

The Standard

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The Standard.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1884.

For the day of the week, and the month of the year.

The partido of Carmen or Pto. de Arco, is one of those favoured by Government valuers, last year, the property tax having been just doubled: 1862, 31,770 dols.; 1883, 66,661 dols. The extent is set down, in page 4, at 58 square leagues (including 6 of public lands), but the Commissioner says the partido is really 8 leagues less. The valuation is 50,000 dols. per league. There are 27 estancias, of which 8 belong to foreigners; they are mostly large, averaging nearly 2 square leagues, the principal being Pto. de Arco, 12, Hule, Dufre, and Melo, each 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 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San Andrés de Giles appears as 40 square leagues in size. The tax was raised, in 1863, 50 per cent, amounting to \$5,161 dols. The valuation is half a million dollars per league. There are 75 estancias (averaging one-fourth of a square league), including four of foreigners; only two exceed a league in extent. Messrs. Darby, Torrey, and Fernando Gonzalez, Mr. Butterfield, Mrs. Ryan, and Mr. Wheeler, have small 'suertes,' together forming 1 league. There must be some gigantic blunder as to the extent of Giles, for the total assessed lands only make up 18 square leagues, or less than half the figure set down in page 4. Taking, therefore 20 as the proper figure, we find our countrymen hold about one-tenth of the district, and pay 3/20 dollars per annum. The Irishman number about 300, and possess in land, stock, and capital about £70,000, or £230 per head. In the village, the houses of Guilla, Bustos, and Rodriguez are valued over 100,000 dols., but there is little house-property of value.

San Antonio de Areco comprises 61 estancias (7 foreign) covering 10 square leagues. Of this there are public lands 1 league held by Dr. Terry, and half a league by Sor. Casco. The estancias average less than half a league, and only six exceed a square league: Corrientes 2 1/2, Lanús, 2, organ, Al. agro and Gasson each 1 1/2, and Lina 1 1/2. The foreign proprietors are Soriano, Chaparro, C. Kennedy, Donnelly, and Kennedy, making up 14 square leagues, worth a half million a half dollar, and presenting one sixth of the partido. The Irish residents number 100, and possess in wealth of £10,000, or £110 per head; they pay 4,000 dollars per annum the tax being raised 30 per cent over that of 1862. There are no fine houses in the village, only two (Brind and Maciel) being valued up to 60,000 dols. Messrs. Charles Hughes and James Lounston have two small houses. The Justice of Peace complains that in this partido there are several estancias a league and a half long by a few dozen yards wide.

The sum total of estancias held by our countrymen in the above three partidos amounts to Ten Millions dols.

MARTIN GARCIA

Martin Garcia is at present under going such extraordinary changes, that although it is but a year since we were there, we hardly recognised it last Saturday when passing under its guns. With the ballast on one side, and Gelly Obs on the other, the little island is becoming so transfigured, that if the place only got some new name, say Port Santerpian, none would ever suppose that it was once little Martin Garcia, where, if we recollect right, a horrible earthquake shock was felt some two years ago. Verily the little place has received an earthquake shock, for one side of the island is gone completely, never to return, whilst the other is so fixed up and whitewashed, that the whole island seems turned upside down.

There are now five fortresses on the island, built something like the martello towers on the coast of Ireland, only one of which is mounted. The place looks truly awful, for what with the big sand bank on one side, the brown martello towers on the other, and the war steamers Pampero, Guardia Nacional, and Hércules in front, the place looks truly awful, and inspires a sort of involuntary dread or awe of Argentine greatness.

Englishmen, who are accustomed to get Gibraltar, Frenchmen who never tire of Cherbourg, and Spaniards who ridicule everything American, save the *toro*, stare with mute astonishment at the works going on at Martin Garcia. There is a tower towering over the lighthouse; there is another looking in the direction of Montevideo; a third, which is by far the strongest, defends the canal leading to the Guazu; a fourth, which commands the mouth of the Parana; and a fifth, built on the crest of the hill, in the saddle of the island, and eminently adapted for some of those new American guns, which we commended to the attention of Mr. Gelly Obs some three or four months ago.

Of course, not being in the Government house, we cannot say how many more martello towers are to be built; but we most unhesitatingly assert, that Martin Garcia, when finished, will be one of the strongest places in the River Plate.

At present, the place is crowded with lighters, taking in ballast for the vessels in the outer roads. There are a few 'pulperías' doing a thriving business. The whole island is dotted over with soldiers' tents, &c.; and to diversify the scene, numerous fowls can be seen wading at all points on the beach.

There is only one fortress or tower mounted, it has only ten or twelve guns, some of which are 32-pounders. The Pampero, which lies right across the canal, has her guns run out, and seems in every respect ready for action; but the admiral's vessel, the Guardia Nacional, appeared more like a place where they took in washing by the dozen, than anything else. On almost every rope in the vessel were hanging out skirts, &c., to dry. We thought as we looked on the vessel decked out with such extraordinary rigging, that if some of the *Exteriores* were passing near with their men, they might be, like Sir John Falstaff, to some advantage.

As few of our readers may be in possession of the secret which caused this little island to start into such significance, we think it right to inform them of the matter. About a year ago President Mitre, returning to Rosario, having ideated the Central Railway, got through in the sand-bank right in front of Martin Garcia, where he remained one day or two. The news of this feat, which had just come on board, and the President very rightly reflected, with the glass in his eyes, that the admiral's vessel, the Guardia Nacional, should not be a mere ornament, but might with an old woman and a broomstick walk over to Martin Garcia, land down the Argentine colours, and hoist his own flag instead. On inquiring what was the actual population of the place, he was rather amused to learn that beside the 'guardia' there was only a goat and half a dog. In consequence, Mr. Mitre immediately took his measures, he sent Marnet to Montevideo; in a very short time there was a row between Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, Martin Garcia should no longer be a lean rent. The republic was in danger, and the place should be fortified.

Clammed, and we believe we may say exasperated at the idea of fortifying Martin Garcia, the Minister of War went body and bones into the affair, and now until Mitre gives up the key the Uruguay and Guazu belong to him.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Mr. Larroque has given up charge of the Concepcion college, and advises the Minister of Worship that he delivered an 'alloquution' on installing his successor. The term applied to the discourses of the Sovereign Pontiff sounds oddly in reference to the obscure philosophy of an unknown S. American village. The speech in question is one of the most disgusting, absurd and bombastic effusions that anyone could be condemned to listen to.

On yesterday Mr. Adolfo Mancilla returned from Rosario, having inspected the arrangements of the 'Monarquías y Corrientes Nacionales' (Initials) 'res'. We are glad to learn that the service is now performed with great punctuality, not only to the upper provinces of this republic, but also to Bolivia and Chile.

The proposal of Messrs. A. Manelli and Capt. Harrison to the Nat. Government, for a line of steamers on the Uruguay, Parana and La Plata, is, we understand, in a fair way of being accepted and carried out.

The new opera *La Straniera* was played last night at Colón theatre. To-night we shall have *El Dolo en Manchera*. We will review both in our next.

We understand that there is lying in the mouth of the Parana (Guazu) a small vessel which is a complete wreck. She looks to have been a river schooner that got aground and bilged in; the waves make a clean breach over her; she has her masts and part of her rigging, and seems to have been lost recently. We were surprised that Admiral Mitre, if he could not go to her in one of his steamers, has not sent a small boat to look after her and find out her name, nation, &c. We must say that we regard it as most culpable neglect on his part, and hope that President Mitre will call him to account for it. If the wreck has been visited, then at least the matter was deserving of publication.

We regret to inform our readers that last week the Poston belonging to the Paraguayan Government, stationed at Parana, went down to the bottom with about 600 tons of coal, which is rather serious loss. Luckily it has to be borne by a Government which boasts of an overflowing treasury.

The state of the camps along the Parana is far from being good. From Rosario to Buenos Ayres the grass is almost completely burnt up; at Huanacá and San Pedro the flocks are being fed in the banados of the Parana. Mr. Wells' balloon is on exhibition to day at Colón from ten to four o'clock. The sight is novel, the charge trifling (5s) and among the visitors will probably be a large proportion of children. The French packet will sail on Tuesday we cannot publish our Packet Volume before that morning. The Mercury is expected next day, and if there is a supplemental mail we shall perhaps be able to answer letters. Nothing is known of the Liverpool steamer.

Our news from Mivilio, Rosario and Concepcion will be found in our columns. The chapter of robberies is also interesting.

We are informed that the 'laque' of Quilmes was released 15 days ago. This does not, however, compensate for his imprisonment during so many months for having shot the robber.

Cecilio paper attacks the Provincial Government for suspending the printing of cotton, on account of the late drought. We think the measure highly laudable and apropos.

The Nacional gives a list of European capital down to the minor cities of 20,000 inhabitants: it has omitted Dublin with its 300,000 souls, out of spite to the Standard, knowing that we are from 'the last city.'

The *Progreso* of Corrientes, March 24th, is to hand, and contains an order from Government, stopping its publication. It seems the printing office belongs to Government and there is a dispute about the tenement in which the paper is published.

The *Liberal* of Paraná 7th inst. has nothing important. In one place Corrientes says he is going to the Province (Albarracín) as Deputy; in another it appears that Dr. Ezequiel Suarez has been elected. The *Liberal* is opposed to Mr. Urquiza's election.

We hear renewed complaints about the Northern Railway, and regret to learn that the general opinion is 'we have put our foot in it' by seeking to defend a public nuisance. We were not, however, aware of these abuses, and frankly admit that it had been more prudent if we limited ourselves to exculpate Mr. Zimmermann from the charge of interfering in elections. Foreigners and natives are unanimous in crying down the irregularity of ser-

vice, which obliges passengers sometimes to walk from Pellegrini or San Isidro, after paying for their passage by train.

News from the Province.

In the provinces nothing of any consequence has taken place. Jujuy is quiet—the papers are absolutely bare of news, being wholly occupied with notices of the amount of public revenue and how disposed of.

Salta has been seized with a fit of publishing, but publishing of a low class—political ephemeral periodicals: but nothing of any consequence to any one out of Salta. Tucumán is tranquil, and the change of Government has been made without any agitation. The Tucumans prefer riding a 'waiting race' and allowing the usual three years to elapse before they can get rid of their governor to making a revolution. In Rio, the Captain of the 6th batt. of the line, Don Julio Campos, has been elected Governor.

La Cordoba, the sword has been laid aside, and the pen taken in its stead. It is reported that Colonel Pizano has defeated Moreno and Echagay.

The Battalion 7th of the Line has returned to quarters in Rosario from Corrientes. The battalion musters about 300 rank and file, and is reported to be about to be sent to Rojas or to Montevideo.

The 'Ferro-Carril' of Rosario is agitating strongly the erection of a new Custom House, the present building being much the stature of a pigsty than a Government public office. The same newspaper is still talking of the propriety of having a Grand National Exhibition; but the idea of 'warch of the ancients' and the 'victims' of the Argentines of the present day, are synonymous; and any children who may be born three years after this, by dint of swallowing Parley's life pills, may have the chance of seeing an Argentine Exhibition.

The Elections in Entre Rios.

The Uruguay of the 7th inst. congratulates General Urquiza on the signal triumph his party has obtained in most of the departments. In Concepcion, Concepcion, Gualeguaychu, Gualeguay, Villaguay, Nogoyá, Tala and Parana, the prestige of the hero of Cepeda continued to reign.

Dr. Corrientes is treated as a lunatic, and his tirades about Parana turned into ridicule: in that city there were 813 voters, of whom 700 were in favor of the Government candidate, Nubez and only 133 for the sedition editor. General Urquiza is at present on a visit to Dr. Victoria at Concepcion, and will probably remain there until his term of Government expires.

MONTVIDEO.

April 8th, 1884.

(From a Correspondent.)

To-day the steamer *Corrientes* sails for your port, and it is a case of 'quien sabe' when you will get this letter, as this same steamer took three days to come down from Buenos Ayres, the Raggio and Stella having been by about twelve hours. Everything is very quiet just now. Yesterday, news arrived of Flores having crossed the Rio Negro. Last night the National Guards were called out: I saw them march down the Calle 25 de Mayo, and about a fifth part of them were mere boys, of from 12 to 15 years of age. If their standing in any army are like these, it cannot be wondered at their not coming to blows. Nothing more has been heard of yet, but as it is only ten o'clock, something more important may transpire, and, if so, I will add a postscript.

The talk in town is all about the performance which the officers of H.M.S. Forté are to give on next Monday, for the benefit of the British Hospital and the Hospital de la Caridad. The arrangements, as far as I can hear, are very bad, but I have heard several complaining about them.

There are two young Oriental ladies, who are going to sing. For the names of the pieces, I refer you to the Montevideo papers. I will write you an account of the function next Tuesday. There is no sign of the Una as yet, though she is now 41 days out. This steamer is the one they proposed calling the Salado.

An account is flying about town concerning Mr. Guillota, who was going to his estancia in Colonia on horseback, and saw a gaucho hovering about, and getting nervous he fired his revolver at him; the gaucho then pulled out a large horse pistol, and fired at Mr. Guillota, hitting him in the arm; the bullet being a large one, was stopped by the bone, so that Mr. Guillota was not seriously wounded.

Quarter to Three—Nothing new. The British brig *Dauntless*, and the iron bark *Don Diego*, from Liverpool, with general cargo for Messrs. Darbyshire (40 days out) have arrived.

Redemption of Paper-money.

We read in 'Le Progreso' of yesterday an article on a subject of very great importance, the redemption of the paper money of Buenos Ayres, by the means of establishing a National Bank (system of the Bank of France).

This National Bank would be created with a privilege of 50 years, on a metallic decimal capital of £1,000,000, and would be authorized to issue banknotes to the amount of £3,000.

As a condition of such privilege, the National Bank would be obliged, viz: 1st, to coin £20,000 silver or gold money for each month, during the first ten years from its legal constitution, and put that sum of money to the disposal of the Government, receiving in exchange for it an equivalent value of national funds, bearing 6 p.p. annual interest, but at a discount of 25 p.p. on the capital, so that really such an advance to be made by the National Bank would afford 7 1/2 p.p. annual interest.

2nd, to divide its annual profits in halves with the Government, after deducting 10 p.p. preference interest to the shareholders of the said Bank.

The monthly advance of £20,000 metallic money to be made by the National Bank would be devoted by Government to repay each month an equal portion of the Buenos paper money to the amount of £24 for 50 dols., is equal to £2,000,000, which is exactly equal to the metallic sum to be advanced by the National Bank to Government in the course of ten years; and as such advance is to be repaid to the Bank with a premium of 25 p.p., so the total to be repaid to the Bank will amount to £3,000,000.

Now it is estimated that the benefits of the National Bank (with its metallic capital of £1,000,000, viz: £1,000,000 metallic money and £200,000 bank-money) will not be less than 12 p.p. per annum, say £120,000.

So that deducting from that sum 10 p.p. preference interest upon the £1,000,000 got in metallic money by the shareholders of the Bank, say £100,000.

The surplus will be £20,000. The half of which would belong to the Government, say per annum £10,000.

This would be more than sufficient to repay in the course of 25 years the capital, interest and premium of the bonds created for the purpose; so by which plan not only the province of B. Ayres would be benefited, without any charge or risk whatever, with the means of repaying its paper money on the most favorable terms, but the National Government would gain also a large annuity derived from its half in the annual profits of the National Bank.

Respecting the shareholders of the National Bank, they would receive annually, 1st, 10 p.p. preference interest £100,000; 2nd, one half of the surplus net profits of the bank £190,000.

Total £290,000. That is to say 29 p.p. upon this £1,000,000 metallic capital, to which must be added, first, the profits to be derived from the coinage; 2nd, the premiums to be obtained from the negotiation of the bonds, which being given to the bank with a discount of 25 p.p., will very likely and very soon attain the par, being secured not only by the State, but also by the half profits of the National Bank devoted to their annual repayment.

Therefore, it is quite evident to us that such scheme, if carried out, would be an immense benefit to the Province of Buenos Ayres, to the National Government, to the community and the public in general, inasmuch as, from the constitution of the National Bank, the paper money of Buenos Ayres would invariably be fixed to the rate of £4 per 500 dols., and so free from any fluctuations or any other risk whatever.

Finally, the author of the scheme proposes that a subscription to the shares of the National Bank would be open at the Stock Exchange of Buenos Ayres during one month, offering the preference during that period of time to the persons residing in the Argentine Republic.

Such are the principal bases of the project, and, before entering into more details, we limit ourselves to-day to say that, in the present circumstances, it appears to us that it must be taken in great consideration.

MORE ROBBERIES IN FLORES.

