



## AND ARGENTINE NEWS.

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(No. 1444.)

BUENOS AYRES, SATURDAY, JUNE, 17 1854.

(Established in 1826.)

### OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

#### MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER TO THE GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF BUENOS AYRES, 1854.

Buenos Ayres May 20 th. 1854.

[Concluded from our last.]

The Government now proceeds to give you account of its labours in the Department of FINANCE.

To enable the Government to go on preparing a general arrangement in the Department of Finance, it has had to devote its attention and employ all its efforts in order to diminish the general expenses of the Administration to such a point that they might be covered by the established revenues of the Country. Fortunately its efforts have not been vain, nor its moral sacrifices fruitless, as is shown by the results. Since the 12th of October last year, when the Government Proprietary was installed, not only all the expenses of the State have been paid with becoming punctuality, from the proceeds of its rents, but various credits arising from arrears due, including 2,273,352 \$ 2 rls. corresponding to the Caja de Depositos, have been cancelled; and the total amount of arrears that have been paid off up to the date, amounts to 8,649,341 \$ 1/2 r.

The Government has the satisfaction of being able to announce to you, that all the expenses and materials expended in the service, comprehending the equipment and armament of our land and naval force, provisions & other indispensable necessities, are scrupulously paid up to the present day, and can assure you, that there does not exist in the Department of Finance, a single document soliciting payment of any kind.

The Government takes special care that the expenses of the State be regulated in conformity with the Estimate, sanctioned by the Honourable Chamber.

Property is respected. There are no military exactions in the City or in the Country, either for provisions or for personal services. Whatever is taken or used is paid to its owner, without further delay, than the short and indispensable formalities of the public offices, simplified to such a degree that many documents of claims against the State, are discharged on the very day of their presentation.

Notwithstanding this scrupulosity, of which the Government has the satisfaction of acquainting Your Honourable Corporation, there exist in the Treasury, to meet the different demands of the public service, and the payment of preferent debts, the sum of 12,619,696 \$ 1/2 r. The Government purposes shortly to request authorization from the Assembly to discharge them, from their being, in its opinion, of a strictly privileged character; such as those arising from the Savings Bank, liquidated salaries and pensions in arrears, which ought in justice to be paid with punctuality.

Amidst the overwhelming duties by which it is harassed, as a natural consequence of the general derangement of the Country; arising from the disastrous era that have preceded us, it has not forgotten to descend to the consideration of many administrative details, that embraced the general conveniences of Commerce, and the various difficulties arising from the execution of the present Custom-house Law. To promote the former and obviate the latter, it has dictated all the measures upon both that it deemed useful, with a view to diminish the embarrassments of Commerce, in the dispatch of vessels, merchandise, and other operations of loading, unloading and transhipment, that were formerly very complicated, and have now been simplified in the manner that appeared most advantageous to the interests of Commerce, and without prejudice to the interests that correspond to the Exchequer.

The Government has the satisfaction of announcing to you, that the collection of the public rents is effected with purity and regularity. The Employes in the service discharge their duty with the scrupulosity and assiduity which it demands; the citizens also meriting a special mention, who have discharged and do at present discharge the duty of Assistant Appraisers, to the Inspectors, for the important commission of valuing merchandise.

The Commissioners appointed to ascertain the exact amount of the sums that had entered into the Caja de Depositos, in consequence of the embargoes executed by the orders of Rosas, and which the Government ordered to be restored, merit a very special and honourable mention. They have devoted themselves to this troublesome and laborious

task with commendable intelligence, assiduity and scrupulosity.

The Commission appointed to propose the means of carrying into effect the law creating the Caja de Depositos, and to submit for the consideration of the Government a draft of the reforms that, in their opinion, would be applicable to the Mint, have acquitted themselves with the tact that was to be expected from the patriotism and intelligence of the individuals who compose it, and the Government has the satisfaction of presenting them its cordials thanks.

Contraband appears somewhat diminished, doubtless in consequence of the prudent severity, wherewith the Government has punished its authors, in the interests that have proved compromised in this immoral traffic.

The Government declares to you, not merely that it intends, but that it is actually engaged in arranging the liquidation of all the internal debts, recognised and duly attested, comprehended within the period elapsed from the 1st January 1840 to the 3d. of February 1853.

The amount of these claims having been ascertained, the Government will submit to your Sovereign consideration, the draft of the measures requisite to their complete solution, in an adequate form, that may conciliate the public interests with the convenience of individuals.

When this important measure has been effected, the Government will direct its attention to the claims which, without being recognised, may deserve to be taken into consideration, in virtue of the proofs that may be brought forward, and the justice upon which the reclamations are founded. Finally, the arrangement of the public lands being the matter of gravest importance in the country, both from the complications and difficulties it presents, and from the immense amount it may produce, the Government has named a special Commission, consisting of five individuals, to propose to you the measures which in their opinion ought to be adopted, both with respect to the fee duty, and as to the sale of State lands, comprehending the cattle breeding districts, the building sites, and the allotments of Villas and farms, in the neighbourhood of this City and the other towns of the State. The Government trusts that this Commission will realize its expectations, and if so, their effects and future consequences will be of incalculable benefit and utility to the general interests of the State.

The Government has now the honor of presenting to the Honourable Legislature, the report of its labours in the Department of WAR AND MARINE.

The Government has the satisfaction of informing you, that nothing of a warlike character disturbs the welfare and tranquility of the State.

Providence, that watches over the destinies of our land, has deigned to make a parenthesis in our misfortunes, placing the olive of peace in the muskets of the defenders of the law, since the disappearance of the elements that combated us, on the 13th. July 1853.

To the era of tumult and disorder that we leave behind, has succeeded one of redress and tranquillity, which the Government endeavours to prolong.

The veteran army of the State, and the valorous National Guard, to whose united efforts and powerful arm Buenos Ayres owes the precious treasure of her institutions, have continued rendering themselves worthy of the sacred cause for which they contended, and of the consideration and esteem of the Government. The first being augmented by a regiment of cavalry, seven additional squadrons, and two companies of infantry, destined to relieve the veteran soldiers that for twenty years have garrisoned Bahia Blanca and Patagonia, and the second being regulated after the first breathing time that succeeded the dissolution of the rebels, render important services to the State, guaranteeing order and securing permanently the Empire of the law.

To elevate our forces to the state to which they have attained, the Government has put in action all its means. It has preserved and placed at the head of the corps, Chiefs of approved valour and irreproachable conduct, it has provided for their equipment, and increased their number, without having recourse to violent measures. It has regulated the service, and distributed to all points of the frontier the number of troops that were disposable, which continue to be gradually increased, for the purpose of placing our rural property in safety from the depredations of the Indians.

The National Guard of Infantry has also been organized in the country towns. In the other districts they have not been enrolled,

both because the Government desires that the inhabitants of the rural districts should apply themselves to their labours without any impediment whatever, acquiring a liking for home and industrial pursuits, and because the pacific state in which we are placed rendered it unnecessary.

Some pickets of cavalry have been called to reinforce the garrison of certain forts; who have cheerfully lent themselves for this service.

The term of service of certain individuals enlisted having expired, they have been discharged gradually. The meritorious soldiers about to return from Patagonia will also be discharged and incorporated in the corps of Invalids.

In conformity with the principles of economy that form the programme of the Administration, the Government has carried into effect certain partial reforms; by which some savings to the Treasury have been effected, without affecting in the least the regular march of the service.

The "Comandancia General de Marina" has been incorporated in the Ministry of that Department.

The Steamer "Constitucion" has been contracted to private individuals, to be occupied in commercial pursuits; the Government reserving the right of demanding her the day she may be required. Some other vessels of little importance have been sold, because in bad condition, and not required for the service.

The pay of the navy has been reduced to the rate established by the Tarif, before the increase accorded in consequence of the of seige.

The commissariats of War and Marine have been concentrated in one, consulting the better service.

A commission consisting of Naval Chiefs, have carefully surveyed the port of Ensenada, and publicity has already been given to its labours. Their result has been to make known with precision the advantages and disadvantages of that bay, which at no distant day will be seen crowded with sea-going Vessels; that will come to its waters to collect the rich products of our Southern districts, and repair their damages in the arsenals that will there be formed.

Since the 1st. of April, the Ministry of War and Marine has been served by Chiefs and Officers of the General Staff, who, despite their limited experience, acquit themselves creditably and to the satisfaction of the Government.

A few individuals have been excluded from the corps of Invalids, after the competent survey of a Medical Commission, as being unduly placed in it, without prejudice to the reconsideration of this measure by the Government, should it prove the any of those comprehended in it have been separated unjustly or by mistake.

Notwithstanding the want of a specific law, the Government, from a principle of justice, has accorded the incorporation with the Invalids, of the valiant National Guards, who were disabled in the defence of our institutions during the late rebellion, declaring them entitled to the benefits of the Military Regulation of 1801, till your Honourable corporation sanction a measure.

Their widows, to whom the law does not accord a pension, have been assisted as far as the limited resources of the Treasury would permit.

Many other widows of the meritorious soldiers of the independence, some of whom have died in exile, others fighting against Rosas, and not a few under the dagger of the "Mashorca" have presented reclamations, soliciting the pension that in justice and equity belongs to them. The Government, prevented by the law from disposing of these reclamations, and also limited to the resources accorded by the Estimate of the Budget, has already submitted these reclamations to the preceding Legislature, earnestly requesting the dictation of a measure that may embrace all the aforementioned cases.

The Government also awaits a resolution, that may enable it to take into consideration the reclamations of certain Chiefs and Officers who having returned to the Country, after a long and painful emigration, and after having combated gallantly for the liberty of the Country, solicit their incorporation into the army.

The Government, anxious to adopt a course different from that of their predecessors, with regard to the Savage Indians, has employed every means to introduce the light of civilization among the tribes that inhabit the desert.

The celebrated Calchura, one of the most important Caciques of the Pampas, both from the considerable number of Indians that

are subject to his orders, and from his intelligence and discretion, has sent one of his Sons to the Government, that he may be educated in our Colleges, serving at the same time as the guarantee of a permanent peace on his part. Cacique Ancoallo has done the same, and the Ministry of War has already received notice that other Caciques of importance are preparing to send theirs.

The Government has in view opportunely to despatch a religious mission for the friendly tribes, to illuminate the heart of the infidels with the light of Christianity, converting these unfortunate beings to the worship of the true God.

Nevertheless, with circumspect precaution, the Government has placed our frontier on a respectable footing of defence, confiding its direction to able and experienced Chiefs.

On this account, the Government cannot omit specially recommending the Chiefs and Officers of the Frontier, of the different Departments. The zeal, intelligence, and assiduity wherewith these Chiefs labour in the organization of their respective Departments merit the consideration of Your Honourable Corporation. The Government on its part, congratulates itself on their election, and at the same time hopes by their aid to attain the complete organization of the rural districts.

In concluding this compendious sketch of its labours in the Department of War, which the Government has the honor of submitting to the consideration of your Honourable Assembly, it only remains for it to say, that the Land and Naval Forces are completely equipped; our Park and public stores abundantly supplied; and a hundred pieces of artillery, with their corresponding dotation, ready for action, should it be necessary.

But the Government cannot conclude without manifesting to you, that the actual Inspector of Arms has efficaciously contributed to many of the labours in this Department, submitting to your Honourable Corporation; and without recommending the assiduity of the actual Commandant of the Park, to whom is due the merit of the brilliant situation of that establishment.

It only remains for the Government to salute you in the name of the Army, on commencing your legislative labours. It promises through its organ, respect to the Law, and subordination to the Constituted Authorities.

After the gratifying report submitted to you, it is not an exaggerated arrogance to say, that the State of Buenos Ayres, does not fear war, should she be provoked to it, though she anxiously desires peace with all the world.

She confides in her Army, in her Navy, in her park, all placed on a respectable footing; and above all in the patriotism and decision of the citizens, which is the powerful column on which really Republican Governments repose.

Such, Honourable Legislators, is a faithful picture of the situation of the State, sketched in outline, but on an accurate basis of truth and sincerity. The Constitution is now sworn. Honor and glory to that Chamber of Representatives, that in two notable periods of its existence, was the insuperable barrier on which the most daring projects of ambition and chieftainship foundered. It knew worthily to fulfil its mission amid conflicts, and despite innumerable obstacles. It heroically defended its political existence and sovereignty, by defending the existence and sovereignty of the People whom it represented, proving that all its ambition consisted in ceasing to exist, after having signed with imperturbable serenity the fundamental law of the State. This sacred deposit is confided to your hands. It is your duty, and will be your glory to look it in our hearts and habits, elevating Buenos Ayres to the highest pitch of prosperity and greatness, upon the pedestal of that peace which the Country and the Government strive to fortify and consolidate, in every possible manner.

PASTOR OBLIGADO.  
IRENEO PORTELA,  
JUAN BAUTISTA PEÑAL,  
MANUEL DE ESCALADA.

[COPY].  
His Excellency  
Dr. D. Ireneo Portela.

Buenos Ayres May 20th 1854.  
The undersigned, H. B. M.'s V. Consul, feels much pleasure in complying with instructions he has received to convey to the Government of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, as well as from the South American Steam Navigation Company, their grateful acknowledgements for the important ser-





