

- La Fronda aristocrática en Chile.* By ALBERTO EDWARDS. (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Nacional, 1928. Pp. 308. Indice.)
- Chile y los Chilenos.* By ALBERTO CABERO. (Santiago de Chile: Editorial Nascimento, 1926. Pp. 440. Indice.)
- La eterna Crisis Chilena.* By CARLOS KELLER R. (Santiago de Chile: Editorial Nascimento, 1933. Pp. 323. Indice.)
- Estudio de Política comercial Chilena e Historia económica nacional.* By DANIEL MARTNER. 2 vols. (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Universitaria, 1923. Pp. XV, 306; VI, 307-720. Indice.)
- Nuestra Evolución político-social (1900-1930).* By JORGE GUSTAVO SILVA. (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Nascimento, 1931. Pp. 167. Indice.)

These five works represent recent tendencies in writing Chilean history. The early school of historians devoted attention primarily to the political events and to biographies that belonged to the first half century of national existence or to colonial times. The present writers do not neglect social and economic conditions that affected these earlier periods nor do they wholly eschew politics in their discussions, but they are primarily interested in summarizing general tendencies and in philosophizing about them rather than devoting their narratives exclusively to political happenings. Four of them, at least, have held important state offices, generally connected with fiscal operations, while the fifth is well known as a writer and lecturer on the outstanding topics of the day. Hence they are well prepared to discuss and, in some cases, to decry the tendencies of their time and to point out what seem to them the proper measures to meet pressing problems.

The late Señor Alberto Edwards, for he died in 1932, had a long and honorable record in public service. Family connections, careful training, and deep thought prepared an unusually active mind for reflective writing. He early attracted attention by a brief but well ordered study, *Bosquejo histórico de los Partidos políticos Chilenos*, which appeared in 1903. The present volume published a quarter of a century later expands this early study of Chilean politics, adds suggestive comments to each major development therein, and continues the treatment to the date of publication. Señor Edwards is an admirer, one might say imitator, of Spengler, with considerable originality in applying his master's theses. Chile, to him, was after 1833

“a republic in form”. The government almost from the beginning, however, aroused opposition among those who created or continued it but who felt themselves at times shut out from its management. A *fronda*, according to our author, was almost always in existence, a *fronda* composed of an aristocratic nucleus changing its composition from time to time but never changing the center of its attack. This, Señor Edwards believes, is the key to an understanding of Chilean history.

Naturally, our author admires Portales and gives him full credit for the subsequent orderly course of development in Chile up to the end of the nineteenth century. Likewise too, he reverences the name of Manuel Montt whose administration is the subject of his posthumous work. His character sketches of other leaders and the story of their relations to their contemporaries are equally well executed. He has very little faith in popular government, hence the cover of his book fittingly bears a replica of the well-known statue of Portales, while the portrait of General Ibáñez forms its frontispiece.

Señor Cabero presents a different view. His substantial volume is the product of a series of lectures delivered in Antofagasta, during the troubled years 1924 and 1925. He attempts to interpret the spirit of his fellow countrymen in the light of their physical surroundings and racial descent and through their historical evolution, both economic and social. To his task he brings a thorough knowledge of their past history and their social psychology. He discusses in some detail characteristic outcroppings of Hispanic America, such as the development of an aristocratic class, the continuous subjection of the great mass of the population, the development of *caudillismo*, the influence of foreign capital, the affect of too great a reliance on a single important product, the slow but effective progress brought about by increased educational facilities, and the relatively late awakening of social consciousness. Chile is a country that presents virtually all these phases of development as they have appeared in southern South America since independence. It is a country of relatively compact population, hence it is easy to study within its narrow compass these separate manifestations and, at the same time, to note how its people are affected by territorial and economic expansion beyond its original limits. The addition of the nitrate regions to the north, as a result of the war of the Pacific, the exploitation of the southern fostered area, when the Araucanian Indians were once entirely subdued—these place

Chile among the expanding nations of the western continent, while its environment, its people, and its history inevitably link it with countries to the northward which it has so far out-distanced.

Character sketches form the most significant features of Señor Cabero's work. He devotes a long chapter to political and constitutional evolution of the country and more brief ones to the economic and social evolution. One may not agree with all his characterizations, nor accept all of his opinions, but one must acknowledge that he has presented to us a faithful picture as he views it and one that is put together with no little literary skill. Few phases of the republic's manifold life escape his intelligent observation.

Señor Keller, as his name indicates, shows a strain derived from the German immigration that has so greatly influenced Chilean development during the last three quarters of a century. He writes primarily for a Chilean audience and he takes it for granted that his readers have a basic knowledge of their country's history. He is at present connected with the Dirección General de Estadística and the latest *Sinopsis Geográfico-Estadística* of the republic carries his name as director, but he is a philosopher who deals with social and economic forces as keenly as Señor Edwards does with politics, and with greater intensity. He bestows a hasty glance on the political organization of the country and then a briefer one on its cultural evolution and on its economic spirit and structure. This prepares him for a convincing chapter on its political economy and for a more detailed discussion of mining, agriculture, colonization, and the population in general. He depicts Chilean development at different periods and in its characteristic phases from the day of the landholding aristocracy to the present misery of the lowest laboring classes with a keen and, at times, bitter pen. His object is to show that the present crisis which afflicts the country is one that is due to causes which are both immediate and remote, and superficial and profound; that these causes affect all political, cultural, and economic activities; that they touch all classes of people. While they may seem most grave in political affairs, they are present in all manifestations of national life. No one government, no one class, above all no one individual is responsible for the situation. It is a collective responsibility and demands a universal change—one that is mental and moral as well as material. Señor Keller is a severe preacher but he speaks with both force and understanding.

An earlier work is that of Señor Martner, like the preceding

author, of part German origin. Apparently some of the best social and economic work of present day Chile springs from this same north European strain. At any rate, we may conclude that the country today derives its Germanic influence from the migration of the nineteenth century rather than that of the fifth, as Alejandro Fuenzalida Grandón in *La Evolucion social de Chile* would have us believe. After initial training in law, Señor Martner became professor of public finance in the University of Chile. He is the author of an important text on political economy, and served as minister of finance during President Alessandri's first administration. He writes, therefore, with authority based on experience, an authority that is well supplemented in bibliography and footnotes. After devoting a third of the first volume to the fundamental principles that have determined national economy and the fundamental bases on which it has rested—property, production, prices, commerce, ideals—he describes the evolution of the country as affected by these elements from the day of independence to the period in which he writes. He fittingly closes his narrative with the year in which he took office under President Alessandri.

His discussion follows the line of presidential succession. Each administration is described in terms of its problems and activities with statistical tables showing governmental receipts and expenditures, commerce and the nations with which it is carried on and the amount with each, general fiscal and trading conditions—internal and external, growth in population, wealth, and economic activity. After presenting these facts in detail, the author sums up for each administration the outstanding features that determined or retarded progress. His critical judgments constitute an excellent summary of Chile's economic history. Each volume is preceded by an analytic index of materials and an index of names closes the work.

The little book of Señor Gustavo Silva is less a chronicle of facts than a work of social propaganda. From his position as occasional professor in the University of Chile, the author has had opportunity to express his views in articles and public addresses which are here brought together to stimulate interest in matters that should be of increasing importance to the country. He draws heavily upon contemporary writers of other lands to support his views, and in the course of thirty years has done much to arouse his countrymen to the need of better local welfare work. He apparently has had some in-

fluence with party organizations and occasionally has served the government in enforcing recent legislation. His views are indicative of an awakening interest in this field.

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*Francisco de Urdiñola y el Norte de la Nueva España.* By VITO ALESSIO ROBLES. (Mexico: Imprenta Mundial, Miravalle, 13, 1931. Illustrations and maps. Pp. XXV, 333.)

Francisco de Urdiñola played a large part in the affairs of northern New Spain—in Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya—in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. He was Indian fighter, miner, cattle-raiser, agriculturalist, colonizer, and governor. So important were his services that he should be ranked with contemporary conquistadores such as Luís de Carabajal and Juan de Oñate. But unfortunately, prior to the appearance of the present study by Señor Alessio Robles, very little was known about Urdiñola, and much of that meager information was tainted with error.

There were two major "myths" concerning Urdiñola. The first represented Francisco de Urdiñola, "El Mozo", to be the son of Francisco de Urdiñola, "El Viejo", a great conquistador and frontier magnate of the middle sixteenth century. Señor Alessio Robles finds that Urdiñola came to America shortly after 1572 as a poor boy, and that his father, Juan de Urdiñola, never came to America. Thus he explodes the myth of the two Urdiñolas.

A second "myth" represented the conquistador as a monster of wickedness and perfidy who numbered among his numerous victims murdered in cold blood, his own wife. The evidence according to Robles, proves that Urdiñola was the innocent victim of an unscrupulous enemy, Juan Bautista de Lomas y Colmenares, a disappointed applicant for a commission to colonize New Mexico. This commission, after the elimination of many applicants, had been awarded to Urdiñola. Although acquitted of the charge that he murdered his wife, the protracted trial caused Urdiñola to lose his commission to colonize New Mexico. But for the opposition of Lomas y Colmenares, Francisco de Urdiñola and not Juan de Oñate would have been the conquistador of New Mexico.

By dint of patient, thorough, and critical examination of documen-