The New President of the Argentine.

Who He is, What He is, and How He Looks.

Queer Things About the Argentine Government—Elections Are Held in the Churches and the Ballot Boxes Are Usually Stuffed—Some Fat Jobs and How They Are Gotten—Congress and the Banks—The Government Railroads and Their Annual Deficit—The Matter of Justice—Goody About the Police, Lawyers and the Courts.

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BUENOS AYRES, Nov. 26th, 1898.—I want to tell you something about the new president of the Argentine. He has been in office only a few weeks, but his strong right hand is already felt in every part of the republic. He has begun a settlement with the Chilenos as to the boundary question, and has at the same time ordered a new war vessel three times as large as the Maipo. Peace may come in case the settlement should not come off. President Julio A. Roca has long been noted as one of the strongest men in South American politics. He has been president before, has been minister of war and has made himself noted as a general in the Argentine army. It was largely due to him that Patagonia was thrown open to settlement, and he has the reputation of being a great Indian fighter. When he was minister of war, some time than twenty years ago, he led an army of Patagonia against the Indians and conquered them. It had been said that the victory was easily won and that the fighting was more butchery on the part of the Argentines than it was a hard savage making no resistance. However this may be, President Roca is a great soldier and his victories have made him a great hold upon as the General-in-Chief of the Argentine Republic. Roca has been compared to Grant in character. He is a quiet, well strong man of the variety who cannot move to carry out his ends without regard to who gets in his way. He is a very quiet man. He possesses the golden gift of silence, and believes in the old Spanish proverb which says that "time will make a fool of a wise man."

A STABLE GOVERNMENT PROMISED.

Roca's election means that matters will be stable in the Argentine for six years to come. The president is, you know, elected for six years, and he argues that long provided there is no revolution, Roca has the army behind him, and he will not have any opposition. He has the reputation of a fighter. He has at the same time been a diplomat, and his cabinet has been chosen with the idea of harmonizing the factions. He has the confidence of the foreign capitalists, who believe that he will maintain peace, and peace in the Argentine means progress.

President Roca is now fifty-five years of age. His ancestors were of a family being a native of the province of Tucuman in the northern part of the republic. He is a straight, well-formed, good-looking man, with a face that would not look foreign in Washington or London, although it would be striking anywhere. President Roca is more like an Englishman or an American than an Spaniard. You would imagine he is a descendant of Anglo-Saxons rather than of Latins. His face is almost fair. The forehead is high and broad, the eyes bright and piercing, the nose large and the under jaw strong. He is simple in his dress and manners and walks about the streets of Buenos Aires like an ordinary citizen. He has never cultivated the arts of the salon, for he has had no time. Literary tastes, although he is well read in history and keeps posted on political matters, he is more of a soldier than a scholar or a man for a carpet knight, and he has been called the pure master of the political schools of the Argentine.

ELECTIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

General Roca was chosen president. He means that he was the strongest man of the small coterie by which rules the Argentine Republic. There are no such elections in South America as in the United States, although they profess to want to be a republic and the people to have the right to vote. But the truth is that in the five Latin Republics of South America politics is a game, and that the ballot boxes are always stuffed. Elections are held in the churches. Outside the church door there are three or four tables, about which a motley crowd is gathered of men, who are the creatures of the election. The ballots are paper and are wrapped through a slit in the top of the ballot box. Each man takes his ballot and goes behind a screen to some other man each time. The brothers recognize the friend, but as the number is all on the ballot and folded so that they do not object. The better classes recognize it also and do not vote. Nobody knows the value of his own reputation. At the last election for senator there were only 2,000 votes cast where there should have been 6,000. For this there were 100,000 possible votes. The election lists are scanned by the confidential friends of the candidates, and taken from as is desired. Not long ago the mayor of Olivera was looking over such a list and found a friend who had not he came to a name which we shall call "Maurice," when my friend said: "Why, he died in Montevideo. I guess you remember we were together last month when the report of his death came in."

"Oh, yes, I remember," replied the mayor. "But if he is dead that is all the better for us. We can make no fuss as to how his vote is cast."

AN OVERGOVERNED COUNTRY.

This corruption in politics extends throughout the republic. Elections are in the national brothers, the most of which are connected with the ring in Buenos Aires and take their orders from the capital. Congress is entirely in the hands of the native Argentines, who are natural politicians and know how to make every dollar of it is worth. The country is overgoverned. It has but half only 4,000,000 people, of which only one-third are Argentines. Still every man who has his own seats and houses, and he can raise many officers. The result is that he is a slave to keep his republic, can about that of the state of Ohio. There are, in addition to a body of federal officers, federal judges, a cabinet, chambers of deputies and Senate, state of revenue collectors. There are about 3,000,000 school teachers, all of whom require a salary, and most of whom add to this in some way or other, not always in the law. All of the provinces are in debt, and only a few of them pay their interest. The internal debt of all the provinces now amounts to more than $100,000,000, and to 1895 the provincial debts including unpaid interest amounted to more than $100,000,000. Still every year the city debts fast as more than $3,000,000 gold, while the country has a national debt of more than $100,000,000. A large number of the provinces have to be specially assisted by the national government to pay the salaries of their own officials. Even Buenos Aires is in vertiginous of power. He shows the province of Buenos Aires alone has 3,000,000 people, and that it has a population equal to that of the state of Ohio. Buenos Aires is the richest province of the republic, and