

monopoly, rather than to create an improved national merchant marine.

In the course of his book, Professor Véliz deals authoritatively and interestingly with a number of topics as they affected Chilean shipping: the California gold rush, the war with Spain in 1865, the War of the Pacific, the nitrate boom, and the First World War. He also relates his theme to domestic political developments. He is at pains to debunk excessive nationalist pride in Chilean shipping (perhaps an outgrowth of Chile's naval prowess), for he shows that through much of its history it consisted, largely, of foreign built ships, often considerably the worse for wear, and on foreign officers and seamen. (This is no longer true today.) The ships have often been owned, also, by foreigners established in Chile. He also shows nationalist criticism of the Customs Law of 1864 drafted by the French economist, Courcelle-Seneuil, as destructive of the Chilean economy to be unjustified. It was far from being a doctrinaire liberal project.

The text of this work is remarkably free of errors (typographical or other); it is embellished by a number of interesting photographs of ships and ports; it is also followed by a number of useful statistical appendices and a select bibliography. Students of modern Chilean history have reason to be grateful to Professor Véliz and the Instituto de Economía of the University of Chile has reason to be highly satisfied with this first monograph in its historical series.

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*La Argentina se hizo así.* By GUSTAVO GABRIEL LEVENE. Buenos Aires, 1960. Librería Hachett S.A. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 298. Paper.

This attractively illustrated volume offers a survey of Argentine history from the arrival of the Pedro de Mendoza expedition to the inauguration of Arturo Frondizi. Divided into twenty chapters of which half are devoted to the colonial period, this work tends to focus on the economic and social aspects of Argentine development rather than the narrowly political. Cultural events are noted briefly while special attention is given to explaining the origin and meaning of gaucho and other expressions used in the area.

Gustavo Gabriel Levene is a veteran secondary school teacher, a writer of historical dramas, and currently rector of the well-known Escuela Cangallo in Buenos Aires. In this as in other works (see his *Presidentes argentinos* reviewed in *HAHR*, LXIII, no. 1 (1963),

p. 139, he is directing himself to the general public, not the specialist, and his purpose, as he puts it, is to spread understanding among both Argentines and foreigners of how this nation came to be. He has succeeded in producing a highly readable volume, one that can be read with profit and enjoyment by adults as well as young people. The ironic touches he employs in dealing with Argentina's past sets this work off from much of the existing literature.

Levene's interpretation of that past adheres pretty much to the liberal tradition. He sees the colonial era as an arid and unprogressive one and in the first half of the nineteenth century his great hero is Rivadavia. Rosas on the other hand is depicted as a reactionary, a defender of the colonial system and a tool of the British to boot. His regime is made responsible for the economic disequilibrium between Buenos Aires and the interior and for the social inequities resulting from concentrated land ownership that complicated the democratic organization of the nation after Caseros.

In his treatment of the role of foreign capital in developing Argentine resources, Levene, drawing on economic historians like the late Ricardo Ortiz, tends to give emphasis to the negative aspects. But if he is quick to blame British imperialism for distorting Argentina's economy, he is equally forthright in denouncing German imperialism for deforming its army. In the last analysis Levene's commitment is to a democratic as well as economically free Argentina and it is in the light of these values that he judges Argentina's rulers down to Frondizi.

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*Folklore del Paraguay.* By PAULO DE CARVALHO NETO. Quito, Ecuador, 1961. Editorial Universitaria. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 475. Paper.

The author deploras being unable to stay longer in Paraguay—he was there hardly two years—to study the “immeasurable wealth of folklore material,” as he declares, of that little known South American country. His accomplishments in such a brief period, however, reveal that he has taken full advantage of every minute of his visit. Not only did he produce an extraordinarily informative book but blazed the way for future students to follow in his footsteps, mapping a road which will probably necessitate few rectifications.

*Folklore del Paraguay* is the first attempt to investigate with technical skill this field of knowledge in an area where there were no specialists and only a few amateurs doing their best without much