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A Journey to the North of the Argentine Republic: Discussion

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save locally, of that truly wonderful country overflowing with milk, honey, corn, wine, oil, and riches that the hearts of men desire.

Before the reading of the paper, the PRESIDENT said: I have the pleasure of introducing to the meeting the reader of the paper, Mr. O'Driscoll, who will give you an account of the very little-known part of the Cordilleras of the Andes, or rather two parts, one near the frontier of the Argentine Republic and of Bolivia, and the other somewhat further south. I will now ask Mr. O'Driscoll to address you.

After the reading of the paper:—

Colonel CHURCH: Mr. O'Driscoll has this evening shown us views over some of the tramping grounds of my youth. He has gone a little further to the north-west than I travelled, but where he left the country to the north I went immediately northwards up the Rio Grande branch of the Humahuaca and reached Peru by the way of Bolivia. Well do I remember that river; I never want to see another like it. For 250 miles up its boulder-covered bed it was nothing but jagged rocks. You may judge a little of the character of the riding when I tell you I forded it on one day fifty-one times. Such is the character of the country that the river is hemmed in by lofty mountains such as have been shown you this evening. One finally emerges from the headwaters of the stream and reaches the tableland of Bolivia. All this country was a portion of the southern outpost of the Indian empire, and I am a little disposed to differ from Mr. O'Driscoll that all of its mines were opened by the old Spaniards; I think the Incas got a great deal of the copper that they used for instruments from that very district. Moreover, the slopes of these mountains were the scenes of many hot contests between the Inca army and the Chirihuanos branch of the Guarani tribes of Paraguay. What we have seen to-night is a country which is destined to become an enormously productive mineral district. It is probably one of the richest copper fields in the world, and the fact that the Argentine Republic, with that energy which characterizes its people, is now turning its energies to its mineral wealth is a very good sign, and it must increase the prosperity of that wonderful land. It attracts attention almost equal to North America, and certainly, in proportion to its area, its million square miles ought to produce in varied products as much as any other million square miles on the surface of this Earth.

Dr. EVANS: We are much indebted to Mr. Florence O'Driscoll for his graphic account of a journey through very interesting country. It is about fourteen years ago that I first met him very nearly in the centre of South America, close to the borders of Brazil and Bolivia. At that time he, like myself, was a new-comer in the South American continent, but he has made good use of his time since. He still, however, seems to find it hard to reconcile himself to the Spartan fare of the wilderness. I was especially interested in his account of the system of wire transport. There are many regions in the Andes, both of Bolivia and Peru, which can only be opened up by the use of that means of locomotion. I was also glad to hear of the progress of the railway northward into Bolivia, and I look forward to the time when we shall have a continuous railway service from Buenos Ayres to the Caribbean sea. All those interested in the South American continent look with envy on the great railway network of North America, and hope some day to see something like the same state of things in the south.

The PRESIDENT: We have to thank Mr. O'Driscoll for an interesting paper respecting the country which he has described most admirably both by his lecture and by his illustrations. The meeting will have noticed that he described two regions very distant from each other; the first being the Sierra de Santa

Catalina which I think peculiarly important from a geographical point of view, because here, or very near it, the three ranges of Peru become the one range dividing Chili from Argentina and running down into Patagonia, and that particular portion of the Andes is very little known indeed. This is the first time I have met with a traveller who has ever visited those heights of the Sierra da Santa Catalina, and, so far as I remember, I know of only one who has ever gone over that country as a traveller into Bolivia. There is an account of a young lady, living in the seventeenth century, who stole her aunt's scissors while she was in church in St. Sebastian in Spain, stole her keys, escaped out of a convent into a little wood, and there turned her novice's clothes into a boy's clothes, went and hired herself on board a ship, and went out to South America. She there entered as a private in the Spanish army, did good service, and gained a commission as ensign. Then she had the misfortune to kill another gentleman in a duel—having killed three or four others before—and she had to run for it. She appears to have gone over that very pass, and to her great joy she saw two men sitting on a stone, and felt sure she would get some food from them, but when she got near she found they were both dead, with nothing in their pockets except money, which was no good up there. Then she made her way down to Tucuman, living on roots and *tola*, and there she was most hospitably received by a Spaniard. But she began making love to his wife; the Spaniard was furious, and she had to go. She was chased by the infuriated husband, so she turned to the left and crossed the Sierra de Santa Catalina, all that time for hundreds of miles living on roots and *tola* and small rodents. How she could possibly have gone over that country by herself is most marvellous, but it is perfectly certain that she did so, because there is documentary evidence of the journey. Now, that young lady is the only person I have ever read of who has travelled by that Santa Catalina route to Potosi alone. I need not relate the end of the young lady; and I only mention the story here to show how very few persons have travelled over the route. I am sure we are deeply indebted to Mr. O'Driscoll for the admirable description he has given of it, and especially of that very rich mining region, and for the graphic way in which he has described to us the mountains and mountain district of Rinconada. I am sure that the whole meeting will join with me in giving a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. O'Driscoll for his paper.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE AMERICANIST CONGRESS AT STUTTGART.

By the PRESIDENT.

THE Fourteenth International Congress of Americanists, under the presidency of Prof. Karl von den Steinen of Berlin, was opened at Stuttgart by the King of Wurtemberg on August 18. Our Society was represented by the President; and among geographers and travellers there were H.R.H. the Princess Therese of Bavaria, PHIL.D., Le Duc de Loubat, Dr. Reiss, Dr. Baessler, Dr. Boas of New York, Count Rosen of Stockholm, and the Count de Créqui-Montfort, all distinguished for their American travels and researches. There were also present Dr. Haring, the Rector of the University of Tübingen, Prof. Hamy (Membre de l'Institut), Dr. Holmes, the Chief of the Bureau of Ethnology at