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YEAR XXXV

Special Telegram.

TO STANDARD.

Montevideo, 18th.

An official bulletin gives further details of the battle on the Nico Perez railway line between the stations Rebolado and Cerro Colorado. I send a condensed translation.

General Muñoz telegraphs from Rebolado under date April 17th, 10 p.m.:—“After a hurried march we overtook the enemy at Cerro Colorado. Informed of our coming and obliged to fight, the enemy had taken up a strong position behind embankments of the railway, which afforded a good strategical defence, and upon hill-tops and roofs in the neighbourhood. Their line of battle covered two leagues in open order with infantry and cavalry in reserve. They opened a deadly fire. The vanguard of the Government force, composed of the Florida division and a thousand men under Colonel Ceberras—the whole under command of Col. Dominguez, Prefect of Florida—attacked the enemy, forming in skirmishing order at 150 metres from his lines. I followed immediately with the bulk of my army and we drove the enemy from all his positions after a hard fight lasting till sunset. Thrice the enemy changed his positions and thrice was he dislodged by my forces. Prisoners whom we took said enemy had carried off their wounded. Enemy is retreating broken and discouraged. Their forces amounted to about 8000 men; they have had seven wounded and fifty killed, one an officer. Enemy flying towards Cerro Largo closely pursued by Government forces.”

Later telegram from the same General says:—“Enemy passed Illescas going toward Nico Perez. I have sent couriers to Generals Muñoz and Pacheco ordering them to attack the enemy who are completely demoralized by desertions from their force, due to dissatisfaction caused by conduct of their Commander Lamas, who fled in a cowardly manner before a charge which I sent against their centre. I have camped here to rest my horses which are fatigued by six days’ incessant pursuit of the rebels.”

Another telegram dated this morning from Florida, from Perfect of that Department, confirms above telegrams of Gen. Muñoz, and says rebel—losses have been very heavy. Florida you will remember is the town which on Friday, when I left Buenos Aires, was reported in Portoño press as in the possession of the rebels.

This afternoon a football team from the British warships beat the Albion local team by four goals to one.

Government artillery were to-day practising with the new cannon just received from Europe; a large number of American and English naval officers were present; distance of target was about 4,500 metres. Owing to want of experience with these new guns the marksmanship was not very good, nevertheless some fine shots were scored.

U. S. S. Yantic sails for home on the 24th. Her officers gave a parting banquet to those of the Lancaster. U. S. S. Castine left Bahia last Monday and is expected here on Tuesday.

Yesterday police arrested two Blanco spies.

I specially recommend to your attention current number of *Uruguay News* which contains answer to the STANDARD’S article on Körner.

It is likely that if General Muñoz and Lamas survive the present campaign, the latter will challenge the former for qualifying his flight as “cowardly.”

Stand-by O’Gorman.

(Per Havas Agency.)

War declared.

Hard Fighting.

Vienna, 18th.—Despatches received during the night from Larissa and Ellassona report that all along the Greco-Turkish frontier hard fighting is going on between the Turkish regular troops and the Greek army aided by insurgents bands in Macedonia and Thessaly. These telegrams add that the war may be considered to have commenced definitely all along the line.

Constantinople, 18th—6 a.m. The Sublime Porte announced, during the night, a circular to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers, insisting that the responsibility for the fighting now going on lies entirely with the Greeks and has been caused by repeated incursions into Turkish territory by Greek forces. The note adds that in order to give a fresh proof of its desire for peace, the Porte is willing to withdraw its troops from Macedonia if Greece will, at the same time, withdraw hers from the frontiers of the Empire.

Paris, 18th (11.50 a.m.)—The principal organs of the Press yet hope that Europe will succeed in localizing the war commenced on the Greco-Turkish frontier. All urge the Powers to strain every effort to lay aside international jealousy in order to prevent the East from being ravaged by the sword.

Athens, 18th—By an order received from Constantinople the Turkish Minister has already demanded his passport and is preparing to return to the Ottoman Capital. The popular effervescence increases throughout the kingdom.

Constantinople 18th (12.10 p.m.)—The newspapers have just issued special bulletins confirming the official declaration of war between Turkey and Greece. Extraordinary activity prevails in the Palace of the Sultan and in the Ministries of War, Marine and Foreign Affairs. Reinforcements are to be despatched at once to the frontier of Thessaly. The war-ships since last night have had steam up and are momentarily expected to leave for Greek waters.

Athens, 18th mid-day—A telegram from Vonnisa states that at dawn this morning the Turkish batteries of Prevéssa, a port on the extreme south of the Ottoman Province of Epirus and at the entrance to the gulf of Arta, fired on and sank a Greek steamer passing the Strait. The crew just managed to save themselves and landed on the coast of Arcania near fort Punta. Shortly afterwards a Greek squadron, composed of gun and torpedo-boats, which was anchored in the gulf, steamed up and immediately commenced to bombard Prevéssa. The cannonade continues furiously.

It is known that deadly firing has commenced all along the line especially to the north of Larissa, which city the Sultan’s forces are making every effort to capture.

Paris, 18th (4.25 p.m.)—Telegrams from Constantinople announce that the Sublime Porte handed his passport this afternoon to Prince Maurocordato, the Greek Minister, and that the Prince immediately removed from the Legation of his country the escutcheon and flag. The Sultan’s Government has also warned all Greek merchants to leave Turkish territory within 15 days as, that term having expired, he will not be responsible for anything that may happen to them. The wildest panic prevails in the financial circles of Constantinople.

Larissa, 18th (4 p.m.)—The Greek troops have succeeded, after a bloody struggle, in capturing the Turkish town of Menexa, which now lies almost in a mass of ruins. The Turks retired in disorder pursued by the volunteer columns.

It is known that the Turkish Commander-in-Chief has ordered the concentration of large bodies of troops in the neighbourhood of Domenikon, which lies in front of the Greek city of Tournavos, with the intention of crossing the frontier and of attacking that stronghold. Prince Constantine is also sending reinforcements to repel this invasion.

Madrid, 18th—By a decree issued to-day strict quarantine is imposed on all vessels arriving in any Spanish port, whether at home or abroad in the colonies, from Macao, a Portuguese possession on the Chinese coast and lying in front of Hong Kong. The reason for this precaution is news received to the effect that cholera in an extremely virulent form has broken out in Macao.

Paris, 18th—Joigny gained to-day the “President of the Republic” stakes run at Anteuil.

Athens, 18th—An official despatch received from Larissa announces that the Greek forces have occupied several Turkish positions. The repeated assaults delivered by the Sultan’s troops on Anaplysis have been repulsed with great loss to the assailants.

The Turkish garrison of Preveza have bombarded and destroyed the Actium station and the Greek squadron has bombarded the forts of Preveza and destroyed that of Skapidaki.

Madrid, 18th—It is denied that a large number of troops are to be brought back from Cuba.

General Weyler, in a telegram received to-day, announces that the entire Province of Santa Clara and a part of that called Camagüey have been pacified.

Constantinople, 18th—The Sultan’s Government has officially informed the Powers that war had been declared against Greece. Great excitement is visible in the streets.

Athens, 18th—Two thousand infantry and artillery, embarked in Vonnisa, have landed at Salagoonan and are marching on Preveza. The greatest enthusiasm animates all ranks.

Constantinople, 18th—Assun Bey, the Turkish Minister, left Athens to-day for this Capital. All the Greek Consuls have also received orders to embark. The two last classes of the Reserves have been called out. The troops which have just left for the seat of war were enthusiastically cheered by the populace.

Athens, 18th—The Prime Minister Delyannis, enumerating the charges against Turkey says that the Turks are the aggressors. Turkey declares war; Greece accepts it and trusts in her right and her strength. Declaration received with enthusiastic cheers. Even the members of the opposition manifest their adherence to the Government policy and declare their patriotism.

The Chamber separates amid great enthusiasm to re-assemble at midnight when important resolutions are on the tapis.

Athens, (18th (11 p.m.)—Greeks troops have occupied Skapidaki. All the North-east Coast of the Gulf of Arta is in the hands of the Greeks and the city of Arta is in flames.

The Turkish battery defending Menexa has been silenced. Edhem Pacha’s troops advancing on Larissa have been repulsed and are falling back till reinforcements reach them.

REVIEW.

But for the drama going on in the Banda Oriental, the Holy Week would have been dull and uninteresting, devoted to piety and leisure. The Blanco patriots, however, on the other side of the river have not been idle, and every day in the chequered record of events shows that the rebels are gaining ground slowly, but steadily. On land there can be no doubt that Lamas has checkmated the Government forces, which, in their wild chase, are now in a corner of the country near the Brazilian frontier. Lamas, meantime, has dodged them, and we may say he is now practically in the rear of the army of Santos Arribo, whilst his companion Saravia faces the loyal contingent of the South. Every day that goes by strengthens the rebel cause, and men and supplies pour in from all sides. The only advantage that President Borda has to-day over the patriots is the artillery: as for numbers and generalship, he is inferior.

The main event of the week has been the capture of the Uruguayan gun-boat General Artigas by the Blancos off the small port of Nueva Palmira. It was a bold “coup de main” and cost, relatively speaking, many lives. The Argentine Government has seized the rebel gun-boat, and after a lot of red-tape and dilly-dallying, will return it to the Borda Government. She is a lawful prize, and Argentina, so far as we can see, is in no way bound to deliver her up; but “no-blese oblige.” It is worthy of note that the seizure of the Artigas was planned and carried out by a boy of 21 years at the head of 20 men! Full details of the engagement will be found in another column.

On this side of the river affairs have been very quiet, and business has been practically nil. We do not remember a Holy Week when the churches were more crowded or the piety of the population more in evidence. There are many who think and write that Buenos Aires is a goddess city, but this Holy Week has proved the deep piety and devotion of the people, high and low—not only here, but all over the republic. On Thursday and Friday the numerous and large churches of this capital were too small for their congregations, and the crowds gathered from early morn to midnight. Disorder there was none, and the levity of youth, remarkable in previous years, shone by its absence.

The military crisis—that is to say the struggle in the high ranks of the Army and Navy against the Minister of War and Marine—continues, and we regret to see that discipline in both services suffers seriously. President Urriburu supports his Minister, but there can be no doubt that ere long the Minister must resign, although all are agreed that the country owes Minister Villanova a great debt for his services during his term of office. But it is idle to conceal that the Minister to-day is distasteful to the two services, and his period is gone: the sooner he resigns the better for army and navy, as chaos is at hand, and discipline is shaken to its foundations.

Affairs in general are most satisfactory. The Minister of Finance finds that the revenue exceeds all expectations, and that the situation of the Treasury is relieved by the sharp fall in gold. The losses of the farmers in Santa Fé and Entre Rios appear to fall lightly on the Republic, and, although exports show a sharp shrinkage and business embarrassments are the order of the day, revenue is increasing and the financial status excellent.

It looks as if we shall see an early Session of Congress this year, as the city is already full of Congress-men. The Minister of Finance is already fixing up his Budget for 1898, and the President of the Republic is drawing up his Inaugural

Message. It is surmised in high quarters that by the time that Congress meets the President will be able to announce that the Bank of England holds in deposit for account of the Argentine Government all the funds necessary to meet the full interest service on the foreign debt. Minister Escalante, they say, has been taking exchange heavily of late for this object.

Thus far we have spoken of Holy Week and of our own and of our neighbours’ squabbles, petty anxieties and interests. But all eyes, even in the American Continent, are now directed with deepest interest to the fearful drama just commencing to be played in Europe. Yesterday the curtain was raised. On Easter-day, the greatest festival of Christendom, the Turk, her ancient and inveterate enemy, declared war on the little Kingdom of Greece which, it must at the same time be admitted, had been for many days past openly defying the Moslem Power. Concerned as the civilized world undoubtedly is in the result of this bloody struggle between two Powers so unevenly matched in numbers, the true cause for the deep anxiety felt by Europe in the conflict, as evidenced by her money markets, is rather what may be the ultimate result with regard to the Six Great Powers which, for over a quarter of a century, may said to have been only waiting for some excuse to fly at one another’s throats. The greatest hope for European peace lies in the strange kaleidoscopic minglings and evolutions caused by the Cretan conflict. A few months ago Europe was clearly divided out by a Triple and a Dual Alliance. To-day we have the three Empires on one side while England, France and Italy range themselves in opposition. Old land-marks in diplomacy have been blotted out, and it is earnestly to be hoped that this very confusion, by erasing the bitterness of former feuds, may work for general peace and that should Europe be called on to save the weak Hellenic Kingdom from annihilation at the hand of the Sultan’s hordes, the Concert of Powers may be found, subdued by the fearful spectacle just witnessed of blood and carnage, ready to work together for the general good of Christendom, Humanity and Civilization.

The gold market, if anything, is weak, although few are able to explain why gold should fall when business is bad and exchange weak, but there are great hopes in the future. There can be no doubt that all candidates for the Presidential Race are scratched except General Roca, and this augurs revival and prosperity.

Exchange continues weak: we quote:—
On London—47½ d.
On Paris—5.02 fcs.
On Antwerp—5.03 fcs.
On Hamburg—4.08½ marks.

SPORT.

RACING AT THE PARK.

The programme did not turn out as well as could have been wished, but nevertheless a fair day’s sport was enjoyed. Tiradentes won the first event easily and was well backed for the last event, but only got a good second. The Premio America brought out 10 runners and after a very good race Pitanga, a sterling mare, won comfortably by a length. The negro, on Malokoff, shewed his usual judgment and won his race easily a thousand metres from the winning past. The last race was well won by Vivas, but a sheet could have covered the lot at the paddock. The details are—

Premio Esperanza.
For all three-year-olds colts and more of one year’s residence in the country, that have not won more than one race. Weight for age. 3 kilos for those that have won. Distance 1400 metres. Prize \$1400 to the 1st and 100 to the 2nd.

Yrs. Kls.
Ec. Sans Façon, Tiradentes 3 57½ 1
by Orbit out of Nana... 3 58½ 2
Stud Calchin, Flecha II... 3 58½ 3
Stud Rio Tercero, Margot... 3 58½ 4
Also ran—Belgrano, Orbe, Distinguido, Extra, Androcles, Chara, Sorpresa.

Sorpresa was away first followed by Androcles, but coming into the bend, Tiradentes took the lead and won comfortably by a length.

Sport—Tiradentes 9.12, Placé 3.22; Flecha II 4.97, Margot 3.49.
Premio Vendetta.
For all two years old, Weight 52 and 50 kilos. 3 kilos extra for the winners of one race and 5 kilos for those who have won two or more. Distance 1000 metres. Prize \$1,700 to the 1st and 100 to the second.

Yrs. Kls.
Stud Santa Fé, Alarife by April out of Intervention... 2 55 1
Stud Calchin, Amelia... 2 50 2
Stud Ecurie, Nobleza... 2 50 3
Also ran—Huapi, Sirena II, Sultana, Plaisanterie, Mareá, Mandarina.

Sirena II was quickest away and led to the straight where Alarife came along on the rails and won with great ease by a length.
Sport—Alarife 7.45, Placé 2.75, Amelia 2.47, Nobleza 4.50.
Premio Stone Cross.
Handicap for all horses limited to between 62 and 48 kilos. Distance 2,500 metres. Prize \$2,500 to the 1st and 200 to the 2nd.

Yrs. Kls.
J. B. Zabiarrue, Malakoff, by Whipper In out of Vera... 6 59 1
Stud Paris, Oriol... 6 60 2
Ecurie Juncal, Espoir... 4 56 3
Also ran—Tanger, Yerú, Idiota.

Yerú took command of affairs at once and led his field to the off bend, when the negro on Malakoff, who was lying second, took up the running, and never being challenged, won as he pleased by two lengths.
Sport—Malakoff \$5. Placé 3.53; Oriol 7.01.
Premio America.
For all horses. Weight for age. Distance 1400 metres. Prize \$4000 to the 1st and \$500 to the 2nd.

Yrs. Kls.
Ec. Montevideo, Pitanga, by Gloriation out of Criptomaria... 3 55 1
Ecurie Radames, Zig-Zag... 3 57 2
Stud Palmar, Palmar... 4 59 3
Also ran—Blue Boat, Mignonnette, Talma, Minerva, Ney, Rigoló, Artois.

When the flag dropped Blue Boat made the pace a hot one and looked a winner all over to the paddock, where the field came up and Pitanga, on the rails, challenged and won by a length—the favorite was never in the race.
Sport—Pitanga \$8.01. Placé 4.74; Zig-Zag 7.33.

Premio Limethorpe.
Handicap for all horses that have not won more than \$7,000. Distance 1100 metres. Prize \$1,500 to the 1st and 100 to the 2nd.

Yrs. Kls.
Ec. Prisionero, Eureka by Neapolit out of Venessa... 4 57 1
Ecurie Juncal, Dámara... 3 56 2
Ecurie Nautilus, Brick... 4 59 3
Also ran—Oriente, Bab, Cristiana, Grillon, Josefina, Belgrano, Orbe, Chara and Galatea.

Oriente, full of running, made the pace a very hot one to the paddock, where they all closed and Eureka getting well through his field won a good race by a length.
Sport—Eureka \$14.33; Placé 3.85. Dámara 2.91. Brick 2.36.

Premio Mignonnette.
Handicap for all horses. Distance 1600 metres. Prize \$1700 to the 1st and 100 to the 2nd.

Yrs. Kls.
Petite Ecurie, Cartujo by Stiletto out of Carmona... 4 42 1
Ecurie Indecis, Little Darling 3 44 2
Stud Pobre, Aguilá... 3 40 3
Also ran—Mundial, Daza, Namuncurú, Distinguido and Bay Rum.

When the flag dropped Little Darling shot to the front and led all the way to the paddock where the youngster on Cartujo challenged and won a fine race by a length.
Sport—Cartujo \$20.85; Placé 11.17. Little Darling 12.09.

Premio Daza.
Handicap for all horses. Distance 1000 metres. Prize \$1,800 to the first and 100 to the 2nd.

Yrs. Kls.
Ecurie Radames, Vivas by Vavenport out of Bellevue 3 54 1
Ec. Sans Façon Tiradentes... 3 44 2
M. Gonzalez, Pichincha... 5 50 3
Also ran—Revancha, Policeman, Antropófago, Malvina and Monk.

Revancha got a bit the best of the start and led his field by a little to the straight where they came up and raced together to within twenty metres of the post when Vivas, Tiradentes and Pichincha shot out Vivas winning by a head.
Sport—Vivas \$18.07.

EDITOR’S TABLE.
Easter Sunday! Delightfully fine autumn weather. Everybody in his and her best bib and tucker (as people used to say half a century ago). The churches crowded at all the Masses and services, old “Todo-el-Mundo” feeling (or pretending to feel) quite good and pious after his Lenten privations. Half the population must have gone to the suburbs or camp for a day’s outing, as, except at the Boca, the streets were a semi-deserted look. There were lots of news in and out of the papers. The Greek and Turk are actually at war. The brazen gates of Janus’ Temple are now open, and “quien sabe” what changes there will be in old Europe before they are closed again. The surest sign that all hope of peace is abandoned is the leap and bound in the prize of wheat in Europe and the United States. What millions of shekels the Looons have deprived Argentina of this year by destroying her

wheat harvest. May somebody else forgive them, but Argentine farmers never will.

The news of the White Rose patriotic flare-up on the other side of Jordan yesterday was exciting. The patriotic forces of the gallant Lamas are now masters of the whole Interior, and have won another fight at Corrales de Piedra, near Melo. In Montevideo there is great alarm, and the Government is at sixes and sevens and apparently “off its head” with fright. Borda and his minions have their trunks packed ready for a bolt. On Thursday night there was a scare in all the barracks, caused by the flashing of an electric search-light into the buildings, but nobody could discover where the light was situated. The troops were called to arms, and paraded the streets all night, looking for the light and its manipulator, but failed to find either. Borda jumped out of bed and summoned all the Generals and field officers in the city to “acompañar” him in case of anything unpleasant for his skin turning up before morning; but he and they are still above ground, though in deep distress of mind. This week may witness lively occurrences in poor B.O. We wonder how much of the recent loan which our London friends were “soft” enough to fork out is now left in the coffers of that brand new “institution of credit,” the Banco de la Republica?

The great floods in the Mississippi Valley are something truly tremendous, as our North American cousins say. At Memphis, Tennessee, the river, usually less than two miles wide, was over forty miles wide on March 24th, and fifty persons had lost their lives near the city.

The “hito” business on the frontier appears to have gone on more briskly than people thought during the summer. The several Boundary Commissions have placed in all 23 of these land-marks this year in the North, and expect to have still more pointing skywards before Jack Frost and Billy Snow drive them from the Cordillera till smiling Spring her earliest visit pays again.

There are a good many Senators and Deputies in town, and some of them are picking a rod for the War Minister if he cling to office till Congress meets. The law-givers are disgusted with the anarchy in both army and navy, and intend to “neckle” the Minister about it. They say they don’t care an American dime or a Turkish dam who is in fault, but the present scandalous state of affairs must be put a stop to, for the credit of the country. Quite right.

The New York Tribune, the leading Protectionist organ in the U. States, says that the duties applying to paintings, statuary, photographs and books are a “humiliation, degrading, medieval and barbarous”, and present the nation to the world as “caring more for money than for intellectual or moral progress.” Hear! Hear! That’s a fact, Jonatban, you bet.—

Little Regie.—He hardly ever makes good boys strong enough to lick bad boys. The Vatican library at Rome has a copy of the Hebrew Bible, for which Pope Julius, in 1512, refused \$125,000.

Our London correspondent gave a list of the new Chilean fleet now on the way out from England in one of his communications which we published on Wednesday last. The following vessels now completing can be added to it by those who wish to contemplate the full power of the new Chilean fleet. One battleship of 8,500 tons displacement at normal draught, building by Sir William Armstrong, Mitchell and Co., to be named the O’Higgins. This ship has a 4 in. belt of Harvey’s nickel steel and an extremely powerful armament of 8 in. and 6 in. quick-fire guns located on the main deck and upper deck, each gun station being fully protected by stout armour and isolated from the other stations. She has boilers and machinery to develop 16,500 horse-power and should steam fully 20 1/4 knots an hour. Four large torpedo boats of 27 knots speed, completed by the Messrs. Yarrow at Poplar. These boats will not come out under steam, but will be partially knocked down and riveted up after arriving in Chile, being transported in sections. How long will Argentina and Chile continue to play at the game of “You buy, I buy; I buy, you buy.” It is Argentina’s next “buy.” Will it be the 10,000 ton battleship talked of a little time ago?

It is now known that the dars-devils who captured the Oriental gunboat Artigas were twenty-three Greeks from the Boca. Commander Risso, who was in command of the vessel, fought like a genuine sea-dog of the old school. He first shot down the two middies Suarez and Rodriguez who had deserted from the ship, and then finished them with a big knife, with which he laid about him in tremendous style, killing and wounding several of the assailants. He was badly damaged himself, with several endless slashes from his head to his heels, and a bullet through his jaws. It was now known that some of the crew of 70 men were in complicity with the assailants, otherwise the Greeks would have tared badly.

The first Cinderella Ball of the season is announced for the 19th of May. Only one month off, girls: so prepare for the great event.

In spite of this, the Home has been worked during the year in such a manner that there is only a deficit of \$118,250 on the year's working.

It will be seen on reference to the Treasurer's report that the working of the Home during the year has cost something over ten thousand dollars, while the income from annual subscriptions, fees, and interest on capital amounts to only about six thousand dollars.

The buildings and grounds have been well cared for, over \$900,000 having been spent in repairs.

The total expenditure during the year may be divided as follows per head per day: (a) Charges (food, stores, etc.) 2.19, (b) Wages 1.03, (c) Repairs 0.80, (d) Depreciation 0.18, Total 4.40.

As regards the question of revenue, the Sub-Committee point out that the British Hospital might fairly be requested to subscribe to the Home, since the Home accommodates 96 patients from the Hospital during the year, of whom 66 were free patients.

The Committee wish to express their satisfaction at the manner in which the Home has been managed during the year by the Superintendent and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Carson.

The Committee regret to have to state that Mr. Chevallier Boutell has found it necessary to resign his post on the Committee and his office as Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Chevallier Boutell has worked in the interest of the Institution since its foundation, and to him more than any one is due the success of the Home, which produced such satisfactory financial results.

In accordance with the statutes, three members of the Committee retire by rotation, these being the Rev. G. E. Coocks, J. O. Hall, Esq., and J. Murray Tulloch, Esq.

I see in your issue of this morning, notice of alterations proposed by the Committee of the British Hospital, regarding the medical staff of the same.

The first question which strikes one on reading these is: "Are these proposals to the general interest of the British community?" and again "Is it wise to establish a permanent monopoly in the hands of one official?"

Granted that at the present moment the management is all that could be desired, and everyone acquainted with the hospital for the last few years cannot fail to rejoice in the excellent work done there, yet one cannot guarantee the indefinite continuance of these same conditions; and, in framing rules of this sort, it seems very desirable that they should be in such a form as to be permanently applicable.

We all know how much easier it is to make rules than to alter them.

If the proposed alterations are carried into effect, it will mean that the entire use of the Hospital will be put into the hands of one doctor, to the absolute exclusion of all others.

Suppose, Sir, that I am seized by some illness that renders hospital treatment advisable, I have no option but to put myself in the hands of the doctor selected by the Committee.

My object being to lay out new streets, and divide into chacras the valley in which Junio de los Andes is situated, we staved here almost a month.

On the 1st of January the famous "carriers," already mentioned, came off, and I was surprised to see such a lot of people turn up on this occasion, from Nahuel-Huapi, Palmari and even from Chile.

The "comerciantes" in Junio did a roaring business. Money did not change hands in great abundance, being rather scarce, so I was told, on account of people having to pay rent of the camps they occupy, which in former years they never did, as the owners could not present their titles or prove their ownership.

The rent for a league of camp is from 800 to 350 dollars on private property and \$250 on Government land. Many of these settlers have rather queer ideas on this point and think

THE CATALINAS COMPANY.

Of course the great topic of conversation in the market is the Catalinas business, and the sentence of the Supreme Court, which although, if not entirely in favor of the Company, is still enough so to warrant the directors of the Company in expecting that it will help considerably towards an arrangement with the Debenture Holders.

The sentence of the Court with all its "and considering" is so long that we confine ourself to giving the ruling only, which runs as follows:

1st.—That the concession granted to the Catalinas Moles and Deposits Co. by decree of July 21, 1875, and approved by law of 12th October 1877, has always held and still holds good.

2nd.—That the concession in its 1st article does not comprise a pro-rata right to cargo in competition with the fiscal deposits in existence or such as may afterwards be built on the port lands, in which respect the Government's action is quite free and unrestricted.

3rd.—That with regard to the other deposits of the capital the Catalinas Company has a right to pro-rata distribution in the proportion and conditions established in Art. 1st of the concession.

4th.—That the Catalinas Company has a right to indemnity for having been deprived of the pro-rata distribution therein specified.

Dr. Bunge and Bozan in minority upheld the decision of the lower court, which absolved the Government of all claims.

Now it will be seen at a glance from the above that the Company is completely barred from hoping to compel the Government to send ships to its deposit, so long as there are fiscal deposits available.

On a fine day at the end of January, we set out on our return trip to Buenos Aires in company with two merchants and three families, who wished to visit some warm mineral springs in the "Cordilleras" on the Chilean side.

The descent took us about two hours, and now we were travelling in Chile along the slopes of a mountain, densely covered with beautiful forests of pine, cypress, beech and other trees I do not know the name of.

In the afternoon we pitched our camp in the forest, where a small mountain brook rushes headlong down the black and red coloured rocks, the headwater of the river Trancura.

For six days we travelled along these beautiful mountain paths in a forest of big trees, straight as arrows, crossed by numerous rivulets, with the banks dotted with big ferns, orchids and every description of bushes and creepers covered with many coloured flowers and berries.

Every nook and valley was speedily taken up by hardy pioneers from the over-stocked Rio Negro valley or waterless camps of the Pampa Central; the most important settlements being those at the Lago Nahuel-Huapi, Colloncurea, Junio de los Andes, Catalina and Palmari.

My object being to lay out new streets, and divide into chacras the valley in which Junio de los Andes is situated, we staved here almost a month.

On the 1st of January the famous "carriers," already mentioned, came off, and I was surprised to see such a lot of people turn up on this occasion, from Nahuel-Huapi, Palmari and even from Chile.

The "comerciantes" in Junio did a roaring business. Money did not change hands in great abundance, being rather scarce, so I was told, on account of people having to pay rent of the camps they occupy, which in former years they never did, as the owners could not present their titles or prove their ownership.

The rent for a league of camp is from 800 to 350 dollars on private property and \$250 on Government land. Many of these settlers have rather queer ideas on this point and think

it a great shame to expect payment for camps they have occupied for nothing for 8 or 10 years. "What has the world come to?" they exclaimed, "after having done the owner the great service of populating his camp, he now wants us to pay rent!"

Although not much cash was forthcoming people spent freely what they had, and a good many cows, sheep and horses changed hands.

The principal merchant and Juez de Paz, Captain Fosberg, gave a big breakfast, the meat of which not unlike here, to show what an important place this is: "soupe a la reine," turkeys, "pastel a la criolla," sucking pigs "carne con certero" and as 'postre' the most delicious strawberries gathered in the mountains.

There is a brisk traffic at this time of the year in the Andes, and scarcely a day passes without our seeing troops of mules laden with wool or hides on their way to the Chilean market, or on their return trip with merchandise for Junio, Nahuel-Huapi or other places; or a drove of cattle bound for some place in Chile stayed a day or two for rest.

Most of the houses are of wood, of which there still is abundance in the mountains near the lakes Huechulanguen, Lólo and other places; the houses are built in Chilean fashion, with high slanting roofs and bright old painted doors and windows not unlike here.

There is a church with two priests, a school with a schoolmistress, and a Post Office with a postmaster, but, strange to say, without any official communication with the outer world. Now and then a man is hired by the Juzgado to go to Codivue to bring back the mails.

Up to December 31st we carried 46,920 tons of wool, or 5,920 tons less than during the same period last year.

The receipts per goods and live stock ton miles were £1,438,355 against £1,243,502, an increase of 19.16 per cent.

The comparative classification is as follows: 1895. Public Traffic No. Amount. Ordinary—1st Class 440,960 71,889 9 4, 2nd Class 514,570 40,491 0 5

Season—1st Class 228,717 4,128 9 9, 2nd Class 64,254 896 9 11, Special Trains — 542 7 0, Total 1,246,510 124,888 8 6

The gross earnings from goods and live stock amounts to £133,194 as compared with \$394,875, an increase of £38,819, equal to 9.70 per cent.

The ton miles of public traffic were 81,104,673 against 71,442,156, an increase of 9,662,517, or 13.52 per cent.

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There has been a material improvement of the traffic that are the main supports of our revenue, namely, passengers, ordinary goods, wool, live stock and cereals.

The condition of the live stock on the Southern camps has been excellent. The fall of the year has been very good, and the wool season was exceptionally good, but on account of low prices we reduced our rates and the business has therefore been less profitable than it might have been.

The maize produced in our district has given us 119,577 tons compared with 103,312 tons last year, an increase of 16.74 per cent.

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RAILWAY ITEMS.

Mr. Barrow, the general manager, reports on the half-year's working under date 4th February, 1897, as follows:—

The total number of public passenger journeys was 1,426,545 against 1,246,510 in 1895, an increase of 180,035, equal to 14.44 per cent.

The public passenger miles were 38,953,862 against 34,492,789, an increase of 12.93 per cent.

The total earnings for public passengers were £148,355 against £124,502, an increase of 19.16 per cent.

The comparative classification is as follows: 1895. Public Traffic No. Amount.

Table with 3 columns: Public Traffic, No., Amount. Rows for Ordinary (1st Class, 2nd Class, Season), Special Trains, and Total.

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The receipts have advanced from £31,207 to £36,360, equal to 16.51 per cent.

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growth of weeds and grass on the line, and we had to strengthen our permanent way gangs in consequence.

Re-railing Plaza Constitución to Temperley.—The re-railing of both main lines with 85 lb. rails on hardwood sleepers between Plaza Constitución and Temperley has been completed with the exception of the points and crossings.

Barker Memorial Hall.—This building is in hand and will be finished about the end of April.

New Station at Las Martinetas.—The new station was opened to public service on September 2nd.

Temperley to Cauhué.—The laying of heavier permanent way on stone ballast, and the improvement of the gradients will be commenced as soon as the Government have authorized the work.

Extension Lobos to 25 de Mayo.—This line was opened to public service on November 1st, and will be finally completed by the end of March.

Extension Saladillo to Alvear.—The plans have received Government approval and construction will be commenced at once.

Extension Lobos to Navarro.—The construction of this line is in abeyance. The land required for the line and promised free of cost has not yet been handed over.

Extension 25 de Mayo to San Carlos.—Plans have been sent to Government and negotiations commenced for the acquisition of land. Construction will be commenced as soon as Government authority and all the land required have been secured.

Extension San Carlos to Guaminí and Guaminí to Saavedra (Alfaro).—The plans for the first section of this line have received Government approval, and the plans for the second section have been presented.

Extension of Branch from Hinciojo to Sierra Baya.—An extension to carry this line nearer to the stone quarries of Sierra Baya has been surveyed and plans submitted to Government.

Extension Bahía Blanca to Neuquén.—The contract for the construction of this line was signed on the 6th April, 1896, and approved August 19th.

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ment with the results of the half-year's operations. The receipts were slightly better, but the expenses were higher, and he result is a loss of £2,249 against £376.

Taking into account the interest to 31st December on Argentine funding bonds (£4,000) and the balance from 1895-96 (£624), there is a balance of £2,425 to be carried forward.

Although the expenses appear in seeming to have increased, as a matter of fact there was an actual saving of £42,345. The general poor result of the six months was due to the devastation of the Province of Entre Ríos by locusts, which destroyed 90 per cent of the crops.

The directors, however, point out that the causes which affected the receipts are not permanent, and there is no cause for losing confidence in the recovery of the country.

The Railway Board has been authorized to buy from Steffield and Co. of the United States two cranes for the Lañ and Guemes stations of the Central North Railway.

It has also been authorized to purchase from Crovetto and Co. of this city materials for the workshops of the Dean Funes and Chicleto.

The Minister of the Interior has approved the contract made by the Governor of Neuquen Territory for laying a road from Choa-Malal to Fort Roca, for \$12,000.

Government has authorized the Railway Board to spend \$3000 gold in the purchase of 30 switches for the Central North Railway.

The Railway Board has been authorized to enlarge the Mendez station on the Central North Railway.

The explanatory letter of Dr. Escalante to the President of the National Bank, published in our last, was much commented on to-day, as some think it shows the Government is very hard pressed, which may or may not be true, probably is, considering that it is the normal condition of South American Executives in general.

However, the letter means nothing beyond the legitimate desire of the Finance Minister to have all supplies under his direct surveillance, whilst he plainly states that the Government does not mean to appropriate these funds, as the National Bank creditors were apprehensive.

The only change, therefore, is that the monies accruing from the liquidation of the National Bank, instead of being held by the bank, go to deposit in the Banco de la Nación to account of the Government. There is nothing in this to cause any ebullition of bile.

Dear Sirs, I have been under the bottom of this craft as she now lies on the slipway at the ex-Platense works. It is very patent that she went on to the rocks at a very high speed, as her bottom for two-thirds of her length is ripped, the plates are broken between each floor or frame, her bow for some twenty or thirty feet, with the torpedo tube in it, is broken off the rest of her hull, right up and down a bulkhead; this could not be done by the force of the waves, but is evidently done by the injudicious application of the force of some mechanical power, say the floating derrick or crane.

If the ship could have groaned in her agony her cry could have been the Lord deliver me from my friends. The intrinsic value of the hull of these vessels is really very little the expense lies in the power-ful engines, boilers and armament; the plates of the hull are flimsy things of steel about the thickness of ordinary galvanized sheets of roofing iron with the exception of one belt of plating which is about two eighths of an inch thick; this is round the hull and forms the upper streak and helps to give the ship longitudinal strength, weight of material which would give strength must be sacrificed to get high speed. An interesting chapter might be written as to why she was got off and why she should be repaired.

Yours truly, Nausieus.

Government has approved the plans for the intermediate stations on the Neuquén line, as also the sites for them, viz:—

At Kil. 18,800 at Villa Olga, " " 45,400 " " 88,000 " " 131,600 " " 172,000 at Rio Colorado.

Government has authorized the Railway Board to order in Europe one cylinder of low and three of high pressure for the locomotives 15 and 17 of the Central North Railway, for \$2,400 gold for all.

Government has approved the contract made by the Engineers' Department with the Central Argentine Railway for the construction and working of a branch from Pergamino to Melinco.

Government has authorized the Post Master General to open to public service the new telegraphic office, at San Miguel to Rojas, B. A. province.

Government has approved the plans of the Bahía Blanca and North Western Railway for the erection of Locomotive Sheds at General Achá.

The following train time-table will be in force for trains between La Plata and the Port, from the 1st of next month. Departures from La Plata:—6.20 a.m., 7.15 a.m., 8.20 a.m., in combination with the train which will leave Plaza Constitución at 6.15 a.m., 9.45 in combination with the train from Central at 8 a.m. and 11.20 a.m. in combination with the train which will leave Central at 10 a.m., 12.35 p.m., in combination with the train to leave Constitución at 11 a.m., 1.50 p.m., 2.55, 3.55, 5.05, in combination with the train to leave Central at 3.25, 6.25, in combination with the train to leave Constitución at 4.30 p.m.

Return Trains:—6.45 a.m. 7.45, 8.45, in combination with the trains which will leave for the Buenos Aires Central Station at 9.20 a.m., 10.30 in combination with the train to leave Plaza Constitución at 11 a.m. 11.50 in combination with the train to leave for Central at 12.05 p.m. 1.15, 2.20 in combination with the train to leave for Brandzen at 2.45 p.m. 3.25 in combination with the train to leave for Constitución at 4, 4.25 in combination with the train to leave for Constitución at 5.04, 5.45, 6.55 in combination with the train to leave for Constitución at 7.35 p.m.

The Board of the Entre Ríos Railway Company do not conceal their disappointment with the results of the half-year's operations.

The receipts were slightly better, but the expenses were higher, and he result is a loss of £2,249 against £376.

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Although the expenses appear in seeming to have increased, as a matter of fact there was an actual saving of £42,345. The general poor result of the six months was due to the devastation of the Province of Entre Ríos by locusts, which destroyed 90 per cent of the crops.

The directors, however, point out that the causes which affected the receipts are not permanent, and there is no cause for losing confidence in the recovery of the country.

There will be an exodus of passengers this week which will tell more than many think on the gold market, as every passenger of course has to juggle gold in his pocket for expenses, and rattle sovereigns on the agencies' counters for the passages. In addition to the long list by the Nila, which we published a few days ago, and the Liguria's list published yesterday, we give to-day that of the Pfalz, which takes a large number of friends, amongst them the Hon. W. Baring, British Minister in the Mount, Mr. Cadmus, Mr. Cartwright Mr. Funck of Funck and Co. Mr. Fahrman of Fahrman and Co., Mr. Darbyshire, Mr. Kattenbusch, ex-agent of the Hamburg Steam Line, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Jose Maria Mendez and others. We wish them all a very pleasant trip and quick return.

We much regret to hear that Manuel, the 3-year-old son of Mr. Walter Green, of Junca 907, was on Monday knocked down and run over by the carriage of Colonel Boer, which was empty at the time. The poor little fellow had his leg broken and the coachman was yesterday arrested. We sincerely hope the injured limb will soon mend, though the doctor's report is, unhappily, by no means favourable.

We feel great pleasure in welcoming from Chubut our old and esteemed friend Mr. Lewis Jones, one of the founders of the Welsh Colony there, and are delighted to see him looking at least thirty years younger than when we saw him last. He came up in the Villario. The latest news from the Argentine Taffy-land will be found in another column.

General News.

The religious calm of Holy Week began to settle over the city yesterday, and the countenances of daily-bread men were suffused with the glowing cast of thought of the four days' rest from Thursday to Sunday. The ladies—May the Lord spare them to us—were, as usual, engaged in an innocent attempt to serve their masters: they crowded both the churches and the shops, and many of them went to shop first. The weather was of the genuine H. W. kind (Holy Week is traditionally fine in this pious country). Nobody seemed to care much about news, which was rather scarce, but that won't make the newspapers any smaller this morning; we wish it could. The news from Europe was that the Powers are straining heaven and earth to prevent a formal declaration of war between Greece and Turkey, although every Foreign Office in Europe believes it to be inevitable. The mercantile Paris Bourse lost its head yesterday, and the panic and bounds and slumps in all kinds of securities have not been equalled since the era of the Franco-German war in 1870. In London, Capel Court was also excited; but it was nothing compared with light-headed Paris. An important rumour was afloat in Paris that the Russian Bear and British Lion have agreed as to what they will do in certain eventualities, and the former is also said to have a secret agreement with the German and Austrian Eagles, so his prayers were rather like a square meal, no matter how things shape themselves. The German papers are very violent against Greece. All Macedonia has risen. The volunteers have thrashed the Turkish troops again at Mount Olympus, and the Greek flag now waves on the top of that classic mountain.

There was little or no news from the rebel field of Battle Oribe yesterday. Both sides are now resting on their oars, or rather on their arms. All the hopes of the Red Rose are now centred on General Vasquez, the new Commander in Chief; but the odds are 50 to 1 that Lammas will whip him into his own cooked hat, as he did Villar and Arribio. There is a terrific skedaddle from Paysandu, across the river, and anywhere, anywhere out of the place, as the men of it have been called under arms within five days. The news last night from Concoria was that there is nothing there, but absurd rumours about the contending forces. Muñiz's defeat is confirmed. Santos Arribio has been recalled to Montevideo by Borda. It is expected the patriots will be in Paysandu shortly. Lammas's march on Montevideo is only a faint, to deceive the enemy.

The appalling number of bloody crimes committed in this city on Sunday (Palm Sunday to boot) fairly affrighted the whole population yesterday. It was a veritable tidal wave of blood, mingled with burglaries, thefts, swindles and all kinds of minor sins. No less than four murders were committed during the day, and there were half a dozen stabbing cases. Most of these crimes were committed in the Boca and other southern parts of the city, and were the result of drunken brawls. As for the burglaries and thefts, they were innumerable, and none of the perpetrators were caught. The police say it was the worst Palm Sunday on record.

Since the explosion on Thursday it is curious to remark the nervousness of the citizens when passing carts that are loading or unloading at the doors of the shops, stores and almshouses. Ladies are, of course, specially timorous, and often can be seen to turn back when they see a cart half a square off. Even male pedestrians now dart past loading or unloading carts with a rush that plainly shows they are not fully prepared to die without a second's warning. Few of us are. It is rather an uncomfortable state of mind for a whole population of 100,000 souls to be placed in by the criminal neglect of the authorities.

The Holy Week and "blow-business" feeling in all circles was accentuating yesterday and will reach a climax to-day, when "hasta Lunes" will be the watchword. Numbers of families and bachelors will start to-day and to-night for Mar del Plata and their own or their friends' estates; or northward to Rosario and Cordoba, and even for tribulated Montevideo, for the holidays, which should be holy days, but, unfortunately, are not, for our cosmopolitan population. There is a cricket match announced for Good Friday, which, we think, is had taste, if not something more, on this specially Christian day of the year. The very latest news from tribulated Montevideo last night was that our dis-

tinguished guest General Tajés will be named Minister of Foreign Affairs, but he returns to his native land.

Another victory has been put to the credit of the Córdoba Observatory by its talented and distinguished Director, Professor Thome. The Perin Comet is a celestial vagabond that was first discovered by the Lick Observatory in the United States, but disappeared suddenly and has not been seen for some years. Recently the Kiel Observatory asked Professor Thome to look out for the tramp, as he was "wanted" by the authorities. The Professor has now spotted him knocking about in the 78th degree of South Latitude in rather a suspicious way, and he intends to keep his eye on him.

The Revd. Dr. Smith M. A. will preach on Sunday 25th inst. at noon, at the Estancia Milagro, Craig station. F. C. S.

THURSDAY.

The weather felt rather rainish yesterday, although it looked splendid, "rain-swept" it there won't be a deluge of rain before Easter Sunday. Crowds of holiday makers of all classes left last night for all points of the compass, to enjoy the four days' "rato de solaz". We intend to remain in bed for two days, a form of rest which the first physicians in England now recommend to overworked people as better than a week at the seaside.

Several members of the British Community being of opinion that it would be expedient to commemorate in some prominent and useful manner the completion of the 60th year of reign of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, it is proposed to hold a meeting at Prince George's Hall on Wednesday April 21st at 4.45 p. m. to discuss the fittest means of doing so, and the best way of carrying out any scheme upon which the meeting may decide. H. M. Minister has undertaken to be present on the occasion, and is willing that the meeting be convened in his name, and it is hoped that as many members of the community as possible will kindly attend, in order that discussion may be of a thoroughly representative character.

A telegram has been received from Fray Bentos, B.O., reporting the arrival of the yacht Gladys. It seems that she has been very unfortunate in the way of wind, as she left Tigre at 6 p.m., on Saturday, arriving at Nueva Palmira at 12.50 p.m. on Sunday. Leaving the same night for Fray Bentos, she arrived there yesterday (Wednesday) at 8 o'clock in the morning. To-day they intend commencing their return journey. No mention is made of the Veloz or Gaviota, which we suppose must be now cruising with the Gladys, as they passed Nueva Palmira on the way up, whilst the latter's crew were offshore.

The locusts have cost the Queen Province a prodigious lump of cash this year, some \$300,000 spent in the futile attempt to "extinguish" them; and now \$200,000 more is to be pitched into the street for printing a windy, rignarole report with details of the fiasco.

A Merry Easter Week we wish you, readers. Lent is over, and we're jolly glad, as we hate "jours poisson", tea without milk, dry bread, and all the massicatory privations of the solemn season; the extra prayers we rather like as we fear that some of our very best readers and subscribers are badly in need of them. However, it's all over till next year. During the holidays, (which should properly be holidays, there were edifying crowds in all the churches, the ceremonies in the principal ones being unusually magnificent, and we are happy to add, the conduct of the "juvenes" at the doors of the sacred edifices was more "decoroso" than usual.

The Argentine gunboat Parana arrived early yesterday morning at the Darsena on Concepcion del Uruguay with the remains of Colonel Blanco, who died the day before yesterday. The funeral took place yesterday at 4 p.m., and there was a great gathering of military men to mourn the demise of a comrade who was much esteemed in both services. The Parana is under orders to leave to-morrow for Uruguay.

Our colleague *Diario del Comercio* has certainly scored in its Sala de Informaciones. Between two thousand and three thousand people visit the Hall every day and devour the news—rather sensational at this moment—on the blackboards. At night the crowd is very great, attracted by the splendid illumination. The acetylene gas gives a marvellous light, and we hear that Messrs de Boisment and Co are selling like hot cakes the simple apparatus for the making of the gas.

The farewell kissing of the numerous passengers by the R. M. S. Nila yesterday was tremendous. They had a most charming day for a start, and all were in the highest spirits at the prospect of making the quickest run to Europe on record—15 days, as promised by the Company. The crowd of friends that went to see the passengers off was the largest on record in this country, and they filed three express trains!

The rumour last night in official circles was that the Minister of War will not resign, as President Uriburu intends to stick to him and support him as he did Dr. Romero. Our prophetic soul tells us that the "denouement" will be the same in both cases. There is no other way out of the wood.

The Banda Oriental Revolution took a tremendous spurt during the holidays, and thrilled the whole country. The capture of the Government gunboat Artigas was a daring but utterly useless act. The little band that did it should have fired her Magazine and blown her up on the spot, thereby inflicting a serious loss on the Uruguayan Government. As it is this Government, as she is anchored at Zarate, must return her to Borda's Government. It is not the cattle alone in Santa Fe that are suffering from "tristeza". The state school teachers of the Granary of the Republic are all bad with it. How could the untortured pedagogos be anything else except "triste" when they have not been paid for months and months, and have been living on hops, air and music—a perpetua "Lenta" diet that can be recommended as a remedy for obesity, but for nothing else that we know of.

General Canto got the best of the duel fought on Holy Thursday (What a day for a duel between two Christian officers!) with Colonel Boonen. The principals seconds, and friends travelled all the way to the Cumbre de los Andes, stepped across the boundary line into Argentine territory, and there let fly at each other

with the usual preliminary formalities. Both men missed their first shot, but Boonen was bit in the head at the second, and the fray was over.

The variations in temperature throughout the Queen Province on Good Friday morning were severe, and it was a summer loggery at noon and topcat at night, especially at Tandil and Tres Arroyos, where the meteorological slump was from 26° to 3° and 29° to 8° Cent. respectively.

Commercial News.

It was only in the usual order of things speculative that a fall of 14 points should provoke the corresponding reaction. That was expected on Saturday, even when the market was in such a state of collapse that it seemed to have lost its heels and footing altogether, but some of the Graybeards, reasoning that the enforced day of inaction would bring a pause, very cleverly took advantage of the low prices ruling then to turn over an honest penny. The rally was, therefore, not a surprise; still it was rather unexpectedly vigorous, owing to the critical condition of European politics and the imminence of an outbreak of hostilities between Greece and Turkey, and by people make a handy bit of anything that will suit to leaver up their side, the result was a brisk bullish spurt. It is difficult to see, nevertheless, that the conditions of the market have changed in reality. If gold was dear on Saturday, it is dear still, and the reaction only temporary. But there's the rub. Nobody thinks gold anything but dirt cheap under 300, and the rally is, therefore, looked upon as a mere reaction, and not a real abnormal pressure—the market re-assessing itself. However, it must equally be borne in mind that the situation is not normal, so that a normal course can hardly be expected. But the rise will come in the long run inevitably. The fall in produce prices, shortage of produce, slump in exchange, and crisis in commerce have to be accounted for. The day of reckoning may not be to-day, but it has to come, and it would be only living in a fool's paradise to start imagining that the collapse in the premium is to be relied upon as natural or looked upon as a reflector of a promising perspective. It is unfortunately just the reverse.

Whether it be due to a shortage of the precious metal for the 15th, or to the still unsatisfactory tenor of news from Europe, exciting war at every pore, the market is suffering very palpably, a movement that somebody does not cause much alarm, as it is in consonance with the general appreciation of the situation. There was far more uneasiness when the collapse was in force. Naturally enough, the market was disquieted over what it failed to understand. But that prices should advance seems in order, and now that they are under the shadow of the Rubicon again, there is apparent tranquillity and calm. Of course, the rise reveals to a certain extent a bullish market, doomed to disappointment, for the bulls are already anticipating a surge-up past the Rubicon, on to 310, thence to 320, and perchance to 350, the goal marked by the more adventurous spirits as the fulcrum point of the winter speculation. That we shall see 310 is more than likely, with a cruel quarter to face. But, as we have remarked before, the poverty of business is the market's bane, and with prices so stagnant there seems to be always quite sufficient gold for the market's requirements, which, moreover, is not strange when it is considered that the importers are doing nothing and the railways not remitting. Thus the Government is the only drain, and it does not fall directly on the market, taking from the banks, who secure what they think advisable. After all, it is the law of compensation that is keeping the market on a level keel.

As an echo of last week's explosion and fire we may say that many adjoined from the Bols to day to visit Mr. Casey's offices over the scene of the disaster. They are a perfect wreck, and the effects of the explosion surprised everyone, a big iron safe having been moved at least 3 inches, which would be work for 8 or 10 men heavy things that even with pulleys on to the wall blown into the patio, the fastenings of tin canisters knocked off, big writing tables slowed round about and knocked in, and the whole place strewn with broken glass. Our old friend, Mr. Shoobridge says he was actually standing on the balcony, looking at the man handling the fatal box a moment before the explosion took place, and some one having called him, he turned round to answer his call, being still on the railing. Then came the deafening report, and he found his arm covered with the blood of the cartman, the glass splashing through the office, a cornice of the house rocketing in, the fittings flying and the fire starting. He was so collected still that he put the office books away, and conveyed some party's books outside before the place got too hot to be safe. A glance at the place is enough to show what an awfully narrow escape he had, providential in fact, and nobody looking at the place would like to take the risk at any price. Mr. Casey has moved his offices to 514 Piedra, No. 16.

Gas Primitiva— April 19. 100 at 213.00. Banco Español— April 19. 90 at 130.00. New Italian Bank— April 19. 50 at 78.00. Catalinas Moles— April 19. 600 at 7.70-50. April 30. 700 at 7.80.

SALES OF GOLD ON 'CHANGE.

	1894	1895	1896	1897
	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold
Jan. ...	40,235,000	32,729,000	32,825,000	40,156,000
Feb. ...	38,350,000	25,136,000	37,730,000	46,168,000
March ...	38,950,000	28,284,000	38,640,000	81,277,478
April ...	38,000,000	31,600,000	37,500,000	—
May ...	39,170,000	34,990,000	33,710,000	—
June ...	39,000,000	27,708,000	33,323,000	—
July ...	32,400,000	24,888,000	38,577,000	—
August ...	39,720,000	25,721,000	38,226,000	—
September ...	41,070,000	34,658,000	48,927,000	—
October ...	39,600,000	32,883,000	41,883,000	—
November ...	38,320,000	28,035,000	36,130,000	—
December ...	36,747,000	28,446,000	41,981,000	—
Total ...	453,482,000	358,231,000	456,782,000	—

DAILY AVERAGE OF GOLD SOLD ON 'CHANGE.

	1894	1895	1896	1897
	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold
January ...	1,910,000	1,258,000	1,519,000	1,873,000
February ...	1,634,000	1,247,000	1,617,000	2,007,000
March ...	1,408,000	1,131,000	1,545,000	1,805,000
April ...	1,529,000	1,336,000	1,531,000	—
May ...	1,659,000	1,437,000	1,405,000	—
June ...	1,456,000	1,253,000	1,408,000	—
July ...	1,295,000	957,000	1,484,000	—
August ...	1,638,000	1,093,000	1,545,000	—
September ...	1,411,000	1,386,000	1,587,000	—
October ...	1,437,000	1,099,000	1,503,000	—
November ...	1,433,000	1,236,000	1,505,000	—
December ...	1,531,000	1,146,000	1,543,000	—

GOLD PREMIUM IN APRIL.

	1st Ring.	2nd Ring.
	Official rate.	Official rate.
1st	205.00 o/o	201.00 o/o
2nd	196.50	200.00
3rd	197.50	195.00
4th	197.50	198.00
5th	197.70	199.80
6th	197.50	199.80
7th	197.50	199.80
8th	198.20	199.80
9th	198.20	199.80
10th	194.70	199.80
11th	194.70	199.80
12th	194.70	199.80
13th	194.70	199.80
14th	195.50	199.80

SALES OF GOLD DURING APRIL.

	1st Ring.	2nd Ring.
	\$ gold	\$ gold
April ...	1,620,000	1,620,000
National Hypothecary Cedulas— For cash. D 1,000 at 91.00.		
Provincial Hypothecary Cedulas— For cash. 8% 8,000 at 17.30.		
Spanish Bank— Depositors' Bonds of the Prov. Bank For cash. 11,700 at 33.50. Consolidado de Santa Fe— For cash. 10,000 at 38.50. April 30. 1,200 at 7.70-60. Everybody was talking to-day of Mr. Lowe's letter to General Mitre accompanying his beautiful presentation Mauser. Nothing could have been in better taste, as the terms of the letter are intensely flattering to Argentine self respect and intelligence, whilst the fact of the writer being so largely interested in Argentine stocks shows that European business men are fast attaining an accurate idea of the great future of the country. Mr. Lowe says he went into Argentine stocks, and heavily so, investing a great part of his fortune during the very thick of the crisis. The wonder is that he did not buy a block of say 50 leagues in the Pampa; but of course stocks are more easily handled than blocks, and coupons less troublesome than the breeding of sheep and improvement of the herds. The letter is a very honourable testimonial to Argentine capabilities. Business was excessively dull at the second hour, and the Bols pretty empty, merchants and brokers having all closed their business and sped away to start the holidays. The total of gold sold was only a trifle over a quarter of a million dollars, and prices reflected no change of importance, the rate opening and closing at 236 1/4. Some old Gas shares were done at 213, and a lot of Spanish Banks at 130. Catalinas were quiet, but a trifle firmer at 7.80.		

NATIONAL REVENUE. BUENOS AYRES CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

	1896.	1897.
	\$ m/n	\$ gold
January ...	6,004,000	895,000
February ...	4,704,000	895,000
March ...	5,807,000	830,000
April ...	4,484,000	448,000
May ...	4,388,000	568,000
June ...	5,945,000	585,000
July ...	4,577,000	814,000
August ...	4,744,000	789,000
September ...	4,718,000	745,512
October ...	4,939,872	1,028,278
November ...	4,940,378	694,278
December ...	5,269,554	662,807
Total ...	57,357,892	9,062,925
1895 ...	58,425,025	6,862,480

MONTH OF APRIL.

	\$ m/n	\$ gold
April 1st ...	252,699	27,987
2nd ...	295,415	30,273
3rd ...	158,461	16,529
4th ...	382,395	38,714
5th ...	176,083	18,342
6th ...	188,550	19,574
7th ...	191,168	19,576
8th ...	103,345	30,789
9th ...	138,591	42,024
10th ...	335,630	35,747
11th ...	286,017	33,671
12th ...	70,741	38,025

URUGUAYAN REVENUE. CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

	1895	1896	1897
	\$	\$	\$
January ...	883,764	1,067,848	756,707
February ...	899,317	982,817	788,796
March ...	1,054,222	1,029,260	728,320
April ...	1,134,896	1,036,696	—
May ...	906,448	701,373	—
June ...	693,854	695,308	—
July ...	881,478	805,249	—
August ...	806,484	821,689	—
September ...	805,577	875,383	—
October ...	876,147	829,725	—
November ...	778,273	985,115	—
December ...	929,604	782,718	—
Total ...	10,624,245	10,262,707	—

BOLSA QUOTATIONS.

	1896	1897
	\$	\$
1890 ...	10,766,002	—
1891 ...	9,848,735	—
1892 ...	5,648,000	—
1893 ...	5,095,300	—
1894 ...	3,997,700	—
1895 ...	10,288,763	—
1896 ...	10,624,245	—
1897 ...	10,262,707	—

GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

	Price.	Date.
Deuda Municipal de 1882, de 6 o/o ...	72	April 1, 1897
Deuda Consolidada Municipal de 1891 de 6 o/o ...	90	Feb. 3, "
(Ley No. 2574, Nov. 29 de 1893)	—	—
Deuda Consolidada Internal de 1894 de 6 o/o ...	85	April 8, "
(Ley No. 3069, Enero de 1894)	—	—
Empréstito Nacional Interno de 1891, de 6 o/o ...	75	May 12, "
(Ley No. 2763, Enero 22 de 1891)	—	—
1891 Acreedor 9 Mar. de 1891)	—	—
Fondos Públicos Nacionales de 1884 de 5 o/o ...	80	Aug. 3, 1896
(Ley No. 1107, Set. 29 de 1883)	—	—
Fondos Públicos Nacionales de 1884 de 5 o/o ...	67	Feb. 12, 1897
(Ley No. 1418, Julio 30 de 1884)	—	—
Fondos Públicos Nacionales de 1892 de 6 o/o ...	76	April 12, "
(Ley No. 2541, Oct. 10 de 1891)	—	—
Títulos de Dep. del Banco Nac. de 1894, de 6 o/o ...	99	Dec. 3, 1896
(Ley No. 3037, Nov. 18 de 1894)	—	—
Id. Id. (oro) ...	33	May 24, 1895
Consolidada de Santa Fe ...	38	50 April 12, 1897
Títulos de Dep. del Banco Nacional de Buenos Aires ...	33	Nov. 9, "

AVERAGE OF GOLD PREMIUM.

Year.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.
January ...	187 o/o	237 o/o	251 o/o	240 o/o
February ...	207 o/o	271 o/o	251 o/o	254 o/o
March ...	209.43	212	212	212
April ...	205			

PRINCIPAL ARGENTINE EXPORTS.

Table with columns for Wool, Wheat, Maize, Live Steers, and Live Sheep. Sub-columns include Quantity and Value for each commodity, broken down by month and quarter from 1896 to 1897.

Table with columns for Sheepskins, Flour, Linseed, Dry Hides, and Frozen Wethers. Sub-columns include Quantity and Value for each commodity, broken down by month and quarter from 1896 to 1897.

Ed. Note:—In the above table all figures of quantity and number are official, from the Custom House and Statistical Department of the Nation. All figures of value are also official, except those for the current year which are reckoned at market quotations.

RAILWAY RETURNS.

Table showing Railway Returns with columns for MILES OPEN, RECEIPTS OF WEEK, and AGGREGATE RECEIPTS TO DATE. Lists various railway lines and their performance.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

Table showing Tramway Returns with columns for MILES OPEN, RETURNS OF WEEK, and AGGREGATE RECEIPTS TO DATE. Lists various tramway lines and their performance.

SHIPPING DURING WEEK

From April 14th till April 18th

Table with columns for ARRIVALS and DEPARTURES. Lists ship names, flags, origins, destinations, and cargo details.

CHARTERS

Table with columns for Name, When, Where to load, Cargo, Freight, and Destination. Lists shipping charters and their terms.

PRICES OF WOOL.

Table showing prices of wool for different grades and origins, including Pasto Terno and Pasto Fuerte.

PASTO FUERTE

Table showing prices of Pasto Fuerte wool for different grades and origins.

ENTRE RIOS

Table showing prices of Entre Rios wool for different grades and origins.

PATAGONES

Table showing prices of Patagones wool for different grades and origins.

BANDA ORIENTAL

Table showing prices of Banda Oriental wool for different grades and origins.