

THE FOREIGN MAIL BOX.

These messages come from our four Mission Stations in Bolivia—La Paz Oruro, Cochabamba, and Potosi. The writers are our three missionaries and the Bolivian evangelist, Sr. Saravia. Since Potosi is our newest station, away up in the mountains, and since most of us have not become acquainted with Sr. Saravia, his letter will be of special interest. The "reinforcements" of which Mr. Baker speaks are Mr. and Mrs. Haddow, who are now on their way to Bolivia.

From Oruro:—

Bolivia, as all other countries of the world, has been passing through a most trying period, both politically and financially. But fortunately she has been able to stem the tide and maintain a fairly normal condition in both spheres.

For some weeks before the Congress met last year on the 6th of August, there was talk of a general revolution, and the plan of the opposition was to seize the President of the Republic, and either assassinate him or get rid of him in some other way. Fortunately, he is not one to be caught napping, and before they could effect their "coup d'etat," he had imprisoned or banished most of the leaders and had placed the state under military law, thus saving the country from a serious political crisis. These extreme measures were, naturally, criticized by many who were really favorable to the Government and as a consequence there was a political restlessness for some months. Some of the would-be revolutionists tried to foment a war with Chile or some of the other neighboring republics. However, the President was for peace and did everything necessary to preserve the good will of our neighbors, thus avoiding a second danger.

At the outbreak of the war, the already bad economic conditions were greatly aggravated by the closing of many of the mines and by the return to Bolivia from Chile of many of the native workmen. These came back on account of the paralyzing of work there and because the Chilean Government refused to undertake to feed them. Here again, the Government came to the rescue and adopted many sane measures to alleviate the situation. A moratorium was declared, the raising of the prices of articles of necessity was prohibited, the Government contracted for large quantities of flour from North America and the unemployed were recommended to get back to the land and try to produce a larger supply of native products to take the place of the decreased importation from abroad. These and other measures were taken that have greatly helped to normalize economic conditions.

In Oruro, many of the owners of properties, have taken advantage of the cheap labor, either to build new houses or to reconstruct old ones. The municipal authorities have also been making many improvements. They have laid new sidewalks and a new water system, new streets have been made and a new market built. These constructions and improvements have kept considerable money in circulation and have helped many of the poor families during the crisis. Our Prefect made an attempt, which called forth a great deal of comment from the press all over the country, to prohibit the sale of all liquor from Saturday night until Monday morning. The opposition, however, was so strong that he was compelled to abandon this most beneficial reform. There have been other temperance agitations which show that public sentiment is awakening to the dangers of