

Great Cities of the World

BUENOS AYRES

Buenos Ayres, the capital of the Argentine Republic in South America, has a right to a place among the great cities of the world, for it has a population of more than 1,500,000 and is the terminus of nine railways, with one of the most complete tramway systems on the continent.

This city has not the picturesque environment that adds so much to the beauty of Rio de Janeiro, but it is a modern metropolis, with great manufacturing establishments, magnificent public buildings and fine streets. Its banks and clearing houses are said to transact as much business as those of Chicago.

The docks of Buenos Ayres are most impressive; they represent an outlay of \$50,000,000. Only fifteen years ago the visitor was bunched ashore in a small rowboat and deposited on a marshy beach. Now his vessel enters one of the numerous basins of the vast dock system and confronts row upon row of massive wharves, at the back of which spreads a network of railway lines, while in the background the public gardens, with their flowering bushes and stately, beautiful the approach to the city.

For mile after mile these docks stretch their length, flanked by a seemingly endless procession of great trans-Atlantic ships and up-river produce boats, broadside to the wharves, and without, lying at anchor in the river awaiting their turn for a berth, are many more; for this giant enterprise, these miles of brick and stone, with towering grain elevators and a veritable forest of powerful cranes, already fails entirely to satisfy present needs.

Not even the New York wharves with their vast commerce give such a picture of vivid bustle. The big German "Cap" boats—Cap Ortel, Cap Prio, and the rest; French, Spanish and Italian liners with automobiles and immigrants—always immigrants; New-castle freighters unloading bolted sections of steel bridges; up-river boats laden with yerba mate, or fragrant oranges from Paraguay, and the aristocrats of these seas, the royal mails from England—all contribute to making a busy scene.

On leaving the docks and driving up into the city, the visitor is at once impressed with the fact that Buenos Ayres is not wholly wrapped up in the purely material. It has broadened along more esthetic lines and is cultivating the graces of cosmopolitanism. In the newer parts, particularly in the fashionable suburb of Belgrano, the buildings and shaded boulevards and beautifully landscaped parks resemble rather those of Paris, although it is not behind big American cities in public utilities. Even in the business district there are no skyscrapers or elevated railroads to disturb the harmony of the architectural scheme; not even the usual promiscuous, blatant advertising posters are permitted to be displayed until they have been censored by the proper official, and when approved affixed to handsomely tinted and panelled billboards erected for the purpose. So keen, indeed, are the citizens to enhance the beauty of their city that a prize is offered each year for the handsomest structure to be erected. And yet, in the older parts, there is much that does not suffer by contrast; the occasional glimpses of blossoms and foliage one gets through doorways opening into the courtyards, or patios, of the old Spanish houses are most refreshing in the midst of so much that is modern.

With the exception of the stately Avenida de Mayo, running from the Plaza containing the Cathedral and government building to the new chambers of Congress, and the Avenida Alvear, leading from the main part of the city to Palermo Park, flanked with costly homes and interspersed with gardens and plazas that lend a wealth of verdure and flowers to the broad avenue, the streets are so narrow that in the business section vehicles are required by city ordinances to move in the same direction, down one street and up the next.

Buenos Ayres is not a city that calls for the usual precautions taken by travellers. All the creature comforts may be had here, although it must be confessed at a cost greatly in excess of prices familiar to North Americans. There are good physicians and dentists and no less than sixteen hospitals, one of which, the British hospital, is a magnificently equipped institution, and the one patronized by the American colony. There are modern asylums, splendid trains that carry passengers in thoroughly modern and well-served coaches to almost every part of the settled country, carriages, taxicabs, hotels, department stores and shops, and, appropriately bringing up the end of the procession of the capital's accommodations, the Recoleta Cemetery, the fashionable burying-ground, where the exhausted Portenos are finally laid to rest in miniature mortuary palaces of marble and much stained glass.

The climate is moist, and the tem-

perature is very high at times during the summer, while tropical thunderstorms or dust storms are not uncommon. The winter is comparatively mild, and frost seldom occurs.

THE POTATO

Everybody may think that he or she knows the potato, but a perusal of Pamphlet No. 2, issued by the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, upon the Solanum tuberosum, will convince the same he or she that there is much to learn. A reprint from The Agricultural Gazette, official mouthpiece of the Department, the pamphlet is a collection of articles of superlative worth. Introduced by a brief historical statement showing the place the potato occupies in the world's domestic economy, and especially that of Canada, by which it would appear that the crop is worth to this country upwards of \$41,500,000 a year, we are presented with a complete exposition of the cultivation of the tuber by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist. Mr. H. T. Gussow, Dominion Botanist, explains, first the diseases to which the potato is subject and how they can be controlled, and next, the results of inspection under the "Destructive Insect and Pest Act." Essays telling of potato production in each of the provinces by Secretary for Agriculture, Theodore Ross of Prince Edward Island; Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, F. L. Fuller, of Nova Scotia; Secretary of Agriculture, J. B. Daggett, of New Brunswick; Professor of Agronomy, Rev. H. Bon of Quebec; Prof. T. G. Bunting of Macdonald College; Prof. C. A. Zavitz of Ontario Agricultural College; Prof. J. Braekel of Saskatchewan; Deputy Minister of Agriculture, W. Newton of British Columbia, and the Secretary of The Canadian Seed Growers' Association, give weight and importance and the highest expert countenance to the reprint, which is made complete by a report telling how potato growing conditions are conducted in Manitoba, and by a table of the world's production for three years. This table shows Germany to be the greatest potato producing country, and also that, excepting in Canada and the United States, the production is everywhere on the decline. Everybody concerned in potato growing will be interested in this pamphlet, and should send for it to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

WORSE THAN SUBMARINES

To the Monitor:

"Drink is doing us more damage than all German submarines put together." Who said that? Lloyd George the English Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is no temperance fanatic, but a cool-headed statesman speaking from broad knowledge and inside information. And what he said is literally and statistically true of England, and the same principle applies to our country. The submarines are limited to the sea and to a narrow range within the sea, but strong drink goes everywhere over sea and land, through the air and steals into all the resorts of men and into the homes of the people. It can slip into the most hidden and secure recesses where a mother thinks she has her boy safe, and stab him as a torpedo slips under the sea and explodes against the side of a ship. Submarines are secret and stealthy enemies, but not half so subtle and deceptive as strong drink. Submarines can destroy only a few ships worth a few millions of dollars, but strong drink destroys more property than all the battleships and floods and fires of the world. Submarines can kill only a few men, but strong drink slays them by countless thousands and has filled more graves than all the wars of history. England cannot stop German submarines, but Russia has stopped strong drink. What Russia can do Canada can do, and if we are as wise and progressive and courageous as the land of the Czar we will clear our coasts and country of this enemy that is doing us more damage than all the submarines of the world could do us put together.

H. S. ARNOTT, M.B., M.C.P.S.

THE BELGIAN FUND

The total Canadian contributions to the Belgian Relief Fund up to May 18, were \$2,071,032.63, as shown in a supplementary report made by the Relief Committee in Montreal.

In addition to five special steamers which were despatched from Canada with foodstuffs, clothing, etc., for the starving Belgians, there have been ten shipments by regular steamships, totalling in value \$30,645. On the date in question there were on hand clothing to the value of \$54,090, foodstuffs worth \$7,500, and available funds amounting to \$48,147.63. About one third of the total amount contributed was furnished by the Maritime Provinces.

GRAIN CROP REPORT

OTTAWA, June 11, 1915.—A press bulletin issued to-day by the Census and Statistics Office is of special interest as giving the preliminary estimate of the area sown to grain crops in Canada for the present season and the condition of these crops on May 31, as reported by correspondents. The reports received show that in the Maritime Provinces cold and rainy weather during May delayed farm work, and at the end of the month a good deal of seeding had still to be completed. In Quebec and Ontario cold winds and frost, coming after the exceptionally warm weather of April, retarded growth. In these provinces the frosts injured pastures, but did little damage to grain crops. In the Northwest Provinces, growth was checked somewhat by cold and frosty nights; but, on the whole, conditions continue to be favorable. In some parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan the need of rain was being felt. In Alberta and British Columbia the condition of the grain crops was generally favorable.

Areas Sown to Wheat.

Wheat is estimated to occupy this year a total area of 12,896,000 acres, which is more by 1,667,500 acres, or 14.8 per cent., than the area sown for 1914, and more by 2,602,100 acres, or 25 per cent., than the area harvested in 1914, the area sown for last year having been reduced by 939,600 acres. The estimated aggregate of total failures through the winter-killing of fall wheat (211,500 acres) and through drought affecting spring wheat (723,100 acres). Not only is the wheat area this year under the double stimulus of patriotic impulse and high prices (25 per cent. in excess of last year's harvested area) but it is also the largest area ever sown to wheat in Canada. As previously reported, the area to be harvested of fall sown wheat is 1,208,700 acres, the balance of 11,687,300 acres having been sown this spring. Whilst every province shows an increase in the wheat area, it is the three Northwest Provinces which preponderate in the national effort to produce more wheat. The total area sown to wheat in these provinces is 11,659,700 acres, an increase over last year's harvested area of 2,324,300 acres, or 25 per cent. In Manitoba the area is 3,166,900 acres, an increase of 21 per cent.; in Saskatchewan it is 6,642,100 acres, an increase of 24 per cent., and in Alberta it is 1,850,700 acres, an increase of 35 per cent. Rather more than half of the total wheat area of Canada is in the single province of Saskatchewan.

Other Field Crops.

Oats are estimated to occupy a total area in Canada of 11,427,000 acres, an increase over last year's harvested area of 1,365,518 acres, or 13 per cent. Barley 1,513,400 acres, as compared with 1,495,600 acres last year. Rye 106,440 against 111,280 acres; peas 189,470 acres, compared with 205,950 acres; mixed grains 453,000 acres against 463,300 acres; hay and clover 7,788,400 acres, against 7,997,000 acres, and alfalfa 94,480 acres against 90,385 acres.

Condition of Field Crops and Anticipated Yield.

Measured in percentage of a standard of 100 representing a full crop, all the grain crops were reported as showing a high average, the points being as follows: Fall wheat 94, spring wheat 96, oats and barley 92, rye 91, peas 93, and mixed grains 91. If y and clover with 86, pastures and alfalfa with 87 are not so good, these crops having suffered from cold and frosty nights during May. Converting the points of standard condition for the principal grain crops into a scale of 100 representing the average of the past five years 1910-1914, the result, assuming conditions between now and harvest to be equal to the average, is an anticipated increase in the yield per acre of 15.6 per cent. for fall wheat, 2.6 per cent. for spring wheat, and 2.5 per cent. for rye. For oats and barley the indications are for yields slightly below the average, or to the extent of 1.5 per cent. for oats and 0.7 per cent. for barley.

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ADDITIONAL SPRING MIGRANTS

A few weeks ago a list of twenty-two of our common spring migrants, with the dates of arrival, was published in the columns of the Monitor. An additional list of seventeen is appended herewith. Of these, eight are warblers. This class of birds is among our latest spring migrants. Few of them visit us before the last week of May. Then they come with a rush. The initiated find the woods full of them. About a dozen different varieties may readily be observed in our locality. They are small birds, smaller than an English sparrow. They rank among our brightest plumbed bird neighbors. Many of them wear bright yellow and olive-green in their suits. As songsters they do not take high rank. To the bird lover they are at once both a fascinating and an exasperating family of birds. When the spring migration is at its height, any day you may be thrilled with delight by stumbling upon a rare species that you have been watching for for years, or you may have the joy of meeting an entirely new species in your locality. The study of the warblers is interesting, because you always have a problem on your hands. Only the expert can name every warbler at sight or determine the species from its song. A confusing and baffling class of birds they are. Often they become the despair of the young student. Then, they are constantly on the move among the trees. Just as you get an opera glass trained on one, behold he is gone. Some dwell high up in the tree tops, and it is most exasperating trying to get a peep at these little creatures of such restless disposition.

But a few of them are easily recognized. Every one is familiar with the Yellow Warbler, commonly called "Summer Yellowbird." This sunny little yellow warbler loves the company of man, and comes familiarly about the trees and shrubbery of lawns and gardens and orchards. Every child knows this friendly bird of summer. Another common warbler is the Maryland Yellow-throat. You must go to the border of the swamp to find him. There among the heath plants you are sure to meet him. You cannot mistake him as he comes out of the thicket to scold you for intruding on his domain. He is a yellow bird with a black mask on the side of his face. Maybe his more retiring lady may be seen by his side. She is more plainly dressed, as seems to be the fashion in feminine bird society, than her mate, and lacks the black mask.

Another common warbler may be readily identified by its song. This one is a dweller in the woods and one of the daintiest walkers that ever stepped on the forest floor. Entering the woods we hear the clear ringing chant "teacher, teacher, teacher, teacher." It is sung in crescendo, gradually increasing in loudness, power and shrillness. Once heard it cannot be mistaken. Its author is the Oven-bird, a dainty, thrush-like, brown bird with a speckled breast. Should you be fortunate enough to find its nest you would at once understand why it is called Oven-bird. Under the dead leaves beneath the trees is placed the nest of coarse grasses, roofed above with the entrance on the side, resembling a Dutch oven.

Though largely unknown to the rank and file, the warblers are a most useful family of birds. They are of most pronounced economic importance. They are the guardians of our forest foliage. Hear a noted ornithologist speaking of the utility of the warblers: "In this family we find birds that assume the care of the trees from the ground to the topmost twig. Some walk daintily along the ground, searching among the shrubbery and fallen leaves; others cling close to the bark, and search its every crevice for those insignificant insects which collectively form the greatest pests of forest and orchard; others mount into the tree, skip from branch to branch, and peer about among the leaves or search the opening buds of the lower branches; others habitually ascend to the tree tops; while still others are in almost constant pursuit of the winged insects that dart about among the branches.

The following is an additional list of spring migrants with the dates of arrival:

American Goldfinch, May 20.
Black and White Creeping Warbler, May 20.
Blue-headed Vireo, May 20.
Magnolia Warbler, May 20.
Ruby-throated Humming Bird, May 23.

Kingbird, May 23.
Maryland Yellow-throat, May 31.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, June 1.
Oven-bird, June 1.
Black-throated Green Warbler, June 1.

American Redstart, June 1.
Northern Parula Warbler, June 1.
Chestnut-sided Warbler, June 1.
Belted Kingfisher, June 2.
Catbird, June 2.
Red-eyed Vireo, June 3.
Nighthawk, June 11.

Bridgetown, June 15.
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