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SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

[November 14.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

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No. 1.

Sir C. Mallet to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 253.)

My Lord,

Buenos Aires, October 18, 1922.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Dr. Marcelo Torcuato de Alvear and Señor Elpidio González, elected President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Argentine Republic, for six years, were formally installed in those high offices on the 12th instant, in accordance with the simple but impressive ceremonial prescribed for those occasions.

After taking the oath of office in the Chamber of Deputies, President Alvear ignored the State coach waiting outside for him, and walked to Government House through a compact mass of people who lined the streets, and who accorded him a popular demonstration along the route.

On arriving at Government House the new President was met by the out-going President, and the second part of the ceremony, transferring the mandate (a sash of the national colours, worn by the President on State occasions, and a gold-headed cane) was performed. Immediately this was over, Dr. Irigoyen left the Chamber abruptly, walked through the main entrance into the street, a private citizen again going back to the people of his party, who were there in large numbers to give him a stirring ovation as they accompanied him to his residence.

In this unceremonious way the leader of the ultra-Radicals, who has risen from cowboy to the highest position in the country, ruling over its destinies with an iron will, closeted in a small room in Government House, into which only his most intimate friends had access, and rarely seen in public, left the Presidency with the same undiminished popularity of his numerous admirers as when he entered it six years previously.

President Alvear's advent to office, after a long period of commercial depression, has given rise to a feeling of optimism among all ranks. The idea prevails that the turning point has been reached, and there will be a gradual return to more prosperous conditions.

His connection by birth with several of the influential and rich families in Buenos Aires is likely to reconcile the Conservative elements who were bitterly opposed to the ex-President, and he has the advantage of entering office unhampered by promises of any sort or kind through the fortunate circumstance of his candidature and election having been effected while he resided abroad.

The "Prensa," one of the two large dailies in Buenos Aires, in referring to the inauguration in an editorial, states:—

"Although political questions were naturally involved in the change made in the Federal Executive Power, party politics did not obtrude themselves in all that overflowing mass of the city's population.

"Many, no doubt, turned out to celebrate the advent to power of the new chief magistrate on whom they are founding many hopes, while others, though perhaps fewer in number, attended as a mark of respect to the out-going President, in spite of his having done little else during his term of office but to impose his will and exalt his own personality. But there were unquestionably many others, who had nothing to do with such considerations, yet joined in the celebrations from a desire not to stand aloof from the Republic's rejoicings, but rather to aid in according a pleasant welcome to the honoured guests who had come here for the purpose of paying respect to the institutional event that was about to take place in Argentina."

These comments are from a newspaper of independent standing that is opposed to Radicalism.

Although a week has not yet elapsed since President Alvear entered office, there are many rumours current of disharmony between him and Dr. Irigoyen regarding the persons selected to form the Cabinet. The Minister of Marine, Admiral Manuel

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