

## CROSSING THE ANDES.

Routes of Travel Between the South American Republics—Overland from Chili to Argentine.

## Special Correspondence.

SANTA ROSA DE CHILI, Feb. 25.—

Going from Chili to the Argentine Republic, or to any other point on the eastern side of South America, the traveler may choose between several routes. He can sail, or steam, in the wake of the ancient mariners, away around Cape Horn; or take the much nearer, and pleasanter sea path through Smyth's channel into the straits of Magellan, and so on into the Atlantic; or he may cross the mighty Andes by the oldest route of all, on trails that were well worn before a white man's ship had ever rounded the tip of the hemisphere.

The first named route is the least desirable, because of ceaseless storms, excessive cold and the length of time it requires; yet the majority of globe-trotters take it in their coming and going between these ports and Europe, and even between New York and the western coast of South America. The passage through Smyth's channel, though one of the most picturesque in the world, is yet comparatively little known. It is so narrow and tortuous, between innumerable islands, each with a mountain, that, after many disasters, no vessel now goes that way except those built expressly for the purpose, and but one line of steamers (German) carry passengers on regular trips.

For those who enjoy mountain scenery and muleback transit, the journey over the Cordillera is a glorious one, if taken in summer time—or rather in the depth of winter, as you reckon the seasons on the northern side of the equator; but, unfortunately, the passes are closed during more than half the year by trackless snows and terrific gales that neither man nor beast can withstand. From about the 15th of November to the 1st of April one may cross with comparative ease, barring the usual dangers and difficulties incident to penetrating "the land of the sky," but to undertake it one week sooner or later than the dates mentioned would be extremely hazardous. We had hoped that the passage might be now available and that we might go that way into the Argentine country; but word comes at the eleventh hour that a recent heavy snowfall has blocked the trail worse than ever, and that for ladies to attempt it for weeks to come would be simply foolhardiness. Therefore, being long since due on the other side of the continent, we must take the next southward-going steamer through the channel and straits, consoling ourselves with the knowledge that the glimpses of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego to be obtained by the latter course will more than make up for what will be lost in being compelled to give up the proposed route. Besides, mountain climbing above certain altitudes is about the same thing the world over. During our years of traveling in South America, we have crossed the Andes many times, in many places; and though we may never traverse in the flesh that famous Ustallata pass between Santa Rosa and Mendoza, it requires no great stretch of imagination to see it in the mind's eye, having scaled several higher passes a little farther northward in the same magnificent Cordillera.

In order to tell you all I can about it from actual observation, we have made

an especial trip to Santa Rosa, the end of the government railway on the Chilean side of the Andes, where muleback transit for the upper heights begins; and later we will come from Buenos Ayres, on the Atlantic coast, across the boundless pampas, by the new Argentine railroad, to its western terminus, the old city of Mendoza, which lies close to the foot of the mountains.

The distance across country between Santiago and Buenos Ayres, the capitals of the Chilean and Argentine Republics, is about 1,350 miles. For many years overland communication was kept up between the two countries only by couriers, bred to the business as an exclusive occupation, who frequently made the entire journey in 11 days, carrying the mails traveling upon an average 114 miles a day. Of course this could not be accomplished on muleback, and all along the route posthouses were established where horses were kept in constant readiness, the supplies being maintained from countless wild droves that roam the pampas of Argentina and Patagonia. For the ordinary traveler to make the journey required many weeks and, as before mentioned, it could not be made at all except at certain times of the year.

In these days of progress all things are changed. Now one may come at ease from either direction in a parlor car close to the base of the Andes, and even some distance up their sides, and "change cars" for the Atlantic or the Pacific by a trip in the saddle of from three to six days' duration, according to one's power of endurance and the state of the weather. On the Argentine side, the distance between Mendoza and Buenos Ayres is about the same as between New York and St. Louis. It takes a little less than four days to travel by rail, and being in a familiar Pullman, one might easily imagine oneself in the United States were it not for the slowness of travel, the strange villages en route, droves of wild horses and glimpses of long-legged ostriches scudding across the plains. The railway is a government affair, completed some 29 years ago and christened by a grand celebration in which both Chile and Argentina participated. The Chilean government line is being gradually extended to meet it, and by and by, if revolutions permit, the two roads will meet somewhere in the heart of the Andes and furnish an uninterrupted passage straight across the continent from ocean to ocean. The proposition is to run a line through the Ustallata Pass between Santa Rosa and Mendoza; and to this end surveys have been made and work actually carried to a considerable extent. The estimated cost is \$10,000,000 and when completed the road will bring Buenos Ayres within 30 hours of Valparaiso—snow and storms in the upper height permitting. It will require an army of men to keep the track clear in some places and accidents may be expected of frequent occurrence. The engineering work, though very great, will not be nearly so difficult as that upon either the Araya or Arequipa—Puno roads of Peru, for the highest point of this will be only 10,000 feet above sea level, crossing the summit of the Cordillera through a tunnel about two miles long. By this route the total distance between Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres is reduced to 570 miles, and telegraph lines already connect the two cities. It is an iron pole line, in connection with 40 miles of cable laid under the eternal snows of the Andes, and which insures communication between Buenos Ayres and Lima via Guayaquil in little more than an hour.

Though the grim and terrible Andes are more than the time totally impassable to ordinary mortals, the native couriers cross them on snow-shoes every month of the year. Besides, the heaviest winter clothing they wear trousers of vicuña skin, the hair side turned inward, and each takes along a brace of dogs as sleeping partners, to keep himself from freezing on cold nights. The dogs are also provided with a kind of snow shoe to prevent them from sinking out of sight in the drifts, and they help to drag burdens as well as to relieve the loneliness of solitary heights where no living thing exists except the great Andean condor. Those ugly birds seem to know the most dangerous places and hover about the precipices as if expecting to feast on some unlucky animal, or his master, who may go tumbling over the cliffs. During the terrible wind storms of June, July and August, it is not uncommon for mules and their burdens, and sometimes for men and horses, to be swept from the narrow trails into gullies and chasms, and hardly has the carcass time to strike bottom before its bones are picked clean by those huge birds of prey, or carried limb by limb to their hungry broods in distant cyries.

There are "chackas," or mud huts, where the couriers spend the nights, and there are many carefully marked hollows in the rocks where they find refuge when overtaken by a storm between stations. Not infrequently they are thus imprisoned for days together, and many perish of exposure or starvation, or are buried under avalanches. Along the Ustallata pass there are excellent posthouses, as post-houses go, and to some of them shops of general merchandise are attached, in which may be found all necessities for the journey. The "chackas" are also freely distributed at dangerous points, as snow-sheds are placed in certain exposed localities along the western railway line in the United States. These houses of refuge for storm-bound travelers were built by the government and have saved a great many lives. They are of uniform structure, of logs and adobe, each hut about fifteen feet square and the same in height, with no windows and the lowest and narrowest aperture that can possibly serve for a door. There is no chimney for snows to sift through and shrieking winds to use as a trumpet, but the fire for cooking and heating purposes must be built on the ground in the middle of the room. Many a poor traveler, with eyes weakened and painful from the glare of the sun upon the limitless snow-fields, has been rendered sightless by the smoke of his torment, ascending in blinding clouds from the indispensable fire in his unventilated shack, where he is liable to be confined for several days.

The posthouses and government chackas, as a rule, furnish nothing but

shelter, and the traveler must bring along his own food and bedding. That is not so difficult a matter as it is initiated may suppose, for one mule, or even one guide, will carry a great deal in the way of mattresses, blankets and canned supplies. Ladies often venture the Ustallata passage during December, January and February, and it is said that they generally endure the

fatigue and discomfort better than men—until the dangers are passed and the excitement over, when a total collapse is liable to ensue, necessitating a delay for recuperation at the base of the mountains. Not long ago a party of thirteen Yankee school ma'ams, who are employed under contract with the Argentine government to teach the young ideas of that country, improved

their vacation by crossing the Andes into Chili. Not least among the dangers of the Andes are the skin bridges, stretched after the manner of modern suspension bridges, over yawning abysses, and their swaying is so great that most people are compelled to dismount and lead their mules across, and even to lie down midway themselves when over-

come with dizziness. Each bridge has a floor made by lashing the branches of trees together with thongs of hides, just wide enough for a mule to pass, and along the side a raw-hide rope is slung to serve as a handrail. Imagine yourself away up in the blue, ten or twelve thousand feet higher than the top of the Washington monument, mounted on foot, crossing such an unsubstantial

structure, which hangs suspended like a certain historic coffin, with nothing between your feet and the ether but a bottomless chasm, but a few poles loosely tied with thongs! Yet accidents are rare and most of those that have occurred were due to the "little foxes" that spoil bridges as well as vines by their nibbling.

FANNIE B. WARD.

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Our creations have met with unbounded success. All week the pretty hats exhibited were the admiration of the public. For Easter our clever trimmers have made heroic efforts to outshine all previous attempts in the exquisite conceptions specially created for Easter wear, and they've grandly succeeded. So with a view to the interest of our patrons, and also for the benefit of those who failed to see our productions, we are now ready with a strong line of attractive styles at—

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ONE PRICE TO ALL NEVER UNDERSOLD

BRIGHT, BEAUTIFUL, SPRING MERCHANDISE Fill Every Corner of This Popular Store, and Here Are

## MATCHLESS EASTER OFFERINGS

That need only to be mentioned to bring the surging crowds. The Auerbach store, at any season of the year, is the acknowledged place above all others in Salt Lake, for the Newest Styles and Best Values, but more especially is this apparent at the present time, when the immense store is fairly aglow with the beautiful things for Spring.

## Gloves For Easter.

Qualities that are Absolutely the best, for the prices quoted, in the newest and daintiest colors to complete your Easter Gown. "Get the habit" of buying Kid Gloves here. We sell the biggest values for the money and guarantee every pair.

THE PRINCESS—Extra fine, 2-clasp Misses' Kid Gloves in tan, reds, browns and white. Our best \$1.00 grade on sale this week, sizes 4½ to 6½. **75c**

THE FAMOSA—Ladies' fine 2-clasp Kid Glove. Compare it with the best \$1.25 glove you ever bought. You'll like it better. Our spring colors are simply elegant. Any size. **\$1.00**

Our 403 SPECIAL is a real French Kid Glove, very fine; light weight; but very durable. All sizes and colors at **\$1.25**

THE NEW STAR 2-clasp plique Kid Glove is equal in fit and wear to the best \$2.00 glove in the city. The line of colors is simply beautiful. We have every size. Our price only. **\$1.50**

FOR GLOVE PERFECTION have a look at our TREFPENSE line. None prettier or better at any price. Our special price is only. **\$1.50**

## EASTER OFFERINGS IN LADIES' NEW SPRING SUITS, JACKETS, SKIRTS and WAISTS.



**S**ELDOM if ever, in the history of Ready-Made Garment Selling has there been so handsome, so thorough and delightful a gathering of the modes in these goods, nor have prices been so little. Dame Fashion will be at her best in this Beautiful Department Monday and All Week. Below we give you a few gleams of the good things, every one of which is marked at a close, very close price.

**NEW SPRING SUITS.** Misses' Suits in New Eton style, made of all wool vesting in navy blue and black only, regular \$8.95, values. Special **\$6.75**

**LADIES' STREET SUIT.** Made of the very latest all wool brown mixture, Eton Style, Jacket lined with Silk Serge, Skirt trimmed to match, well worth \$14.50. **\$10.00**

**LADIES' 1904 SAMPLE SUITS.** About 50 in this lot, sizes mostly 34 and 36, made of all the latest plain and fancy materials, skirts trimmed to match jackets, some in the lot worth up to \$30.00. **\$17.50**

**FASHIONABLE COATS AND JACKETS** for 1904. New tan covert and black serge jackets in all the latest styles, well lined new 1904 sleeves, 40 and 42 inch values. **\$5.00**

**27 INCH New Ladies' Peau de Soie Silk Coats,** collared, lined with good quality gray satin, full sleeves, cheap at \$5.75. Special price **\$6.95**

The new style **SILK COATS**, 30-in. length, made of fine quality Peau de Soie Silk, deep shoulder cape, new pouch sleeves with cuffs, usual price \$15.00. Special **\$11.75**

**DRESS AND WALKING SKIRTS**—100 wool walking skirts, latest styles, dark colors, all lengths, perfect fit and hang, regular **\$1.75** \$2.50 kind, special at **\$1.75**

**50 HIGH GRADE WALKING SKIRTS**, medium weight Zibeline, plain bottom, trimmed with straps, all lengths. Special **\$3.50**

**LADIES' DRESS SKIRTS** of all wool black serge and chevrot, all the season's latest style, inverted plait back, strictly tailor made, all lengths, \$5.95 value. Special **\$6.50**

**Pretty White Waists** made of fancy striped damask, finished with tucked front and French back, new stock collar, all sizes, cheap at \$2.25. Special price **\$1.50**

**THE NEW 1904 TAFFETINE SILK WAIST**, pleated front, and back, trimmed with three rows of fagoting stitching, extra full sleeves, a grand waist **\$2.75**

**LADIES' HIGH GRADE TAF-FETA SILK WAIST**, all shades, including black, beautifully made with plaits and tucks, all sizes, worth \$6.00. Special **\$4.50**



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## SILKS and DRESS GOODS.

With the return of Madam Cauthorne, in charge of our Dressmaking division, there has been a notable increase in the sale of Dress Goods and Silks. Never before has our stock been so beautiful. The most exclusive novelties will be shown next week in very large selections.

**NEW VOILES.**

A very fashionable fabric for fine gowns, rich transparent material, that sheds the dust and dirt, in all the new shades of tan, brown, light gray, cadet, navy and green, value 75c per yard, Monday and all week (per yard) **60c**

**Brilliantines & Sicillians.**

The largest and most complete line of Brilliantines and Sicillians ever shown in the city. The latest and most up-to-date material of shirt waist suits, and separate skirts. In all the new shades of brown, blue, gray, green, tan and champagne. 26 to 48 inches wide. **"THIS WEEK PER YARD—"**

**45c, 60c, 65c, 85c**

Imported Open Mesh Grenadian and

**LACE VOILES.**

AN ENTIRELY NEW WEAVE, EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS AND PATTERNS. THE LATEST Vogue for STREET and SHIRT WAIST suits. In all the STAPLE and FANCY COLORINGS of NEW BROWN, TAN, CHAMPAGNE, GRAY, GREEN, NAVY, ROYAL, and NATIONAL. THEY MUST BE SEEN to be APPRECIATED. 48 in. wide, on sale per yard. **\$1.85**

**Newest in Black Dress Goods**

At especially reduced prices for Easter week. Lupin's and Priestley's black Voiles, Crepe de Paris, granites, fancy lace and grenadine voiles and brilliantines. All 40 to 50 inches wide. Special price for this week (per yard) **\$1.24**

**NEW SILK FABRICS.**

For shirt waist suits, the most sought for materials in the metropolitan cities today. Styles that appeal to the average woman as only the best can. Dozens of colorings, hundreds of styles. Soft, clinging, "lustrous." Neat check taffetas, novel printed and embroidered silks. The very best **\$1.35**

Silks as an Easter special for this week, per yard. **98c**

The very best \$1.50 Silks, as an extra special for this week per yard. **\$1.10**

## THE WORK OF OUR Dressmaking Division

The beautiful costumes which came from the hands of our skilled modistes last week have been praised by the most exacting critics. Truly a strong testimonial of unrivaled ability.

This high class but popular priced division will produce this season the finest gowns it is possible to design. The richest evening costumes, dinner gowns and street suits will be made here, and we intend that they shall not be stereotyped in style, but distinctive and individual. We advise early engagements.

## NEW LACES.

We make our first showing of new spring laces. It is without any question the most elaborate we have ever presented. It includes most artistic designs in ALL OVERS for WAISTS and TRIMMINGS, and a magnificent variety of NET TOP SNOW BALL, MACRAME, REPOSEE and every other NEW AND PRETTY STYLE OF EDGING, BANDINGS, APPLIQUE, GALOON, ETC., in every popular width. Our lines of VALENCIENNES and MECLIN LACES are certainly without a peer. WHEN IT COMES TO PRICES WE KNOW THAT NO OTHER STORE CAN MEET OURS you may choose from the choicest, prettiest, up-to-date styles WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY EXTRAVAGANT PRICES.

## LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S Spring Hosiery.

THE MOST RELIABLE QUALITIES OUR GUARANTEE FOR WEAR AND FASTNESS OF COLOR STANDS BEHIND EVERY PAIR WE SELL.

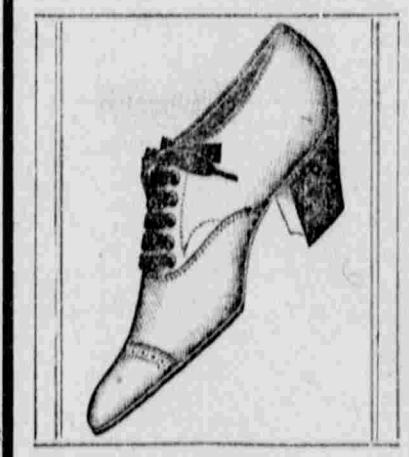
THE PRICES ARE THE LOWEST THAT CAN BE NAMED IN EVERY INSTANT. THESE SPECIALS INSURE A SAVING OF ONE-THIRD OR MORE.

LADIES' fast black, extra fine mace cotton hose in all lace or with lace foot, the best 50c quality, special at **39c**

CHILDREN'S fast black, seamless cotton hose, in wide ribbed for boys or 1st ribbed for girls, the best stocking you can find anywhere for 17½c on sale this week at **12½c**

GIRLS' extra fine, seamless mace cotton hose, fast black, in very narrow ribbed, best 50c grade, on sale here **19c**

## Easter Offerings in



## Dependable Footwear.

Thousands daily admire our \$2.50 Special and our Special \$3.00 Shoes and Oxfords, and most of them buy, for they are undoubtedly the best \$2.50 and \$3.50 Shoe values on earth.

Next Week, \$1.85 Slippers for— **\$1.35**

Next Week, \$1.75 Oxfords for— **\$1.45**

Next Week, Ladies' \$2.25 Shoes for— **\$1.95**

Next Week, Ladies' \$3.00 Shoes for— **\$2.50**

Next Week, Ladies' \$3.50 Shoes for— **\$3.00**

450 Boys and Girls wanted Monday to come, each with \$1.00, and get a pair of our Special \$1.00 Shoes. Boys' sizes, 8 to 13. Girls' sizes, 11 to 2.

These Shoes are positively \$1.40 values.

IT PAYS TO BUY FOOTWEAR OF US.

## A 112-Page Book of Fashion is Our Spring &amp; Summer Catalogue,

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It is a great aid to out-of-town customers. It is an attractive book, telling about our store and its stock.

Matchless Easter Offerings in Linens For the Easter Table.

5 pieces full 2 yards wide German Linen Table Damask, every thread pure flax, satin finished in the most wanted designs. A leader at (per yard) \$1.00. As an Easter special for this week per yard. **75c**

60 inch wide Table Felt or Silence Cloth, used as a covering for dining room tables, full bleached, usually sold at \$1.00, as an Easter special for this week, per yard. **75c**

50 DOZ. PURE LINEN SATIN DAMASK BLEACHED TABLE NAPKINS, choice patterns, 18 inches square. Value \$1.65, as an Easter special for this week, per dozen. **\$1.15**

Special Easter Offerings in Imported White Coods.

5 pieces White Persian Lawn, rich silky finished, a fine sheer quality, regular price 95c, as an Easter special for this week, a yard. **27½c**

5 pieces white French Lawn, more popular this season than ever for summer gowns, for Confirmation and Communion dresses. 50 inches, nearly 1½ yards wide, value 85c. As an Easter special for this week, per yard. **63c**

Special Easter Offerings

In Our Boys' Clothing and Gents' Furnishing Dept.

GENTS' HALF HOSE—Our selection of Men's Hosiery for this season is unsurpassed anywhere.

GREY MIXED STRIPED HOSE in dark and light patterns, new spring styles—as a special Easter offering for this week per pair. **20c**

GENTS' FANCY BLACK HOSE with silk polka dots, this season's latest, as a special Easter offering, per pair. **25c**

GENTS' FANCY LILE THREAD HOSE in plain and fancy stripes, well worth 75c. Special price for this week. **50c**

GENTS' NECKWEAR, in all the new shades and designs, for Easter, consisting of Four in Hands, Imperials and Tecks, an elegant assortment to choose from. Special price for this week. **45c**

MOTHER'S FRIEND, BOYS' WAISTS, an elegant assortment of new spring patterns in fancy stripes and figures, made of the best quality percale and Madras, with attached or detached collars. Special for this week. **50c**

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