izarro Certainly Did A Good Job With Lima

pital City Of Peru Is One Of Most smopolitan Centers Of The World

Woodley Woolcott

PED in romantic, glamor- history, Lima, City of the now ultra-cosmopoli- tal of Peru, lies at the wo great sentinel hills be- which the Rimac River the Pacific Ocean six miles Lima, founded by Pizarro hany Day, and named in of the Magi who visited m, is as alluring as the once brought adventures oor. No city in the world nteresting, more thrilling. e Peru's capital today is the most cosmopolitan earth. This suburb is a n: this corner of the is entirely Negro: this managed and manned by Here are poncho-wearing Peruvian priests, French American engineers, Eng- rman, and Italian mer- Belgian school teachers, resentatives of practically ountry in the world. But ater number of the people s us on these sunlit Lima are women and girls with and pretty faces, draped k *mantas*, or black lace the afternoon the wealthy ladies drive through the and then the latest fash- silk and feathers are on

he 160,000 inhabitants of 33 percent are Spanish de- 27 percent half-breeds; 17 Indians; 12 percent for- (Europeans and Ameri- 6 percent Negro; and 5 Chinese. Cosmopolitan! word may be applied to a, but another is needed, re expressive, to describe This shop belongs to a nt named Oechsle; the next ears on its signboard the "Jose Ferrair;" another d we are before the win- a sweet shop belonging to ez: while his next-door r glories in an English and his signboard refreshes s with the simple, straight- British word, "Tailoring." y of the houses are newly ed and painted pale blue w, while overhanging bal- complete their Spanish Close by them are English erican shop windows, and orer native stores, whose ening is by a door onto the

Lima, rich and poor mingle range way. The President's n looks down on a slum, best bank faces tiny, dark stores. The better houses acious—their large, airy open on galleries running interior courts, bright owers and sunshine. A Li- house has no chimneys, and ground floor, overlooking et, only a few windows, all ich are barred. The poorer f Lima consists largely of es, or alleys similar to the illos of the Argentine. re often large, sunny, open rds, and sometimes narrow always entered by doors in lls of the main streets, and nded by cell-like rooms. Ev- pect of life may be seen in tral yard. There the dinner ked, the baby bathed, the s washed, and the Virgin pped. At every step one upon a child, and all ap- equally contented and un- for.

RCHITECTURE, as well as history, modern Lima, is a n city. The old style of had only one story, or at two, the lower was usually , or sun-baked brick, and per of cane and plaster. But ildings erected lately in the have three of four stories, are built of brick or com- d cement blocks. Some of est modern are even con- ed on the "sky-scraper" with a steel frame. So clev- are the mud houses plastered resco'd, that they form no nly part of the city. The y of many an important g, which appears to have a e front, is due to plaster and This style of architecture ecially suited to Lima, since, to her peculiar situation gard to the Andes, she has n for 20 or 30 years at a Other coast towns which are t to rare but heavy tropical present a sorry spectacle at e of their periodical deluge. dselves and soaks through mboo frames, the furniture is spoiled, and the effect of nfall is so disastrous that llages often look not unlike ered cane brake in a gigan- l puddle.

a is in the center of a re- not only free from rain, but t to frequent earthquakes. is why mud, cane, and plas- ve often been used in pref- to stone; for a minimum of e is supposed to be sus- tained from earthquakes in such houses.

Although it never rains in Lima, yet during the dry season of the Sierra, Peru's winter (June to November), the capital is enveloped in mist. For days and even weeks the sun is invisible, and a vaporous mist makes the sidewalks slippery and pasty, and so permeates the air that the sheets on one's bed are chill and damp. Bones ache and neuralgia walks the streets; the permeating mist not infrequently forming itself into minute drops, when it is called *garua*. For the rest of the year Lima is bathed in brilliant tropical sunshine, yet saved from excessive heat by the icy waters of the Rimac River on the east, and the close proximity of the Pacific Ocean on the west.

The people of Lima cannot fail to attract the traveler. They form by far the most cultivated and tolerant community in Peru. Indeed, Lima is the Mecca of the republic, and a visit in one of its favored homes imparts a certain social standing. Talent, beauty, and generosity mingle in the homes where a foreigner is entertained. Handsome gentlemen of *distingue* appearance can converse with equal freedom in English, French, or Spanish. The belles of the city wear the latest Paris fashions with as much grace and elegance as any of Europe's fairest. Indeed the attractions of the Limena are unique. She has not the natural ruddy grace of the country girl, but the fascination of a pale olive face, luxuriant black hair, and large luminous eyes. She is witty, vivacious, and graceful; can converse with comparative ease in several languages; is essentially womanly, and devoted at the same time to religion and to worldly amusements—like Pope's inimitable heroine, bestowing equal care upon "puffs, powders, patches, bibles, and billet-doux."

ONE is glad to turn from the glaring sunshine of Lima's streets to the quiet sanctuaries where kneel in somber black the beauties whose Parisian gown will be the envy of all on the *Paseo Colon* a few hours later in the day.

We are in the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, conscious only of beauty and rest. Crimson velvet hangings ornament the whole building, and before the red curtain veiling the chancel a Virgin stands above an improvised altar. The purity of her lovely figure, the spotless altar, and white priestly robes, for a colorful candle-lit scene which is unearthly as it appears through ascending clouds of incense; while above it all a shining cross stands out against the crimson curtains.

Suddenly, a bell rings and all in the congregation drop upon their knees, while incense rises afresh, and through its misty white wreaths we see the Host elevated. Music commences from the organ loft, and the choir chants its oft-repeated appeal: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of death!"

Although the days are past when the wealth and importance of Lima were unrivalled in South America, the tone of the capital is still noticeably aristocratic. Here is no mad rush for wealth—no sacrifice of beauty and joy for commerce—no restless, over-energetic, manufacturing city. Detroit and Chicago are of later growth, but Lima watches their turmoil with royal assumption. Her combination of the graces of the past with the attainments of the present is unique.

The City of the Kings has fallen; only such relics as the bones of Pizarro, the house of the Viceroys, and the Inquisition building, remain to witness to its former greatness. But Lima is a phoenix city. It is rising from the ashes of the past—young, yet refined by the experience of age; brilliant, yet beautiful because touches by the spirit of days that are no more.

It was only 22 years from the time that Pizarro and Almagro entered upon their celebrated pact at Panama until the head of the last leader of that dauntless band dangled in a cage on a gibbet in the fine old Plaza de Armas in Lima.

Perhaps if we wander down to the Plaza de Armas, around which centered so much of the tragedy as well as so much of the romance of those epochal years, and sit there watching the throngs that occupy its hundreds of park benches much as they have for nearly four centuries, the busy metropolis can be induced to pause for a moment in the hustle and bustle of its activity, and provide us, movie-fashion, a cut back that will recreate some of the strange and startling scenes that figured in its founding.

The capital is now a typical South American city—flat, low, extensive, bright, and pretty. It is seen at its best when the summer sunshine floods the great plaza and the long streets which intersect at right angles. The city is clean and elegant; flowers and tropical trees abound; and its squares and *pascos*—parks or avenues where it is fashionable to promenade—are glamorously attractive. A brilliant population, foreign stores, imposing churches, perfect streets, and an up-to-date electric car system, make it most pleasing, indeed a Limena saying goes: "It were possible to die of hunger in Lima, but not leave it."

THE capital is said to cover 14,000,000 square yards. Half of the area is occupied by private houses, and half by public buildings, churches, public squares, botanical and zoological gardens, that would do credit to any country.

The ecclesiastical buildings especially are entitled to notice. They present some magnificent specimens of Renaissance architecture, and savor of the days of Rome's political greatness. Report has it that at the present time there are at least 6000 priests in Lima.

In Lima, a new political world has lately sprung up. Noble patriots are here who wish to see every social advantage given to Peru; men who, in eloquence, ability, and appearance, give an impression of power.

Then there is Lima's commercial world daily increasing in importance. Its successful merchants come from many lands. The wealth so lavishly displayed in the City of the Kings they amassed in this business realm. Again, the brilliant world of fashion has its place in this center; here are the choice homes of aristocratic Peruvian families; the country houses of English and American residents; the magnificent palaces of Continental foreigners. Below their roofs society is as in the gayest capitals of the Old World. Lima has risen into the life of the age—she is indeed a phoenix city.

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