

ability to weigh the findings with true objectivity, as has obviously been done.

Given these preconditions, Professor Goldrich has demonstrated excellence in handling of the measurement techniques and brilliance in sorting out significance. This cannot fairly be called a historical work but rather must be found to be a good transitory view of current events, or perhaps to the very perceptive even a tentative guide to the future. I am certain that even the author would want to change certain delicate shades of opinion on Cuban-Panamanian similarities post the October crisis only two years after his poll in Panama. Since this short study was written in May, 1961, I await his next with interest.

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#### THE ANDEAN REGION AND NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

*Periodismo meridiano. Paz y trabajo de Julio César Salas.* By P. N. TABLANTE GARRIDO. Mérida, Venezuela, 1959. Publicaciones de la Facultad de Humanidades de la Universidad de los Andes. Illustrations. Pp. 38. Paper.

Historians concerned with the 1909-1935 dictatorship of Juan Vicente Gómez wish to examine the 1899-1908 dictatorship of Cipriano Castro which nurtured it. Valuable references in Caracas abound but provincial materials dealing with the Castro era are not plentiful for western Venezuela.

Now the University of the Andes in Mérida, capital city of the state of the same name, has published a slim volume giving significant glimpses of economic conditions in western Venezuela at the time.

Julio César Salas published and edited a monthly newspaper, *Paz y Trabajo*, in the town of Egido, four miles southeast of Mérida. Between August 1, 1904, and October 24, 1908, Salas produced forty issues, some of which contain reports on agricultural

problems and market prices for Venezuelan coffee, sugar, and other products.

Each issue contained only four pages. Three front pages and two inside pages are reproduced in this short monograph on the news contained in the *Salas* monthly. Most issues included a literary essay, discussing the ideas of Miranda, Bolívar, or other *pensadores venezolanos*. But the chief item of historiographic value *Paz y Trabajo* has for Latin Americanists centers in the data on provincial economic life.

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*La educación en Venezuela en 1870.* By ANGELINA LEMMO. Caracas, 1961. Instituto de Antropología e Historia. Facultad de Humanidades y Educación. Universidad Central de Venezuela. Serie de Historia. Notes. Pp. 138. Paper.

This is an excellent little study of the Decree of 1870 of Antonio Guzmán Blanco calling for free, compulsory public education in Venezuela. It avoids involvement in the controversy surrounding the career of Guzmán Blanco and confines itself to tracing the efforts during the period 1870-75 to secure the ideal of public education in Venezuela. The study presents the liberal belief in public education as a means of emancipating the masses, but does not argue the point nor question too deeply the motives of Guzmán Blanco. It is concerned with the problems encountered in implementing the Decree of 1870 and with the men dedicated to that reform.

Nevertheless, the study reveals that progress in education in Venezuela was frustrated by conditions of political instability. There was no shortage of men of vision in Venezuela, such as Juan Bautista Dalla-Costa, Governor of the state of Guayana, who initiated programs in adult and vocational education in his state. However, before his work bore fruit he was deposed by revolutionary action. Similarly, the author points out that such problems