

road connection with the rest of the country, has played an important part in the monetary affairs of the world. The Potosi district shared with Mexico the credit of producing the silver which, flowing back to Spain and through Spain into Europe, broke the fetters of the dark ages and gave a new impetus to commerce and civilization. In early days the ore was carried seven or eight hundred miles on llamas and donkeys; later a mint was established at Potosi and the old wooden machinery used in the mint may still be seen.

Aside from the railroads already mentioned, several others are planned and some are under construction. Chili is building one from Arica to La Paz. This will be the short line between Bolivia and the Pacific; it runs through the territory in dispute between Peru and Chili and will bring La Paz within three hundred miles of the ocean.

The next line of importance is the one connecting the Antofagasta road with the Buenos Aires line. A connecting link of only one hundred and fifty miles is necessary to give Bolivia this outlet to the Atlantic through the capital of Argentina. Within three years Bolivia will have at least four lines to the sea, three to the Pacific and one to the Atlantic, and another is being projected toward Brazil with a view to another outlet, and still another to the Paraguay river. Besides these, lines are being surveyed to Cochabamba, the capital of a large province of the same name which is destined to supply the hill cities with food, and into the Beni country—one of the rubber producing sections.

Bolivia received ten million dollars in gold from Brazil in settlement of a boundary dispute, and the government wisely set this sum aside for the building of railroads. As a result, Bolivia will, within a few years have a railway system connecting the different sections of the country and, being practically without debt, there is no reason why she should not make rapid progress.

The agricultural resources of Bolivia are considerable; the best description of them is found in a book published in Washington by the International Bureau of American Republics. It was brought to my attention and recommended by Bolivian officials. According to the figures given in this book Bolivia has some six hundred million acres of tillable land and of this, less than one-twentieth is now under the plow. This gives some idea of the possibilities of the country. With only two million people occupying an area of some seven hundred thousand square miles, two-thirds of it capable of cultivation, it is no wonder that the people of Bolivia believe that their country is destined to play an important part in the development of South America.

Rubber is the chief export, the value of which has amounted to five million dollars in one year.

The cocoa leaf is produced both for domestic consumption and for export. The leaf is almost universally used among the Indians in the mountain districts and it seems to have an invigorating effect; it is said to keep up the strength without the use of food. One Peruvian of prominence recommends its use by soldiers.

Coffee, sugar, rice, cocoa and tobacco are also produced in abundance, and the cinchona bark of Bolivia (from which quinine is made) is said to be the best in the market. The latest figures obtainable show an export of about seventy-five thousand dollars worth annually. The grape and the olive grow well here, and the raising of the silk worm has passed the experimental stage. Corn, wheat and barley are cultivated and there are more than two hundred and fifty kinds of potatoes produced.

The potato, by the way, is one of South America's contributions to the world's food-products, and the variety is such that one can consult his taste in the matter of color. Will you have white, yellow, purple or pink potatoes? You can have your choice.

And so with meats; cattle, sheep and goats are raised, and the vicuna is hunted both for its meat and for its wool—the latter so soft and silky that the skin brings a good price for rugs. The wool of the vicuna is finer than that of the alpaca, and is woven by the natives into the more expensive scarfs and ponchos.

Hogs are not enumerated among the live stock of Bolivia—not that this is a pigless country, but the scrawny specimens which one occasionally sees are not worthy of mention. Corn is too expensive on the mountains; an animal that must be fed can not hope to compete with the animals that can graze.

But at present, as in the past, minerals furnish the chief source of Bolivia's wealth. In three hundred and twenty years, from 1545 to

1864, the mines of Potosi district yielded over \$3,500,000,000 in silver! No wonder silver was in common use in upper and lower Peru! Even now silver plate, silver bowls and pitchers, silver stirrups, silver spurs, etc., can be bought at the second-hand stores; although so many tons have been shipped out that the supply is scanty compared with what it was a half century ago.

The annual output of silver, too, has fallen off in recent years until it is now hardly more than four million dollars annually.

Bolivia contains many copper deposits, some of exceeding richness. Ore is being shipped through Antofagasta running more than twenty-five per cent copper. The exports of this metal amount to about a million a year, but owing to the expense of shipment only high grade ores can be used, the lower grades being left for future exploitation.

Tin, however, seems to promise most among the money yielding minerals. The deposits of this ore are very rare, the Strait Settlements of Asia are now furnishing the world with the larger part of its tin. Bolivia is producing some ten thousand tons of bar tin per year, and the officials believe that the output will be very largely increased.

Besides silver, copper and tin, Bolivia has gold, bismuth, borax, petroleum and coal—the petroleum and coal have not yet been developed, but the high price of coal—thirty to forty dollars per ton on the mountains—is compelling the exploitation of these fields.

But while oil and coal may in the future furnish fuel for cooking and heating, electricity is likely to furnish light and motive power, for the mountain streams are only waiting to be harnessed.

We found an intelligent and congenial group of men and women at La Paz. Among many who might be mentioned, President Villazon and wife, ex-President Pando, First Vice President Pinella, Minister of Foreign Relations Senor Bustamonte, Mayor Zellas, and Senor Ballivian, who has devoted his energies during recent years to the establishment of a very creditable museum, are remembered with special pleasure.

We reached La Paz just at the beginning of the carnival and, while this annual festival suspends all business and keeps the city in an uproar, it gave us an opportunity—our first—to see the people released from the usual restraints. A hilarious crowd began to parade the streets on Sunday afternoon, February 6, and the noise did not subside until Wednesday. Some young men were in uniform, some in ordinary clothes. A number would stop before a balcony and throw ribbons of vari-colored paper to the ladies above, and the ladies, in turn, threw down ribbons and confetti.

Some of the marchers wore masks—one I noticed represented a wild man; he wore a bushy beard and dishevelled hair, and dashed from one side of the street to the other to the consternation of the small boys.

On Monday, water and flour were thrown on passers-by. The water was carried in wax eggs, or bottles, that broke easily, and the flour in small bags. It is unsafe to be on the streets at such times unless one is prepared to take his share in the carnival. We saw several foreigners who looked as if they had passed through a snowstorm and we had a chance to sample the water ourselves. During the carnival the nights are given up to dancing, the weary participants dispersing at daylight. On Tuesday the little children came out and imitated the older ones; they looked very cunning in their masks and gay attire.

All classes take part in the carnival, from fashionable society to poorest Indians. The cholo, or half-breed women, are out in their best clothes—a derby crowned straw hat, light colored high shoes, two shawls, and from five to fifteen petticoats of different colors.

A large amount of liquor is consumed during the carnival period; in fact, social drinking continues the year round and the visitor wonders why no temperance society has been formed to discourage the use of intoxicants.

Bolivia has ruins, also, and these are likely to receive more attention than they have in the past.

At Tiahuanaco, near La Paz, there are remains of buildings which ante-date the Incas by several thousand years. The excavations already made have richly repaid the labor of those who have been engaged in them, but as yet little effort has been made to uncover the evidences of this early civilization. One can trace what appears to be the foundations of a great temple, with courts and gardens. One stone that seems to have been at the threshold of a door or gate, is thirty feet long, ten feet wide,

and two feet thick. One doorway is well preserved and contains a series of carved figures which may have served for a written language. There is also a large sacrificial stone which, having withstood the destructive influences of time, bears mute testimony to the fact that the ancient people who used it, offered sacrifices as a part of their ceremonies, but there is nothing to indicate whether human victims were used.

A large hill near the temple court contains a quantity of hewn stone; the railroad secured stone here for its bridges, three years ago; but the government has since made a reservation of the ground covered by the ruins, and further removals are prohibited.

In Bolivia, as in Peru, I found the sentiment very friendly to Americans, and heard the same regret expressed that our merchants and manufacturers have not given attention to this market.

Three reasons have been given why Americans have not been as successful as foreigners in working up trade. First, our manufacturers try to get the natives to buy things as we make them, while the English and Germans find out what the people want and then make things to suit them.

The second reason is that our exporters do not pack goods carefully. One American told me that he had tried to introduce American goods, but that they were so poorly packed that the breakage was excessive. He received two shipments at one time; fifteen per cent of the American machinery was broken, while the breakage on the European shipment was practically nothing.

The third objection is that England, Germany and France use the metric system in making machinery to be shipped to South America, and as duplicates are kept in stock, it is easy to supply a piece in case of loss or breakage, while it takes weeks to secure a duplicate if there is a break in an American machine. It would pay our exporters to make a study of the South American markets, and this should be done before the canal is completed.

Nothing in Bolivia gratified me more than the encouragement given by the government to an American school established in La Paz four years ago. Rev. F. M. Harrington, a Methodist missionary, was the founder, and from the beginning the school has received an appropriation from the government. There are now about one hundred and fifty boys in attendance; two are sons of Dr. Bustamonte, minister of foreign relations, five are sons of senators; three are sons of deputies; two are nephews of an ex-president; and others are connected with officials of various ranks. Nearly every section of Bolivia is represented in the school, and its influence for good can scarcely be over-estimated. The school now occupies convenient quarters in an excellent part of the city, but is liable to have the rent raised, as its success increases the value of the property. It ought to own land and buildings sufficient for its needs. American philanthropy can find no worthier school upon which to shower its bounty than this struggling institution. It has a great field, and a few thousand dollars expended here will return a large dividend, in service and satisfaction. Our nation rightly desires to exercise a paramount influence in Central and South America, and it can not increase that influence better than through its schools.

If we can draw students from these republics to our colleges, we can impress them not only with our educational system, but with our political and business life. But comparatively few can visit the United States, and we must not neglect the opportunity to carry the ripe experience of our country—our ideas and ideals—to those who can not come to us, and the American Institute at La Paz is peculiarly fitted to do this work in the intellectual, political and business center of the republic of Bolivia.

W. J. BRYAN.

Copyright by the New York World.

AN UNTIMELY WITTICISM

The New York Sun is not always opportune in its humor. When Mr. Bryan landed in New York on the 18th he was met by several newspaper men who asked, in concert, "What are the democratic chances?" Mr. Bryan replied, "Always good." The Sun quotes Mr. Bryan's reply and adds, "When Mr. Bryan is out of the country." But the very next day after Mr. Bryan landed the democrats carried the Rochester, N. Y., congressional district, changing a republican plurality of 10,000 into a democratic plurality of 6,000. And Mr. Bryan was in the country.