

BUENOS AIRES DESCRIBED AS A MAGNIFICENT CITY; PEOPLE ARE SPORT LOVIN

(By Harman Black in New York Sun.)

The North American in "B. A." (as foreigners call Buenos Aires) will be disappointed if he expects to find there the gaucheros wearing patent leather boots and shawls as he encountered them coming eastward across the Andes.

Instead of a new and crudely built city constructed out of the profits of grain and cattle raising, he will roll into El Retiro, one of the most beautiful of modern railway stations, and when he has left it by modern tram or taxi he will spin along wide asphalt or wooden streets, and presently reach wider avenues that lead into impressive plazas surrounded by splendid municipal or national buildings. The visitor will find, too, vistas as carefully worked out as those projected by Baron Haussmann when Paris was reconstructed. The lavish French renaissance is the most popular style of architecture.

The first impression is modernness, cleanliness, spaciousness and miniature magnificence. Probably the greatest surprise will be on discovering subways for passengers and different subways for the delivery of freight. Then he will look up eight or ten stories to the tops of department stores quite as pretentious for their size as any in New York. And he will find a variety of things in them not surpassed in New York.

The shop windows are particularly interesting, because side by side the latest Parisian creations in silk and a black lace shawl as large as a bed quilt bearing in a conspicuous place a lead seal showing that it was made in Seville or Barcelona. In the windows of the same shop the visitor will see American furniture, the softest and fleeciest woollens from England and Argentine made harness and saddles trimmed with silver and gold. Many articles bear the familiar mark "Made in Germany," because the Germans learned before the Americans to humor the Argentinians as to how the goods should be packed, when the deliveries were desired, and when they were to be paid for. It was not until 1922, when our Government issued its "Commercial Travelers Guide to South America," that our manufacturers began to realize that they must fall in with Latin American demands if they were to compete with the Germans.

Magnificence in Dress.

The men of this metropolis pride themselves on being portenos (portmen) rather than agriculturists or ranchmen. They and the women of the city dress with meticulous fastidiousness, and the number of furs and jewels the women wear is amazing. Even the Rue de la Paix boasts but little more magnificence in the display of jewelry and articles de luxe than the Calle (street) Florida, a great hive of shoppers every hour in the day.

While its sacred precincts are not allowed to be disturbed by vehicular traffic, the number and costliness of the automobiles that dash at high speed along the other streets is one of the best indications of the wealth of the people.

Buenos Aires is on the southern bank of the twenty-eight miles wide Plata, about 155 miles from the sea. They call the Plata a river, but it is really an estuary of the Atlantic. Except for the descent to the wharves on the river the city is almost as level as a billiard table. In size it is the tenth largest city in the world, but its 47,000 acres cover less ground than New York, London, Chicago or Philadelphia.

The Avenida de Mayo extends over a mile from the big brick Government house at the eastern quarter to the Plaza de Congreso and the Capitol at the west. This 120-foot wide street has electric light poles down the center and on each side of the roadway are planted rows of fine trees, beyond which are sidewalks twenty feet wide. Most of the new building that line the sides of the avenues are not more than five stories high, but there are a few handsome skyscrapers of Moorish design. The subway kiosks are strikingly beautiful.

The Marks of the City

In front of the Capitol is the splendid plaza, which was prepared and

laid out in sixty days from the time the first old building was demolished in the center of its attractive grounds is the beautiful white marble allegorical statue representing Argentina. Although much smaller and without the elevated setting of our Capitol, the Argentine House Congress is more graceful. Its central dome is supported by pillars covering seventy-two square meters to sustain its weight of thirty thousand tons. They are built upon an inverted dome of stone with foundation thirty feet deep. The interior walls are marble and it is furnished with exquisite red mahogany.

Buenos Aires is fortunate in that its development has not been confined to certain streets. It occurs around the beautiful parks, which are scattered, and no other city has a finer system of parks. One of the most imposing is the Plaza San Martin, which takes its name from the statue of the national hero. Very near is the Moorish building, designed of glazed brick, at the entrance to which is the largest bronze group of statuary in the world representing "The Aspiration of Labor."

One of the two great diversions of society is the opera, which is housed in the splendid colon (Columbus) Opera House. The Colon justly claims to be the first in size and luxury in South America. It is built on almost exactly the same plan as the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The Opera, from May to August (the Argentine winter) marks the apex of the seasons gayety. The exterior of the opera house shows on the first floor Doric, the second Ionic and the third Corinthian columns. The auditorium holds 3,750 persons, and there are 900 fauteuils on seven levels.

The Sporting Angle

The Park of the Third of February named in honor of the defeat in 1859 of the tyrant Rosas, is reached through the handsome Avenue Alvear. It covers three and one-half million square meters and shelters the cricket club, composed mostly of Englishmen, the golf links, fencing club, rifle range and the Argentine Hippodrome—the latter being the property of the famous Jockey Club, where there are three tracks, one within the other, the outside one being a mile and three quarters long. The grounds outside the track are second only to Monte Carlo in beauty and design. Twenty millions of dollars were bet in a single year here. This splendid sporting organization has a new and magnificent club house in the city of Buenos Aires in a spacious appointed tropical garden. The only trouble the Jockey Club has is in spending its huge income.

In the center of the Park of the Third of February, which contains over a million plants and trees from all over the earth, is the imposing and exquisite tribute of Spanish residents of the Argentine known as the "Homage of Spain."

One of the most pleasing sights is the splendid Washington Monument, a stately marble which serenely stands as a monument to the friendship between the most progressive nation of the northern hemisphere and the marvelous republic of the successful Argentinians.

Where Society Lives.

El Tigre, the fashionable suburb, has been described as another Venice. Even in winter it is quite attractive with its handsome villas and ornamental grounds, but it isn't Venice. Instead, it is more like Bruges, in Belgium, with some picturesque canals running through it and beautiful gardens surrounding the fine homes. It seems a very old place with but few new buildings, and the hedges fences and roads, with their borders of trees, all indicate that the "400" of "B. A." have been living there some time. There is a tangle of willows and vines near the canals, which apparently run in no regular order. El Tigre has a fine hotel, or rather a combination of four hotel buildings, on the main canal nearest the river.

Another institution, the National Penitentiary, is well thought of. The building houses nearly a thousand

prisoners and is run on the "Irish" system. The prisoners are allowed to trade that they can utilize when they come out, and they so are proficient in making blankets, binding, lithography, photo-engraving, saddlery, shoemaking, brush making, tailoring, masonry, baking, agriculture and hair-dressing. There is a school for the instruction of the prisoners and a hospital equipped for dentistry and surgery.

Argentinians are born sportsmen, and while horse racing is the national sport there are thousands of devotees of boxing, fox hunting, aviation, football, target shooting, fencing, cricket, cycling and skating. Of the more than 75,000 thoroughbred horses in Argentina, Ormond was bought in the United States for \$115,000, Diamond Jubilee for \$150,000, Flying Fox for \$187,000 and Cyrene for \$150,000.

On the cultural side Buenos Aires boasts fine newspapers, that carry not only all the news from all the world, but that feature thoughtful articles by experts on the great issues before the people. There are altogether 500 journals, a hundred of which are printed in languages other than Spanish for the foreign element.

The public and private art galleries are notable, and reflect their influence in the artistic grouping and arrangement of the city's parks, monuments and fountains. The Fountain of Lola Mora, an exquisite group of airy marble figures, is one of the most beautiful in the world. The visitor is struck with the originality of design of the statues. Their strong individuality shows that they are bound to no orthodox ideas of art, consequently they are vibrant with feeling that one rarely encounters in the sculptures of northern artists.

NEW RACING RECORDS MADE DURING 1928

In a season in which much fast trotting and pacing was recorded on the tracks of the Grand Circuit, and in other harness racing events, Winnipeg the pacer owned by E. J. Baker, of St. Charles, Ill., and driven by Palin, holds the distinction of the fastest race mile (1:57 1/4), the fastest mile (1:57 1/4) and the fastest mile over a half-mile track (2:00 1/4). The Canadian-bred pacer made the race record at the New York State Fair, the mile against time at Toledo and the two-lap record mile at Louisville during the Kentucky State Fair, and his mile in 1:57 1/4 stamps him as the greatest pacing gelding of all time.

In the trotting division Spencer, three-year-old owned by David M. Look, of Goshen, tied a world's record when he did a mile against time during the Lexington meeting of the Grand Circuit in 1:59 1/4, with W. H. Leese, top money-winning driver of the season, handling the lines. The fastest race mile for trotters is credited to Benelwyn, in 2:01 1/4, and the two-lap mile trotting record for the year was hung up by Peter Manning, in 2:03 1/4, against time.

Benelwyn set two records in this race at the New York State Fair, in the \$10,000 Empire Stake, for his mile was the best ever made in a race by either a four-year-old or a trotting stallion.

To Spencer's owner, Mr. Baker, goes the distinction of owning three of the season's champions, Winnipeg, Labrador, 2:02 1/4, fastest four-year-old pacer, and Contender, 2:05 1/4, joint holder with Trusty Brewer, of Calumet Farms, of the world's record for two-year-old trotting geldings. Palin drove all three horses.

Hollywood Colin, owned by John L. Dodge, of Hollywood Farm, a four-year-old, was the leading race winner among the trotters of the Grand Circuit.

The two-year-old trotters, though not up to 1927's unusual array, were a fast lot, and of them all Walter Dear, 2:05, was considered the foremost contender for the crown.

At the Hospital.

Mr. Walter (Nobby) McLennahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. John McLennahan, Needham street, was operated on yesterday morning at the Victoria Hospital for appendicitis. His condition this afternoon is as good as can be expected.

RISES OFTEN SPEEDS HUMAN ACTION; EXCITEMENT TAPS PHYSICAL RESERVE POWER

Berkeley, Calif., Dec. 29.—Great anatomy and physiology of the excitement in a crisis does not necessarily lower one's power to act efficiently, rather does it increase one's adequacy to cope with situations which under normal conditions would be impossible to meet.

Evidence in support of this statement, which is in disagreement with by several leading philosophers and psychologists, has just been ordered by Prof. George M. Stratton of the psychology department of the University of California, from a study of the reactions of a man during a real-life crisis, occurring when a young niece stood too close to an open fireplace and her clothing burst into flames.

The man involved was Prof. Emeritus William E. Ritter, of the zoology department of the university, and president of Science Service, in Washington, D. C. The event took place while Prof. Ritter was director of Scripps Institution for Biological Research.

Records Experiences

Realizing the value of recording the works of his mind during the few moments that elapsed between the first burst of flame and the successful tearing away of the burning clothing from his young niece's body, Prof. Ritter took the trouble that same day to dictate his mental experiences to a stenographer.

Concerning the effect that the excitement had upon Prof. Ritter, Prof. Stratton says: Movements followed one another at a rapid rate; the act of throwing down the newspaper, of rising from the chair, of grasping the child, and so on, to the final throwing of the flaming cloth into the fireplace—these movements were done not only with uncommon energy, but with an uncommon speed for sequence. It was as though there had been introduced some transitions, for throwing the switch with lightning speed from one circuit of action to another.

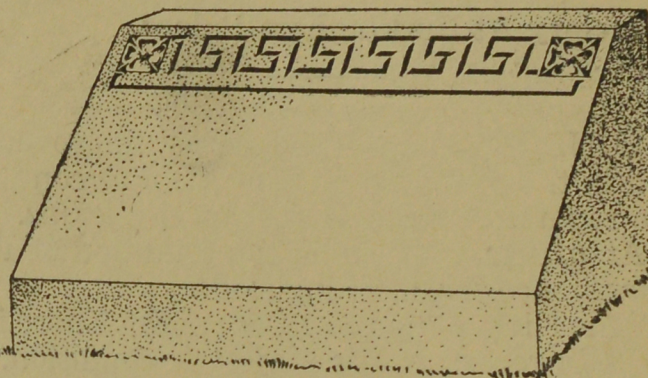
Useless Details Side-Tracked

"The store of Ritter's knowledge, for example of the child's sensory and motor mechanism, his knowledge concerning the comparative

meet the present crisis."

On the basis of this accurate account by a scientist, of the minute details of his thoughts and action in a terrible crisis, together with a similar record of a crisis faced by an aviator, Prof. Stratton reaches the conclusion that: "Excitement and emotion generally are not primarily and usually causes of inadequacy. They rather usually are reactions which increase our adequacy. They supplement our routine modes of response which at the moment appear inadequate."

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