Uncle Sam in Brazil.

All About Our American Minister and His Legation at Petropolis.

How a Bachelor Diplomat Entertains and His Success with the Brazilians—A Chat with Our Consul General to Rio About American Trade—The Germans of Brazil and How They are Gobbling the Fat Trade—Business in Rio—An American College in Brazil.

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Petropolis, Brazil, March 16, 1899.—Have you ever heard of Petropolis? It is where the president of Brazil and the leading officials go in the summer, and where the foreign ministers live all the year round. It is in the mountains just back of Rio, at an altitude of some-more-than a half mile above the sea, and you can reach it in less than three hours. The scenery about it is more like that of switzerland than the tropics, and its climate is such that one is the prime fever resort.

Suppose you could put a range of hills 1,500 feet high just back of New York or Philadelphia, and away up in their rear build a beautiful city of say 30,000 population. Suppose you could reach this by a short ride across the most beautiful bay of the world and then climb the hills by a cog road like that which goes up Mount Washington. If you can imagine this you have Petropolis to a dot. About

To get to it you first ride twelve miles on a steamer. Next there are cars which whisk you over the swamps at the foot of the mountains where you get a little Baldwin locomotive which pushes you up an inclined plane so steep that you have to keep your feet on your valise to prevent it rolling down to the end of the car.

IN THE SWITZERLAND OF BRAZIL.

The ride is wonderfully beautiful. Great trees loaded with orchids rise high above the jungle of matted green bushes. There are fern trees waving their myriad arms at the train and tall feathery bamboos rustle in the breeze as the little engine puffs by. Now you are on the side of a green mountain hanging over a ravine 500 feet deep, and shortly a great green spotted wall 4,000 feet high. Now you round a curve and the rocks rise above you like a great fort. They are brown and grim. Massive blocks of stone a thousand feet thick and weighing thousands of tons hang over you, and a mighty wall 2,000 feet high appears to be about to drop down upon you. I have seen some of the finest rock wonders of the world. The formation of the Andes, the Himalayas and the Alps have their own features of picturesque grandeur. The Garden of the Gods and the Yellowstone are of their own kind, and as it is of this coast range of Brazil. It is different from any other, picturesque to the extreme, and gorgeous in its clothing of luxuriant verdure.

The views of Rio and its great bay are magnificent and the cloud effects are different every hour. I have been living at Petropolis during my stay of four days in and around the city daily. The other day, when we left the top of the mountains Rio and the harbor were covered with a sheet of silvery clouds. Not a tree nor trace of grass could be seen save on the mountains, and we appeared to be looking down upon a great field of the Arctic ocean. At other times the clouds seemed to flow in and out among these islands like rivers of silver, which empty out upon the plain into a great cloud lake. Now you ride through these clouds on your way to the bay, and again when the clouds lift and the sun comes out you sail over the bay of Rio, with the forest of water in the red-roofed, white-walling city of Rio.

IN PETROPOLIS.

I wish you could be with me one day in Petropolis. It is a combination of Switzerland and Japan of the tropics and the temperate zones. The hills surrounding it are covered with verdure, for the rare air is moist and all green things grow luxuriantly. Down below these hills where we are we look out on the town most beautifully situated. A crystal River with running water flows through it. This is crossed by red bridges, which fit in with the picturesque surroundings.

The houses are beautiful; they are of all varieties of architecture, although the Brazilian predominates. The population is mostly made up of the rich. The streets of Rio have their summer homes here. The leading foreigners doing business in Rio live here to escape the heat of the city below by the 1st and go back and forth daily. At Petropolis are the homes of all the diplomats. A stroll shows that our American minister has his location.

OUR AMERICAN MINISTER TO BRAZIL.

I came to Petropolis to find out how Uncle Sam's chief representatives live and what they are doing for him in Brazil. Before I describe the legation I want to say a word about the minister. He is a bachelor and a diplomat by birth. His name is Charles Page Bryan and he has for years been well known in Washington. He is a brother of Governor Bryan of Nebraska, and he has been a minister to the West Indies and was a member of the Colorado legislature. This was before the days when he was now a minister to the West and was a member of the Colorado legislature. This was before the days when he was now a minister to the West Indies, and was also with his self but still drawing salt. His friend, Albert Edward Sothern, attended his wedding. Sothern is a bachelor himself now, by some of a 2:40 race along the Ontario, he is in truth the dynamo of the peninsula.

Minister Bryan is about six feet tall. He has a fine, complexion and features, and looks like a typical Southerner of Brown and when he raised Greek some years ago, he was again and again taken for a Spaniard. He is said to be a bachelor. He is a man of fine education and high social culture. He speaks French and German fluently, and since coming here he has learned the Portuguese so that he can carry on his diplomatic conversations without the aid of an interpreter. He was, you know, first chosen by President McKinley to represent us in Chile, but the appointment was afterwards changed to Brazil. It seems to me that the change was a wise one, for Colonel Bryan is especially fitted for his present position.

AT THE AMERICAN LEGATION.

He is not here, a bachelor, but notwithstanding this he keeps house and entertains quite as much as any of the married ministers of our diplomatic corps. He has with him the secretary of the legation, Mr. Lay, son of Judge Lay of Missouri, and his own private secretary, Mr. Grubb, a lawyer of Chicago. Besides these he has what is perhaps the most popular bachelor's hall among all our foreign residences. The American building is one of the finest houses in Petropolis. It is opposite the park which surrounds the old emperor's palace, and back of it the hills rise precipitously, forming a green wall 500 feet high. It has beautiful grounds about it, separated from the street by a stone fence, with large gate posts, on one of which is the coat of arms of the United States.

Entering, you find yourself in a garden filled with plants and trees which are almost unknown in our country. The camellia, which with us is a hot house plant, is here a fine tree, and there is the palm in all its varieties, the cocoanut, the royal palm, the date, the fan palm, the cabbage palm, and the cocoa palm. There are bushes of rhododendrons as big as bushes of lilacs at home, and azaleas such as you have never seen. There are a dozen different varieties of palms upon the lawn, and on one side of the house there is a little orange grove loaded with evergreen leaves and of which about 100 oranges hang. During a breakfast at the legation the minister often eats oranges from his own trees, and his cook goes out just before the meal and gathers the bananas from the back yard.

COLONEL CHARLES PAGE BRYAN.
Our Minister to Brazil.

HOW COL. BRYAN LIVES.

The house itself is a typical Brazilian villa of stone and stucco with a large portico in front upheld by great Doric columns. It is of two stories, but it covers a great deal of ground and has many rooms. The ceilings are high and the rooms large and airy. They are furnished by elaborately furnished by the assortable near by. Among them are plenty of sleeping apartments as the minister often entertains a number of guests at one time. He often has a party of Brazilian ladies and gentlemen here to dinner and on the night with him, and in fact there is seldom a time when the location table has not room for one or two more guests. He took to give a reception at which there is music or some other attraction and to which ladies as well as gentlemen are glad to come. He gives frequent dinners, and you may meet at his table the leading officials of Brazil, including Brazilian officials as well as the newspaper editors and the most celebrated men of all classes. At the last Fourth of July he gave a dinner to the American men of the hotels of Rio de Janeiro. He is always full of hospitality to Americans and among others holds frequent entertainments for the missionaries.

CLOSE TO THE BRAZILIANS.

As a result of his personal popularity and his social entertainments Minister Bryan has gotten very close to the people that he is in Brazil. He has already had an important diplomatic post on this continent. I have already told you that the Brazilians consider Brazil as the center of South America and that they own more than half the land. They have a great empire of undeveloped resources and the chances for American capital and trade with them should be great. We pay them about three million dollars every year for their products, chiefly coffee and rubber, and in return they are now furnishing them with about the same amount of manufactures. It is a great importance that the relations of the two peoples should be pleasant.

As far as I can learn Colonel Bryan appreciates this and is doing much to produce it. Since the days of Blaine, when he was Secretary of State, and Salvador de Mendonca was minister from Brazil to the United States, and in sending out success circulars."

OUR TRADE WITH BRAZIL.

I believe Colonel General Seager is right as to circulars and catalogues. These must here are a waste of money. The best way for our exporters to operate is through such houses as have branch establishments here, or by sending men who understand Spanish or Portuguese to take orders and drum up business. If drummers are sent they should come back regularly from year to year, and they should have a supply in the field which they could deliver goods when sold.

As it is now, notwithstanding we take the bulk of the Brazilian exports, the commerce on the other side. The most of the importations come through England and Germany, the chief American goods which find their way here being those which are exported to exporting coffee. The Englishman is traveling in all parts of Brazil, and he largely controls the steamships, railways. They own many factories, coffee estates and have organized docks and other improvements.

HOW THE GERMANS ARE GOBBLING FAT THINGS.

Within the past year or so the Germans have been putting a great deal of money into Brazil. They are buying steamships in many of the towns and organizing electrical companies. They own a number of large breweries and have established banks which are found in almost every frontier town. Down in southern Brazil about one-fourth of the inhabitants are Germans, and in one or two states they own the bulk of the property. They have large farms and there are many German colonies. Capitalists in Hamburg have bought large tracts of land and they send out their emigrants to settle them.

The result is that most of the importations come from Germany, and a little while ago the Germans drove England in southern Brazil. The Germans there retain their language and customs, and although they are generally Brazilians, they are for the fatherland in international matters. Within a short time a direct line of steamships has been established between Hamburg and the south Brazilian ports, and their commerce with Germany grows nicer every year.

BUSINESS IN RIO.

As to business in Rio, most of the retail establishments are in the hands of the Portuguese. They are excellent business men, successful and honest. Some of them handle American goods, and I find that American goods are well liked by the Brazilians. Our agricultural machinery is popular, and all kinds of American machines are well thought of. Our hardware stands at the top, and our cottons are considered superior to those of Europe. Of late, however, Brazil has been establishing cotton mills of her own. There is a heavy protective tariff on cotton, and I understand there is much money in the business. I shall have more about this as to cotton exports further north.

AN AMERICAN COLLEGE IN BRAZIL.

Among the American institutions of Brazil which are doing a great deal of good is a college for girls at Petropolis. This is supported, I am told, by a number of the workers of the Methodist church, who each pay 10 cents a week toward it. It is managed by American women as teachers. The college building was built by an rich Brazilian for a home. It is on top of one of the mountain peaks just above Petropolis, and it is as much like a palace as any of the buildings there. Its rooms are very large, with ceilings from fifteen to eighteen feet high. Its bath room is as large as the average American parlor, with a shower attachment. There is a swimming pool of marble in the basement. The kitchen is said to be a model, and, on the whole, I doubt if there is a girls' school in the United States so well furnished. It has American desks and the latest appliances in the way of education, such as models, maps and illustrations. The students come from good Brazilian families, and its educational reputation is of the highest.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

LITERARY NOTES.

Not since the days when the last spike was driven in the line of railroad connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific coast has there been built a railway of such importance as that connecting the Trans-Siberian Railroad. In Almon's Magazine for May, Hon. John W. Foster discusses the topic, giving the first exhaustive account of this railroad from the view-point of an American. Mr. Bassett Moore's paper on "The Right of Search" is timely in view of the recent discussion of the Trans-Siberian case, the luxury of the station, etc. Further contributions are made to Almon's for May over "The Silent Sisters," by I. Zangwill; "The Big Bakeries of New York," by Alexander Black; "Lord Rosebery's Fight for Transcontinental Terminals," and "The Making of a Great Singer," by Lillian Nordica.

Estes and Smith, 238 William st., New York.

The Woman's Home Companion contains the latest literary production of Julia Magruder, the Southern novelist, in the shape of a novelette, "A Social Sunbeam." Harriet Prescott Spofford also begins a combined story, entitled "Old Madame," that is to deal with a vital question of domestic happiness. Lilian Bell gets something new to tell of upon the Rhine, and Miss Edith Sterling Brage never stretched the lilies in a more diverting mood than in this number. Besides all of these stories about his books and his children. There is also a Japanese story by Onoto Watanna, a story of a will by Robert C. V. Meyers, and a collection of short, crisp stories in the "Lenox Hill Hour."

Twenty designs appear with a paper on "Needle-sewing-lace," illustrated from photographs, an article showing the Brandon establishments here, or by sending men who understand Spanish or Portuguese to take orders and drum up business. If drummers are sent they should come back regularly from year to year, and they should have a supply in the field which they could deliver goods when sold.

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PLATT INVESTIGATES CROKER.

Richard Croker, the Tammany Hall leader, who has just been put through a most severe cross-examination by the Mazet Committee, which is investigating the alleged municipal corruption of New York City, has created a sensation by openly accusing the firm of which the Republican "boss" of New York, Thomas C. Platt, whose pictograph is shown above, is a member, of being at the foundation of all the corruption in New York City. It is believed that Croker will use his great political power to have a State investigation of Platt and the Republican next.

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