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THE ARGENTINE.

AMONG the South America States the Argentine Republic is second only in extent to Brazil, a large portion of which is uninhabitable for Europeans. It has a total area of 1,200,000 square miles, about half of which is well adapted for grain growing.

The Argentineans are fond of calling themselves the Yankees of South America and by their push and energy and enterprise (which so markedly distinguishes them from the rest of that continent) they are well entitled to that distinction. Their land laws are much the same as ours. Any man may acquire an *estancia* (literally, a cattle farm) by location upon the public lands, and the payment of a nominal price per acre. The form of government is a Federal Republic, composed of 14 provinces, each of which can make or remake its own constitution, providing there is no infringement of the National laws. The rivers are open to vessels of all nations. There are no titles, no slavery. Freedom of the press is guaranteed. The established form of religion is the Roman Catholic, but there is perfect freedom of worship.

Argentine possesses one strongly marked characteristic in common with the other countries of South America—a fondness for revolutions. These are almost of annual occurrence, but are seldom of very great magnitude, and generally have been promptly suppressed. The

year 1893 witnessed one of these, but it was of short duration. Business is but little affected by these outbreaks, and the prosperity of the country has not been materially checked. Immigration continues to flow in.

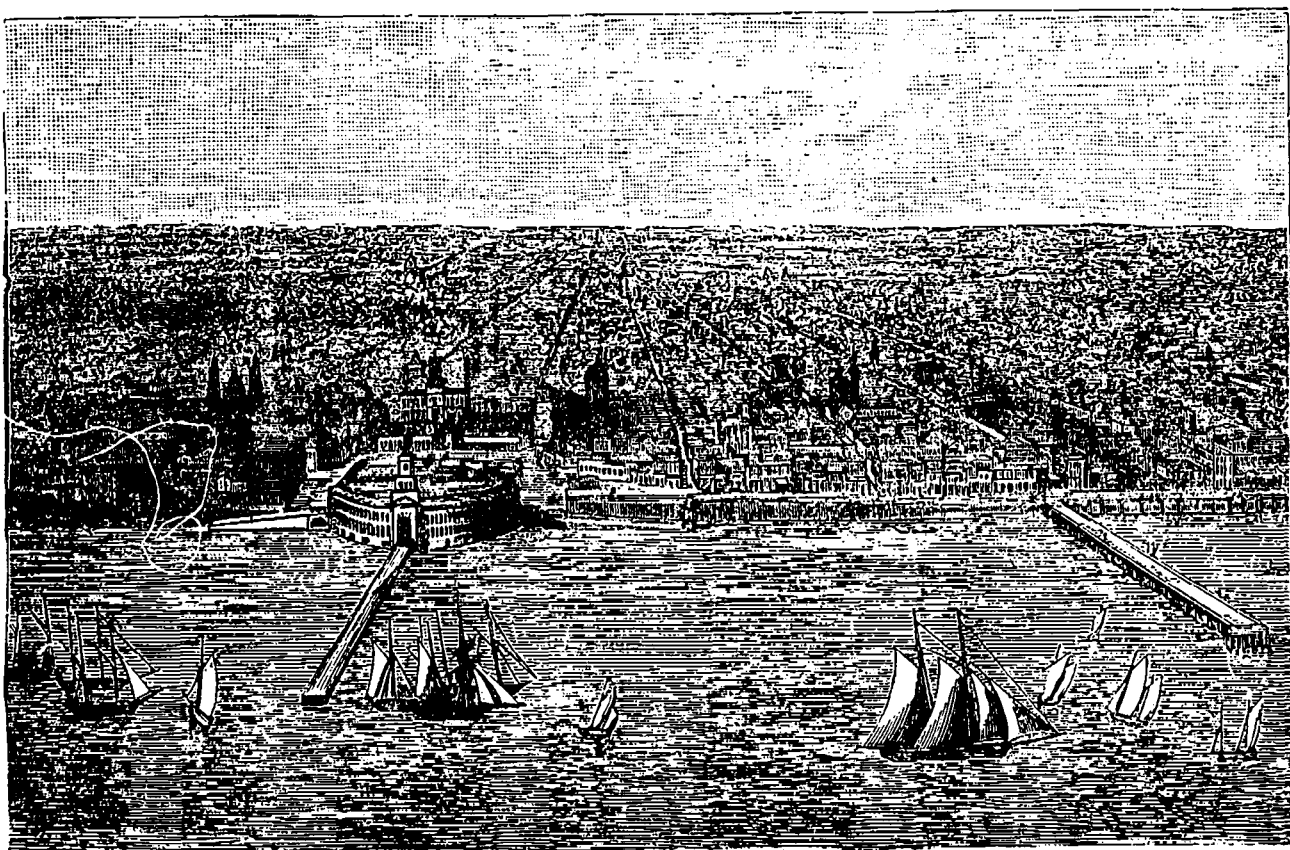
Twenty-five lines of steamers connect the Argentine Republic with the markets of Europe and the United States, and from fifty to sixty vessels are sailing back and forth each month. In what is called the harbor of Buenos Ayres are dozen of steamships and scores of sailing vessels. The imports are over one hundred million dollars worth of manufactured merchandize every year—about one-third of which come from England. Notwithstanding the abundance of growing timber on the lower slopes of the Andes, it is found cheaper to import sawn lumber from Canada. There are many million of feet of pine annually shipped from the St. Lawrence. Canada has won, too, the market for harvesting machinery, the MASSEY-HARRIS Co., Ltd., taking the lead over all its American and English competitors. Her trade in other lines is growing rapidly.

Buenos Ayres (good air) is situated on the Rio Plata, about one hundred miles from the sea. The river there is 28 miles wide, and the water fresh. The approach to the city is very dangerous for navigation, the mouth of the river being beset with mud banks and sand bars—accumulations that come down from the interior of the continent upon the swift waters, and are constantly changing.

There is no harbor at Buenos Ayres—not even an excuse for one—and it seems to be beyond the power of human genius to give vessels direct access to the city. The water is so shallow that they have to anchor seven, eight and ten miles out, and are loaded and unloaded by means of flat-bottomed lighters, which are towed back and forth.

Notwithstanding the commercial disadvantages, it is the most enterprising, prosperous and wealthy city in South America—a regular Chicago—the only place on the whole continent where people seem to be in a hurry. It is all bustle and life, and so different from the other cities of South America. Elsewhere people always put off till to-morrow what they are not absolutely compelled to do to-day. Elsewhere *mañana* (*manyana*) is king, and *mañana* means to-morrow. But in Buenos Ayres the idea seems to be that the liveliest turkey gets the most grasshoppers, and every body is trying to get as many as he can. Merchants do not shut up shop to go to dinner, and the morning newspapers are not printed the day before.

There are more daily papers published in Buenos Ayres than in London or New York—twenty-three in all. Two are printed in English, one in French, one in German, one in Italian—the rest in Spanish. There are two illustrated weeklies and three monthly literary magazines. The leading daily, *La Nacion*, has a circulation of thirty thousand. The telephone and electric light are extensively used.



CITY OF BUENOS AYRES.