

Argentine's Milling Industry.

The Rio News says. "In an official report to the State Department at Washington. Minister Berauan gives the following statistical information in regard to the flour mills of Argentina. - Some idea of the importance of the milling industry of this country can be gathered from the fact that there are 419 mills, of which 279 are first class, 18 second class and 122 third class. These 419 mills are capable of turning out 1,315,010 tons of first quality flour per annum for which they would require 2,000,000 tons of wheat. The quality of the Argentine flour is exceedingly good, as in the 1889 Paris exhibition they obtained a grand prize, two gold medals and several silver medals. It now remains to be seen if the millers have sufficient influence to make themselves heard, and thus remedy the defects which are killing a splendid industry."

Affairs in Argentine Republic

The Buenos Ayres Standard of October 22 says: "The busy wool season is dawning on the Plate with the most brilliant prospects. The shearing of the 100,000,000 of sheep in the country is now in full blast, and wools are coming in fast. Prices are higher than last year, and the quality of the fleeces is better; the wool is lighter cleaner, less greasy. Such has been the increase in the flocks, and so favorable has been the soft, wintry season that about half a million bales of wool will be probably exported this season, say 500,000,000 pounds. In other words, the country has a phenomenal wool clip this time. Farmers, and they are proverbial grumblers, agree that they never had a better season. The pasture lands are in splendid condition. Flocks and herds show a great increase and are fat—in fact, a year of plenty."

"The farmers of Buenos Ayres are improving their flocks and herds very rapidly. This is witnessed by the enormous improvement in the general average of wools in the country, and by the high class of horned cattle produced to-day for export to Europe. The progress of breeding is revealed in the many live stock auctions here and numerous fairs throughout the country. It is not unusual for a good bull to fetch \$5,000 to \$7,000, and this demand for prize stock, whether bulls or rams, is steadily increasing. It is one of the best signs in the country. With the improvement in stock we see a wonderful change for the better in the wool clip, and some parcels that came in during the fortnight duty competition."

"On the heels of the first large consignments of wool we shall have a large linseed crop from the province of Santa Fe, where the gathering will begin next month. Large contracts for shipment in January have been signed. Thus in February and March we shall see a great glut of produce at all our ports, as everything promises well—wool, linseed and wheat. With such splendid prospects, it is no wonder if an optimist feeling is beginning to prevail in this market, yet, strange to say, gold, which is the barometer of our situation, does not reflect the general improvement and has risen considerably during the fortnight. The cause of the rise in the gold premium may be principally attributed to the delicate state of the health of the President of the Republic, who has been sick for the last three weeks, suffering from an attack of influenza."

"Another important factor in the distrust that has caused gold to rise is the bitter opposition of Congress against Dr. Romero, our talented Minister of Finance. Every bill he presents seems doomed."

"The war scare with Chili has died out, but the task of reorganizing both army and navy is going on with great activity. The

Mobilization bill is still before Congress awaiting dispatch. In all probability it will be sanctioned. The Budget bill sleeps still, but the Internal Tax law has been taken up, and our readers will be glad to hear that Minister Romero was defeated in his attempt to impose a 10 per cent tax on the profits of private banks.

"Affairs in general in this market point to a great revival, and we are on the eve of great activity in produce and shipping. As much cannot be said of imports, which linger and fall short of the figures of former years."

Revolution in Transportation Methods.

A complete and immediate revolution of transportation methods, involving a reduction of freight charges on grain from the West to New York of 50 to 60 per cent, is what is predicted in the November Cosmopolitan. The plan proposes using light and inexpensive corrugated iron cylinders, hung on a slight rail supported poles from a cross-arm—the whole system involving an expense of not more than fifteen hundred dollars a mile for construction. The rolling stock is equally simple and comparatively inexpensive. Continuous lines of cylinders, moving with no interval to speak of, would carry more grain in a day than a quadruple track railway. This would constitute a grain-pipe line. The Cosmopolitan also points out the probable abolition of street cars before the coming horseless carriage, which can be operated by a boy on asphalt pavements at a total expense for labor, oil and interest of not more than one dollar a day.

Literary Notes

Stirring events are happening at the present time, to comprehend which requires careful study and observation. In the Far East, in Europe and in our own country stupendous political and commercial changes are developing, in which every intelligent citizen is interested. No greater assistance to a proper understanding of the progress of the world can be found than in the pages of Current History, the 3d quarterly number of which is now published (253 pages, abundantly illustrated). The missionary outrages in China and the whole question of Mission work are reviewed; and the general situation in the Orient as regards the present and future relations of the European powers is depicted with scholarly insight. The American problem and the Cuban revolt are comprehensively discussed; and the Silver question is fully presented, with accounts of the various free-silver and sound-money conversations. A biographical sketch of Pasteur, whose portrait forms the frontispiece, is written in a readable style, pointing out clearly the nature and significance of the great scientist's discoveries. The recent significant developments in the Balkan states are ably treated, with a full sketch of M. Stambouloff's career. And so on all around the world. Almost every country is visited, and the reader put in ready touch with the most important incidents in each. Hundreds of topics are treated, which space forbids to mention. A few noteworthy ones are: The Political campaign; the Atlanta Exposition; Sunday Excise Law enforcement in New York city; South Carolina Constitutional Convention; Manitoba School Question and Copyright Question in Canada, Results of the British General election, the new Salisbury cabinet; Labor developments here and abroad; latest discoveries regarding Argon and Helium, the Antarctic Continent; results of last Peary expedition; Pan-American Congress of Religion and Education; National Education Association; review of Sociological and Religious topics; a classified list, with critical notices, of leading books issuing from the press; and biographical sketches of prominent

persons who have died, etc. For five years Current History has maintained an unbroken reputation for breadth of view, accuracy, and fairness of treatment. It is an admirable handbook to keep near by at all times; and is so arranged that the reader, once acquainted with it, knows just where to turn for any desired information.

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