

The Standard

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The Standard.

"All latest news and all news of the day."
—Globe.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1904.

THE YERBA MONOPOLY.

Some few weeks past, when the Chado and Cevico question was first broached, it was at present, though appearing in the "Nacion Argentina" several columns, respecting the monopoly of the Paraguayan Government in the yerba mate. These communications caused no small attention in Paraguay, and elicited some very pungent replies in the "Semana." Nothing can be more absurd than the Peliz's idea, and his proposed protective tax of 80 per cent on an article such as Paraguayan yerba, so much used in this city, would verily believe cause a rather serious disturbance amongst the female portion of our society. The Paraguayan Government supports itself almost exclusively upon this monopoly, as owing to the tenure of farms in that country there is no such thing known as a property tax (contribution directa).

As many of our readers may take an interest in the question, we extract the following from our Paraguayan colleague.

It requires very little foresight to perceive that the Yerba question is destined to become a matter of serious importance in the River Plate for two reasons.

First, because the Portefolios wish to Paraguay cheap.

Second, because any project hostile to the Paraguayan Government or the industry of the country, no matter how ridiculous or absurd will meet with popularity in Buenos Ayres which will sweep down all opposition.

That the Portefolios should wish to have cheap yerba, we are by no means surprised, but that they should seek to force the Paraguayan yerba into their markets at their own figures is as illicite preposterous as it is absurd.

The Argentine Government is blessed with the same fertile soil, and (in theory) with the most intricate irrigation, we confess that it is a matter of surprise and wonder to us that a people who are so anxious to have cheap meat do not produce and fabricate it themselves. Oh, but it is a hateful monopoly of President Lopez's about the Poroncho, and cannot be tolerated—monopolies are illegal monopolies are tyrannical, monopolies on such an article of consumption must be abolished.

That monopolies are illegal we deny; on the contrary they are enjoyed by Europe by some of the most civilized nations. In the long history of international reciprocations, we challenge this mythical M. Peliz to show us an instance of where one nation forced upon another the surrender of its monopolies.

Nay, at this moment, when Portefolios are growing so much about Paraguayan monopoly in yerba, they are themselves forming a more objectionable one in the same article, in the province of Corrientes. What say Governor Lagana and Minister Canclado? that they fear the Yerba Company will fail through. If the gentlemen of the B. Ayres Bole succeed in this scheme, it will deprive the country people of the right to a beneficial staple, and cause perhaps a revolution. Hitherto the yerba mate was free to every man, but now B. Ayres wants to make a monopoly, which is the very thing they profess to abhor.

The naval supremacy of England was built up by her navigation laws, which were essentially the greatest monopoly ever known; and if she found it her interest to repeal these laws, we are not to be told that it is the same thing as by a neighbouring nation; rather was it effected by the silent progress of commerce, the great increase of her own shipping, and the giant strides of the Americas. But if she has repealed her navigation laws, she still holds her own monopolies; her tax on tea would according to the visionary M. Peliz justify the Chinese besieging Canton, but her tax on tobacco would afford just cause for all the Yankees to invade her shores; even the growing of tobacco in the United Kingdom is for business purposes prohibited by the Government.

France has also her monopolies, as every one who uses her tobacco well knows. Spain has her monopoly in salt. Austria, Russia, all the greatest nations on the earth hold their monopolies, even the North Americans, before her war broke out, had their monopolies, the fisheries along the whole North American seaboard, were monopolized solely by American bottom, and vessels of other nations were obliged to pay tribute to the Government. If there were in Europe and North America this simple, easy and effective mode of supporting the Government—monopolies, we are sure that they are, unopposed, and tolerated, we certainly must say that we are surprised that the yerba monopoly in Paraguay is so much abused.

Paraguay is purely an agricultural country, and the very monopoly which M. Peliz so much complains of means by which Government has been enabled to liberate the people from taxation, the country from poverty, the exchequer from bankruptcy. If we are called upon to the Government to justify this monopoly we point proudly to the noble manner in which the proceeds of such monopoly have been used by the Government.

The Paraguayan steamers ply the rivers and connect Paraguay with the ocean, their locomotives are now binding towns and villages together, and unite them with the city. The Paraguayan Government has done all this themselves, and on their own capital. With all the noise about the vaunted progress of Buenos Ayres, what has she done for herself? Oh, she exports 100,000 bales of wool, 75 per cent of which is from the province of Buenos Ayres itself. But let us look into the progress of the yerba, what has she done for herself? Oh, she exports Buenos Ayres the English, Scotch, and principally Irish sheep-farmers, and what has she in her province? whilst the city is so busy with her commerce the English and other foreign houses, and her trade will hardly equal that of a prosperous mercantile.

Cautiously speaking, we think Portefolios have little to say to the question, when they themselves set the pace with their rotten bank and dishonest paper dollar. What has Buenos Ayres to show for its banking monopoly for so long a period? What has it with the gains built up to accommodate trade, or even national edifices to adorn the city? I say no more. The banking monopoly of the Buenos Ayres Government has only produced bloodshed and civil war. The Paraguayan monopoly in yerba has built up that country's greatness, but President Milla's paper money has brought ruin and misfortune.

The history of commerce, affords sufficient proof of what M. Peliz's proposed monopoly in yerba, if it were enforced, would result in. It will not lessen the consumption, because only the wealthy use this description of yerba, and the door is in the more fashionable it will become; it will, no doubt, afford a fresh revenue to an at present rather overburdened Government; but the tax will be on the poor, not on the rich, and unless the Portefolios themselves go up and take the yerba out of the Government stores, we doubt if ever they will be successful in getting it at the price which they could desire.

The less such nonsensical measures as those of M. Peliz are resorted to, the better. We should not be surprised to hear that the Portefolios are now threatening the Paraguayan with a blockade at Martin Garcia, if they did not supply all Buenos Ayres with yerba, they would be as successful as well known now, as henceforward, that he has as much control over the free navigation of the river, as M. Peliz has over the price of our yerba mate.

WANTED SALADERS.
We question, if there is a country in the world where trade is more mismanaged, or commerce more regulated, than in the River Plate, not that we mean to make any wholesale charges against the foreign mercantile body, which, we are proud to say, is composed of men of the strictest rectitude and most honorable principle, but that we perceive in Buenos Ayres some branches of trade are utterly exhausted by competition, whilst others are utterly neglected and forgotten. It requires neither the logic of a Whately, nor the statistical erudition of McCullagh, to prove our assertion, since we are in a position to show that by the proper investment of capital in localities where capital is wanting, a safe and remunerative business can be carried on, without either diminishing the trade of others, or incurring an undue risk. Were the commercial policy of this city confined to a few commission men, or foreign capital, represented by printed calicoes or pig iron, we could better understand how our merchants take the yerba trade, but on the contrary, how we

not a body of merchants almost too numerous for the size of the place? And as for capital, have we not now almost as many foreign and local banks in circulation as paper dollars? Viewing the matter in this light, we confess we are surprised that some of our English merchants have not invested a few thousand pounds sterling in building a saladero, where cattle are superabundant and labour cheap.

The province of Corrientes is at present so full of cattle, that the estancia owners are actually obliged to export to Paraguay and Entre Rios on their own account. Although this province has an unequalled river communication; although foreign vessels can anchor as safely at Guayra, the capital in the river of B. Ayres, although the price of prime Novillos for the butchers in the town is but four shillings, there is not one saladero at work in the whole province. Through some unknown cause, the only saladero in the province, that of Sr. del Sar, at Guaya, is no longer working; we believe that the cause of this is some unexplained derangement amongst the partners. We have spoken with some of the best informed and most influential Corrientes gentlemen, and they all unanimously say that there is positively no longer any room for the cattle; that in many parts the grass is so completely exhausted, that only oxen and weasels are growing up; we, therefore, think that the cause is justified in saying that the whole commerce of the place is literally at joint. We have saladeros in rivers where cattle are scarce and labour dear. We have millions of paper money sunk in establishments of a similar nature, where the first cost of the animal is more than double that of Corrientes, and yet in one of the finest provinces of this Republic, where the country is teeming with cattle, we have not one saladero at work.

We hope these observations may meet the eyes of men who attempt to some thing else besides Crutis nonsense: the strict rule besides may be placed upon our statements. And should any of our subscribers require further information on the matter, we feel most happy to refer them to one of the Congress Deputies at present in town from that province, and from whom we gathered much of the foregoing facts.

There are at present 148 vessels in port, and the ships are so packed in the river, that a single vessel, with a slight expenditure of capital, a driving business might be done in other words, a yellow, and jerked beef in Corrientes. We want the matter, and hope that we may be successful in starting saladeros in Corrientes, as we have been in planning cotton in that rich but neglected province.

EDITOR'S TABLE.
The Sheridan law-suit has at last terminated. We have not heard the terms of arrangement, but congratulate the claimants on so happy an issue after many years of unprofitable litigation. It is believed that Mrs. Weidman's Sheridan comes into possession of the estate.

There was much exaggeration in the rumor that the book-keeper of the Northern Railway had been attacked by robbers. The fact is, that on the night in question he heard cries of "murder," and rushed out of the office to help, when he found a man bleeding from the head and lying prostrate near the door. Like the good Samaritan, he at once attended to the victim of police inattention, whose skull was fractured. The ruffians were not visible, nor did the book-keeper draw his revolver, having left the scene in its usual place, on the desk.

Decides the Condo marry of last Friday, a "rudo" has lost the benefit of his temerity. As the latter fact has opened a subscription for the widow and orphans of San Apolario, it is likely the Cocidos will do the same for the Luque family. And poor Moigian is entirely forgotten.

A few days ago we paid a visit to Messrs. Vandeveld's factory of pastured and farming implements in Calle Buenos Orden. His patent truck, movable sheep-pen, &c., are great improvements, and calculated to confer a benefit on our farming friends; but what most attracted our attention were his machines for cutting down thistles, and digging ditches. The first is a triangular scythe drawn by a horse, which cuts down a wide strip of land in very short time. The second is somewhat like the paddles of a steamer, and can make a good-sized canal in a few hours, and the work is done in a quiet manner. These two are M. Vandeveld's own invention, for which he has exclusive patent. The place is worth visiting.

The governor of the city is present: strong; the Military Legion 300 rank and file, the 2nd bat. 330, and another infantry battalion 280, making up 910 men. But the election riot, we could spare one-half to strengthen our frontier.

The recent Indian invasion near Azul has alarmed all the Southern districts. The Brazilians overtook an Italian steamer with dispatches and murdered it: a native officer narrowly escaped the same fate, being stripped of everything even to his shirt, and set loose in the open camp to find shelter as best he could among legions of host. The tribe is said to be Calícut's, and was probably aware of the split between our Governments, which guarantees such impunity to robbers of all color.

No. 5 of the River Plate Magazine will appear on Monday. We understand that the list of subscribers is increasing and the Editors purpose re-doubling the price: the growth of the magazine is wonderful in B. Ayres. A year ago we had only one "El Placer" and now we have nearly a dozen. We are glad to hear from Dr. Navarro-Viola that his Revista de B. Ayres is gaining ground.

Any person who can give information about the proposed Rosario Exhibition, or British navy amateur theatricals to come off at Colon, will do us a service. Minister Berjos says that the English merchants of Buenos Ayres are cotton mad: he has a portfolio of offers to purchase this year's crop. Take care, gentlemen, that you don't burn your fingers by high prices.

An independence month begins next week, we advise the public that it is usual to whitewash in honor of the anniversary whose brick and lime no mortal stands in the plaza. The Police has already set the example: would that institution display the same alacrity in moral purification?

The Nacional incorrectly states that the "En" excursion to San Fernando on Tuesday, April 26th, is the day fixed. Many people say that the French packet will drive the election fever out of the Corrientes and Corrientes. We should rather anticipate that Mr. Wella's halloo ascent on the 23rd prox, will elevate the views of our politicians from such grovelling notions as the Chambers.

The French packet has again disappointed us, but will probably arrive tomorrow on Tuesday. There was a second supply of the "En" packet, which was the Tevece; the Corrientes took that of Wednesday evening.

The weather is at present very variable on Tuesday night we had rain, but it seems only in the city, on Wednesday night first, and on yesterday a fine clear sunshine. The camps at V. Mercedes are in good condition, and the farmers high spirits, and are busy in planting cotton in that rich but neglected province.

Tomorrow night we shall have Eliaz d'Amore at the Opera House. Mr. Wella's ghost has not yet appeared; this exhibition has a great success in London, Dublin and other European cities.

HORRIBLE CRIME BARBARITIES.

One British man killed and two wounded.

The assassin, cool-free.

The hand of the murderer is again at work & the camp. Every day brings a new victim and adds to the interminable catalogue of unpunished crime, for which B. Ayres rulers must be held responsible.

On Sunday night, 24th inst. Mr. Bernardus of Lohos was murdered at the door of his workhouse, by a native who came to the house. The murder was committed by a man named by the murderer, receiving a dreadful wound in the breast; he lies in a dangerous state. Mr. James Reilly a native of Co. Down, escaped with his life, and was able to attend at the funeral. The assassin got off scot-free, and our informant adds "the inevitable escape of murderers gives British subjects a right to bray at the debility of the present Government."

Also: there is no truer sentence, for the state of barbarism and bloodshed to which the country parts of B. Ayres have rapidly descended can find no parallel among semi-civilized nations. Since the 3rd Feb. 1892, 130 British subjects have been murdered in cold blood, and in no single case has the assassin paid the penalty. How long must this continue or are we to be forever the undetected victims of the gauleiter's knife? We hope the Government will at once adopt some measures for the state of the camp is becoming worse and worse daily.

The Rio Uruguay were very numerous on the estancia of Sr. Acosta, and lately had just taken half a flock of sheep from them. They lived about 4 leagues from Lobos.

FLOODS MOVEMENTS.

The Niagara of April 27th has let us hear from Salto 23rd inst. "On the 10th, Flores crossed the Rio Negro at Quinteros and Toros, with an army of 800 men. Information was received to day from Paysandu stating that he had again gone North, his troops not wishing to go South. As usual we hear of bands of 8 or 10 men deserting from him, and committing awful atrocities and carrying off everything

in their route to the Brazilian frontier. In the department of Salto, Colonel Urquiza, who lately gained a triumph at Constitucion, commands 300 men, of whom 60 are South of the Arapay, cleaning the district of the filibusters. To-day, Colonels Lengua and Pira started for Montevideo."

Capt. Eguetron writes from Punta Ceiba, 11th inst. that he made a reconnaissance on the Sarandi the day previous, but found the rebels 120 strong under Castro: his force being only 3 he retired by the Daimean, with 100 horses.

Waldino Urquiza communicated, 22nd inst. Punta San Antonio, a trifling advantage over the rebels, killing one, taking two prisoners, and 53 horses with some arms and clothing.

We have news from Santa Ana on the Brazilian frontier, March 22nd, that two Italian officers (named Rochefort and Oates) of the B. Ayres army came thither to seduce the Government soldiers, and succeeded in taking three first commandment sent a body of 15 men in their pursuit, over-taking them at Tacarabon: the Brazilian deserters were punished, and the Italian officers put in prison.

Major Roman gained a victory, at Treinta Tres, 24th inst. over the rebel band of Uru, killing 4, taking 6 prisoners, and dispersing the rest, who fled to the mountains. The rebel officer is supposed drowned, his horse being taken among the spoils. Another rebel band was dispersed at Villa Arica, and driven into the river Yaguaron.

The fortifications at Camelon are going on actively: ramparts were raised 5 feet thick, and a line of circumvallation has been made with a trench six feet deep. The Government army is quartered at Maciel, and that of the rebels five leagues off, near the River Yi.

The "Comercio" states that "General Moreno, along with Munoz, Rodriguez and Aparicio were comfortably stationed on the banks of the Maciel, three leagues from Durazno. Flores was at Villavieja ready to march for Tejera. His vanguard, under Goyo Sobera, was threatening to cross the Yi in Polanco, and would be successful in this movement, he would likely march for Tierra de Minas. It is reported that when Flores was passing the Rio Negro, 300 men had followed him."

"In Maldonado a force of 50 men under Colonel Acuteo had just put to the knife some parties of Borges near San Carlos, and had been surprised by an ambuscade."

IMPORTANT FROM CORRIENTES.

The late Ministry.

Fossil oysters from Parana.

Several of the mutinous soldiers have made their submission to Governor Lagrana, who has, we believe, pardoned them. Of those forced to embark at Corrientes for Rosario, seventeen escaped in a whale-boat. The cotton crop is being picked, and several dealers have come to B. Ayres, with the view of making contracts, the average price can hardly exceed 3 silver reals (18d.) per lb. ginned, delivered in this city, although the planters ask enormous figures. Deputy Izaguirre came down by the Paraguayan steamer. In the collision of the Salto de Guayra with the steamer, a young lady passenger fainted, but was revived by throwing water in her face.

The state of the rivers is at present remarkable. The Paraguay is high, the Uruguay is high, and the mouth of the Rio Parana low, and the mouth of the Rio Uruguay at the confluence with the river Plate almost unrecognizable from low water. The physical practice of stealing buys continues unpunished; many of those generically put down at Capt. Bruco's expense have been taken.

The Paraguayan pontoon with 290 tons coal, sunk near Parana, is still in the same condition: a Frenchman has undertaken to dive for the coal, on condition of getting one-half, and we learn that Government has agreed to his offer. In front of Zarate, there are some islands belonging to a Frenchman, who has turned them into sheep-farms, maintaining thereon two or three flocks.

A gentleman has just arrived from Parana with fossil-oysters, most perfectly preserved and perfect, which he intends to present to Admiral Milla. These interesting reliques of past ages will be a valuable addition to the Admiral's interesting museum; they will enlarge our old friends in that difficult investigation "How old are we?"

A HINT TO THE WAR-OF-ICE.

In this province we have a law which condemns vagos, indolent, &c., to military service from two to four years; it also authorizes the justices of peace (in the camp) to try summarily persons accused of these offences. To be enabled to go through

the case with due rapidity, they (the justices of peace) are furnished with printed forms, which are filled up by inserting the man's name, the offence committed, the term, &c., with which document he is sent direct to the nearest depot.

We have 62 parties in this province, consequently 52 judges furnished with ample power to try and condemn offenders of this class; how many, might I ask, have been sent to the frontiers during the expedition of this year? I confine the question more especially to this year, as it is supposed by some that the cooked and raw dinners lately come into fashion have caused a relaxation in this law, with the intent to make it, by the end of the year, a dead letter. The proposed plan, that offenders of this kind are frequent, cannot be put forth with any regard to truth, for the testimony of any resident in the camp, native or foreign, will prove quite the reverse. On an average, the 23 parties could send annually 25 men each to the frontiers; certainly, there is no party which could not afford to lose, and be aided by another, for 25 men of this class this law compises; if so, the 130 parties should send a total of 3250 men; not a bad addition to the army, obtained without disturbing the peace, and a quarter million dollars, which sum would be given as bounty, to an equal number of "enganchados;" besides the money saved, the camp would be immensely benefited by the absence of such inhabitants. The principal point is, how to counteract the effect of these cooked and raw dinners, and how to prevent, legally, this law from becoming, when clime comes on other political questions require it, a dead letter: the Minister of War is not at present popular amongst those who would like to supply him with these troops, consequently he is liable to be charged with his rights, get one-tenth the number he should get, and at the same time be enriched for leaving the frontiers unprotected. The least expenditure, perhaps most effective remedy would be, to appoint a national commissioner or agent in each party, part of whose duty should be, to see that all those who cross under the pervasion of this law, be duly punished; there are many unattached officers of the army who could fill this situation with little expense and great advantage to the country. The object to be gained by enforcing the law in question is worthy of consideration: first, the exchequer saves at least 2,250,000 dollars (the bounty on 3250 men); second, murders and robberies will become less frequent, by banishing from amongst peaceable and industrious inhabitants, those who live by pillage and plunder; third, the capitalists and intending emigrants hear little of Indians and less of robbery and murder, they will then find inducements to supply this country with the only items it requires—capital and migrants.

CHAMBERS OF B. ENOS ACHES.

NEW DEPUTIES SWORN IN.

Yesterday, at half-past one, the ominous ceremony of swearing in the gentlemen elected by 21 parishes and refused by 10, as Deputies for the province, came off at the Chambers. There was a large number of persons in the house, but no disorder. The gentlemen who took their seats were D. D. Ignacio Carreras, Carlos D. Anico, Darlo Roca, Isaac Blanco, Pedro Nao, Manuel Quintana, M. A. Montesden, Dr. Kier, Luis Mirameth, Augustin Saavedra. The Corrientes members did not attend, but it was in Corrientes present. It seems this is far from making a "quorum," but really, seeing that the Municipality and all the public bodies fail to make this most difficult office, it is well dispensed with.

After the swearing-in, the re-modelled Chamber proceeded to elect suitable officers. Those on whom suitable distinctions fell were—Presidents—D. Ventura Martinez, 1st Vice—Dr. Manuel Quintana, 2nd Vice—D. Ignacio Carreras.

The Corrientes say there are more Vicos than the above, and Dr. Aguero never (instead of fulfilling the duties) never to enter the threshold. This was unparliamentary, we must have deputies as well as sermons. The Chamber was almost unanimous to keep him against his will, but the turning vote (14 to 12) gave him permission to resign. So ended the function, happily without rioting.

The Western Railway Matters.

The "Nacional" accuses the candidate of unjustly charging Sr. Harbo with bringing the natives to fight at elections. We never mentioned the gentleman's name, but accused the candidate of unjustly charging Sr. Harbo with bringing the natives to fight at elections. The neighbors of Lujan can prove that the W. railway works were stopped; our colleague loses time in trying to clock the sun.

THE BEER-HO CHALLENGE.

Solferino Accepts.

The owner of Solferino will run Balgrano with 8 lbs., on next Sunday or any subsequent day.

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