

AUTÓGRAFOS
COLECCIÓN CASAVALLE

Autar de la obra "The States of the River
Meta" y de otros escritos sobre agricultura y gene-
ralia. - Menos politicos en la Amazon (Luzerne)
el 21 de noviembre de 1877. J. Mitre

Mr. Brigadier General

Don Bartolome Mitre

(3)

Dear Sir I received with pleasure your esteemed
few lines of 11th inst. enclosing me the two printed
articulitos which I sent you. - Accept my thanks. I did not
send them with any intention or wish that they should
be reproduced in La Nacion - but sent them to yourself
simply to show you, that, "battered & wounded" as I am,
I retain the staunchness of an old soldier in
the cause of consolidating the liberties & well being
of your Country.

I have also received my M. S. treatise on the
"Struggle for existence among plants," your remarks
on which are flattering & highly appreciated by me.

One of the reasons that induced me to send it to you
was that I have long thought that the daily press
wants more matter of material interest and general
usefulness, & it struck me that La Nacion would
find its account in attracting a class of readers not
wholly political. - The two papers that are dedicated
to Agricultural & pastoral matters - the two "Analisis"
are so entirely theoretical & made up of second hand
matter without any special application to the conditions
of this country, that I thought La Nacion might think it
worth while to break the chains of the delinquents, by
publishing in its columns a paper or two of original
matter of immediate & direct application to the
conditions you were interested in - the impractical being
the bane of every thing here. I shall now follow my

previous determination not to publish - at least
not here.

I notice all are running wild on Colonization schemes
The latest I see follows my indication as regards the
localities which are suitable. All have however
the self evident object of "raising the wind" by loans.
How they are successful in getting hold of money I fear
that as in the case of the "Public Works Loan"
very little would be applied to the ostensible purpose

What would you say to the dedication of the proceeds
of sales of outside State lands, to the formation of inside
Colonial ^{settlements} in convenient & suitable districts? My
own opinion is that this is the legitimate course to
follow, & I am half inclined to tell Carlito & Rufino
so - & perhaps back up my indication in print.

I think Rufino Varela sets the revenue, derivable from
sale of Provincial land, down at something like £150,000
per Annum - Now £100,000 employed honestly in creating
settlements along the river board & lines of railway would
be good work ^{to begin with}, & each year after the first two or
three, the amount ^{or working capital} (through the sales of the lands of the settlements
or colonies) would accumulate - if the thing were honestly
administered.

I am, as you see, of opinion that
the interests of the country are best served by plain
speaking - to do good work I consider that a stop
must be put to "raising the wind", and honest
application of revenue must be enforced by ^{the} ~~press~~
pressure of public opinion.

Until a country, or people, can manage its own
affairs - hold its own purse strings, appoint its own
representatives & hold these responsible - there is
not much hope; for assuredly it will be plundered and
oppressed. To hold the purse strings is the one efficient
weapon of liberty. Accept my dear Sir my best

wishes, & thanks for your courteous indulgence

I believe me yours very sincerely

Walter Latham

32 Reconquista

Los Alamos 18th Octbr 1875

It must be noted that private proprietors are now subdividing & selling lands in lots for farms, & that therefore the Government of N. Province has merely to aid the movement by initiating the work of settlement in the most advantageous localities - & soon every "highborn" or "lindero" will follow - offering their lands for sale as the demand for settlement is made.

The most efficient immigration agent that could be appointed, or conceived, is security for life & property - The 3 plagues of the country are Locusts, "autoridades" (as at present existing) and "secas" - so long as the representatives of authority are corrupt & arbitrary there is little hope; & there will be corrupt until the people have the purse strings in their own hands.