

HOW CASTRO MAKES GOOD

Plays Revolution Game Not According to Rules, and Ignores All Laws—Started in Life as a Barefoot Man.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

(Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, Aug. 22.—Any revolutionary general who speaks Spanish and will guarantee to initiate and organize a revolution in the United States and Cuba will hear something to his advantage by addressing the foreign office of any nation on earth except Venezuela. All the nations want Castro overthrown. Several of them are willing to do it, but the United States has a choice of methods of procedure, spelled with big letters, which effectually prevent outside interference. Therefore, the only hope seems to be a revolution.

The Monroe doctrine stops any European nation from selling a Spanish Venezuelan territory. But the particular doctrine which protects Castro is the Drago, or Calvo, doctrine. This doctrine was born in Latin countries somewhere south of the Rio Grande. It declares that European nations shall not be permitted to collect debts from private individuals from any American nation by force. To this doctrine, Elihu Root, secretary of state, gave the consent and approval of the United States when he was swinging around the circle in South America. The "Constantine" doctrine, which shares the honor of the United States, is the doctrine which the United States ought to collect debts which it prevents European nations from collecting, has had the friendly support of Mr. Roosevelt.

Relief Must Arise Within.
Five years ago, when three big European nations were blockading the ports of Venezuela, the United States stepped in and brought about an agreement to submit all questions to arbitration. In that crisis, Castro leaned heavily upon the powerful arm of the Monroe doctrine, and as soon as the trouble was over, he was as insolent to the United States as to any other country. The United States will not abandon its Monroe doctrine, it probably will insist upon the Drago doctrine. It has not yet adopted the "Constantine" doctrine as a settled policy, but its attitude toward all of these doctrines gives effectual aid and assistance to Castro. But, may the government at Washington would like to see some home-grown revolutionary general, and make a revolution, and then, and get him out of the way without muzzling up and selling any of our nice doctrines.

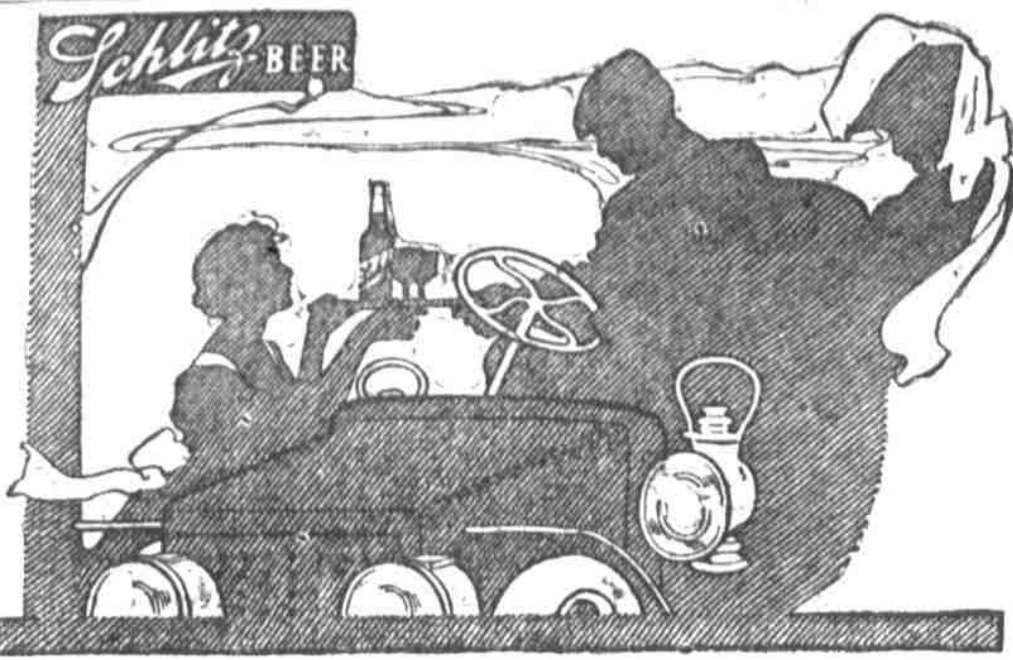
Castro Is No True Sport.
In the days before Castro ruled in Caracas, a Venezuelan revolution was a kid glove affair. They had 50 full-grown revolutions in 70 years and every body thrived. But Castro has not played the game according to Hoyle. When any aspiring military genius organizes a revolution against Castro, he has to fight, and fight hard. Up to date Castro has put every such movement down.
Castro appeals to the patriotic souls of his followers. He calls his regime "the restoration of the republic." He calls himself to the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He says that Bolivar drove out the Spaniards and made Venezuela a free government, but that in later years foreign corporations and business men came to Venezuela with more men, more money, more power, and more force than the Spaniards had, and that these foreigners imposed a yoke upon the Venezuelan people. Castro says that some than had the Spanish monarchy. Says Castro:
"I shall drive them out, and not rest content until the economic life, as well as the political administration of the country is in native hands."
How noble that sound if it is the mouth of a president of the United States!
A Thief Who Shares Stealing.
Castro has a strong following in his own army which believes in him and his patriotism. He does not rob the soldiers, as so many of our revolutionaries did, and while he undoubtedly pays close attention to feathering his own nest, he does it judiciously and generally at the expense of his enemies, but not always.
For instance, there was Castro's tariff reform. The tariff on wheat flour was so high that the country in Venezuela for \$18 a barrel. This was an outrage. Therefore, Castro practically prohibited the importation of flour, provided for the free admission of wheat from the United States, built a national flour mill, gave it the exclusive monopoly for the whole country, took most of its capital stock himself, and began to grind wheat. Now he sells flour in Venezuela for \$18 a barrel. This is true tariff reform in the interest of Venezuelan industry.

Hare Feet the Making of Him.
Castro first appeared on the scene in Venezuela in 1859. He came from the state of El Guacharo, an Andean province. He made but little impression as a statesman. The fact that he preferred going barefoot to wearing shoes was remarked in Caracas and it is likely that the Europeanized wits of the capital picked up the story. Castro returned to his native mountains full of hatred for the men of the Parlian school, who then ruled the country. During years the people of his Andean country had been robbed by corrupt tax gatherers, and the people themselves attempted to evade any payment of taxes. There was a raid by the tax officials and Castro raised the standard of revolt. That was in 1859. He started from the mountains, with less than 100 men, tried upon overthrowing the government of President Anacleto, which was supported by former President Crespo. He gathered supporters on the march, but even when he met and defeated the administrative forces at Valencia, he had less than 1,000 followers. From that day to this he has ruled the country absolutely. Legislators and courts mean nothing to him except as they are useful as tools to carry out his wishes. He reorganizes a supreme court by appointing barbers and milk drivers to the wool-sack. They don't know any law, but they do know how to obey orders, and that is what he wants to expect. There is some sort of vague legal provision for elections in Venezuela, but the elections are a mere letter. Castro will continue to rule until he dies, is overthrown by a revolution, or is disposed by a foreign force.

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states is no nearer realization than when he first dreamed it. The great Bolivar held Venezuela and the New Granadine states together in a sort of fashion from the time of the liberation until his death, but then his federation went all to pieces. Castro's ambition to be a second and greater Bolivar is foredoomed. His invasion of Colombia upon the commerce of that country, which found its way to the world through Venezuelan ports.

Secret of Castro's Success.
This constitution encourages revolution by granting all property to the insurgents and exempting them from confiscation. It was this cardinal rule of the revolutionary government that Castro was able to do so much. He put revolutionists in all, took their property and generally refused to recognize the constitutional right of the state. That this peculiar provision of the constitution has been so definitely abused by Castro is one reason that it is difficult to get up a movement to overthrow him.

The Real Hope for Venezuela.
Venezuela has been the playground of all the turbulent Latin American countries, and as a result it is probably the most backwardly developed country in the world. It has long as Castro with his military and scientific empire in America and his utter disregard for either the letter or spirit of constituted law, is at the head of affairs, there is little hope of genuine improvement.

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