

male citizens ; those who can read and write. The executive power is wielded by the president, who is elected by the assembly for a period of four years : assisted by a council of ministers, whose departments are : Interior, Finance, Foreign Affairs, War and Marine, Industry and Labour, Instruction, and Public Works. A high court and subordinate courts constitute the judicial power. Each department has an administrative council, whose members are elected by popular vote, and a governor appointed by the executive.

The condition of education in Uruguay is superior to most of the Latin American countries, ranking about equal with Argentina ; and slightly less than 50 per cent. of the population are illiterate. In Montevideo there are excellent schools, state supported, and a university, but throughout the republic generally education is much neglected ; attendance at schools small, and the instruction of an inferior character. There has, however, been a tendency more recently to improve the standard of instruction. Primary instruction is free and nominally compulsory. As regards religion, the Roman Catholic is that of the state, but other religions are tolerated. The Press of Uruguay is considered to be somewhat dominated by political influence and subject to official repression, and is stated to be less vigorous and intelligent than during its past history. There are, however, a sufficient number of papers, generally well produced and supplied with foreign news, with special journals, as in the case of Buenos Ayres and other capitals, for British, Italian, and Spanish readers. The cost of producing a paper has risen considerably in Montevideo, as elsewhere, of recent times. The language is Spanish.

The nineteen departments of Uruguay, with their areas, are as follows :

DEPARTMENTS.	AREAS.
Artigas .. .. .	4,392
Canelones .. .. .	1,833
Cerro Largo .. .. .	5,753
Colonia .. .. .	2,192
Durazno .. .. .	5,525
Flores .. .. .	1,744
Florida .. .. .	4,763
Maldonado .. .. .	1,584
Minas .. .. .	4,844

DEPARTMENTS.	AREAS
Montevideo .. .. .	256
Paysandu . . . . .	5,115
Rio Negro .. .. .	3,269
Rivera .. .. .	3,790
Rocha .. .. .	4,280
Salto .. .. .	4,863
San José . . . . .	2,687
Soriano . . . . .	3,560
Tacuarembó .. .. .	8,074
Treintà-y-tres . . . . .	3,680

Montevideo is by far the largest city in the republic; its population, including suburbs, is about 400,000; almost one-third of that of the whole republic. The next towns in importance are the River Ports of Paysandu, with 25,000 inhabitants, and Salto with 24,000: Mercedes is fourth with nearly 19,000; there are three towns, Rocha, San José, and Melo, with a population of over 15,000, two of 12,000, and five or six with 10,000 inhabitants.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, is one of the most pleasing cities in South America, largely due to its conditions of climate and general surroundings. The unfailingly clear, blue sky and sunny days, and the presence of the sea and the summer-like temperature contribute in forming an exceptional environment. The temperature seldom falls below 50° in winter, but there are occasional frosty nights, and the maximum summer heat does not exceed 82° in the shade. The city forms a resort of the people of Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, whose climates are far inferior. The broad bay upon which Montevideo stands commands the entrance to the estuary of the River Plate. The harbour is a handsome one and has been greatly improved: a large expenditure having been made upon new docks, which were built of the excellent native stone quarried near at hand. The works were carried out by the government from the national resources, without the aid of a foreign loan, which was an exceptional circumstance for public works in Latin America.

The population of Montevideo is numbered at 400,000, including the suburbs of the city. Included in the population are more than 40,000 Italians, and almost an equal number of Spaniards, with 5,000 French, 1,000 British,

and about 800 Germans. The architecture of the city presents marked contrasts, due to the mixture of the old colonial type of house, of one story, with modern lofty buildings. The small colonial type of houses, with their *patios* and quaint façades, are, in their way, not inferior to the more pretentious structures of the present time. The topographical situation of the city allows room for expansion, and the conservation of its older character. The women and children of Montevideo, due doubtless in part to their environment, have earned a reputation for their superior appearance: feminine beauty between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five is specially marked, and among all classes a certain standard of good looks and a well-dressed appearance is notable.

Montevideo suffers from the common South American condition of high cost of rent and living. Hotel charges and house rents are high, and articles of clothing and food are double the price of such in Europe. Fresh provision and fruit, which, in a fertile, temperate land, ought to be cheap, are not sufficiently so. The city is well provided with electric tramways, which extend into the well-built suburbs and the picturesque outlying districts. The systems are mainly owned by British and German capital, and the returns, like those from tramways systems in most Latin American capitals, are good, due to the urban travelling habit which is characteristic of the people.

The British element in Montevideo tends to decrease numerically, but it embodies the principal financial and commercial interests, forming the active representatives of an estimated invested British capital in Uruguay of about £46,000,000 sterling, as quoted on the Stock Exchange of London. More than half of this amount is made up by investments in government stocks, whilst the railway system of the country, built in its entirety by British capital, accounts for nearly £13,000,000, with joint-stock enterprises, banking, shipping, influence and commercial interests completing the total. As regards British commerce, it has been stated of late that this does not hold its own proportionally with that of other nations.

The principal industries of Uruguay are pastoral, cattle being bred for meat export, but sheep for wool alone—the meat being neglected. Of the wool about 100,000 bales are exported annually, and the total value of the exports due to the pastoral industries and its by-products has given a yearly average of about £7,000,000 sterling. The curing of beef for the Brazilian and Cuban markets accounts for a large part of the sum. The great meat extract industry of the Liebig factory, where the well-known fluid beef products are made, consumes as many as 3,000 cattle in a single day; and the Liebig factories of Uruguay and Argentina combined consume a yearly average of 250,000 cattle. The scientific and hygienic operations carried on at the Liebig factory, in the production of the meat extract, have been described as high-class, and the industry as one specially adapted to the pastoral resources of the region. It is held that the sunny climate ensures considerable immunity from tuberculosis among cattle in Uruguay.

The jerked beef or "charqui" is a well-known form of food in Latin America. The meat is cut up, dried and salted, and in this condition may be transported for any distance, and resists decay for a considerable time. This food product was used for maintaining the slaves on the South American plantations in earlier years, but now forms a valuable article of diet for the working population generally. There are thirty establishments for producing "charqui" in Uruguay, known as "saladeros"; and a number in Argentina and Brazil; and the meat is exported to Cuba and elsewhere. In the countries of the Andes, quarters of sheep are similarly treated and form a common article of diet for the working classes, and piles of dried meat are observed on the quays, the article being handled like merchandise, without any form of covering.

Agriculture in Uruguay is in only a tolerably satisfactory condition, and from a deficit in bread stuffs at the end of last century the republic now supplies itself with cereals, and exports a good surplus. Other foods are, however, imported. Uruguayan lands are well suited for cattle-rearing, although not for fattening, and notwithstanding

that large tracts of territory waiting development exist, only 8 per cent of the area of the soil of the country is under cultivation. Lands for farming are expensive, and wages have risen very considerably of recent year. The soil of Uruguay is very varied, far more so than that of the immediately adjoining parts of Argentina. In the southern parts most fruits of a temperate climate grow freely, and in the northern parts are found some of sub-tropical character. Scientific methods of cultivation, however, are as yet rarely employed, and it may be said that the agricultural possibilities of the country are hardly known. Until some ten or fifteen years ago, the productive interests of Uruguay were exclusively pastoral, cattle being bred for the meat and hides, and sheep for their wool; trade consisting in these and other animal by-products, which constituted from 90 to 95 per cent. of its total exports. The census or estimate of the live stock of the country, made in 1916, gave 11,500,000 sheep, 7,800,000 cattle, 555,000 horses, and about 400,000 swine, mules, and goats. It is estimated that there are some 14,500,000 hectares of land, equal to about 36,000,000 acres, worth on the average from £6 to £7 the hectare, appropriated to sheep and cattle raising. The value of the exports of pastoral products naturally varies with the seasons. Sheep, as stated, are reared solely for their wool, little or no attention being paid to their meat, but the wool generally is of excellent quality, and is mainly exported to France and Belgium. Even with recent advances, a small part of the soil of Uruguay is under agricultural cultivation, and there are large tracts of excellent arable land still awaiting development. The government is making serious efforts to promote agricultural colonisation; several private schemes to that effect have also been initiated. The two principal difficulties are the want of fiscal or state lands to offer for the purpose, and the lack of organised agricultural immigration—the habits of the people not inclining them to agricultural pursuits—but neither of these difficulties are insuperable. The chief drawback to agriculture is a periodical recurrence of serious droughts, which occur almost regularly every six or eight

years. In a good season Uruguay can produce some of the finest wheat, not merely in South America but in the whole world. During certain years "Montevideo" wheat, as it was called, receives a special quotation, the highest of any in the European market, and it is a noteworthy fact that large quantities of Uruguayan grain are bought by Argentine exporters to mix with and to improve the strain of their own wheat. The amount available for export varies greatly with the season. Maize, or Indian corn, is also grown to a considerable extent; and other agricultural products are linsced, already exported in small quantities; grapes, from which very tolerable wine can be made; vegetables of many descriptions; and fruit, chiefly peaches, strawberries, apricots, melons, lemons, and oranges. The fruit and vegetables go in large quantities to supply the markets of Buenos Ayres. The coasts and rivers of Uruguay are prolific in edible fish, some of fine quality; but no care is taken for their conservation.

Uruguay is a well-watered country, and the river of that name carries a large volume of water calculated at 11,000,000 cubic feet per minute. The Negro, a tributary of the Uruguay, is navigable; and affords a valuable means of communication to the part of the country traversed from the fluvial port of Mercedes. The other rivers are navigable only for steamers of light draught. The possibilities for development of hydraulic energy on the Uruguay and Negro rivers are very important, and recently have been investigated by experts acting on behalf of foreign capitalists. A plan has been proposed also for a hydro-electric station controlled by the government. Development of the water-power will to a certain extent offset the lack of coal and fuel in the country, which is an unfavourable condition as regards manufacturing industries.

The statistics relating to the finance and trade of Uruguay are less easy to obtain than is the case with others of the South American states. The estimated national revenue for 1912-13 was £7,477,000, and expenditure £7,475,000. The exports were valued in 1912 at £9,500,000, and the imports £9,250,000, Great Britain leading in the import trade.

In 1920 the value of the imports (official) was \$48,165,000, and exports (real) \$80,752,000. The imports are largely of food stuffs, which is surprising in a pastoral and agricultural country. Uruguay, however, is but a small state, sparsely populated. Her alluvial plains and mountains contain, however, great store of unexploited resources, and there is a good network of railways; matters which would seem to assure a prosperous future. The railways in operation in the republic have an aggregate length of 1,535 miles, of which 1,225 are under the control of British capital, amounting to about £13,000,000. The principal British controlled lines are the Central Uruguay and its extensions, the Midland Uruguay, North-west Uruguay, and Uruguay Northern. The gross receipts for the financial year before the War reached £1,250,000, an increase of £131,000 over the previous year, with net receipts of £564,000 approximately, but with the state guarantees the total net revenue of the companies reached £708,000, with a return on the capital of 5½ per cent. These returns now tend rapidly to increase.

The economic development of Uruguay was for years hampered by the character of its administration and by revolutionary outbreaks. The seizure of farm stock and the impressing of the male population for military purposes tended to impoverish agriculture. Abroad the reckless loan-placing conducted with European financiers ruined the credit of the country and plunged it heavily into debt, which resulted in suspended payments and reduction of interest payable to foreign landholders. The administration of justice suffers from the same defects as in the neighbouring republic of Argentina, and calls for radical improvement. The government of Uruguay has long been accused of "socialistic" tendencies, and it has been stated that the relatively backward state of the country is largely due to this. This "socialism" has principally taken the form of restricting the powers of foreign capitalists, and of nationalising public resources and institutions, and possibly may be regarded as an advanced policy which in the future may spread more extensively over Latin America, and which may have in it tendencies of a desire for greater commercial

independence, and so will not be hastily condemned, by the disinterested economist. Whilst blame has been laid to the administration of Uruguay, in common with that of many other Latin American republics, as regards heavy loan-placing abroad, on the other hand it is to be recollected that foreign financiers have had their share of blame, in their willingness to take up such loans, and often to take advantage of the financial straits of backward countries. The administration has also been accused of supporting labour strikes, but replies that it is only concerned in the bettering of the condition of labour. The country at present undoubtedly suffers from too much devotion to single large products, and requires a better distribution of its industries and resources. With the excellent climate it enjoys, the fertile land, all cultivable, the absence of noxious insects and other plagues—apart from the matters of drought and locusts which afflict the country seriously at times—Uruguay must be regarded as a land of considerable possibilities, capable of sustaining a population far in excess of its present meagre one.

### PARAGUAY.

The third republic of the Plate, that of Paraguay, is, like Bolivia, which lies upon its northern frontier, an inland country, remote from the coast. These two nations are the only communities among the Latin American republics without direct access to the sea. In Paraguay the deficiency is partly made up by the outlet afforded by the great Paraguay river, traversing the republic from north to south and uniting with the Paraná, which forms part of the eastern boundary of the country, and so flows to the River Plate. Asuncion, the capital, is situated on the left bank of the river, 970 miles above Buenos Ayres, and the regular lines of river steamers drawing ten feet of water form a direct means of communication with the Atlantic ocean. The approach to Asuncion is picturesque. After five days of steamer journeying on the full-flowing river a region of gorgeous forests is entered, where king-

fishers, alligators and the *Victoria regia* lily are seen; a fine avenue of approach. Topographically, Paraguay forms part of the great depression known as the basin of Paraná, whose western edge is formed by the Andes, and on the east is bounded by the Brazilian highlands. To the north rises the sheer edge of the Matto Grosso tablelands of Brazil, and to the south-west is the Great Chaco, part of whose vast and partly unexplored territory forms the western portion of Paraguay. This part of the Chaco consists largely in swamps, forests, and jungles, inhabited by uncivilised Indian tribes; among whom, however, the South American Missionary Society is doing good work. Paraguay is bisected by the tropic of Capricorn. The year is divided into two seasons, summer and winter, from October to March and April to September respectively, with a mean temperature for the first of  $81^{\circ}$  and for the latter  $71^{\circ}$ , and an annual rainfall, fairly distributed throughout the two seasons, of about forty-six inches. The area of the country is about 97,700 square miles. The eastern portion is the most thickly populated and important.

The Paraguayans have as the principal basis of their population the Guarani Indian people, and the admixture of foreign blood is less than in any of the other South American republics. The white element, as always, forms the governing class, and the official language is Spanish, although the common speech is Guarani. The total population, including the uncivilised tribes of Indians, is considerably under a million. Immigration is on a small scale, although it will doubtless increase as the advantages of the country become better known. The total foreign population is less than 20,000, half of which are Argentinos, but the government is seeking to attract a portion of the immigrant Italians of Argentina and Brazil. The Paraguayans are a far less energetic people than their neighbours of Argentina, and modern civilisation progresses but slowly at present. The natives generally are poor and ill-fed, the common condition of most of the Latin American republics, and are easily attacked by disease. The conditions of climate require only clothing of a primitive nature, and

boots are only worn by the upper class, as in Mexico and the Andine countries

The government of Paraguay is divided into the usual legislative, executive and judicial branches. The legislative power is vested in the congress, comprising the senate and chamber of deputies, whose members are elected by universal male suffrage on a proportional basis, of one senator for each 12,000 inhabitants and one deputy for each 6,000. The president is the head of the executive, and is chosen by an electoral college for four years, and is advised by a cabinet of five ministers, who are responsible to congress. The supreme court is the high judicial authority; and the civil and criminal codes are practically those of Argentina. The republic is divided into twenty-three countries or "partidos," which are subdivided into communes.

Education in Paraguay, as is natural from the political history of the country, is backward; by law it is free and compulsory, but the attendance of children at the schools in some districts is almost impossible under present conditions. As regards religion, the established church is the Roman Catholic, but liberty for other creeds is guaranteed by the constitution.

The principal article of cultivation in Paraguay is a product peculiar to the country, the yerba maté, or Paraguayan tea, whose growing and collecting forms the main industry at the present time. The tea is well known throughout southern America, especially in Argentina and Chile and in parts of Brazil, where it takes the place of ordinary tea and coffee. Like those beverages, its effects are stimulating. The leaves of the shrub, the *Ilex Paraguayensis*, are stripped, dried in the sun, packed in sacks, and exported; four to five thousand tons annually representing the export. The cost of production is small, and despite import dues in Argentina the article is sold at less than the price of tea and coffee. Maté has no injurious influence on the digestive organs, and its action is stomachic and laxative. During the war with Paraguay, the Brazilian soldiers marched and fought day after day without any

other sustenance. There appears to be nothing prejudicial about it, and scientists have praised it unanimously, yet while this tea could be placed on the market in England for 6d. a pound, it is there almost unknown, being found only in herbalists or chemists' shops, where it is sold at the price of 3s. per pound.

A considerable portion of Paraguay is extremely fertile, rich soil affording facilities for meadows and pastures which are capable of a varying agriculture, such as might render the country the orchard and garden of that part of the South American continent. Sugar cane, grapes, tobacco, cotton, coffee, oranges, rami fibre are among the products which are, or should become, increasingly important. Paraguay is an ideal country for stock-raising, and the cattle industry, which comes next in importance to the native tea, is growing; but both climate and pasture are unfavourable for sheep farming. The cattle are small, but Herefords and Durhams brought in from Argentina are improving the breeds, and the production of cured beef and meat extracts may develop into important industries. The estimated number of cattle in the country in 1908 was 5,500,000. Hogs are fattened on oranges at times; the orange groves yielding abundantly, although they are in large part uncultivated. In the last-mentioned year nearly 11,000,000 dozen oranges were exported, principally to the large towns of the River Plate. The forests of Paraguay yield special kinds of timber in abundance, such as the *quebracho*, used for tanning, and of extreme durability for building purposes. The principal food of the masses in Paraguay is maize and mandioca. The seeds of the *Victoria regia*, whose splendid flowers abound on some of the Paraguayan lakes and rivers, also form an article of diet.

There are no state or public cattle lands available in Paraguay, as these are in the hands of private owners, a condition thereby differing from that in Argentina. The value of cattle land is rising, and now fetches from £1,200 to £3,000 per square league; equal to an area of 4,635 acres. Natural pasturage is abundant, the climate is ideal, and shelter for the stock unnecessary, but drought prevails during some

years, and is damaging, as in Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. The main source of cattle supply is the Brazilian state of Matto Grosso to the north, where grown cattle may be purchased at 35s. to 48s. per head by the herd, and when fattened for a year and a half on good pasturage sell to local butchers or to the "saladeros" at from £2 10s. to £3 10s. Only the lowest grade of stock, however, exists in this part of South America at present, suitable for meat extract or canning, and not for refrigeration, and so far the breed has not been improved with imported stock. There are a few "saladeros" in the country, which at present afford the only market; and the canning and meat-extract factory has its own herds.

The republic has few railways so far, the principal line being the Paraguay Central, from Asuncion through Villa Rica to the Paraná river. This is to be crossed by a train-ferry at Encarnacion, so connecting the line with the railways of Argentina, and shortening the distance and time of travel from Buenos Ayres to Asuncion from five days to thirty-six hours. The line is well equipped, and has opened up great areas of valuable territory.

Paraguay has been the subject of exaggerated descriptions; a common condition of most Latin American countries. On the one hand it has been condemned as a pest-ridden and poverty-stricken land of unbearable tropic climate, and on the other lauded as full of great possibilities and pleasing features. In reality it is a country of contrasts, like its neighbours, affording compensating circumstances and varied conditions both of nature and people. Asuncion, the capital, is picturesque and has certain advantageous features; whilst much of the country merits the description of a natural garden, where flowers and fruit run riot, even around the thatched, mud-walled huts of the squatters, in certain districts.

Asuncion is built upon a sandy plain at 250 feet elevation above sea level, partly upon hillsides of pleasing appearance overlooking the river and the forest country of the Chaco beyond. The climate of the city is healthy, if hot, with a mean annual temperature of 72°. Its streets are laid

out on a regular plan, with some buildings of considerable merit, with a large number of religious edifices. These latter are reminiscent of the exceedingly bitter religious history of the country, the struggles between the Jesuits and the Church. Traffic is carried on between the capital and outlying towns in most cases by diligences, some of the roads being tolerably well maintained by the government.

Paraguay has suffered terribly, during the whole of its independent history, from wars and revolutions. Half a million of its people were killed in the war with Argentina and Brazil in 1864. In the year 1912 the revolutions in progress were practically destroying the male population, and misery and desolation covered the land. Peace is only secured by the advent or triumph of stronger political adventurers, and the duration of governments is short.

The prevalence of leprosy in Paraguay has aroused some discussion of late, and although it may have been exaggerated, the disease is more widespread than is generally recognised abroad. The danger from contamination is not serious to the traveller in general, although possibly more so, it is stated, than in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and other South American countries, where it is also encountered. The insanitary mode of life of the poorer classes and the lassitude of the authorities are responsible for the propagation of the scourge, which might assume greater proportions.

Paraguay was the scene of an interesting experiment in communism known as the "New Australia." This colony was established twenty years ago by one William Lane, who with a little band of Australians left Sydney to demonstrate their economic theories upon a grant of land allotted them by the government of Paraguay. In this colony there were to be no rich or poor, no master or servant, but each was to work for the community, and every member of the band, before starting, made over to the common fund all his worldly possessions. The colony underwent endless misfortunes but was very generously treated by the government of Paraguay, as both the colonists and the government sincerely believed the result would have been a success. The land was extremely fertile, but remote. Discontent

and disillusionment soon arose, and although the leader and some of his followers struggled bravely on, the principle which they had set out to demonstrate was proved impracticable, and disaster resulted. Had the colony abandoned the impossible methods of communism and set to work on a more practicable basis, valuable results might have been attained, and although the remnant of the colony still exists it is now working on purely individualistic lines. There were interesting communistic systems in vogue among the Paraguay Indians in early times, some of which exist to-day.

The financial history of Paraguay has been a difficult one. In 1898 the government were unable to meet their obligations with the foreign bondholders, and at the close of 1908 the total indebtedness of the republic amounted to some £7,500,000. The service of this has, however, continued for some years, and the movement among foreign capitalists for the development of railways, which has recently taken place, may assist the progress of the country, whose greatest hope is in the extension of agriculture. The total amount of British capital invested in Paraguay reaches the sum of £3,000,000. The national revenue for 1911 was about £679,000 and the expenditure £667,000. The value of the exports for 1919 was \$14,816,000 (Argentine gold pesos), and of the imports \$15,836,000.

Given a period of political stability, the gradual development of Paraguay may be brought about, consolidating the portion of the vast, rich heart of South America. The experiments in so-called Socialistic governmental measures may be observed with a certain amount of interest by foreign and South American peoples. A proposal was recently brought forward by the President to govern the country by a "council of nine," instead of the usual presidential executive, with a view of eliminating the abuses so frequently resulting upon this. Whether other abuses might result has been open to question. It is in the reasonable development of the country's resources, in the interests of its people, that true progress will be secured.