



## What Do You Know About Latin America?

1. Are there five, ten, twenty, or more, Latin-American republics?
2. How many of them can you name in three minutes?
3. What is the principal language spoken in Brazil? in Haiti? in Chile?
4. How many of these countries are at war with Germany—Cuba, Costa Rica, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico?
5. What two countries have been the scene of successful military revolts in the past year?
6. How many colonies of European countries are there in South America today?
7. Is the population of Latin America greater or less than that of the United States of America?
8. Can you name the President of any one of these three republics—Mexico, Cuba, Brazil?
9. Which is farther—Ottawa to Buenos Aires? or Ottawa to London?
10. Yerba maté is a South American product—would you eat it, drink it, cut down trees with it, or what?

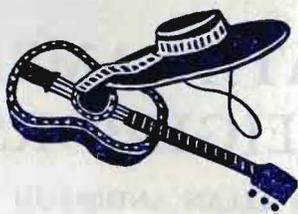
*(Answers to Quiz on page 23.)*

## OUR LATIN-AMERICAN NEIGHBORS

By ALLAN ANDERSON



# CANADIAN AFFAIRS



## Canada and Latin America

What do you know of Latin America? The words raise visions of dusky, hip-throwing damsels stamping to a hot rhythm. If you make an effort to keep your mind on hard facts, you will probably think of coffee, cocoa, rum, bananas and sugar. You may even get as far as binder twine, oil, nitrates and tin.

What does all this add up to? How much real knowledge of our neighbors do we get out of that crazy-quilt of unsorted imagery — palm trees, guitars, old churches, Brazil nuts, Gauchos, military revolts, Mexican sombreros, spitting llamas?

Picturesque ignorance of that sort is more harmful than you think. It keeps us isolated from allies and potential allies of immense value. Isolation hurts both Canada and Latin America.

We read of a near-fascist uprising in one country, and tend to generalize to the whole of Latin America as a happy hunting-ground for Nazi or Falangist agents and anti-democratic movements. How many of us know, on the other hand, of the democratic tradition in those countries built up in their struggles for national independence through the nineteenth century?

This article doesn't attempt the impossible job of crowding a Latin-American encyclopædia into a dozen pages of print. But it does hit enough high-spots to correct some floating misconceptions, and fill in some of the bigger gaps.

It introduces a great family of peoples, who are more important to us than most of us have realized. And it raises questions of trade, of post-war relationships, that concern us all.

An introduction to a continent by a newspaperman who knows from his own experience the countries he describes.

## Our Latin-American Neighbors

By ALLAN ANDERSON

CANADIANS returning from overseas may be astonished by the number of clubs and study groups interested in Latin America and working on Spanish and Portuguese. Three or four years ago a mere handful of Canadians studied Spanish. Today there are several thousands.

Besides the courses in several universities, (the University of Toronto's Spanish course has been functioning for 90 years) there now are study groups in Montreal, Quebec, Three Rivers, Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, and others. Winnipeg has more than 300 students, and two Montreal associations each have at least that many.

### *We Didn't Know*

Yet the average Canadian is still not well informed on the twenty

nations which make up Latin America and are our continental neighbors. The new growth of interest is still in its infancy.

### *Nor Did They*

The Latin-American countries are also beginning to realize that the neighbor up the street may be worth knowing. On an average, they know no more about us than we about them. Canada has never been much publicized there.

Allan Anderson is a Scot. He came to Canada in 1912, served two and a half years in World War I. He gained his first experience of Latin America working in Cuba with a Canadian Bank. He then went into newspaper work with the Winnipeg Tribune. In 1941 he went to South America as correspondent for the Southam Newspapers of Canada. He is now in charge of the Latin-American section of the Wartime Information Board, Ottawa.

It has been difficult for the Latin-Americans to see beyond the huge, powerful and wealthy United States, and to realize that there exists in North America a country which is British yet independent, which has French traditions and culture as well as British, which enjoys United States living standards yet is not the U.S.A., which is more or less in their own size class and is willing to be friendly.

### *What is Latin America?*

Latin America is, in the first place, only a vague conception in the minds of most of us. Our traditions and our education have followed the east-west line rather than the north-south.

Latin America is South America, plus Central America, plus Mexico in North America, plus some of the Antilles or West Indies.

Latin America is about 125 million people, of varying racial origins.

Latin America is 20 independent nations, of which 18 have Spanish as the national language, one has Portuguese and one French. These nations resemble each other in various ways. All are republics, and all were formerly colonies of European powers. In all of them the Roman Catholic religion is predominant. Their official languages all stem directly from Latin.

But the differences are great, and probably more numerous than the likenesses.

### *No Such Place*

Latin America is a convenient but inaccurate term, apt to cause the mistaken impression that there exists a place or a homogeneous unit of some kind called Latin America.

There is no such place. The term includes some countries which prefer to be called Spanish-American, some which are and wish to be known as Indo-American and others which are not in either class.

It includes, for example: Haiti, a small republic of French-speaking colored people on a tropical island; Argentina, a large republic of Spanish-speaking white people, almost entirely located in the temperate zone; and Brazil, whose 44 million Portuguese-speaking people, with a rich mixture of races, occupy a country larger than the United States.



## OUT OF COLONIES CAME REPUBLICS

It becomes pretty clear that no easy generalization can cover this group of countries and races. The Canadian who wants to know more about them should begin by realizing that each country is a separate entity, not necessarily resembling its next-door neighbor and sometimes not even on friendly terms with it. Each has its own history, traditions, culture and national pride.

### *Conquest and Division*

Without going into too much detail, it may help us to take a look at the historical background. In the half-century following Columbus' first voyage in 1492, Spain and Portugal were busy exploring and conquering in the New World.

Naturally there were arguments between these two aggressive

powers about the division of the new continent. The matter was finally referred to the Pope. He drew a north-south line. Everything west of it was to be Spanish, everything east Portuguese. With modifications, this decision was reinforced by treaties and upheld. A glance at the map will identify the great bulk of Portuguese-speaking Brazil, thrusting far east into the Atlantic. Every other country, except Haiti, is Spanish in language.

Spain regarded her new colonies simply as a source of gold and raw materials. All important posts were held by native Spaniards. The colonies were forbidden to trade with each other, or with any one else except Spain. They were heavily taxed and had to pay through the nose for the



exchanging one master for another. Eventually all the countries emerged with republican constitutions.

### Portugal Lost Brazil

Brazil's history was rather different from those of the Spanish colonies. The Portuguese were no more liberal in their colonial administration than the Spaniards, and there were attempts at independence as early as 1789. The great impetus began when the Portuguese court, fleeing from Napoleon and the invading French, was temporarily removed to Rio de Janeiro in 1808. The king, Dom Joao, actually living in the country, opened the ports to trade, and Brazilians began to see what Brazil might achieve. Dom Joao returned to Lisbon in 1820 but left his son Pedro as regent.

Dom Pedro liked Brazil and the Brazilians liked him. Only two years after his father had gone he proclaimed the independence of Brazil and became its first emperor. His son, Pedro II, ruled through half a century of peaceful progress until, in an argument principally concerned with the abolition of slavery, the empire was overthrown and a republic formed in 1889.

The most important effect of the empire was that Brazil re-

goods they imported from Spain.

### Threw Off Spanish Yoke

These regulations, though often broken, helped to engender deep discontent, but Spain held the reins for nearly 300 years. The revolt of the English colonies in North America gave the Spanish colonists something to think about, but they were in much closer touch with French than with English thought. It was the French revolution and especially the Napoleonic invasion of Spain that finally inspired them to fight for their liberty.

Before the first quarter of the 19th century was over, most of the colonies had cast off Spain and proclaimed their independence.

Since then they have lived through wars and civil wars, invasions, revolution and counter-revolution. Some sweated for years under harsh dictatorships. Nowhere was there any swift transition to democracy, and for the peon and the Indian the change at first meant no more than



## THE FACE OF LATIN AMERICA

Areas are given in square miles.

(From "Look at Latin America," Headline Book No. 27, Foreign Policy Association of America.)

mained one unit, a huge and wealthy country, instead of splitting into small independent states as the Spanish colonies had done.



### Haiti

Haiti was held not by Spanish or Portuguese, but by the French, who imported many thousands of slaves from Africa. More than 100 years ago the slaves revolted successfully, and their descendants have ruled Haiti ever since.

### Democracies and Dictatorships

We have said that all the Spanish-American countries emerged from their colonial status with republican constitutions. But some of these are more liberal in theory than in fact. The revolts against Spain were more the work of a few than of the people as a whole, and they brought little benefit to the many.

There are extremes of wealth in most countries, great landholders on the one hand, and on

the other a mass of people living as peasants or even as peons. Education for these masses has been scanty, and illiteracy is high, except in such advanced nations as Costa Rica and Argentina. These factors help to explain why there have been civil wars, revolutions and other troubles.

Today, while the republican form is maintained, there are several presidents who have dictatorial power, or something very close to it. Brazil's progress of recent years has been made under the personal rule of President Getulio Vargas. Argentina and Bolivia have been taken over by military governments. The presidents of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay have practically the powers of a dictator. Democratic rule obtains in Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, Mexico and Costa Rica.

### Nazi Penetration Limited

However, these dictatorships in Latin America are not patterned after the Nazi model. There is nothing to correspond to the Nazi theory of "the master race", nor is there any such interference with the private lives of citizens as has been practised by European dictators.

German immigration, and German commerce, have undoubtedly

made their mark in Latin America. German propaganda has worked hard, and is still working hard, to convert Latin-Americans into friends of Hitler. But its success has been limited. The Latin-American's ambitions are for liberty and democracy. He is a man who, above all else, is proud of his own country and jealous of its freedom and sovereignty.

### White, Brown, Black and In-Between

In fact, the "master race" theory could not possibly fit into the Latin-American picture, where infinite racial variations have arisen from the three principal stocks, white, Indian and black.

Chile, Argentina and Uruguay, in the south, are white countries. Their origins are mostly Spanish and Italian, with other European

stocks. The Indian element has never been important.

Peru and Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay, have retained their Indian blood to a very high degree. All are at least three-quarters Indian. Venezuela, Colombia, most of the Central American republics, and Mexico have a good deal of Indian with the Spanish.

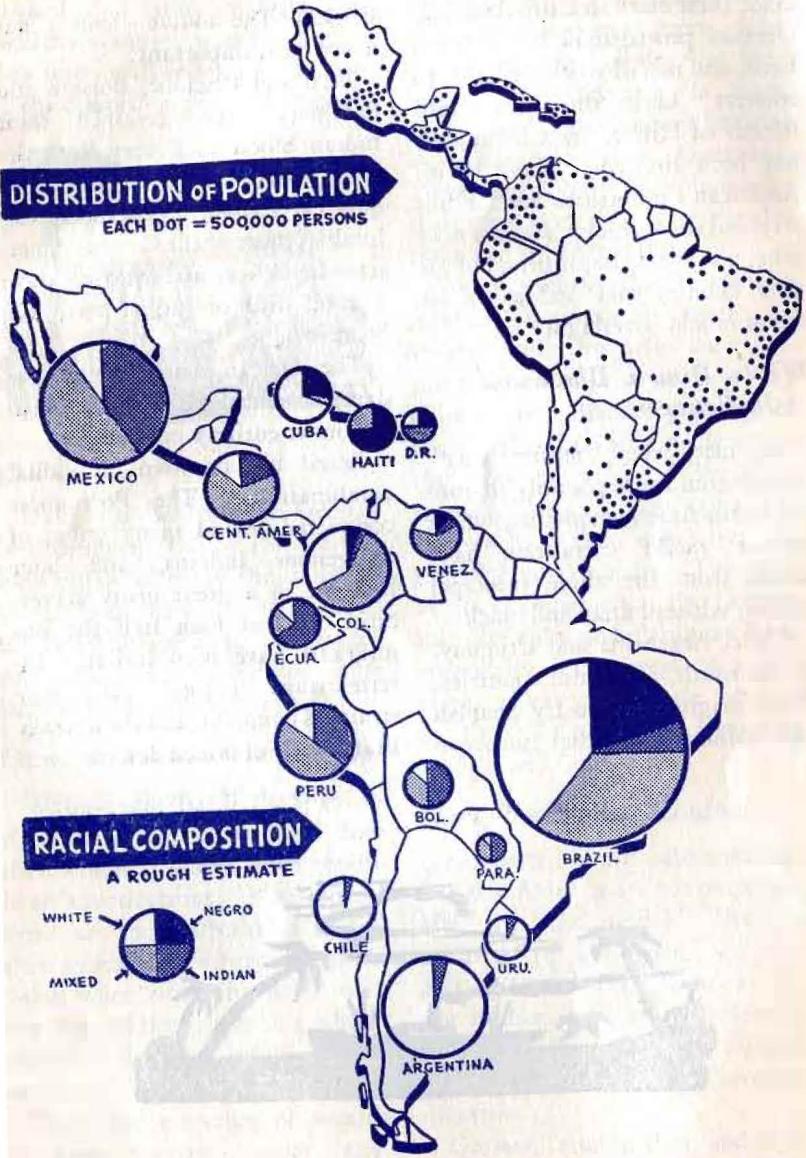
The African slaves left descendants around the Caribbean. Haiti is almost entirely colored.

Brazil has its own individual combination. The Portuguese conquered, found many tribes of indigenous Indians, and later brought in a great many slaves. Since 1880 at least half the immigrants have been Italian. Inter-marriage among all these strains is common, and the average Brazilian is of mixed descent.



## DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

EACH DOT = 500,000 PERSONS

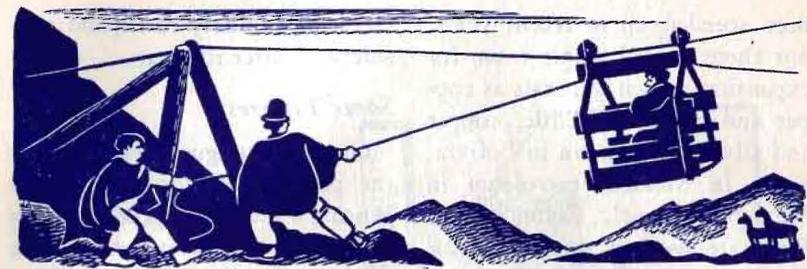


## RACIAL COMPOSITION

A ROUGH ESTIMATE



(From "Look at Latin America," Headline Book No. 27, Foreign Policy Association of America.)



## RICH OR POOR?

Is Latin America rich or poor? What are its resources?

Here again there are violent contrasts from nation to nation. Taken as a whole, Latin America is enormously rich—no one really knows how rich—in natural resources. The maps on pages 13 and 14 will give the highlights at a glance, but only the highlights. Even a superficial study would go far beyond the bounds of this article.

### Wealth Below Ground

Most of the mineral wealth is found in or near the Andes—tin, tungsten, antimony, silver in Bolivia; copper, nitrate, iodine, iron in Chile; petroleum, copper, gold in Peru; petroleum, platinum, emeralds, gold in Colombia; petroleum, silver, gold, lead, zinc in Mexico; petroleum in Venezuela—the list is a long one. Far from

the Andes, Brazil has a state so rich that it was named Minas Geraes, "General Mines". Brazil has diamonds, gold, quartz crystals, iron, bauxite and many other minerals.

### And from the Soil

Agricultural resources are equally rich and varied. Argentina's cattle and wheat, Brazil's coffee, Cuba's sugar, Mexico's henequén are familiar. Corn is a staple everywhere, and all the tropical and semi-tropical countries grow sugar, bananas and other tropical fruits. A dozen countries are proud of their coffee. Various countries produce cocoa, cotton, tobacco, flax, yerba maté, wine and a long list of others.

### Industry Growing Up

Development of industrial resources began long ago and has

been speeded up in recent years, but there is still ample room for expansion. Such minerals as copper and nitrate in Chile, copper and silver in Peru, tin in Bolivia, silver in Mexico, petroleum in Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru, are worked in modern, efficient plants. The Chuquicamata copper mine in Chile, for instance, is one of the world's biggest. It employs more than 8,000 men, can produce more than 200,000 tons a year, brings its power from its own plant 100 miles away and its water by pipeline from far up in the Andes.

Manufacturing has made rapid progress in a few countries, notably Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Colombia. The war, cutting down the import of foreign manufactured goods, has stimulated home industry, and with the advantage of this impetus, manu-

facturing is likely to expand considerably after the war.

### Some Figures

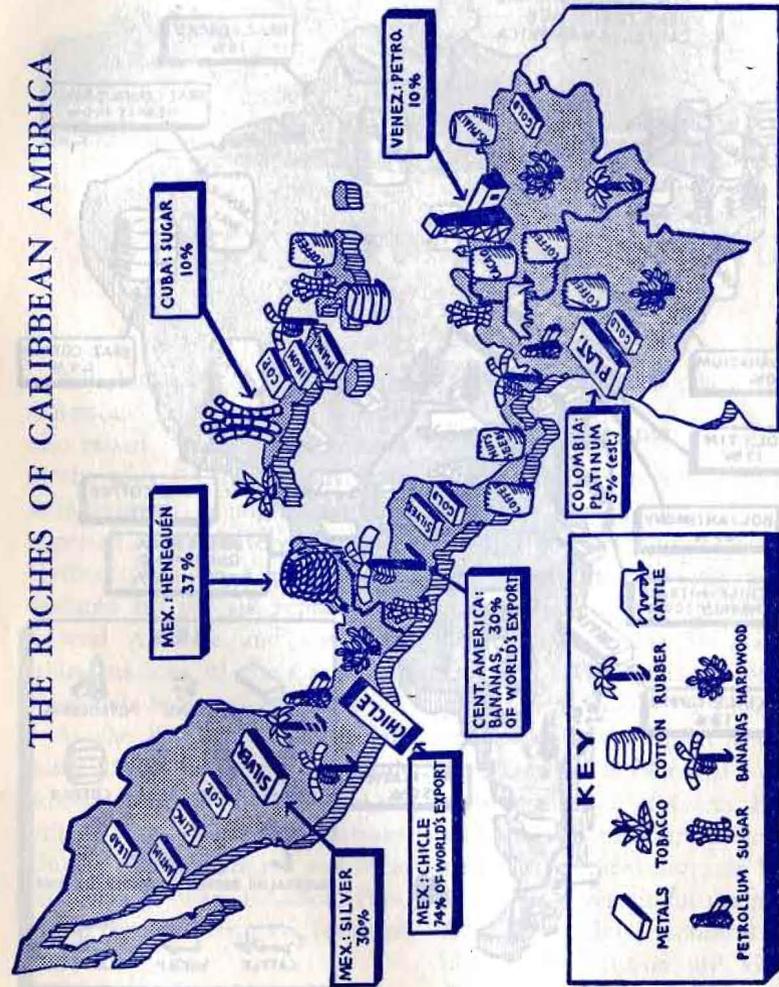
One or two figures will indicate the progress already made. Argentina's industrial production in 1939 was valued at more than one and a quarter billion dollars. Major industries were food, drinks, textiles, meat-packing, flour-milling, publishing and printing.

Brazil, in 1940, had 70,026 industrial establishments registered, employing 1,412,432 workers. Foodstuffs and textiles were the biggest groups. Brazil has enormous reserves of iron, estimated at 25 per cent of the world's supply. While the iron and steel industry has not yet reached anything like full development, there are a dozen important iron and steel plants, and a new \$60,000,000 steel mill is nearing completion.

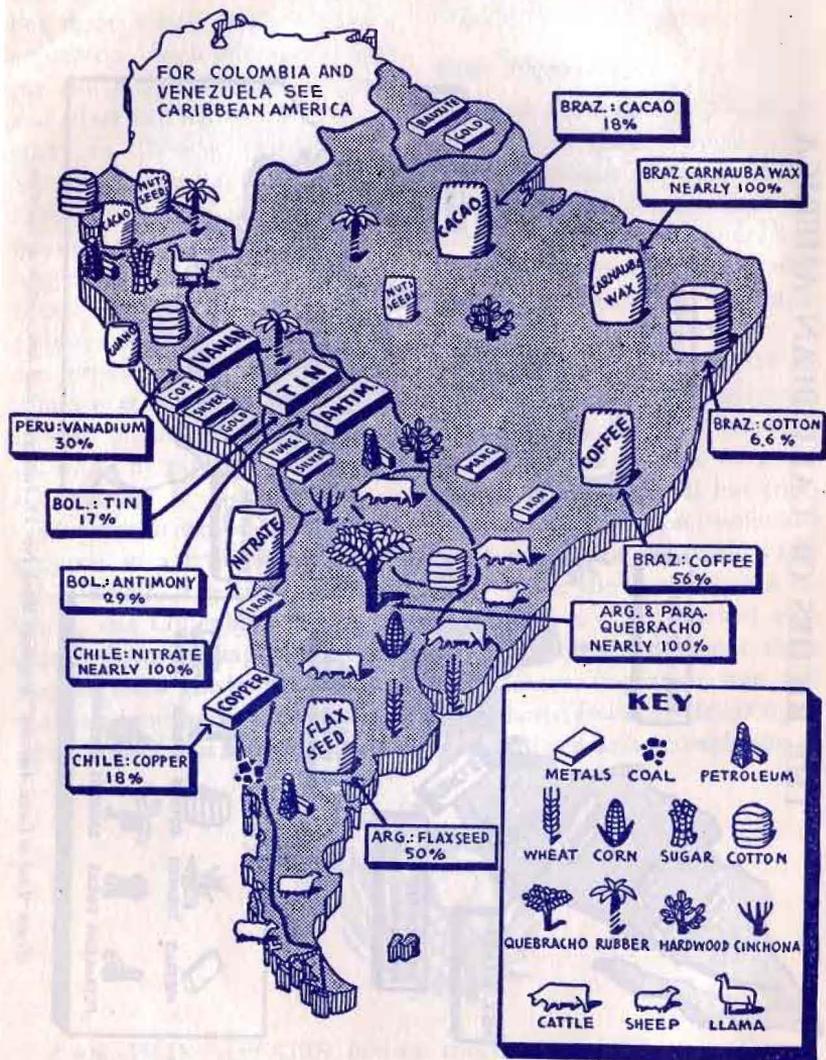


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## THE RICHES OF CARIBBEAN AMERICA

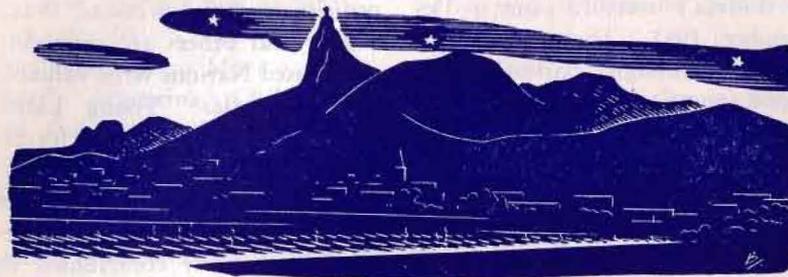


## THE RICHES OF SOUTH AMERICA



LARGER SYMBOLS SHOW MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS WITH PERCENTAGES OF WORLD PRODUCTION

(From "Look at Latin America," Headline Book No. 27, Foreign Policy Association of America.)



## TWENTY REPUBLICS AND THE WAR

War has pulled most of the Americas closer together, but has also raised a large question mark in the south. The nations acted as individuals, as might have been expected. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, war on Germany was declared by the six republics of Central America and the three island nations of the Caribbean. Venezuela broke off relations.

At the Rio conference of January, 1942, Argentina and Chile stood out against the desire of the others to break off relations. During that year Brazil and Mexico declared war; Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay broke off relations.

In 1943 Colombia declared a state of belligerency and Bolivia a state of war. Chile broke off relations. Finally, early this year

Argentina broke off relations.

### *Southern Hot Spots*

Two military revolts have complicated the picture. In June, 1943, a military clique overthrew the Argentine government and has retained power under Presidents Rawson, Ramirez and now Farrell. The attitude of this government has not inspired the confidence of the United Nations, and Canada has followed a course similar to that of Great Britain and the United States in instructing her representative, on March 9, 1944, to "refrain for the present from any official contacts with the administration of General Farrell". To this announcement the Prime Minister added: "With the people of Argentina our friendship remains unaffected."

Bolivia's overturn came in December, 1943. The new government, although protesting its good intentions, has not yet been recognized except by Argentina.

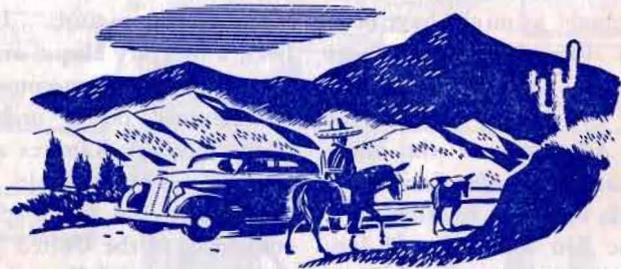
There are many who hope and believe that both countries will return to friendship with and recognition by their sister republics.

### *Public Opinion With Us*

Of the others, Brazil has already taken an active part in the war. Her air service has sunk a number of enemy submarines and she has expressed the wish to send an ex-

peditionary force overseas. Brazil and several others are supplying the United Nations with valuable raw materials. Young Latin-Americans are serving in the forces, especially the air forces, of Canada, Great Britain and the United States. Thousands of Latin-Americans have freely contributed to the many funds organized for war purposes by British and American communities in their countries.

It has been made quite clear, in fact, that popular opinion throughout the twenty republics is overwhelmingly on the side of the United Nations.



## HANDS ACROSS MANY BORDERS

Up to the last couple of years Canada's contacts with Latin America had been largely commercial. Trade with Brazil and the Caribbean area had begun before Confederation.

Resident Trade Commissioners, on the staff of the Department of Trade and Commerce, represent Canada commercially and serve Canadian exporters in every possible way. The first trade office

in Latin America was in Mexico City in 1905. Now there are Commissioners in Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Colombia. Most of these cover one or more neighboring countries.

In the last pre-war year, 1938, Canada exported to Latin America goods worth \$17,500,000 and imported \$16,000,000, about two per cent of total Canadian foreign trade. Exports went mainly to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and Mexico.

### *Post-War Trade?*

Prospects for post-war trade are believed to be good. It should be noted, however, that the buying power of the average Latin-American is much lower than that of the North American. Wealth, in most countries, is still in the hands of a comparatively small number.

In all countries there will be some demand for raw materials and semi-manufactured goods which Canada can supply, and in most countries, where local manufacturing is not yet well-developed, there will also be a market for manufactured goods. Before the war there were few facilities for direct shipping from Canada; if direct shipment is available after the war it may help exporters to

quote better prices at port of arrival.

Newsprint is the principal export from Canada to almost every country. Then followed (in the 1938 list) farm implements and machinery, tires, rubber products, sewing machines, chemicals, seed potatoes, dried cod. Imports to Canada: petroleum, coffee, flaxseed, canned meat, hides and skins, nitrate of soda, fruits, nuts, raw tobacco, sugar.

Both lists contain a large number of other items. Technical advances and construction programs in Latin America may be expected to create still further demands.

### *Exchange Diplomats Too*

Canada has embassies in Brazil and Mexico, legations in Argentina and Chile. Canada and Peru have agreed to exchange legations, and these may have been opened by the time this article appears in print. It is possible that a similar agreement may soon be made with Cuba.

Brazil was the first Latin-American country to exchange diplomatic missions with Canada, in July, 1941. Argentina and Chile followed soon after, and Mexico in March, 1944. The legation in Brazil became an embassy in January, 1944. (In No-



*The new: Brazilian Press Association Building, Rio de Janeiro.*

has now become apparent that we cannot much longer delay a further extension of our diplomatic representation in Latin America." He then mentioned Mexico, Cuba and Peru as cases in point.

### *Pan-American Union*

The Pan-American Union is the international organization of the 21 American Republics. Its fundamental purpose is "to promote peace, commerce and friendship among the American Republics". Formed in 1890, as a Bureau of American Republics, it was renamed Pan-American Union in 1910. It began by collecting commercial information. Since then its functions have been enormously enlarged.

The Union maintains a staff in Washington, acts as the secretariat for the Pan-American Conferences held every five years, and for the numerous special and technical conferences.

It has special divisions for foreign trade, statistics, economics, intellectual co-operation, music, juridical matters, travel, and labor and social information. There are a number of other permanent agencies in which the Union has a direct or indirect part.

### *Will We Join the Union?*

When the Union was establish-

ed in 1890 Canada was still represented in her external affairs by the British Foreign Office.

In more recent years it has often been suggested unofficially, by individuals in Canada and elsewhere, that Canada should or might become a member of the Union. Many Latin-Americans have expressed such a desire.

Beyond doubt Canada today, an autonomous and greatly-developed nation, is a much more important part of the all-American picture than she was in 1890 or, for that matter, in 1910. Diplomatically, culturally and commercially, Canada and the Latin-American nations have extended and strengthened their mutual relations. The same might well be said of Canada and the United States, by far the largest and most powerful member of the Union.

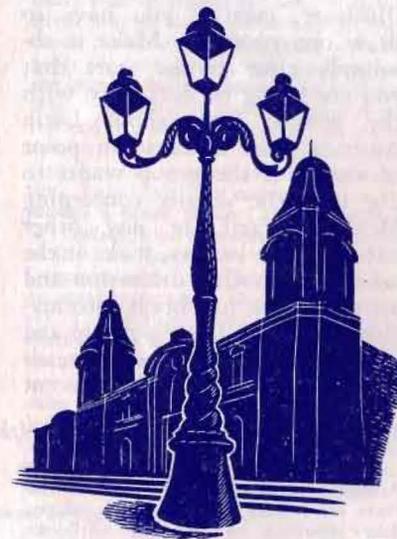
Membership in a group of nations would not be a new venture for Canada. It would actually be her third. Canada joined the League of Nations, and is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Nor, in all probability, would Pan-American membership become a party issue in Canada, for prominent members of all three major parties have already spoken in favor of it.

But the Union is still a union of republics, and no official move

has been made in the matter, either by the Canadian government or by any other authority concerned.

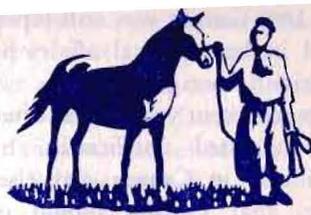
### *Peace With Neighborliness*

Leaving this particular question aside as something for future consideration, it can certainly be said that Canada herself and all other American nations are fully aware of her changed condition and increased stature. The years of peace after victory is won are bound to bring opportunity for still closer relations between our country and her neighbors of the Americas.



*The old: Lima Cathedral, founded in 1535.*

# Guide for Discussion



## Discussion Leader's Problem

When you have twenty nations as diverse as those of Latin America to discuss at one sitting, you are in for a tough time unless you can limit your subject. Here are three alternatives.

(1) *What is Latin America?* Follow the lines of the article, using the section headings as the outline for your talk. Be sure to use a wall map of Latin America to illustrate, even if you have to draw one yourself. Make it absolutely clear at the start that you are going to deal only with the general facts about Latin America from a Canadian point of view. If the group wants to dig into the details concerning Mexico, Brazil, or any other nation of the twenty, make it the subject of another discussion and assign people to obtain information. For this latter purpose and for your own supplementary reading, there are a number of recent

### 1. What Have We in Common with Latin America?

NOTE: Remember that the phrase "Latin America" is only a convenience and that there are twenty individual and independent republics of different out-looks, cultures, and racial compositions.

Aside from the obvious fact that Canada is part of the Western Hemisphere and

books on the subject. Ask your education officer to find out from the Canadian Legion Educational Services what material they have on Latin America. In the discussion period, make use of questions 1-4 below.

(2) *One General Aspect.* You can choose as your subject one of the first four questions given below, or one section of the article such as "Twenty Republics and the War", and build up a talk and discussion on it. This obviously requires some extra reading on your part to expand the subject.

(3) *Or, a Current Issue.* Some people may be puzzled about events down Argentine way. If so you may want to use question 5 below for discussion. Get hold of magazines dealing with current events and read up on the subject. If you can get back issues of *The Inter-American* magazine, they will supply plenty of material.

therefore one of the "American nations", the countries of Latin America look upon Canada as belonging to the group of small powers like themselves, sharing their desires for freedom and independence and never guilty of acts of aggression against them. In this we have more in common

with them than United States which is a big power and which in spite of the diligent and largely successful pursuit of the Good Neighbor Policy is still faced with antagonisms inherited from a less neighborly past.

In common with Canada, many Latin American countries have received large investments of American capital, have a large trade with United States and are interested in developing a more extensive inter-American trade. We are linked with most of them by an interest in a world organization which will protect the rights of smaller powers. Like them, we have a strong sense of European connection. With Canada in the war and contributing many essential materials, they have been greatly impressed by the volume of our contribution to the struggle against the Axis.

### 2. Should Canada Join the Pan-American Union?

NOTE: In this war the Union has aided the defense of the Americas by means of conferences of foreign ministers and actions which they have initiated. Decisions of the Union Conferences are not binding on any member nation until ratified by its government. The Governing Board of the Union consists of representatives chosen by each member nation. The union is supported financially by the member nations in proportion to their population. The latest Pan-American Conference was held in 1938. The meeting scheduled for 1943 was postponed because of the war.

The pros and cons of Canadian membership are: *Pro* — (1) It might help prevent the development of continental isolationism since we have strong links with the rest of the world. (2) It would further understanding between ourselves and our neighbors in this hemisphere. (3) It might help our trade. (4) It might further the common defense of the hemisphere — we are committed now by our Agreement at Ogdensburg with the United States "in the broad sense" to "the defense of the Northern Half of the Western Hemisphere".

(Questions continued on page 22)

The fact that one-third of our population is French-speaking and Roman Catholic appeals to many Latin-Americans who are inclined to regard French as their second language, if it is not first as in Haiti, and who are predominantly Roman Catholic in religion. Latin Americans also respect the partnership of English and French in Canada, and one distinguished Foreign Minister said enthusiastically, "Canada is an example of how Anglo-Saxons and Latins may constitute a homogeneous conglomeration."

The trade union movements of Latin America, united since 1938 in the Confederation of Latin American Workers (CTAL), have much in common with our own trade unions in their opposition to fascism and their interest in the welfare of the industrial population.

(5) We do send delegates now, when invited, to Pan-American Conferences of a scientific or technical character which are likely to be of interest to Canada—such as recent ones on radio, public health, population problems and geography, and probably the forthcoming ones on highways and criminal jurisprudence being held this year. (6) Interest in membership is not confined to any one section of public opinion. *Con* — (1) Canada has never been formally invited to join, although some Latin-American statesmen have expressed a desire to see Canada admitted. (2) Canada is not a republic. (3) It might weaken our connection with the British Commonwealth. (4) The Canadian people do not know enough about the Union as yet. (5) It might stand in the way of an effective world organization. (6) Too many of the member nations are under dictatorships. (7) It might involve us in disputes between some of the Latin-American countries and the United States. (8) Some of the most ardent advocates of membership are among the anti-war and anti-internationalist elements in our nation.

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### 3. What Are the Prospects for Post-War Trade Between Canada and Latin America?

**NOTE:** It is difficult to make any estimate. Prior to the war Latin America had an important trade with Europe and the United States. During the war it has become more dependent upon trade with the United States. We do not know how the trading pattern will change after the war. In 1938, our exports to Latin America were valued at \$17,500,000; those of the United States amounted to \$480,580,000. Latin America is tied to the United States by the large investment of American capital in several countries, especially in the Caribbean area and in Brazil, which according to the 1943 estimate of the U.S. Treasury amounts to at least \$3,250 millions. (American investments in Canada amount to \$4,375 millions.) In comparison, the investments of Canadians in Latin-American countries are small. They are even smaller in comparison to the more than \$10,000 million total of foreign capital invested in Latin America.

As this pamphlet points out, although Latin America has a large population (some 125,000,000), it has a very low buying power. At least two-thirds of its people are either too poor or live in too remote communities to be able to buy Canadian goods. The problem of living standards may be illustrated by noting that in Venezuela, which produces so much oil, the estimated average annual income of the mass of the people is \$85; in six of the

20 republics illiteracy reaches as high as 75%; wealth tends to be concentrated in too few hands, especially in Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

While there is a growing trade union movement, only a small percentage of industrial workers are organized to improve their welfare. On the other hand, many Latin-Americans are anxious to change conditions, to raise the standard of living.

There are great prospects for development. Much of this depends upon greater industrialization. During this war, the United States government has financed a number of projects in Latin America designed to increase the production of such materials as rubber, tin, copper, vanadium, bauxite, iron and steel. Manufacturing has expanded to offset the loss of imports from abroad. It is possible that Canadian capital can aid in a post-war development which will raise the standard of living and stimulate trade.

The article lists the commodities which will certainly continue to be exchanged between Canada and Latin America. In other things, such as wheat, meat, copper and lead, our exports will be competing for world markets with theirs. We must remember that the United States is better situated, better known and has better transportation facilities for trade with Latin America. So we should not expect a very rapid post-war increase in our trade.

### 4. Have We Anything to Learn from Latin America?

**NOTE:** Mexican art is probably the most original and provocative in the Western Hemisphere today. Argentina and Brazil possess in their larger cities some of the finest of modern architecture. Two of the world's greatest newspapers, *La Prensa* and *La Nación*, are located in Buenos Aires. There are many outstanding Latin-American

writers as yet unknown in Canada. The music of Brazil has gripped the imagination of the younger generation. The political caricaturists of Chile could not be surpassed in either Canada or United States. Some of the social welfare projects launched in Mexico and Chile are of first-rate importance.

### 5. Does the Axis Have a Foothold in Latin America?

**NOTE:** Recent events in Argentina and Bolivia have brought into prominence the question of axis penetration of Latin America. Here is the case history of Argentina. In June 1943, a military clique ousted President Ramon Castillo, himself a reactionary

unpopular among the people, and installed Pedro P. Ramirez to frustrate the popular demand for a more democratic government. Ramirez promised reforms and support of democracy and the United Nations, but he established an anti-democratic system in-

stead. The coup had been engineered by a group, largely pro-Axis in sympathy and highly nationalistic, known as the GOU (Grupo de Oficiales Unificados, or, "Group of United Officers"), headed by Col. Juan D. Peron.

A police-dominated state has resulted. Presidential elections were postponed indefinitely, the congress was disbanded, military governors were appointed to rule the provinces, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and of public assembly were abolished. Political parties, labor unions and democratic organizations of all kinds have been dissolved. Concentration camps have been established and more than 3,000 political and labor leaders are in the camps or in jail. Anti-Semitism has been encouraged. Democratic groups have formed underground movements as in Nazi Europe (see report in "Free World", May, 1944). The government maintained relations with the Axis.

Under pressure from United States and Great Britain, partly economic and partly in the form of a threatened exposure of prominent people involved in pro-Axis intrigue, Ramirez finally broke relations

with Germany and Japan on Jan. 26, 1944. The GOU reacted first by ousting Ramirez' foreign minister, Alberto Gilbert, and then on Feb. 25, 1944, replaced Ramirez with Gen. Edelmiro Farrell who had been vice-president. Peron, head of the GOU, became minister of war.

A conference of the Confederation of Latin-American Workers, held this spring in Montevideo, Uruguay, denounced Farrell's government as corporative fascism modelled exactly along the lines of the Franco regime in Spain.

Aside from Axis inspiration, and possibly more important, is the desire of the GOU and their supporters to maintain an undemocratic status quo in Argentina and to build up a customs union in South America with Argentina playing the dominant role in opposition to United States.

Lacking popular support in Argentina (probably 80% of the people are pro-United Nations) the new government has sought to obtain the support of similar groups in neighboring countries. It has run up against strong opposition in other Latin-American countries as well as from United Nations leaders.



### Answers to Quiz

1. 20.
2. See Map on p. 7.
3. Portuguese in Brazil, French in Haiti, Spanish in Chile.
4. All of them.
5. Argentina, Bolivia.
6. Three—British, French, and Dutch Guiana.
7. About the same—Latin America 125,000,000, U.S.A. 132,000,000.
8. Manuel Avila Camacho of Mexico, Fulgencio Batista of Cuba, Getulio Vargas of Brazil.
9. It's about twice as far from Ottawa to Buenos Aires as from Ottawa to London.
10. Drink it—it's a kind of tea.



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