

five or six miles across, having the appearance of a table down the sides of which for more than 3,000 feet hangs a spotless white drapery.

The climate of Colombia is much a matter of altitude, varying from the intense heat of the Torrid Zone on the coast and valleys of the rivers, to the sub-tropical and temperate climate of the higher altitudes. For example, Medellín, the capital of Antioquia, 4,950 feet above sea level, has a mean annual temperature of 70, while at Bogotá, 8,563 feet, it is 57.

With this diversity of climate, it is natural that the products should show the same diversity, and almost any article produced in the tropical and temperate zones can be produced in Colombia. Coffee, cacao, sugar-cane, tobacco and bananas are successfully grown and largely exported. Vegetable ivory (Tagua), rubber and Panama hats are also exported. In the higher altitude, wheat, potatoes, apples, and other products of the temperate zone are successfully grown, but are used altogether for home consumption. Strawberries, blackberries, and other berries of the temperate zone grow wild, no serious cultivation of these articles having been undertaken, and are obtained the year round.

The entire country is suitable for stock raising, the pastures in many sections remaining green the year round. There are practically no seasons, the temperature varying very little, but the rainy season is called winter, and the dry season summer. Bogotá has a climate more like a perpetual spring.

The mineral wealth has been little exploited. Gold is found in every department, and silver, platinum, mercury, iron, copper and lead also exist, but in what quantities no satisfactory estimate can be made. All or nearly all the emeralds mined to-day come from Colombia, the Muzo district, situated about 75 miles from Bogotá, producing the chief supply. The emerald mines, as well as the salt mines which exist a short distance from Bogotá, are government monopolies and form a valuable source of revenue. Coal is found nearly everywhere in the Cordilleras, lignite on the coast and steam coal in the interior. Valuable deposits exist in the Atrato region and well located to take advantage of market facilities which will become available when the Panama Canal is opened. Petroleum is also found in many parts. At the present time a Canadian company is developing valuable deposits near Barranquilla. In parts of Antioquia the gold mining industry is well established, while the Marmato Rio Sucio gold deposits are said to equal those

of the Transvaal. The Chocó placer region has twice as much territory as both the California and New Zealand regions together, and the possibilities for development are infinite. It is said that the entire Pacific coast of Colombia has been formed by gold bearing alluvial, and in the mountain ranges of Antioquia and other parts are many thousands of square miles known to be gold bearing which await the systematic use of modern machinery and methods, to be properly developed.

It will thus be seen that in these great branches of industry, agriculture and mining, few countries contain the latent wealth and favorable conditions for developing it to such a degree as does Colombia.

Colombia has no organized system of railways, but there are many short lines at present engaged chiefly in local traffic, which, when plans are fully carried out, will connect the coast on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides with the center of production. For the progress of Colombia it is essential that these plans be carried out, and it is probable that in the next few years much attention will be paid to the development and extension of the present means of communication. In the interior the means of communication is all by mule, which with the opening of railways will reduce the time to hours where at present it takes days. The postal and telegraph services are well organized. The telegraph service is under Government control, and gives good communication with all parts of the country at the rate of two cents per word to all parts.

The progress of Colombia has been retarded by continual internal strife, and its population has not increased in the same proportion as some of the other South American Republics. The census, which is about being completed, will give the total population of the Republic about 5,200,000 inhabitants. The country has now enjoyed about ten years of continual peace, and there seems to be a tendency to settle the differences by peaceful methods, as repeated experience has taught that nothing is gained by civil war. During these ten years the finances of the country have shown great improvement, and there seems to exist a determined desire to develop the country and make it one of the countries of the 20th Century, and there is no doubt that during the next twenty-five years wonderful changes will take place.

Put off doing the mean thing until to-morrow,  
but do the noble thing now.