

gagement, and he was driven back a block or so to the square of the Merced church. Here he tore up the pavement and made barricades. He put his cannon in the church towers, and for three days Lima was filled with fighting soldiers. The stores were all closed. The people did not dare to venture out on the streets, and such as showed their faces at the windows were fired at by the Caceres soldiers. Caceres was not at all popular with the people, and many of his officers were shot from the second-story windows by those who sympathized with Pierola. At the end of the third day the foreign legations took the matter in hand, and told Caceres the revolution must stop. Pierola's men said that they would cut the water pipes and fire the town if Caceres did not abdicate, and, between the two, Caceres was forced out of office, and a provisional government appointed until an election could be had. At this election Pierola was chosen president by an overwhelming majority. This was about two years ago, and he has still almost two years to serve. When he goes out one of his men will probably take his place, though I am told that Caceres is now in Buenos Ayres plotting how he may again get into power.

Peru is one of the richest countries on the face of the globe, and today the Peruvians are comparatively among the poorest of peoples. I say comparatively, for they have been so wealthy that what seems poverty to them would still be riches to others. By the Peruvians I mean the aristocracy and the ruling classes. The people who own Peru are chiefly those of Spanish descent. Some of these are crossed with the Indians, but the chief property holders and the men who have now and have always had the cream of the country are the pure whites. These are very few. Nowhere in the world will you find such a condition as has always existed in this country. There are in Peru about three million people, or about as many as in Greater New York. Of these 57 per cent are pure Indians and about 23 per cent are of mixed races, coming from the union of the Indians and the negro ex-slaves and of the Spaniards and Indians. Not one man in five is pure white, and of these whites there have always been a select few who have practically owned the country.

The story of Peru and its Spanish owners shows how poorly the Spaniards are fitted to govern a people or build up a nation. The story of Cuba is not a new one. When Pizarro came here and conquered the Incas he found a high state of civilization. Peru was then supporting a population of from ten to twenty millions. The Andes were cultivated to their tops, and what is now largely desert was by a system of fine aqueducts and canals rich farms. The masses of the people then as now worked for their rulers, but the laws were such that every one was well fed and housed, and by a system of public granaries there was no want. There was plenty of gold and silver, but neither metal was used as money, and the people, in fact, do not seem to have had money. They were hard working and peaceful when the Spaniards invaded them and took away the richest booty that one nation ever got by oppressing another. From one Inca temple Pizarro took 42,000 pounds of gold and 82,000 pounds of silver. The silver nails in one temple weighed 22,000 ounces. You remember the room half full of gold which the Inca king gathered for him as a ransom. They collected vast quantities of the precious metals from the cities, temples and palaces in other parts of the country and made Spain rich for a century or more. They enslaved the people and made them work for them, and later

on brought Africans and other slaves in to aid them in the mines and on their plantations. They had here the richest silver mines known, when silver was at par with gold, and for centuries fairly rolled in wealth. In addition to this they had the vast labor capital of the Indians.

The civilized Indians of Peru are not accumulators. They do not care for more than the day, and they are willing to work hard for just enough to support themselves and their families. These people, even after slavery was abolished, continued to labor for the whites. They are a very good class or workmen, and had they been handled by English or any other Anglo-Saxon combination, Peru would still be the wealthiest country of this hemisphere. Under the Spaniards the area of cultivated land became steadily less, the population fell off, and there is not one-third as many people here now as when Pizarro came. The roads, notwithstanding modern inventions, are not as good as they were in the days of the Incas, and the condition of the common people is very much worse.

Still the Spanish Peruvians, up until the war with Chile, remained rich. The silver mines of Cerro de Pasco turned out vast sums and the government revenues were so large that there was good picking for every one with any kind of a pull. One of the viceroys of the eleventh century rode from his palace to the cathedral in Lima over a path paved with ingots of solid silver. His horse was shod with shoes of solid gold, and every hair of the horse's mane and tail was strung with pearls. Later on, to the wealth of the mines was added that of the guano, and Peru got hundreds of millions of dollars out of her manure piles. This source of wealth was being worked when the great nitrate fields were discovered and in 1878 Peru exported \$17,500,000 worth of nitrate, which in the then value of silver was worth nearly twice as much as all her exports in 1896. The total exports that year were \$47,000,000 and the government receipts from guano and nitrate and other sources were more than \$17,000,000. Then the Chileans, who were poor, cast their covetous eyes upon these riches. They trumped up an excuse for war about their boundary lines and invaded the country. They had about 25,000 men, and they laid Peru waste, demanding ransom of various sections and destroying everything when it was not granted. At Chimbote, north of here, there was a sugar factory and railroad shops filled with fine machinery imported from the United States. The Chilean general demanded that the owners should pay him \$100,000 in three days. They could not and they blew up the machinery with dynamite, destroyed the beautiful houses of the haciendas and killed 500 sheep, which his soldiers could not carry off. The Chilean army destroyed the magnificent residences at the summer resorts below Lima. In their fights they gave no quarter, bayonetting not only the wounded soldiers, but the defenseless civilians as well. They looted Lima, taking the university for a barracks, and destroyed the archives. They also sacked the public library, which contained 50,000 volumes and many valuable manuscripts. They even robbed the zoological garden, sending an elephant to Chile. They cleaned out the palace and the treasury and collected millions in the way of customs, getting \$28,000,000 in one year from that source alone. The war lasted for nearly three years and when it was closed by the cession to Chile of the nitrate territory, which she coveted, Peru had been raked by the Chilean soldiers as with a fine tooth comb, and nearly

everything of value taken away. I understand that the Chileans have now about used up all that they stole and that they are making trouble with the Argentines in the hope of another great haul. Since then Peru has had a number of revolutions such as I have described and between the upper and nether mill stones of personal politics, the people have had little chance to do anything but keep out of the way of the bullets.

Since Pierola has been president, however, the country has been remarkably quiet and the general belief here is that this will continue. Business is steadily growing better and there are a number of movements under way for internal development. Foreign capital is coming in and the president is doing what he can to encourage it. He is improving Lima, repairing the great cathedral, building a new city postoffice and, as far as possible, reorganizing the army. The president of a South American republic has far more power, in some things, than the President of the United States. He practically decides everything, although his cabinet ministers must approve his acts to make them valid. He practically controls congress, to a large extent, grants the concessions which are given for public and private works, and has much to do with the management of the revenues. This country is, you know, a Catholic country. The pope sends a delegate to the court of Peru and there are more priests here than congressmen. All other religions excepting the Catholic are prohibited by the constitution, though Protestant church services are tolerated in Lima and Callao. There are only 5,000 Protestants in all Peru, and until last fall a marriage, to be legitimate, had to be celebrated in the Catholic church and according to its ceremonies. The offspring of other marriages were not considered legitimate, and the average Peruvian looked upon the married foreigners here as living outside the marriage relation. It was largely through Pierola that this has been changed, and I am told he would like to restrict the powers of the priests still further, though it seems to me that the money he is spending on the churches shows he is trying to curry favor with the clerical factions.

THE CONGRESS OF PERU.
I paid a visit today to the two houses of congress of Peru. This country has a constitution which is modeled somewhat after ours. The law-making power is composed of a senate and a house of deputies. The senators are elected for four years and the deputies for two. The sessions begin on the 28th of July, which is the anniversary of Peru's independence of Spain, and they last ninety days. The salary of each member of congress is \$15 in silver a day, or about \$7.50 in our money. Deputies must be twenty-five years of age and have an income of \$500 a year. Senators must be thirty-five years of age and their incomes must be \$1,000 a year. If the members are, however, professors of science, the question of income is not raised.

Both houses are on the Plaza of the Inquisition, where that terrible court sat in times past. Peru was the center of Catholicism in western South America for more than two centuries, and from the Isthmus of Panama to the Straits of Magellan heretics were brought here to be tried. The most horrible of tortures were used and many were hurned at the stake. It is a strange commentary on the changes of the times that the senate of Peru sits today in the very room in which the inquisition court held its sessions, and that speeches in favor of free thought are made in the very hall in which the most terrible blots of the past were tortured and slaughtered un-