

grieved at her neighbors. This history, however, seems to be triumphantly slanted toward the future, while that of Paraguay still remains tied to the past. Both works can do much to make their respective countries better known, and respected, abroad.

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Notes on Argentina's Bilateral, Compensatory Trade Agreements. By HUGH BYRON CARNES. [Tulane University, College of Commerce and Business Administration, Division of Economic and Business Research. Publication Number 7.] (New Orleans: Tulane University Press, 1949. Pp. 76. Appendix. Paper.)

This pamphlet is a useful case study of a venture in foreign trade practices and policies which has as yet received little scholarly attention. Professor Carnes undertakes to describe in some detail the numerous bilateral trade and compensation agreements into which Argentina had entered up to November, 1948, and in an appendix he summarizes six additional agreements which were concluded up to the middle of 1949. The chief value of this study, however, is not so much in the descriptive material, which becomes outdated in a short time, as in the analysis and appraisal of the trade agreements from the viewpoint of their effects on the Argentine economy and their relation to the foreign trade policy of the United States and other nations.

A reading of this entire study provides a well-balanced economic analysis and critique of Argentine's trade and payments policies, although at a few points there are unqualified statements expressing an extreme view, uncritical reporting of arguments made by others, and offhand judgments which depart from the general standards of careful analysis.

Washington, D. C.

JOHN S. DEBEERS.

Archivo del general Porfirio Díaz: Memorias y documentos. Vol. VI. Preface and notes by ALBERTO MARÍA CARREÑO. [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Historia, Colección de obras históricas mexicanas, 3.] (Mexico City: 1950. Pp. 380. Paper.)

This sixth volume of the papers of Porfirio Díaz covers a brief but important period in the life of Mexico's future dictator-president. Covering only the first six months of the year 1868, the unfolding narrative of Díaz' life as revealed by the letters he sent and received demonstrates the completeness of his break with the Juárez regime. On January 25, Díaz took the definite step of asking for an extended leave of absence

from his command of the Second Division "for family matters," and retired from active service for the Mexican government. Most of his correspondents rightly interpreted the move as a resignation rather than a leave, writing that they were his to command should it once again become necessary for him "to raise his conquering sword . . . for territorial integrity and the Constitution of 1857."

Díaz reveals that he was formally offered the post of minister of war in the Juárez cabinet, but he declined it and sought only complete separation from the army, and when that was denied him he determined to break with the government and to that end sought and was granted his leave of absence. From his retirement, Díaz could merely contemplate the events of the swift-changing Mexican scene, rather than play his accustomed active role in them. He saw the difficulties of the campaign against the rebels in Yucatan, but steadfastly refused any direct involvement in decisions concerning the relief of those forces, despite the pleas of General Francisco Carreón who took over the command while Díaz was "on leave." Could Díaz, a soldier's soldier, but have rejoiced as letters from his old comrades-in-arms on the occasion of the first anniversary of the capture of Puebla and on many other occasions revealed an increasing tide of bitterness against the measures the civilian president was taking against the military forces, measures such as reducing the size of the cavalry. One gains the impression that Díaz was biding his time, judging the rising tide of troubles for the Juárez government, and waiting for the proper moment and opportunity to turn it all to his own advantage.

Latin-American historians, and historians of Mexico in particular, will welcome the continuing publication of the Díaz archive with its useful indexes and interesting photographs, but many will share the feeling of this reviewer that further weeding out of unimportant papers or a speeding up of the rate of publication, or both, could profitably be done. At the rate it is going—a volume or two a year each covering six months of the life of Díaz—it will be a very long time indeed before we shall have the entire archive at our disposal.

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Washington, D. C.

RICHARD BLAINE McCORNACK.

Transition Period. The Fight for Freedom, 1810-1836. By CARLOS E. CASTAÑEDA. [*Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519-1936*, Vol. VI.] (Austin, Texas: Von Boeckmann-Jones Company, 1950. Pp. xvi, 384. Illustrations, map, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

In presenting the sixth of seven projected volumes on the history of Texas from 1519 to 1936, Professor Castañeda approaches the conclusion