

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF URUGUAY

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PREFACE

The aim of this thesis is to present the facts and the interpretation of facts that have brought about the cultural development of Uruguay, the outstanding nation among the smaller republics of Latin America. This study takes into consideration the geographical, historical and economic backgrounds that have made it possible for Uruguay to take her rightful place among world-wide states as a power for cultural development and peaceful activities for her people.

The inspiration for this investigation had its beginnings in a class on Latin America conducted by Dr. T. H. Reynolds at the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Materials used in this thesis were secured from the Oklahoma Agricultural College; Oklahoma Library Commission, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.; and the Foreign Policy Association, New York, N. Y.

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CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF URUGUAY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Far down on the southeastern coast of South America is a republic, area of 72,153 square miles,¹ the smallest of all South American republics, with a population of 2,154,000,² a country of unusual standards and accomplishments that have set it apart from surrounding countries as definitely as the La Plata separates it from Argentina. In the study of any division of South America it is fundamental to have a clear knowledge of the geography and physical features before the accomplishments of the people are analyzed. As stated by Goetz and Fry:

The geography of Latin America is important in understanding its present and in estimating its future. We get lots of our ideas of geography from the movies, so there's a general idea that Latin America is all a tangled jungle, steaming under a tropical sun. As a matter of fact, about forty per cent of its people live in a year-round climate as agreeable as that of any place in the world. For some of it lies in a temperate zone like our own. Elsewhere high altitudes often provide a healthful pleasant climate.³

The small republic of Uruguay is situated wholly in the temperate zone and is blessed by a delightful climate the year round, moderately cold in the winter months, and very warm during summer months of December, January, and February.

¹ United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Foreign Commerce Yearbook, 1939, p. 221.

² Ibid.

³ Delia Goetz and Vivian Fry, The Good Neighbors, Foreign Policy Association, 1939, p. 12.

The sea line of Uruguay is 120 miles long, and the Uruguay River affords 270 miles of shoreline, which, combined with the restful climate, has earned Uruguay the name of South American Riviera. The coolest month is June, with the mild average temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit, and the warmest is January, with an average of 74 degrees. The wet season coincides with winter, the dry with spring, and there is sufficient rainfall but not too much year round.

The greater portion of the territory is low, rolling land having a slight general slope towards the west and southwest, while the northern terrain is characterized by low, wooded mountains or hills, none of which are more than 2,000 feet above sea level. About 90 per cent of the territory is exceptionally well-suited for agriculture or grazing, the broad plains being covered with a rich natural pasturage.⁴

The wealth of Uruguay lies in its agriculture and allied industries as well as in its natural resources. In the mineral resources are found fine specimens of agate, onyx, and opal. One gold mine has been working in Rivera over forty years. The chief mineral asset is the presence of fine marble and granite deposits. These are found in a range of coloring and are used extensively by the Uruguayans for public buildings and improvements. All minerals belong to the nation "as its imprescriptable and inalienable property and no fresh claims are to be recognized."⁵ Common stone and sand form an export

⁴ Pan American Union, Uruguay, American Nation Series, No. 20, 1940, p. 3.

⁵ Howell Davies, editor, South American Handbook, 1940, p. 554.

of considerable value, but other minerals and deposits of coal, iron, or petroleum that are of importance in the development of an industrial program are now being developed.

There are no forests in Uruguay although trees grow plentifully when planted in cities and for shade around homes. The land is grazing land in its very best natural state, and the natives have been wise to capitalize on this valuable asset as their chief source of income, interest, and economic development. Such basic wealth promotes substantial growth in agricultural work as well as in the cattle raising industry. Without plentiful grazing lands the whole industry would be dependent upon imported resources and not self-sustaining. Imported food for large scale cattle feeding becomes an economic problem of huge proportions and is subject to the whims and fluctuations in other countries and markets. Uruguay is blessed with an abundance of essential resources at home.

A consideration of the physical aspects of a country, followed by its natural resources, is essential to a study of its industrial development. Likewise, a knowledge of the struggles of the early settlers is necessary to appreciate the work of the man of vision who promoted the industries. With these fundamental stages in the growth of a nation as a background an appreciative study of the cultural development may be made in an understanding fashion. Volumes have been written about the conquests, failures, triumphs of the people of Latin American countries over the covetous tyrants who repeatedly attempted to conquer the land of untold wealth and subjugate all inhabitants. To attempt a repetition of

these histories in this short treatise would be futile, but a brief survey of both lines of development, history, and industry are presented here to aid in an appreciative valuation of culture as the natives of Uruguay know it.

At the very outset of this study it seems logical to understand the implications in the subject of cultural development. Since culture brings various interpretations according to the background of the reader, it will clarify the use of the term in this work by quoting the meaning of culture as thought out by a contemporary philosopher, Clark Wissler, who says:

One of the first difficulties in the way of comprehending the significance of the term, culture, lies in the custom of using it in the sense of evaluation, as when we refer to a man of culture. Thus, by a person of culture we sometimes understand one who is educated and polished in manners, or perhaps highly skilled in art or music. As thus applied, the term means superiority; but this use has little in common with its meaning when applied to a people as a whole, for in history and social science we speak of the mode of life of this or that people as their culture.⁶

To appreciate fully the total picture of Uruguayan culture it is necessary that the student know the geography, the history, the ways and practices of the people as well as their expression in the finer arts or superior skills. Again Wissler aids in the formation of a pattern for such study by his comments after a study of the ways of Eskimo people as he continues:

So a complete record of such a culture (Eskimo) would record in full their arts, industries, amusements, politics, family life, education, religion, etiquette

⁶ Clark Wissler, Man and Culture, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1923, Part I, p. 1.

and so forth. Fortunately, it is not necessary that we gather or comprehend all the details of such a culture complex before we can sense its reality, or even form an idea of its character. What we really do is note some of the most distinctive or original characteristics and upon this basis assume a distinct culture.⁷

Out of struggles, disappointments, failures and triumphs have emerged certain standards of conduct, certain ideals, and an organized, admitted effort to promote and develop the best in all lines of thought and endeavor so that the present generation may lay a firm foundation for the future citizens of the republic.

Another approach which the student of Uruguay and its people must use is the realization that no one country's accomplishments or creations can be spoken of as Latin American.

Latin American is not a racial, economic, political or cultural unit, but a conglomeration of peoples, more or less arbitrarily divided into political blocs, with a great variety of cultural backgrounds, traditions and manifestations, and with frequently conflicting economic interests and rivalries. The racial and cultural elements and fine arts of Latin America, are among the most diversified that we could find in any continent. The artistic resultant is a mosaic, *sui generis*, with variations in every region. . . . Latin America is a cauldron of racial and cultural elements which have not yet crystallized, either socially or culturally. For the last four hundred years all these ethnological components have been in more or less biolent contact and conflict.⁸

The growth of the good will movement, promoted by conferences, exchange of key people, accelerated studies of commercial and cultural growths by the people of both North and South America has brought about an intelligent understanding, based

⁷ Ibid., p. 2

⁸ Manuel Pedro Gonzalez, Latin America, A Musical Melting Pot, Pan American Union, April, 1942, p. 1.

on tolerance and knowledge, on the part of the man of the street. As the late Doctor Bizzell expressed the need:

Though governments can help, this is not a task for government alone, but for all of us. The teachers, the men of science and learning throughout the New World, must resolve to work together to accomplish that function which is rightfully theirs: to guard, to enrich, and to forward the civilization which, in the high calling of education, all of us must seek to serve.⁹

Again, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, declared on November 1, 1939, at the conference on Inter-American relations in the field of education:

. . . the relations among our nations must not rest merely on contacts between, diplomat and diplomat, political leader and political leader, or even between business man and business man. They must rest also on contacts between teacher and teacher, between student and student; upon the confluence of streams of thought, as well as upon more formalized governmental action and constructive business ability.¹⁰

In formulating individual concepts of the part which the North American can and does play in the development of the other America, it is well to consider a provocative statement given by a Dr. Americo Castro in the Ibero-American Review. In summarizing the possibilities for promoting and establishing permanent contacts, he warns against dangerous interpretations by people who may not be thoroughly informed and unbiased. Mass enlightenment cannot sway the nations, but the more subtle approach of the European whom the Latin American favors will earn great returns. He says in part:

. . . What happens, and the North American does not see it or cannot see it, is that those other countries

⁹ W. B. Bizzell, Cultural Relations with Latin America, p. 9.

¹⁰ Cordell Hull, The Program of the Department of State in Cultural Relations, p. 1.

have acted in Ibero-America upon the basis of a very subtle selection, employing sometimes men a thousand cubits above the average level of their countries; on the other hand, the United States try to influence the attention of Ibero-America by collective movements of groups, with which it is very difficult to obtain what is desired.¹¹

Assumption that the Latin American is similar to his neighbor in the North and that mass movements, collective education, will work with both types is false premise, and should be abolished before any attempts are made to transpose the way of life as is known in the United States to the republics of the South.

A brief review of Uruguay's political history, the story of her development as a republic, followed by an analysis of her industrial development will constitute one chapter in this brief study. The resulting cultural growth and the relations of the Americas in the fostering of cultural development by various devices will conclude the investigation. The bibliography contains works for general reading, not on Uruguay alone, but for an intelligent appreciation of the rapid growth of all American republics toward better understanding and toward more tolerant attitudes on the part of the layman.

¹¹ Americo Castro, "Concerning the Relations Between both Americas," Ibero-American Review, Vol. 2, No. 3, April, 1940.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF URUGUAY

Early explorers in South America were not imbued with religious zeal nor with an altruistic attitude toward their fellowmen. Potential homes for freedom loving men, and chances to live an independent life did not interest these early adventurers. Neither for themselves nor their neighbors did the great continent of South America interest them.

Love of gold, desire to subjugate living men, lust to conquer and kill, and then return to a European court to receive great rewards and acclaim these were the motives of early explorers. Consequently the early history of all South American republics is that of tragedy, bloodshed, and slavery. Of course such treatment always ended in revolt and loss of all material gains for the foreign power. On the other hand, the small countries that emerged victorious were bound by fanatical zeal to their beliefs of freedom and independence. Early hardship and persecution were hard taskmasters, but paved the way for cautious organization of the powers of government so that the people would not suffer or be exposed to the whims of dictators and victims of the machinations of corrupt politicians. Discovered in 1516 by Don Juan Diaz de Solis, commissioned by the Spanish crown to explore the South American coast, Uruguay's native warlike Charruan Indians promptly killed the party. At that time this Indian tribe was very powerful and decidedly warlike. Other explorers

followed Solis, and many of them returned to home lands to report their findings. Magellan touched their shores in the course of his voyages. After about a century had lapsed, a permanent settlement was finally established in this region. This territory, now known as Uruguay, was claimed by both Spanish who had settled in the region of the La Plata, and by the Portugese who were settling Brazil. Both had various documents to substantiate their claims, the Portugese basing theirs on the treaty of Tordesillas of 1494. However, the Spanish were the stronger in military forces and naturally more successful in establishing permanent settlements. The Portugese continued to try to find a foothold in this region, and the governor of Buenos Aires authorized the founding of a city at Montevideo in 1726. In turn the Spanish king created a governorship over the same territory in 1749. Although the territory was finally ceded to Spain in 1777 by the treaty of San Ildefonso, the struggle between the Spanish and Portugese for control continued for several years.

The full name of the territory today - La Republica Oriental del Uruguay - is an inheritance from the time it was the eastern or "oriental" part of the Viceroyalty of Buenos Aires.

The great liberator name in Uruguay is that of General Jose Garvasio Artigas who led the struggle for independence in Uruguay. Artigas was the son of an estanciero or rancher, and was descended from a noble family of Aragon. In 1811 he routed Spaniards in several battles but failed to dislodge them from Montevideo. With Artigas as a protector settlements

east of the Rio Uruguay together with several Argentine provinces formed a confederation from 1814 to 1820. The Portuguese moved in and Artigas fled to Paraguay.

His work had not been successful for the Banda Oriental was incorporated with the Kingdom of Portugal and Brazil under the name of Cisplatine Province.

Another leader appeared, however, Juan Antonio Lavalleja, and the patriots framed a declaration of independence, but this statement still allied them with the Republic of Argentina, so a war was precipitated with Brazil on one side, and Uruguay and Argentina on the other. This three years war terminated with the actual independence of Uruguay both from Brazil and Argentina assured. A constitution which provided for centralized government was approved in 1830, and this document continued as the law of the land until 1919.

Both Spain and Portugal continued to exert strong political power in the new republic through the close neighbors of Brazil and Argentina. However, Uruguay opened her ports to Spain and became one of the first countries to renew trade relationships with Spain.

The internal fight between the blancos and the colorados provided another colorful chapter in the political development and unification of Uruguay. According to Schurz:

For a time the Blancos were the part of traditionalism and were strongest in the country districts, while the Colorados were at least reputed to favor strong progressive measures of government and had their greatest strength in Montevideo and the other towns. As time

went on, the two became only contestants in a chronic and meaningless civil war, with the Colorados holding the ascendancy during the latter part of the century.¹

A very fine description of Uruguay during this time of civil war is found in a publication first published in London in 1885. The Purple Land, by W. H. Hudson, has been reprinted many times. He says:

It is the perfect republic: the sense of emancipation experienced in it by a wanderer from the Old World is indescribably sweet and novel . . . where all men are absolutely free and equal . . . I fancy I hear some wise person exclaiming, 'In a name only is your Purple Land a republic; its constitution is a piece of waste paper, its government an oligarchy tempered by assassinations and revolutions.' True but the lust of ambitious rulers all striving to pluck each other down have no power to make the people miserable. The unwritten constitution, mightier than the written one, is in the heart of every man to make him still a republican and free with a freedom it would be hard to match anywhere else on the globe.²

Other wars followed the civil war years, and grew out of economic progress of the nation as well as political dissension. Economic progress was retarded by the trade restrictions imposed by the wars, and the population suffered a distinct drop from 200,000 in 1840 to 132,000 in 1852. Many inhabitants moved out to Argentina.

In 1904 a new era in political growth began with the election of Jose Batlle y Ordonez as president. Important political reforms began under his administration and continued by his successor, Dr. Claudio Williman, profoundly affected the lives of the Uruguayans.

¹ William Lytle Schurz, Latin America, p. 122.

² W. H. Hudson, The Purple Land, pp. 334-335.

Many of the social and economic reforms now in operation in Uruguay can be traced directly to his ardent work. He was president from 1903 to 1907, and again from 1911 to 1915. Batlle, with a motto of "the easing of human suffering" was an energetic president and untiring in his efforts to make his country a true democracy. He was a believer in Inter-American cooperation, and many of his projects are closely allied with similar work in North American states.

It is very evident that Batlle was an ardent upholder of the concept of the state as an administrator. His policies had far-reaching effects for current operations bear out his theories in actual practices. As Hanson states in his series on the Latin American Republics:

The state at present controls the manufacture and distribution of gasoline, alcohol, sulphite and phosphates; it operates banks, hotels, casinos, theaters; it administers the port of Montevideo, and has a monopoly of tugboat services; it controls all insurance, runs the telephone company, subsidizes the orchestra, and controls broadcasting. One of Batlle's major tenets was: 'Modern industry must not be allowed to destroy human beings.' With this as a basis for revolutionary ideas, Uruguay has been the proving ground for as complete a labor code as exists today. . . .

Uruguay was the first South American country to legalize divorce; grant legal status to illegitimate children, including the right to inherit; and to enfranchise women. . . . Batlle worked with his gaze on the future. In his mind a society of nations took form, and at the second Hague Conference Uruguay was an important advocate of obligatory international arbitration.³

Through the newspaper El Dia, owned by Dr. Williman, the political thought of Uruguayans was profoundly affected. Certain reforms established during this regime were the abolishing of capital punishment, impartial supervision of elections, establishment of a supreme court, and the approval of a charter for

³ Earl Parker Hanson, The New World Guides to the Latin American Republics, Vol. 2, p. 7.

the founding of the University of Montevideo. Many ideas promulgated by this new era of government were not accepted by the populace, but some changes were made in the constitution of 1919. However, this constitution was completely discarded and rewritten in 1934 in order to conform to new social order and changed economic conditions, and again in November, 1942.

The constitutional reforms were adopted that set up a system of proportional representation for the election of senators and deputies. They give the president a free hand in choosing his cabinet.⁴

The third and most recent constitution of Uruguay deserves careful study and application to the social and economical problems of the country. Planned deliberately to insure freedom of thought and action to every citizen of Uruguay, attempts were made, and have been carried out, to instigate needed social legislation and correct existing practices.

The constitution provides for the administrative part of the government to be vested in an elected President and nine cabinet ministers. These ministers are to be divided between the two ruling political parties, the Red and White groups.

The elected Senate consists of thirty members and the Chamber of Deputies numbers ninety-nine members.

Provision is made for a system of courts to insure the administration of justice to all groups and localities. This constitution provides for its own amendment, originating in both chambers of the Assembly, but finally approved by the people at the national elections.

⁴ "Uruguay Elects Liberal President, Revises Constitution," Editorial, Inter-American, January, 1943, Vol. II, No. 1., p. 3.

All international treaties to which Uruguay may become a party must have a clause providing for arbitration or other peaceful settlement of all disputes between the contractors.

The constitution guarantees the secret ballot, old-age pensions, eight hour, six day week for workers, industrial insurance, and child care.

Effects of Batlle's work toward labor reforms has been well summarized by Hanson who says:

Thirty years after Batlle's first message on labour legislation most urban workers were protected against old age, industrial accidents, and invalidity. Unemployment insurance was being discussed, and although health insurance had not yet been undertaken by the government, there were over 200 private societies which insured approximately 50,000 members against sickness. Security for members of workers' families was assured by survivors pensions. From 150,000 to 175,000 labourers in private industry and commerce and about 45,000 employees of the State were contributing to retirement funds; there were about 13,000 pensioners formerly in private employment and 14,000 pensioners of the government service, and over 30,000 drawing benefits under the old-age pension act. Measures for the protection of the labourer in active service had been considered earlier than in most countries in South America, progressive laws had been enacted, and although enforcement had not been fully effective, the protection of the labourer at work (hours, wages, conditions of work) compared favourably with that accorded labourers elsewhere on the continent.⁵

Provision is made for the government operation of public utilities, banks, and some industries.

Suffrage is universal and obligatory for all citizens of Uruguay, both men and women over eighteen.

Thus Uruguay takes its place in progressive government motivated, perhaps, by the quotation used so frequently in

⁵ S. G. Hanson, Utopia in Uruguay, p. 182.

Uruguayan writings, the saying of their great man of letters, Rodo, "To reform one's self is to live."

A discerning writer, Schurz, says of the Uruguay republic which operates today:

The circumstances which have determined the present direction of Uruguay's political life are similar to those in Argentina. The common denominators are superior racial stock, a healthy economic base which, however, lacks the variety of Argentina's more diversified resources, and a sound popular sense of political values; on the other side is a like heritage of long civil disorders that finally burned themselves out, leaving as a force for orderly processes of government a profound distaste for methods of violence. Though partisan feelings may run high in Uruguay, political manners are better than formerly. The principal points of divergence are a more compact and homogeneous physical setting, lesser extremes of wealth with a less conservative national society, a more independent and assertive electorate, and an urge for legislative experimentation in the social and economic field. As a democracy Uruguay easily ranks in first place among South American countries.⁶

Since Uruguay has taken a recognized place at the forefront of the republics of the American continents, as a result of her political organization, her constitution and its social and economic interpretations, attention is now turned to the economic status of the country--its industries, occupations, and agriculture.

To many travelers, Uruguay is Montevideo and Montevideo is Uruguay, both in beauty, wealth, and economic activity. Undoubtedly Montevideo is the heart and center of the country's industries. According to an industrial census for 1936, the value of manufactures throughout the country totaled 265,000,000 pesos, of which 81 per cent originated in Montevideo.

⁶ Schurz, Op. cit., p. 140.

TABLE I⁷

INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF 1936

(Peso Figures Given in Thousands, i. e. add 000)

Location of Industry	Value of Production	Cost of Raw Materials and Fuels for Processing	Number of Establishments
Montevideo	215,713	120,931	6,695
Other departments	49,100	29,905	4,775
Totals	264,813	150,836	11,470

TABLE II⁸

FINANCIAL CENSUS OF INDUSTRIES OF TABLE I

Location of Industry	Wages and Salaries Paid	Capital	Personnel Employed
Montevideo	38,375	208,083	73,180
Other departments	6,295	39,189	16,948

A brief analysis of Tables I and II indicate clearly the presence of industrial establishments in Montevideo amounting to over 89 per cent of the total number existing in the republic. Also, the number of workers located in the city is nearly five times as great as in the entire area outside of Montevideo. Such congestion of workers and of commercial establishments

⁷ Davies, op. cit., p. 550.

⁸ Ibid.

indicates that the rural population, scattered as it is, is occupied with work other than that of manufacturing. This conclusion may be readily assumed from the reading of descriptive studies of Uruguay, but census reports are the proof of centralization of industries. That this centralization brings problems in regard to education, housing, sanitation, and other phases of modern living is a foregone conclusion.

In this same census for 1936 an analysis is made of the types of industries found throughout the nation. Such analysis is of interest to the student of cultural development of the Uruguayans since tastes and activities on the cultural plane are undoubtedly closely associated with the outstanding types of work done by the people.

Table III presents the value of production and capital investment of the leading industrial activities mentioned in the preceding tables of numbers and location.

TABLE III⁹

INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF 1936

(Peso Figures Given in Thousands, i. e. add 000)

Types of Industries	Value of Production	Capital	Number of Establishments
Meat packing	46,997	15,317	4
Flour mills	17,539	6,991	52
Bakeries, etc.	10,446	3,268	614
Electric plants	9,683	40,030	21
Building construction	9,300	2,578	495
Alcohol and distilleries	9,240	3,178	22
Wineries	7,849	10,798	1,103
Woolen mills	6,322	6,781	15
Tobacco manufactures	6,175	5,736	46
Highway construction	5,802	1,776	42

⁹ Ibid.

It is important to this study to recall the connection of the state and the many business activities in which it operates removed from political dominance. Directly or indirectly, Uruguay operations are found in the fields of electric power, communications, meat packing, seal fishing, banking and mortgage banking, insurance, food retailing, operation of the port works of Montevideo, and numerous pleasure resorts. One very close connection between the government operation and the people of Uruguay is the constitutional protection given them by labor laws, minimum wages, pensions, length of working day, and industrial insurance.

For more light upon the people of Uruguay the importance of cattle breeding, sheep raising and agriculture should be studied. Uruguay has its industries, factories, resorts, and cities but the heart of Uruguay is found out on the low, rolling prairies of eastern and southern sections of the nation, with the same in modified form found in the northern mountainous region. Uruguay's seven-odd million cattle hold a place second to sheep in her national economy. Cattle products including frozen and chilled beef, beef extract, and hides constitute over 20 per cent of all exports.

According to the last agricultural census given in the South American Handbook of 1940, the table reproduced here represents the real life of the Uruguayan, both financially and socially.

TABLE IV¹⁰

Animals	Number Produced
Cattle	8,296,890
Sheep	17,931,327
Horses	622,894
Mules and asses	14,988
Goats and kids	18,888
Hogs	307,924

Much publicity is given to the meats of the Argentine, but the same high standards are maintained in Uruguay because of the value of their exports and the ready market found in other countries of the world. Sheep raised in Uruguay are of finest stock, much of it imported from England, and the breeds most common are Merinos, Lincolns, and Romney March.

Again referring to the figures presented in the South American Handbook for 1940, the following development is shown in the export of wool which constitutes about thirty per cent of all exports yearly.

TABLE VII

Dates of Wool Shipments	Number of Bales
1933-1934	94,019
1934-1935	117,275
1935-1936	112,484
1936-1937	120,054
1937-1938	91,431
1938-1939	126,255

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 552.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 553.

The official estimate of the wool clipped for 1938-1939 was 50,000 metric tons. Undoubtedly the war impact can be recognized in the stepped up export of 1939, and even more recently when figures are again released.

Export figures present another phase of Uruguayan development economically. This export trade likewise has great bearing on the diplomatic and political situation which has developed with the world unrest and turmoil. Great Britain is reported to be the heaviest purchaser of the 1938 exports of meat and by-products.

TABLE VI¹²

Exports of Meat and By-Products	Amounts in Metric Tons
Chilled beef	25,337
Frozen beef	40,641
Tinned beef	22,245
Beef extracts	810
Frozen mutton	5,582
Cattle grease	3,594
Tallow	3,693
Offal	1,630

Another export line which yields valuable returns comes from the hides and skins of the cattle and sheep industries. Again, the figures for the 1938 export list are quoted.

TABLE VII¹³

Export Commodity	Metric Tons
Sheepskins (dry)	4,894
Cattle hides (dry)	1,545
Cattle hides (salted)	19,070
Cattle tail hair	316
Horse hides	4,148

12 Ibid.13 Ibid.

Since the people of Uruguay found little in natural resources to create wealth, they have turned to utilization of the topography of the country, and thus have come into their own commercially and economically. The few small farms which raise an assortment of foodstuffs such as small grains, cereals, flax, and have small herds of cattle, serve a small part of the rural population.

Uruguay recently enacted laws designed to build up a body of small farm owners. The land needed for this project is to be expropriated by purchase and allotted by the Mortgage Bank of Uruguay to farmers satisfying certain requirements. Holdings are to be limited to 60 acres or less, except in a few unusual cases.

In further support of her agriculture, Uruguay has established several remarkable schools and institutes. Of special note is the Phytopathological Institute of Colonia, which is one of America's foremost centers of agricultural investigation. In this institute were developed some of the best strains of wheat and flax in the region.¹⁴

The great majority of farmers are found in the old type medieval homes of the Spaniard, living in seclusion, surrounded by many small buildings and huts, the homes of the peon, the homes of the cowboy and sheep herder. The owner is surrounded by a huge family of his own and near relatives, and the resources of his land provide him with the many comforts and luxuries so necessary to the life of the true Spaniard who lives a life of ease.

This brief survey has given the picture of the source of income, the need for markets, facilities to reach markets, and government protection and supervision in the exporting of the commodities. Complete analysis of the vast amount of available

¹⁴ Philip Leonard Green "Uruguay-Citadel of Progress," Agriculture in the Americas, November, 1942, Vol. 2, No. 11, p. 212.

factual material is not relative to the topic under consideration in this thesis, but an appreciation of the economic background of the people, their daily life interests, the physical environment, an appreciation and knowledge of these is necessary if an understanding of the cultural development of the people exists or is promoted.

The economic life of Uruguay has become greatly affected by the present world conflict, and the dangers of inflation are being studied and planned against. As reported in a recent economic study:

The exigencies of war economy have tightened government controls of trade and foreign exchange and have strengthened Empire collaboration (British) powers which will not be easily liquidated in a post-war world. In 1940-1941 a British Trade Mission toured South America, a group far too distinguished for dealing only with the limited scope of present trade.

Japan, too, has shown signs of increasing interest in Latin America, both as a source of raw materials which she has hitherto bought from the United States---such as cotton, petroleum, copper, and other minerals, now embargoed--and as a market for her cheap consumer goods. At present Japan has compensation agreements in force with Argentina and Uruguay and is making overtures to Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela. Her trade missions come and go, and new tourist bureaus are being opened.¹⁵

Another interesting and significant trend in Uruguay is the result of continued revolt and unrest in Argentina due to the pro-German sympathy and the power of the Socialist leaders. Hence, Argentinians are pouring across the border into Uruguay as a haven from tyranny and land of democracy. With this new people has come an economic problem--foreign funds. This influx of foreign capital (mostly from across the Rio de la Plata) has exerted considerable pressure of an inflationary nature.

¹⁵ Ethel B. Dietrich, Economic Relations of the United States with Latin America, pp. 43-44.

According to the trade and finance editor of the Inter-American, the total growth of Uruguayan gold and exchange reserves now total about \$100,000,000 and to control this situation Uruguay on June, 1944, established control over all movements of funds to and from the republic for the account of all non-residents. The Banco de la Republica is the authority which will sanction all investments of these funds.

The regulations make it clear that there is no intention to interfere with operations arising from 'normal and legitimate economic and financial activities.' Unwanted 'hot money' is the principal target. The government maintains that this sort of money is only looking for a temporary haven; that it has given rise to speculative trends; and that it is subject to sudden withdrawal.¹⁶

According to recent travelers, 'inflation has hit Montevideo and prices are already twice as high as in 1942.'¹⁷

Obviously, the city of Montevideo requires more resources for study, for amusement, for leisure time occupations, and for social progress. Since the population of Montevideo is almost one-tenth of the entire population of Uruguay, a very modern city with the latest conveniences and equipment for both pleasure and business has developed. The architecture of this city is purely Spanish, but the manner of living is far removed from the ways of the Old World.

The up-to-date, gay life of this capital is a great attraction for the cattle kings of Argentina as well as of Uruguay itself. The moderate climate in itself has made Montevideo a favorite resort, both summer and winter. Fine hotels supplying the very best of service attract guests, and the government

¹⁶ The Inter-American, "Uruguay Controls Foreign Funds," October, 1944, Vol. III, No. 8, p. 42.

¹⁷ Vincent de Pascal, "Port of Freedom," The Inter-American, October, 1944, Vol. III, No. 10, p. 45.

operated gambling houses, casinos and similar concessions help the leisure class to enjoy their leisure, and also brings wealth to the treasury of Uruguay.

Since early colonial days the shipping of cattle has created many so-called cattle kings who are renowned in song and story, and their lives have been the industrial lives of the nation. For the most part these wealthy cattle men prefer to live in the modern setting provided by Montevideo, and leave the management of their ranches to the hired help, the cowboys and herders. The ranch is used by the owners for occasional vacations, and few remain on them the year round.

As a result of this habit, the rural population is widely scattered and has created a definite problem in the field of rural education. Little attention has been given in the past to providing adequate schooling for this sparse and widely scattered group of people. The Minister of Public Education realized this situation about fifteen years ago, and began a study of the problem with the idea of providing some corrective measures. Thus the growth of rural educational life will have a marked bearing on the development of the cultural aspects of the nation.

In this study of cultural development of a nation as small as Uruguay all lines of investigation lead back to the city, Montevideo, and its influence on the lives of the entire population of the small republic. Since the majority of the country's inhabitants live in or near this city their cultural lives are bound to be influenced by the trends of thought and

action that are felt within the city--the government establishments, the schools, theaters, libraries, churches, and industries.

All transportation to the rest of the world goes through or originates in Montevideo. Plane, the airline operated by Uruguay, maintains regular service twice daily to the north in addition to many short runs over the lower part of the continent.

Extensive port works have been constructed to take care of the foreign trade since more than three-fourths of the entire trade of the nation passes through this port. Drydocks, bunkering service for coal and oil, dredged channel through the shallow harbor to permit ocean-going vessels to enter, and facilities to care for the whaling flotillas which anchor during the winter months--these are part of the modern equipment found at the port.

The state owns one of the five railways that operates over 1,800 miles of standard guage track, and it is now possible to go from Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro by rail.

The fine marble which is quarried far back in the mountains is brought by rail to Montevideo to be used for improvement there and to be shipped to other countries. This fine grade marble has been utilized to beautify many public buildings within the city. The business man is concerned that his city be one of great beauty so that it will attract visitors from all over the world, and visitors mean money for the business man as well as for the state treasury.

That Montevideo is a beautiful city to all beholders as well as to the loyal inhabitant is evidenced by Parks Pedrick who voyaged to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina for the first time in 1940, and who says:

. . . three days later arrived at Montevideo, one of the most cultured and progressive cities in South America. It is a beautifully clean city, with many modernistic apartment houses, some of which have been described as "bureau with their drawers pulled out" because of their set-back construction. Like many other South American cities, it has numerous beautiful statues and large and small parks. No visit to Montevideo would be complete without seeing the famous bronze monument La Carreta, which commemorates the Uruguayan equivalent of our covered wagon.

We passed along wide roads lined by fragrant eucalyptus trees up to the summit of the hill from which Montevideo takes its name. At the foot are many neat little houses, all alike, which are a part of a local low-cost housing project similar to many recently built in the United States by the government. From the top, one obtains comprehensive view of the city, harbor, and beaches.¹⁸

Another great force present in Montevideo and of great bearing upon the moral as well as cultural life of the Uruguayans as well as visitors is the presence of government owned and operated gambling casino. Although the native of Uruguay is said to stay away from amusements, he is not averse to operating them for the pleasure of resort visitors. All possible games of chance are offered. Roulette and baccaret are the prevailing ones, but smaller games also attract their quota of paying guests. The profit from these widely patronized amusements goes to the government's treasury. Perhaps gambling and culture are not synonymous in the American way

¹⁸ Parks B. Pedrick, "Maiden Voyage to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina," Pan American Union Bulletin, Vol. 75, No. 1, January, 1943, p. 7.

of life but undoubtedly such amusement must have a profound influence on the thinking and reflective processes of the youth of the state. Actual correlation is difficult to measure.

A related element in the governing laws of Uruguay has brought about a direct bearing on the developing educational plan of the state. This unusual part of the law related to immigration policy.

Over 90 per cent of the some 2,500,000 people in Uruguay are of European extraction. Of these, about a third come from the northern Italian background. Some 16,000 Germans also live in Uruguay, but the authorities have taken strenuous action against fifth columnist activity. The people as well as the government of Uruguay are determined to preserve the way of life which they have not only proclaimed but also truly live to a remarkable degree.¹⁹

In 1928, a law was enacted that permitted a foreigner to become a naturalized citizen of Uruguay and still retain his citizenship in his native land. Because of this most unusual ruling immigrants have poured into Uruguay from all parts of South America and Europe. What will be the effect of this flood of foreigners on Uruguay's national problems? As Smith and Littell state briefly:

The answer is not difficult. First, it means increased facilities of all kinds. Second, Uruguay must not only take care of her incoming population, but she must worry over an entirely new problem of getting some return on her investment in the taking of an uncertain immigrant class. Third, and the most important of all, is the problem of how to develop an educational program along agricultural lines to meet the needs of a slowly but surely changing national industry. The large grazing districts must give way to the small farm. The population can expand in no other way. While Uruguay under her

¹⁹ Philip Leonard Green, "Uruguay--Citadel of Progress," Agriculture in the Americas, November, 1942, Vol. II, No. 11, p. 211.

new constitution seems to have solved her political problem, it is today burdened with another just as gigantic--an economic problem.²⁰

The possible effects of this immigration tide upon the social and cultural conditions of Uruguay may be far reaching. The administration of the public schools, for instance, is confronted with the need to expand and care for these new members of the nation's population or see the growth of the education institutions of the past few years nullified entirely. A study of the way in which other countries have handled their immigration problem is necessary if Uruguay maintains its level of progress.

Cultural agencies in Montevideo at present include fine parks, modern theaters and opera houses, museums, and schools. The audiences are said to be very discriminating and critical of all performances. This state of cultural appreciation should be maintained for the advancement of the interests of the republic, but the imminent danger from the immigrants must be offset by some program of education that will make the orientation of the newcomers complete and pleasing to the native Uruguayans.

Facilities set up and directed by the government of Uruguay, and the study of the work of Convention for the Promotion of Inter-American Cultural Relations will be treated in another chapter.

²⁰ Henry Lester Smith and Harold Littell, Education in Latin America, p. 166.

CHAPTER III

STUDY OF CULTURAL AGENCIES IN URUGUAY

For many years the relation of any Latin American country with the United States has been based on terms of economic problems, trade treaties, and protection of property. Through the many stages of interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine the attitude of fair bargaining and equal exchange of commodities has evolved. Today, each state recognizes the resources and abilities of the other to contribute wealth of products and to control rational legislation in regard to trade treaties. All during this period the cultural life of the nations has progressed with little exchange of ideas and with practically no appreciation of the wealth of talent and beauty that exists in all states of the two Americas.

However, Uruguay has done her part in this progression as developments indicate in this illuminating information:

In education, too, Uruguay has been a pioneer. Hers is the only country in the world to offer free graduate work in medicine, engineering, architecture, and the other professions. Elementary education has been both free and compulsory since 1877, and for young Uruguayans who want to go on to higher education, secondary schools, colleges, and universities are provided by the state. Not only is tuition free to Uruguayans but to foreign students as well. Books can be borrowed, all laboratory fees are paid by the state, and post graduate courses are provided in a wide range of subjects, from the law to chemistry, agriculture, and the industrial arts. Special schools are established for the handicapped as a part of a progressive education system.¹

¹ Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Uruguay: Vigorous Democracy, 1943, p. 10.

Uruguay recognized the vital importance of fostering health, arts, education, decent standards of living, and prevention of low class, ignorant growth within the boundaries of the republic of Uruguay. The National Council of the government was empowered to appoint various ministers of activity--Public Works, Charities and Public Health, Finance and Industry, and Public Instruction. The Department of Industry was in charge of all vocational education in the state.

It is evident that attention to educational matters occupied the interest of the political organization for it is stated in the Pan American Union series relating to Inter-Cultural Cooperation that

The most effective work in the promotion of cultural understanding undoubtedly has been done in the field of education. Not only was much of the pioneering work undertaken by colleges and universities, but through the organization of courses of study, the interchange of professors and students, the promotion of research and investigation, and the publication of the results of scientific studies, they have made outstanding contributions to the cause of inter-American knowledge and understanding.²

National Commissions were also set up for Physical Education, for Primary and Normal Instruction, for the Central University and for Industrial Education. There are nineteen departments or provinces in Uruguay, and each has its committee of Primary Instruction composed of five members. These men are charged with administration and supervision of schools in their respective departments.

² Pan American Union, Inter-American Cultural Cooperation, Evolution of the Pan American Movement Series, 1942, Vol. 4, p. 31.

Compulsory education for primary and secondary levels is in force, and some special academies are maintained to offer particularly intensified work for the secondary or high school graduate who wishes to enter the university. In 1942, 1,500 schools had an enrollment of over 180,000 children. Private schools number over 170 with an enrollment of 21,000.³

Secondary education is offered in eighteen departmental liceos, two liceos in Montevideo and two sections connected with the University of Montevideo. There are about thirty-six colegios or private schools that conform to the state regulations. In order to enter these liceos, primary school diplomas are required although examination is also used for some students.

Information about the requirements for diplomas is given in the Pan American Union Bulletin No. 8, Secondary School Courses in Latin America,⁴ and the material presented there is a condensation of material from two sources: Planes de estudios preparatorios. Leyes y Reglamentos de la Universidad de la Republica, Republica Oriental del Uruguay, Montevideo, 1916, pages 437 and 418, and also from the Plan de estudios secundarios of February 15, 1918, page 287. Although this information is not recent, in light of this study it does indicate the early trend toward scholastic requirements and the level of standards employed by the institutions of higher learning.

The University of Montevideo comprises the schools of law, medicine, social science, dentistry, pharmacy, chemistry, engineering, architecture, economics, agriculture and veterinary medicine. The latter is regarded as a model of its kind in

³ Pan American Union, Montevideo, American Cities Series, No. 20-a, 1942, p. 22.

⁴ Pan American Union, Secondary School Courses in Latin America, Bulletin No. 8, p. 26.

Latin America. The six normal schools in Uruguay, with a combined student enrollment of about 2,000, offer a four-year general course which is followed by two years of intensive professional study. Graduates of the normal schools are required to take competitive examinations before receiving teaching appointments.⁵

As evidence of increased interest in secondary schooling the following table for selected countries shows the trend during the period between 1892 and 1937 and likewise shows the impetus given in Uruguay.

TABLE VIII⁶

ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

Country	Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
Argentina	1892:	2,600	1937:	88,000
Chile (public and private liceos)	1900:	8,600	1936:	43,000
Cuba (public and private)	1901:	900	1936:	18,000
Uruguay	1912:	1,100	1936:	15,000
Mexico (public and private)	1901:	7,000	1937:	25,000
Ecuador	1901:	2,000	1936:	5,800
Colombia	1907:	18,800	1937:	31,000

The increase over a period of twenty-four years is encouraging for the leadership of the republic, particularly since Uruguay has established both escuela talleres (vocational schools) and escuelas granjas (agricultural schools) which accept pupils who have completed the fourth grade and whose curricula combine the regular work of the fifth and sixth grades with practical training in the trades and crafts which are especially needed.

⁵ Pan American Union, Montevideo, American Cities Series, No. 20-a, 1942, p. 22.

⁶ National Planning Association, Latin America in the Future World, 1945, p. 191.

The encouragement given to teachers and professors to do exchange study, the granting of fellowships for specialized study, and training programs in institutes or other in-service training centers will tend to increase the standards required in the local institutions and the whole level of education will be raised provided such interchange and study continues. Uruguay along with other republics may benefit from arrangements made with the United States Public Health Service, the Weather Bureau, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Children's Bureau, the Tariff Commission, the Census Bureau, the Rural Electrification Administration, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering. Training of pilots for the airlines is also being undertaken by such establishments as the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in New Jersey and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Under grants from the Office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs there are two main types of scholarship offered. One group includes the twenty-odd projects that are being handled by the Inter-American Training Administration. The Trade Scholarship program is an outstanding example of this type. The second group covers the fellowships granted under the Co-ordinator's Basic Economy program in the fields of (a) Health and Sanitation, (b) Agriculture, (c) Labor and Social Sciences.

The Inter-American Trade Scholarship program is not a scholarship program at all in the academic sense but represents a continuation under government auspices of what American industry has been doing for half a century--bringing young Latin Americans to this country for industrial, business or technical training.⁷

⁷ National Planning Association, Latin America in the Future World, p. 197.

Special summer camps and open air schools are maintained for defectives--physical, mental, and social.

Another special service maintained by the government is the School of the Air which attempts to supplement the existing curriculum as well as extend some form of education to the rural and illiterate population. Adult education is sponsored by and directed by a Committee on Cultural Extension.

Uruguay is outstanding among Latin American nations for her use of radio and moving picture in the field of education.

An indication of official interest in culture is the Official Broadcasting Service (Servicio Oficial de Difusion Radio-electrica) with a national symphony orchestra and ballet as the work of one section.⁸

Each country of Latin America has contributed notable people to the fields of the arts--music, art, literature, plastics, architecture. One outstanding essayist who is widely read on the continent is Jose Enrique Rodo of Uruguay. A composer in the field of symphonic music who has contributed much is Eduardo Fabini.

Encouragement in the field of music has been given almost daily at the Pan American Union building in Washington, the very heart of Pan American understanding and appreciation. Concerts that feature Latin American music and artists from the various republics have done much to create an appreciation of the beauty which the Latin American has to offer.

Uruguay, just as other countries, has a native storehouse of music and creative ability, but the big problem in a

⁸ Philip Leonard Green, "Uruguay-Citadel of Progress," Agriculture in the Americas, November, 1942, Vol. II, No. 11, p. 212.

country of this size is the very practical problem: How is a composer to get his music before his public? Who is to teach the Latin American the beauty of his countryman's composition? Such a problem confronted Uruguay since the population, outside of Montevideo, is scattered about in the rural sections. To help composers solve these problems an outstanding musician of Uruguay, Professor Francisco Curt Lange, has organized a movement of great importance for the furtherance of musical knowledge: Americanismo musical. In collaboration with other musicians and the composers themselves, he has prepared the first two volumes of an outstanding work, the Boletin latino-americano de music.⁹ In this manner, Professor Lange has set about organizing Latin American music and putting it before the world.

It is a well known fact that Latin American writers of one republic are not well acquainted with the literary production of their colleagues on other parts of Latin America. The great distances between the various centers of culture; lack of organized publicity; the proverbial indolence and indifference of Latin American publishers and bookdealers; and an inborn distaste on the part of the public toward the products of artists at home--all these things have presented in the past unsurmountable difficulties even to the best writers of the Latin American republics in presenting their work to the largest public possible. . . .

It is to attempt to cure Latin Americans of this juvenile snobismo and to call their attention to the admirable efforts of their own countrymen that Professor Lange has founded his movement Americanismo musical. That he has been able to inaugurate so significant a movement in Montevideo, a city generally apathetic toward Latin American art, is a testimony to his unflagging courage and his great talent for organization.¹⁰

⁹ William Berrion, Latin American Composers and Their Problems, Pan American Union Fine Arts Series, No. 10, 1938, p. 18.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 17.

Although petty politics and jealousies seem to have retarded Lange in his noble efforts to eradicate the supercilious attitude of his fellow Uruguayans, and for that matter, all Latin Americans, toward the products of their own composers, he has made a strong beginning toward encouraging a nationalism in music as well as in other phases of living. Lange's Americanismo musical is now being expanded to include both Americas, and already he has included several articles on artists and musicians of the United States.

The Boletín Latino Americano de Música, Bulletin of the Inter-American Institute of Musicology, located in Montevideo, was printed in 1941 but reached United States readers a very short time ago (1944). This volume of 638 pages is divided into studies of the music of the United States and Latin American music. The Director, Francisco Curt Lange presents a survey of different aspects of United States music and musical activities. He also devotes a section to the music training of Uruguayan children. This Boletín will undoubtedly be a great contribution to the field of Inter-American relations in music.

Uruguay has the same traditional mestizo music as has Argentina, but fame has also come through the compositions of Eduardo Fabini and Luis Cluzeau-Mortet. It is said that Fabini's early tone poems contained more genuine poetry than is found in the music of any other living Latin American.¹¹

¹¹ Ibid., p. 11.

Creative art in Uruguay has attained a place worthy of world recognition. According to Grant:

. . . Uruguay has developed a completely individual creative life and one which has the respect of her South American neighbors. Indeed, Uruguay's artists have been happy emissaries of their country, as several of their inspired creations are to be seen in the other countries of South America. Uruguay has produced artists of great distinction, and despite the brevity of my visit there I was fortunate in meeting many of its rarely gifted writers and artists. A highly nationally conscious literature and philosophy has been produced, and such splendid figures as the elder and younger Zorrilla de San Martin--author and sculptor, respectively--Breasty, Juana de Ibarbourou, Ernesto Laroche, Alvaro A. Araujo, Luisa Luisi, and others are making cultural history for their country.¹²

In a study, even condensed and shortened as is this, it would be shallow and incomplete to attempt to analyze or critically study the culture of a nation without turning to the pages of their men of philosophy. These scholars represent the reflective thought of their countrymen and combine this thinking with their own conclusions and predictions. Such men as Jose Enrique Rodo and his contemporary, Carlos Vaz Ferreira, have placed their reflective thinking in print for Uruguayans and other Americans to peruse. As one critic expresses it:

This man (Rodo) who in life haunted libraries, played not a very glorious part in politics, wore thick glasses, and was diffident and cold in manner, sought to be the intellectual leader of America--to scale the most remote heights of idealism and speak from above the saving word and speak it in a way that permitted no debate. . . . In the exquisite refinement of his culture, in his love for beauty and for truth, in his balance between the humanistic tradition of European culture and the needs of American life, Rodo

¹² Frances R. Grant, Some Artistic Tendencies in South America, Fine Arts Series, No. 1, Pan American Union, 1929, p. 10.

seemed to be the writer Latin America had been waiting for. He had extracted from all books not dull learning but living wisdom that could be the guide of noble and aspiring souls.

. . . He (Rodo) was born in Montevideo of good family, he studied, read and wrote, was briefly professor of literature and twice member of Parliament. Most European of Latin-American thinkers, he went to Europe only during the World War, poorly supported by a journal at home, and after eight months wandering and illness, died there.

The important thing about Rodo is his writing, and it is only through them that one can decide whether he deserves the encomiums he has received both as thinker and writer . . . He says in Ariel, "The necessity that each of us is under to devote himself especially to a particular calling, a part of culture, certainly does not prevent his trying to achieve, by the harmony of the spirit within him, the common destiny of all rational beings. Specialization must not be allowed to lead to an indifference to the general interest of Humanity; that could only be disastrous."¹³

Rodo was very vehement in his belief that South Americans should study and critically view the culture and learning of the United States, but he did not believe in imitation or adaptation that was akin to imitation. He felt that the North Americans were primitive and lived only for the present, and did not have tradition to guide them.

All her war on ignorance, he says, has made the United States a half-educated nation, in which the highest forms of culture languish. It is civilization which may have a glorious future before it, but that "may" does not constitute any valid reason why South America should slavishly imitate it and abandon its own heritage.¹⁴

In the field of letters two outstanding writers who have placed Uruguay in a prominent place among readers of the world

¹³ William Rex Crawford, A Century of Latin-American Thought, 1944, p. 80.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 85.

are W. H. Judson (1841-1922) and the Uruguayan, Horacio Quiroga (1878-1937). Hudson was born in Argentina, and wrote for thirty-three years of his life about the life in Latin America. His Purple Land was connected with Uruguay although Green Mansions is perhaps more widely read.

Quiroga is perhaps as great a writer as Hudson but is not well known, at least among readers in the United States. He wrote of the prairies and jungles of Latin America, giving very beautiful pictures in words. He dealt with nature as a force in men's lives, treating her power psychologically and philosophically, as well as writing beautiful descriptive matter.

The prevailing language of the Uruguayans is Spanish although three years of English are required of students in the university schools. Study of Spanish literature has been the natural procedure for students, but a recent display of books written and published by United States companies introduced the North American authors to the public schools.

An over all picture of the employment of women, their working conditions, social and economic factors which affect wage earning women was obtained in 1941, in the visit of the Inter-American representative of the United States Women's Bureau to Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. The three countries were included in one report because the advancement economically and socially seemed to be parallel. In the introduction the writer says:

The idea that girls should be prepared to contribute to their own and their families' support, if necessary, is more and more accepted. Since about 1920, the number of industries has been growing, but the greatest increase

has come in the last few years; Montevideo, Uruguay, for example, where in 1931-1932 only 582 new industrial establishments were founded, had as many as 1,127 new ones in 1935-1936.¹⁵

Industrialization of women has brought about the development of new factors for safety, education, and cultural development while they are participating in the country's economic program. Cultural factors that are operating to care for the children of the working mothers include nurseries required by law, with trained attendants, medical care, and free advice about the feeding of their children.

The factories which are now employing women have provided sports and social clubs and recreational equipment, with provision for the entertainment of entire family groups at social dances, moving pictures, picnics and games. Perhaps the most important phase of this new development is the serious consideration for furthering the education of the employees. According to the report mentioned above

A considerable number of firms organize and offer classes to employees who want to continue their elementary school education or to study commercial and other courses. In one plant, 37 employees (about five per cent) were enrolled in classes that met each workday from 6:00 to 7:30 p. m. The classes included grammar, writing, shorthand, typing, history. There were three teachers, and the pupils were divided into groups as nearly as possible according to their ability. Clerical jobs in the office are filled from these classes. In a larger plant, 730 women (over thirteen per cent of the women employees) were enrolled in factory sponsored classes that included commercial subjects, cooking, home economics, dressmaking, machine embroidery, hand weaving, and leather work . . .

¹⁵ United States Department of Labor, Women Workers in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay, Women's Bureau Bulletin, No. 195, 1943, p. 1.

The gas company in Santiago has an educational and recreational center where classes are given for wives and children as well as employees . . .

Many women in the interior of these countries are engaged in traditional handicraft industries--making lovely rugs and bright colored hand woven shawls, ponchos, saddlebags which are sold to traveling merchants at extremely low price, for these women have not learned to evaluate the hours and skill spent in making these articles . . .¹⁶

Laws have been enacted regulating length of day, number of days, and vacation periods. Unions have invaded the precincts of industry, and women are found to be numbered in their membership.

Various organizations known in the United States for their cultural influence upon the lives of women, employed or home, have established centers in Uruguay. These include the Young Women's Christian Association, Teacher's Associations, and the Association of University Women which has a membership composed largely of professional women. These organizations bring lectures, conventions, courses of study, and high class entertainment to the women of their membership and indirectly to all women of the country. Cultural growth in Uruguay included the powerful movement of the women who are seeking improvement and growth.

Some of the night classes held for workers particularly are part of the public schools educational systems; some are managed by semi-public boards, that is, self-established organizations with a government subsidy; others are offered by volunteer associations. Only the schools and classes planned for adult wage earners are discussed here; there are many others.

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 6.

In many cases the instructors are from the teaching staff of the daytime schools and colleges; specialists in various fields give classes. In Montevideo, the students of art classes of a vocational school had the privilege of studying under a famous Uruguayan sculptor . . .

The Young Women's Christian Association in these countries have been pioneers in offering health education classes to women which are attended by large numbers of young business and professional women. Educational courses in commercial subjects, languages, art, home making, public speaking, music, have filled an important place in the program of activities of the associations.¹⁷

Another progressive fact was the franchise to women, requiring their participation in government issues. Spanish women in Uruguay no longer live the retired sheltered life of the Spanish grand lady. The social customs are still present, but many of the useless practices have been dropped, or modified by the presence of women from the other republics.

The fact that the largest part of the

Latin American rural population continues to work under almost medieval conditions of tenant-peonage which, combined with the low level of prevailing agricultural technique, keeps both its producing and consuming capacities largely unfilled.¹⁸

gives even greater respect to the Uruguay government which has reached out to the laborer of all types of work and has made concrete progress in the betterment of labor through legislation and through social education. However, much of this reform has not reached the agricultural class.

Organization of agricultural labor has made little or no progress in the majority of the Latin-American countries. This is due to a variety of factors all

¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 12-13.

¹⁸ Alvin H. Hanse, editor, Latin America in the Future World, 1945, p. 92.

of which have their base in the latifundio structure of the economy (difficulty of assembly due to scattering of workers about the wide expanse of the haciendas, lack of transportation facilities, illiteracy and last but not least, the unrelenting antagonism of the big landlords to such activity). . . .

Protective legislation for agricultural workers either is non-existent or else lacks general compliance. . . . During the last twenty years or so a considerable body of labor legislation has been enacted in many of the Latin-American countries but it has been largely for the benefit of the industrial workers. Moreover, in those areas where the legislation has been extended to rural labor, a lack of transportation facilities and, particularly, the absence of a trained supervising personnel make enforcement of the law well-nigh impossible in many areas.¹⁹

Improvement of labor conditions continue to be uppermost in the minds of Uruguayan leaders in government. As recently as 1940 a decree set new conditions for employment in the rice fields through a requirement that not more than eight persons be lodged in one room, that a sixty-day notice be given before eviction of families from houses provided by employers, and that water and sanitary facilities be provided. A minimum wage of 1.50 pesos for an eight hour day, and medical care, rubber boots, adequate transportation to and from work, and pasture land for livestock be provided. This decree fits in with new regulations that regulate homework where workers are diseased and also protection of the buyer by requiring all such garments to be labeled to indicate their place of manufacture.²⁰

Great strides have been made in developing low cost housing projects for workers. Outstanding are Barrio Casabo, next

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 93.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 94.

the packing plants of La Uruguaya and Swift; Barrio de la Teja, in the vicinity of the famous quarries where building stone is obtained; the Barrio Jardin, or garden city, which is built according to the latest theories on the art of modern city planning.

Housing projects for the low wage earner are not new adventures in Uruguay. Montevideo boasts of a model village occupied by local workmen. Child care clinics are sponsored by the government, and at present a program of food selection education is being placed throughout the country. Its purpose is to enlighten the citizens so that they may select the proper food combinations at all meals whether at home or in restaurants. This program co-ordinates with the public health activities of the states. According to Hanson,²¹ Uruguay has not given much official encouragement to cooperatives. In 1935 there were eight cooperatives with 40,000 members and annual sales amounting to approximately \$3,000,000. A national league, to which about one third of the cooperatives belong, has organized a cooperative school, a social club, and a theatrical association.

Uruguay was a very fortunate republic to have among its citizens Lais Morquio--pediatrician, professor, institutor of reforms in the care of orphans and children in public agencies. He returned from Europe in 1894, and with other disciples and contemporaries, he began a great work of reform. His devotion

²¹ S. G. Hanson, Utopia in Uruguay, New York, 1938, p. 146.

to the children and the cure of the ill and crippled made Morquio a revered character.

In a little park in Montevideo stands the statue of Dr. Luis Morquio, a special friend of children. Orphans and homeless children were his keenest interest. For years in Uruguay he worked to make life better for them. Dr. Morquio was interested not only in the children of his own country, but of all the Americas. Doctors in neighbor republics worked with him to help children get the best possible start in life. In 1927, Dr. Morquio established the International American Institute for the Protection of Children. Although it was located in Montevideo, it was concerned with children of all the Americas. All American Republics may be members and share in the work of the Institute. Each member nation helps pay its expenses. The men of the American Republics who represent their countries in Uruguay are members of the Advisory Board.²²

It speaks well for Uruguay's future that she is taking time and money to care for her children--the citizens of tomorrow who will continue to build a great republic.

Doubtless, this list of organization and practice could be extended indefinitely since Uruguay is the most progressive, and outstanding of the republics of Latin America. The program of social democracy has far-reaching possibilities although complete appreciation has been somewhat overshadowed by the emergency needs and preparations. However, in spite of the war clouds over the world, leaders in the Pan American program have not been idle and important conferences and meetings have been held on schedule.

The newspaper, El Dia, carries conviction in its pages with articles that have a definite trend toward international understanding and study. In the October 13, 1944 edition, a

²² Dolia Goetz, op. cit., p. 45.

strong editorial carries the headline, De La Alianza Uruguaya Por Un Mundo Libre, and says in part:

The Uruguay Alliance for a Free World is an institution formed for Uruguayan citizens and other residents to preserve and promote the traditional cultures that have grown in Uruguay for decades. . . .

This international organization doesn't exercise authority over the national sessions since they can not keep in constant communication with the same, but it does keep watch over and promote the principal idea of the movement--the celebration of periodical reunions of representative personalities of different groups in the movement. . . . continues with the instruments that are for the preservation of the peace until there is an ample democratic victory.²³

The detailed study of Uruguay presented briefly in the preceding chapters are facts obtainable from the perusal of government reports, statistical tables, interesting descriptive reading that interested citizens of the United States should read and be familiar with in order to understand the aims and purposes of the Pan American movement in its entirety--conferences, exchange of teachers and students, encouragement of talented individuals, and an appreciation of the value of the products of the Latin American countries to the people of the United States.

As a native writer states:

. . . the themes which I believe should be discussed in the reunions and congresses called to obtain a better understanding between North and South America. It is useless to believe that the conventional sayings published on such occasions can evade or cause such acute problems to be forgotten. It is likewise useless to pretend the diplomatic fiction that both American worlds can interchange their culture on an equal footing, if by culture is understood that which

²³ Editorial, El Dia, October 13, 1944, p. 6.

is found in books and happens in university halls . . . that the South can teach the North expressive art, individual selection and critical inquietude; this last, since Socrates, has been the source of wisdom and of success for individuals and groups.²⁴

That Uruguay is aware of the importance of proper diplomatic contacts in the association of the Americas is evidenced in an editorial from La Propaganda Rural, Montevideo, in October, 1940. Referring to the possibilities of using their trained European diplomats in business contacts with the United States, he says:

Confronted with the cruel uncertainty that the European conflict has aroused in man's minds we should nevertheless face with some optimism those prospects as far as the American nations and the commercial relations to be established between the respective governments are concerned. We should recall that isolation among nations, due to the practice of autocracy, only creates suspicion and lack of confidence, the end of which is enmity, bringing nations finally to the terrible hazards of war.²⁵

Again the concerned reader may turn to accounts of the International Conferences of American States which were authorized by legislation passed in 1888. Among the several purposes listed for the first conference which met in Washington, October, 1889 were:

1. Measures that shall tend to preserve and promote the prosperity of the several American States . . . 'to consider such other subjects relating to the welfare of the several states represented as may be presented.'²⁶

²⁴ Americo Castro, "Concerning the Relation Between Both Americas," Ibero-American Review, Vol. II, No. 3, April, 1940, p. 255.

²⁵ Editorial in La Propaganda Rural, Montevideo, Uruguay, October, 1940, p. 10.

²⁶ Foreign Relations of the United States, 1888, Part II,

In 1933, the conference met in Montevideo and the atmosphere was not particularly propitious. Faith in international conferences as an effective instrument had been shaken by various disagreements over boundaries and internal revolutions. However, distrust of the United States was declining because of the ideas expressed in the "New Deal" program.

In the entire series of conferences little time if any was given to the furthering of cultural ideas and contacts between the several states of the two Americas. Always the discussions reverted to economic and diplomatic matters. In a close study of the reports of each conference no evidence was obtained to substantiate that last topic announced in 1888-- "such other subjects relating to the welfare of the several states. . . ."27 In the statement of the principles of the Good Neighbor policy toward Latin America the following phrase is of special significance in this study: "Tightening of Inter-American cultural ties."28

The establishment of the Pan American Union, symbolized by the beautiful building in Washington, D. C. began in 1890. This movement was an indirect outgrowth of a conference called by Simon Bolivar of Venezuela in 1826. His understanding of the many problems that would arise between the Americas and the several states is a real tribute to his statesmanlike outlook and vision.

27 Ibid.

28 Howard J. Trueblood, "Progress of Pan-American Cooperation," Foreign Policy Reports, Vol. 15, No. 23, February 15, 1940, p. 293.

One of the unofficial yet vital duties of the organization of the Pan American Union is to act as a clearing house or bureau of information to all who seek information regarding any phase of life at any particular place in the two Americas. Housed in this beautiful building which Josephus Daniels termed the "clearing house of Good Will" constant effort is made to promote and recognize those elements in each country which will advance the cultural understanding of all people concerned. Art, music, literature, minerals, forestry, plant life, birds, history-- nothing is too remote nor too large or small to be included among their interesting displays and varied literature that is distributed. Examples of fine workmanship in marble, in oils, or in building may be studied by the casual visitor.

Assets such as those named above tend directly and indirectly to encourage appreciation of those finer things of life which promote and develop the culture of an individual or a nation.

Recognition of the far reaching influence of the arts of living as a means for promoting better understanding was finally made when the Division of Cultural Relations was established in the Department of State by Departmental Order No. 367 issued on July 27, 1938.

Extracts from the Department of State Appropriation Bill for 1941 contain the following statements which are of great significance:

The broad purpose of the Division of Cultural Relations is to make friends for the United States abroad through the development of a greater understanding and appreciation of the best contributions which this country may exchange with other nations. . . The Division of Cultural

Relations has general charge of official activities of the Department of State with respect to cultural relations, embracing the exchange of professors, teachers and students; cooperation in the field of music, art, literature, and other intellectual and cultural activities; the formulation of libraries; . . . supervision of participation in international broadcasts . . . the dissemination abroad of the representative intellectual and cultural works of the United States and the improvement and broadening of the scope of our cultural relations with other countries.²⁹

Out of the far-reaching plans approved by this Division of Cultural Relations have come several conferences that made vital steps in advancing their particular interests. The European War has made some difficulties appear, but on the whole the idea is very much alive and will continue to grow, slowly but on solid ground.

Representatives of health organizations of the American republics were called to the Sixth International Sanitary Conference of the American Republics as long ago as 1920, and they met in Montevideo. This bureau, named the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, resulted from the work of this conference and has been very essential in the prevention of the international spread of communicable diseases, and also in the maintenance and improvement of the health of the people of the twenty-one American Republics. One of the chief interests of the Uruguay Committee on Public Health has been the eradication of contagious diseases in their state. Their research and findings have been closely allied with the larger Bureau.

²⁹ Department of State, The Program of the Department of State in Cultural Relations, Publication 1441, Inter-American Series, No. 18, p. 2.

In support of the work of the Department of State along the line of promotion of cultural relations, an interesting discussion arose in the House of Representatives when the Honorable John M. Coffee of Washington stated:

We must send our ablest scholars and believers in free institutions, not mediocrities. Latin Americas judge nations by their cultural achievements and must be shown convincing proofs of the creativeness and vitality of our culture.³⁰

Although this approaches the cultural contacts from the standpoint of the United States, it is a provocative idea that mutual understanding of cultural growth and development can come about only by the study of qualified, intelligent persons in both countries or all nations concerned.

In the speech just quoted the gentleman further urged an understanding of the labor problems of the Latin American nations, and aid to their social service workers. It is quite possible that such extreme measures are not needed since advancement along the many lines of cultural and educational problems is growing very well without too much interference on the part of the well-meaning citizens of the United States.

The first Conference of Ministers of Education of the American Republics assembled in Panama in October, 1943, for the purpose of discussing the problems of American educational systems and of working out standards for the orientation and coordination of education on a continent-wide basis. The

³⁰ John M. Coffee, "Defense and Democracy in Latin America: What Are We Doing About It?" Congressional Record, 77th Congress, 1st Session, Vol. 87, p. A1390.

program was pretentious, and came under three main divisions, thus:

1. Philosophy of education and current technical problems;
2. Closer relations among the peoples of the hemisphere through cultural interchange, and
3. Artistic education and coordination of the American educational systems.³¹

Legislation in the United States tends to place the United State of North America as the leader in all things pertaining to educational and cultural development just as has characterized all conferences and meetings devoted to economical problems. The questions presented to the student of Latin American life center about the one thought of--why not accept the leadership and the variety of help from the republics of the other America? Does all leadership come from the North American states?

³¹ Pan American Union Bulletin, First Conference of Ministers of Education of the American Republics, Vol. 77, No. 11, November, 1943, p. 639.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY

The brevity of this study has not necessarily affected the significant factors which have emerged from a perusal of many writings that dealt with Uruguay. The geography of a country has a vital part to play in the industrial life of its people. It also affects health, communications, transportation, and government. These elements in themselves play an important role in the development of the cultural life of the nation.

History has given each country a heritage which overshadows development for many years. Conquests, enslavement, rise of patriots for liberation of oppressed peoples--each event leaves a contribution to the progress of cultural development.

In Uruguay, smallest republic of Latin America, is found a dynamic cultural life that reflects the geography and the history of a powerful small nation. Geography made the promotion of cultural institutions difficult. The scattered rural population could not be reached often or well, so plans were worked out to touch the lives of this isolated group of cattle people, herdsmen and cowboys by means of radio and newspaper.

Geography again presented a problem in that many people gathered into a growing city, bringing problems of housing, sanitation, social problems, and educational crowding.

History provided Uruguay with a colorful background, a fairly pure racial strain, suspicious neighbors, and some independent leaders who forged a place in the world of economics for the small struggling nation. History brought to light good leaders, and they in turn helped their people by a study of existing problems and attempts to remedy them.

The very fact that Uruguay could and did, discard the traditional constitution for one that would work in light of modern developments in administration and constitutional theory is a fair indication of the quickness and adaptability of the Uruguayan mind. A nation of interested energetic people--at least among the leading class--Uruguay stands unique among the twenty-one republics of Latin America. Tradition has not been the sole determiner of her procedures, and her religious and historical influences have been dealt with openly.

On the international front, Uruguay has likewise demonstrated her desire to work closely with the forces of democracy. The present world conflict imposed upon her the need for re-aligning her trade relations to a considerable degree. Normally, Great Britain was her best customer, and together with Germany, took more than half of Uruguay's exports, while the United States bought very little. But on July 21, 1942, Uruguay signed a trade agreement with the United States which is expected to bring distinct benefits to both countries. Designed to assist during the emergency and to form a basis for a larger trade after the war, this agreement provides assurances against discriminatory tariffs, quotas, and exchange barriers to trade. Uruguay gives concessions on one hundred and forty-one items corresponding to almost a quarter of the value of the United States exports to her in 1940. The United States, in turn, grants concessions on a number of commodities such as flaxseed, certain prepared meats, casein, cattle hides and skins, certain coarse wools, glycerin and a few other items, corresponding in value to about 28 per cent of the imports from Uruguay in 1940. . . .

In the prosecution of the war effort, Uruguay has again ranged herself against those who threaten the safety of the Americas. It will be recalled that in 1917 during World War I, Uruguay waived the rules of neutrality in permitting Brazilian and United States vessels to remain in her waters beyond the time allotted to belligerent nations by international law. During the present conflict Uruguay has granted the use of air bases and ports to American nations engaged in hemisphere defense.¹

Now that Uruguay has actively arranged herself with the Allies in the war against totalitarian powers, even closer cooperation and mutual benefit may be expected.

In a study of industrial, political, social and cultural development of any nation it is an obligation for the student to pause for reflection upon the effects of both countries which may be involved in the study. Democracy does not permit the superimposing of one nation's ideas and culture upon another no matter how fine or advanced the detailed development might be. The United States of North America has much to give to a receptive state such as Uruguay has proved to be in the past. However, a note of warning or caution might seem appropriate at this stage of the close relationship between the two nations. Continuous giving and suggesting on the part of the United States may bring about a resentment and finally open rebellion toward any ideas brought from the storehouse of wealth of this country. After all, Uruguay has come through the trial and testing periods of dictators, new constitutions, wars, and social upheaval, and out of the turmoil has emerged a progressive nation, able to plan and execute its plans. Patronage

¹ Philip Leonard Green, "Uruguay-Citadel of Progress," Agriculture in the Americas, November, 1942, Vol. II, No. 11, p. 213.

will be resented, and the furtherance of the Good Neighbor policies may be prevented.

However, it is not amiss to suggest that the authorities who are working so seriously at the business of interchange of ideas and promotion of a definite culture bear in mind a few simple but important policies. May it be suggested that only representatives who speak the language and are students of the country's history be sent as representatives to conferences and meetings? The teacher or business ambassador should be able to meet the man of the streets and speak his language, financially as well as culturally. Snobbishness should not be tolerated on the part of any spokesman of the United States.

The American way of life has been stressed in press and pulpit during the past few years. Is it too much to ask that representatives of the American people be men who have an American background, socially and financially?

Cooperation and trust between these two nations will result in mutual improvement. Tolerance in racial attitudes has made much more headway in the Latin American countries than in the North American. Consequently, students should be encouraged to study in both countries, and meet upon an equal footing if democratic policies and attitudes are desired.

Uruguay has a sincerity of purpose in planning the improvements for the common people. To the believer in true democracy, however, there is a note of dictatorship and curtailed freedom in the fact that the state does the planning and the developing, and individual enterprise does not seem

to be of much importance. Instead of the people working out housing plans and better sanitary conditions the state solves the problem by building housing units and providing many kinds of medical and hygienic care.

State dominance has brought sound material improvement. The question remains in the minds of the democratic student-
-is the development and encouragement of cultural agencies sound and desired on the part of the people, or is the entire plan that of the administrators who install and proceed to operate without any consideration of the real capacities of the people to assimilate?

Uruguay has gone far to help her people materially. Arts and sciences of the people are the lifeblood of the nation. Both the United States and Uruguay have much to offer each other. But there must be an even exchange with due respect on the part of both to honor the other's achievements. The exchange of young students and the encouragement of college professors to study in the other country will help to weld the interests and advancements of the two nations.

Certainly it behooves the Department of Cultural Relations of the United States government to play a vital role in bringing together true appreciation and respect for all progress along the lines of individual betterment and happiness.

Doubtless the future will see revision and adaptation of constitutional reform in Uruguay. The ideals of democracy may have an opportunity to permeate the administration of a government that is intended to help the people regardless of methods

employed. Autocratic dictatorship cannot survive long in the face of democratic principles which students and cultural leaders will bring to the lives of the Uruguayans.

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