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W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

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One Dollar a Year in Advance.
NO. 1

HISTORY OF VENEZUELA

South American Republic Discovered by Alonso de Ojeda.

CLIMATE OF THE COUNTRY MILD.

Extremes of Heat and Cold of Northern Regions Unknown—Population Considerably Less Than That of a Million—Territory of the Republic Comprises Three Well Defined Regions.

"For a small country, as compared to the United States, Venezuela is and has been for an indefinite period making a great noise in the world," said Dr. Pierre Desnoyers of New Orleans, who has spent a number of years in that country, to a reporter for the Washington Evening Star the other afternoon.

"According to current history, the republic, now known as the republic of the United States of Venezuela, was discovered as early as 1499 by the Castilian knight Alonso de Ojeda, who had been associated with Columbus on his second voyage and who commanded a fleet of four vessels, chartered and equipped by some wealthy merchants of Seville.

"For 340 years Venezuela remained loyal to the Spanish crown. July 5, 1811, the leading men of Caracas proclaimed a republic and adopted a constitution very similar to that of our own country. Seven years of war followed, which ended in the expulsion of the Spanish army from the province. In 1847 a treaty of peace was signed and Spain formally acknowledged the independence of the country.

"According to the census of 1900, there were in Venezuela 226,000 inhabitants. Of this number 68,000 were independent, 30,000 subjugated and 228,000 assimilated. Topographically speaking, the territory of the republic comprises three well defined regions—the agricultural, the grazing and the forestal. The first occupies an area of 124,945 square miles and extends from the north to the northwest of the country. It is the region to be found in the coast range and that of the Venezuelan Andes, which form very fertile valleys. It comprises 67,225 square miles of public lands and 67,617 square miles belonging to private parties. The grazing lands form a great belt south of the agricultural region. It has an area of 129,496 square miles, of which 58,489 are public and 68,018 private lands.

"This region is made up of immense grass covered plains, with navigable rivers, which overflow during the rainy season and inundate them. The third region, the forestal, lies to the south of the grazing belt and extends to the southern limits of Venezuela. It has 208,095 square miles of area, of which 208,248 are public and 4,760 are private.

"The mountain systems comprise the Venezuelan Andes, the east and the Fria ranges. According to the latest official data, the coast line of Venezuela extends 3,000 kilometers along the Caribbean sea and the Atlantic ocean and has thirty-two harbors, fifty coves and numerous anchorages, exclusive of those in the interior on the lakes of Maracaibo and Valencia. There are in the country five gulfs, two large lakes and 204 small lakes. The territory is bathed by 1,047 rivers and rivulets, of which 429 are affluent of the Orinoco.

"The climate of the country is mild, the extremes of heat and cold of northern climates being unknown. The coasts of Venezuela are tolerably healthy. Neither the black vomit nor yellow fever is considered epidemic, although sporadic cases of malignant fever are not unknown. The seasons are dry and wet. The agricultural belt grows coffee, cacao, sugar cane, all kinds of cereals and edible tubers, such as the potato, yuca, yam, etc. The grazing section is well adapted to the raising of cattle.

"The territory of the republic is divided into thirteen federal states. Each state has its president and legislature. The former is elected by direct vote every four years. Each state by special law determines the form and conditions for the election of the members of the legislature. The federal district is dependent upon the president of the republic, who exercises his authority through a governor of his free selection.

"The capital of the republic is the city of Caracas, founded in 1567 by Don Diego de Logueta, a Spanish captain, who gave the city the name of Santiago de Leon, which it still retains in old and modern public documents. The city is located in the beautiful valley of Caracas, twelve miles in length, and, according to the census of 1901, had a population not far from 90,000.

"The streets pass each other at right angles and run lengthwise from east to west and from north to south. The capital building occupies an area of more than two acres. All of the public buildings are worthy of the position the city occupies as the capital of the republic. The principal squares of the city are the Plaza Bolivar and the Plaza Washington. The latter has in its center a statue of the Father of His Country.

"Caracas has erroneously been called the Pearl of South America. It is a typical Spanish city and has 75,000 inhabitants. During certain parts of the year the government maintains a theater, which is highly esteemed. A military band plays three evenings a week on the Plaza Bolivar, a handsome square, with a beautiful illuminated pavilion.

"The most beautiful structure in the city is the Miraflores, the palace erected by the late President Cordero, who was killed in a battle with revolutionists just as it was completed. It is now used as the presidential mansion and is tenanted by President Castro.

CASTRO AND HIS RIVAL.

Some Facts About the Venezuelan President and General States.

Cipriano Castro, president of Venezuela, came from the extreme west of the country and in 1898 removed President Andrade from office and became provisional president himself, says the Fitzhugh Post. His followers were from the Andean region, and anarchy reigned in Caracas during the months. His special abhorrence is European meddling in the affairs of his country. On Oct. 28, 1901, he was duly elected constitutional president, and his term does not regularly expire until March, 1903. The Berlin Kreis Zeitung, in commenting on his conduct while the debts now discussed were being contracted, said: "Then he began in the palace of Mira Flores at Caracas the life of an unbridled Sardanapalus, but when the brave man invited his fair friends from North America and the people heard of the orgies that were held, heard that their money was going to North America, there arose a cry for the fellow's expulsion." This is the biased view of a German paper. Castro was elected by the people after that.

Now the chief rival for his place is General Manuel Antonio Matos, a man who spent years in Europe and is a diplomat of power. He is responsible for the European hostility to Castro. Europe has financed him, and he has pledged the resources of Venezuela as security in event of his success. In connection with a true portrait of the man reduction is given to the unknown validity or amount of the debts, some guaranteed and some private contracts. It may be concluded that this impetuous Andean has some shadow of right with him. His signs are to be measured by the Spanish standard.

Castro's predominant characteristic is bravery, says the Philadelphia Press. Even his enemies admit that he possesses it to an extent that commands respect. Castro has stated that he will not fly from Venezuela, as most of his predecessors have done; that he proposes to remain no matter at what cost. Matos wears gloves always, so as not to expose his hands to the sun or soil. Castro in a recent battle with his own hands dragged ammunition boxes from the cars. As the result of his energy his troops soon had their belts refilled and were able to bring the battle to a successful conclusion.

JOKED ABOUT LOST FINGERS

"Two From Five Leaves Three," Said Electric Ventilator Victim.

"Two from five leaves three," jocularly remarked Engineer William A. Smith of New York as he recently lifted up and showed to the other employees at a restaurant at 806 Columbus avenue his right hand, from which the thumb and middle finger were missing, says the New York Evening Journal. They had just been ripped off by an electric ventilator which accidentally started up as he was repairing it. Several of the men ran for an ambulance, but Smith bound up his hand in a handkerchief and went to work on the ventilator again. When the surgeon from Roosevelt hospital arrived, he said:

"You'll have to go to the hospital, this is a serious job."

"Can't you fix 'em here?" asked Smith.

"I can't."

"Too bad!" said Smith. "I've got to work."

"The doctor insisted and asked where the fingers were."

"Rushing round the ventilator, I guess," said Smith.

"The fingers could not be found. Smith went to the hospital, but refused to sit in the ambulance, riding on the seat with the surgeon."

A Base Metal Mine.

Excavations for the foundations of a new steel bridge on the Chicago and Alton road across the Vermilion river at Stropier, Ill., have unearthed a magnificent specimen of bird stone, says the Chicago Evening Post. It is 1 1/2 inches long and half an inch wide. It is an imitation of a bird. A bird stone, while of the undoubted class of prehistoric ornaments or charms which have been called "concretions," represents some age of so mean degree. This specimen is finely finished and polished and is extraordinary in its workmanship. It represents perhaps the highest achievement of prehistoric American art. This bird stone unearthed at Stropier must have been hammered or pecked into shape and afterward ground to its present form and then polished diligently, for it is nearly as smooth as glass.

His Two New Words.

Senator Kittredge of South Dakota takes pride in never saying more than "Yes" or "No" to newspaper men. One day recently a correspondent interviewed him, but was unable to get more than the usual "Yes" and "No" replies.

Finally he asked, "What is the largest city in South Dakota?"

"The senator looked him up and down and answered, 'Sioux Falls.'"

"The correspondent bowed and left."

Meeting a Friend a few moments later, he said, "I just added the words 'Sioux Falls' to Senator Kittredge's vocabulary."

A New Military Balloon.

The Aero-Velo announces that Colonel and Major General of the French army are going to have built a steerable balloon, the plans of which have already been approved by the minister of war. The balloon, which will be ready by next spring, will have a volume of 3,000 cubic yards, and its height will be equal to four times its greatest diameter. The outer casing will be of double cotton, including a second casing of India rubber.

A MODERN WHITE HOUSE

New Heating and Lighting Apparatus an Electric Marvel.

ALL WIRES ENCLOSED IN CONDUITS

The Elevators, Passenger and Freight, Are Run by Electricity. Without Even a Conductor—There is a Plate Warmers With a Capacity of Three Thousand Plates.

There are thirty-two miles of electric wires in the new White House at Washington, says the New York World. They transmit the current to every nook and corner of the building for many purposes and with their connections make up what is pronounced the most perfect electrical system in the United States. Experts say there is some to compare with it in intricacy or extent.

All of the wires are inclosed in conduits, and each iron pipe represents a separate and distinct system. Under the floor in every hallway is a mass of conduits. Cutting off the wires is impossible, and there is no way in which the system can be interfered with except at a point where the injury can be quickly detected and repaired.

In a mechanical way electricity does everything about the building except to produce the heat, and it distributes that. The lighting system represents the latest improvements. There are separate panels or switchboards for every room on the main floor, and the panel for the great east room is large enough for an ordinary house. It has twenty-six circuits, twenty-one of which are in the ceiling, so that any desired number of lights may be turned on in an instant, or they can all be thrown on by a turn of the main switch.

The same principle is followed throughout the building. Each floor has two switchboards, one at each end, and there are separate ones in the east and west terraces. The panels are of Tennessee marble and are all inclosed behind locked doors. Outside the doors are push buttons which control the hall lights, but these lights can be turned on inside of the panel so that they cannot be turned off from the outside.

There are two telephone systems, public and private. The private system connects all the rooms occupied by the president's family and extends to Secretary Cordwain's desk. It works automatically, and by simply pressing a button the president can call up any one in the building he wishes to talk to. The public system connects all the principal rooms, but works through a central switchboard in the executive office.

The elevators, passenger and freight, work automatically. When the president wants the elevator, he presses the button, and it comes to the floor he is on provided no one else is using it. Then he presses the button bearing the number of the floor he wishes to go to, and away he goes. The dumb waiter which connects the kitchen in the basement with the upper floor works the same way. The fire alarm system is self-acting. The simple breaking of a glass at convenient places through the house sets a gong going that can be heard all through the house and also sounds separate alarms throughout the basement to summon the servants. An immense tank under the roof is kept constantly filled with water by an automatic device which starts the pump as soon as the water falls slightly below the surface and stops it when the tank is full.

All through the building are stations from which the watchmen must turn in reports every ten minutes, and the points are so far apart that there is no chance for the watchman to sit down more than a minute without being right at it. An elaborate system of electric bells runs from every room to every section of the house. A perfect system of ventilation is maintained by electric fans. In the pantry of the state dining room is a great electric plate warmer with a capacity of 3,000 plates. It can be heated to any one of three temperatures, and by using all the heat it is possible to cook with it in case of emergency. There are 8,000 incandescent lights of different sizes in the building.

The work of installation of the electrical system was begun July 24, and it will be completed in a few days. Its total cost will be about \$7,000.

A Squadron of Battleships.

England's new cruiser squadron will quite surpass in speed and efficiency anything of its kind in the world, says the New York (Herald-Tribune) Advertiser. At present it includes one armored cruiser and four protected cruisers. In the near future it will comprise two 14,100 ton armored cruisers and two 8,800 ton protected cruisers. The squadron's top speed will then be twenty-three knots, this being the maximum rate of steaming of each of the six ships. The total armament will be four 6.5 inch guns, ninety-two six-inch quick firing guns and eighty-six smaller guns. Each ship has an armor belt and two protected decks.

A New Species of Cotton.

An exhibition in Secretary Wilson's office in Washington is a new species of cotton, being a hybrid of the sea island and Egyptian growth, says the Mobile Register. Its fiber has the qualities of the latter and will be sold under that grade. This species was brought from Columbia, S. C., last October by H. J. Weber, in charge of the plant breeding laboratory, who says that its one great advantage over other cottons is that it produces heavier and will yield more material to the acre than perhaps any other cotton known.

Ret Steals a \$1,000 Bill.

A rat yesterday stole a one-thousand dollar bill from C. H. Landell's pharmacy, Avenue D, and Thirty-second street, Bayonne. The bill was received by Mr. Landell on Friday too late to be deposited in the bank, so he placed it in his waistcoat pocket and made a number of his friends feel ill by showing it to them. When he spoke yesterday the bill was gone. There was no sign of burglars and a thorough search of the store was fruitless. In the storeroom, however, the druggist saw a rat dart into a hole. While plugging up the hole he caught sight of something green and fished out his one-thousand dollar bill. [Then his heart beat normally.]

DIVIDEND OF 100 PER CENT.

Read From Suffolk, Va., to Edenton, N. C., of Great Earning Capacity.

Charlotte Observer.

Baltimore, Dec. 30.—The Suffolk & Carolina Railway Company has declared a stock dividend of 100 per cent. for the year 1902. The present capital stock of the company is \$400,000. This railroad is entirely owned by Baltimore capitalists and runs from Suffolk, Va., to Edenton, N. C., on the Chowan river, a tributary of Albemarle Sound. An extension now being built will carry the road to Elizabeth City, on the Pasquotank river.

York County Items.

Yorkville Register, Dec. 31, 1902.

The Loan and Savings bank, now one of the best managed institutions of the kind in the county, will pay out its regular semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent on January 2.

As the result of a very sensible ordinance of the town council and its vigilant enforcement by the police, there was a grateful mitigation of the fire-cracker nuisance during Christmas.

There are very few people who have the hardihood to claim that "Ike's little cart" could have ever delivered one-tenth of the amount of whisky that was sold in Yorkville during Christmas week.

Treasurer Neely has been up to his eyes in work the past week, his office being crowded with taxpayers nearly every day. Mr. J. B. Pegram is assisting him in the matter of taking money and issuing receipts.

Two young men died in Yorkville last Sunday, practically in the same family. One was Mr. Pulaski Thomas Williams, and the other was Mr. Isaac Donnan Witherspoon. Both were grandsons of the late George W. Williams.

The Catawba Power people expect to close their dam along about next July. If their plans work out according to expectation, the flow of the river below the dam will be almost completely shut off for several weeks. Some of the people over that way believe it will be a great time for fishing.

There was more drunkenness on the streets of Yorkville last Wednesday, from about noon until a late hour at night, than has occurred before within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. A citizen whose recollection extends back clearly more than 60 years, says he never saw the like before even in the free liquor days before the war.

Expensive "Laboring" in the Legislature.

Monroe Register.

We arise to remark that there must have been an enormous amount of labor done around the capitol during the last session of the Legislature. The books of the State treasurer and State auditor, which have just been examined by a committee appointed to examine them, show that during the session of the Legislature the sum of \$8,492.50 was spent for laborers alone. Mark you, this does not include the salaries of clerks, doorkeepers, pages and other high cockerets about the capitol, but it is the amount paid for plain, everyday laborers, the fellows who wear high collars, expensive cuffs and Prince Albert coats and sweep floors, clean spittoons, etc. The Senate, although it had less than half the men in it that the house had, had more "laboring" done in it than was done in the house. The Senate paid its 23 laborers \$5,457.30, while the House paid its 27 laborers \$3,035. A great deal of this "laboring" in the Legislature is a farce pure and simple.

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New York Post.

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A HUNT—A LA TEDDY.

Raleigh Sportsmen Kill a Panther in Carteret County.

Raleigh News and Observer, 31st.

Last Thursday two Raleigh sportsmen—Messrs. M. A. and F. W. Parker, in company with a party of friends who joined them at Goldsboro—left for Carteret county in quest of Mallard duck. When they reached Havelock they stopped at Mr. J. E. Hunter's well known club house.

All day Friday was spent in fishing as they soon discovered that the ducks had sought a warmer clime. They succeeded in landing a fine string of trout, perch and black bass. One trout caught during the day tipped the scales at 3 1/2 pounds. After returning to the Club they enjoyed a hearty supper of fish.

Bright and early Saturday morning they shouldered their guns and were off on a hunt. They had not gone far before they spied a fine buck, but after a chase of several miles the swift footed deer escaped them.

While trying to discover the last trail they ran into a large Panther cat coming toward them, and without waiting for orders the entire party blazed away and the sixty pound beast fell dead. They soon had their big game at the Club house, and for some time they were kept busy receiving the congratulations of the guests at the Club. The Panther cat was brought to Goldsboro and left there to be mounted, and it will then be brought to Raleigh and presented to the State museum.

The Messrs. Parkers returned to Raleigh yesterday morning and their friends are now prevailing on them to invite "Teddy" down for a hunt.

THE ANTI-SALOON CAMPAIGN.

Mr. J. W. Bailey Manager.

A correspondent of the Charlotte Observer from Raleigh says that the State Anti-Saloon League's Executive Committee met at that city Friday night. Mr. J. W. Bailey, editor of the Biblical Recorder was put in charge of the campaign.

The following are the features of the law which will be advocated:

(1) Prohibition of sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors outside of incorporated towns. Forbids the sale of liquor in towns of less than 500 inhabitants. Forbids the manufacture of liquors in town of 1,000 people or less.

(2) Local option elections in incorporated towns or counties at any time of the year after 30 days notice upon petition of one-third of the voters not oftener than once in two years.

(3) In such elections the questions of the dispensary or the saloon or prohibition to be put as politicians may request.

(4) Prohibition of the importation of liquor by any means into the prohibition territory.

(5) After July 1, 1903, an applicant for license for the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors shall present with his application a petition in his behalf signed by a majority of the qualified voters of his municipality.

A Reasonable Dog Law.

Yorkville, S. C., Register.

Mr. O. J. Gwin, of Olive, writes a suggestion to the effect that it is time for the general assembly to pass a reasonable dog law. He does not want all the dogs annihilated. He thinks that a dog is a good thing; but he believes that a tax of \$1.00 a head will thin out the dogs that are no good without prejudice to such dogs as are really worth keeping. He does not think that the tax should be more than \$1.00 per head; but suggests that the proceeds should go to the public schools, being distributed in the same manner as the poll tax is now distributed.

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Makes the bread more healthful.

Safeguards the food against alum.

Alum baking powder is the greatest menace to health of the present day.

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Some of the Finest and Best Goods of the Season, to Go at Half Price.

All ready-to-wear Millinery, except black, will be sold by us until further notice at

HALF PRICE.

This is an opportunity that seldom comes to get just what you have been waiting for. And to think that you will have half your Millinery money left! The first to come have the best choice, of course.

Infant's Caps.

We still have them in all the different sizes and qualities, from

25c to \$2.25

JAMES F. YEAGER.

LADIES' FURNISHINGS A SPECIALTY.

READ! READ! GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

For some weeks we've been talking stock to you—the fine stock we've been getting in and wanting you to see. The people came; they saw the stock, they liked the stock, they bought the stock and they were well with the stock. Yes, we've been selling lots of animals and good ones, too.

Now, we have just received a pretty bunch of stock that walked through the country from Tennessee, also a full car-load of horses and mules that arrived last Saturday from the same State, making in all some 60 head now on hand.

Among these are some specially desirable saddle and driving horses, a few extra good family horses, and a plenty of good farm animals of almost any class in size from 14 to 16 hands high and weighing from 600 to 1500 pounds.

NOW LISTEN!—We are anxious to close up our year's business in order to make a new start with the new year, and for this week and next we are going to offer SPECIAL BARGAINS in HORSES and MULES for cash or on time. Stock will surely be higher after Christmas. Buy now and save money. Don't fail to call and see our stock.

REMEMBER we guarantee every animal as represented to you when we sell it, and remember also that you will save money by buying before the end of the year, and by buying from us.

CRAIG & WILSON.

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