

MONTEVIDEO

BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT

IN THE SERIES ON SOUTH AMERICA

Too few people in the United States have any conception of Latin-American civilization; few realize, in particular, how highly developed is the urban life of the larger republics of South America, and still fewer know that one of the most beautiful cities in the world is the capital of Uruguay. Of this city we have received a large number of beautiful photographs, which are a revelation to any one who has not visited South America. We regret that we can reproduce only a very small proportion of these pictures. In selecting these, the problem has been what to omit, and how to represent fairly the environs, the streets, the residences, and the stately and luxuriant parks of Montevideo. The pictures that are reproduced here are, however, sufficient to show how much many of the cities of the United States might learn from the Uruguayan capital.—THE EDITORS.

ON the afternoon of November 3 we crossed the boundary line from Brazil into Uruguay, and were at once received by representatives of the Uruguayan Government. There was little change in the character of the territory. The Uruguayan "camp"—as the open land is called—is a rich, fertile country of rolling prairie, well watered, with here and there ranges of hills. From the windows of the railway train we saw herds of cattle and horses, many of the cattle evidently Herefords or Durhams. The picturesque mounted herdsmen, the gauchos, were also always in evidence; splendid horsemen, at utter ease no matter what their horses might do. Most of them wore curious baggy trousers, loose shirts, *serapes*, and broad hats, but now and then we came across individuals with ordinary trousers thrust into top boots, such as one would see in our own Western country.

There is very little wild land left in Uruguay, but much the largest proportion of all the land is still exclusively pastoral. There has been, however, a great growth not only of the cities but of agriculture, and the gaucho is no longer the all-important character he once was. This undoubtedly tends for stability in government, because the many excellent traits of the gaucho did not include understanding of the need of orderly democratic self-government as our people understand it. I am very thankful, however, that the gaucho still remains, and I hope that he always will remain, a prominent feature of the life of Uruguay. He is a strikingly picturesque and distinctively national feature. Not

only did we continually see these herdsmen, but again and again we passed numbers of the big two-wheeled carts in which they transport their families and household effects as well as the products of the great ranches. At nightfall we saw the fires glimmer from the camping places in the neighborhood of which these carts were drawn up. We also passed the little mud-walled, thatch-roofed houses in which the families of the gauchos lived. As one of the Uruguayan public men laughingly expressed it to us, they did not differ very much except in size from the curious houses of the ovenbirds which we saw occupying the flat-topped part of about every third telegraph pole beside the railway.

I cannot forbear calling attention to these very interesting and attractive little birds which thus habitually build their disproportionately large-domed houses so confidently near the railway. The entrance is away from the cars; but this is the only symptom that they pay any heed to the railway at all; and the telegraph poles they evidently regard merely as conveniences for nest-building, inasmuch as they are provided with a flat top.

Next morning we were in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, a beautiful city of some three or four hundred thousand inhabitants. Like Australia and the United States, and of course like Europe, South America shows the modern tendency—by no means a healthy tendency—to see great cities grow relatively faster than the country districts. This is as true of Montevideo and Buenos Aires as of Seattle and Portland, Sydney and Melbourne.

Montevideo has a character of its own,

and great charm, for, though it has grown with much rapidity, it has not shown the almost abnormal growth of cities like Buenos Aires and Chicago. In consequence, although a great commercial city, a railway and steamship center, with a huge export trade of wool and frozen beef, it yet keeps an attractive Old World flavor, a sense of continuity with its own past. There are beautiful parks, wide, attractive streets, and stately private houses, with lovely gardens. There is a public rose garden, where, as the director, who fairly lives in his flowers, told us, there are twelve thousand roses of eight hundred different kinds.

In the immediate neighborhood of Montevideo the country is flat, excepting for one prominent conical hill crowned by an ancient

French sounds a little as if it were a non-Aryan tongue of the agglutinative type composed of word-roots and with neither tense nor gender; but some of the friends I met spoke French only a little better than mine, and all of them were courteous, and so I was able not only to enjoy myself, but to get a great deal of information.

The President of Uruguay is a man of exceptional power and ability, and very interesting to meet. I was also much interested by the judges and legislative and executive officials whom I saw. In Uruguay, as in the other South American countries I visited, there was very evident a resolute purpose not only to achieve industrial success as the northern nations of Europe and America have achieved it, but also to achieve both



THE CITY OF MONTEVIDEO AS SEEN FROM RAMIREZ BEACH

Spanish fort, now turned into a lighthouse. This is as delightful as a castle-crowned hill by the Rhine, and we rode out to it, and from it obtained an extensive and very beautiful view, not only of the city itself, but of the rich green flat country round about.

As everywhere in South America, French is commonly spoken by the men and women who take the lead in political, social, and industrial life. Indeed, as I have already said, more French books than native books are read, for France is the cultural mistress of the southern continent. Unfortunately I do not speak Spanish, but I speak French with fearlessness, and with a fluency marred by occasional complete halts, which necessitate backing out and beginning all over again, on the basis of saying what one can instead of what one wishes to. I am afraid that my

energy and practical ability in the actual handling of public affairs. There is a complete realization now, and for many years past there has been a growing realization, that government must be tested by the practical efficiency with which it works, and that it is imperatively necessary to substitute other methods than those of forcible revolution for the settlement of political differences.

The South Americans are fully aware of our faults, and, naturally enough, are a little irritated by the fact that our manners are not as good as theirs. But they are intelligently desirous of assimilating and making their own the good qualities which they regard as responsible for our material success. One of the Uruguayan Ministers, when I told him how much I enjoyed the courtesy and politeness of all their people, laughed in response,

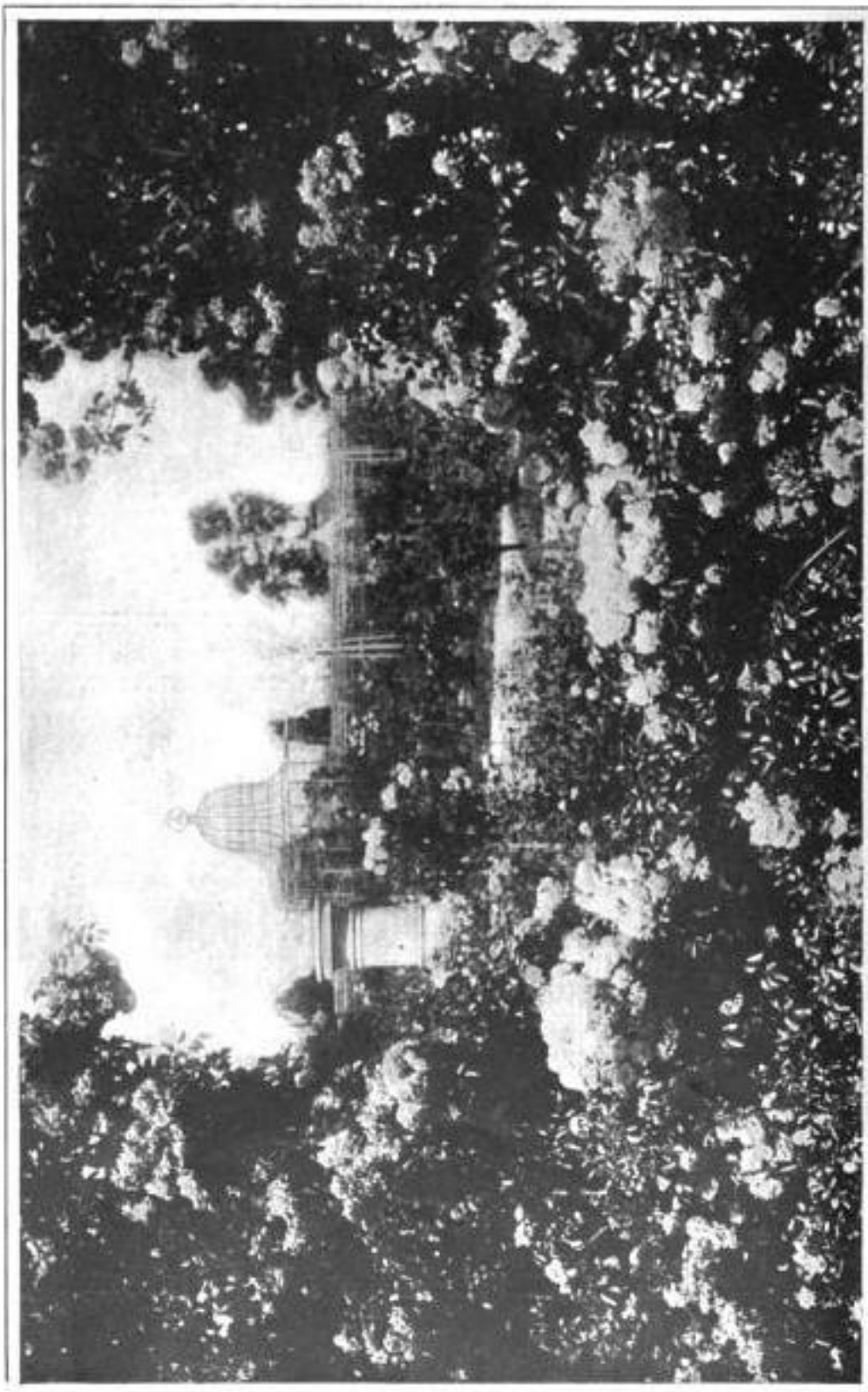


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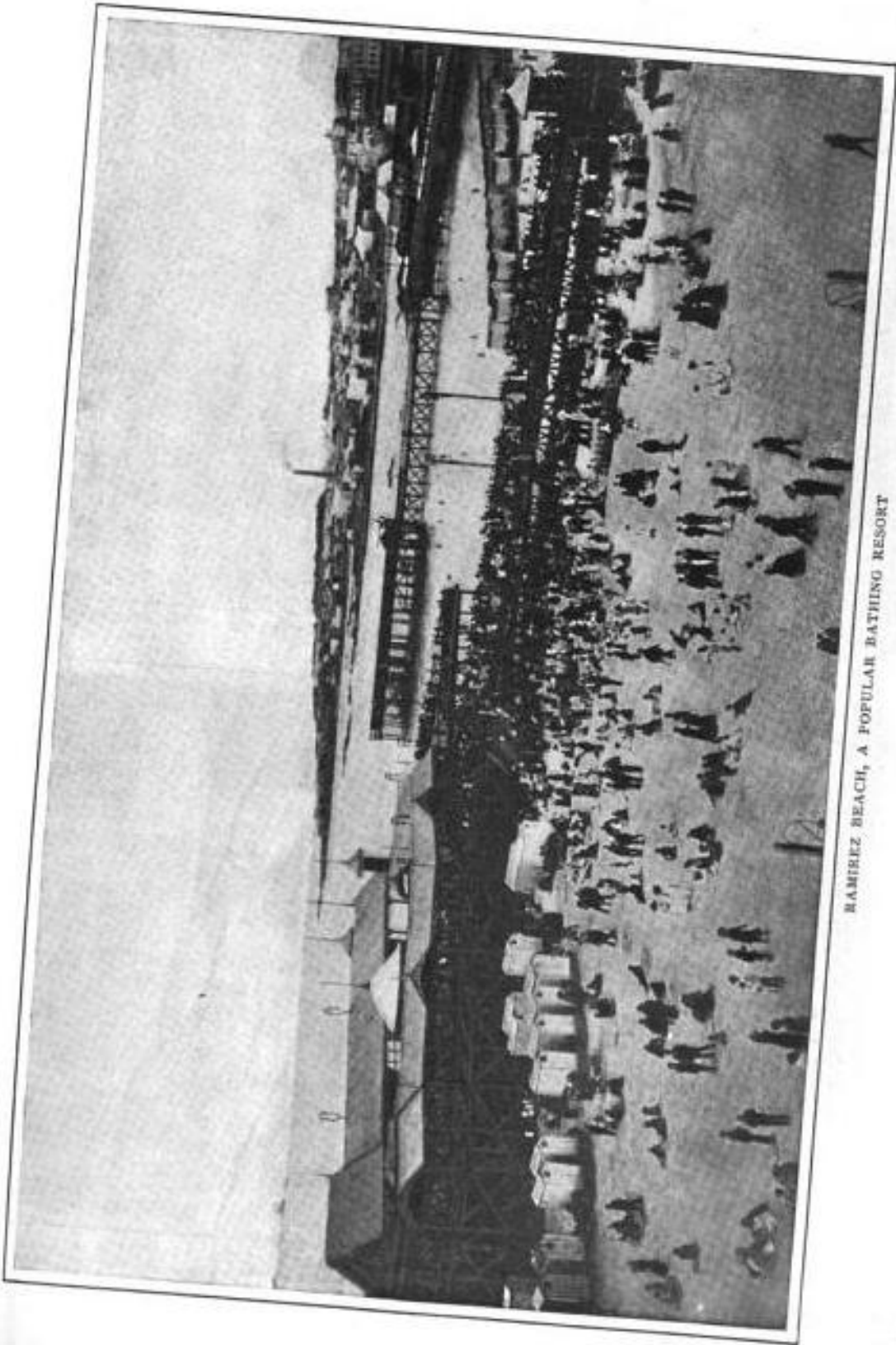


AVENIDA 18 DE JULIO

"Considered one of the finest boulevards in South America"



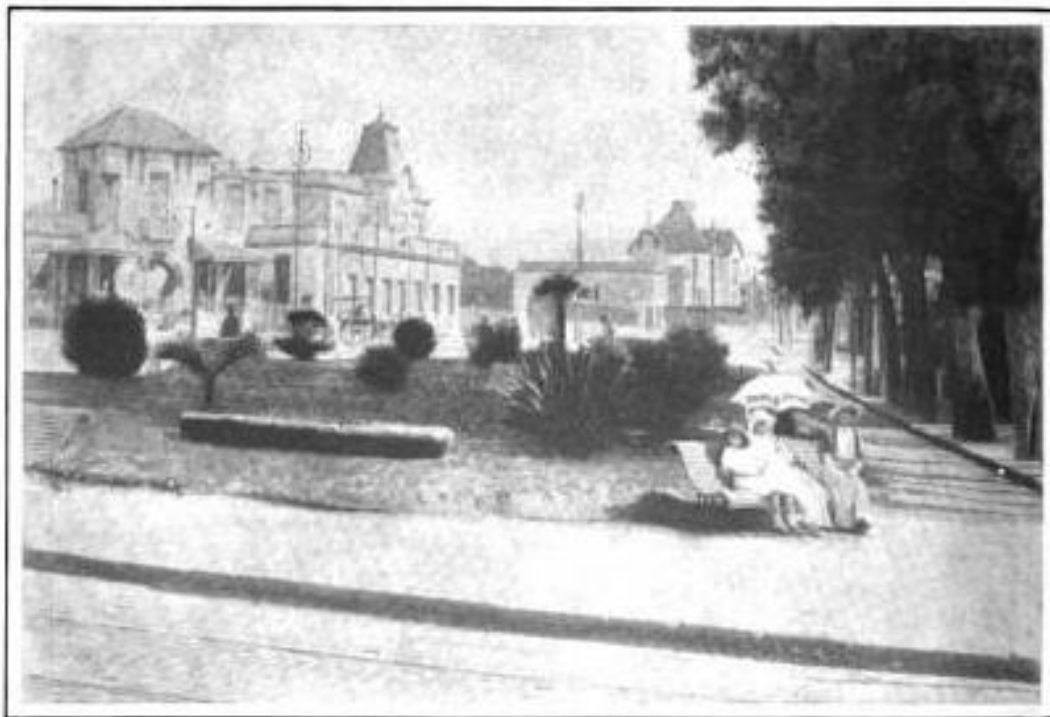
MONTEVIDEO'S GREAT ROSE GARDEN, CONTAINING 12,000 ROSES OF 800 DIFFERENT KINDS



RAMIREZ BEACH, A POPULAR BATHING RESORT



GENERAL VIEW OF THE CITY FROM PARQUE URBANO



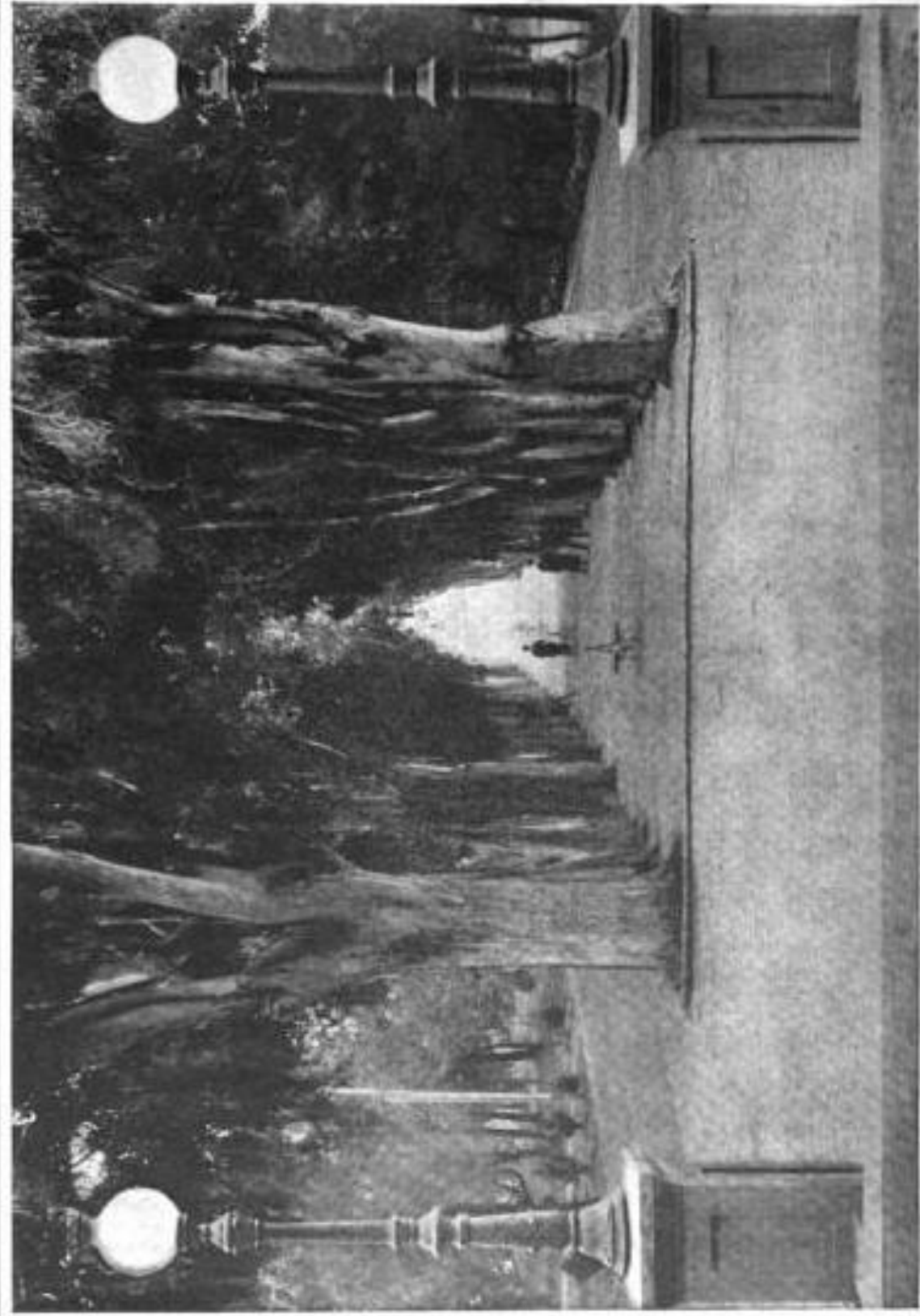
A SMALL PARK IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION



HOTEL CASINO



THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE



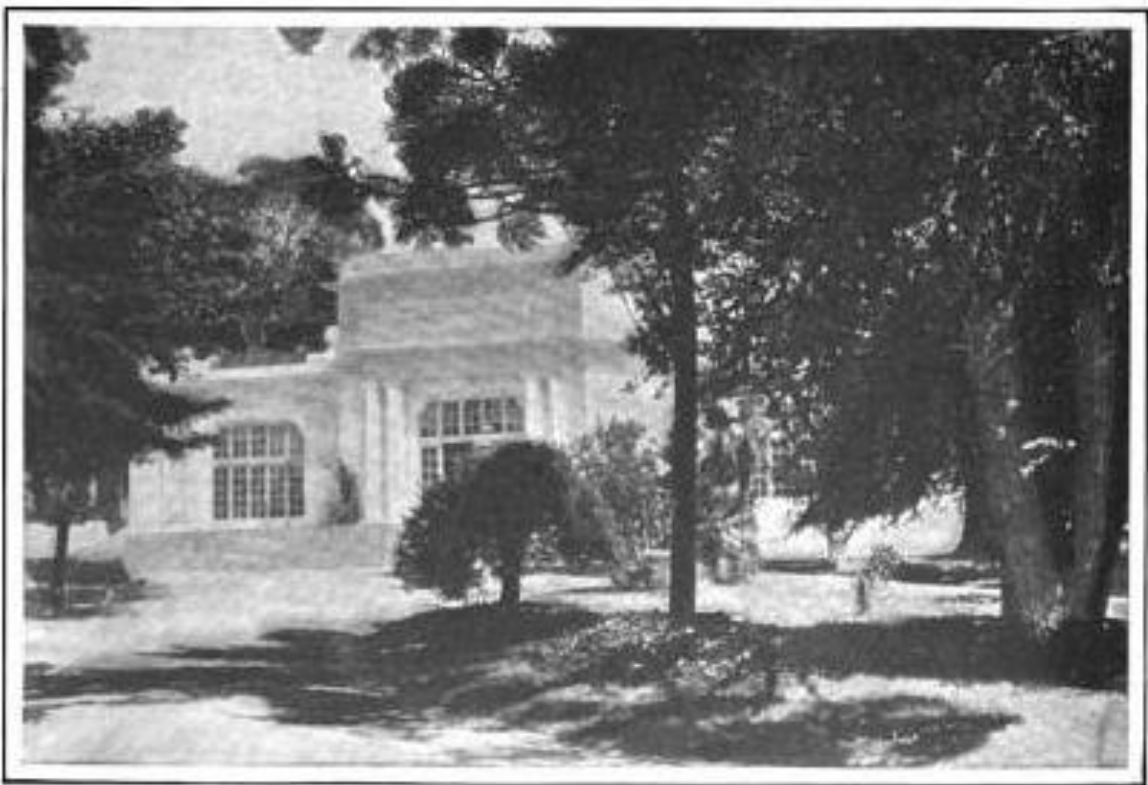
AN AVENUE OF EUCALYPTUS TREES IN THE PRADO



LAKE IN PARQUE URBANO (CITY PARK)



MONTEVIDEO HAS SEVERAL BEAUTIFUL PARKS. THIS SCENE IS IN PARQUE URBANO



AN ATTRACTIVE RESTAURANT IN PARQUE URBANO

and then, looking at me seriously, answered that, while he thought good manners important, he thought energy and self-reliance and power of working with practical efficiency for a desired end even more important. I answered that there was no possible reason why people should not combine both in matters international as well as in matters within one's own nation.

There was one rather interesting incident. At the lunch, in proposing my health, the President alluded with emphatic fervor to what I had done in defending and interpreting the Monroe Doctrine. He said:

"I invite you to drink to the health of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, to whom has fallen the lot of presiding for seven years over the destinies of the glorious Republic of the United States of America, and of being the guide during that lapse of time of almost a hundred million inhabitants, and whom we greet as the champion of every just cause that has called for his support; the defender of the Monroe Doctrine in the interests of the whole of America; the stanch partisan of international justice and of peace with honor; the fervent propagandist of force and character placed at the service of public welfare."

In answer I said:

"Mr. President, I thank you, and through you the people of Uruguay, for your courtesy and generous hospitality. I am deeply touched by the President's speech, because of what he says about me, and even more of what he says about my country. Moreover, in this speech the President has, with laconic brevity and clearness, set forth the doctrine in which I earnestly believe. I believe in honorable peace; I believe in strength of character placed at the service of the public good. I believe in the rule of right and justice at home and between nations; I believe in international justice. I am accordingly pleased with the interpretation placed by the President on my position as an upholder of the Monroe Doctrine. It is in no sense a doctrine of one-sided advantage; it is to invoke only in the interest of all our commonwealths of the Western Hemisphere. It should be invoked by all our nations in a spirit of mutual self-respect, and on a footing of complete equality of both right and obligation. Therefore, as soon as any country of the New World stands on a sufficiently high footing of orderly liberty and achieved success, of self-respecting strength,

it becomes a guarantor of the doctrine on a footing of complete equality. I congratulate the countries of South America that I have visited and am about to visit that their progress is such, in justice, political stability, and material prosperity, as to make them also the sponsors of the Monroe Doctrine, so that, as regards them, all that the United States has to do is to stand ready as one of the great brotherhood of American nations to join with them in upholding the doctrine should they at any time desire, in the interest of the Western Hemisphere, that we should do so. I drink, Mr. President, to your health, and to the health of the Republic of Uruguay."

Every responsible South American public man whom I met dwelt upon both of two facts. Each one thoroughly recognized that if governments were weak and disorderly and impotent because of chronic revolutionary disturbance it was necessary to treat them on a wholly different footing from stable governments. But each insisted, furthermore, that where the government, as was the case with certain South American states, had been put upon a stable footing, where the nation had outgrown the period of revolutionary disturbance and was able to enforce order and justice at home, and in self-respecting fashion to show that it could make headway against outsiders, it was entitled as a matter of right to be treated by the United States on a footing of equality and mutual self-respect. I assured my hosts that this was emphatically my own view and had always been my own view.

I usually added that the history of my own country illustrated just the point they made. When there was civil war, we lost all power of enforcing respect for the Monroe Doctrine, we lost all power of carrying weight in the world on any conceivable subject. If we had split up into two or more wrangling confederacies, we should have become negligible quantities in the world at large, impotent to secure justice for ourselves and powerless to be of the least benefit to others. We would have occupied the same position that was occupied in their worst days by certain of the Latin-American republics.

It is sheer nonsense to talk of the Monroe Doctrine as an "outworn doctrine" so far as the Isthmus of Panama and the entire line of approach to the Panama Canal is concerned, including the insular and continental lands by which this line of approach can be controlled. Stable and orderly native govern-

ments, able to enforce respect from abroad and scrupulous to respect the rights of the others, if established along this line of approach, would of course relieve us of all necessity of invoking the Monroe Doctrine as far as they were concerned. But at present, if the United States did not assert its supremacy along this line of approach and over the Isthmus itself, the result would merely be that some European or Asiatic power would take its place, and this would be damaging to every American commonwealth. For example, Colombia, unless she is obsessed by perverse folly, will benefit even more than the United States by the building of the Canal, for it will afford her a means of traffic and intercourse relatively more important than is the case with the United States itself. When it became our imperative duty to build the Canal, and Colombia blocked the way, the United States Government exhausted every honorable expedient to get Colombia to permit us to treat her at the highest plane of consideration. The action finally taken will in the long run prove as beneficial to the people of Colombia as to the people of

the rest of the Western Hemisphere. The Canal would never have been built at all had the United States Government not taken precisely the action it did take. The American statesmen and publicists who champion any other view are either guilty of criminal folly or else are deliberately sinning against the light in the very meanest spirit of endeavor to secure partisan advantage by mendacity about the public record and by smirching the public honor.

I was much interested while in South America to find that every responsible public man thoroughly understood the need of our

having acted exactly as we did act as regards Panama. They treated the clamor against our action by certain men in our own country as indicating at the best weakness of head, and at the worst a desire to secure partisan advantage at the expense of public morality and interest. As one of the chief officials in one of the countries I visited put it, the case was exactly as if he were going down a narrow street on an important errand and met a man who would not let him pass; in such case he would beg the man to let

him pass; he would try to get by him on one side, and then on the other side; but if politeness proved of no avail he would finally thrust the man out of his way and continue on his errand.

On the other hand, refusal by ourselves to be wronged should go hand in hand with cordial recognition of good conduct in others. In three or four at least, and possibly others, of the Latin-American republics orderly and stable government has been achieved, and there is the same substantial respect for the rights of outsiders as is shown in our own community. In these, moreover, there

is some power to enforce respect from abroad. It is the clear duty of the United States to make it evident in all its relations that it treats these republics on a basis of full equality and of mutual self-respect. As regards these republics, the Monroe Doctrine exists only in the sense that they are its sponsors as much as is the United States, and that if ever in any dire need they should invoke the aid of the United States, the United States would stand willing and able to render such aid.

In the evening we went on a Uruguayan war-ship across to Buenos Aires.



PHOTOGRAPH BY F. HARPER
LEAVING MONTEVIDEO IN A URUGUAYAN WAR-SHIP

From left to right, Father Zahm, Mr. Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, and Mr. Kermit Roosevelt