

THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE

HIS EXCELLENCY'S VIEWS OF HIS COUNTRY AND OURS

A Remarkable Interview With the Head of the Most Progressive of the South American Republics—He Discusses the Monroe Doctrine and Our Building of the Nicaragua Canal.

Copyright, 1898, by Frank G. Carpenter. SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug. 10.—It was by appointment that I called upon the president of Chile yesterday afternoon to have a chat with him concerning matters of mutual interest to our respective countries. The president is one of the progressive men of this progressive people. He is at the head of the liberal or progressive party, and is at the front of every movement to make Chile prosperous. He comes of one of the oldest families of Chile, his father having been one of the most popular presidents of the past. He is a very rich man, and his personal interests in the advancement of Chile are great. He is now in the second year of his presidential term, and as he has three more years to serve his views upon international matters are of especial interest. My audience was arranged through our minister to Chile, and at the time set for it, 2 p. m., Mr. Wilson and myself entered the doors of the Moneda.

CHILEAN "WHITE HOUSE"

The Moneda is the White house of Chile. It is a vast three-story building situated in the heart of Santiago. You could put out "White house" in one corner of it, and its ground floor is, I judge, larger than that of the capitol at Washington. The building covers more than four acres, but it is constructed after the Spanish style, with its rooms running about patios or courts, so that there is much open space. These courts, however, are filled with flowers, in some of them fountains play, and they form the only gardens of the president's house. The Moneda contains not only the offices and private apartments of the president, but also the offices of several of the departments of the government. He has his principal cabinet secretaries in the same house with him, and a large part of the building is given up to clerical work. As we entered the Moneda we passed the guard of soldiers which always stands in front of the drawn swords in their hands, and it was a military officer in uniform who led us into the president's room. There is a great deal more pomp about public offices here than in the United States, and the president of Chile has a military guard of 200 cavalry, which accompanies his carriage on all state occasions. His carriage is itself far more pretentious than President McKinley's. It is drawn by four magnificent horses, and the coachmen and footmen are dressed in gorgeous liveries.

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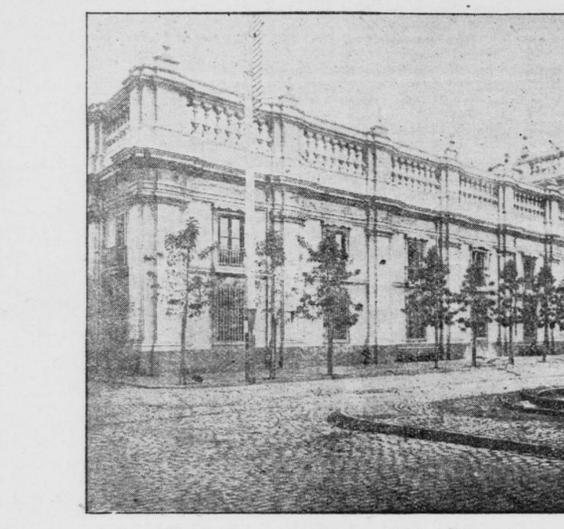
We first met Don Eduardo Phillips, the assistant secretary of state, and the chief medium of intercourse between his excellency and foreigners. He told us that the president was expecting us, and a moment later we were in the president's room. This is larger than that which we have seen in the White house. It is rather plainly furnished, and it was at the back of it that President Errazuriz was sitting at a desk which was littered with papers and documents. He rose as we came in, and shook my hand as I was presented to him. I was rather surprised to find him so young a man, very energetic, and his manner is quite dignified. His excellency asked us to be seated, and, taking a chair beside us, chatted for half an hour very freely with us and his friends, Mr. Edward MacClure, acting as interpreter. As we rose to go, however, he said he would prefer that I should write out my questions, and he would give me his answers in writing. This he has since done, and the matter which follows is made up of the questions and answers, the translation of the Spanish document I have just received from the presidential mansion: CHILE AND THE UNITED STATES.

Correspondent—Will your excellency please state what is the position of Chile as to trade with the United States, and suggest some ways in which it might be increased?

The President—Among the best measures to increase this trade would be the establishment of new steamship lines. There should be more frequent steamship communication between the two countries, and a method that might be adopted to further trade would be the establishment of exhibitions to show the respective products of the countries. Chile should have such exhibitions in the United States, and the United States should establish them in Chile. I think that the consumption of nitrate in the United States might also be stimulated

by practical experiments and active propaganda. Correspondent—There is now much American capital seeking foreign investment. What are the chances for such capital in Chile? Is foreign capital so invested safe, and what special fields now offer the best opportunities for profit? The President—There are a number of investments in Chile which will yield good profit to foreign investors. Among them are banking institutions, the working of the nitrate fields, the exploitation of minerals, and especially the development of our gold, copper and silver mines. As to whether American capital is safe in Chile, I would say that all foreign capital circulates here subject to the same conditions as native capital, without other risks or other burdens to bear, and that American capital may enjoy in Chile all of the advantages that are enjoyed by capital from any other source. Correspondent—How about the concessions which the government offers to

much new country which will be available to immigrants. The President—The southern railways are destined to be of great advantage to Chile. They will give easy access to the richest agricultural region of the country. They will give a great impulse to the establishment of agricultural colonies and will stimulate immigration. Chile earnestly desires immigration, and as far as lies in her power endeavors to encourage it. She considers it one of the chief factors of her progress. We need more people in Chile, and we have here a country which, if properly cultivated, would support many times our present population. THE MONROE DOCTRINE. After a question as to the nitrate deposits which the president answered by saying that the investigations show that they will last for a long time yet, I asked his excellency what Chile thought of the Monroe doctrine. This



RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE.

capitalists for the establishment of steel and iron industries? The President—Congress recently came to the assistance of persons interested in the steel industry, but this does not mean the protection of any monopoly in favor of native capital. Any responsible foreign company will find equal protection under our laws and customs. THE NICARAGUA CANAL. Correspondent—What does your excellency think of the Nicaragua canal, which, as you know, the United States is about to build? The President—I consider the proposal of the United States to open the Nicaragua canal as worthy of high praise. I am in favor of it or any other undertaking which will facilitate communication between the west coast of South America and the United States and Europe. Every advancement of this kind will be of especial advantage to such an essentially maritime country as ours.

Correspondent—Chile is the chief railroad builder among the countries on this side of the Andes. It built the first railway on the continent, and I would like an expression from your excellency as to what your people think of the Intercontinental railway. Is it a practical scheme and will it ever be built? The President—Chile applauds every movement toward the completion of

was a rather delicate question, as many people down here think that the United States wishes to control the policy of the two continents. His written answer, however, was as follows: "The international policy of Chile has always tended towards the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of her political and commercial relations with the nations of the American continent, and I believe that this policy does not depart from one of the phases, perhaps the most important one of the Monroe doctrine. With the pending relations between Chile and the Argentine are amicable adjusted, or is there likely to be a conflict of arms? The matters now pending between the Argentine and Chile will be peacefully arranged and I believe that both governments are anxious that they should be." This closes the interview.

HOW CHILE IS GOVERNED. Chile is a republic, but there are a number of differences between its constitution and that of the United States. The Chilean president is elected for five years instead of four, and he is not eligible for a second term. The presidential election day is June 25 of the fifth year of each presidency and inauguration day is Sept. 18, of the same year. Both of these dates are in the winter months, and the 18th of September



A MAN OF POWER IN CHILE. The Archbishop of Santiago, Who Controls \$100,000,000.

the Intercontinental railway, but she considers that it is still a long way off. On her own part, Chile is endeavoring to extend her railways from one end of the country to the other. Her territory is very long. It includes a large part of the Pacific coast line of the continent, and her railways will contribute to a certain extent to the proposed Intercontinental railway. I think the advantages of the proposed Intercontinental line will be of great importance to all interests. RAILROAD OVER THE ANDES. After this the interview continues as follows: Correspondent—How about the Trans-Andean railway which is to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, running from Valparaiso to Buenos Ayres? I understand that Chile will complete it? The President—The Trans-Andean railway is a work which I have carefully studied in Chile and it has been steadily pursued. As you know, less than fifty miles of road are yet needed to complete it, and part of this is on Chilean soil, and part on Argentine soil. At present, on account of the extraordinary demands of the companies proposing to finish the work, the road is being more carefully considered. There are some difficulties in the way of its extension along the lines proposed, but it will be without doubt continued as soon as these difficulties are removed.

her is also the Chilean day of independence corresponding to our Fourth of July. The president of Chile gets a salary of \$15,000 and he has in addition an allowance of \$12,000 for expenses. This is, however, in Chilean money, so that it is equal just now to not more than \$11,000 in American gold. President Errazuriz probably spends several times this sum every year. The president has the veto power as our president has, but his veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority of the members of congress present at the time the measure is brought back, and the political situation is such that when a presidential measure falls it is usually because the cabinet has resigned, so that Chile has a new cabinet almost on the average once a month. In addition to his cabinet, which is made up of ministers after much the same plan as those of our cabinet, the Chilean president has a council of state consisting of five members appointed by himself and six chosen by congress. THE CHILEAN CONGRESS. Chileans cannot vote until they are twenty-five years of age if they are unmarried, but married men can vote at the age of twenty-one. Members of the house of deputies, which corresponds to our house of representatives, must have an income of 100 sterling a year, and senators must each have incomes of 400, or \$2,000 a year. Congress sits in regular session from June 1 until Sept. 1 every year, but the president can call an extra session whenever he chooses. The building known as the houses of congress was burned

a year or so ago and is now being rebuilt. It was and will be the finest building in Santiago. It covered a full square of ground and looked not unlike some of our great buildings at Washington, save that it was made of brick covered with a terra cotta stucco instead of granite or marble. The walls of the building still stand and within a short time it will again be ready for occupancy. At present the lower house is meeting in one of the halls of the University of Santiago, and the senate holds its sessions in one of the buildings devoted to government departments. The sessions of congress are often very stormy. The Chileans are fond of politics, and you will hear more political talk here in a day than you hear in Washington in a week. There are two great political parties, the Conservatives and the Liberals, each of which has a number of sub-divisions. The Conservatives are the more compact, but the Liberals are much the more numerous, and they are represented by the party now in power. They

are the progressive party and they advocate popular education, the elevation of the masses and everything modern. The Conservatives are more what the name implies, and they include also the clerical or church element, which here in Chile has enormous influence. CHURCH AND STATE. One of the curious divisions of the president's cabinet is the branch or department "worship and colonization." Catholicism is the state religion, and the Catholic church receives a certain amount every year from the government treasury. Nearly all of the Chileans are Catholics, and all church affairs of note are attended by the government officials. On the Chilean anniversary of its "day of independence," the president and all of his officials, including the officers of the army and navy, attend church. The other day a celebrated bishop, who had been dead for I don't know how long, was honored with a new monument in the cathedral of Santiago, and this was made the occasion of a great celebration. I went in company with the American minister, and found that nearly all of the foreign diplomats were present. The president, the general of the army and the admiral of the navy were there in their official dress, and during the ceremonies, all were present. The president, the priests and other church dignitaries. I am told, however, that within recent years other religions have been introduced into Chile, and almost any other South American country. There are two large American schools here in Santiago, one supported by the Methodist and the other by the Presbyterian churches of the United States, and there are other missionary colleges and churches in different parts of the country. These are tolerated, however, on the grounds that the progress, rather than from any desire of the Chileans to change their religion.

They are, I believe, satisfied with Catholicism, though the educated Chilean man does not like the way in which the church meddles with political matters. He does not go to church except on Sundays and feast days, and like many other men outside of South America, he leaves most of the church exercises to his wife and daughters. The women of Chile are one of the strongest elements in upholding Catholicism and its influence. They are very devout. You see them in the church as you do in our country, kneeling on the stone floors and saying their prayers. You meet them on the streets going to confession or mass, each carrying a prayer book in one hand and a prayer book in the other, and if you will enter the churches, you may, perhaps, see a pretty devotee who will look at you out of the tail of her eyes as she mumbles her prayers with a cross of diamonds in the background. As in Peru and Bolivia, the women in Chile wear solid black when they go to church. They wear white dresses with black mantas, and a church congregation makes you think of a nunnerly with all of the nuns clad in black. Indeed, to wear white at such times is a sign of grief and shame, rather than of joy. It is the custom of women who have done wrong to put on white clothes and to have their heads in shawls to show that they are penitent and are resolved to be good for the future. I have seen several very pretty girls dressed, and as they passed have thought their story was that of the "Scarlet Letter," and wondered if in some cases there should not be a priest walking beside them.

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Advertisement for the Grand Opera House. Features the play 'The Old Girl' by Mathews and Bulger. Cast includes Nellie Hawthorne and Josie DeWitt. The ad describes the opera house's location and the quality of the production, highlighting the talents of the lead performers and the management's commitment to excellence.

Advertisement for 'The Old Girl' drama. Describes the plot involving a woman's search for her long-lost husband. Praises the dramatic quality and the performances of the cast, including Nellie Hawthorne and Josie DeWitt. Mentions the management's efforts to create a compelling and entertaining production.

Advertisement for 'The Old Girl' drama, continuing the description of the plot and the cast. Discusses the production's success and the audience's reception. Mentions the management's plans for future performances and the overall quality of the theatrical experience.

Advertisement for 'The Old Girl' drama, focusing on the cast members and their roles. Provides details about the production's logistics, including ticket prices and showtimes. Expresses confidence in the production's ability to captivate the audience.

Advertisement for 'The Old Girl' drama, concluding the promotional text. Reiterates the key selling points of the production, such as the star power and the dramatic quality. Encourages the audience to attend the show and enjoy the theatrical experience.

Advertisement for the Metropolitan Opera House. Promotes the performance of 'The Circus Clown' by Wilbur Opera Co. with Marion Manola. Includes details about the show, the cast, and the theater's location. The ad uses persuasive language to attract patrons to the performance.

Advertisement for 'The Old Girl' drama, providing a detailed synopsis of the plot. Describes the main characters and the central conflict of the story. Highlights the dramatic elements and the emotional depth of the production.

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