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See notice below.

The Montevideo Times

ESTABLISHED 1888

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONTEVIDEO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1908.

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The Montevideo Times

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On account of our early hour of going to press it is specially requested that any notices or advertisements intended for publication on the following day be delivered at our office not later than 4.30 p. m.

The Montevideo Times

MONTEVIDEO, JANUARY 10, 1908.

1907.

RETROSPECT—II.

(Continued from our last)

Public Debt.

No new Debt was created during the year, nor is there any in immediate prospect, but there were emitted \$3,357,000 in bonds of the Conversion Loan created in 1906, for application to the Port Works, war indemnities and other special purposes to which that Loan was assigned, and also \$85,455 in Amortizable Debt. During the year \$2,581,025 of Debt was redeemed in ordinary process. This left the public debt of the country on December 31 at \$128,137,354, an increase of \$861,419 on the previous year. (These figures are not official and are open to correction.)

Customs Revenue.

Though the exact results for December are not yet known, the Customs Revenue for the year will be about \$13,200,000, or some \$400,000 more than the record figures of \$12,746,439 attained in 1906. This favorable result would have been still better, had there not been a falling off in the last three or four months, for during the first part of the year the tendency was one of steady increase. Even so, the result is a very satisfactory one, and fulfills all reasonable expectations. The increase in the Customs Revenue in the years 1905 and 1906 was unusually rapid, and it would have been extravagant to expect its repetition. For the new year we think that it would be safer to anticipate a decrease.

The Budget.

Owing to the Government not having assumed office until March, it was not able to present its Budget for 1907-8 until the end of September, though the financial year commences on July 1st. This Budget showed an estimated expenditure of \$20,257,462, an increase of \$949,756 on that sanctioned for 1906-7. The revenue is estimated at \$44,275 more, but the estimate, especially as regards the Customs receipts, is delibately done with the purpose of being able to proclaim another surplus at the end of the financial year, but circumstances are already showing that the step was a judicious one, for it is not improbable that there may be a decrease in the revenue. In any case the Budget must not be regarded as a complete and comprehensive statement of the national revenue and expenditure, for there are many important items on both sides—mostly special resources and assignments—that are systematically omitted. If these were all tabulated, they would increase the Budget by between four and five million dollars.

The new Budget has already been reported upon, with less delay than usual, by the Budget Committee of Representatives, but the Report has not been published and it is doubtful when it will be discussed, for the Chamber is shortly to be dissolved. Meanwhile the Budget sanctioned last January for 1906-7 continues in force, though it has already been considerably modified by various legislative grants and acts. The probability is that the Budget for 1907-8 will be withdrawn to make room for a new one for 1908-9. Though the Budget here is supposed to be annual, its presentation and sanction are always matters of complete uncertainty and irregularity, and in fact it is little more than a tiresome formality, for it is perpetually being added to or altered, and at no moment is it a complete and accurate expression of the national revenue and expenditure.

Judicial Reform.

After the Governments and Chambers have dallied with the question for many years, the first practical step has at last been taken towards that judicial reform which has long been recognized as one of the greatest national necessities.

This step was the creation of the High Court of Justice, which was requisite to make complete the Judicial Power of the nation, and to bestow upon it a greater independence and higher authority than it had hitherto possessed. The six Judges selected to form the Court are men of undoubted ability and high character, whose nomination has been very well received, and they promptly expressed their determination to employ their ample powers for the reform and improvement of the administration of justice, the unsatisfactory conditions of which are admitted by all. The High Court was constituted on December 19, with great public pomp and ceremony, and it lost no time in taking its first step, which was the complete reorganization of the Judicial Power, from the Tribunals of Appeal down to the lower or primary Courts. The opportunity was taken to eliminate certain Judges whose character or proceedings were notoriously unsatisfactory, and the new list of Judges has created an excellent impression, giving real hopes that, so far as the defective laws and antiquated modes of procedure will permit, the course of justice will run more smoothly, more promptly, and with fewer scandals and miscarriages than has been the case in the past. This, however, is only the first step. The revision of the Codes, which in many respects are incomplete and out of date, the reduction of the heavy charges, and the reform of the exceedingly antiquated and tedious modes of procedure, are other steps which the High Court is expected to undertake, but this will be a task of time, perhaps extending over many years, and requiring the cooperation of the Chambers, whose action in such matters is generally slow and hesitating, it being difficult to induce the legislators to interest themselves in legal reforms. The greatest need of the country in this direction is the adoption of viva-voce public trial in place of the present system of secret trial by written pleadings, a system that is slow, costly, exceedingly unsatisfactory, open to innumerable abuses, and in many respects contrary to the principal ends and objects of justice. While this system maintains the administration of justice, no matter how upright and well-intentioned the Judges, can never be really sound and satisfactory. Whether the High Court will have the courage and energy to undertake so radical a reform as this, a reform which no South American country has yet attempted (it is a point in which practically the whole of South America is completely behind the times) is more than we can say, but there can be no question of its necessity and of the great advantage it would prove to public interests.

Anyhow, although there is still a great deal to be done before judicial reform is complete, a very satisfactory start has at last been made, and the constitution of the High Court of Justice deserves to be placed on record as one of the most important events of the year, and one which should produce good results in the early future.

The action of the Chambers during the past year has not been remarkably brilliant, nor has it served to remove the indifferent impression which we recorded twelve months ago. As before, they have principally distinguished themselves by their dilatoriness and inactivity—no quorums and count-outs were never so frequent—their indifference to public opinion, and their lack of independent spirit. The idea that the Chambers should be an independent body, representative of the will of the people, and not of the will of a faction or of a single man; that they should employ effective and authoritative control over the acts of the Executive; and that they, far more than the Executive, should shape and determine the public policy, is one that still seems to be practically absent in this country; and the consequence is that the Chambers exercise little more than a consultative rôle in public affairs, and do not fill the important part allotted to them by the Constitution and played by the parliaments in other countries. The present Chambers are no worse than their predecessors in this respect—perhaps slightly better than some—the fault is really generic, the result of a long period during which the Chambers were openly regarded as a dependency of the Executive, mainly useful for the confirmation of the President's will, and with a constant invisible majority practically nominated by the President himself. This state of affairs keeps the country far removed from representative government in the real sense of the term, and is in no way healthy, but the country has hardly yet known anything different, and there will have to be radical change both in the electoral practices and in the ideas of the majority of the legislators themselves, before the Chambers become a genuinely representative and independent institution.

Apart from the measures to which we make separate reference, we may mention the following among the Acts sanctioned during the year:—Concession for electric light in Durazno; Reduction of duties on volatile oils for motive power; Creation of 150 new rural schools; authorization of a general Census; concession for building a port at Pirápolis; creation of night schools for adults; creation of an Immigrants' Hotel; creation of the Naval School; and numerous grants or additional assignments for public works, exhibitions, pensions, etc.

The present Chamber of Representatives is on the point of being dissolved, having nearly run its three years term. We do not think that it will carry many regrets with it, nor is it any satisfaction to know that the large majority in the new Chamber will be composed of practically the same elements as in the last.

to know that the large majority in the new Chamber will be composed of practically the same elements as in the last.

Elections.

General elections for the renewal of the Chamber of Representatives and of the Municipal and Electoral Boards took place throughout the Republic at the end of November. They were effected in perfect order and with complete respect for the outward formalities of the law. Unfortunately that is all that can be said in their favor, for the result has proved very unsatisfactory to public opinion and leaves the country with one of the most unrepresentative Chambers that it has ever known. By the Electoral Reform Act passed a few months previously, the number of Deputies was increased to 87, a fresh distribution of seats among the Departments was made, and the minority party was allotted one-third or one-fourth of the representation on condition of casting a similar proportion of the total votes. By this means it was hoped that the minority would obtain representation in every Department, though two-thirds of the total representation was still carefully preserved for the official party. Unfortunately the new Directorate of the nationalists or opposition, adopted a policy that caused a radical division in the party, leading many to abstain from voting at all and others to split or throw away their votes. The result was fatal, for the nationalist party only obtained 14 seats. In Montevideo, which elects 24 Deputies, it remains entirely unrepresented, and the same has also happened in several other Departments. The official party will thus have a five-sixths majority in the new Chamber, and that majority composed almost exclusively of the followers of ex-President Baile, to whose wire pullers and agents President Williams left the control of the elections and the nomination of candidates, though the country—which is very tired of the domination of the Baile faction—would have forgiven, and perhaps even have applauded him if he had exercised his influence (as has been done by every President previously) for the election of men of his own choice and of less radical and absolute tendencies.

This is the result that has disappointed and even alarmed the country. A Chamber thus constituted does not even remotely express the public opinion of the country, and that, in this part of the world, always constitutes a menace to public peace. Apart from that, it is felt that with such a Chamber, public and legislative interests are not safe, and the lack of the moderating and controlling action of an effective opposition—nowhere more necessary than here, where the opposition is generally the only champion of conservative interests and defender of public rights and liberties—will be a serious loss to the whole country. In fact, in many ways, upon which we will not enlarge, the situation created is a serious one and gives rise to uncomfortable apprehensions.

Two things in special have been illustrated by the elections—the distance which this country still remains from genuine democratic practices, and the unjust working of electoral laws which enable a lower electoral coefficient on the part of the majority to elect, where a higher coefficient on the part of the opposition fails. It is calculated that two-thirds of the voters registered in the Republic abstained from voting, which in itself is an unhealthy sign. Of the total votes cast, the officialists had only two-thirds, but gained five-sixths of the seats, clear proof of the unjust working of the laws. Even on the side of the «colorados», the party in power, abstention was very general, and the voting was mainly done by voters under direct control of the authorities, while there was also a large amount of spurious voting and personification. We regret to have to report these things, for they reveal the country in one of its worst and most backward aspects, but they cannot well be overlooked, nor can they be omitted as an important part of the year's history. The statesman who, from a place of authority, will initiate their reform and make republican institutions a reality, so that the people can exercise the sovereignty bestowed on them by the Constitution, has yet to make his appearance.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

MONTEVIDEO.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1908.

Saints Nicanor and William. — 10 days past, 356 to the end of the year.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Senators sat on Wednesday. The License Tax for the capital was discussed summarily, without being submitted to Committee and was approved without amendment, including the clauses relative to the Insurance Companies.—Discussion was then resumed of the purchase of the «Dogali», giving rise to an agitated debate that was prolonged until 9 p. m. There was a preliminary tussle over the question whether the discussion should be secret or public, it finally being decided that the report of the technical commission should be read in secret. This having been done, public proceedings were resumed. Dr. B. Rocca moved that the matter be treated summarily. Sr. C. Travieso and Dr. C. Lenzi strongly opposed this, saying that there was not the least motive for urgency and the affair

was too important to dispense with the usual procedures and the advice of Committee. It was not even an international question, but merely the purchase of a «cachivache» (slang word applied to any worn-out, worthless and rubbishy article). The motion was approved by 9 votes to six. Dr. Lenzi then proposed that the report and other documents should be published, so that the public would not be under any false impression. This was opposed by Dr. Arco and others of the officialist party, and, negatively, Discussion of the main point being resumed, another attempt, but unsuccessful, was made to maintain secrecy on the plea that the debate could not proceed without reference to the secret documents. Dr. Arco sustained that the purchase was a great bargain, and that the vessel would be most useful for training purposes and, when lightened of her guns, could explore all the coasts of the Republic. Sr. Travieso declared that even if the «Dogali» were new and given for nothing she would still be dear, as her type was completely out of date. No training of a vessel could be given on board such a vessel, she was worthless as a war unit, was notoriously in bad condition, and could not navigate the rivers. It was not by spending money on such a worthless vessel that the formation of a navy could be initiated. After some further discussion in which strong opinions were expressed on both sides, the purchase was put to the vote and was approved by 8 votes to 6. It was decided to suppress the second reading, and the Senate then adjourned. The voting was as follows:—Ayes, Sres. Arco, Iglesias, Espalter, Arco, Magariños Vaira, Pons, Olivera and E. Lenzi; Noes, Sres. Campesguay, C. Lenzi, Ros, Tacorais, Berro and Travieso.

The great «Dogali» question is thus settled, and in a few days we may expect to see the Uruguayan flag at her masthead in place of the Italian. It is not easy to congratulate the country on the purchase. According to the assertions made by responsible legislators, and neither contradicted nor disproved, the «Dogali» is an entirely out of date vessel, in very defective condition, quite useless for any purpose, and only fit to be broken up. Why the Government and the officialist majority in the Chambers should be so insistent on her purchase, and why they should pretend that the affair is urgent, are mysteries for which at present there is no explanation. The worst of it is that the purchase money, \$94,000, is only the first and least of a series of expenditures which will be involved in the affair. As we have said before, the impression of public opinion is distinctly unfavorable, and some suggestions are even being made which we would be sorry to repeat. The Chambers have not added to their prestige by their attitude in the matter, and their resort to secret sittings in an affair that demanded the fullest publicity was most improper and out of place. The only ones who come out of the affair with credit are the opposition, and this may be regarded as another proof of how very necessary to public interests in this country is a strong and vigorous parliamentary opposition.

It will also be noted that the Senate has approved the new clauses in the License Tax relative to the Insurance Companies. This was done summarily, practically without discussion, and even without reference to Committee. This way of treating serious and far-reaching business interests hardly recommends itself, but it is nothing new here. The exact text of the new clauses still remains unknown, but we suppose they will see the light when the new tax is promulgated, as it now will be very shortly.

It was announced yesterday that there is some intention of reviving the Interior or Mediterranean Railway Scheme. This is a scheme for a railway crossing the Republic in the middle in nearly a straight line from south to north, that is to say from Colonia to San Luis on the Brazilian frontier in the Dept. of Rivera, the total length being 582 kilometres, or over 360 miles. The original concession for this line was held, so far as our memory serves, some fifteen years ago or more, by Messrs. Collett (an English engineer) and J. J. Castro, the latter afterwards Minister of Fomento in the Borda Government. Sr. Castro died some eight or nine years ago, and Mr. Collett left the country more than twelve years ago, nor can we say if he is still alive. No attempt was ever made to carry out the scheme, and the concession has long since lapsed. Whether the original concessionaires are still represented here, or whether the scheme (which involves heavy capital expenditure) has found new promoters, is more than we can say, but we know that some very elaborate and complete plans and estimates were prepared, for we well remember inspecting them more than once in Messrs. Collett and Castro's offices. For the present this is all the information we can give about the affair, but we suppose more will transpire shortly. According to the «Siglo», it is already under consideration of the Ministry of Public Works. If the new railway is undertaken, it will be an enterprise hardly second to the Central Uruguay Railway in importance. We believe that a scheme for building a port at Colonia forms part of the enterprise.

With regard to the increased light dues charged against river steamers, the Minister of Public Works has explained that the defect lies, not in the «regulating» Decree, but in the text of the

Act as passed by the Chamber, in which no distinction was made between ocean and river steamers (i. e. steamers trading solely between Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay). The consequence is that the river steamers which formerly paid only 1 cent per ton for light dues, now have to pay 3 cents, the same as ocean steamers. This increase was certainly never intended, and the Minister has promised to take steps to remedy it, though he points out that in Argentina no distinction is made between ocean and river steamers. The affair is obviously a case of bungling legislation and careless drafting, and does not say much for the Chambers after having had the matter under consideration for nearly ten months. Careless or imperfect drafting of the laws is nothing unusual here.

A contemporary credits the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sr. Bachi, with the intention of reforming the monstrous Consular Law and Tariff inflicted in the country by his predecessor Dr. Romou. We sincerely hope this may prove the case, for such reform is very necessary.

LA MARCA CONOCIDA
EN EL MUNDO ENTERO
Whisky DEWAR

SUNDRIES.

—WEATHER.—Saltry again, with varied aspect. Change threatening.

—MAILS.—The P. S. N. Co's «Olivar», bringing London dates to December 21, is expected this afternoon, sailing for the West Coast early tomorrow.

—POLITEAMA THEATRE.—The program for this evening consists of «El Dinero y el Trabajo», «La Suerte Llena», «Los Veteranos» (novelty) and «La Tempranera».

—THOSE DREADFUL «PIRATES».—It is now reported that the alleged seal poachers seen near Coronilla have disappeared from sight.

—TIMES' POSTAL CARDS.—The well known establishment «El Maragato», Calle 25 de Mayo 324, now has on sale some pretty post-cards reproducing in miniature the front page of THE MONTVIDEO TIMES, the centre being occupied by a tinted photographic view of the city. Similar post-cards of other local papers may also be had. These are «made in Germany» and are a great improvement on some previous efforts in the same style.

SUBSCRIBER'S COPY.

NOTICE.—All copies of this paper issued for distribution to subscribers are stamped with the words «SUBSCRIBER'S COPY» in red ink, at the head of the front page. Copies thus stamped are not for sale, and if any copy thus stamped is offered for sale in the streets by newsboys or others, it has been stolen and should not be purchased.

CERVEZA NEGRA
MARCA
MEUX

LONDON NOTES.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11.

Speaking at Nottingham last night, Mr. Asquith said that with respect to free trade and protection, the differences between their opponents were supposed to have been healed, a satisfying formula having been provided, to which all sections might subscribe. But, as in the case of many other historical formulas, nobody precisely understood what this one meant. Mr. Balfour's latest utterance represented a series of desperate efforts to span an impassable chasm by a merely verbal bridge; but the truth was that free trade and protection remained what they had always been. Two years ago the electorate pronounced an unmistakable verdict on the matter, and experience in the interval had abundantly justified their decision. Our trade had increased all round, and after two generations' experience of free commerce Great Britain stood at the head of the world.

Mr. H. T. Eyo. K. C., has been appointed a Judge of the High Court, Chancery Division, in the place of the late Mr. Justice Kekewich. His appointment creates a vacancy in the parliamentary representation of the Ashburton Division of Devonshire.

Under Rugby Union rules, the annual match between Oxford and Cambridge Universities took place yesterday at Queen's Club, and was won by Oxford by a goal and four tries to nothing.

The annual meeting of cricket secretaries was held yesterday at Lord's, Mr. F. E. Lacey, secretary of M.C.C., presiding. Mr. Lacey referred to Mr. Ab Bailey's suggestion of an Imperial cricket tournament, and expressed the opinion

Friday, January 10, 1908.

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Análisis bacteriológicos

Conclusiones del doctor Felipe Solari, Director del Instituto de Higiene de la Facultad de Medicina:

El resultado del análisis bacteriológico de la muestra de agua recogida por este Instituto en la fuente “Acqua Vera”, sita en las Sierras del Verdu (Mina), ha demostrado que dicha agua es una agua muy pura del punto de vista bacteriológico. Montevideo, Noviembre 15 de 1904.—Dr. Solari.

Agua pura para la mesa ligeramente bicarbonatada cálcica, de las fuentes surgentes de las Sierras del Verdu (Mina).

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República Oriental

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Análisis químicos

Conclusiones del doctor J. Scoseria, Experto químico de los Tribunales y Catedrático de Química biológica de la Facultad de Medicina:

Por los datos que anteceden, la muestra de agua remitida por el señor Enrique Alexander, merecer ser clasificada higiénicamente como una agua muy pura, de excelente calidad. Montevideo, Diciembre 29 de 1904.—Dr. José Scoseria.

Conclusiones de los profesores José G. Guglielmotti y Víctor Coppetti, Catedráticos de Toxicología y de Materia Farmacéutica de la Facultad de Medicina:

De los datos que arroja el análisis, se desprende que el “Acqua Vera”, de las Sierras del Verdu (Mina), por su absoluta pureza y su débil mineralización, reúne excelentes condiciones higiénicas como agua para la alimentación y sobre todo como agua de mesa. Montevideo, Mayo 1.º de 1905.—Victor Coppetti, José G. Guglielmotti.

SHORT STORY

The Wilfulness

of Sadie Weston.

(Conclusion.)

“Don't say another word about it, or I shall scream,” she cried to Simon when he had entered her to remember that villains like Zaimis asked for just such a fate from the commencement of their career. It was the most merciful kind of end for them, because short.

She closed her eyes and thought. He had told her that from the first hearing of what had befallen he swore to get even with Zaimis for laying sacrilegious hands upon her. Chances had helped him almost miraculously.

The negotiations between the brigand and the Consul were, of course private, and meant to be so; but at their conclusion Simon had happened to see a memorandum of the affair on the Consul's desk, and being only human, the sight of her name had forced him to read every word of it. And so he had followed the gendarme as far as the tavern, and there the gendarme got an inkling of what was to develop. For her sake Simon had then made a circuit, laid in wait for the brute, as he prodded his booty into the mountains, and shot him, with no more scruple than if he was a bear. The removal of his head was a disagreeable but judicious subsequent detail. It meant no less than a million piastres to the man who by and by presented it to the authorities in Smyrna.

“We're halves in that, he and I,” Simon had said, nodding at the elated warrior by Alexis, the driver. “But I don't want a cent of it unless it brings me you with it, Sadie.”

“Don't speak to me!” she said. Sadie sat and thought while the car rocketed over stones and ruts.

It was a pretty sickly story, considered from one side only; but the more she thought the more urgent became certain memories of events in Kansas, which were in their way much worse.

“Won't you light your pipe?” she said, after a considerable time. She was beginning to feel sorry for him, sitting like that with his hands on his knees and nothing in his mouth—not even a tongue, so far as one could tell without testing him.

“I don't seem to want anything until—you know what,” Simon replied. “I'm not so knowing,” said she, “I don't know what.”

“Well, until I've got you, Sadie,” said he.

“H'm!” said Sadie. “You seem to want a good deal in one day, Mr. Sharp. If you keep that average of greediness up, you'll be wanting the sun about this time next year.”

“No,” said he, “I'll not. If I got you I'll want no sun and no moon, and precious little of the earth.”

Sadie smiled at that, as any girl would have done.

“My,” she whispered. “You've been practicing this last week. But I'm not through with my thinking yet. Take your pipe out of your pocket and play with it, anyway.”

His hands made an eager movement towards hers first.

“No,” she objected. “Play with it, I said, Mr. Sharp, I'm not a neuter.”

She sat very quiet after this, but a dimple established itself in her cheek. It was the cheek farther from Simon, however, and [so didn't] help him. It affected her mouth a little, but for the life of him he couldn't tell what new emotion was thus feeling its way on her sweet lips, this side. Was it the cruel mirth of a coquette, loathing of his blood-stained hands, or a sort of scorn for a mere clerk in an office enriched, Judas-like, by the price of blood?

But she soon now ended his painful probation.

They were swaying through a vast olive wood, a silver-grey trellis against the sapphire sky, and jolting badly. A worse than common jolt seemed to throw her at him. Her received her in his arms and restored her to equilibrium with a self-control and silence which were nothing less than heroic.

“Dad't you speak?” she asked afterwards, giving him her full face to look at.

“May I?” he retorted, and again his hands begged.

“Just tell me this,” said she. “You didn't shoot him in the back? You didn't do it in a crawling way?”

“No,” he replied stoutly. “I felt tempted, but I couldn't somehow do that, though I reckon he deserved it. I stood up about ten steps ahead of him. They'll find his own shooter in his hand up there—if they ever do find him. He'd time for that.”

“I'm glad,” said Sadie.

Her hand moved a little towards his, which met her more than half way, but it was the encouragement in her eyes which did everything for him.

“You'll love me!” he cried strenuously, as he held her hand and read her eyes.

“Well,” said she, “I'll tell you this. I think you're wasted in Europe, and there are boom openings round Tudorville for men like you, Simon.”

He drew her to him behind the back of the gendarme and Alexis, and kissed her willing lips.

“You're the best thing I've met in life, Sadie,” he whispered afterwards, “and Giovanni Zaimis is the next best.”

Nor did Sadie resent his bracketing of her thus with the brigand.

THE END.

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