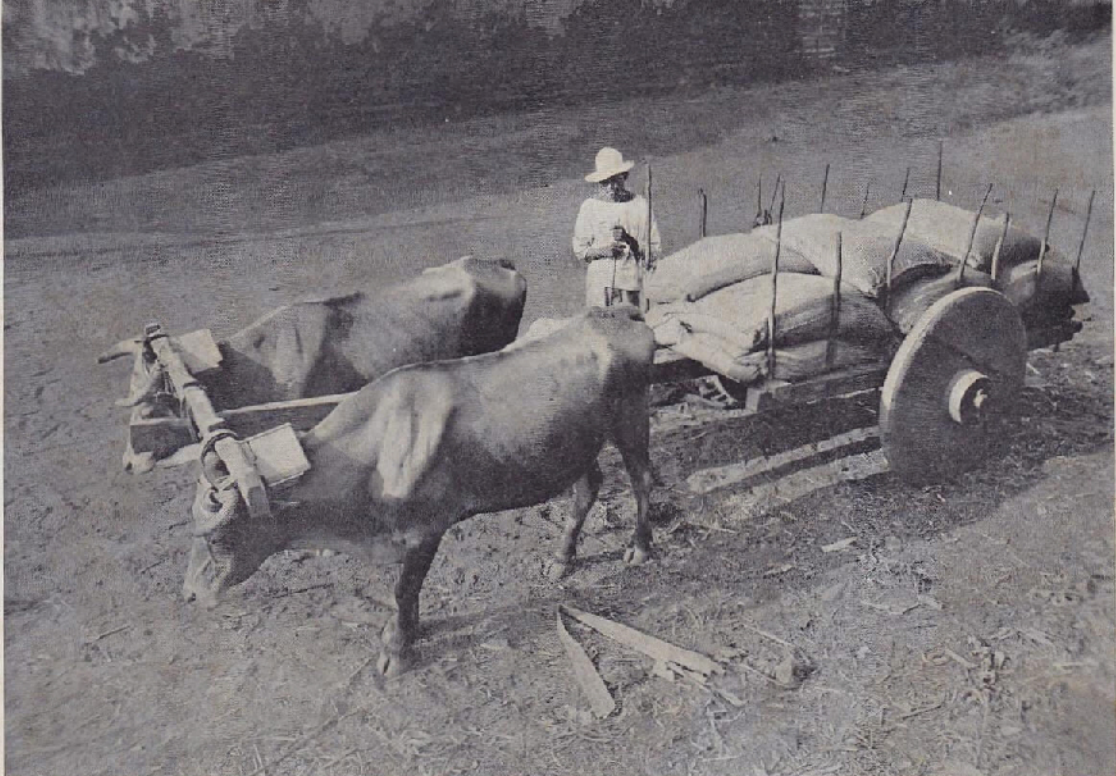


LOFTY PALM TREES BORDER THE BLUE CARIBBEAN

pirates. The famous French buccaneer, Francois L'Ollonnais, in 1660 actually held possession of the country. In the early part of the 18th century the Sanbos Indians left the country for what is now known as the "Mosquito Coast," formed a union with the British settlers, defeated the Spanish forces sent against them and applied to Great Britain for protection. In 1740 a small British force occupied the Mosquito Coast and by an agreement with Spain in 1786 the territorial lines were readjusted so that Great Britain became possessed of a part of the Yucatan and Honduras now known as British Honduras or Belize.

The history of Honduras from 1821 is closely interwoven with that of the other Central American states. On October 26, 1838, a constituent assembly met at Comayagua and proclaimed that the State of Honduras was free and independent. A constitution adopted in 1848 provided for freedom of conscience and religion. One of the curious incidents of the development of this state lies in the fact that it was not until November 17, 1894, that Spain signed the treaty acknowledging Honduran independence.

Honduras is divided politically into seventeen departments and one territory. The capital of Honduras is Tegucigalpa, lying on an interior plateau at an elevation of 3,200 feet. It is the only capital of Central America without a railway. The city has a population of



OF ESPECIAL INTEREST ALWAYS ARE THE OX-DRIVEN CARTS

between forty and fifty thousand and some fine substantial buildings, among them the national palace, mint, post office and a government printing establishment.

The agricultural possibilities of the country are tremendous. Cacao, cotton, sugar-cane, coffee, tobacco—can be grown in immense quantities.

A great source of future wealth of the country is the development of its mahogany industry. It sometimes grows to the height of a hundred feet with a diameter measuring twelve feet. Its period of growth covers perhaps two hundred years. While mahogany is at the present time brought from the west coast of Africa it is a fact that the real mahogany is found only in the littoral of the Caribbean. The history of mahogany is one of the romances of trade. Sir Walter Raleigh repaired some of his ships with mahogany in 1595. When he returned to England on his ship *Queen Elizabeth* marveled at the wood and Raleigh had a section of the deck torn up and a table made for the *Virgin Queen*, which is still in existence.

Honduras has unequalled opportunities for sea transportation. It has a coast line of over four hundred miles on the Atlantic side while on the Pacific side the beautiful Bay of Fonseca affords access to large ocean-going vessels. Puerto Cortes on the Atlantic side is one of the finest harbors. Tela, Ceiba, Trujillo—are also considered good. On the Pacific side the largest port is Amapala, on Tigre Island.