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Review: Economics of South America

Author(s): W. B.

Review by: W. B.

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ECONOMICS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

'Panama to Patagonia.' By Charles M. Pepper. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1906. Size 9 x 6, pp. xx + 398. *Map and Illustrations*. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The commercial relations of South America will undergo certain changes by the construction and opening of the Panama canal. In 1905 the author visited the Western Republics, and his book describes the country traversed; but his chief object is to describe the present, and speculate on the future, economic and industrial development of the republics of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. The point of view is that of the United States, which country, by its control of the canal, will benefit materially by the shortening of its sea route to the west coast of South America.

The author claims that not only will most of the trade of the west coast, which at present goes by way of the Magellan straits, go through the canal, but that, by the series of railways across the Andes now under construction or in contemplation, some of the rubber of the Amazon, wheat of Argentina, and minerals of Bolivia, which at present flow to the Atlantic, will be captured for the Pacific and Panama route, but—we shall see. The trade of the headwaters of the Amazon may be interfered with, but it is questionable whether much will travel upstream. As regards the Argentina wheat—why should it cross the Andes? for what market?

There are full statistics. Products, shipping tonnages, populations, distances between ports, and the saving of mileage and time between the United States ports and those of South America due to the canal, all are given. Discomforts and incidents of travel, the manners and customs of the people, are noted. Climates are discussed and temperatures given. There is a chapter on the nitrate deposits of Peru, and another on Chilean social questions in which an amusing tale of the ballot-box is related. In the chapter discussing the Munro doctrine and its application to South America, comparisons are drawn between the "blundering, even stupid" English policy of investments and that of the "timid, over-cautious" Germans, and the author thinks that probably the English have been paid greater dividends "in proportion to the capital."

The book is well illustrated, there being fifty photographs depicting harbours, towns, industries, and native life. There are four very indifferent maps: on one it is allowed that the "boundaries between countries are indicated only approximately," reference notes are omitted from that of the Panama canal, while there is no scale on the other two.

W. B.

GENERAL.

THE FOUNDER OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

'Klassiker der Naturwissenschaften herausgegeben von Lothar Brieger-Wasservogel.'
IV. Band. Varenius. Von Prof. Dr. S. Günther. Leipzig. [1906]. Verlag von Theod. Thomas.

Probably less is known of Varenius than of any of the early geographers whose books have been landmarks in the history of science, and Prof. Günther has performed a grateful service in piecing together the scattered references to a life which was in truth itself but the fragment of a life, breaking off at the moment when the masterly 'Geographia Generalis' gave promise of a brilliant future. This memoir devotes six chapters to facts about Varenius, the bibliography of his great book and the opinions of later generations upon it, and then seven chapters to the book itself, summarizing the argument and throwing much light upon the state of contemporary geographical knowledge. The text occupies 125 pages; the notes which follow, 644