

A NEW REPUBLIC TAKES HER PLACE AMONG THE WORLD'S NATIONS.

The United States of Central America, a Probable Power in the Politics of This Continent.

Now comes the United States of Central America, a nation which has arisen out of much revolution. It is composed of Nicaragua, Salvador and Honduras, which have at various times done a little fighting together and against each other. The seat of government has just been moved from Amapala, the temporary capital, to Chinandega, in Nicaragua. A constitution, which is practically that of our own country, has been adopted. So the new nation, pocketed between Guatemala and Costa Rica, two States not particularly friendly to it, has begun its existence.

Enthusiasts have been singing of

an army of seasoned, mailed veterans.

He reached his destination after two years of almost incredible hardship. He conquered Guatemala. The natives were slaughtered by the thousand. The conqueror or his lieutenants possessed the land. Granada, in Nicaragua, was founded and a civilization was built on this continent which the Spaniards had largely learned from the Moors. In Granada many of the old buildings still stand.

All the countries of Central America were united under the name of Guatemala and a captain-general presided over them. Those who have



THE PLAZA AT GRANADA.

the blessings of a union of the five States of Central America for many years—ever since the federation made in 1823 was destroyed by strife and jealousies. Central American politics is an intricate game. In view of history there have been doubts expressed as to the permanence of the present union. Yet if the Nicaragua Canal is built there may be a development and a building up of these Central American States which will give their institutions stability.

There is no limit to the effects which may follow the formation of this new unification of the Latin republics. The three States which are enclosed in the middle of Central America are keeping at arms' length two nations with whom their relations are constantly disturbed. There is Guatemala on the north and Costa Rica on the south. Between these republics stretch the mahogany forests of Honduras, Salvador and Nicaragua. Salvador has had several encounters with Guatemala, and Nicaragua and Costa Rica are not on especially good terms.

Theoretically, the five States are supposed to have a community of interests; to be a greater republic, the members of which are bound together by indissolubilities. Revolution seems inborn in the body politic of these countries.

The wars and internal disorders have undoubtedly interfered with the prosperity and progress of the republics. While the United States of



A TYPICAL HOME OF THE FIRST-CLASS.

American was building railroads, reclaiming the wilderness and improving harbors, Central America was pursuing the game of revolution.

Stability of government, the completion of a ship canal, the exchange of products with the United States, may work wonders in this land of change and shift.

Here is the oldest community on the American continent and yet the last to take to itself a government which gives some sign of being an abiding one. Years before Jamestown was founded Spain had planted her colonies here and had ground the natives under her heel. The ruins of once wealthy and influential cities still attest the



THE AMERICAN LEGATION BUILDING AT MANAGUA, NICARAGUA.

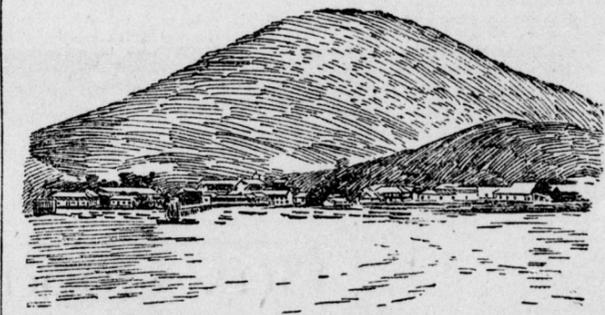
story of wealth and grandeur. Structures over the roofs of which centuries have passed remain to tell of the civilization which came to the land of republics and revolutions.

It was on this neck of land which Columbus set foot when he first reached this continent. That was in 1502. Twenty years passed by and then the conqueror of Mexico—Hernando Cortes—bearing stories of the fabulous wealth of the countries which lay below, started south with

followed the history of Spain know how the proud old land ruled her Central American possessions.

Then Mexico gained her freedom. Then the Central American provinces of Spain demanded independence, and in 1821 they received it. The Federal Union of Central America was founded in 1832, and until the close of 1839 it held the five States together. The States withdrew one by one.

With this period the name of General Marazon will always be associated. He was one of the founders



AMAPALA, THE OLD CAPITAL.

of the Union. Even after it had gone to pieces he tried to join together the fragments—to get the blocks which formed this puzzle of five into regular order again. He was shot at San Jose, in Costa Rica, in 1842, whither he had gone to attempt a coup in the interests of a united Central America.

Several efforts have been made since that. Unrest was the leading trait in the political character of these republics. Revolutions sprang up from time to time in all of them. It was charged by each republic that its neighbor or neighbors were giving aid to the revolutionists which she had expelled from her borders. Less than a year ago Nicaragua came very near going to war with Costa Rica on account of such a charge. Her President imprisoned a Costa Rican Consul at Managua. Troops were marched to the frontiers and a treaty of peace was finally signed.

An unsuccessful effort was made by Guatemala in 1872 to effect a union of the States. General Justo Rufino Barrios came very near forming an organization in 1887. He discovered that Salvador was treacherous and marched against it. He conquered the Salvadoreans, but fell a victim to



HENRY VARLEY, THE ENGLISH MOODY.

sharpshooters. By a treaty concluded at Anapala in 1896 all five of the republics formed a federation, which was called the Greater Republic of Central America. It amounted to little more than an agreement to leave questions in dispute to a diet of deputies appointed from the various republics. It will, of course, be superseded by the formation of the United States of Central America.

Diplomacy has sought to do everything possible to restrain jealousy and

dissatisfaction in this new nation. The Presidents of the States become Governors. It has been agreed that none of them shall become a candidate for



MAP OF THE NEW UNITED STATES.

President of the new Republic, who will be chosen on December 13. The successful candidate will be inaugurated next March. The new capital, Chinandega, is in Nicaragua, on the Pacific side. The temporary capital, Amapala, was in Honduras, on an island in the Bay of Fonseca.

If the resources of this new nation were properly developed it would be a rich and peaceful nation. The forests of all three of the countries are rich in mahogany and dye-woods; gold and silver have been found, there is an abundance of coal, and there are fortunes in coffee and tropical fruits. The future of this trio of republics depends in a large measure as to what policy may be pursued with regard to the Nicaragua Canal. The present concession expires next year. The United States of America, it will be remembered, sent a delegation of officers and engineers under Admiral Walker to make an examination of canal routes. It is proposed to use the San Juan River, the boundary between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and Lake Nicaragua as a part of the proposed waterway across Central America.

Nicaragua is as large as the group of States including Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Honduras is about the size of Ohio. Salvador is one hundred and forty miles long and sixty miles in breadth.

Nicaragua has been the scene of many conflicts. The old cities of Granada and Leon warred for fifty years as to which should be the capital of the State. Leon, which is now partially in ruins, represented the liberal party, and Granada the conservative. General Walker, a New Orleans editor, and a distinguished scholar, was invited to the country in 1855. He seized the supreme power, partly destroyed the city of Granada, and ruled with a high hand. The neighboring



AMAPALA, THE OLD CAPITAL.

States aided his enemies against him, and expelled him from the country. He returned to Truxillo in 1860, where he was shot.

Salvador, the smallest of the three, has always been an aggressive State, and has not been behind her neighbors in wars and revolutions. The capital is San Salvador.

The English Moody.

At one time the Rev. Henry Varley was a butcher. He is a noted English evangelist, who recently came on a second visit to this country. The way



HENRY VARLEY, THE ENGLISH MOODY.

he entered upon an evangelistic career was by addressing his fellow workmen. Gradually he became known as a good speaker, and went traveling over England addressing the people. He has since earned the title of "The English Moody," which is a great compliment, for Evangelist Moody is as much thought of by the religious people of the British Isles as he is in his own country. The Rev. Mr. Varley has addressed large crowds in New York and elsewhere. He is a powerful and eloquent speaker and has a charming personality. It is by the sheer force of ability that he has risen to his high position in the evangelistic world.

Among the assets on which Spain will have trouble in realizing a great deal of shop-worn diplomacy.

TOOK A WILDCAT'S PHOTOGRAPH.

Boy Photographer's Father Shot the Animal Directly Afterward.

To photograph a wildcat just before shooting the animal is a feat which few hunters have ever accomplished. It was done recently by William M. Shaw, of Greenville, Me., and the photograph has just been reproduced in the New York Sun. Mr. Shaw, who is a rich lumberman in the Moosehead region, owns most of Sugar Island, one of the most picturesque spots in Moosehead Lake. On this bit of land is situated the camps of the Nighthawk Club, whose membership is largely drawn from sportsmen from New York and Boston.

None of the campers is a more enthusiastic sportsman than Mr. Shaw, who combines with his tastes as a hunter those of the artist. He is a devoted amateur photographer and has taught the art to all the members of his family who are able to handle a camera. On his near-by hunting trips he is usually accompanied by his twelve-year-old son Hugh. It was on one of these trips that the photograph was taken. On this occasion the younger Shaw carried the camera. They had had a tiresome tramp through the woods when Mr. Shaw, looking up, saw a large wildcat ready to spring.

Raising his rifle and standing ready to fire should the beast attempt to spring, Mr. Shaw kept his eyes on the



cat, while Master Hugh pressed the button. The result is the picture. Mr. Shaw, the next instant, fired, and the cat fell to the ground mortally wounded. Mr. Shaw has the wildcat mounted and he keeps it in his house.

The snailpaardeloosonderspoorweg-petroleumrijtuig is being introduced into progressive South Africa as into other parts of the world. The snailpaardeloosonderspoorwegpetroleumrijtuig is, as the reader will doubtless have noted at a glance, the mellifluous Dutch name of the quick-horseless upon-ordinary-road-running-petroleum-carriage or motor car soon to be a familiar object in Johannesburg as already in Amsterdam.

A Child's Philosophy.

Lord Crewe, at an educational meeting at Liverpool, told an amusing story of the little son of a friend of his who refused to say his lesson to his governess. He admitted that he knew it well, but, said he, "If I say my lesson, what's the use? you will only make me learn something else." That child will probably be heard of again.—Westminster Gazette.

Stuffing Live Fowls by Machinery.

Poultry raising has become a science. No longer do the feathered beauties run free picking up the succulent caterpillar and scratching for grain. It's too expensive.

In the first place caterpillars aren't good food for chickens; in the second, grain thrown on the ground is wasted; in the third place, they run off their fat if obliged to trot around and pick up their food.

On the great poultry farms where fowls are fattened for the London market the birds are imprisoned in long rows of coops. At feeding time along comes a boy wheeling a queer barrow that looks something like a tool grinder's kit, except that it has a big hopper on top. In this is ground and mixed food.

Opening each cage door in succession, the boy takes out a fowl and holds it under his arm. Deftly he opens its bill with his fingers, inserts



THE STUFFER AT WORK.

in its mouth a tube connected with the hopper, presses his foot upon a lever under the barrow, and pumps until the crop is full—like blowing up a bicycle tire with a foot-pump.

One charge of food is rammed down that fowl's receptive gullet; and back he goes to his cage to ruminant on a world of queer things.

Thus deprived of exercise, the birds grow fat very rapidly. With the machine on, boy can feed 280 fowls in an hour.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Sunlight for Stock.

A sun bath will do animals as much good as human beings, and the windows on both the horse and cow barns should be so arranged that the animals can have all the sunlight possible. There is no necessity for placing the windows where draughts of air are likely to fall on the animals, but they should be placed where the animal will get some of the sunlight on bright days. Not only will this benefit the animal, it will add materially to the warmth and dryness of the barn and do much toward killing the odors inseparable from animal life. In colder climates the windows should be arranged so that they may be lifted, or in other ways opened for needed ventilation, and each with an outer door of wood to close over them on cold nights. Added warmth will be secured by having a curtain to pull down from the inside. These guards against cold should be arranged so that they will in no way interfere with giving the animals the benefit of the sunlight during the day.

Good for Fattening Pigs.

While corn remains at the low price it has brought for several years it would seem as if no better or cheaper hog food, especially for fattening, could be had, but if it is possible to accomplish the same result at even less expense just so much is saved. Experiment with kaffir corn have proven that while its feeding or fattening value is almost exactly the same as corn, the yield per acre is nearly one-third more, which constitutes the saving in the planting of kaffir corn. The soy bean has also been found not only a good fattening food for hogs, but particularly valuable for general planting because of its draught-resisting qualities. When fed with kaffir corn, both of them ground and mixed, the result was eight per cent. gain in weight over a mixture of corn and soy bean meal. It is evident, therefore, that kaffir corn, owing to its increased yield, is preferable to corn, while the use of the soy bean adds to its fattening properties. The soy bean should have more attention in districts where draughts are common. It has no equal as a draught-resister, and is readily eaten by all stock when ground.

The Cost of Keeping a Hen.

The cost of keeping hens depends not only on intelligent care in feeding, but on whether the feed is bought or raised. The ration for laying hens should be such that the nutritive ratio to the egg-producing properties should be about one in four. This can best be produced with cut clover, middlings, bran and corn meal, for a morning mash, with grains in variety, corn, rye, buckwheat, wheat, millet, etc. A fair amount of green food, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, etc., should be mixed in the mash occasionally, or fed raw every few days. On such rations a hen may be kept at a cost of about seventy-five cents a year, less if the food is raised.

Buckwheat is one of the best grains for fowls and adds largely to the egg production. Kaffir corn and millet are also good if they can be raised or bought at a low price. On the rations specified two meals a day is sufficient, the mash in the morning and the whole grain at night fed among the litter on the floor. It is sometimes a good plan to cut the night ration a little short, feeding the portion reserved about the middle of the afternoon scattered among the litter on the floor of the scratching house to keep the hens busy. This question of foods and their cost needs to be studied closely, especially in sections where eggs fall as low as ten cents a dozen during the summer.

Living From Poultry and Bees.

A living can be made on a small plot of ground by keeping poultry and bees, but the person must study to learn the conditions of success and then faithfully carry them out in detail. His plant must be large enough to give him constant employment, and he should have a taste for the work, so that instead of its being onerous to him he will enjoy doing. In this business, as in any other, what leads to success is a large capacity for painstaking work.

In my little farm in the village, I have four large poultry yards. In these yards are planted small fruit and apple trees, which make a shade for the hens and furnish me with fruit for family use and for market. In each yard, as fast as they increase, I shall set twelve or fifteen hives of bees. These do not in any way disturb the hens, and with good management are a source of considerable profit. I have been able to pay for my farm and many improvements upon it, besides saving some money, because our poultry have nearly made a living for my little family, so we could save about all the receipts from any special money crops grown on the farm. Our poultry and bees and the three acres on which strawberries and celery are grown for market, I know are more profitable to me than would be a good dairy farm of 100 acres.—W. H. J., Delaware county, N. Y., in New England Homestead.

Two Faults With Lambs.

A sheep salesman recently called our attention to the loss one farmer sustained because he failed to finish his stock for market. The stock, a bunch of lambs averaging fifty pounds, sold for \$5 per hundredweight. All were ewes and wethers of good quality, but they were in very poor condition. On the same market good fat lambs brought \$2.50 per hundred-

weight. For the thin lambs the producer received about \$4 per hundredweight, or, say, \$2 per head. Allowing the same difference between the market and farm price on the fat lambs, and he would have received \$5.50 per hundredweight. But had these thin lambs been fed to their capacity they would have weighed at least seventy pounds, and at \$5.50 per hundredweight would have brought the producer \$3.85 per head. Or if they had brought him \$5 per hundredweight there would have been a difference of \$1.50 per head, or \$150 on one hundred lambs. Clearly this man erred in not fattening his lambs, even if he had to buy feed to do it.

On the same market was a lot of lambs that contained a liberal proportion of bucks. No complaint was made as to the quality of the stock aside from this, yet these lambs sold at a discount of over 75 cents per hundredweight as compared with good ewes and wethers. The buyer of the latter considered them cheaper than the buck lambs at the difference. On a hundred lambs averaging seventy-five pounds this would mean a difference of \$56.25, a good price for the labor required to castrate the ram lambs in such a bunch and allow for losses too. Besides, the wether lambs would have made better and cheaper gains, and so would the whole flock. The above are two of the most common mistakes of those who raise lambs for market, and they are illustrated just as forcibly on every market.—Stockman and Farmer.

Thorough Preparation of Soil.

A few years ago the Rev. W. R. Brown of Empire, N. C., informed me that upon a certain occasion a tenant commenced laying off for corn, being, as I understood it, the first or leading row through the field. The row was crooked and Mr. Brown informed him that he would straighten it if he had to run a half-dozen times. He accordingly ran a number of times, cutting from one side of the furrow and then from the other until he finally got it sufficiently straight to answer. No person appeared to have the most remote idea that this extra plowing would result in any advantage, other than straightening the row, but Mr. Brown says that the corn of this row was twice as good as that of any of the other rows.

The above shows the effect of thorough preparation. A loose bed from twelve to sixteen inches deep and of a proper width should be made before planting the corn. In cultivating, said bed can be gradually widened until all the ground between the rows be broken deep. This deep tillage will exert an immense influence in time of drouth. More than this, the corn in the drill can be twice as thick as shallow plowing will admit of, and will then bear better and be better every way than the shallow plowed. When the people come to understand this matter properly they will see that they cannot afford to cultivate their land shallow.

It would, however, be better for the land to be sub-soiled in the fall or early winter, but when inconvenient to do this, it may be plowed deep, as aforesaid, in early spring, provided that it is done with a narrow plow of proper construction that will not throw the subsoil out of the furrow and expose it to the air. It is advisable to expose the sub-soil to the air if done at the proper time, but not after the winter passes.

If people would cultivate less and fertilize more they would, as a general thing, succeed far better. They could then retain command of their crops, and as a result would not lose all in time of extreme drouth, as is now frequently the case. Nine times out of ten when a farmer fails in his crop it is his fault rather than that of the season. The soil must not only be kept up but the fertility thereof generally increased over what it now is.

Clover and cow peas, in connection with proper fertilizers, are the great levers that are destined to revolutionize the agriculture of this country. The corn rows are preferably wide, say, seven to eight feet. The corn should be planted in the drill sufficiently close to make from fifty bushels per acre up, according to the richness. The cow peas are preferably drilled midway between the corn rows.

An excellent fertilizer for corn is a good dose of stable manure, to which about 200 pounds each of acid phosphate and kainit per acre have been added. Stable manure contains an excess of nitrogen, and it is necessary to add these elements in order to correct said feature. About 300 pounds each of acid phosphate and kainit may be applied to the peas, in both cases in the drill and well mixed with the soil, preferably several weeks before planting. The peas at most need but little nitrogen in the soil; they draw it from the air—far cheaper than buying in the market. By reason of this fact, in connection with certain chemical changes that will take place after the corn stalks and pea vines are turned under, the farmer will be exceedingly well compensated for his outlay. The above quantity of fertilizer may seem large, but it will prove economy in the end. Follow with wheat and clover, applying one and one-half bushels and fifteen pounds of seed per acre respectively.—Bryan Tyson in Farm, Field and Fireside.

Hobson's Choice.

After meeting many people at the league, Colonel McMichael suggested that Lieutenant Hobson should have a drink, to which the hero responded that he never drank anything. When asked to have a cigar he also replied that he never smoked. However, he suggested to Colonel McMichael that he would like to have a shave.—Philadelphia Times.