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The Standard.

"Nulla in salutem, nulli veri non salutem dicere."
Cicero.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1866.

WHO IS TO BE GOVERNOR?

As all our colleagues seem to devote their entire attention to this matter we do not like to be quite out of fashion, and take this occasion to indite a few notes that may be useful to some future Argentine Plutarch, respecting the various candidates in the field.

Dr. Adolfo Alsina is understood to command a majority of votes: out of 60 odd members, it is said 32 are sworn to vote for him. He is not very popular, being generally considered an out-and-outer in the capital question, and his election to power as likely to produce a rupture with the National Government. He has not held any public office except as Deputy to Congress, and in this capacity distinguished himself in 1863 by his violent opposition to the scheme of federalizing the Province; his style of oratory is forcible and concise, his delivery impassioned. In personal appearance he is what ladies call handsome, about 35 years of age, tall, elegant, apparently vain, sallow complexion, with black eyes and hair, and fashionable deportment. He is son of the distinguished lawyer and senator Dr. Valentín Alsina, who was twice Governor of Buenos Ayres during troublesome periods, and whose early life was spent in exile during the tyranny of Rosas. He has been educated for his father's profession, but never practised, his time being divided between parliamentary duties and the Clubs. Last year he made a trip to Europe and spent some weeks in Paris: in passing through Rio Janeiro he published a letter on the system of slavery which shows he entertains little sympathy for our Brazilian allies. We forgot to mention that he saw some military service in the campaigns of Cepeda and Pavón as a commander of the Nat. Guard. As we are opposed to his candidature, it is only fair that we should add some circumstances in his favor: he is a decided advocate for reduction of the price of Public Lands, and has more than once expressed his desire to promote foreign immigration, as for example in his eloquent and flattering tribute to English science and capital on the railway inauguration at San Fernando.

Don Norberto Riestra, special Argentine envoy in London, is the next on the list, being said to have from 15 to 20 votes. But for his absence, he might beat Dr. Alsina and the rest, although there is a certain feeling in the Chambers that he is "too much the Englishman," a circumstance which we believe very true, but feel rather inclined to regard as a recommendation. Mr. Riestra was brought up to commercial pursuits, in an English house, and spent his early years in Liverpool: his name is favorably connected with the arrangement of the English Debt; he has been Minister of Finance both in the National and Provincial administrations, and we have no doubt his present mission would have proved as successful as the rest of his career, but for the exaggerated expectations of his countrymen respecting the Argentine Loan. During his term in the Provincial Senate, of which he became President, he was instrumental in carrying out the G. Southern Railway, and his connexion with the London and the River Plate Bank has served to make this one of the most prosperous institutions in the country. His name is so well known in England that his election as Governor would prove of immense value to the River Plate, in its foreign relations.

Don Fernandez Blanco is said to be the candidate put forward in opposition to Alsina, although a political non-entity, and some of Riestra's sup-

porters are thought to have passed over to him, while this is also stated vice-versa. He is a country-gentleman or estanciero of the District of Salto, of that mellow age which Shakespeare associates with 'fat capons.' The 'Nación Argentina' gives an amusing biography of this gentleman. "He is of humble origin, and his early education was limited to flute-playing, in which he became an adept. He had some little property but Rosas confiscated it, and for some years he was forced to earn a living by playing in the orchestra of the Teatro Argentino. He next stood behind the counter of Sor. Escardó, and two of his brothers going into partnership in an estancia with Sor. Sallano amassed a fortune which, on dying, they left to him. After this he graduated as a Municipal member, but has never figured in the world of politics." In addition to all this, we are in a position to state that Sor. Blanco is of a very respectable family of the city of Corrientes, where old Don Mariano Blanco, his father, occupied a leading position, and the Deputy to Congress, Sor. Igarzabal, is his nephew.

Colonel Martin Gainza is by many reputed to ride the winning-horse, and was some time since positively spoken of as Governor-elect. He has large estancias in the neighborhood of Zarate and holds chief command of the Nat. Guard of the Province. He was Inspector of Arms, but resigned the post, and has always been among the favorites of the Club Libertad. His father was a Colonel under Lavalle, and fought in all the campaigns against Rosas from 1840 till the fall of the tyrant. His youth was passed in Montevideo, and we believe his tastes were more of a rural than a studious character.

Dr. Acosta seems to be losing ground among his constituents. He is of a respectable Correntine family, and was educated, as well as his brother, in Europe. He is a doctor of laws and sheep-farmer, and married to a niece of the Bishop. He held office as Minister under the present Governor, and has the reputation of over-rating his own abilities.

D. Manuel Ocampo, one of our most honored merchants, is the Bolsa candidate, which means that, after Riestra, he is the favorite of the foreign element. He is a native of Cordoba, of gentlemanly manners, pleasing exterior, and has seen some 50 summers. He has before been Governor, and at the termination of his period refused the salary, for which he was presented with a handsome service of plate.

Dr. Tejedor was Minister in the short-lived administration of Sor. Lavallol, when he declared his intention to imitate Machiavelli by developing 'the policy of intrigue.' He served for some time as Fiscal or Attorney-general, and lives opposite the Bank.

Dr. Pastor Obligado was Governor before and probably hopes to be Governor again, but we hear he has only 2 votes: He is one of the wealthiest men in town, but took no shares in the Central Argentine Railway.

Many 'quid-nuncs' affirm that none of the above will be Governor, and that the real candidate will only be brought forward on the 1st prox. If this be so, our readers will excuse us for omitting his biography.

THE NEW LAND LAW.

The greatest farce of the day is the Public-land law; when it was introduced in the Chambers we opposed it, pointed out the errors, but all to no purpose; the bill passed, and the enlightened legislators of Buenos Ayres, when they retired after the close of the session, flattered themselves that as they had doubled the price of the public lands they had doubled the wealth of the province. It took two years to discover the mistake.

The public-land question is however so used up that we would not now trouble our readers with such an exploded topic, but that we learn on high authority that at the coming session a sweeping change is about to be introduced, the imaginary value of public lands abolished, and their real value ascertained.

Two hundred thousand dollars per league inside the Salto, and one hundred thousand outside that river is talked of, but the Prairie at Mar Chiquita, Laguna de los Patos, Junin &c. will be put at a much lesser price, very probably fifty thousand dollars per league. Of course it is impossible for us to give our readers the exact prices which will be fixed, but let our camp friends take notice, that the matter is under discussion, and the programme of the new Provincial Government which it is thought likely will get into power, is, cheap lands and ready sales.

The absurdity in supposing that the Government had the power to fix the value of public lands, is now so patent that all admit it. The public alone is the arbiter. No speculation, no matter how gigantic, can raise the value of such a thing as public lands, which are as abundant as the waters in the Plate, and the Buenos Ayrean legislators might as well in 1864 have passed a law, shutting up the land office, as attempt to bamboozle the public into paying the monstrous prices which they fixed.

But there is another very cogent reason which the Government put on public lands, which at first did not strike our public men, but which is now rather obvious, namely, that the people least able to pay such high prices were the natives themselves. Leagues and leagues of territory were passing into the hands of thrifty, economical foreigners, who had so much money that it was quite immaterial to them if they saw an estancia or a piece of ground which they liked what it cost, so long as they got it: five hundred thousand, or even a million of dollars, was freely paid, by men who had no means of spending all the money they possessed. If the natives were extravagant in houses, carriages, and dress, the foreign sheepfarmer could also afford to be extravagant in estancias. Thus the land law impoverished the natives, whilst it virtually converted a portion of the sheepfarmers into 'nabobs.' How many an instance have we known where the humble Irish 'medianero,' by careful toil and frugality, has been the bidder at the Cabildo for his patron's estancia. Furthermore, the Irishmen have stepped forward and been competitors with the biggest Argentines in the country at the Government-house for public lands; and invariably the foreigner, who had the ready money in hand, wrung the land from the Government.

The plain fact of the matter is, that the foreigners could afford to pay the Government price and the natives could not. The new men coming into power have their eyes open to this. They think it is high time that the mock prices of public lands should be abolished and a chance given to their fellow-countrymen to buy the land they have been living on for so many years. The whole Chamber, we understand, will be with them, and the banner of the new administration will be, 'cheap public lands for the natives.'

We believe the measure will prove highly beneficial, as the thousands of leagues of public land held up at present by the greatest speculator in the country, the Legislature, will be then brought into the market and offered at a price which will be within the reach of all. It is unjust, unfair, and impolitic to oust the occupiers of estancias by putting prices on land which require the capital of an Armstrong or an Anchorena to pay. We have had two years' experience of this short sighted measure: it is now going to be abolished, and let our subscribers outside take timely notice.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Yesterday was another anxious day in town, a gun it was thought was heard in the morning, but it was a rocket at the Captain of the Port's, and many thought that the Proveedor was in the offing. This proved a false alarm, the steamer that came up was the Cordova; Captain Barry, no doubt, wondered at the great courtesy of the Port Captain. The belief is general that a battle has been fought; in fact, there can be little doubt about it, as we learn on the very best authority the soldiers on Friday night all got 'carne con cuero' and wine, which for 50,000 men is an expense that cannot often be repeated.

Our office was crowded yesterday with friends who came to inspect the enormous whale-bone fossil which we

have on exhibition; one gentleman who examined it informed us that at the public bathing establishment in Dolores there is a still larger fossil, being the tail of a whale, which is converted into a table. Mr. Tiltson, the engineer, measured it and we hear it is six feet long by eight feet high.

Mr. Oliden, the beef man, has received some very favourable news from England: the prices for his beef have gone up £5, and, furthermore, the beef he has shipped to the army, some 35,000 quintals, is represented as the very best class, and highly satisfactory both to officers and soldiers.

Consul Hutchinson, of Rosario, we hear, returned per Esmeralda from Corrientes: he did not remain long up there taking notes. We have to congratulate him on the Provincial Government having subscribed for 25 copies of Sr. Varela's translation of his book on the Argentine Republic.

Latest advices from San Nicolas state that there is a great row about the "Defensor de Menores" taking all the children of the absent soldiers and putting them out to service. We believe the 'Defensor' does perfectly right, as servants are very scarce and the grown up-children pass their time in idleness, &c.

We are glad to hear that Lieut. Col. Martinez de Hoz is so recovered that he is able to take command of his regiment. Commander Keau is so far recovered as to walk about the streets.

A line of telegraph between the Plaza Once de Setiembre and the Plaza 25 de Mayo is talked of; it might prove a convenience but we very much question if it would pay.

The Gas made a very great escape in Calle Rivadavia on Thursday night. The smell of the gas was fearful, and we fear the escape must have been enormous.

The Peruvian Government has named Mr. B. J. Bustamante as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine, Paraguayan, and Oriental Republics, and also to the Empire of Brazil. The new Minister will have extensive diplomatic relations, and we apprehend much difficulty in presenting some of his credentials.

To-morrow Mr. Prange's auction comes off; the dwelling house situated in Plaza Parque will also be sold; it is one of the pleasantest localities in Buenos Ayres. The house is in first class condition and will probably sell well.

The steamer from Rosario to-day is looked for anxiously, as it is thought she will bring the missing Chilean mails.

The steamer Rio Paraná will leave for Montevideo at 5 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. as stated in the advertisement.

Sr. Echagaray will shortly leave for England to arrange the long-talked-of land scheme.

A Patagonian gentleman assures us that the Welsh Colony down there are without tame bullocks and seeds, and only possess some twenty-five milch cows. We hear that it is probable the colony will leave the Chuput and settle at Patagones.

Trade in some of the country towns in this province is so dull that we hear there has been a general smash-up of small shopkeepers in some of the towns; the only business now doing is on time, but money is very scarce.

A native estanciero assures us that in the partido of the Capilla del Señor there are more than one million of sheep, and now the place is getting so overstocked that the Irishmen are sending out large flocks to Rojas.

We call attention to the fossil of a whale at present at our office: it was discovered in the Salado near Chasicomus. Any of our readers who can give us a paper on whales will do us a great favor by sending it at once.

Never since Buenos Ayres was built were 'sandias' more abundant than this year; they are the least profitable of all fruits and hardly pay the freight; the market is full of them.

A case has come under our notice where a sheepfarmer last year arranged with a native estanciero to rent from him a quarter of a league of land at ten thousand dollars a year; the contract, on stamp paper, was duly signed, the land rented shown to the Irishman; he returned to his home and began to prepare himself to move. On the 1st of January, the day the

lease was to run from, he was on the road with his sheep, when, what was his surprise to learn that the land in question could not be delivered to him as the parties on the ground refused to leave. Of course our countryman had an action at law against the estanciero for damages: he met a lawyer who offered to take up the suit on halves: he came to us to consult us: we unhesitatingly advised him to go home and mind his sheep and look for other land, any where and on no account enter into a lawsuit for damages, although the case could not be clearer, which advice he followed. We mention the case now that our friends in the camp may beware, as we understand there are numbers going about offering to rent land, which they have no more right to than to the 'Standard' office.

Mrs. Conessa, the wife of Col. Conessa, has a conical musket ball which struck her husband in the breast at the Paso de la Patria; luckily, the ball was so spent that it did not hurt the Colonel. Mrs. C. has the bullet encased in gold, and guards it as a relic of great value.

We hear several Brazilian and Argentine officers arrived from headquarters in the Esmeralda, having resigned their commissions. They give a fearful description of the sufferings of the troops, and we believe are very glad to get back to Buenos Ayres.

A lady who arrived from Corrientes per Esmeralda states that the number of floating corpses on the Gran Chaco coast can only be compared to the dead fish seen at times in the Riachuelo at Barracas.

On the same authority we learn that the doctor ordered all Brazilian soldiers killed on the island to be thrown into the river, and only officers to be buried, as the nature of the island soil is such as to be unfit to inter any very large number of corpses.

On Wednesday morning, in the preceding week, a steamer arrived at Corrientes crowded from stem to stern with Brazilian soldiers. They were all anxious to land, but Baron Tamandaré would not permit it: they were sent up in the steamer to Santa Anna, a port near Paso de la Patria.

The Indians of the Gran Chaco are now afraid to cross over to Corrientes, owing to the crowds of soldiers night and day in the street.

Dr. Muniz went up in a steamer with some other doctors to see the Paso de la Patria previous to returning to Buenos Ayres. Our friend Dr. M. very narrowly escaped being shot down by the Paraguayans.

When Mrs. — left Corrientes the order was given to prepare for the crossing of the river, President Mitre wanted Tamandaré to commence bombarding at once, but the admiral refused, alleging that Friday was an unlucky day, and, therefore, put the attack off until Saturday, this goes to show that Buckle the historian was right when he stated that "sailors are the most superstitious men in the world."

As the cold weather has apparently set in, all the fashionables are returning to town. The trains from Las Cometas are full of families with their luggage coming into town for the winter. In Barracas there has been a regular legira: Mrs. Elizalde and family have left for Calle Peru, and their charming villa on the Calle Larga is shut up; Mr. P. Roche and Sr. Miguens and family have also migrated; Dr. Avellaneda's house, a nice pleasant dwelling, is as deserted as Don Palemon Huergo's villa, in fact, the only neighbour of Standard Hall now is our esteemed friend Sr. Don Juan Antonio Fernandez, who, notwithstanding the chilly evenings, cannot tear himself from his charming retreat, one of the sweetest suburban villas about town.

People having coaches ought to bear in mind that they must take out a license now. A Scotch estanciero from the South was hauled up the other day before the Policia and fined heavily for not having the badge on his carriage. The goat business in Cordova seems to be going ahead; we hear of another foreigner having left this city recently to embark in the Angora goat breeding in that province.

There seems to be some doubt as to the accuracy of the information we received about Mr. Owen Lynch's cat, having been carried off by the Indians in their late invasion at Rojas. Any person in town from that locality will please furnish us whatever details they may possess.

On Friday a fine Negrette ran caused some excitement in front of the Policia, being led prisoner by some vigilantes. Queró: was he put in the stocks? Bah!

The Cordova Government has just made another grant of lands for emigration purposes, the concessionaire is Sr. Laberge: the lands, we hear, are well located.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

DANGEROUS ACCIDENT.

On Friday, a German gentleman who was going out to spend the day at the Tigre with his compatriots narrowly escaped getting his arm smashed by a small wall at the San Fernando Station, which is built up so close to the line that passengers cannot even rest their arms on the window of the train as it passes. The gentlemen in question was sitting with his arm on the window when it came in contact with the wall, but luckily for him the wall was so freshly built that the bricks fell with the concussion. He called yesterday at our office and showed us his arm, which is frightfully bruised and the skin in many parts torn off. He has requested us to notify Mr. Thompson of the matter, which we readily do, feeling quite assured that Mr. Thompson will at once have the wall removed: indeed, we feel quite surprised that the manager ever allowed it to be constructed so close to the line, for, if by any chance a passenger had his head out of the window he must be instantly killed.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

The Ibicuy is one of the steamers of the line of Messrs. Matti and Co., and runs between Buenos Ayres and Santa Fé, touching at all intermediate ports. She can run in all stages of the river, without danger of delay by running aground. The number of passengers for the little ports below Rosario is very considerable. In a few months I can observe a great increase of traffic on the lower Paraná.

This route must always have small boats like the Ibicuy. They can run into the shallow harbors, avoid storms and strong currents, and sand-banks of the main river, by frequenting the side-cuts among the beautiful islands. The patronage from Santa Fé to Paraná has little value, but that short route, as a feeder for the line to B. Ayres is very valuable. It is singular that all these river steamers are commanded by Italians. The illustrious Genoese discoverer has countrymen in every steamer and sailing craft in these rivers. The little trading boats, lighters, brigs, and schooners that throng these rivers by hundreds, are owned and sailed by Italians. They carry a foreign flag, and demand the respect due to foreign vessels. They live in the plainest style, the sailors are usually partners in the boat, and they amass prodigious profits. Nearly all the steamers in these rivers have Italian captains, and yet I do not know how the best Italian commander could improve the order or the success of the two steamers, Esmeralda and Espigador, commanded respectively by an Englishman and a German.

Gualeguay is rapidly filling up with a foreign population. We left about 20 passengers, who go to scatter over that thriving department.

Rosario is now the second city in importance in the Confederation. The air of improvement assumed since travel began on the railway Cordobawards, is quite cheering. The train runs for a distance of 20 leagues. The new railway station is to be built quite near to the Jardin de Recreo, and the city is rapidly extending in that direction. Mr. Wheelwright deserves a monument, and the station buildings and machine shops occupying one thousand 'varas' square, will be a fine memorial of his tact and talent.

From Rosario to Paraná, a distance of 40 leagues, we did not call with freight or passengers. This tells badly for the state of culture of over one hundred miles of excellent river land on the river shore. Further in the interior there is a colony of over 1,500 persons located on a tract of land six miles square; and of all that number

