

MORE PARCHMENT

NO. 7/RAG U.S.A.

A SURVEY OF THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF VENEZUELA

STRATHMORE P

NO. 7/RAG U.S.A.

A SURVEY OF THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF VENEZUELA

By

PEARL RUDE

Bachelor of Arts

Central State College

Edmond, Oklahoma

1927

Submitted to the Department of History
Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF ARTS

1945

OKLAHOMA
111
AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE
LIBRARY
MAR 1 1946

APPROVED BY:

T. H. Reynolds
Chairman, Report Committee

Mabel D. Holt
Member of the Report Committee

T. H. Reynolds
Head of the Department

D. C. McTigue
Dean of the Graduate School

169018

PREFACE

The aim of this study is to present the cultural development achieved in the Republic of Venezuela, taking into consideration the geographical, historical, and economic background, and determining the far-reaching effects of these factors upon the growth of various cultural institutions as well as upon individual advancement.

The idea for making this investigation had its inception in a class on Latin American history conducted by Dr. T. H. Reynolds at the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Material for this study was gathered from the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College library; the Oklahoma Library Commission, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City; Foreign Policy Association, New York, New York; Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C.; the Carnegie Library, Oklahoma City; and my personal library.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF THIS STUDY	1
II. RESOURCES AND ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA	11
III. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN VENEZUELA, 1930-1940 . .	28
IV. SUMMARY	44
BIBLIOGRAPHY	50

A SURVEY OF THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF VENEZUELA

CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF THIS STUDY

To the south and east of the North American continent lies another part of the western hemisphere, another continent that Columbus touched upon briefly, that various civilizations have touched, some fleetingly, others with a firmness that made marks of lasting effect on the lands of South America.

The terminology, Latin America, has been used indiscriminately with references to all countries of the western hemisphere which recognized one of the romance languages as the official language.

Today it has a political connotation to designate the twenty republics south of the Rio Grande. . . . The so-called Latin Americans rather resent the term. 'We are twenty separate nations,' they say, 'and we have little in common.' Anyone who knows Latin America knows this. Geographically the region so delineated covers an area from the North Temperate Zone of Northern Mexico, through the tropics into the extreme South Temperate Zone. Spanish, Portugese, and French, interlarded with native tongues and dialects, are the languages spoken. The racial composition is as varied as that of the United States. The term 'Latin America' therefore, is not based upon similarities but upon a contiguous neighborhood of independent nations. . . .¹

Because of a long friendship which has existed between the republic of Venezuela and the United States, this study

¹ Ethel B. Dietrich, Economic Relations of the United States with Latin America, p. 5.

was undertaken to analyze the relations of the cultural life within the powerful smaller state and the factors which have influenced the development of a people's culture. Volumes have been written upon the exciting history of Venezuela, the founding of key cities during the sixteenth century, the great leaders, good and bad, who have appeared and changed the destiny of the nation. To attempt a complete survey of both geographical and historical development would be unwise, but scholars of specialized interests have provided the student of Latin America with a wealth of material from which gleanings have been taken in this study. Venezuela deserves respect and attention from both the historian and the business man, for history will find valuable proofs of the passing of events, and the business man will discover untold opportunities for investment. ✓

Undoubtedly the emphasis placed upon international relationships, both cultural and commercial, within the past fifteen years has had a marked effect upon the establishment of institutions for the promotion of cultural interests and has called attention to the importance of diplomatic relationship between the two countries concerned. It has been said that the diplomats of a country should be her most learned, most understanding, and most tolerant men in order to secure unity rather than create suspicion. Certainly Venezuela is entitled to the best diplomats that the United States can provide. Within the past five years, bureaus and departments have been set up within the government of the United States to promote

better understanding and further good will relations.

According to a personal letter from a member of government forces in Venezuela much improvement in attitude should come from the North American, as the Latin American chooses to call him. According to this letter

We have noticed an improvement in the opinions of the general public towards the North Americans in the past four or five years. President Roosevelt with his 'Good Neighbor Policy' has done much to bring this about. A change of attitude must take place on the part of our American people. The greater part has always held an inferior opinion of the people of Latin America, but the interchange of students, technicians, doctors, and nurses is doing much to break down this idea. Most of the tourists coming to these countries have always given these people to understand (by their actions) that the American people feel superior to them, but in the last few years with the greater advantages of travel, and more of our people learning the Spanish language, and really learning to know the Latin Americans . . . entering more into their daily lives and trying to understand their viewpoint . . . it has automatically brought about a better impression of these people toward the Americans. Personally, having lived and worked among them for twenty years, we love and respect them very highly and have endeavored in every way to have our North American friends understand them.²

In order to present the existing factors of cultural life in Venezuela, the growth of her educational institutions, the provisions made by the Venezuelan government for improved living conditions of the people, and the connection between the physical and historical development of the land and the

² Mrs. Viola Feverstein Jacob, Personal letter to Pearl Rude, March 7, 1944, written in El Tocuyo, Lara, Venezuela, South America.

lives of her millions of people, a brief survey of the outstanding features of the republic of Venezuela is given in the following chapters.

Volumes have been written describing the geographical features only, and the nation's hero, Simon Bolivar, has been the favorite subject of many biographies. The untold wealth found in Venezuela's natural resources will form a dramatic chapter in the annals of the country's history. Recent excavations have hinted at a world of material relating to prehistoric life on the continent that the research worker will use in his studies.

Venezuela, situated on the northeastern coast of South America, is shaped somewhat like a mushroom, and has an area of 352,143 square miles³ which makes it slightly larger than Texas and New Mexico. This area is divided into twenty states, two territories, and the Federal District.⁴ According to the South American Handbook of 1940⁵ the 1937 estimate of the population was 3,451,677 of whom 100,670 are Indians.

In Venezuela, the Orinoco and its tributaries form a great river system. There are 1,059 rivers and streams, and the Orinoco and its tributaries are navigable for over 6,000 miles. Another source of water is the 208 lakes that dot the

³ United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Foreign Commerce Yearbook, 1939, p. 266.

⁴ Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Venezuela, 1943, P. 2.

⁵ Howell Davies, editor, The South American Handbook, 1940, p. 570.

country, with 71 islands along the coast and in the lakes.

Undoubtedly, the presence of all these bodies of water influenced the early Spanish navigators who named the newly discovered territory Little Venice-Venezuela.

Lake Maracaibo, 8,000 square miles in area, is joined to the sea by a strait that is thirty-four miles in length and is several miles wide, permitting ocean going vessels to enter the lake for exports.

Three distinct mountain ranges cross Venezuela, and the climate is so varied that three distinct temperature zones are found: torrid, temperate, and cold, although Venezuela actually lies within the torrid zone. With scientific knowledge applied to farming and development of natural resources all types of agricultural products are possible. The establishment of agricultural schools or experimental stations in each state was designed to aid development of the land.⁶

A calendar of happenings in the small area of land known as Venezuela is a record of conquests, revolts, and colorful leaders. Each event or person marked progress on the road to the establishment of an independent republic that was first sighted by Columbus in 1498 although he did not realize the land of gold and wealth that was no near. Early attempts at colonization by the royal Spaniards were made from 1520 until 1796 when the Republican outbreak occurred--an event that was followed in 1806 with Francisco Miranda's expedition from New York to Venezuela to free the land and set up a republic.

In 1811, the independence of the nation was proclaimed,

⁶ Ibid., p. 570.

but Miranda was captured and sent to Spain to die in prison. The Declaration of 1811, July 5, marked the revolt of the first colony from the motherland of Spain. In December of that year a federal constitution was adopted, and Miranda took charge of the new republic to help her work out her destiny. Turmoil and strife resulted in his capture, but a new leader appeared on the scene, the man who became Venezuela's national hero, Simon Bolivar. He was a well-born Venezuelan and was a member of the revolutionary congress where he distinguished himself with fiery oratory. Taking up the armed cudgels for his country he succeeded in leading his loyal revolters to victory by driving out the last of the Spanish forces in 1823.

The development of the new country was slow and full of trouble. Under the presidency of Bolivar it began its separate existence from Greater Columbia, and in 1830, a new constitution was adopted. The first president under this new government was a lieutenant of Bolivar's, General Jose Antonio Paez. He was a beneficial administrator who adopted a very liberal policy promoting religious freedom as well as stimulating commerce, immigration, road building, and financial reforms.

Many difficult years followed his term of office. National finances fell into difficulty, and trouble began with foreign creditors.⁷ At this time General Juan Vicente Gomez appeared on the scene and took over the reigns of control.

⁷ United States Department of State, Foreign Relations, 1903, pp. 417-426.

Gomez was a true story book type of tyrant. The son of a wealthy ranchman and a born cattleman himself, he was schooled by nature only. He had iron self-control which aided him in his combats with lesser aspirants to his position and in his arguments with other governments. He knew about the oil that lay beneath the land and waters of Venezuela, so he deliberately invited foreign prospectors to come into the country to aid in its development. Through manipulation of trades and exchanges Gomez deliberately built up a long term program for the making of a great national life in his country.

Gomez himself was coarse, uncouth, unscrupulous, and profited by all transactions which he promoted. However, he constantly put the welfare of the state before the people, and in 1930, all external debt of Venezuela was cancelled. The Bolivar Centenary was observed by this striking achievement.

For thirty long years, Gomez controlled the political life of Venezuela. As an anonymous writer in the Latin American World, London's Commercial Monthly, says:

Outside of Venezuela the old tyrant was spoken of as the benefactor of his country, the darling of his people; but the only people he ever benefited were the holders of Venezuela's bonds, the exploiters of the country's oil resources.

Contrary to predictions Venezuela did not go to pieces when the dictator died. Lopez Contreras, Minister of War, became president. He cleaned house. . . . His program in the beginning was one of appeasement. Trade unions were allowed to organize, somewhat amorphous political parties began to appear, women's movements emerged and youth began to form its own

leagues. Various constitutional reforms were put through by the president with a minimum of delay, and a maximum of rejoicing.⁸

The Constitution of Venezuela of February, 1936 carries certain stipulations that have much bearing on the cultural life of the country. Liberty of thought, speech, press, and peaceful assembly are guaranteed, within limits to preserve the peace and national safety.

The form of government resembles that of the United States in many aspects. It has the three branches of government-- legislative, composed of Senate and Chamber of Deputies, the Executive, or President, and the Judicial which consists of an effective system of courts. Congress meets annually for at least ninety days. The President is elected by Congress, is ineligible for re-election, and must be a native Venezuelan, thirty years of age or over, and not a cleric.

A system of diplomatic representation is effectively operating with an ambassador and full staff at Washington, and consuls found in the larger cities.

Venezuela has been the main figure in controversies based upon interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine.⁹ Each president has seen fit to give a new slant to the application of the principles as stated in the famous document, and Venezuela

⁸ "Venezuela's New Dealer," Living Age: Vol. 355, November, 1938, p. 239.

⁹ United States Department of State, Foreign Relations, I, pp. 542-576.

has emerged a free, independent republic, with a new understanding of the relationships of all the Americas. It is impossible even to touch upon the various angles of diplomatic intervention or individual interpretations of the Doctrine, but as a background for detailed study of Venezuela and her trade growth, the various eras of diplomats have utilized various angles to the tenets of protection as set forth in the document.

Briefly reviewing the points of this chapter, the conclusion is readily reached that no nation develops on history alone, or on its geography alone, or even upon the natural resources which afford an industrial development. Without any one, the other factors fail. History is a meaningless string of events without study in relation to the land and its resources, and the geographical features of the country supplement the historical development.

Venezuela has inherited a wonderful geography of land, climate, waterways and natural resources, her conquerors afforded her a colorful background although somewhat chaotic and unstable.

From the combination of both has emerged a stabilized republic, democratic in practices, interested in the welfare of her people, eager to develop commercially, but also concerned with the cultural opportunities that the state may provide for a people who have not had many chances to learn and to enjoy participation in those activities which breed

refinement and elevation of minds.

This new state provides study ground for two factors of growth--the institutional development for the people, and the commercial growth and protection for her own products. It is the purpose of this study to present a brief but sympathetic description of both lines of progress in Venezuela.

CHAPTER II

RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA

No state or country in the world has as much potential wealth invested in its natural resources as Venezuela, yet undoubtedly only a small portion of its deposits have been developed. At least one-third of Venezuela is good for stock raising. The extensive plains or Llanos watered by the Orinoco are well-suited for raising cattle although the actual pasture grass is inferior to the Argentine pampas. This poor quality of grazing feed coupled with the lack of transportation has prevented extensive development of Venezuela's cattle industry. An estimated 3,000,000 head were reported in Venezuela in 1939.¹

Resources of the huge forests of Venezuela have barely been tapped although over six hundred species of wood have been identified by foresters. Balata gum is the most important article of forest production for export. Other fine building woods are present also.

The cocoanut crop has not been developed extensively, but recent interest has made farmers realize it offers great possibilities.

Another by-product of the natural resources of Venezuela in the past was the crop of egrets, fine feathers taken from

¹ Howell Davies, editor, The South American Handbook, 1940, p. 571.

the heron while alive and during the nesting period. Government action now prevents this painful practice, and just recently the slaughter of alligators in order to sell the skins for manufacture of luggage and other articles has been prohibited.

Large pearl fisheries are located on the Island of Margarita, and gold mining has just recently come into an important place in Venezuela.

According to the Handbook, one-fifth of the population is engaged in agriculture although the production of food-stuffs around Maracaibo has suffered because of the huge oil play in that region. Coffee, sugar, cotton, cacao, tobacco, and the tonka bean are the most important of crops grown. Coffee and cacao form three-fourths of the exports.

Large areas are suitable for cotton growing, and the cotton of Venezuela produces an especially fine quality fiber.

Coffee, a most valuable product, covers 750,000 acres and has about 450,000,000 producing trees in that area. About 1,000,000 bags is an average crop, each bag weighing 132½ pounds. Most of this export goes to Europe.

Cacao of high quality is the second crop in importance and the principal user is the United States.

Market figures quote the 1937-1938 crop of coffee as 42,718 metric tons, and of cacao in the same year, 168,700 bags.²

² Ibid., p. 572.

The rank of Venezuela among coffee producing countries of the world in exports is indicated by the following table.

TABLE I³

COUNTRY	AMOUNT OF COFFEE EXPORTED (1938)
Brazil	16,982,000 kilos (132½ lbs. each)
Colombia	4,250,000 kilos
Central America	2,340,000 kilos
Venezuela	500,000 kilos
Mexico	450,000 kilos

The third crop of Venezuela is sugar but the entire production is kept for home consumption. Other products that figure in the table of exports are tobacco, tonka beans, spices and the fine woods of the forests.

As the smaller crops such as maize, wheat, rice, and vegetables are all locally consumed, there is only occasionally a small exportation of tropical fruits or unusual food-stuffs.

As will be noticed in Table II, pearls and tortoise shell form an item of no mean value to the natives. This table presents figures for two years only.

In order to present a fairly clear picture of the importance of Venezuela to the United States because of her great amount of natural resources and products which the United States needs, and also to indicate, although in an incomplete manner, the value of the United States to Venezuela as a

³ Ibid., p. 591.

TABLE II4

EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES FOR THE YEARS 1939-1940

	1939		1940	
	Quantity Kilos	Value Bolivares	Quantity Kilos	Value Bolivares
Petroleum and product	2,593,143,033	895,338,398	26,738,563,065	809,022,166
Coffee	27,391,431	21,272,837	28,751,764	18,653,795
Gold	5,817	17,622,401	5,330	16,785,763
Cacao	15,378,124	9,655,689	15,266,899	8,528,321
Hides	3,243,057	2,199,053	2,714,194	1,783,901
Cattle	6,341,430	1,683,634	4,112,377	1,181,316
Vegetables, fruits, spices	3,042,369	359,658	2,534,804	339,579
Wood	4,641,177	432,335	1,352,306	132,389
Meat	38,913	25,733	107,680	97,652
Pearl, tortoise, shell, etc.	132,800	13,280	35,546	64,406
Tonka beans	126,650	522,697	14,141	63,072
Fertilizer	2,200,000	37,400	3,534,000	58,040
Tobacco	3,131	26,688	2,592	30,150
All other	11,473,966	986,460	5,563,197	989,751
TOTAL	29,667,161,898	950,176,263	26,802,557,895	857,730,301
RE-EXPORTS	3,547,944	3,160,823	3,253,589	3,178,384
GRAND TOTAL	29,670,709,842	953,337,086	26,805,811,484	860,908,685

⁴ Venezuela, Foreign Trade, Series No. 198, The Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C., 1942, p. 6.

TABLE III⁵

EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES AND LEADING COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION FOR THE YEARS 1938-40

Article and Country	1939		1940	
	Quantity Metric tons	Value Bolivares	Quantity Metric tons	Value Bolivares
<u>Coffee</u>				
<u>Husked</u>	13,846	9,194,345	14,471	7,752,004
United States	6,072	4,501,811	8,339	4,499,309
Italy	1,348	771,809	2,958	1,499,309
Denmark	788	438,400	1,461	1,139,960
<u>Washed</u>	4,744	4,959,280	7,630	6,658,762
United States	1,578	1,799,724	7,615	6,640,486
Germany	3,158	3,151,619	---	---
<u>Shelled</u>	8,795	7,116,145	6,588	4,229,926
United States	816	669,366	5,226	3,246,185
United Kingdom	500	258	456	353,433
Japan	---	---	318	230,281
Netherlands	110	85,225	132	101,657
Germany	7,591	6,193,322	---	---
<u>Low Grade</u>	---	---	62	12,877
United States	---	---	27	8,246
Spain	---	---	35	4,516
<u>In Parchment</u>	6	3,009	500	216
United States	500	121	500	216
Germany	6	2,888	---	---
<u>Gold</u>	---	17,722,401	---	16,785,763
United States	---	16,308,040	---	16,785,763
<u>Cacao</u>	15,378	9,655,689	15,267	8,527,976
United States	4,999	3,402,475	9,352	5,113,131
Trinidad	2,473	1,067,229	3,744	1,733,696
Netherlands	745	558,640	482	383,033
Italy	220	192,090	495	373,052
Belgium	159	131,953	450	368,401
Germany	6,113	3,788,357	---	---
<u>Chicle (United States)</u>	45	50,844	61	91,851
<u>Pearls (United States)</u>	--	-----	500	60,855

⁵ Ibid., pp. 7-8.

market, Table III has been compiled from a lengthy complete report of Venezuela's foreign trade.

To speak of Venezuela and her natural resources without devoting the larger portion of the discussion to oil and the wealth that it has brought to Venezuela would be an incomplete and useless treatise. To the casual reader, Venezuela is petroleum and the allied products. Very little, entirely too little, has been said about the other phases of Venezuelan development and progress. Oil history is very recent in this republic. Main operations are less than twenty-five years old, and the real extent of this great resource is still a gambler's guess. Oil laws have varied, some lax and others tight, but the exploration period is about ended and recent legislation in 1938 points toward government operation entirely. As stated by Allen:

The Venezuelan oil industry has never been disturbed by the several changes in the oil law during the past years. However, the new legislation adopted in 1938 contains provisions so onerous that it is doubtful if any foreign company would now make application for a contract under it.

Lawyers both of the government and of the oil companies contend that the law contains unconstitutional provisions.

Some hint of an intention on the part of the government of Venezuela to go into the oil business itself, to exploit, refine and transport its own oil, is contained in Article Two of the new law, which provides that the government itself may exercise the right to develop, refine and transport petroleum, and that it may form government companies through which to do this.⁶

⁶ Henry J. Allen, Venezuela: A Democracy, p. 231.

That black gold has poured wealth into the state treasury of Venezuela is an acknowledged fact, evidenced by the absence of debt in the country, and resources for all kinds of improvements for the good of the people of the states. A glance at the production for one year is a typical sample, and further comparison for a period covering ten years is still more convincing of the power in the hands of Venezuela.

TABLE IV⁷

PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES 1938

STATES	METRIC TONS
Venezuela	28,107,000 tons
Mexico	5,523,000 tons
Colombia	3,118,000 tons
Trinidad	2,583,000 tons
Peru	2,222,000 tons
Ecuador	296,000 tons

Thus at a glance the comparison of Venezuela with her neighbor states in the South American continent shows her production to be over five times as much in one single year.

TABLE V⁸

PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM IN VENEZUELA FROM 1929 TO 1939

YEAR	AMOUNT IN BARREL MEASUREMENT
1929	137,472,100
1934	142,692,000
1935	149,700,000
1936	155,228,982
1937	187,701,360
1938	187,369,893

⁷ Davies, editor, op. cit., p. 609.

⁸ Ibid., p. 573.

With one exception the principal sources of oil in all of South America are on or adjoin the coast. The largest recent developments have been in Venezuela in the Lake Maracaibo area--so large that the developments have an output that placed Venezuela third in importance among oil producing countries of the world.

The Mene Grande field was the first development in Venezuela and was twelve miles from the lake shore. Geologists reported the wells to range from 1,000 to 2,700 feet in depth. That each well was prolific is indicated by a single instance where one well in the La Rosa field on the east shore afforded 1,000,000 barrels in nine days. Yet this field was scarcely opened in 1922. The La Rosa field drilling has been principally under water or on the lake shore. Oils vary in these fields from heavy to light.

In 1924, the Venezuela fields produced 1.7 million tons of petroleum, a quantity greater than that from any other South American country in the same year. By 1928 the Venezuela output rose to more than sixteen million tons.

The principal producing area so far is that of the Mene Basin, on the northeast side of the lake and connected by means of a pipeline with the loading port of Soth Lorenzo where a refinery has been erected and where the various products are taken to Curacao Island for further treatment or for loading on ocean going tankers. Borings for oil are being actively conducted not only at other points east and west of Lake Maracaibo, but also in the Orinoco delta and in the eastern district facing Trinidad. Asphaltic deposits occur in all these districts. . . .⁹

⁹ E. W. Shanahan, South America, An Economic and Regional Geography With An Historical Chapter, p. 267.

The principal fields of Venezuela are La Rosa, Mene Grande, Cumarebo and Guiria. Near Maracaibo (city) are the Pa Pas and Concepcion fields.

Venezuela has not built its own refineries. The only ones in operation are the property of Standard Oil Company, the Shell interests, or Lago Petroleum Corporation. Depositories for storing the crude oil are maintained, and the bulk of it is then shipped on, by the companies on Aruba Island and the Paraguana Peninsula. Both have deep water stations for the transfer of oil to ocean-going steamers. Some advantages to the oil companies exist in having their main refineries in these Dutch Islands which have absolute free trade. As Allen tells it:

Most of the oil is taken to these islands by a fleet of eighty shallow-draft boats. The ownership of these boats is divided between the Dutch Shell which owns forty of them, and the American companies which own forty. Altogether twenty-four of these boats daily carry an average cargo of 17,000 barrels of oil, or a total delivery of 408,000 barrels per day, to the refineries in the Dutch Islands. The remainder of the oil goes as crude to other world markets.¹⁰

That the presence of big organizations within a small country, with thousands of employees, ready cash, labor needs, and abundance of opportunities for work would bring with it far-reaching social problems and would be the means for development of an enriched cultural life is apparent to any student

¹⁰ Allen, op. cit., p. 233.

who has seen the oil industry operate. Venezuela has not been an exception. Wealth has rolled into the public treasury and employment has been easy for the natives, and both together have made problems, and have solved others.

In connection with the story of oil in Venezuela, and the nationwide effect of the wealth and the labor situation, one name is outstanding, that of Henry Edward Linam who at the age of thirty-one became president of the Standard Oil of Venezuela. The story of his beginnings there in the edge of a forest wilderness that had a base in oil, no accommodations for healthy workers, nothing but the rich promise of black gold to feed the coffers of the state and to provide the world with a needed product--his story is suitable for a book of romance and adventure, but the results of his accomplishments are appropriate in a study of Venezuela because of their far-reaching reforms and influences.

Many of his improvements for his company's workers were confined to the camp at Caripito, but as his policies were accepted, it was not long before all of the oil companies in Venezuela was proof of their effectiveness. When Mexican labor demanded new contracts for higher wages and greater social benefits, the companies in Venezuela pointed to a different record. Dictator Gomez died in 1935 and in 1936, General Contrera formed a new liberal government. This new government began an ambitious

public works program to modernize Venezuela. Linam's company made arrangements to pay customs duties by using their engineers and machinery in building badly needed roads, bridges, and hospitals in remote sections.

These deals represent large-scale cooperation with the Venezuelan nation. . . .

In the past few years North American business in Latin America has begun to stress what we call Good Neighbor practices: first, because they pay best, second, because the Latin Americans won't put up with anything less. But Linam pioneered the idea in a hardboiled industry back in the old days before either North American government or business had seen the light. He explains his ideas on a personnel policy in a slow, deliberate drawl. A company operating in the tropics has to provide housing and medical care if the work is to go on, he says. The company gets more oil per man when workers have decent living quarters and adequate food, and this means better returns on the investment.¹⁰

Such might be Linam's explanation, but development of better living conditions gained a decided impetus from the humanitarian philosophy of this man of petroleum. He gained government recognition of the worth of his reforms so that the results will be felt long after the operations of the companies has ceased.

This brief presentation of the highlights of oil in Venezuela does not do justice to the work, deep laid plans of organizers, huge construction operations and international complications that have mushroomed into full grown stature within the past ten years.

Although wealth provides the means for industrial expansion, followed by more slowly growing cultural life, it has also brought a huge laboring class, an influx of foreigners during the early years, and the attendant danger of ready

¹⁰ Virginia Prewett, "Linam of Venezuela," The Inter-American, October, 1943, p. 27.

money in the hands of people who are totally unprepared by inheritance, environment or training to use it.

Although the oil industry in its boom days drew many of the workers from their agricultural pursuits, the tax money from this same source is helping the authorities to put these same workers back on the soil by the financing of a large rehabilitation program. Thus, the government seeks to keep a balance of industry and increase of agricultural commodities for home consumption.

A serious development or factor in this industrial improvement program has been the lack of railroads. Since oil could be piped from the fields to seaboard, railroads were not needed, and their construction has been neglected. As a result, only seven hundred miles of railroad exist in Venezuela. The vast timberlands cannot be reached at present except by overland horse and mule trains which means little wood is brought out for exporting. And as Smith and Littrell say:

This peculiar industrial situation involves the answer to two questions. First, can Venezuela continue to thrive on a single industry? Second, what is the ultimate effect of such an industrial situation going to be on the nations future? The progressive national leaders see the answers to these important questions. They know their country cannot go on forever living upon the subsidies of oil. The basic industries must be revived in Venezuela's new economic and educational programs.¹²

The industrial solution cannot be a primary part of this study, but its solution does have a direct bearing on the

¹² Henry Lester Smith and Harold Littrell, Education in Latin America, p. 185.

cultural expansion of the country, the educational policies, and the relationships with other nations in both commercial and cultural developments. ✓

To the casual reader Venezuela appears to be a land of romance and adventure, to the investor it is a place of great potential investment opportunities, and to the student, a land that has much to offer in history and in commercial fields, and a nation that is going about its planning intelligently for the betterment of its people. A country of stability is emerging from a chaotic background of dictators and tyrants, revolutions and experiments. To present Venezuela and her colorful life is a challenge to the student of government or of people.

Establishment of a Chamber of Commerce office in New York City by the Venezuelan government is a recent piece of evidence of the mutual understanding and the seeing eye to eye of the governments of the United States and Venezuela. However, goodwill and good intentions alone cannot guarantee perfect trade and commercial agreement.

The United States is interested in the countries that border the Caribbean because it is with them she carries on the greatest part of her Latin American trade. In 1938, the

proportion of their needs which we supplied varied from 45 per cent of Guatemala's imports to 71 per cent of Cuba's. Of their products we took amounts ranging from 32 per cent of the Dominican Republic's exports to 89 per cent of Panama's. Though Venezuela shipped only 13 per cent of her exports directly to the United States, her indirect share was higher. For most of Venezuela's main export, oil, goes to the

Netherland West Indies for refining, and some is re-shipped from there to the United States.¹³

The trade in the Caribbean is important to the United States because the products there are tropical. They are needed to complement those of the temperate zone country. Thus geography determines the special interest of the United States in the lands about the Caribbean.

The adoption of the 'Good Neighbor' principle by the present administration has resulted in a remarkable reversal of our Caribbean policy and a corresponding improvement in our relations with the countries of that area. . . . In practice, the new policy has also involved our abandonment of the ancient obligation to protect American business interests which were threatened by the action of foreign governments.¹⁴

In the State Department of the United States Government a special section to deal with trade agreements was organized in June, 1934, immediately after the passage of the Trades Agreement Act. The Trade Agreements Committee studies statistical tables showing the quantity of, value of, and the trends in, the trade between the two countries over a considerable period of years, detailed studies of each of the products the United States exports to the designated country, indicating with respect to each product the proportion of imports to the country involved supplied by the United States and the relative value of the particular market to American exporters.

¹³ Joan Raushenbush, Look at Latin America, in Foreign Policy Association, Headline Book No. 27, 1940, p. 34.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 38.

Experts are at work developing details on all phases of trade in both countries. After exhaustive study, the results are compiled, sometimes ten or twelve volumes of informational material, and from this expert study and many-sided consideration of each commodity an understanding of the entire trade between the United States and the country involved emerges.

After much involved detailed analysis of the commodities by representatives of both countries, the two schedules drawn up, the Trade Agreements Committee then proceeds to give fresh study to the schedules in the light of the information coming through the Committee for Reciprocity Information. After final approval the two schedules are submitted to the secretary of state and ultimately to the president for modification or approval. After his tentative approval, the way is then clear to begin formal negotiations with the other country within the limits of the approved proposals. Such, briefly, is the procedure before the trade treaties can be drawn up and signed. The whole undertaking may require many months, but the final results and effects are so great that utmost care must be exercised to make the treaty acceptable to both countries.

The agreement between the United States and Venezuela became effective December 16, 1939. Upon entry into force, the United States trade with that nation and the other nineteen countries with which similar agreements are now in effect will constitute about sixty per cent of total United States trade with the world, on the basis of trade statistics of 1938,

according to the Congressional Digest.¹⁵

Concessions, including bindings obtained from Venezuela cover such important American exports to that country as wheat, flour, oatmeal, prepared milks, hog lard, lumber, iron and steel products, automotive products and accessories, radios, refrigerators, engines, paints and pharmaceutical products. These products represented in 1938 about thirty-six per cent of total United States exports to Venezuela, or about \$19,000,000 out of \$52,000,000.

Concessions granted to Venezuela include a reduction of fifty per cent in the import tax on crude petroleum and fuel oil on an annual quota of imports not in excess of five per cent of the total quantity of crude petroleum processed in refineries in the continental United States during the preceding calendar year. The other concessions granted to Venezuela consist chiefly of guarantees of continued duty-free entry on fuel oil used for vessel bunkers and on a list of tropical or semi-tropical products of which Venezuela is a supplier.

The United States supplies about one-half of Venezuela's imports. During 1938, American participation amounted to 56.2 per cent as compared with 11.9 per cent for Germany and 7.0 per cent for the United Kingdom.

The United States provides the chief market for exports from Venezuela. During 1938, the United States absorbed 13.2

¹⁵ "United States-Latin American Relations, 1889-1939," Congressional Digest, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 298-302.

per cent of total Venezuelan exports as compared with 3.3 per cent for the United Kingdom, the next most important consumer of Venezuelan products following the Netherland West Indies and the United States.

Just as improved social and economic conditions have been observed in Argentina and other Latin American nations, so is observed in Venezuela that:

The prosperity which made these achievements possible resulted only in part from the establishment of peace. High prices for Venezuela products during the first World War and the amazing growth of the oil industry in subsequent years had helped to increase the private wealth and governmental revenues. Petroleum exports in fact have made Venezuela for the first time an important factor in the world's economy. . . .

The rapid increase in the government's revenues and the increased opportunity for labor at relatively high wages both have tended for the time being to make for political stability.¹⁶

¹⁶ Dana Gardner Munro, The Latin American Republics, A History, p. 404.

CHAPTER III

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN VENEZUELA, 1930-1940

To point out definite instances of cultural growth in a nation's life is impossible because of the intangible quality of that force known as culture. Perhaps it would be well to consider the exposition of the word as set forth by Herbert Read:

Culture is a slow product of the organic process we call history, and it is very difficult to catch it on the move.

I am not going to make the mistake of confusing culture with what, in a narrower sense, we call the arts. When you have examined all the architecture and drama, the oratory and philosophy, the poetry, painting and music of a nation, even then you have not exhausted the meaning of the word. To be worthy of the word, a nation has to possess something more--something in its manners, something in its speech and behavior--something which we might call gentleness, grace, or reverence.¹

That Venezuela has that something in its inheritance is evident from the determined manner in which the state has taken over those institutions commonly accepted as good and worthwhile for the human race, and has used every possible method to promote learning, develop arts, and improve living conditions among the Venezuelans. That the authorities with vision have a problem at the very outset is recognized when we read:

Venezuelans of pure white blood of Spanish descent are very few in number. By far the greater

¹ Herbert Read, "Culture and Liberty," The Nation: Vol. 152, April 12, 1941, p. 437.

part of the population is composed of peons of mixed blood, principally white and Indian but with a generous mixture of Negro blood. In isolated settlements in parts of the country are a number of pure Indian tribes.²

Far-sighted officials have provided for leadership along all needed avenues through the establishment of Ministries in the national government. That these men in turn are seeking trained help for development and carrying out of plans is evidenced through the many conferences for social betterment which are held in conjunction with other republics of the Americas. As Fergusson so neatly states:

Venezuela certainly offers laboratory conditions of thrilling interest and appositeness. Given everything wrong--lack of health, communications, education, experience in self-government--and the highest type of men trained in the best foreign schools, eager and unafraid, and what can be done?

Venezuela's program, formulated within the first months of the new regime, is in line with the best modern thought and far ahead of most modern practices. Her labor laws forbid child labor, regulate working conditions for women, provides for an eight-hour day and forty-eight hour week, arbitration of labor disputes, minimum wages, profit sharing with workers obligatory, social insurance, rights of labor to organize and to have houses supplied by larger employers.

Her health program contemplates the building of hospitals in every important center. Public health doctors and nurses, and professional schools for the supply of physicians are woefully limited and nurses training is so far unknown to the Republic. Vigorous and incessant warfare is waged against tuberculosis and venereal diseases and the ignorant and bad conditions which breed them. . . .³

² Carl Crow, Meet the South Americans, p. 41.

³ Erna Fergusson, Venezuela, p. 339.

That cultural relations and promotion of cultural agencies have become a paramount issue among the Americas is evidenced by the calling of a conference in Washington, November 10 and 11, 1939, on Cultural Relations between the Republics of the Western Hemisphere. At this meeting the first speaker was Sumner Welles who, according to Dr. W. B. Bizzell, said:

Not by pushing our commercial activities and commercial relations between countries, but by pushing the understanding of the languages and literatures of the various countries in Inter-America should we of the United States proceed in establishing a basis for actual inter-cooperative relations with these neighbors of ours to the south. We in the United States have not paid attention to this sort of thing; rather has the past idea been to push the commercial trade relations and allow the interest in other phases of our country's life to follow along slowly behind trade. The great growth of inter-communication and radio during the past two decades makes it very necessary to get much more of such knowledge disseminated among our people in the United States.⁴

Since Congress has passed a resolution providing \$75,000 for the exchange of professors and students with colleges in Latin America, ten countries of Latin America have ratified and set up machinery for the exchange. Very shortly, it is hoped that all republics will enter into the plan. Education and the exchange of information with earnest effort applied to the task of learning each other's point of view are among the greatest factors in promoting understanding.⁵

⁴ W. B. Bizzell, Cultural Relations with Latin America, pp. 3-4.

⁵ Sumner Welles, "The Policy and Program of the United States Government in International Cultural Relations," in Department of State Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 20, November 11, 1939, p. 496.

The ratification of the treaty between the United States of America and other American Republics proclaimed to the world the progress of thought in the Americas toward unity of purpose.

The first Congress of Venezuelan teachers met in 1936, after a long period during which professional organization was not possible. The hand of the dictator Gomez recognized no need for education or information in the hands of the masses of the people he controlled.

As the results of this Congress were tabulated certain startling facts were learned: only two normal schools were functioning regularly; 75 per cent of the people are illiterate; only 20 per cent of the children of school age are receiving instruction. That these conditions were alarming is apparent, but the teachers present were imbued with the spirit and determination to create greater understanding of the problems by fostering objective studies among teachers and government officials.

According to the formal report of this Congress the following statement was made:

In view of the pressing demands upon the Ministry of Education and the probability that many illiterates will not receive instruction through this channel for some time to come, the Ministry of Public Works has devised a system of workers schools which operate wherever crews are at work on public construction projects. More than one hundred of these schools have been created, with a personnel of two hundred teachers. Classes are held on schedules adapted to the nature of the work being done and instruction is pointed to the central aim of teaching the workers to read. This the

workers are able to achieve on the average within two months of enrollment, at which time they are given certificates of sufficiency.⁶

The Pedagogical Institute, or Teachers College, in Caracas offers instruction in English. The trend toward the teaching of English in Latin America is encouraging although few schools require a knowledge of the language.

According to the Pan-American Union report of 1928⁷ all secondary instruction in Venezuela is given in four liceos and twenty-four colegios, at least fourteen of the latter being schools of the federal government. An Upper Primary school diploma is given for six years work, and upon the completion of the four year course a certificado Oficial de Instruccion Secundaria is given and required for entrance to the university and advanced normal schools.

The importance of nutrition to the progress of a people is being recognized through Venezuela and legislation and business are taking steps to provide training for the people as well as supervise the establishment of eating places. As stated by Moll and O'Leary:

The modern agricultural schools for delinquent and problem children, such as the Venezuelan Instituto de Pre-Orientacion at Los Teques

⁶ Ernesto Galarza, Educational Trends in Latin America, in Pan-American Union Bulletin, Vol. 71, No. 2, 1937, pp. 28-29.

⁷ Pan-American Union, Secondary School Courses in Latin America, p. 29.

(operated by the Consejo del Niño) also pay careful attention to nutrition.⁸

Popular priced restaurants have been established to serve balanced meals at low cost--usually in densely populated, impoverished centers or in places patronized by large numbers of workers.

Another phase of the health situation in Venezuela is the diet of the rural Venezuelan.

According to recent studies the rural Venezuelan eats, on the average, about one quarter the amount of food which a normal European immigrant would require. In the livestock breeding province of Apure, the daily diet of the peon consists of a small ration of manioc, some pisillo and some coffee. Milk, which costs almost nothing in that region of the plains, is very seldom given to the workers. . . . Not so long ago one thousand peasants' families were forced by hunger to migrate from Venezuela to the Arauca region of Colombia.⁹

This brief statement that barely touches upon the great problem of feeding the population indicates wide need for improvement in both supply and standards. As the study goes further:

While most of the rather high revenues derived from royalties on oil have been consumed by public works, free public education, health, social welfare and expenses of the states, not enough has until recently been invested in the development of agricultural production for the domestic market. That the people of Venezuela are acutely aware of the need of agricultural

⁸ Aristides A. Moll and Shirley Baughman O'Leary, Child Nutrition in Latin America, p. 17.

⁹ George Soule and others, Latin America in the Future World, p. 21.

development is reflected in the widely quoted slogan, 'We must sow our oil.' For Venezuelans who, because of wartime shipping shortage, can no longer import an adequate measure of their food requirements, the truth of this slogan has been confirmed all too slowly.¹⁰

In the advancement of welfare of the people the problem of child nutrition seems to be of uppermost interest. According to statistics released by the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, the health of the children of the nation was not of much importance twenty years ago, but is fast taking its rightful place in the promotion of the common good.

In 1924 there were 2,946 deaths in Venezuela from diarrhea in children under two, and in 1927, 2,826. In Caracas there were 253 deaths from this cause in children under one. In 1955 there were 234 deaths (all ages) from diarrhea-enteritis in Caracas.

In 1940 there were 16,234 infant deaths, and 3,225 deaths from diarrhea-enteritis in children under two. Goiter is prevalent in certain areas of Venezuela. Rickets is said to be rare.¹¹

The need is there, but the training of health workers is necessarily a slow job.

The day nursery for the care of children of working mothers has been an accepted institution in practically all Latin American countries for many years, the project in Venezuela being established as early as 1895. Venezuela has been very fortunate in having the services of a great pediatrician, Cropeza, so their development along this line has been scientific and beneficial to the children of the country.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 22.

¹¹ Aristides Moll and Shirley O'Leary, op. cit., p. 17.

Consejo Venezolano del Niño, created in 1936, reorganized in 1939, attached to the Ministries of Health and Welfare . . . plans to organize regional councils, and the first was created in the state of Zulia in 1940, following the meeting in Maracaibo of the II Venezuelan Child Congress. The Consejo administers or supervises nurseries, a school for the deaf, an agricultural school for delinquent or abandoned boys, and the like. Venezuela also has an Instituto Nacional de Puericultura, established about 1936, its activities extend throughout the rest of the country, particularly through its puericulture training program.¹²

With the knowledge that school failures, non-attendance, and desertion are directly related to poor health, under-nourishment, and lack of proper clothing, most Latin American governments have undertaken the task of feeding, clothing, and providing medical care of their indigent children. Venezuela has even provided an outdoor rest home or farm for her feeble minded children, knowing that bodily improvement will have definite effects upon the mental condition.

One of the greatest projects and most far-reaching in the nation's social life is the work of the Casa de Observacion, home for the delinquents. This home is operated in Caracas and extends its supervision and aid to poor and homeless children throughout the country.

This project originated in the mind of a woman, Senora de Bocalandra, and she interested a group of Caracas women in the project, acquired a house, gained police protection, and obtained furnishings complete to care for their charges. They were fortunate to obtain the professional services of a

¹² Ibid., pp. 5-6.

young Doctor Rafael Vegas, a trained child psychiatrist. The project soon grew beyond the capabilities of the amateurs and with the help of Dr. Vegas, the home now salvages and re-educates the thousands of homeless and delinquent or problem children of the Federal District of Venezuela.

The group are established outside the bounds of Caracas, and are operating near the town of Los Teques. Dr. Vegas has established an almost military regime but the children seem to enjoy it, for it is said

. . . they have come from such disorganized fragments of society that it gives them a sense of security to know what is expected of them and what they in turn can expect. . . .

There is a need to do a similar kind of thing for girls, and this will undoubtedly be the next development. It was natural to attack the boys' problems first because they outnumber the girls' particularly in those groups of venturesome vagabonds who leave their home villages in the rural districts and come to the capital to seek adventure.¹³

One other development toward lifting the standards of the working class of Venezuela was the enactment of the Social Security Law in 1940. Each state has its own particular establishment to care for the enactment of this law. There are provisions for family coverage, work and occupational diseases. Benefits include care and subsidies. It is planned to extend the system in the future to cover the risks of old age, invalidity, death, and unemployment, but the sickness and maternity insurance seem to be the most imperative forms needed and

¹³ Wanda A. Misbach, "Venezuela Salvages Her Youth," The Inter-American, January, 1944, p. 32.

will be installed first.

Housing projects for workers have been placed in the hands of the Banco Obrero (Workers Bank) which is required to acquire property and build homes for workers. Many of the oil companies have done this for several years, and life in an oil camp has been quite luxurious in comparison with the homes of other workers.

The physical side of life has much bearing on the spiritual, or cultural plane of thought and action. To date some fields of art and science have not progressed beyond the first elementary steps. As yet the art of Venezuela seems to be entirely European as the Indian has not appeared to register an interest in the development of his native land's art. At the present time, there is apparently no school of Latin American art. Common problems do not seem to exist as in Mexico where many artists have earned international fame, such as Rivera.

Interest in the home and in things of refinement lead naturally to the women in the home. What are they like? Ferguson gives a picture of appreciation of the

. . . Venezuelan woman. She is intelligent, no doubt of that. She can learn, but can she criticize? She is eager, even ardent, and generous with her time, her money, herself. She is not snobbish in her social desires. She wants the underprivileged woman to come along. She is audacious, for she is trying in one quick jump to leap the chasm which women in other countries have been ploddingly building across for forty years. To understand the Venezuelan woman of 1937 one must recollect 1890--what a nice girl did then, how she was educated, what men and maiden aunts thought of girls who went to work or to college,

who talked about votes for women. Above all, the Venezuelan is courageous. . . . One North American, after knowing many of them, came away admiring the Venezuelan woman wholeheartedly and wishing her the best of luck!¹⁴

The women of Venezuela are beginning to take their place in the development of their country and as recently as in the spring of 1944, more than eleven thousand women petitioned the Venezuelan Congress for suffrage amendment. They declared:

Unjustifiably, the Venezuelan woman is restricted and humiliated. In the eyes of the world, she is placed in the same category as minors, illiterates, outlaws, and criminals.

Besides the anachronistic character of this constitutional restriction, they continued, there are powerful moral, social, and economic factors which cause the women of Venezuela to seek justice and recognition of their right to vote. Their improved status today is not due solely to their own initiative, but is primarily the result of the healthy efforts of the government during the past year to elevate the personality of the Venezuelan woman. . . . Recognition of our right to vote will enable us to fulfill completely our double mission as mothers and citizens, two functions which complement rather than conflict with each other. . . .¹⁵

The Venezuelan capital, Caracas, is a beautiful city with well-laid out squares, parks, country clubs which afford the very best golf courses, tennis courts, and bridle paths for horseback riders. The Plaza Bolivar honors the great Liberator of Venezuela with a statue. Modern buildings in the business section, and a truly lovely Museum of Fine Arts are of interest and surprise to the casual traveler in this

¹⁴ Fergusson, op. cit., p. 319.

¹⁵ The Inter-American, What Latin America Is Saying, August, 1944, p. 32.

republic. But again reference must be made to the true meaning of culture--there must be an inheritance and capacity for creating and appreciating the beautiful things of living.

The University in Caracas is outstanding for its architectural beauty, and the work offered therein is sound scholarly specialization in medicine, law, pharmacy, dentistry, engineering, theology, and diplomacy. The government maintains museums, libraries, academies and other educational institutions, including special schools of agriculture, commerce, and modern languages.

The modern university in Latin America is on the whole an institution with broadening horizons in respect to both its position in society and its daily relationships with its students. Its general aims are 'to impart higher education and to conduct scientific research on problems of general importance, and to prepare technicians and experts who will be useful in society.¹⁶

That scientific interest has a broadening field for research is indicated in an article presented in recent scientific writings by Simpson. He says, in reference to the work of the three Scarrett Expeditions for scientific research, that he had "the help of numerous local workmen who proved to be unexpectedly intelligent and energetic," and that the work carried on by the expeditions has contributed greatly to the knowledge of fossil mammals of both North and South Americas and has added to the study of their inter-relationship. As

¹⁶ Ernesto Galarza, "The Latin American Universities in Step with History," Pan-American Union Bulletin: Vol. 73, No. 12, December, 1939, p. 684.

he says:

The results already obtained show that Venezuela is a very promising and still almost untouched field for such studies.¹⁷

In a study of philosophical thought of the Latin American countries one great teacher and philosopher stands out, a native Venezuelan, Andres Bello. He began his education in his own country under Quesada, but after his acquaintance with Humbolt he went to London where under the good will and protection of the English he studied the English philosophers and worked for the Colombian Legation. However, he felt that Chile held bright hopes for him so he moved there to study a people, "civilize and legislate for them."¹⁸ Apparently, no philosopher has grown out of the life of Venezuela. Perhaps the development of the country has been too swift, too sudden and of mushroom nature to encourage scholarly reflection and philosophical writing. As yet, the great philosopher of Venezuela is to make his appearance.

Another art which is fundamental to the life of a people is its music. Little can be said for the advancement of music in Venezuela although imported singers are said to be very popular in Caracas. In a study made of native rhythms in Venezuela it seems that all their folk music is derived from the Spanish, but according to Mario de Lara,

¹⁷ George Gaylord Simpson, "Research in Venezuela," Science: Vol. 90, September 1, 1939, p. 210.

¹⁸ Willie Rex Crawford, A Century of Latin-American Thought, pp. 52-53.

What gives it a special character is its rhythm, which shows an influence obviously American, but not always aboriginal, for in many cases, it is masked by a certain syncopation of African origin, as in the Venezuela tango. . . .

The aborigines of the Venezuelan Andes who were far from reaching the cultural development of the Mayas, Aztecs, or Incas, did not develop much music and their dance songs, even now, have rhythms but practically no melody which they apparently do not crave.¹⁹

Apparently the South American has little respect for music or art that is native, preferring importations from European centers particularly.

It is a well known fact that Latin American writers of one republic are not well acquainted with the literary production of their colleagues in other parts of Latin America. The great distances between the various centers of culture; lack of organized publicity; the proverbial indolence and indifference of Latin American publishers and book dealers; and an inborn disdain on the part of the public toward the product of artists at home--all these things have presented in the past unsurmountable difficulties even to the best writers of Latin American republics in presenting their work to the largest public possible. Such difficulties have been even more keenly felt by the composers. Writers have been somewhat favored by the fact that works in Spanish or Portugese are somewhat more accessible to the reading public at home; and yet, until recently, Latin Americans read books by native authors only when they could find no convenient translation of European works, regardless of their merit.²⁰

That Venezuela has cultural people who have developed distinction in their chosen art is evidenced by the increased

¹⁹ Mario de Lara, "Native Rhythms in Venezuela," Pan-American Union Bulletin: Vol. 72, No. 11, Nov. 1938, p. 646.

²⁰ William Berrien, Latin American Composers and Their Problems, Pan-American Union Fine Arts Series, No. 10, 1938, p. 18.

number of names of creative artists who are becoming well known in countries other than their own. The great Venezuelan pianist, Teresa Carreno, died in 1917, but she focused worldwide attention on her country and its music. Another outstanding musician is Vicente Emilio Sojo, a composer and director of a music school, the Escuela de Musica y Declamacion, who also conducts a famous choral group, the Orfeon Lamas.²¹ The organist of the Cathedral of Caracas is another prominent composer and scholar of Venezuela. Other musicians who are recognized within their own country and are gradually being known elsewhere include Maria Luise Escobar who is a specialist in folklore and is president of the Ateneo Caracas, cultural society, and Juan Antonio Calcano, who is a music critic and authority on the history of Venezuelan music. Other names to be studied at length by the scholar of music are Moises Moleiro, composer, Carlos Vidal, writer and critic, and Juan Liscano, folklorist.

The Conservatory of Caracas was founded in 1868 by Felipe Larrazabal. Government support to this early activity undoubtedly helped to develop national schools of composers and artists.

Native Latin American artists in all cultural developments have also met the obstacle of the allegiance of the many foreigners to the things of their homeland. Such immigrants have been very slow to understand and appreciate the traditions of their new environment.

²¹ Club and Study Series No. 3, Music in Latin America, p. 38.

That the officials of Venezuela have planned long and carefully cannot be doubted. Intelligence and earnestness of purpose have guided them in the remaking of Venezuela. They have spent money lavishly but with vision and clarity. That there is danger in a program of such vast proportions is easily recognized by students of economical and sociological history.

While they have conceived greatly and have worked with rare ability and high integrity, their greatest job lies ahead of them--that of knowing just when to put the brakes on spending. History has proved over and over again that the spiritual lives of a people can be destroyed by too great or too prolonged government spending; that the government which opens opportunities for its citizens, which stimulates their desire for economic independence and encourages their initiative is the one that breeds a great people. . . . Today's Venezuelan officials have blazed many new and splendid traits--perhaps they can confine government spending to the safety point before the dread disease of spiritual and intellectual and physical stagnation manifests itself.²²

²² Allen, Venezuela: A Democracy, p. xiv.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

Of outstanding importance to the United States is the small Latin American republic on the northeast coast of South America, Venezuela, or little Venice. Commercially, this country has brought much to United States investments and to trade. Her natural resources have been valuable to supplement the products of the temperate northern country, and her need of the raw products and the manufactured materials of her sister republic has made Venezuela a fine market.

A country of medium size area, and moderate population, Venezuela has been the unwilling victim of several despots who exploited her for personal gain. She also claims as her own a great figure in the history of all republics, Simon Bolivar. That he saw visions and dreamed dreams of the greatness of his country is sympathetically told by an historian who says:

More than a hundred years ago, a lonely man in a shabby rooming house wrote a letter to a friend. It was a long letter and in it he told of his dream for the Americas. Some day he hoped, they would form a great American union of free nations. Working together they would be strong enough to preserve their independence.¹

That Bolivar strongly believed this possible is evidenced by his calling of the first Congress in 1826. Pan-Americanism was Bolivar's dream, but it is now a reality with all republics of the two continents conscious of the vital importance

¹ Delia Goetz, Teamwork in the Americas, Foreign Policy Association, 1943, p. 5.

of union of thought and purpose if each country's individual safety and progress are to be maintained.

The Good Neighbor policy originated many years ago. In fact, Henry Clay and James G. Blaine might be called the fathers of the movement which now conducts regular conferences and which now binds all American nations to be alert for the welfare of all.

One of the greatest forces for goodwill and understanding among the Americas has been the series of conferences begun in Washington in 1889-1890, and the Eighth, at Lima in 1939. Interpretation of goodwill has been strengthened also by the work of the Pan-American Union in Washington, where effort is made to foster understanding and knowledge of all republics of both Americas.

That the immediate results of such conferences and understandings are difficult to measure is a recognized fact. That the long-reaching idealism does have tangible results is proved by the list of various other meetings such as the Inter-American Bar Association, American Scientific Congresses, Travel Congresses, Congresses of Journalism, Conferences of Agriculture and of Industry, Jurisdictional Conferences, and many others.

Pan-American Day soon became the day of fellowship of the Americas. This special day was sponsored and urged by the officials of the Pan-American Union, who felt it would be a cementing factor in inter-American relationships. President Franklin D. Roosevelt brought out very clearly this aspect of the celebration in his address to the Governing

Board on Pan-American Day, 1933. In part he said:

. . . Never before has the significance of the word 'good neighbor' been so manifest in international relations. Never have the need and benefit of neighborly cooperation in every form of human activity been so evident as they are today.

Friendship among nations, as among individuals, calls for constructive efforts to muster the forces of humanity in order that an atmosphere of close understanding and cooperation may be cultivated. It involves mutual obligations and responsibilities, for it is only by sympathetic respect for the rights of others and a scrupulous fulfillment of the corresponding obligations by each member of the community that a true fraternity can be maintained.

The essential qualities of a true Pan-Americanism must be the same as those which constitute a good neighbor, namely mutual understanding, and through such understanding a sympathetic appreciation of the other's point of view. It is only in this manner that we can hope to build up a system of which confidence, friendship, and good will are the cornerstones.²

Good Neighbor practices are felt in the trade treaties, agreement on tariffs for imports and exports, exchange of educational leaders, promotion of health activities, mutual appreciation of the arts of all countries, and practical unity when the European and Asiatic invaders threatened. Never was this spirit and dependency felt more keenly than in the Conference at Rio de Janeiro in 1942 after war became an actuality. Nine of the neighboring republics followed the United States into the war immediately. At Rio, all but two agreed to break off relations with our enemies. Thus, did

² Annie D'Armond Marchant, "The Bulletin of the Pan-American Union, 1893-1943," Pan-American Union Bulletin, Vol. 77, No. 10, October, 1943, p. 564.

Bolivar's dream, and Clay's and Blaine's dreams come true, real neighborhood unity.

This is the story of Pan-Americanism, a story more than a hundred years old. It is the story of men who believed that nations, like families, would be stronger and happier if they worked together. The story tells of delays and disputes. There may be many more in the future. For Pan-Americanism does not mean they will always be good friends. It means they will work together, be more helpful to each other, and when disagreements arise settle them peacefully.

The story of Pan-Americanism is not yet ended. Each year Americans are adding new chapters to the story Bolivar started writing long ago.³

And with the writer, Americans can echo the thought that no finer conquest could Bolivar of Venezuela have dreamed than that his loved country would be a part in this great parliament of republics.

Venezuela is bound to the United States by trade, by strategic location, by mutual need of products, yes, but more by an understanding of the cultural and finer relationships of nations as expressed in the Pan-American movement.

That Venezuela has come a long way since Bolivar's dream is not to be questioned. That she will develop rapidly in the fields of education and the arts, health and science, is guaranteed by her eagerness to reach out, to grasp all possible aid.

The prosperity which Venezuela enjoys today shows dramatically the value and importance of putting natural resources to productive uses. . . . The Venezuelans of the days of the Liberator dreamed of the

³ Goetz, op. cit., p. 62.

development of their country into a great nation, but they never suspected the hidden wealth that would some day flow from beneath their soil and enable their descendants to make this dream come true. . . . Just as in Canada and Argentina the wise use of foreign capital speeded up the economic development of those countries, so in Venezuela the government's policy of encouraging capital during the last thirty years has been the principal factor in modernizing the country. . . . The reason for this is that these activities create new wealth and stimulate trade. Living standards are raised. Furthermore, the improved economic conditions make it easier for the government to increase its revenues, thus enabling it to provide many of the modern services of government which, when it lacked sufficient revenues, it was unable to do.⁴

Of South America, no less than of North America, one may repeat what Roerich has said in his *Joy of Creation*:

In the history of human achievement America is a unique example of prodigious progress. Not bound by conventionalities and old forms, America has built its life with the powerful hands of toil. Naturally, the question of material existence and life had first to be settled. Then attention was turned toward problems of technical necessity and social life.

Having built the foundation of civilization, America began to aspire toward the firm establishment of cultural principles. Knowledge and beauty became imperative requirements in the life of the young country, and in most unexpected ways, meriting admiration, great the conquest of art and science. The quality of production now advances still higher and this is always a sign of national creative genius. The wide industrial growth is combined with the poesy of creation. Business life becomes enriched with the true friends of the human spirit--books and creations of art. All the steps of culture lead, as they should, beyond national limitations. And another sign of true culture is the fact that what is gained is not kept for personal use

⁴ Nicholas Roosevelt, Venezuela's Place in the Sun, pp. 39-40.

alone. The treasures of achievement are open to society as a whole.⁵

In the long view of developments, both industrially and culturally, such sentiment as that given above will be the outgrowth of the many conferences, exchanges, and studies that are being carried on between the peoples of both Venezuela and the United States.

An American cultural superstructure and an American cultural consciousness is beginning to develop on this side of the Atlantic. Little by little the obstacles which in the past have hindered our intellectual relations are being overcome. Today millions of persons can read Spanish in this country, and nearly as many can read English in Latin America. Earlier racial, cultural, and religious prejudices are rapidly disappearing on both sides. There still exist handicaps of an economic and political character which must be eliminated before perfect harmony and understanding can be achieved, but tremendous progress has been made along this line.⁶

Practical demonstration of this progress has been made during the years before World War II, when the many congresses devoted to cultural understanding and improvement were held between peoples of various nations of the two continents. Such study has encouraged the governments of the countries to devote more time to these cultural problems and direct attention toward the fostering of cultural activities.

⁵ Frances R. Grant, Some Artistic Tendencies in South America, Fine Arts Series No. 1, p. 12.

⁶ Manuel Pedro Gonzalez, Intellectual Relations Between the United States and Spanish America, p. 24.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY SOURCES

DOCUMENTS

- Berrien, William. Latin American Composers and Their Problems. Pan American Union Fine Arts Series, No. 10. Washington, D. C.: Pan American Union, 1938.
- Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Venezuela. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1943.
- Dietrich, Ethel B. Economic Relations of the United States with Latin America. Washington, D. C.: American Association of University, 1941.
- Gonzalez, Manuel Pedro. Intellectual Relations Between the United States and Spanish America. Washington, D. C.: Pan American Union, Division of Intellectual Cooperation, 1938.
- Grant, Frances R. Some Artistic Tendencies in South America. Washington, D. C.: Pan American Union, Fine Arts Series No. 1, 1929.
- Moll, Aristides, and O'Leary, Shirley. Child Nutrition in Latin America. Pan American Sanitary Bureau Publication, No. 181. Washington, D. C.: Pan American Sanitary Bureau, 1942.
- Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Housing and Hospital Projects of Latin American Social Security Systems. Washington, D. C.: Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Publication No. 175, May, 1942.
- Pan American Union. Music in Latin America, Club and Study Series No. 3, Pan American Union, 1942, Vol. III.
- Pan American Union. Secondary School Courses in Latin America. Education Bulletin No. 8, Washington, D. C.: Pan American Union, 1928.
- Pan American Union. Venezuela. Foreign Trade Series No. 198, Washington, D. C.: Pan American Union, 1942.
- United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Foreign Commerce Yearbook, 1939. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1942.

United States Department of State. Foreign Relations. Vol. I. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1895.

United States Department of State. Foreign Relations, 1903. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1904.

SECONDARY SOURCES

1. BOOKS

Allen, Henry J. Venezuela: A Democracy. New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Incorporated, 1941.

Crawford, William Rex. A Century of Latin American Thought. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1944.

Crow, Carl. Meet the South Americans. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1941.

Davies, Howell, editor. The South American Handbook. London: Trade and Travel Publications, Ltd., 1940.

Fergusson, Erna. Venezuela. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1939.

Goetz, Delia. Teamwork in the Americas. New York: Foreign Policy Association, 1943.

Munro, Dana Gardner. The Latin American Republics, A History. New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1942.

Rauschenbush, Joan. Look at Latin America, Headline Book No. 27. New York: Foreign Policy Association, Inc., 1940.

Roosevelt, Nicholas. Venezuela's Place in the Sun. New York: Roundtable Press, 1940.

Smith, Henry Lester and Littell, Harold. Education in Latin America. New York: American Book Company, 1934.

Soule, George, and others. Latin America in the Future World. New York: Farrar and Rinehart, Incorporated, 1945.

Shanahan, E. W. South America, An Economical and Regional Geography with an Historical Chapter. London: Methuen and Company, Ltd., 1930.

2. PERIODICALS

- De Lara, Mario. "Native Rhythms in Venezuela," Pan American Union Bulletin, Vol. 72, No. 11, (November, 1938), pp. 646-649.
- Galarza, Ernesto. "Education Trends in Latin America," Pan American Union Bulletin, Vol. 71, No. 2 (February, 1937) pp. 76-77.
- Galarza, Ernesto. "The Latin American Universities in Step with History," Pan American Union Bulletin, Vol. 73, No. 12, (December, 1939), pp. 667-684.
- Marchant, Annie D'Armond. "The Bulletin of the Pan American Union, 1893-1943," Pan American Union Bulletin, Vol. 77, No. 10, (October, 1943), pp. 564-573.
- Misbach, Wanda A. "Venezuela Salvages Her Youth," The Inter-American, (January, 1944), p. 30.
- Pan American Union, "Mexico and Venezuela," Pan American Union Bulletin, Vol. 73, No. 4, (April, 1939), p. 241.
- Prewett, Virginia. "Liam of Venezuela," The Inter American, (October, 1943), p. 21.
- Read, Herbert. "Culture and Liberty," The Nation, Vol. 152, (April 12, 1941), pp. 437-440.
- Simpson, George Gaylord. "Research in Venezuela," Science, Vol. 90, (September 1, 1939), pp. 210-211.
- "United States-Latin American Relation, 1889-1939," Congressional Digest, Vol. 19, (December, 1940), pp. 299-302.
- "Venezuela's New Dealer," Living Age, Vol. 355 (November, 1938), pp. 239-241.
- Welles, Sumner. "The Policy and Program of the United States Government in International Cultural Relations," Department of State Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 20, Publication 1404, (November 11, 1939), pp. 491-506.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- Bizzell, William Bennett. Cultural Relations with Latin America. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1940.

Galarza, Ernesto. Educational Trends in Latin America September 1936 to March 1937. Washington, D. C.: Pan American Union, 1937.

Jacob, Mrs. Viola Feverstein. Personal Letter to Pearl Rude, March 7, 1944, written in El Tocuyo, Lara, Venezuela, South America.

"What Latin America is Saying", Editorial. The Inter-American. August, 1944, p. 32.

TYPIST: Geneva Cochran