

PRESIDENT OF PARAGUAY.

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ASUNCION, Jan. 2.—Let me introduce you to the president of Paraguay. I have had a talk with him in his palace in the city of Asuncion. His office is in a magnificent building above the Paraguay river. It is a palace which would not be out of place among the royal residences of Potsdam, near Berlin. It would be in the same style as the Vienna, London or Washington. It is an immense structure of two stories, with walls so covered with stucco that they resemble white marble, and the tower like that of a cathedral rising from its center. It has wide galleries or arcades about the greater part of it, and its porticoes are upheld by Ionic pillars. It is in the heart of the sea in a straight line as New York is distant from Chicago, and by the route you must travel over the Rio de la Plata, the Parana and the Paraguay river, as far from the Atlantic as is our own city of Omaha. The palace was built by the tyrant and despotic Paraguayan war with the Argentine republic, Uruguay and Brazil. Lopez was living in it during the war, and his enemies almost battered it to pieces with their guns. Since then it has been repaired, and it now contains the offices of the president and his government.

A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT.

The president's name is Juan B. Eguisquiza. He is one of the practical business men of Paraguay. If you saw him on the streets of New York you might take him for one of the millionaires of the city, and you would certainly think him a man of importance. He is, I judge, about fifty years of age, and in features and form he resembles quite a number of the millionaires of the city. He has the same practical ideas which sparkle in the conversation of Mr. Foster, and the same enthusiastic hope for the future for all things about him. He tells me that in the reception room of the palace that I met him. Our American consul, Mr. John Ruffin, introduced me. Mr. Ruffin is a colored man from Tennessee. He has a complexion as light as that of the average Paraguayan, and he has put to his time since his appointment that he was able to act as interpreter in the talk with the president. The president says that Paraguay is rapidly regaining its former population. It has now almost as many people as before its terrible war. He estimates that Paraguay has now 700,000 inhabitants, but says that it could support seven million. He tells me that Paraguay is anxious to have immigrants, and that there is a good chance here for those who have small capital and wish to own good homes. I asked President Eguisquiza as to titles and the security of property. He replied that the titles were as good here as in the United States, and that foreign property is entirely secure. He said there would be no tampering with foreign estates by the government, and that every foreigner would have equal rights with Paraguayans. I asked him where would be the best places for investments in Paraguay. He replied that the country was an undeveloped empire, and that it had large areas of natural pasture which were especially fitted for cattle raising. These, he said, could be bought at low prices. He also referred to the chances for making money in manufacturing, and asked me to tell our people that it would pay them to come out and look the ground over. He seemed glad of a chance to have his country better known in the United States, and asked me to wait a few moments while he dictated letters for me to the heads of our government departments, and to prominent business men. These letters I have since used, and through them have secured the best and latest data upon the different matters of interest. One of my most intelligent informants has been the secretary of state, Senor Jose Decoud. Mr. Decoud speaks English, German and Spanish. He has traveled over all parts of Paraguay, and has published a number of books concerning it. He is largely interested in the United States, and his library contains more North American than you will find in the library of any of our cabinet ministers at home. I spent one afternoon with him at his residence in the suburbs of Asuncion. His house has only one story, but it must cover about a quarter of an acre of ground, and the ceilings of it are about twenty feet high. Its gardens are filled with tropical plants, and it is, all told, one of the most comfortable

able and delightful homes I have visited in South America.

PARAGUAYAN LANDS.

As a result of these talks, and also from my travels through a large part of the country, I judge that there must soon be a decided increase in the value of Paraguayan lands. The best parts of South America are being absorbed more rapidly than we think. The Argentine and Uruguay have but little good government land left. Real estate has gone up in the countries south of here, and today cheap lands for stock raising are limited. I doubt whether there is much wild pasture in Paraguay that is not owned by some one, but the lands are still low. The grass is green here all the year round. There is water everywhere, and the cattle need but little care except at the times of the annual round-ups. Every year the marketable stock is picked out and driven to Asuncion for

are large, but so far the cattle upon them are of a low grade. They do not compare with those of the Argentine or Uruguay, and the money made is not through careful management nor good breeding, but purely on account of the rich lands and fine climate. I am told that the natural increase of the stock is from 25 to 35 percent annually as to the number of animals, and from 80 to 90 percent as to the number of cows. Cattle are now worth in the neighborhood of \$10 a head, although good fat heaves will bring more at the markets. It is estimated that the country will support eight times as many cattle as it now has. The estimate is that a square mile of pasture will maintain 250 cattle and that a square league will feed 1,500 grown heaves.

HOW LAND IS SOLD.

Land in Paraguay is sold by the square league. A Paraguayan league contains 5,760 acres, or almost 1,000 acres less than a square league of the Argentine Republic. Land sells all the way from \$100 gold upward per league. There is little good land that can be had at the lowest price, for at that it would bring less than two cents an acre. But I have seen what I am told is fair grazing land sold at \$700 a league, and there are times when you can buy fairly good pasture for less than this. Such land requires only fencing to make usable. The cattle upon it might be herded without fencing but this would throw it open to

Ayres is only 1,115 miles. You would think that all the lumber of the Rio de la Plata basin would come from Paraguay. Still it does not. Why? Because it costs too much to get the woods down the river. These woods are almost all hard. They are as heavy as iron, and when you put a log on the water it sinks to the bottom. There is no means of getting them from the interior to the river except upon the railroad where freights are high or upon carts or on boats on the little streams which are tributaries of the Paraguay. Lumber carriage is all paid for by the pound, and the freights cut the profits off of the business. Labor is low, as far as daily wages is concerned, but as measured by results, it is high. The men are lazy and inefficient. There is no machinery. The logs are sawed out by hand, one man standing on top and another below. The most of the trees are crooked, and it is almost impossible to get a straight log.

SALABLE WOODS.

And still some kinds of the woods are wonderfully beautiful. Quebracho Colorado is as red as the dark moss rose. It is used for dye wood and tanning, and there is a German firm that is shipping a large amount of it to the United States. The best of it comes from the west bank of the Paraguay river, from what is called the Paraguayan chaco. This wood is also used for railroad ties. It brings about



HOME OF AMERICAN CONSUL RUFFIN, ASUNCION, PARAGUAY.

sale. There is a demand for the meat as well as the hides. Paraguay has about two million cattle. It has three for every man, woman and child in the country, but it does not raise enough meat for its own consumption. These people eat beef steaks. They eat the meat fresh and they do not eat it when it is dried and salted. As you ride through the country you see strips of meat hanging upon poles and swaying to and fro in the breeze as the red flannel shirts of our washings sway to and fro in the United States. The refrigerators of the South American countries. The meat is not kept in cold storage, but it is dried by the warm air and the sun, and when it is as hard as the bone in it it is laid away for future consumption. Dried beef is one of the chief exports of this part of the world. I will bring you all the markets of the South American countries than fresh meat, and it is the only kind of meat that will keep. Beef treated in the ordinary way spoils after a day, and the regulations for many of the markets are such that it must be thrown away. Dried beef or jerked beef is used for steaks. It is cooked with rice, potatoes and mandiocca, and every one uses it.

FORTUNES IN STOCK RAISING.

So far there has been no business of this kind to speak of in Paraguay. The countries of Uruguay and the Argentine make fortunes by shipping dried meat to Brazil and the West India Islands. Here the money comes chiefly from the sale of cattle on foot and from their hides. About 100,000 hides are exported from Paraguay every year. They are sent down the rivers to Buenos Ayres and thence many of them are shipped to the United States.

As to stock farms, the most of them

and is not considered advisable. I would say, however, that no purchase should be made by our people without personal investigation. The man who thinks of putting his money in Paraguay should come here and study the conditions. He should not buy without seeing the land, as there are large swamps in some parts of the country and the rainy season covers such lands with water.

FORESTS OF PARAGUAY.

The forests of Paraguay are full of fine woods. I believe they offer good chances for investment, but still the wheels of Dame Fortune's lumber cars in South America are clogged with natural difficulties, which can only be understood by those upon the ground. There is a big demand for lumber in all the South American countries. I found Oregon pine at all the ports of the west coast, and our Maine pine comes to Brazil, Uruguay, the Argentine and goes even around through the Strait of Magellan. This pine is carried a distance of more than 8,000 miles by ship to the Buenos Ayres markets. Here in Paraguay the forests are right on the river with a water communication as good as that of the Mississippi between them and the markets, and the distance from here to Buenos

gold a tie in Buenos Ayres, and this, I am told, leaves a profit of 33 cents a tie.

WILL BREAK AN AX.

Another very hard wood is the legacho, which is also used for railroad purposes. It is so hard that it will turn the edge of a steel ax. This is a very sound wood, not prone to crack and of great strength. It is of a greenish yellow color, and some varieties of it have a curl in it like the bird's eye maple. It brings good prices. Legacho would make very good furniture wood, and so would many of the other hard woods of Paraguay. The black and red palms, for instance, would be valuable for veneering, for they take a high polish and are wonderfully durable. They will last for years underground and in the water and are exceedingly hard. I should think that an American furniture factory established in Paraguay would pay well. The country now imports its furniture from Germany, Austria and the United States. Both Uruguay and Paraguay get the most of their furniture from the same sources, and the prices of all such things are remarkably high. I saw American school desks being landed from a ship at one of the towns of lower Paraguay. American desks and chairs are in demand all over South America, but owing to their high prices are not generally used.

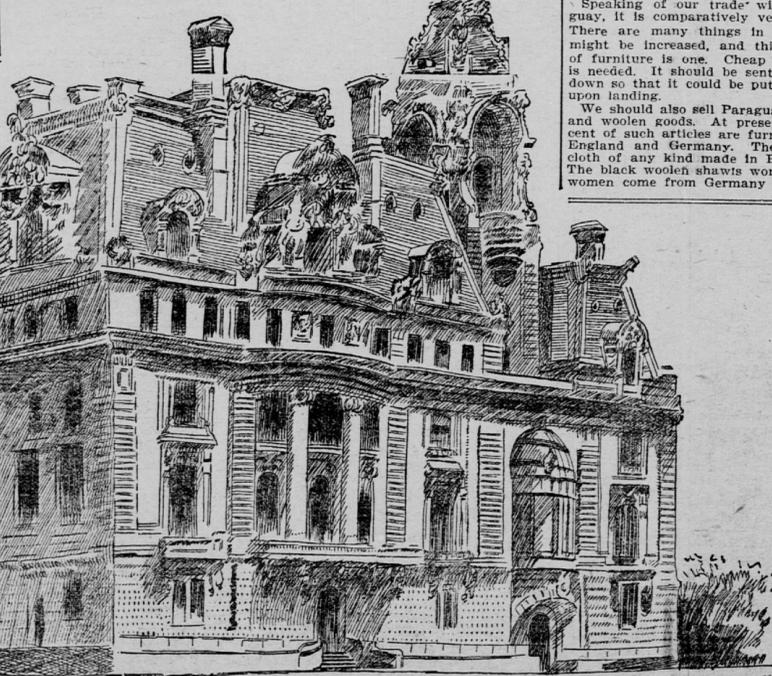
Paraguay has a very good cedar, much like that of our cigar boxes, which could be used for making of furniture. A similar wood is the timbo, found in South Paraguay. It has a grain much like the cedar and grows to great height. It is very light, the Indians using it for troughs and canoes.

AMERICAN TRADE.

Speaking of our trade with Paraguay, it is comparatively very small. There are many things in which it might be increased, and this matter of furniture is one. Cheap furniture is needed. It should be sent knocked down so that it could be put together up and standing.

We should also sell Paraguay cotton and woolen goods. At present 85 percent of such articles are furnished by England and Germany. There is no cotton in Paraguay, and the wool is the black woolen shawls worn by the women come from Germany and Bel-

Advertisement for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. The ad features a large illustration of a man and a woman, and text describing the benefits of the pills for indigestion, heart issues, and general weakness. It includes a testimonial about a case of heart failure and a list of symptoms like 'Bad Digestion, Bad Heart' and 'Does your stomach distress you after eating?'



THE HOUSE TO BE BUILT FOR SENATOR-ELECT W. A. CLARK, AT SEVENTY-SEVENTH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The palace of white granite which is now in course of construction for William A. Clark, United States senator-elect from Montana, will rival any of the superb private dwellings in this city of marble and magnificent homes. In cost it will equal the Vanderbilt palace. In cost it will surpass it. It is said, any of the fine private residences in New York. About \$5,000,000 will be expended on the building, and when the architect has stepped into it Mr. Clark will find about him surroundings that are usually associated with royalty. For years the rich Montana man has dreamed of just such a gorgeous frame for his treasures of brush and chisel, and in his new home the art galleries will be the motive and main spring of his creation of domestic architecture.

An L strip at the rear 68.8 feet wide and 50 feet deep. Outwardly the Clark mansion will be in the modern Louis XIV. style, beloved by architects because of its pliancy and its opportunities for novelty and creation. The principal facade will be on Seventy-seventh street, of course, and there will be a subordinate entrance and porte-cochere on the avenue side. On that side will be Mr. Clark's offices and a billiard room on the ground floor. This floor will also contain a spacious reception room, the culinary department, and other service rooms. The grand staircase will rise from this floor.

On the first floor above the low ground floor will be Mr. Clark's picture and sculpture galleries. These will make the two largest halls in the house. In the stately hall the space is cut through to the story above, presenting the appearance of a lofty lobby, the spaces of which are crowded with a dome. The dining hall will also be located on this landing, and when occasion requires the entire floor can be thrown into one so that it will present a grand vista, 180 feet in length, with a conservatory at the further

end. The staircase, leading north, is illuminated by cathedral windows. All the Fifth avenue pavilion will be occupied by the saloon, which is designed to be 32 feet wide and 48 feet long. Light will be furnished by cunningly concealed electric bulbs in cornice and ceiling. Connected with the saloon and the dining room, on the Seventy-seventh street side, will be a petit salon opening into the hall of sculpture. The picture gallery, upon which the architects have spent most of their time, will be the central piece of the first floor architecture. It will be 25 feet in height and is so arranged that it can be used as an auditorium or theater. The stage is 16 feet in height and the L and will be equipped with all the necessary mechanical apparatus of a first-class play-house.

rum, and the cottons are chiefly from England. There is no reason why they should not come from our mills. It is the same with hardware. The most now sold is German, although it is made after American patterns, and certain classes of articles sold under American trademarks. The impression obtains everywhere that the American hardware is the best. For this reason the Germans state it. It is the same with sewing machines. The German imitations of the American makes being actively pushed. I find the Germans here, everywhere, the most active commercial element. They have several large stores in Asuncion, and they send their travelers to the towns of the interior. The business with Paraguay is done through Buenos Ayres. We have no direct connection with the merchants of Asuncion, and have to buy the Argentine goods on all our trade. If there was an American bank at Buenos Ayres with a branch here, it would materially help matters and the bank branch would pay well. One Paraguayan importer tells me that he is selling a great deal of American goods. He says that credits are not at all bad, and cites as an instance that in his business he has lost only \$500, and much of this he expects to collect.

STOCK COMPANIES. I don't know that much money could be made by stock companies in Paraguay. A gas plant and an electric street car plant or an electric light plant might pay in Asuncion. The city has thirty thousand people, and still uses coal oil. A concession might be gotten for electricity, and the street car lines which are now doing a fair business might pay with electric cars. Coal, however, is high, and the cost of generating the electricity would be great. Notwithstanding the large forests, the firewood of Asuncion is sold in little bundles at the markets. A bundle costs five cents and the average housekeeper buys her wood from day to day and carries it home along with her vegetables and meat.

Paraguay has, I am told, good tobacco and cotton lands, and plantations for raising these articles might be established were it not that there is no labor to work them. The Paraguayans do not care to work. They are poor enough, but they despise over it. They receive very fair wages for this continent. The Paraguayan dollar is only worth fifteen cents. It often falls below that, and it rises and falls every week. As to wages, bricklayers get five of these dollars a day, carpenters the same, and common workmen about three. Track layers on the railroads are paid about \$5.00, engineers receive \$50 a month and conductors are paid \$120. The apparently high wages of the engineers comes from the fact that they are usually foreigners, and have to manage the machinery. Collecting tickets is not skilled labor, and hence the conductors are Paraguayans. As to the wages of business servants receive from \$2 to \$3 a month in gold and board.

AMERICANS IN PARAGUAY. I doubt whether there are twenty Americans all told in Paraguay. I have already spoken of our consul. He is Mr. John Ruffin, from Memphis, Tenn. He is a well-educated man and with the government. He is very proud, among other things, of having established the consulate in a two-story house, of which there are not a great many in Asuncion. He is married to a Paraguayan lady, and has several children. There are two American dentists in Asuncion, one of whom is Dr. H. C. Bishop, of California, and the other Dr. Piagg, of New York. Dr. Piagg has been in Asuncion for years, and has, I am told, made a considerable money. He has a pleasant home on the outskirts of the city and is much re-

spected, as, indeed, is the case with all the Americans. A very important part of the American colony is made up of missionaries. These are of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have two very good schools in Asuncion, one for boys and the other for girls. I would say in closing this letter that the Methodists have done more in South America in the way of education than any of our Christian denominations. They have taken the continent as one of their chief fields of work and have established modern schools in Peru, Chile, the Argentine, Paraguay and Brazil. Their system of education is much respected by the natives, and the children of the best families of the above countries are under their tuition. —Frank G. Carpenter.

MRS. WILMERDING NEXT To Join the Ranks of Society People on the Stage. NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Another society woman is to be seen in the glare of the footlights. The time is Mrs. "Jack" Wilmerding, who recently got out of an asylum, thanks largely to the efforts of her friend, Mrs. "Jack" Bloodgood. Mrs. Bloodgood finds the stage much more to her liking than she found society. What more natural, then, that she should persuade her old friend, Mrs. Wilmerding, to follow her example?

Mrs. Bloodgood made her first appearance last winter under Charles Frohman's direction in "The Conquerors," at the Empire. She has improved considerably since then, and is now playing acceptably the part originated by Ethel Barrymore in "Catharine." The story is that Mrs. Wilmerding will make her debut as an actress under the management of the Liebler company in support of James O'Neill in "The Three Musketeers," at the Broadway theater on March 13, playing a part of minor importance.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Inquiry Into Loss of 200,000 Pounds of Army Beef. WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The board appointed to fix the responsibility for the loss of 200,000 pounds of beef furnished the forces in the Porto Rican expedition has not concluded the receipt of testimony and has not yet framed its conclusions. Capt. Scherer, recorder for the board, said today that it would be two weeks before any report would be ready, as the board was awaiting important testimony in re-

sponse to the series of questions sent out by it to officers and others connected with the expedition. Until the answers are received it will be impossible to reach conclusions. It was learned this afternoon that the court has practically determined to visit the packing houses in Western cities from which beef was furnished. The pilgrimage will take in Chicago, South Omaha, Kansas City and perhaps St. Louis.

Some of the officers, whose reports Gen. Miles has placed with the court, are now in the Philippines. Their testimony will not be sought. Of course they could not be ordered here, and the taking of their depositions would be attended with too much delay and inconvenience. It was pointed out by a member of the court that their testimony would be cumulative, and, therefore, really unnecessary, since it would be in accord generally with what would come from officers who are accessible.

The depositions of a number of officers now in Cuba will be taken. The court has generally determined to hold tomorrow morning and resume behind closed doors, the work of mapping out the plan of procedure and preparing the list of witnesses to be summoned.

PROMPTED BY JEALOUSY. Motive Suggested for an Alleged Murder. GARDNER, Me., Feb. 18.—Bradford Knight has been arrested on a charge of murdering his sister-in-law, Miss Mamie Small, in this city last evening.

Miss Small was met and instantly killed as she was walking on the street. It is alleged that Knight was very jealous of the girl, who had repelled his advances. Knight is 44 years of age. Miss Small was 22 years old.

Disagreeable February: The discomforts of this month can be escaped by taking advantage of the winter excursions of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad to one of the many pleasant resorts of the South. This line offers unsurpassed facilities for reaching the cities of the South, the winter resorts of the beautiful Gulf Coast of Florida, the Catskills, etc. of the West Indies. Write C. P. Atmore, General Passenger Agent, Louisville, Ky., for folders descriptive of Florida or the Gulf Coast.

Gen. Miller Took Hoile. Travelers looking for comfort take the Wisconsin Central Line train when going to Chicago, Milwaukee, or the East. City Ticket Office, 313 Robert street.

An innovation. The new Ordinary sleeping cars on the Baltimore & Ohio, giving passengers a comfortable night's rest at one-half the usual cost of sleeping car service. For detailed information regarding these cars, address R. C. Hays, D. P. A., St. Paul, or D. N. Austin, G. P. A., Chicago, Ill.

Advertisement for Hamm's St. Paul Beer. The ad features a large illustration of a man drinking beer and text that says 'HAMM'S ST. PAUL BEER' and 'Theo. Hamm Brewing Co. Tel. 973.' It includes a testimonial: 'If I drink it now I won't have it tomorrow and if I wait until tomorrow I can't drink it now.' The ad ends with 'The Last Bottle.'