

THE LAND DIVIDED ~ THE WORLD UNITED

The last revolution, that of November 3, 1903, when Panama seceded from Colombia, was a bloodless affair, devoid of spectacular incident, but it gave birth to a new republic and made the Panama Canal an assured fact. The part that the United States took in the event has been discussed pro and con. It suffices to say that while the American Government did not actively interest itself in the cause, it smiled broadly at the plot, and prevented any chance that the Colombian troops might have had to avert the disaster, by prohibiting their transport over the Panama Railroad on the pretext of keeping the transit clear, which was all the Panameños wanted.

The "handwriting on the wall" was seen when the Colombian Congress deliberately turned down President Roosevelt's generous proposal for the purchase of the Canal strip at \$10,000,000. On their own admission they wanted more, for the reason they thought they could get it by asking for it. Roosevelt's hidden note of warning should have been enough, but Deputy



Electioneering in the interior of Panama is done on horseback. The man in front, under the flags, was one of the candidates for President in the last election.

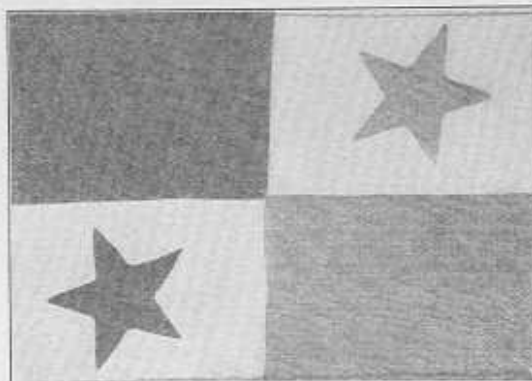
Velez and his followers thought they would call what they regarded as a bluff—and they did, but with an unexpected result. The Isthmians knew the temper of their compatriots, so the action of the Colombian Congress was no surprise to them. The treaty was defeated by Colombia on August 12, 1903; the flag of the new republic was raised on November 3, three months later; Panama was

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recognized by the United States on November 6, 1903; the Canal treaty with Panama was signed at Washington on November 18, 1903; it was ratified by Panama on December 2, 1903, and by the United States Senate on February 24, 1904. Quick work all around.

THE PANAMA FLAG

Miss Maria Emilia de la Ossa, a niece of the first president of Panama, Dr. Manuel Amador Guerrero, is the designer of the flag of the republic, which was hung from the balcony of Dr. Amador's house on November 4, 1903, when the Declaration of Independence was signed in Cathedral Park. The flag was presented to President Roosevelt when the United States recognized the independence of Panama. The two stars that adorn the banner represent the two national parties, Liberal and Conservative.



The two stars in the flag are red and blue on white background; the opposite corners are red and blue, making the combination red, white and blue.

NATIONAL HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

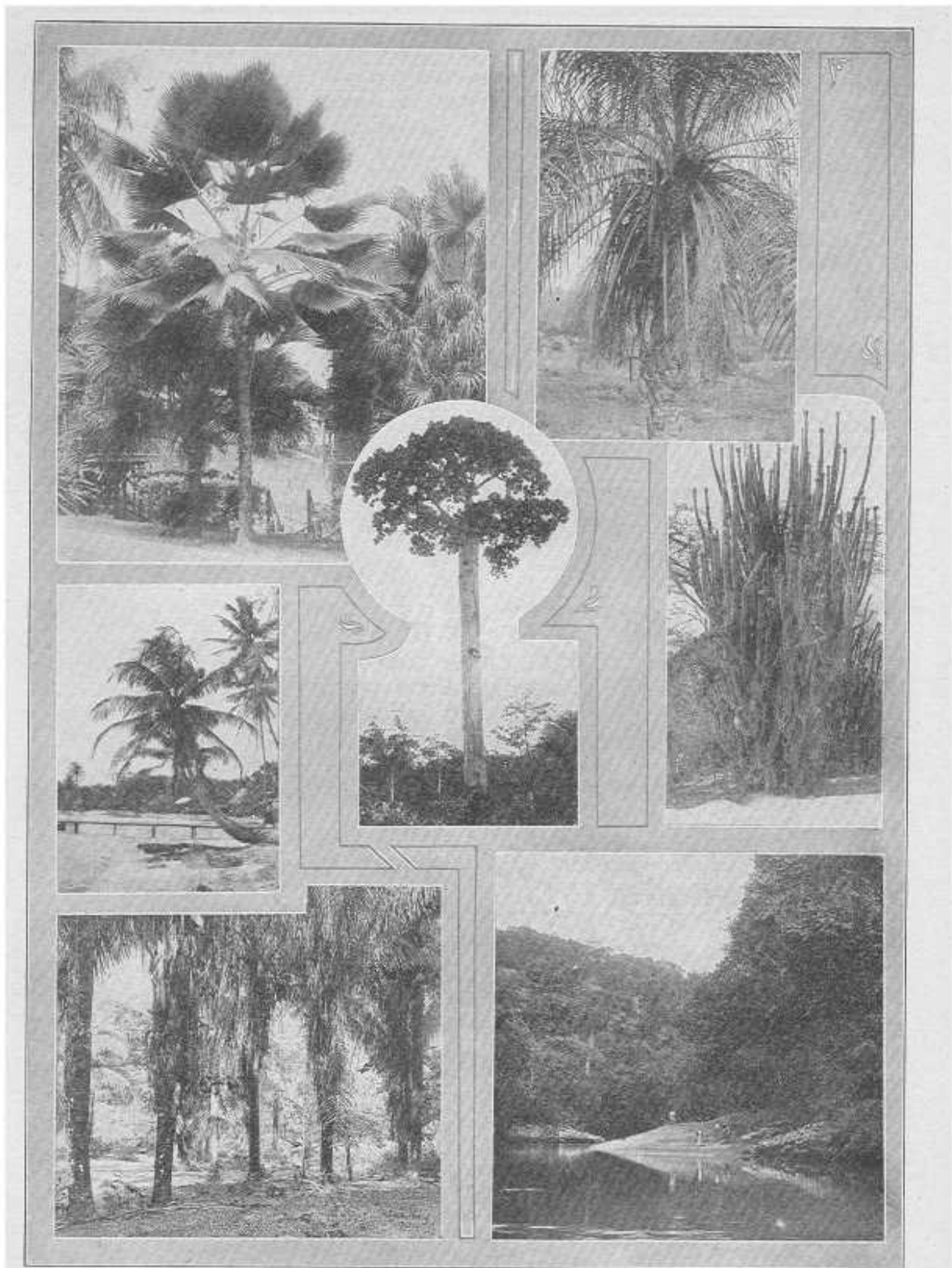
Chorus

Panama! Land of all our Devotion!
Hail to thee, Union true, Union grand!
Speed thy glory from ocean to ocean!
To our Nation we pledge heart and hand!
Speed thy glory from ocean to ocean!
To our Nation we pledge heart and hand.
Like the surge on our shore ever sounding,
In each heart rings the song of the Free;
Peace and Love with their wings all surrounding,
Loyal sons give their lives unto thee.
Onward still be the course of our Nation,
As the waves of the deep swiftly glide,
Thro' the Age shall our land take its station
With the grand of the earth side by side.

'Tis to thee, Land of Love, we are plighted,
And the din of the strife now is o'er,
Once again, brothers all, we're united,
While the Flag of the Free guards our shore!
Brightly gleams now the star of our Union
Still for Peace and for Fame may it shine,
All our hearts and our lives, in communion,
Till the last stroke of Time shall be thine.

THE RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD

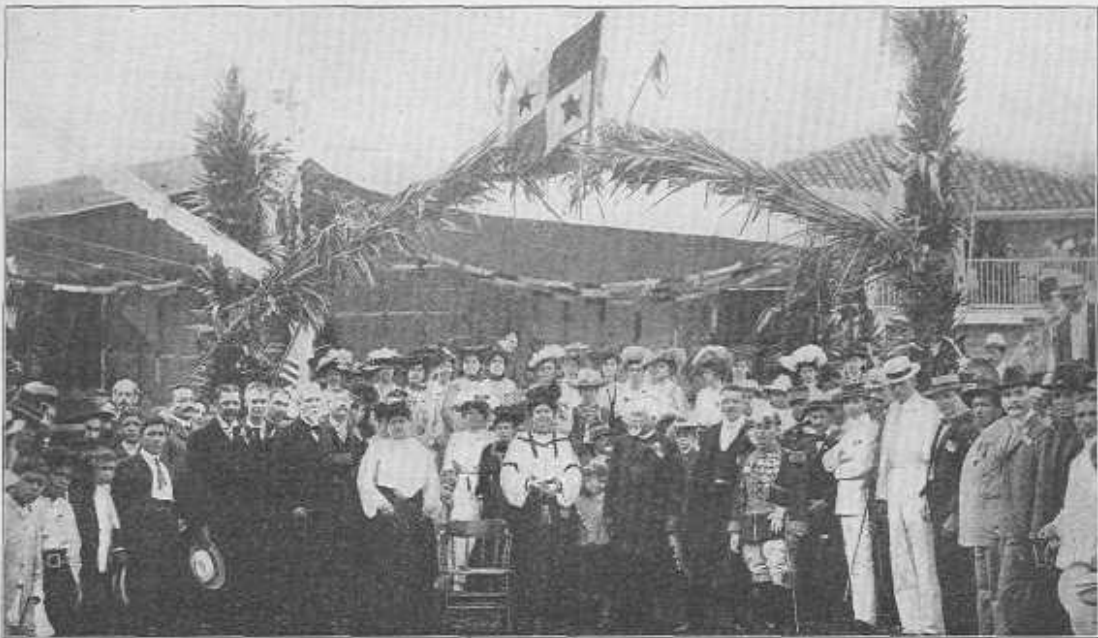
The period 1904-1912 may be termed one of reconstruction. The blighting influence exercised by Colombia over Panama made the latter, in many respects,



The high lands offer a pleasant and cool climate where all vegetation peculiar to the tropical zone flourishes. The scenery along the streams is fine; ferns and orchids of many kinds abound and splendid hardwood trees tower over the evergreen underbrush.

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100 years behind the times. The new government made a good start by disbanding its small army late in 1904. The army in nearly every Latin-American country is a bone of contention for the opposing political factions, for success is practically assured in case the aspirant for the presidency wins over the troops. In the case of Panama, Gen. Esteban Huertas, the commander-in-chief of the army, who, by casting in his lot with the Panameños, made the secession movement doubly assured, became discontented a year later, and framed a plan for unseating President Amador. The plot was uncovered, Amador appealed to the American Legation, and Huertas was plainly advised that if he made one move the American marines would take the situation in hand. No move was made and this act marked the end of Panama's standing army. Panama needs



Christening of the Panama Flag, November 3, 1903, the date of the last revolution in Panama.

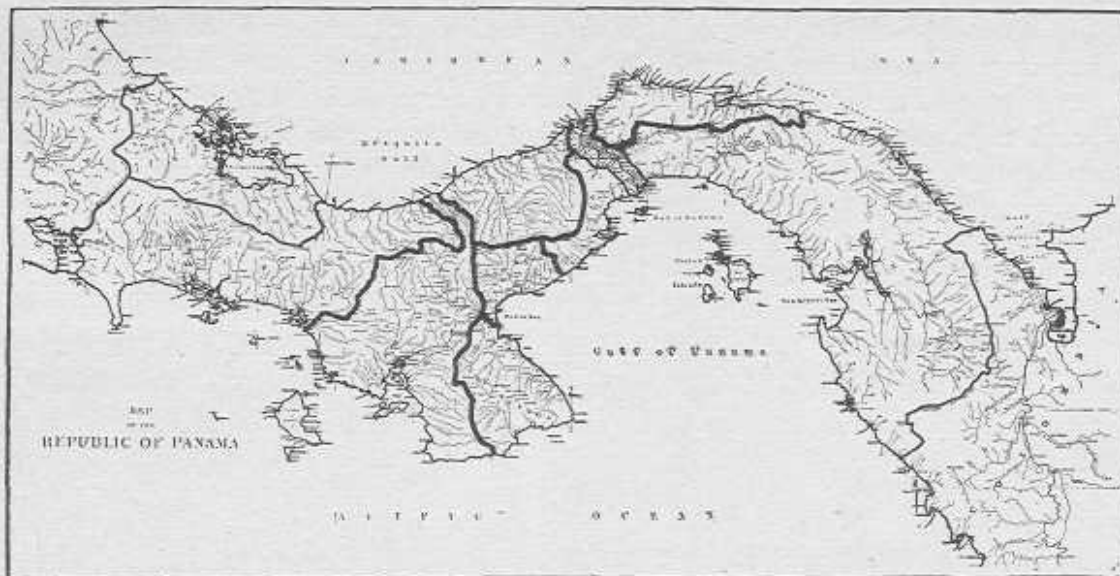
no internal system of defense, as peace is forever guaranteed by the United States.

The American Government exercises over Panama a mild form of guardianship. It will prevent any intrusion by outsiders; it will safeguard its health, and, in case of necessity, supervise its elections. It will not, as many think, annex Panama. Former President Taft, when Secretary of War, gave advance notice of what the policy of the United States toward Panama would be in December, 1904, when, speaking to an out-of-door assemblage from the balcony of the Hotel Central, in Panama, he said:

"My government does not covet one cent of Panama's money, or one acre of her land, but in the face of a probable outlay of \$300,000,000, it is absolutely essential that a thorough and close understanding be maintained between the two governments."

This attitude has been religiously observed, and, barring the possibility of

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some rash act on the part of Panama, remote at best, will continue to be observed.

"THE LAND OF THE COCOANUT TREE"

Crook your finger slightly, and you will have a fair idea of the American Isthmus, practically the whole of which is included within the limits of the Republic of Panama. The area of the country can only be estimated, as no actual survey has ever been made; and is approximately 32,000 square miles, based upon the east and west boundaries, as claimed, for, to date, neither the frontier on the Costa Rica side, nor that bordering on Colombia, has been determined. The Panama-Costa Rican boundary question was submitted for arbitration to former President Loubet of France, but the Costa Rican govern-



DON GUILLERMO ANDREVE,
Secretary of Public Instruction.



DON RAMON F. ACEVEDO,
Secretary of Public Works.



DON ERNESTO T. LEFEVRE,
Secretary of Foreign Relations.

MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT PORRAS' CABINET.

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ment refused to abide by his decision, which, for the most part, sustained Panama's contentions, and the matter is now before another tribunal. A tripartite treaty was arranged by the United States in 1912, to be signed by it, Panama, and Colombia. The proposed convention defined the boundaries and gave Colombia a sum of money—conscience money, it has been called by some. Colombia rejected the terms, and negotiations have since been begun all over again with some prospects of success.

The republic, while less than one-eighth the size of the state of Texas, has room for ten Montenegros. The total land frontier will not exceed 350



The President's Residence, Panama City.

miles, while the coast line on both oceans aggregates 1,245 miles. Its greatest length east and west is about 430 miles. The country is bisected with hills and valleys ramifying from a cordillera, or backbone, running irregularly throughout its length, ascending in some places to peaks of considerable height, and descending in others to comparatively low elevations like the pass at Culebra. Toward the sea on either side, the slopes end in wide, alluvial plains created by successive deposits of silt brought down by the rivers. Chiriqui volcano is the highest peak in the republic, 11,500 feet, which, according to Mr. D. F. MacDonald, geologist of the Canal Commission, has been extinct for 175,000 years. Both coasts are girt with islands and indented by numerous bays. The islands number over 1,700, Coiba, off the south coast, being the largest. The Bay of Panama constitutes the largest embayment, extending from Cape Garachine on the east to Cape Malo on the west, a distance of 100 miles in a direct line. Over 150 streams empty into the Caribbean Sea, and 300 into the Pacific Ocean. The largest is the Tuyra in the Darien region; the Santa Maria, empty-



Bull fights are now prohibited, but cock fights are still a popular sport. Much money has been and is being spent in the building of fine macadamized roads. The street traffic in Panama City is largely carried on by means of two-wheeled carts drawn by one of the small native horses or mules. In this particular scene Panamanian silver money is being carted to the car to pay off laborers.

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ing into Parita Bay, is believed to be second in size, with the Chagres River, feeder of Gatun Lake, third.

The republic is divided into seven provinces, namely, Bocas del Toro, Chiriqui, Coele, Colon, Los Santos, Panama, and Veraguas. Panama province is much the largest embracing that region as yet unreclaimed from the Indian tribes, known as the Darien. Panama City is the federal as well as provincial capital. After the sack of Old Panama by Morgan, the survivors moved to the site of the present city, five miles to the west, its founding dating from January 21, 1673. In 1904, when the Americans came, the city had a little over 20,000 inhabitants; the government census of 1911 gave it 37,505, and in 1913, it was estimated to have 50,000. Colon, the second city in size, situated on Manzanillo



Plaza de la Independencia, or Central Park, Panama City. The public parks are the favorite meeting places of the masses. Band concerts are held every Sunday and Thursday evenings. The natives assemble in their gala clothes, together with a cosmopolitan mixture of races.

Island, was a miserable village of 4,000 souls in 1904, built over a bog, but has since grown to an enterprising well-ordered town of 25,000 or more, a gain of over 600 per cent in the past ten years. Panama City today enjoys most of the conveniences of any city of its size, including taxicabs and an electric street railway, which were placed in service in August, 1913. Colon, also, has a tramway under construction. The future appears bright for these two cities, owing to their proximity to the Canal termini. David, the capital of Chiriqui province, is the third largest city, while Bocas del Toro, built up by the banana interests of the United Fruit Company, ranks fourth.

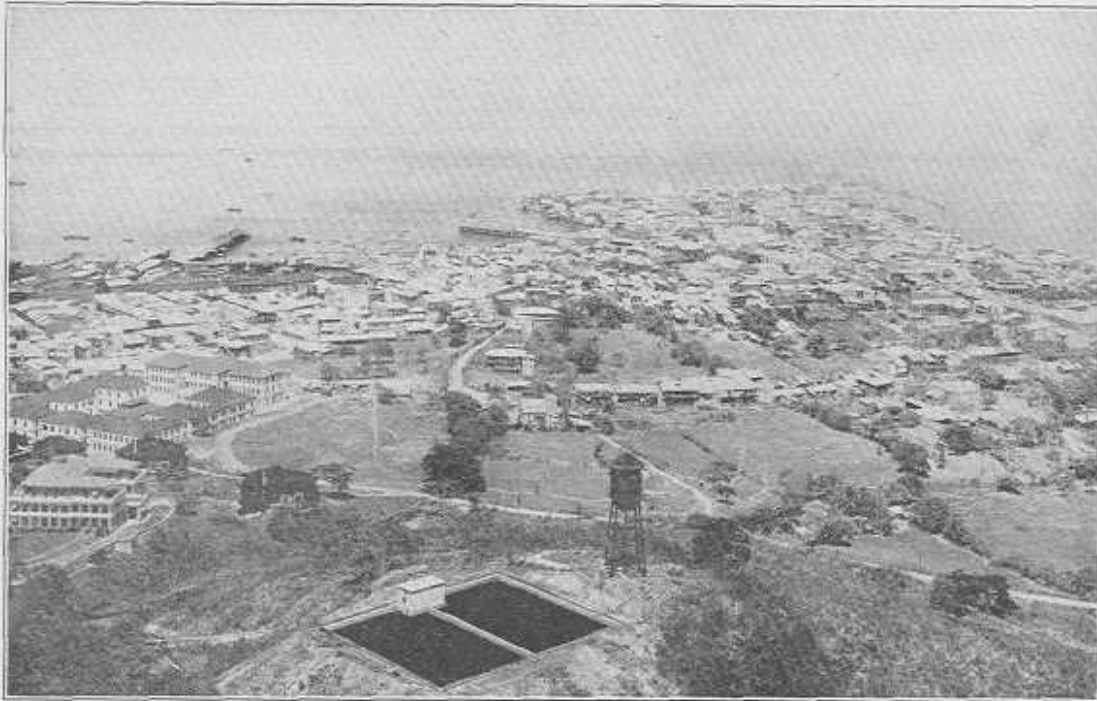
GOVERNMENT IS PROGRESSIVE

The present administration is headed by Dr. Belisario Porras, a leader of the Liberals, who took a prominent part in the revolution of 1900, and who is a

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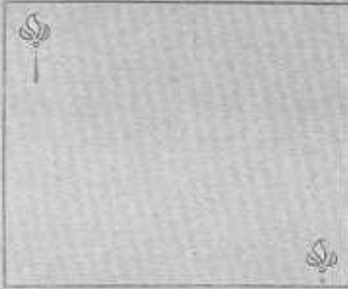
thorough progressive. He was inaugurated on October 1, 1912, after an exceedingly hard fought campaign, and is called Panama's first constitutional president. In view of possible attempts at fraud, the United States was called upon to supervise the election, and did so. In his pre-election speeches, Dr. Porras promised the people of the country certain reforms, and many of these reforms are being brought about. When he took office, the national treasury was empty, and a considerable amount was owing to the local banks on loans. In less than six months all debts were paid, and, in August, 1913, there was a balance in the treasury of over \$350,000, not including the first of the annual payments of \$250,000 made by the United States in 1913, under the Treaty.

The national constitution, providing for a centralized republican form of government, went into effect on February 24, 1904. The president is elected by



Panama City as it appears from Ancon Hill. This is the capital of the Republic of Panama and is situated close to the Pacific entrance to the Canal. It has about 40,000 inhabitants, including almost every nationality on the globe.

popular vote, for a term of four years, and cannot succeed himself. The elections are held in July, and the successful candidate takes the oath of office on the first of October, following. He receives a salary of \$9,000 per annum, with an allowance for household expenses and extra official purposes. He appoints all the higher officials, including members of his cabinet, judges of the Supreme Court, diplomatic and consular representatives, and the governors of provinces. He is assisted in his duties by a cabinet of five members, consisting of a secretary of finance, secretary of foreign relations, secretary of government and justice, secretary of public instruction, and secretary of public works. In case of death, the duties of the president devolve on the *Primer Designado*. There are three of these *designados*, which correspond to the titles of first, second, and third vice-president, respectively. The lawmaking branch of the government is a



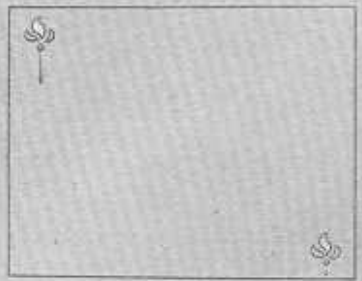
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL



PALM GARDEN HOTEL CENTRAL



FRENCH BAZAAR



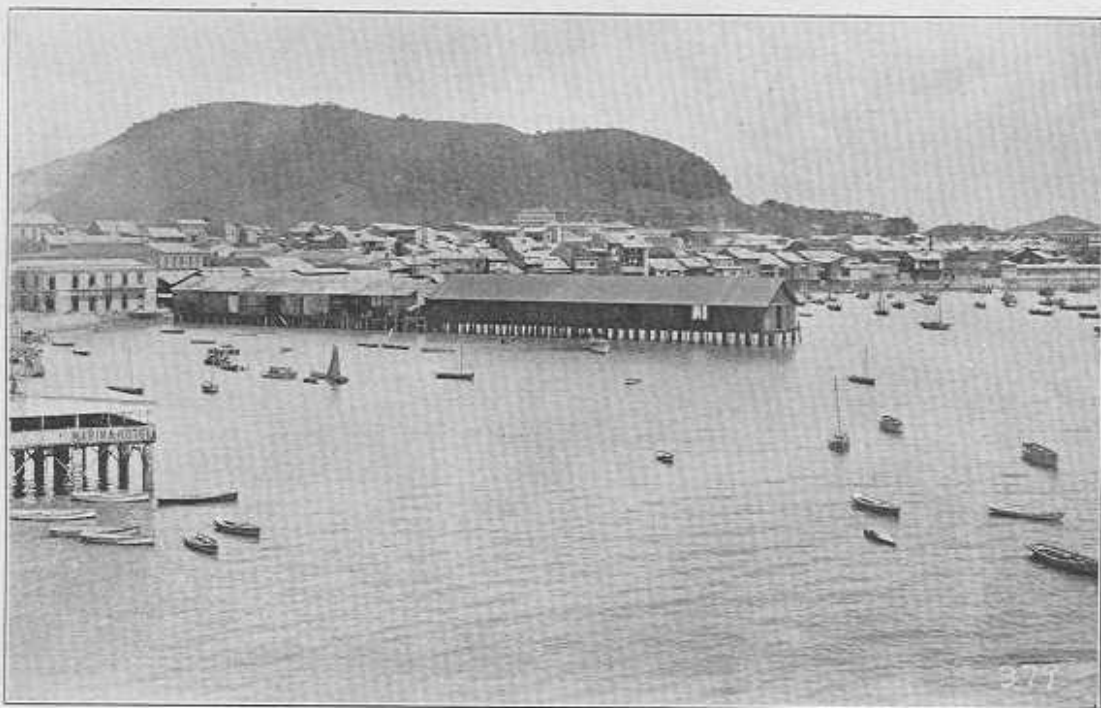
While Panama City as a whole, has quite an antiquated appearance, there are a number of up-to-date stores which import the latest creations, direct from Paris. The Palm Garden in the Hotel Central is a popular meeting place, especially on Sunday evenings after the band concert in the park.

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single body known as the national assembly, consisting of deputies elected for a term of two years in much the same manner as United States Congressmen. The administration of justice is vested in a superior court, circuit courts, district courts, and such inferior tribunals as may be established by law. The superior holds court in Panama City, and consists of five judges. In a general way, foreigners enjoy the same rights and privileges before the tribunals of the country as citizens do.

REVENUES

The national finances are in an excellent condition. The sum of \$6,000,000, the balance of the \$10,000,000 paid Panama by the United States for the canal strip, is loaned on first-class New York mortgages, drawing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest annually. This interest, about \$272,000, together with the following approximate amounts, form the fixed annual revenues of the republic: Canal Zone rental, \$250,000; interest on the sum to guarantee the parity of money, \$9,000; interest from funds in the National Bank of the Republic, \$33,750; rents of public market and dock, \$40,000; rents from lots in Colon, \$26,000; interest on bonds of the National Navigation Company, \$2,450. Total, \$633,200. Added to this are the customs duties and consular fees, estimated at \$4,189,986 for 1913; and internal revenue collections estimated at \$500,000. The budget of expenses for 1913 is estimated at \$3,841,214. The country has no national debt, and there is no probability of its ever having one. All imports into the republic, with the exception of certain articles on which a higher tax is imposed, are subject to a duty of 15 per cent. Liquors of all kinds, matches, salt, cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco, coffee, etc., are subject to a special tax. The



Panama Bay at high tide. A part of Panama City and Ancon Hill in the background.

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importation of opium is now prohibited by law. Foreign patents and trade marks may be registered upon application to the Secretary of Public Works (Fomento), and the payment of the required fee.

NATIONAL CURRENCY

The monetary unit is the Balboa, having a fixed value of one dollar in gold. Under the Treaty Panama agreed to maintain its coinage at a parity of 2 to 1,

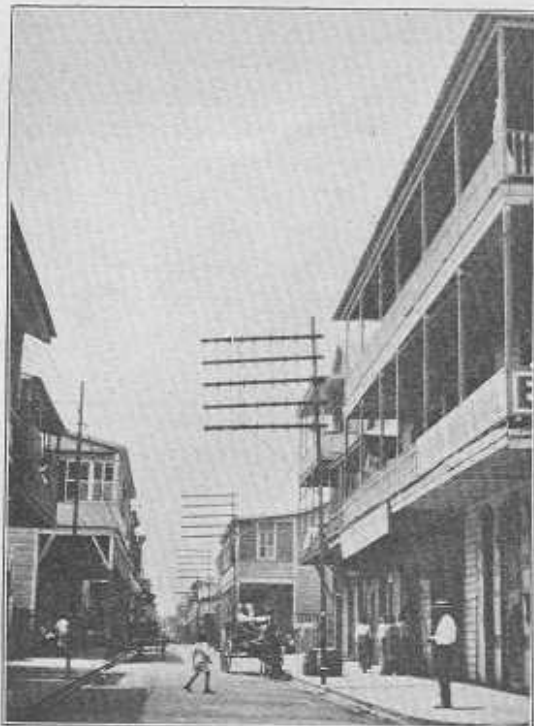


Cayucos or small boats, shown in the picture, are hollowed out of a single log, and are used on the interior rivers to bring down bananas and other fruits: they are either poled or paddled from the stern.

and accordingly there have been minted silver coins in 50-cent, 25-cent, 10-cent, and 5-cent denominations, and nickel coins in 2½-cent and ½-cent denominations, known as *peso*, *medio peso*, *dos reales*, *real*, *medio*, and *cuartillo*, respectively. In 1904, Colombian silver currency was the only medium of exchange, with the exception of a small amount of American currency then in circulation. The Colombian money was retired when the new coinage was issued. The local currency would long ago have proved inadequate for the growing commercial transactions of the country had it not been for the enormous amount of American money in circulation. American gold figures exclusively in all large business deals, and American subsidiary coins down to the copper cent pass current everywhere side by side with the Panamanian coins. The National Assembly of 1913 authorized the establishment of a national bank, with power to issue paper money, but constitutional objection has been made to the plan.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

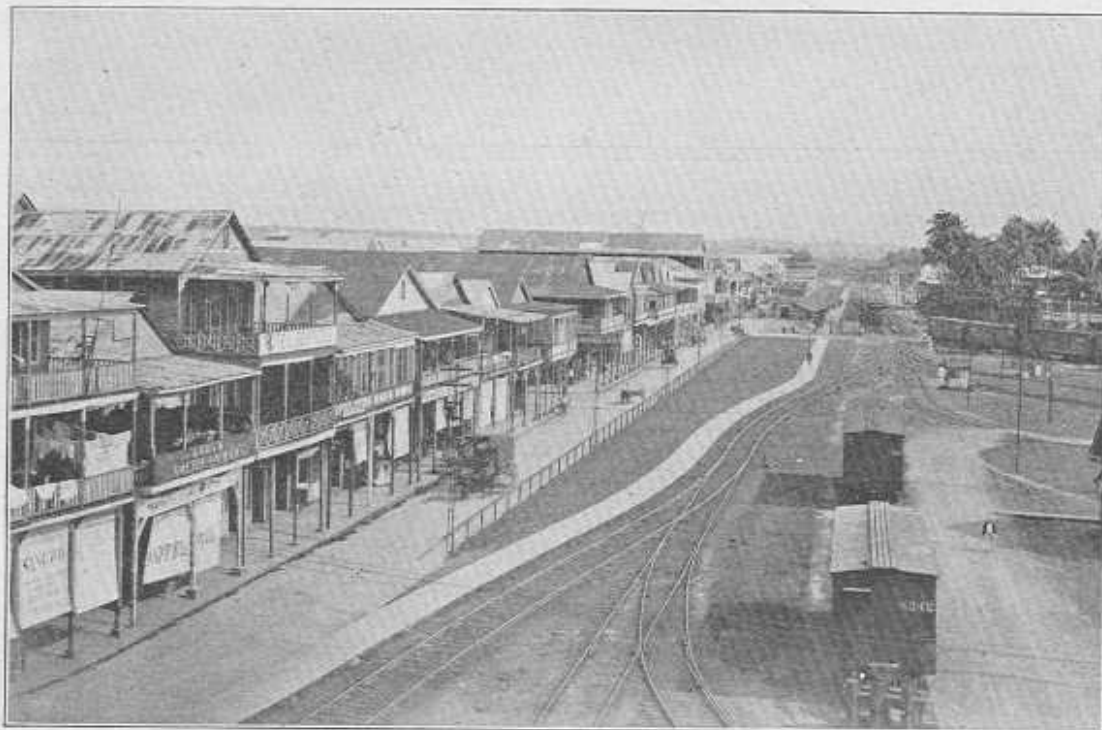
Early in 1904, the sum of \$1,625,000 was set aside for public improvements, and since that time several millions more have been spent. When



Some of the streets in Colon have queer names. This is a scene in Bottle Alley, one of the principal business thoroughfares.



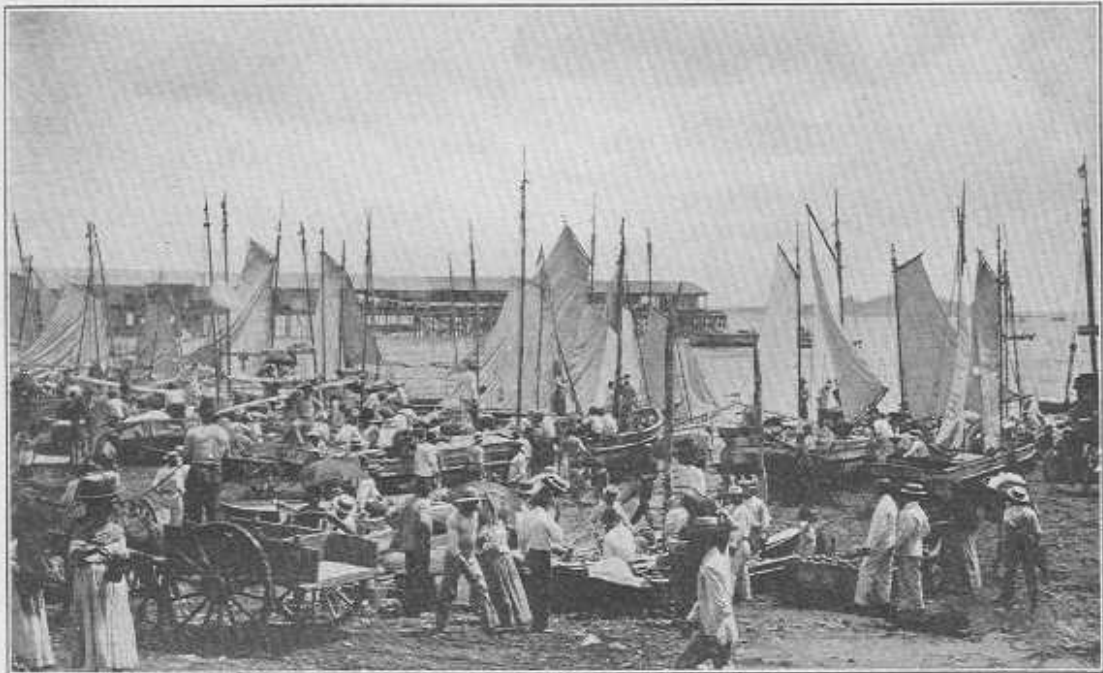
One of the newer type of concrete buildings. This structure is the property of the Panama Railroad, which owns most of the land in Colon.



Front Street, Colon, as it appears to-day. Before the Americans started work on the Canal, many of the streets were in an unsightly and consequently unhealthy condition. In the past few years a large amount of street improvements have been made and much land has been filled in and reclaimed east of the city. All of the streets, both residential and business, are now macadamized.

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Panama became a republic there was not a road in the country that could be dignified by that name. Subsequently, a number of roads and bridges were built, connecting the principal towns in western Panama, but the work, in many cases, was let to irresponsible contractors, and proved defective. It is officially admitted that the main trouble has been the failure to adopt a definite plan. This mistake has been corrected, and works of a public nature are now carried out along uniform lines. The largest wagon bridge in the republic is that over the Santa Maria River on the border of Coele and Los Santos provinces. It was built in 1907, under the supervision of Mr. J. G. Holcombe, at that time chief engineer of the republic, but who was formerly in charge of all municipal engineering of the Canal Commission. Since 1904, municipal buildings, including schoolhouses, have been erected in all of the important



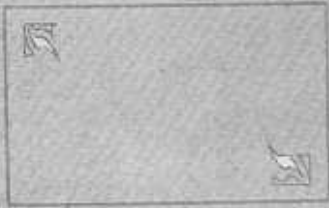
A busy scene at the playa, or market beach, Panama City, where small coasting vessels laden with vegetables and fruit unload their cargoes.

towns. In Panama, a national palace and theatre was completed in 1908 at a cost of about \$1,000,000; a city hall was erected in 1910; a national institute for boys, covering half an acre, was finished in 1911 at a cost of about \$800,000; a spacious city market is now under construction, and plans have been prepared for an abattoir and cold storage plant to cost \$100,000. In Colon, a government building was erected in 1906.

Development of the country has been greatly handicapped by the lack of suitable transportation facilities from the interior districts to the ports. Produce is brought to the ports by pack-pony, or by two-wheeled ox carts, over roads which, in the rainy season, oftentimes become impassable. It is then shipped to market by steamer or sailing vessel. On the Pacific coast, the National Navigation Company operates steamers west as far as Pedregal, the port of Chiriqui province, touching at all intermediate ports, and on the east to San



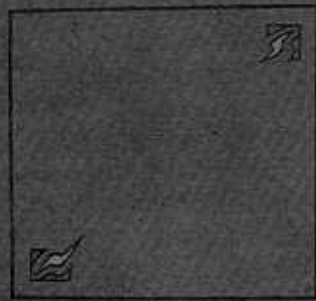
TAKING HOGS TO MARKET



TOBACCO PLANTATION



FARMING IN PANAMA



OX TEAM

Ancient methods of agriculture are still in vogue, such as planting corn by punching holes in the ground with a sharp pointed stick, although a few farmers have made homes and laid out plantations in the interior provinces and the methods of farming are being gradually improved. Produce is brought to market by a pack-pony or by two-wheeled ox carts over roads, which, in the rainy season, often become impassable.

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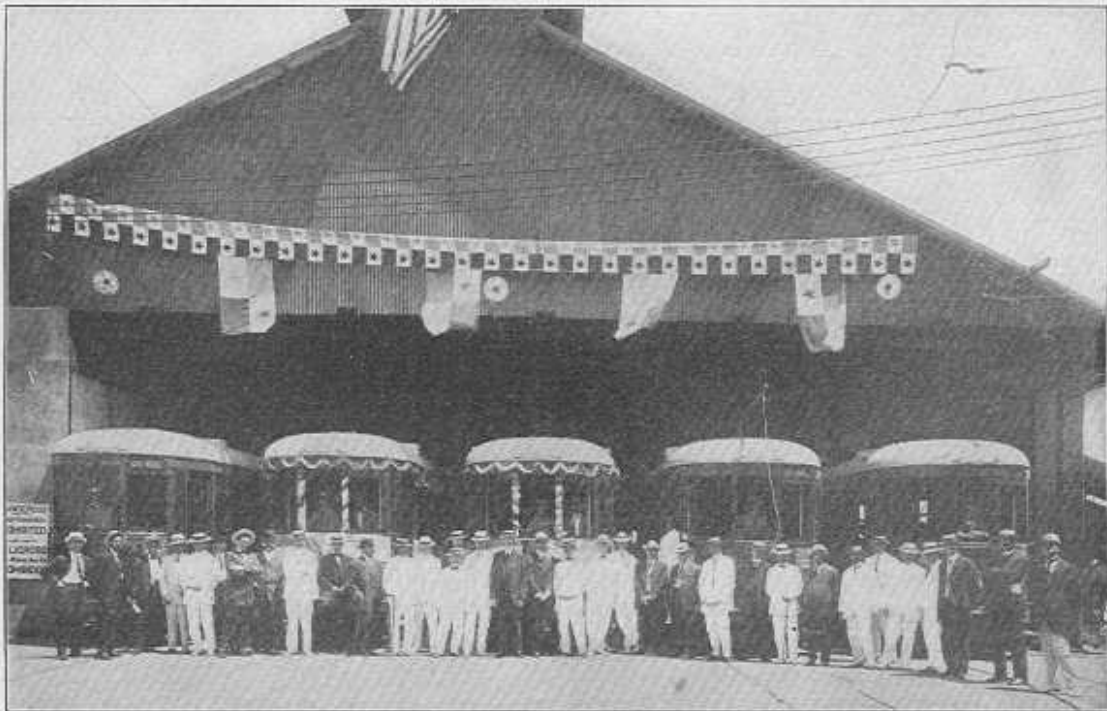
Miguel Bay. The Panama Steamship Company competes in this trade between Panama and Chiriqui, as do hundreds of small sailing vessels. On the Atlantic coast the traffic has to depend entirely on sailing vessels and launches.

There is less than 100 miles of railroad in the country, and is confined to the Panama railroad main line, and its branches, and to a line about 40 miles in length operated by the United Fruit Company in connection with its banana plantations in the province of Bocas del Toro. In 1910, at the request of the Panama Government, a survey was made by the Panama Railroad Company, for a line from Panama to David in Chiriqui province, a distance of about 274 miles. Several attempts to

enact railroad legislation in the National Assembly, in order to proceed with the construction of this line, failed; it passed the Assembly at one time, but was vetoed by a former president on constitutional grounds. The present administration has abandoned this project, and is making a study of a series of short electric roads, with a view of connecting up



Greetings from Panama



Celebration of the opening of the Panama tramways. Picture taken at the company's car barn.

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the principal ports on the Pacific coast, west of Panama, with the interior districts, using the abundant waterpower for operating them. A number of other railroad schemes have been launched during the past few years, notably, one in the Darien by a German syndicate, and another in Colon province, having its port terminus at the mouth of the Chagres River; the former project was abandoned, and the latter has been held up by the United States Government. The Panamanian telegraph system is government-owned. A line



A corner on Central Avenue, Panama, showing a car of the tramway service.

extends from Panama to David, with branch lines ramifying through the provinces.

FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The national constitution established a free public school system, something unique in Latin-America, and the government has pursued the policy of always providing liberally for the cause of education. Attendance at the public schools is compulsory, and absence without permission is punishable by small fines. Separate graded schools for each sex are maintained. The curriculum embraces studies that will prepare the pupil for the local normal schools, and the institute. It includes drawing, and in the case of the girls, instruction in needlework. Lessons in English are given in all the city schools, and some of the country schools, twice a week. The government also maintains a manual training school for boys, and a natural conservatory of music to which children of poor families are given free instruction, and where boys are trained to qualify for employment in the national band. There are a number of private colleges for both sexes in the republic; the colleges for boys are generally conducted by the Christian Brothers. The institute is open to Panamanian boys free of charge, but only two in a family are entitled to be admitted at the same time on this basis. The director is an American, but the talent of various countries is



CITY HALL, PANAMA.



SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, COLON.



GOVERNMENT BUILDING, COLON.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE, PANAMA.

The splendid public buildings, worthy of any towns of their size, which have been erected in Panama City and Colon, are real monuments to Panamanian progress. The Panama government provides liberally for the education of its youth. The National Institute, Panama City, cost about \$700,000 and has class room for 1,000 boys. Colon also has a school building for boys of much the same architectural type as the one shown in the picture for girls.

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drawn on freely in the selection of the remainder of the faculty. The scholars are classed as *internos*, those who board and room at the school, and *externos*, those who live at home. Every pupil who lives at the school must be provided prior to admittance with clothes and bed linen to the value of \$100.

On May 1, 1913, the number of public schools in each province, number of teachers employed, and scholars enrolled, were, as follows:

PROVINCE	No. of Schools		Mixed and Alternates*	No. of Teachers		No. Pupils enrolled	No. Receiving Instruction, one-half day
	Boys	Girls		Male	Female		
Bocas del Toro.....	2	3	9	5	12	291	217
Cocle	11	9	35	18	53	2,352	1,682
Colon	10	12	12	22	45	2,224	1,358
Chiriqui	22	22	44	36	76	4,111	2,307
Los Santos.....	20	20	42	12	34	2,942	2,016
Panama	29	30	11	76	174	6,407	5,177
Veraguas	13	8	12	20	25	1,214	861
Totals	107	104	165	189	419	19,541	13,618

* Mixed schools are those where pupils of both sexes attend classes at the same time. Alternate schools are those where the boys attend school in the morning, and girls in the afternoon, *vice versa*.

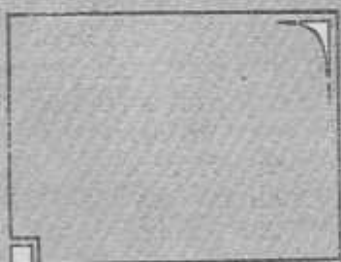
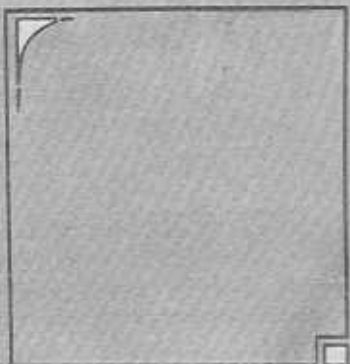
In addition to the above, there is a normal institute for girls, with 161 pupils, and 19 professors; national conservatory of music and declamation, with 176 pupils and eight professors; school of arts and sciences with 136 scholars and nine professors, and the National Institute for boys with 157 pupils, and 26 professors, all located in Panama City. Since May 1, several other primary schools have been opened, and one professional school for girls. The national



Masonic Temple, Port Limon.



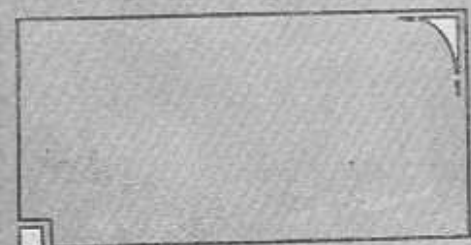
CLEARING THE LAND



A GOOD GROWTH



HAULING TO MILL



THE MILL

Views of a Sugar Cane Plantation, located about seven miles east of Colon. The raising of sugar cane is destined to become one of the future permanent sources of wealth of the country. The Isthmian cane contains a high per cent of saccharine and grows readily,