

GUS RUHLIN OF AKRON

WAR IN COLOMBIA.

Characteristics of the Land and the People—Why Revolutions Are Frequent.

Were it in any other than one of the Latin-American republics, the present distressing situation in Colombia would have created widespread alarm that would have made itself felt in all the commercial and social conditions of life down there. As it is, two-thirds of the people, the peasants, the agricultural class, view the impending crisis with an imperturbability and coolness that speak well for their mixed Indian ancestry. "There is a revolution!" That is all. There have been revolutions before. As far back as the oldest inhabitant can remember (and there are some who can give reminiscences of the "Liberator" Bolivar) there have been revolutions. Judging from the history of South America during the last century, a revolution is one of the necessities of a republican form of government. How else can the liberals get into power?

That is one of many odd features in South American politics. It is always the liberal party that is out. When ever a revolution is successful, as happened in the case of Castro in Venezuela two years ago, the conquering party on its accession to power modifies its liberal program and becomes more or less conservative; while, vice versa, the defeated conservatives show a strong tendency to the former liberalism of their opponents. Yet there is a fundamental difference between the two parties—the same difference that showed itself in the early history of our own political parties. The conservatives advocate a strong centralized government, with a greatly modified liberty of action accorded to the states, or "departments," as they are called under the present regime. They believe in a long term of office for the president, who has the authority to appoint the department governors. Under the conservatives, also, the church receives official recognition, and there are certain restrictions placed upon the liberty of the press. The liberals, on the other hand, have a short term of office for the president; state governors elected by the people; no state church and no limitations to the freedom of the press.

Roughly speaking, these differences comprise the two political programs that are constantly before the people and about which so many revolutions are waged, not only in Colombia, but in almost every republic in South America. With our sense of political stability, it is difficult for an American to understand why there should be such constant disturbances in countries whose governments are said to be patterned so closely after our own. Undoubtedly, the founders of the Latin republic had the American system in view in the establishment of their own governments. But one vital part of our system has been left out of the political equipment of Colombia and Venezuela—an inviolable constitution back of the executive and congress. Instead of this one supreme, fixed constitution each party has its own constitution, in reality a political platform, and, on assuming the reins of government, the old constitution gives way to the new. There is a complete change in the fundamental law of the land, with all the chaos that such a radical transition inevitably means.

The absence of a fixed constitution, although it has been the source of endless mischief, is not the prime cause for the frequent revolutions in South America. That is to be found in the people themselves, together with the physical peculiarities of the country. We have only a slight realization of the latter, if not more, ignorant. Colombia is habitually set down as a petty republic, a state of insignificant dimensions. Yet, Colombia is really a vast territory, 513,845 square miles in extent, of which, unfortunately, only about one-fourth is inhabited. That is, Colombia covers an area equal to that of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana,

CHAMPION JAMES J. JEFFRIES.



When James J. Jeffries meets Gus Ruhlin at San Francisco on November 15, the sporting world will witness a contest between two of the heaviest pugilists that have ever met in a prize ring. The fight will be for the world's heavyweight championship. Jeffries declares he will "mix it" from the start and force the fight.

West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia, with a total known population not much in excess of greater New York. Such an immense territory so sparsely populated and employing the most primitive methods of communication, naturally offers unbounded opportunities to the revolutionary. Then the people are politically apathetic. They have inherited the carefree, joyous disposition of the Latin, mixed with the quiet content and indifference of the aboriginal South American. Theirs is essentially a home life, with a tendency almost patriarchal in its strong family associations, its slight interest in the outside world. "Strenuousness" is unknown to the Colombian. But the northerner who has tasted the hospitality of a Colombian household is impressed instead by the simplicity he finds there, the genuine friendliness, the easy refinement and absence of worry or irritability that characterize the domestic relations. A Colombian may never "hustle." He may never attempt to transact in a day business that might occupy him for a week; but he has a great capacity for quiet enjoyment. His social circle is his world. The interests that absorb him are contained in his home. If he steps outside the bounds of these interests it is to take part in some fiesta or church festival. Indeed, the church forms an essential feature in any political or social sketch of the Colombian republic. It is present in almost every public or private consideration in a way that would be difficult for us to measure or understand. A revolution is always of the most vital importance to the welfare of the church in Colombia.

It is singular that a people so peculiarly peace loving and amiable, almost pastoral in character should be so harassed with continued military upheavals. The effect of the latter on the country's development is obvious. Colombia, although settled the first, is probably known the least of any country on the American continent. Her retarded growth is due to no lack of advantages offered to the investor. On the contrary, the mineral and agricultural wealth of the republic is inexhaustible, while commercially, owing to its geographical position, Colombia should hold a commanding place in South and Central America. In the time of the Spanish occupancy this was realized; but today the reverse is true. Colombia is being outstripped by all her neighbors in the business of the world. Her mines are idle, her fertile fields yield a barren harvest, her huge waterways are untraveled by the keels of commerce, her spacious ports are open only to a pigmy trade; and the reason for it all is found in one word—War.

It is hard to remember a time when there has not been a revolution or the fear of one in Colombia. When one party is in power the other party is scheming to dislodge it, and that can be done only through a military revolution. While the majority of the people are absorbed in their agricultural pursuits or enjoying their fiestas, forgetting all about the intricacies and woes of government, a handful of restless "statesmen," the unquenchable minority, start a guerrilla warfare in some mountain fastness of the republic. They meet with a series of successes, the government is alarmed, troops are called out, steamboats and railroads are appropriated for their service, there is marching and countermarching all over the country, peasants are drafted to the army, rich planters are roused from their arcaid reveries and asked to supply the "sinews of war," foreigners and merchants gather up their belongings and look wistfully seaward—and behold, there is a revolution! It seems to be a perfectly natural state of things. The wonder is when there is not a revolution.

But this time the trouble appears to have overstepped the bounds of the ordinary revolution. There are rumors and predictions of a bitter international conflict, in which the United States may finally be compelled to take a hand. The trouble seems to be that Castro, the successful leader of an insurgent outbreak in his own country, is apparently looking for other worlds to conquer. He has taken up the

grievances of the Colombian liberals, and has discovered that the Marroquin government is not what it should be and is quite intolerable to Venezuela. It is difficult for a foreigner to determine what the quarrel is all about, to find a rational explanation for the terrible denunciations both countries have been flinging at each other's heads for the last two months. One thing is probable, however. Just as soon as either government succeeds in raising the necessary funds there will be less talk and more fighting, unless in the mean time a wholesome dread of interference on the part of the United States acts as a quiescent on these ardent spirits.—New York Tribune.

LONDON'S 519TH LORD MAYOR.

He Has the Necessary Money, and He Can Ride a Horse.

London.—Sir Joseph Dimsdale, who will become lord mayor of London on November 9, is a rich man, otherwise he couldn't have afforded the luxury of accepting the \$50,000 a year that the lord mayor gets for laying coronations, unveiling monuments, opening hospitals, eating state dinners and wearing garments whose gorgeousness would have made the queen of Sheba's raiment look by comparison as if it had come from a bargain sale. The lord mayor is expected to spend all of his salary, and in addition something like an equal amount out of his own pocket on the various functions that fill his official life. The new lord mayor will probably have to so and a heavier strain than any of his predecessors for a generation past, because he will be in office at the time of the coronation next June, and it will take a tremendous outlay to sustain the dignity of the city on that occasion.

Besides wealth, the other great qualification for a lord mayor is a sound digestion, because the official breakfasts and dinners he is required to give and receive follow traditions that had their beginning in the days before dyspepsia had been invented, and when three bottles of port was considered a modest and seemingly allowance for an gentlemanly dinner. Besides this, there is a special qualification required of the incoming lord mayor and fortunately he has it. This is that he should be able to ride a horse well enough to make a good showing at the coronation. The lord mayor at the time of the queen's jubilee had never appeared in public on horseback in his life, and when he discovered that tradition would require him to ride on that occasion, the poor man hurried off and took some lessons.

He was badly frightened when the grand day came but managed to stick on his steed, although with considerable loss of dignity. Sir Joseph, however, makes a fine figure of a man on horseback, and will be an honor to the city, whose 519th lord mayor he will be.

Sir Joseph gives a hint that he is going to be on the alert to protect the city's rights at the time of the coronation. The city, of course, isn't the metropolis of London at all, but merely the haughty little square mile in the middle of London, which has a separate government, separate police and a lot of ancient dignities which have precious little to do with the liberty of its citizens, but a great deal to do with the importance and pomposity of its officials. The city is always afraid that the rest of the empire is not going to recognize the lord mayor's importance.

The aldermen next in line for the position of lord mayor a year from now is named Marcus Samuel.—Kansas City Star.

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The days of miracles are past, but the fact that a blind and helpless paralytic has been restored to health by modern medical science is proved beyond question by the illustrated account of the cure of John Hunter, which appears in today's paper. adv.



ANOTHER DOG STORY.

A friend who has noticed our affection for dog stories sends us one all the way from Iron Mountain, Mich. It seems that while one Capt. Barclay was driving into that city from the country with his daughter the other day, the contents of the captain's pipe carelessly dropped into the bottom of the buggy, set fire to assorted freight there accumulated, and produced a little conflagration which, for a time, threatened to bring the ride to a more tragical termination than Iron Mountain, which is quite tragical enough to those not accustomed to it. However, the fire was put out before serious damage was done to anything except an umbrella. The excitement over the captain threw away the remnants of the umbrella and drove on. Soon after the captain missed his dog, and for five hours nothing was seen of the animal. Then, as his master was driving home, the dog appeared out of the woods just where the umbrella had been thrown only to run back among the trees, barking loudly. Calling was of no avail, and on investigation it was discovered that the dog had posted himself close beside the abandoned utensil. As he refused to leave, his master secured a rope and pulled him away with that, but as soon as he was freed, back he went to his post. It was found necessary to take the burned umbrella home to get the dog away. There, unfortunately, the story ends, and we are at a loss to know what it teaches—certainly not the remarkable intelligence of the dog, since it is not stated that the wrecked umbrella was of any value, or that it had ever earned the special devotion shown in its behalf. Presumably the dog knew what he was about, but his action was incomprehensible and therefore more irritating than interesting.—New York Times.

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