

Carpenter Chats with President of Chile

Copyright, 1914, by Frank G. Carpenter. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Published in the Sunday Bee, October 12, 1914. I have just had an audience with the grand old man of the Chilean republic. His name is Don Ramon Barros Lasso, and he has been connected with the official management of the country for many years. He has seen at the head of nearly every government department, has been minister in Paris, and five years ago was almost unanimously elected president, which office he now holds.

Don Ramon is noted as a patriot and a statesman. He was one of the leading figures in the war against Balboa, and at that time had a narrow escape. It was when the battleship Blanco was torpedoed and sunk by the enemy at some distance off the coast. Don Ramon was one of the officers on board and he saved his life by catching hold of the tail of a ship that had been on the ship. The tail swung to the shore and he carried Don Ramon with it.

That was twenty-three years ago, when Don Ramon was then in his 30's. He is now past three score and ten, and is still full of life, although he is criticized, as I am taking frequent note during the day, as being a bit of a conservative. He has made a name for himself in Chile, but not in the United States. He is not a man of the United States, but he does not care. The president of the United States rules but does not reign. The president of France neither rules nor reigns. The president of Chile sleeps.

Anything But Sleeping. I found Don Ramon far from sleeping during my interview. The talk was arranged through Mr. Robert H. Harvey, who, in the absence of the American minister, was charge d'affaires of our legation in Santiago, and my audience was given in the Moneda, or Chilean white house. The Moneda is also the state department, and before going in to the president, I had a short talk with the secretary of state as to the progress of Chile and the great development now going on in the south. I asked him as to the nitrate fields, and whether our farmers are to continue to have their best fertilizer from this part of the world. The secretary replied that we need not worry. "We are finding we can nitrate deposits right along."

And the industry is spreading north and south. In the present demand only wood is so plentiful, we could supply it for a hundred years, but new markets are opening up and the demand of Asia promises to be one of our chief consumers. We are already sending a great deal of nitrate to Japan, and also to southern Europe, including Russia and the Balkan states. Germany is one of our chief customers, and the Americans are steadily increasing their demand. At this point I was told that the president was ready to see me, and Senator Curtis, one of the secretaries, Mr. Harvey and myself were taken into the audience room. This is more like a large parlor than like the offices of our White House. The floor is heavily carpeted and historical paintings hang from the walls. The room is luxuriously furnished, but I had no time to look at the sofas or to sleep. Indeed, his excellency looked more like an active American business man than a sleeper. He is short and straight and inclined to be fleshy. He has a big head, a ruddy face and bright eyes. He asked me to sit down beside him, and for half an hour or so we chatted and his relations to the United States.

Favors Panama Canal. The president spoke of the completion of the Panama canal, and thanked the United States for the great work it had done there for the world. He told me he hoped to come northward to visit us at the close of this year. His term of office will then be over, and he expects to visit the opening of the canal in Washington. The president will free him from the provision that the president remain in the country for one year after the close of his term. Don Ramon told me that his plan is to travel to Panama, examine the canal and then proceed by ship to San Francisco. After seeing the fair he will go across the mountains and plains to Chicago, and thence to Washington and New York. He will return to Chile by the Caribbean sea and the Pacific, passing through the canal.

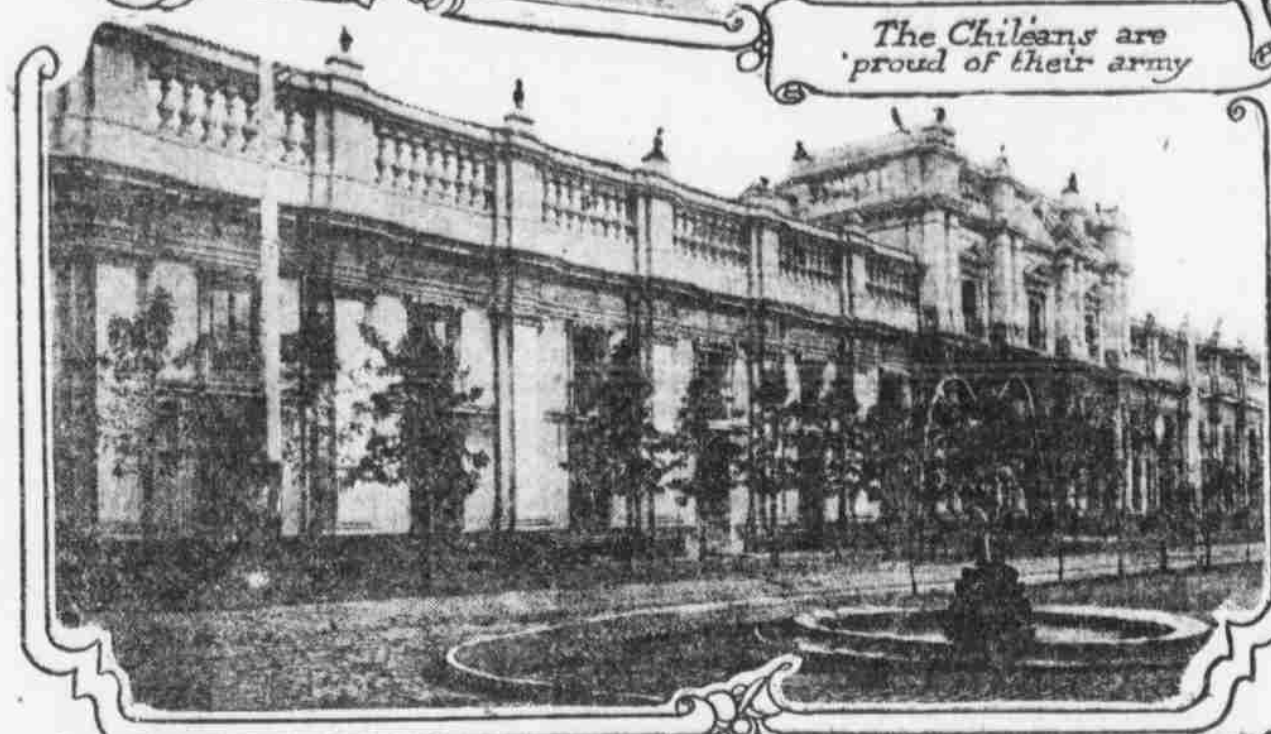
I asked the president as to the effect of the Panama canal upon our trade with his country. He replied that it will undoubtedly better the relations between the two republics, and that the United States will be able to sell more goods along the western coast of this continent. He expects an immediate increase from now on in the exports of Chile to the United States, and that not only from its mines, but also from its farms and orchards. He spoke kindly of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who has made a host of friends during his visit to Chile, and also referred to the contents of the Paris and New York treaties. He said that the fact that our secretary of state, Mr. Bryan, and Mr. John Barrett, the director of the union, are to be present. The president believes in a closer union of the pan-American republics, and thinks that they should co-operate in maintaining the peace of this hemisphere.

Modeled After United States. During the interview I asked Don Ramon several questions as to his executive powers, and as to the points of difference between the republic of Chile and ours. The Chilean constitution is modeled upon that of the United States, but there are striking differences, and in some of these Chile has the advantage. President Barros Lasso, for instance, was elected for a five-year term instead of four years, as was President Wilson, and he cannot succeed himself, although he may have a second term if another president intervenes. This takes him out of politics as far as using the civil service is concerned.

Another point of difference is in the system of administration. The president of the United States is assisted by a cabinet of secretaries appointed by himself, although their appointments must be confirmed by the senate. The president of Chile appoints his own cabinet, but he has also a council of state of eleven members, five of whom are nominated by him and the other six chosen by congress. This council has advisory functions, and its approval is required in many of the executive acts and appointments. In case our president dies the vice president succeeds, and if he passes away the secretary of state becomes president for the remainder of the term. Chile has no vice president, but if the president dies the secretary of the interior becomes the vice president and acts as president until a new president can be easily elected.



The Chileans are proud of their army



The Moneda or Chilean White House

his house rent free and lots of requisites. Don Ramon Barros has a salary of less than \$7,000, and in the neighborhood of \$5,000 for expenses. His total official income is just about \$12,000, and notwithstanding this, he lives in good style and has a limousine.

White House Bigger Than Ours. The Moneda, or Chilean white house, is much larger than our executive mansion. It covers almost four acres and consists of a three-story building running around patios or courts, filled with flowers and in which fountains play. The building is large for a country the size of Chile, and as the story goes, it was made so through a mistake. It was built in the old Spanish times, the plans being made in Madrid and sent to Santiago. The Spanish architect had been told by the king to construct two sets of drawings, one for a large building in Mexico City, then also a part of the Spanish dominion, and a smaller building for Chile. He followed his directions, but in forwarding the plans Santiago got the Mexican drawings and Mexico got those for Santiago. The result was this enormous mansion, which is today the largest presidential residence on this hemisphere.

Returning to the government of Chile, the country is one of the best managed of all South America. Its people are noted for their patriotism. They are for Chile first, last and all the time, and although they will fight each other during the presidential campaigns, they are peaceful enough once the president is elected. The country is not one of revolutions. It has had only thirteen presidents since 1830, and one of these was elected but did not act. Since the beginning of the republic in 1810 there have been twenty-five presidents, and the only revolutionary period was between 1829 and 1830, when there were ten different executives. During the first years of the republic several of the presidents had terms of ten years, and it was not until 1871 that the five-year period, without re-election, which now prevails, began. The president has the right of veto, but congress can by a two-thirds vote override his objections and make his laws. When a presidential measure fails, it is the custom of the cabinet to resign, and there have been times when Chile has had a new cabinet on the average about once a month.

Congress is Different. The congress of Chile differs from ours as to its elections. Its terms of office are in several other features. The members of both senate and house are elected by the males of the country, but no one can vote without he can read and write. There is a difference in the voting age as to whether a man is married or single. The bachelor has to wait until he is 25, but the married man can vote at the age of 21. Members of the house of deputies must be at least 21 at the time of their election, and senators must be 30 or more. All candidates for congress must have a specified income, and a member of the lower house cannot serve without he has at least \$500 per year. Every senator must have at least \$2,500 a year, and members of both houses must serve without pay. There is supposed to be no financial profit in the position, and the places are one of honor alone. As to graft, I have no doubt but that more or less exists. Indeed, I have yet to find a legislative body on earth where each aid all of the members are aints.

The provisions for educational qualifications for officers and the requirement of a specified income makes the government of Chile an oligarchy. It practically confines the administration to the richer classes, and the great families control the country. This is so not only in Chile, but in all of the Latin American republics. It has always been so in Mexico, and the supposition that the Mexicans can have free and fair elections under the present conditions is absurd to any one who knows Latin America. The government of these countries has always been in the hands of the few, and it is only by education and gradual uplift that the masses can be fitted to take part in the legislative and the government.

ter, its sessions running from June 1 to September 1. This country, as you know, is south of the equator and it therefore has its winter when we have our summer. In addition to this regular meeting, the president can call an extra session whenever he chooses, and during the recess a permanent committee of members of both houses presides over certain public business.

Capitol in Heart of City. The houses of congress are situated in the heart of the city. The capitol building is of two stories. Its material is white stone, and the portico, which forms the entrance to the chamber of deputies and the senate, are each upheld by six Corinthian columns. The building is surrounded by a beautiful garden filled with semi-tropical trees. There are palm trees as big around as a hoghead, which are nevertheless not more than thirty feet high. There are also beds of beautiful flowers. At one corner of the grounds is a fountain, and at the other a statue standing on the site of the Jesuit church, which was burned while the congregation was at worship, resulting in the death of more than 200 women. The doors of the church opened inward, and when the fire occurred the audience pressed against the doors, holding them shut, and causing this enormous loss of life. The monument is a beautiful marble Madonna in the attitude of mourning, with four kneeling angels at her feet.

I passed this monument in going into the Chamber of Deputies. This chamber is entered by a beautiful hall in the shape of a half moon, and the galleries for visitors are reached by a marble staircase, which leads to a second and third floor. Both of the chambers have the desks of its members and are more like school desks than those which we formerly had in the houses of representatives. The building has also rooms for the president and secretaries, and there is a congress hall, where the president reads his message to both houses, which come together for the purpose.

The government of Chile has three branches: Executive, consisting of the president and his cabinet; legislative, comprising the two houses of congress, and judicial, embracing the courts. The country is divided into provinces, which correspond to our states, and departments that may be compared to our counties. The president appoints the governors of the provinces and the chief officers of the counties. They in turn appoint the officials under them, so that the president practically controls the civil service of the country. He also controls the courts, appointing the judges and their subordinates, with the approval of the council of state.

The courts are like ours in some respects and different in others. There is a supreme court at the capital, which supervises all the other courts of the republic. There are six courts of appeal, one in each of the principal cities, and there are minor courts scattered over the country. There is no jury system except in the cases where the freedom of the press has been abused. All trials are before one or more judges, the government being represented by public prosecutors. The police are under the control of the minister of the interior, and seem to be very well managed. Police expenses are paid out of the national treasury. The Chileans are proud of their army. They are natural soldiers, and it is said they would rather fight than eat. According to the laws, every able-bodied citizen is obligated to serve in the army, and recruits are called up in their twentieth year and trained for one year. They afterward serve off and on for nine years in the reserve. The country is divided into zones or military districts, each of which forms a complete division of mobilization. The total strength of the army is 1,200 officers and 25,000 men. The country has good military schools and its officers are all trained by Germany. The army is said to be about the most efficient in South America. As to financial matters, the government

of Chile is more cheaply run than that of the United States. The Chilean government costs about \$80,000,000 a year. Ours costs about \$2,000,000 a day, and in this is not included our postal account or the loans and payments on the public debt. The government of Chile controls the most of the railways, and it has a net loss of some millions of pesos from that source every year. The roads are badly managed and poorly equipped, and their officials and employees are a part of the political machine rather than efficient servants of the traveling public.

Much Money from Exports. A large part of the government receipts—not quite one-half—comes from the export duties on nitrate and the sale of nitrate properties. Another source of government income is the import duties, which amount to about \$1,000,000 a year. The tariff covers nearly everything, with the notable exception of printing paper, which is admitted free on the ground that books and newspapers are a benefit to the public and that they should receive public aid. All publications are distributed without postage and white paper sells for less than it does in the United States, and that notwithstanding it has to be carried 10,000 miles or more to market.

There is one more difference between the government of Chile and ours, and

that is as to religion. We do not believe in any sect of the church and state. The Roman Catholic religion is instituted by this government, although according to the constitution all religions are respected and protected. The Catholic church gets a certain amount of money every year from the government treasury, and that notwithstanding the "chicanery" of it is one of the richest churches of the world. The great majority of the population are Catholics, and the Catholics here have always been noted for their power and wealth. I have heard it said that the church owns more than a hundred million dollars' worth of real estate in Santiago alone. It has some of the best business blocks, and the whole of one side of the plaza belongs to it. It has acres of estates, thousands of rented houses and vast haciendas or farms. The Carmelite nuns are said to be the richest body of women in South America, if not in the world. They have properties in Santiago, and scattered over the central valley, they have many large estates that bring in a steady income. The Dominican nuns also possess millions, their church being the finest in Santiago, with an altar that is the most beautiful on this hemisphere.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



By HENRIETTA M. REES. Ever since that time a day ago, when I first began to use my voice in infected tones for the expression of my emotions, long before Horner invented the type of Pan played a pastoral melody, or what passed for music, was a social art. The rhythm, which probably took form a little later to the beating of crude drums, not only furnished pleasure and delight to the high priest, whose duty it was to act as chief musician, but it called the members of primitive tribes together for council, worship and social festivities, at which time the different members probably took part by interpreting the sounds with voice and such action as seemed good and fitting to them. And all through the ages from these small beginnings to our present elaborate system of musical expression, music has had its place in the social life of the people. Just as the process of evolution in general still goes on, so is the process of musical evolution. Look about you on the street car or the crossing anywhere where there are people congregated and you will see types of different stages of evolution. Also listen about you and you will hear music in all its stages and period of development.

The drum, the mouth organ and the music box all have their uses in the early stages, and while the performers would certainly desire to have their instruments as social instruments, they often make the mistake of choosing an audience who do not enjoy their efforts. Thus, if many a rosy cheeked youngster, rejoicing in a noisy drum, instead of choosing mother or father or nurse for audience would forego their with others of his own age and experience far enough from the governing powers that might interfere, he would probably find his energetic bearing hailed with enthusiasm.

There are few people, no matter how unusual they may profess to be, who will not respond congenitally or unconsciously to the music of a good brass band, either falling into step, marking time, or with a smile and brightened eyes. The ear of almost every human being is capable of greater listening powers than are usually employed and musical taste is cultivated or uncultivated as the person has taken the opportunities offered to develop it as a medium.

We never see a hand organ man grinding out rhythmical bits but that he has an audience of some kind or other. Even the little German bands which in groups of four or five often solemnly dispense folk music before lucrative and usually lubricatory pieces of business draw their share of attention from the passerby as well as from the patrons within. One might go on and enumerate many other instances, all of which would but prove the same thing, that wherever there is music of a greater or less degree of merit and complexity there will be listeners of a similar stage of development, who will come together to enjoy it.

Music like water seeks its own level, and people in the different degrees of musical appreciation find and enjoy in common the kinds of pleasing sounds

realized in Santiago alone. It has some of the best business blocks, and the whole of one side of the plaza belongs to it. It has acres of estates, thousands of rented houses and vast haciendas or farms. The Carmelite nuns are said to be the richest body of women in South America, if not in the world. They have properties in Santiago, and scattered over the central valley, they have many large estates that bring in a steady income. The Dominican nuns also possess millions, their church being the finest in Santiago, with an altar that is the most beautiful on this hemisphere.

From the very beginning of study music has its social advantages. The little girl who has learned her first piece usually invites in all the neighboring children to hear it, and will play it joyfully for any other child who may happen in. At this stage her enthusiasm for the art usually knows no bounds, and she will practice without so much coaxing as is necessary in the period immediately following. I think the social advantages of music among children are very sadly neglected in the age of hurry and excitement in which we are living. There is no stronger bond in the home than music, when the family get together and sing, or play, and let the little ones take part as soon as they are able. There are not few little musical clubs, where the children may play for each other the songs which correspond to their ages and development, and play with each other in little orchestras, where even though the music may be of the better shelter type or ultra melodramatic, it keeps up the enthusiasm.

Many a grown-up who has neglected music, holds memories of the time when life had no more lonely hours than the dreary hour which was spent in idleness at practice of uninteresting technical exercises and scales, with none of the fun of music intermingled, such as possibly done with the little neighbor girl, or Helen, lower home and other folks, for recreation pieces. Yet now they wish so much they knew how to do something with it.

Everyone who has attained any degree of proficiency has gone through the certain stages that the same as children go through measles and croup. There is the folk song age, which comes early and causes its youthful admirers to sneeze a host of them in and play them during the practice hour instead of what belongs to the lesson. There is the dance music stage, one might call it, when anything that tips along with a single and a swing, appeals, and it is at this point that the performer, when he can play them, first decides that he is a finished artist. Then there is the sentimental age, when all pianists play "Old Black Joe" and the "Old Kentucky Home" with variations, as well as many others of the same style, and which reaches its climax in long and careful work on Gottschalk's "Laet Hope." Did ever a pianist live who has not at some time in his career charmed himself and his friends by this beautiful melody and its silvery fit-green work?

Here again the performer and numerous of his friends decide that he is a finished performer, and he is happy and content until all at once he discovers something in music which he had not noticed before, something else he has not accomplished after all. Listeners go through similar stages just the same as those who study the practical side of music. There are times when they are especially fond of certain types of music. If they have many and varied opportunities for listening, they will soon sort out the best, and find that they do not get tired of it as soon as they do of the other music. Here again the social

element is brought in. It is mainly through the efforts of their friends that they learn to like certain numbers and to know different musical literature. The phonograph and mechanical piano will help one to enjoy listening in solitude, but even then, he is standing with the composer. The enthusiastic photographer, if one may use such a word, no sooner gets a new record with which he is especially delighted than he calls upon some friend, who is likewise interested, and says "Come on over and hear my new record; it's a dandy," and there you are, the social element in music again.

With the exception of the piano and blue organ, the literature of all other instruments requires an accompaniment, either by one of the above mentioned, or by a group of other instruments, a band or an orchestra, for instance. This brings two people together with a common interest, and perhaps more than two. And this is the most direct and easiest way which brings hundreds together, for music. The pleasure and social intercourse and fun that grow out of these organizations beside the interest in music can never be told, and would make an interesting and complete story by themselves.

Frank King Clark, a well-known American vocal teacher of Berlin, died there on October 4 of cerebral spinal meningitis. Before his residence in Berlin he lived in Paris, where he had the distinction, rare for an American, of receiving the order of "Officier d'Academie" from the government, in recognition of his ability as an instructor. Mrs. Clark, his widow, is a former Nebraska girl, having been Miss Maude Oakley of Lincoln.

Musical Notes. The Omaha Club held a short business meeting Wednesday evening of last week, at which time the annual banquet was set for the evening of October 23.

Edith L. Wagner gave a recital at the School for the Blind at Nebraska City Thursday of last week. She spoke of the play as being very sympathetic to the blind, and the experience as a most interesting one.

A concert was given by Miss M. Alice Macdonald, soprano; Miss Alice Virginia Davis, violinist; Mr. Frank Mack, violinist; and Mr. Cecil Berryman, accompanist, at the First Presbyterian church in South Omaha last Wednesday evening. The work of these young musicians is well known to Omaha musical circles and the South Omaha concert was highly successful. Mr. Mack opened the program with A and B number, Pierre's Serenade and Mazurka de Concert, and later contributed three numbers—Oberon, Wieniawski, Canonetta Ambrosio and a Scherzo by Gounod. Miss Macdonald sang the ever popular aria from Sanson and Delilah by Saint Saens, "My Heart is Thy Sweet Voice," and a group of shorter songs—"The Spirit of the Flower" by Campbell-Tipton; "In the Time of Roses," Reichardt; and two Brahms songs. Miss Davis played the Grieg nocturne, "Sinding a Marche Griegienne" and "If I were a Bird," Handel, in the first part of the program, and closed the second part with "The Cathedral" by Debussy, and the brilliant Liszt Polonaise.

Miss Alice Macdonald will give a song recital at the Y. W. C. A. auditorium November 1. She will be assisted by Dr. R. B. MacPhail of Pittsburgh, Pa., dramatic reader, and Cecil W. Berryman, pianist.

Elodie Sheppard, soprano, who was last heard in Omaha at the E. P. O'Connell home on Thirty-eighth street last November, will be heard in song recital at the Y. W. C. A. auditorium, with Miss Borgum at the piano, in April. Miss Sheppard was presented in Washington, D. C., by Mrs. John A. Logan before the Congressional club, the Continental Congress D. A. R. and on the program with Admiral Perry, and to quote Mrs. Logan, "she simply captivated everyone who heard her and fairly sang herself into the hearts of the Washington people." Last week Mrs. Logan presented her in Chicago in a series of recitals, where she again had exceptional success, press and public alike being enthusiastic. She will sing on her Omaha program one group each of French, German and Italian songs and three groups of English.

There will be a piano recital at Brownell hall Saturday, October 24, by Miss Emily Weeks, director of music. Miss Weeks will play the Chopin Fantasia in F minor, a group of other Chopin numbers, and selections by Macdowell, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and Liszt. Miss Weeks is a pupil of George Treuting, Harold von Melckwitz and Harold Bauer. All friends of the school and music lovers are invited. A reception follows the recital.

There will be a special musical service at the Immanuel Baptist church Sunday evening, October 18.

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