

*South and Central American Trade Conditions of Today.* By A. HYATT VERRILL. (New York, 1919. Dodd, Mead, and Company. Pp. 212.)

This little volume is a revised edition of the handbook published by the author under the same title in 1914, and is designed to provide an up-to-date guide to the trade methods to be followed in transacting business with the republics of Hispanic America. According to the author's own statement, the book "contains a vast amount of information regarding Spanish America and Spanish Americans, their customs, manners, and point of view, as related to business, as well as a great deal of data concerning the exports, imports, debts, wealth, foreign capital, improvements, population, transportation, and business of the various countries". He likewise believes that "this book will fill a long-felt want for a compact, concise, and yet complete source of information for all interested in business and trade conditions between the United States and her sister republics".

While the reviewer can not conscientiously concur in all points of the foregoing statements, there is undoubtedly much useful, and on the whole, reliable information in the two hundred and twelve pages. The book is divided into three parts. The first, entitled, "Wherein we fail", contains the following chapters: "How we stand", "Ignorance of conditions", "Slipshod methods", and "Credits and consuls". The second part, "How we may succeed", has these subdivisions: "Winning confidence", "Giving the people what they want", and "Organization". Part three devotes a brief section to each of the Hispanic American countries, including those of the West Indies, and gives figures relative to their currency, weights and measures, postal system, railways, and steamship lines. Four maps are included, two of South America, one showing the Central American countries, and one of Mexico.

The book is written in a colloquial and frequently bombastic style that will often prove distasteful to the better informed business man or general reader. It is apparently addressed to an audience that is supposed to be totally unfamiliar with the countries concerned, and its general tone reflects the conditions characteristic of the business relations between the United States and Hispanic America a decade ago rather than those prevailing at the present time. Although the author professes to be a thorough and experienced student of all matters connected with the trade of South and Central America, he does not seem to be aware of the existence of such an important instrumentality for the extension of American commerce with those fields as is afforded by

the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce through its special Latin-American Division. Had he availed himself of the facilities of that office, he would have been able to include statistical data and other facts of more recent date than those given, and would have realized the fact that considerable progress has been made in remedying many of the abuses to which he makes reference. In spite of such shortcomings, however, the volume will be of interest and value to the novice in Hispanic American business, and will be useful for reference purposes to others in the absence of a more comprehensive and carefully written handbook.

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*Colección General de Documentos relativos a las Islas Filipinas existentes en el Archivo de Indias de Sevilla.* Publicado por LA COMPANIA GENERAL DE TABACOS DE FILIPINAS. Tomo I (1493-1518). (Barcelona: Imprenta de la Viuda de Luis Tasso, 1919. Pp. xix, 365, 1 leaf. Facsimiles. 15 pesetas.)

This is the first volume of what promises to be, if the plans of the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas are carried out, a very long series; for it is the ambitious intention of the Company to publish "all the documents existing in the Archivo de Indias relative to the Philippine Islands, beginning with the earliest and compiling them in their chronological order". The extent of the documents in the above archives may be seen by consulting Robertson's *Bibliography of the Philippine Islands*. If this plan is carried out in its entirety, it will be the first time that all the documents of the archives relating to a given regional unit of considerable size have been published. The time that will be consumed in exhausting the documents of the archives relating to the Philippines may be estimated somewhat by referring to the Blair and Robertson collection, the majority of the original documents of which came from Seville, and yet that series touched but a very small part of the material available. To complete this present series, even with a generous appearance of volumes each year, many years, and probably more than a generation, will be required. The material of the first volume and its mechanical get-up are inspiring and the best wishes of those interested in the Philippine field go with the Company in its daring venture.

It is seldom that a commercial company embarks upon an undertaking of this nature; but the officials of the Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas have been actively interested in the history of the Philippine Islands for many years. The interest of the director of the Com-