

ber of Appeals for the members and the ministers of the treasury to examine.

The councilors gave the fiscal, Doctor Pedro José Agrelo, three months to study the plans. He saw many useful reforms in them, but disagreed with them and proposed the appointment of a commission to take the two projects and the old Ordinance as a basis from which to form a third simpler draft. The councilors agreed to this. Castro recognized the difficulties in harmonizing the three documents and believed an entirely new code was necessary.

The most notable changes suggested in the Ordinance were: an effort to consolidate the municipal system; a more popular elective system in the cabildos; prohibiting *repartimientos*; the rights of the vicepatronage being resumed absolutely by the superior government; a more detailed defining of the duties of all officials; elimination of the committee of ways and means of the cities and towns; suppressing the municipal junta and the annual visitation of the intendant in his province; creating an intendant of policía in Buenos Aires, whose duties were confined entirely to that department; an extensive plan for industrial development; paying more attention to agriculture as the chief wealth of the nation; and the establishment of primary schools.

In the first part of the book the author summarizes the proposed changes in the Ordinance, and in the latter publishes the one hundred and two additions and modifications, with four documents, in which the opinions of the persons examining the innovations are expressed. Despite its good points, the project was not adopted and the old Bourbon Ordinance was still in effect in 1821.

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Manuelita de Rosas y Ezcurra. Verdad y leyenda de su vida. By E. F. SÁNCHEZ ZINNY. (Buenos Aires: Imp. López, 1942. 2 ed. Pp. 459.)

Its presentation of a new aspect of the life of Manuelita de Rosas has justified a second edition of this book, which was first printed in 1941. The introduction states its theme: "¡Manuelita, la dulce Manuelita de la tradición encantadora, era simplemente una leyenda! Era una creación del deseo, del ansia de esa bondad, nutrida en el espanto de un período terrible." Despite long portrayal, then, as an "Angel of Mercy," Manuelita now appears with a character which merely conforms to the most unmerciful will of her father. She is mediocre

in everything, and of a disconcertingly passive, "anaemic" frigidity. Neither protests nor tears leave any imprint upon her imperturbability, strong through its very indifference to human suffering.

Manuelita's rôle in Argentine history was to serve as the physical incarnation of the will of her father. She represented the emotional side of his program. Juan Manuel chose to be feared. When it best served his purpose to adopt a less drastic method in his control of Argentine society, Manuelita became a useful intermediary for the granting of pardon and clemency. She stood for kindness, it is true—but a directed kindness, decreed by political necessity and ambition. The fact that her rôle was coldly plotted by her father, made it no less effective in the history of the time.

Manuelita was the tool employed by Rosas in his active prosecution of international intrigue, as well as of national politics. Here, again, emotion played its part. That Manuelita was a young woman of rare physical charm despite her lack of formal beauty, seems to be indicated by her love affair with the poet Mármol and the affection she inspired in various representatives sent by Great Britain to the government of Argentina. Quite possibly Manuelita was unconscious of the importance of her influence upon Argentine-British relations; Rosas recognized it, however, and utilized her powers in the attainment of his political objectives.

Against the passivity of Manuelita's character, the character of her father stands out in the bold relief of contrast. As portrayed by Dr. Sánchez Zinny, Rosas was primarily a skillful business administrator. With or without Rosas, dictatorship would have come to Argentina; it was due, not to the presence of any predestined individual, but to the collective incapacity of those directing the affairs of the Republic. Strangely enough, Rosas incarnated Order. In him the rural proprietors—the most powerful influence on Argentine opinion—saw their hope for desired peace. All were "driven by their cows."

"Son sus vacas las que . . . impulsan [a Rosas]. Y a las vacas de Rosas, se unieron las vacas de muchos de los estancieros de la provincia, que vieron en la revolución, no un ideal de patria, sino un medio de adquirir mayores ventajas con directa relación a sus intereses privados" (p. 13).

Through the stabilization of power, Juan Manuel de Rosas answered Argentine need. Just as his popularity increased in proportion to the difficulties caused by foreign interference in Argentine national politics (p. 276), so did Rosas fuse scattered ideas of nationality into a true national consciousness.

According to Dr. Sánchez Zinny, Rosas realized this greater mission all unaware. "No era un hombre de acción. Fue sólo un trabajador infatigable" (p. 283).

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Los partidos políticos argentinos. By CARLOS R. MELO. (Córdoba: Imprenta de la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, 1943. Pp. 54.)

This brief study of political parties in Argentina, like the dozen or more other short writings of Dr. Melo, is not an exhaustive analysis of the subject. Rather the author presents in these few pages a composite picture of both historical and contemporary developments in the political parties of that country.

His analysis is divided into eight parts. In seven pages Dr. Melo describes the historical background of party organization which may explain some of the present characteristics of political behavior in Argentina. The embryonic character of party existence is clearly portrayed. In the second and third parts of the study the author traces the activities of the National Autonomist Party and the relationship of this group to the Radical Civic Union. The latter group is discussed in the fifth part of the book. The author here shows how the liberals, beginning about 1890, challenged the conservative oligarchy and to a rather remarkable degree were successful. The last three parts of the study summarize the activities of the various political parties between 1890 and 1910, legislation of 1912 dealing with secret ballot, compulsory voting, registering of voters, and the elections of 1930. The author concludes his analysis with general statements concerning the elections of Justo, Ortiz, and Castillo.

While this study does not present anything not generally known to specialists in Argentine government, it is a clear and intelligent analysis of political parties in that state.

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Curso de divulgación de la constitución nacional. (Rosario, Argentina: Colegio de Abogados de Rosario, 1942. Pp. 304. Paper.)

This volume consists of twenty-eight lectures given by as many lecturers on the various problems of the Argentine constitution. These lectures have a dual purpose: (1) they were given to make clearer the basic principles of Argentine law as well as (2) to evaluate changes