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JUSTICIALIST SOCIAL AID



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CONCEPT AND EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL AID

SOCIAL assistance is really the result of the political evolution of peoples, and of the maturity of their institutions because it is essentially the achievement of a lofty ideal.

In times when, by heredity, sovereignty was a divine attribute of kings, and when not even the nobility would dare to question it, help for the needy was left to the magnanimity and pleasure of those who worried only about the canons of their gilded throne, and gave only a minimum of time to God of whom they were the representatives.

The political evolution of the community—it did not begin with the masses—created new obligations for the all-powerful one. Nevertheless, there was no modification in the old system: the enslaved people's lot did not improve because sovereignty continued to be the absolute attribute of the monarch who exclaimed in the face of his people: "L'Etat, c'est moi".

The gradual loosening of absolutism—torn up by the roots in some countries—caused the responsibility of this task to be shared among the dominant feudal lords and the nobility who did not fulfil the work of assistance to the slaves or satisfy the mandates of God in conformity with their investiture; they worried only about their economic interests which were guaranteed by the good health and production of the men who belonged to their domain.

The contractual sense of life in society transferred sovereignty to the people, and Montesquieu and Rousseau kindled the fire which aroused the common people who called for a State which would fulfil its human obligations before divine mandates which nobody could have ever given it.

In spite of this, the egoism of man and the mentality which is strongly encased in the concept of human privileges—coming from the divine—clouded over the elementary consideration of such a profound problem; and, paradoxically, became more and more dehumanized as a result of the rise of capitalism which now as never transformed man into a wolf.

*After the Council of Carthage, the Catholic Church began to acquire a universality and strength which, in the nineteenth century, gave it a place of ever-increasing importance; it reached its apogée in 1891 with the encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, which was written with a view to direct intervention in social problems. The encyclical called the attention of peoples and governments which because of the whirlwind of the cruelest of injustices would give rise to the rebellion of the masses, a fact which characterizes the twentieth century.*

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This historic cycle of the political life of the peoples placed more and more the task of help—now transformed into assistance—on the shoulders of governments which were still affected by the "laissez faire, laissez passer" attitude, and on the action of private enterprise which, through the influence of christian principles—erroneously interpreted—, mistook the idea of assistance for a charity offering.

The complete transfer of sovereignty to the hands of the people also brought the necessary pressure to bear on the State which at length imposed the juridical concept of the Providence State as the only preventive solution to the incipient social rebellion and the correlative dangers of popular extremism which began to lay waste the world.

We are now right in the midst of the capitalistic epoch. Governments are lost in the idea of economy, and the thoughts of theorists and idealists find no echo in either the minds or hearts of the magnates who hold back political power from the people. Social Assistance has not got the practical form which history and evolution suggest; because it is necessary to modify another deep concept: the idea of justice.

The sense of justice which is limited by the narrow-mindedness of humanity and of a liberal appreciation of rights, completely divorced from a social idea of things, brings the conscious exploitation of men and a position of cruel indifference of those who observe from above the sad panorama of poverty and misery of those who are socially submerged.

The causes which provoke this situation are denied by those who produce them and by the others who allow them; what is unjust appears to be just, and the immediate reaction of the masses is considered unnatural and something to be put down at the expense of blood and fire.

The very painful experience of the last world war began definitely to convince governments and the minorities who lorded it over others that it was indispensable to tend towards the Providence State which had been promulgated but not admitted since the beginning of the century.

The liberal concept of justice was little by little judged to be out of date and began to be slowly replaced by the social idea of justice. Social assistance thus acquired its true form, and tended to become daily more and more the task of the State.

The nations which suffered intense social upheavals in Europe and the young nations born to a state of social conscience in the young America have convinced the privileged minorities by the force of their struggles that the miserable condition of the proletariat masses is purely the result of the conduct of departure from the natural line of right and from the most elementary sense of humanity.

This stage marked the definite arrival of the practice of a real social assistance conceived as an act of reparation by the State for the injustices which the evolution of the times has not allowed it to prevent among the society which it represents and governs.

The young America has become the greatest experimental field in this practice.

SOCIAL AID IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

COLONIAL REGIME

THE Republic of Argentina had been preceded by two centuries of Spanish domination when the era of rough English imperialism began. As was natural in those times, its primitive inhabitants knew more of the commercial monopoly than of the advantages of a rising community organized on the basis of a social and international act of living together. In that way, poverty was that which characterized the times of the Viceroyship of the River Plate. If it is impossible to look upon a conqueror of the sixteenth century as an agent of social aid, that fact would lead us not to justify his initiative in the historic moment.

As regards social assistance, the work carried out in this respect by His Majesty, the King of Spain, does not fill a quarto; but it is an invaluable instrument in helping us to appreciate the social state indicated. The following is a bare list of the creations during the times of the Viceroyship:

In 1585, the San Martin Hospital with a capacity for thirty persons; years later, the House for Waifs and Strays, for orphans and virtuous maidens; in 1778, a Census of the Population which gives 32,000 as the number of the inhabitants of the city of Buenos Aires; the census was taken at the initiative of the Viceroy, Juan J. Vertiz who later on founded the Home for Orphans and Exposed Children, and the Hostel for Beggars.

INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

The Revolution of May 25, 1810, proclaimed the end of colonialism and of Spanish tutelage. It marked the birth of the first free government by men of the Argentine Republic who six years later, July 9, 1816, declared political independence at a time when the country was in arms for its freedom and that of the sister nations of the continent.⁽¹⁾

There are some happy chapters in the history of social aid in Argentina during this period. It is but just to declare the fact, in so far as the first measures adopted by the revolutionary government were aimed at abolishing the serious political and social vices of the Viceroy government. Thus in 1813, the "Law of Freedom at Birth" was promulgated and proclaimed which established as its exalted premise that in a country which had been declared free, no man could be subjected to any form of slavery. In the

(1) See a history of the Emancipation of Argentina.

same way, the law of the enforced service of Indians was revoked; it was an inheritance of the Spanish domination and allowed and encouraged the traffic and exploitation of the indigenous natives. One of the best forms of social assistance is, doubtless, to help one's fellowman to free himself from the weight of slavery.

It will prove useful to recall that during the independence period, Argentina lived through the hazardous events of the war. Everything that was done in the matter of social assistance was subject to the prime objective of gaining victory through the national forces. Social assistance in this or any other form wins the feelings of man, even in the vicissitudes of battle. It may be sufficient to give as an example illustrative of the common effort of the Argentines in the cause of liberty any of the episodes, such as that of the ladies of Mendoza, which are to be found in the History of the Emancipation of Argentina, knowledge which will not come amiss for the reader.

THE 1810-1943 PERIOD

ONCE Independence was attained, Argentina tackled numerous national problems and began the task of organization. Social assistance was never precluded from the work of government. All succeeding governments paid adequate attention to the problems related to the health of the population, assistance to old people, the poor and neglected.

Let it suffice to point out in this respect that Bernardino Rivadavia, the first citizen to become President of the Argentine Republic soon took up the cause of the infant nation as regards social aid, and united in one all the entities and establishments dispensing succour. He did so for the purpose of giving stronger impulse and making more effective the work of help for the despoiled ones of the country. This new entity was called the Society of National Beneficence which for nearly eight decades, and with the resources proper to the times, filled up the gaps left by the State in the matter of social aid.

The Argentine people who are generous by nature, never failed to give solid backing to this institution which, though it may have been ancient in its ideas of social aid, was more effective than the precarious institutions which were formerly run by religious congregations, and which they now replaced.

During this long period between 1810 and 1943, there occurred transcendental political, economic and social phenomena. This work is not meant to be an analysis of them; we shall mention only a few of the more important ones: the huge potential wealth of the country was handed over without protest to the landowners and as a corollary to that the oligarchical landowners began to manage the wealth and property of the people; vital sources of wealth were uninterruptedly ceded to foreign international trusts, and in spite of the protest of the people electoral frauds were perpetrated as a representative mechanism of the Nation.

All that meant that every trace of social assistance was virtually wiped out because there is very scanty evidence of it during this long period. The contrary can truly and with reason be affirmed. The state of affairs which we have pointed out gave rise to a serious crisis among large sectors of the population. The great wealth of a few was coupled with the poverty of many. In the absence of a fundamental equilibrium between the different social classes, the country was witness for many years of the evils accruing from the state of poverty and the painful phenomenon of social injustice. But in the background of these unfortunate events, the spirit of the people was always present—and on this occasion, too. The Argentine is imbued with a spirit of solidarity by nature; he showed it at the time we are speaking of, for he has left one of the best examples of this noble virtue. Notable undertakings in the line of social help brilliantly carried to a head speak eloquently of it.

It would be sufficient to mention the civil reaction which followed the disastrous earthquake that laid waste the Province of Mendoza in 1861, or the self-sacrificing action of the population in fighting and conquering the yellow fever which struck Buenos Aires some years later. There it was that hundreds of Argentine doctors and young students gave their lives unflinchingly and covered themselves with glory when their fellow-beings were in danger. Whenever there may be need or desire to search out high examples of the people: of their blind surrender, of their absolute disregard for life in the face of a collective emergency and the intrepidity shown in a terrific and uneven struggle which ended victoriously in 1871, one can turn to these times and find invaluable examples for the history of human solidarity.

Another example of Argentine solidarity is to be found in the task of the doctors during this period. There were few hospitals and many patients. They were faced with enormous needs and had little means to attend to them. Yet they did not take, or did not want to take, any other road than that of the hard one of their profession: a way of personal and silent effort and sacrifice, personal affection for science, unlimited love for the suffering and a total disregard for personal convenience. Argentine doctors have clothed their professions with the mantle of a real apostolate in their own country: the monastic early rising in the silent rooms of the hospital; work during the day without measuring time; an expending of energy to the complete forgetfulness of self; unending nights in contact with the suffering of the population; victory over illness at the expense of triumph over rest or sleep. Those who practise medicine are in a position to gain easy notoriety; however, an enormous contingent of Argentine medical celebrities shunned it and dedicated themselves with purely spiritual motives to the problems of their suffering peoples.

From the Argentine medical school there was formed another and one of the best of its kind which catered for a less illustrious but equally meritorious sector: the school for male nurses or hospital assistants. Its students were sons of the people who came to the hospitals to work and make a living without any other duties or obligations than those of attending to the needs proper to a career of duties and limited responsibilities. It can be said in praise of them that in the course of time these duties and responsibilities increased in a singular manner to the point of exalting their profession and winning the admiration of foreigners who witnessed the love with which they attended the sick. A very pleasant feature of the present time in Argentine polyclinics is to hear doctors and male and female nurses in amicable dispute as to who should have the right to say: "my patients". The fact is that both doctors and nurses carry out their respective duties as a professional duty and personal aspiration, and are urged on by the dictates of their hearts.

Much more could be said of the spirit of solidarity among the Argentine people, but the space available will allow us to make only brief mention of the spontaneity and sense of responsibility with which they have always loyally collaborated on diverse opportunities in order to remedy any particular situation of an afflicted sector.

Neither shall we omit to mention—it would be an affront to a worthy people—the traditional hospitality of the Argentines. It is part of their nature, and, cultivated under the shelter of the friendship of the people of the humble and rich homes of the estancia, it has won a place of privilege in the homes of both rich and poor.

It was during the years of a severe economic crisis that Argentine hospitality with respect to natives and foreigners acquired such a virtuous and indelible condition. It called the attention not only of Argentine chroniclers of the epoch but also of foreigners whose testimony is preserved in numerous writings.

Parallel with the events of those years, other transcendental events took place in the world which reached a climax in the last two wars. When a desire for peace appeared in the Universe, social justice sprang to life in Argentina and brought as one of its consequences a notable reform in the concept and practice of social assistance a brief synthesis of whose details we shall give the reader in the following pages.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

REVOLUTION OF 1943

IN the year 1943 there was war and chaos in the world. Argentine economy had to make an enormous effort, while the country had to struggle against the ghost of hunger which hovered over many peoples of the world. The situation was so tremendous in the Argentine Republic that it affected every social class. Submerged beneath all this were the people whose fundamental rights were violated in a regime which was called democratic because it seemed to be like all other regimes in the world. Democracy was in the fashion and was taboo. But the reality of things was quite the reverse of the system. Peoples were despoiled of their sovereignty and economic independence by the imposition of representatives whose beliefs and interests were foreign to those whom they were supposed to represent. The government of the people, by and for the people was a tragic derision, while the people were deceived by all and everything. Consequently, there was little change when a revolution broke out in 1943. There was nothing to hope for before, and in the moment of revolution there was no need to go on hoping . . .

But with the revolution there appeared a man who was different from other men, who dreamt, thought and planned things not in the usual run. The people did not as yet recognize him; he had to make gigantic struggles to get hold of what was best in the revolution and channel it along a road which was still untrodden by people who aspired to better things. It was the struggle of one man alone, a silent struggle which was soon to burst out into an unrestrained popular cry.

The masterly stroke of this lone fighter was an event which passed unnoticed at the beginning. It happened on November 27th. — a date which was soon to become

a red-letter day for the workers of Argentina because it marked the transformation of the old National Department of Labour which was sterile and deceitful, and typical of the old regime; it now became the Secretariat of Labour and Welfare.

THE MIRACULOUS LEVER

“Give me the fulcrum and I will move the world”.

The people began to hear about “Labour and Welfare” and to look at each other. “Labour”, they said, “that can’t be different from the Department we already know . . .” The word “Welfare” was new to them and elicited the most picturesque of commentaries.

But the lone fighter had found the lever of Archimedes. He called the workers and spoke to them face to face. They were astonished at first. “This man knows what he is talking about . . . He understands our struggles and seems to have guessed our aspirations”. Nearly all those who spoke with him for the first time came back again, bringing other companions with them. Within a few weeks representatives of all the unions in the country were coming to his office. The workers who at first were mistrustful were suddenly inspired with hope. They brought up their problems as they had not done for some time before; here was one whom they could trust.

The results were yet more surprising. The creator of the Secretariat of Labour and Welfare not only knew and understood the labour problems, but was also anxious to find a solution for them. He gave advice to the worried leaders, and made them see the force of work; he uncovered the threatening and boastful position of the oligarchy; he showed firmness of decision and will to go forward shoulder to shoulder with the workers . . . Soon, without the wise ones being aware of the fact, there arose from the Secretariat of Labour and Welfare an irresistible force, a surprising and exceptional labour offensive which struck at the very foundations of the oligarchical structure. The first conquests were obtained; the first statutes were decreed; the first strikes were called without the force of the State having to hearken to the anguish-laden call of the owners of ill-gotten riches who feared for their system of exploitation which they had carried on for so many years and which they believed eternal. And, miracle of miracles, the first strikes were won . . . Buenos Aires was witness of an unusual spectacle when the Secretariat of Labour and Welfare became the “Home of the Workers” in whose hundred corridors, offices and waiting rooms workers were to be seen. Employers began to appear in the mysterious building, one by one at first, then in groups, and, later on, almost in procession. Before, things used to be fixed up by lawyers and pettifogging lawyers in furtive visits when matters were not actually settled by a telephone call. Now, however, the big capitalists began their journey on the road to Damascus.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

The first impressions of the strange visitors were flattering. Perón did not throw them out; on the contrary, he invited them to sit down and discuss their problems. “We are not enemies of the industrialist who wants to make progress; neither are we against the idea of employing capital well and of making money produce”, he told them. The visitors looked at each other in surprise and with hope. “Well, then . . .”

Then, put the cards on the table and discuss any problems that exist. “Here you are on one side”, he told them, “and there are the workers on the other. To my way of thinking, both parties have the same rights, and the three, capital, labour and the State have equal importance in the problem”.

This line of thought was bound to give rise to scandal because this round table business introduced by the new secretary of Labour and Welfare was something inconceivable for the traditional capitalist who was linked up with the past and present capitalistic system throughout the world. So they they got up and left in a temper.

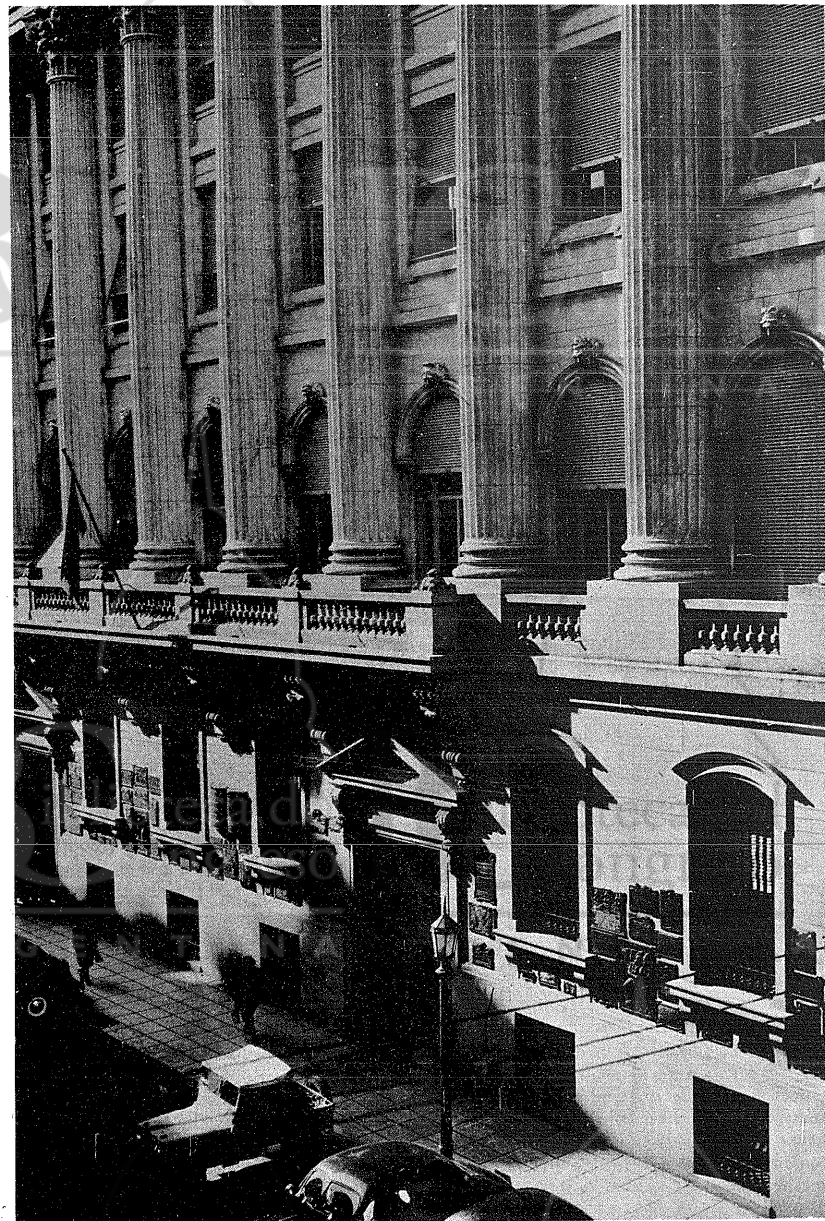
But they came back when they saw the labour march under way. They reluctantly agreed to sit down with their workers at the same table, present their arguments and tolerate the employee's side of the question. As Peron said, one saw two equal sides ranged against each other, two forces which should go along parallel to each other; and he added: "But in order to achieve this harmony which is our principal objective, it is necessary for those who have gained so much during so many years, to give up part of their enormous profits so that their workers —decisive factors of that wealth— participate in that common fruit. There must be *fewer rich men with too much wealth, and less poor people who are too poor*".

Arbitration committees were formed and labour conquests increased. The worker began to have confidence in himself. The people recovered what belonged to them: the conviction that they were a vital factor in the common welfare, and that what would now be given them was not a charity offering or the result of an exceptional situation created by a man who was already beginning to take over. It was nothing more or less than the fact that the rights of the people began to be a reality. It was the reverse of a regime which began to head in the direction of a democracy...

REVOLUTIONARY DECREE

The atmosphere of the country was becoming tense, because an economico-social (or, rather, an economic and the denial of the social) regime was on the way out as a failure. The system was hounded by two new magic words which were being repeated hundreds and thousands of times a day: SOCIAL JUSTICE. Everybody was talking about revolution; but that did not necessarily mean that everyone had the same thoughts. The oligarchs continued to dub the inane revolt with the name of "revolution" as well as a coup d'Etat or any other thing which would "put an end to the new system". The people and their leader spoke of revolution, and brought about a real, authentic and deeply significant REVOLUTION... All, from the Statute of the Peon and the Statute of the Journalist, which were, significantly, the first two achievements of Perón for two unions apparently different in form but suffering the same exploitation, to the first plans for comfortable and becoming houses for the workers, or the police assistance which as yet was but sketched out, or the growth of the union conscience which was now something to be reckoned with, all this was revolution. It shook the old capitalistic system to the very foundations. But there were two conquests in particular which caused the already bitter cup of the exploiting oligarchy to overflow. One was the historic Decree 33.302 whose number was to be repeated in the city, and was to become known almost immediately in the whole country and throughout the world. Within a week of its appearance, there was not a single fair-minded Argentine who did know and invoke the number with a joy which shone in his eyes, and which for the uninformed spectator could seem to be something magical and cabalistic.

Let us now have a look at the contents of Decree 33.302. It is fairly extensive and sums up many of the popular aspirations and aims of the Leader. One of its principal provisions says that every worker of the Republic must receive a full month's wages apart from the usual twelve months' salary. It contains many other provisions which make for the dignity and stability of the worker; but that long dozen, that bonus, which employers must pay their employees at the end of the year is the most revolutionary thing of all, because for the first time it has created a concrete social policy, a concept of humane social assistance for the benefit of all working men and



Partial view of the Ministry of Labour and Welfare building where General Perón began his great work for the benefit of the workers of the country.

women in the country. The Decree was the first step towards the fulfilment of the simple but tremendously profound thoughts of the Leader: "I want fewer rich men with too much wealth, and less poor people who are too poor". The bonus at the end of the years is but a small part of the extraordinary profits of capital; it is the first participation of the worker-producer (who makes, at least half of the wealth) in those fruits which until then were solely for the benefit of the capitalist who took advantage of the work of his personnel during the twelve months of the year.

Perón was not going to take anything that capitalism had in excess; but he did want the people to have a small share in the yearly balance, a small measure of happiness at the end of a tough year of work. That bonus was not a gift or a charity offering; it was purely and simply the *worker's share*, the fruit of the contribution of the people, an act of social justice, a consequence of the benefits resulting from the work.

The capitalists were not so much worried by the actual paying of the extra month as by the social significance of the bonus.

The other conquest which provoked the reaction of the oligarchs (from a social point of view) was the decree which authorized the creation and formation of professional associations. It gave all workers the right to form associations for the defense of their interests against the employers. This was the legal basis of a movement which was already well in advance, while it was also the stumbling block for the check-mated capitalists; the latter had no longer anything more to expect; from their lofty positions they could do nothing but resort to force.

There were other initiatives, too, which had for their purpose the security of the worker, illness and annual holidays with pay. These things, they thought, could still be disputed. But as regards the professional associations which suddenly sprang into being as something consummated and irrevocable to accept them would be to accept the Revolution, to accept the dignification of labour, to recognize and admit the place—their place—that the people were winning.

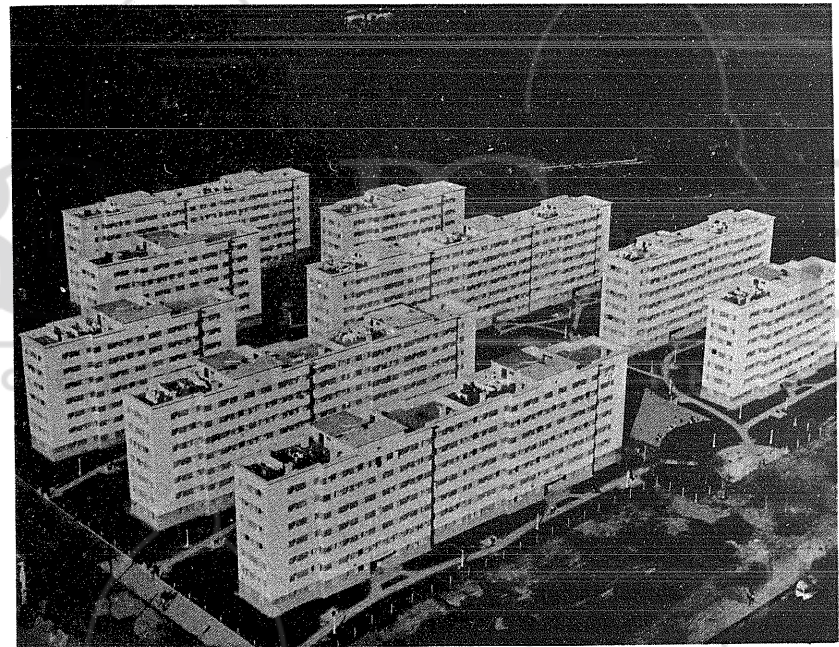
The Argentine oligarchy which is the same as that which still rules in the world did not give way. It did not catch on to the humane and social gesture which could have redeemed it. It reacted, conspired, sought help from its helpmates abroad...

OCTOBER 17, 1945

October of 1945 came with the revolution constructing and the oligarchy conspiring. Those who had made the old regime the "modus vivendi" succeeding in overthrowing Perón, separating him from the people; they put him in prison and thought they would thus be able to eliminate him. Oligarchs and capitalists alike went about shouting that the social policy had come to the end of its tether, that the statutes and decrees would not be carried out, that the demands of the unions would not be listened to, and, above all, that Decree 33.302 and that of the Professional Associations had gone to a better life before getting the opportunity to be put into practice for the first time.

God blinds those whom He wishes to damn... In politics there is practically no error which cannot be righted. However, there is a fundamental one which, like the river, can never turn back in its course. It is not that peoples lose so easily their capacity for believing and hoping. The Argentine people before Perón's time, like so many others in the world, gave resounding proof that such is not the case. The fatal stroke comes from the other side: the usurpers of the popular sovereignty; they consented to the defrauding of the people; they stood for representation which was not accorded them; they lost the sense of apprehension of that fundamental right; they became insensible to democracy and could now never turn back.

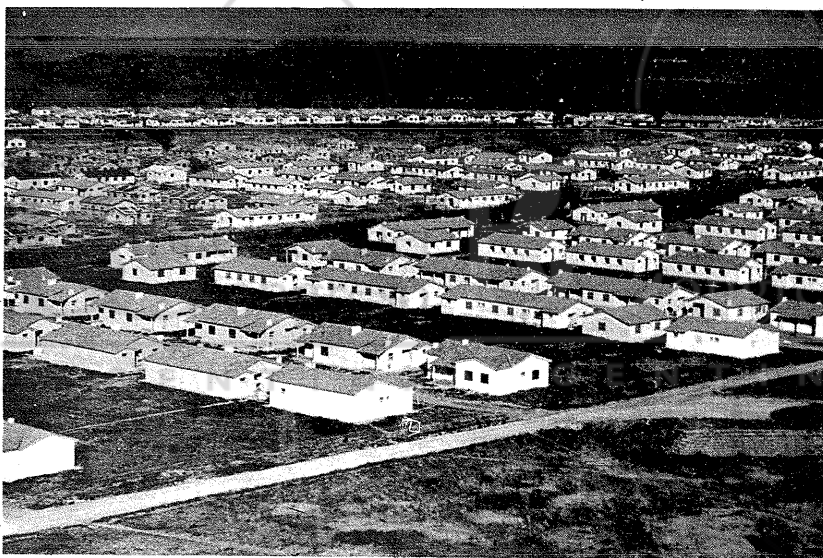
Such has been the case in the history of time, and such was the case with the old politicians who came back, led by the hand by Argentine capitalism —let it be



A magnificent work a district of Economic Houses. The modern architectural design is an outstanding feature.



The "Evita" City built in Ezeiza by the "Eva Perón" Foundation. The city is noteworthy for its size and architectural design.



Another view of the Evita City. Over fifty thousand people inhabit the City which has an area of several hectares. It is one of the greatest achievements of the Eva Perón Foundation.

An air view of the "Los Perales" District. Houses provided with all modern comforts are delivered to workers at economic prices.



understood that by *Argentine* capitalism we mean an offshoot of international capitalism, when it is not actually an agent— in order to govern the country by one system only. They did not notice that the people had emerged from their marasmus, and that they were not the same down-trodden mass that had existed before Perón. Neither were they aware that the workers had been broiling within during those three or four days of the stopping of exploitation of man by his fellow. And so it was that on a certain 17th. of October, the people turned out into the streets; Buenos Aires was in the grip of an enormous mass of people who took over the country for twenty-four hours until they rescued their Leader who returned to their side to renew the struggle.

The only leader whom the people had learned to know and love during those last two years was a prisoner, and only the hope of setting him free, the certainty that only he would lead the country to social justice led the people to play all for all and turn out into the street to win or lose everything in a country which was falling back into the power of the oligarchy.

The people won in a dramatic fashion. From that time Social Justice got the upper hand and soon became Justicialism, a complete doctrine and practice of a new revolutionary social reality which was to spread rapidly and do much in six years until the whole panorama of the country became what it is at the present time.

GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT IS THEIRS

We wish to bring to the notice of the reader that in this chapter on labour, there is going to be an apparent mix up of the themes on social assistance with others which could belong to another plane. That could be the case in other regimes and other latitudes, and such could happen in the Argentina prior to the 17th. of October, 1945. But in what the world now knows as the New Argentina, no confusion can be possible. All the achievements of Peron in syndical, economic, social, humane, cultural, assistencial and legal matters tend to the same object: the uplift of the people, the recognition of the only force which the people signify and who are the source of all sovereignty and every right. Everything looks to man and is done by man; and everything is social assistance because all is social justice. The essential concept of Justicialism differs from that of all other known doctrines, systems and theories, whether applied or not, in the fact that it does not give but *restores*. The name of Justicialism, so frequently tergiversated by those who have interest in it, was born of the authentic conviction of its creator that nobody on the face of the earth can give the people anything which is not theirs by a natural right.

Justicialism began among the people whose sovereign rights it recognized. Its progress and desire for economic conquests which characterized the first stage of the new Argentine State was nothing more than the creation of the necessary elements to restore to the people the goods of which they had been despoiled.

It has already been said that they are not mere justicialist words or charity offerings. But more than that social assistance does not alone mean aid for the neglected or for those who are afflicted with temporal losses, or for those who suffer from moral and social afflictions. Social Assistance is also all that helps man to regain his place in society. Peron pointed out many times that Justicialism should "give to the people what is theirs". And because the Argentine government is nothing more than a delegation of the popular sovereignty why can there be surprise at the fact that all its cares coincide with that point, or that it be called by that or any other name if it is always social assistance . . . ?

For example, among justicialist achievements preference is given to Argentine syndicalism. It might seem at first sight that union activity does not fall within the classical concept of social assistance. Nevertheless, there is nothing more of the spirit

and essence of Justicialism, nothing closer to its leading object of social assistance than the modern and original trade unionism of present-day Argentina.

ORGANIZATION OF A JUSTICIALIST SYNDICATE

The syndicate was taken to mean in Argentina—as in other parts—a class nucleus destined to demand salary increases and direct strikes. When limited to these functions which would convert the syndicate into a restricted and precarious organization, the worker—the “affiliated” person—was left to himself in every other aspect of his life and necessities; and that, in the best of cases, when that elementary function was able to act more or less entirely.

Justicialism gave preferential attention to the unions before any other class of organization, and dedicated quite a part of its efforts and achievements to them. Perón from his earliest days of Labour and Welfare traced out the path to be followed: “The trade unions must be strong both materially and economically as well as in its syndical aspect. They should fill the needs of the members not only in the syndical struggle but also in their cultural and capacitation quests, their social and medical needs and in everything that conduces to the welfare of the worker.

Today in Argentina a syndicate is nothing like the classical concentrations of six or seven years ago. A syndicate based on the newest social concept consists principally of two big departments and organizations within the central organization which is the unit for the others. One which is strictly union in character looks after labour rights as such and takes charge of general agreements and special arrangements between the parties concerned, the fulfilment of same, the application of the labour laws, expert assessment on legal and syndical matters for members through their agents and delegates, on the one hand, and on the other, through their lawyers—paid and at the service of the organization. It also watches out for transgressions on the part of employers, and organizes the personnel in places of employment, and diffuses principles and texts of the new laws which are being sanctioned. As an annex of this Department there is the Capacitation School which each syndicate supports and that prepares the leaders which the organization needs, from factory delegates to the members of executive and central committees.

The social and economic section consists of other departments, including Medical Services which extend to the whole country wherever branches of the syndicate are to be found and which frequently possess one or more polyclinics for the exclusive use of the union. Some organizations have more than a hundred doctors who are specialists in the various ramifications of medicine, and have the most advance medical equipment.

Parallel with these services run the Provision Stores; these, in general, form a network which also covers the zones where there are affiliated workers, with as much as thirty units scattered about where members are found in the greatest numbers. The syndical provision stores have done very well in the last two years because they perform a function of special importance and give concrete and quick benefits to affiliated purchasers. The object of the stores is to combat profiteering and speculation in Argentine business, just as in any other country of America or Europe. With the elimination of intermediaries prices were lowered, and as natural consequence the salaries of the buyers were strengthened.

This social work was complemented in many other ways; special mention should be made of one which conduces in a special way to the humane and social welfare of the union members. All syndicates which are judged to be big on account of their numbers—in Argentina there are thirty syndicates—have their own hotel and vacation colonies, monumental works in some cases which have millions of pesos. Naturally, besides these achievements there are others which are not less original such as libraries

and sports tournaments, and other novel ones such as the vocational theatre which in many cases act weekly in their own centres or in the social headquarters of the organizations. It should also be said in this respect that if in its work and activity there is nothing in common between the old and new syndicates, neither is there any likeness between the miserable centres which were acquired accidentally—and in most cases furtively—and the spectacular headquarters which today have the best and most modern offices; the members enter these proudly, drawn by the potential of their union which shines in every detail of the property which it inalienably owns.

We shall give one last example in that respect: about twenty syndicates have built up districts for workers. The houses are given out among the union members, and have every modern convenience; they are built in beautiful districts and are gems in themselves. There is nothing of the “cheap house” of other days about them. They are not stamped with the seal of a poor class as were those houses in former times in which the owners felt a sense of humiliation; their rooms are by no means less than modest as were those of the cheap houses which were given as a charity offering, and in which the person “benefitted” was under compromise in every way.

The syndical reality—we do not speak of “syndical” in the old meaning of the word, but as something which is profoundly social—has a lot to do with social assistance. Perón not only showed the way, but from the seat of government collaborated by every means in his power so that every organization within its resources should attain an integral potentiality that would be the pride of the 5,000,000 union members in Argentina today. As Perón said: “Every syndicate should principally be the work of its own members”.

POPULAR ASCENSION

All that has been said anticipates the reality of contemporary Argentina with the people in the first plane in the national life. This ascension which any traveller notices at first sight in the mode of life, advantages and conveniences which the worker-producer enjoys first began in the spirit of every Argentine. Perón awoke first in the people the consciousness of their worth, beginning by formulating the vital function which corresponds to them in the life of a nation. Material conquest came later on as a consequence of that collective awakening, and affirmed and deepened that auto-valuation. Social assistance, reflected in multitudes of workers which culminated in the Eva Perón Foundation that is, the people were given back what was their own. In the midst of his programme Perón proclaimed the Rights of the Worker. This economic and social monument was completed by the Rights of Old Age; the latter was the work of Eva Perón. Then again, anyone who has travelled in Buenos Aires needs no proof of the axiom that “the only privileged ones in Argentina are the children”. Thus an integral body of doctrine and practice was formed, endorsed by six years of achievements which were incorporated into the National Constitution as a permanent reality, and for the inalterable security of future generations.

Previous to this, and as the first step leading to undertakings of greater importance, special labour tribunals were created with the same legal hierarchy as those already existing; but they had the advantage of being more deeply awake to problems and of resolving cases more quickly, because, as Perón said when he created them, “a worker cannot and should not have to wait months and years for Justice to give a verdict on his problems”.



Dedication to their tasks and solicitude in their dealings with the public are the outstanding characteristics of the personnel of the "Eva Perón" grocery stores.



A busy scene at one of the many Eva Perón grocery stores where people can purchase all their requirements at reduced prices.

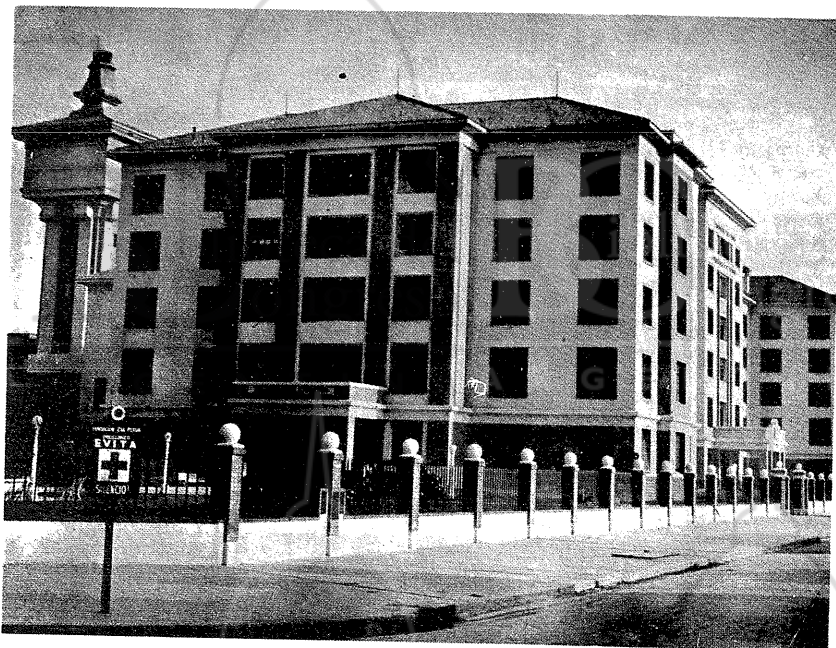
An efficient organization and an abundant supply of merchandise are two of the main characteristics of the grocery stores.

"THE BEST WE HAVE"

A certain curious traveller once asked Perón: "What is the best thing Argentina has?" Peron's answer which is now a commonplace saying, was: "The best we have is the people". For a person on his guard or too linked up with the social realities of other countries, the saying would seem to be an attempt to ingratiate oneself with what is known as the "mass". In Justicialist Argentina that attitude is senseless, because, as has gradually been revealed, not only have the people attained social security and the hierarchy and dignity to which they have a right, but they also wield and exercise the greatest and most ancient of those rights: real government through their representatives, intervening directly in all those questions which closely concern them and delegating powers when they have voluntarily wished to delegates. Consequently, the people must be the best the country has, because they are the people in the purest expression of the world without resentments, necessities or constraint which muddle up the senses and provoke those modern tragedies and diseases. The people are the work of God, as was said further back, free and capable of fulfilling their destiny; they are sufficient in themselves.

The same cannot be said of a humiliated and intimidated people who lose, when bereft of liberty, their essential condition and end up by becoming denaturalized and estranged from the ideal which gave them life.

In order to illustrate this we need only mention the modern prison system in justicialist Argentina. As we have seen— and we shall study the matter more deeply when we touch on the subject of the Eva Perón Foundation— social assistance or social justice which in the case of Argentina coincide seeks out man wherever he may be. Everybody is given the opportunity of making or remaking his own destiny. "Prisons in Argentina exist for reasons of security, not of punishment", as the National Constitution puts it. This social welfare has been surpassed in practice, because each penitentiary has become a maker of new men and women; the humane regime of these establishments is primarily meant to send the inmates back into the world as soon as possible. For that reason, if a prisoner shows good conduct, and, in general, is deserving of reward, he passes from the common prison regime to a lighter one of transition and readaptation until he finally finds himself in surroundings similar to the common social clime; he is allowed periodic outings and is expected to return of his own good will. After three years of practice, there has not been a single case of failure to return within the specified time. When carrying to a head a vast plan for prison reorganization, Justicialism gave full play to the organisms in charge of erecting the new establishments without any other material premises than attending to the elementary technical side of the prison, but giving the inmate the greatest liberty to manifest his spiritual emotions, and cultivating and developing their good personal inclinations. In this way, Argentine prisons are living social centres of complete readaptation.



The "Evita" Polyclinic is another outstanding accomplishment of the "Eva Perón" Foundation. It has been equipped with the most modern medical services which are placed at the disposal of the people.



The facade of the "Presidente Perón" Polyclinic — an architectural design of modern lines.

SOCIAL AID AND PUBLIC HEALTH

UNCONCERN OF THE STATE

THE care and preservation of the public health is a matter of the greatest importance in social aid schemes to such an extent that it is considered an institutional problem in all modern states. Public health only received adequate attention in Argentina with the advent of Justicialism for which it has always been a major concern. ("THERE SHALL BE NO LIMITATIONS TO THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OTHER THAN THOSE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FULL MEDICAL ATTENTION TO ALL SICK PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY" - PERON). We will now give a brief account of the evolutionary progress made in the care and preservation of public health in Argentina.

An idea of the deplorable conditions which existed in the country in this respect will be given by the fact that until the year 1943 there was absolutely no accommodation for sick people in the former National Territory of Los Andes with a population of six thousand; in the National Territory of Misiones hospitals were not able to provide even one bed for each thousand inhabitants while the greatest accommodation was to be had in the Province of Córdoba where beds in hospitals were available at the rate of seven for every thousand inhabitants.

In the whole country taking into account municipal, private, charitable, military accommodation and that provided by the State the number of available beds for patients in hospitals worked out at the rate of 4.42 per thousand inhabitants. In the Federal Capital the rate was ten for every thousand people but this included accommodation in private polyclinics and sanatoria and, naturally medical attention in the latter was far beyond the means of poor people.

The scarcity of beds for patients in the country's hospitals was aggravated by the fact that there was an equal scarcity of physicians. In those years there was only one doctor for every 600 inhabitants in the Federal Capital; one for every 1,800 in the littoral zone; one for every 4,000 in the provinces; and one for every 4,600 in the national territories.

In this manner plagues spread throughout the country. There were only 4,000 lepers in Argentina forty years ago while their number rose in 1943 to over 30,000!! and they spread the malady throughout the Republic. Malaria which in former times was only contracted in the provinces of Salta and Tucumán had spread in 1943 as an endemic disease to the provinces of Córdoba and Corrientes. Thus if the maladies were allowed to follow their course as they did during the administration of the so-called democratic governments in less than fifty years the country would be inhabited only by lepers and people suffering from malaria or tuberculosis...

There was a great deal to be done in order to provide urgently needed sanitary requirements in the Argentine Republic; it was necessary to build hospitals, consulting rooms, laboratories, etc... In order to attend to the needs of ten out of every thousand inhabitants accommodation had to be provided immediately for about 100,000 patients. At the same time the number of physicians, dentists, etc., had to be increased and there were scarcely any trained nurses in the country.

Hundreds of cities and towns in the interior lacked the most elementary medical supplies and there were no laboratories in vast areas of the country. Thus between the cities of Rosario and Córdoba in an area of over 450,000 square kilometres where there are over forty important towns, medical supplies on a reduced scale were only to be found in the city of San Francisco. There was no blood plasma to be had in urgent cases in the whole countryside and people living in rich provinces such as Santa Fe and Córdoba had to travel hundreds of kilometres to obtain vital needs.

Thus the population of Argentina had no adequate medical service; it was necessary to provide funds and organize a complete and efficient public health service in the country.

Thousands of women gave birth to babies without medical attention and in the majority of cases they were not assisted even by midwives during their confinement. This is proved by the fact that in the city of Rosario 6,476 babies were born in the year 1942 and at the time there was only accommodation for 240 women in the city's maternity homes. In a period of ten years in Tucumán over 556 women died from septicaemia.

As a result of medical examinations to which schoolchildren were subjected in the year 1943 in the Greater Buenos Aires it was ascertained that 80 per cent of them needed urgent dental attention; 23 per cent had defective eyesight; 16 per cent were found to be feverish; and 37 per cent had not complied with the most elementary hygienic precepts. It was further established that from 17 to 30 per cent of the schoolchildren did not take proper nourishment and that some 3 per cent of the youngest went to school without their breakfast. From 15 to 20 per cent were found to be suffering from tonsillitis, deafness and other ailments while 28 per cent were said to be threatened with tuberculosis. In the zone in which the medical examination was made it was ascertained that 30,000 children did not follow rational diet while another 6,000 did not receive sufficient nourishment.

With regard to the medical attention in the country, the existing deplorable state of affairs will be readily understood judging from the following facts. Up to the time of the Peronista Revolution there were only 13,800 physicians in the country to attend to the requirements of 13,500,000 inhabitants. In certain provinces such as Santiago del Estero with a population of 550,000 inhabitants there were only 100 doctors, that is to say, one for every 5,500 people!

In the country where there is an abundance of meat and bread, where at least three hundred days in the year are bright and sunny, where the climatic conditions favour the preservation of health, the average term of life was from 10 to 20 years inferior to that of other European countries and ten years below the average in the United States. The main objective of the Public Health Service in Argentina, therefore, was to prolong the average life term for ten or twenty years.

If we study the evolutionary process of public health services in the country we will find that the National Department of Hygiene was created in 1880 although the corresponding law was not proclaimed until the end of the year 1891. This was the only Department which functioned in the country for the purpose of caring for the health of the population. In the year 1903 several medical departments were incorporated into the existing National Department such as The Maritime Sanitary Department, the Internal Sanitary Department, the Industrial and Infantile Departments of Hygiene, the Medical Odontological Department, the Supervisory Department for the Exercise of the Medical and Odontological Professions, the Bacteriological Institute—which was created in 1887—and several others.

As time passed it became evident that it was necessary to create new medical departments. This gave rise to the setting up of the following: The Institute for Medical Attention to Children, the Department of Hygiene and Popular Education, the Trachoma Prophylactic Department, Institutes for treatment of eye diseases, leprosy, syphilis, venereal diseases, tuberculosis, mental ailments, alcoholism, and drug addicts. In the year 1936 the Maternity Institute was created and in 1938 the anti-Tuberculosis

Committee, later obligatory vaccination against diphtheria was established free of charge. At the beginning of the year 1943 a vast project providing for a total reorganization of the Public Health services in the country including the creation of 36 technical sections was presented.

In reality there was no proper attention given before this date to such important matters as those related to the care and preservation of public health; at the same time there was an unsuitable interference on the part of Departments whose specific functions had no bearing on the services. The fact is that legislation was sanctioned and institutions created merely for the sake of appearances but no effective action was taken. As was usually the case *the funds designed to maintain an effective Public Health service were far below the actual requirements of the country.*

ACTION OF JUSTICIALIST STATE

When General Perón was at the head of the Secretariat of Labour and Welfare he had already planned the creation of a Secretariat of Public Health and on June 4, 1946, when he assumed office as President of the Republic, he immediately created the Argentine Ministry of Public Health. With his great capacity for organization the new President of Argentina planned the government action in this respect: 1) Medical attention for individuals and families was provided by the State. 2) A complete system of medical service was organized. 3) The medical profession was duly organized. 4) Measures were taken for the production of medicines at a low cost. 5) Steps were taken for the protection of motherhood and infancy. 6) A preventive medicine system was adopted. 7) Courses of physical education were organized. 8) Measures were taken in order to prevent the propagation of epidemic diseases. 9) Similar steps were taken against the propagation of endemic maladies. 10) Courses on sanitary cultural development were organized. 11) Campaigns against the propagation of venereal diseases were organized. 12) Similar campaigns were carried out to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. 13) Urban hygienic measures and steps for the preservation of health in rural districts were adopted. 14) Adequate hygienic conditions were recommended in all dwellings. 15) Similar hygienic working conditions were established. 16) Medical attention for workers. 17) Norms were given for the adoption of a rational food diet. 18) Inspection of Foodstuffs. 19) A Department of Bioclimatology and Thermalogy was created. And special institutes for the treatment of nervous diseases were inaugurated.

This vast programme of action created for the preservation and care of public health in the country was one of the principal chapters of the First Five-Year Plan of the Justicialist Government of Argentina. It was planned and carried out in all its aspects.

SOCIAL WELFARE ACHIEVEMENTS 1947-1952

The Public Health Department considered that it was necessary to provide accommodation in the country's hospitals for 140,000 patients thus providing for the needs of at least one of every hundred inhabitants. This estimate was made in the year 1946 before the national census was taken and it then appeared an urgent necessity to amplify existing installations thus providing accommodation for another 83,000 patients. However, after the census was taken it became evident that accommodation had to be provided for 113,000 patients because the number of inhabitants which was supposed to be 15,000,000 had increased to 18,000,000.

Due to the meritorious action of national, municipal and provincial organisms and the valuable contribution of the "Eva Perón" Foundation—an Institution which

contributed to a great extent to the successful execution of the plans of the Justicialist Government—accommodation was provided for over 48,000 patients in the hospitals of Argentina during the 1946-1951 period. This was an increase of 72,8 per cent over the available accommodation in the year 1946.

This beneficial action was carried out simultaneously throughout the Republic and the most urgent requirements of each province and national territory were provided. Nobody was overlooked in the national supply programme thus Misiones, Salta and Jujuy in the north of Argentina received 4,330 hospital beds while Tierra del Fuego and other Patagonian territories in the south received 960.

Thus new hospitals and installations were built in zones where there was no medical service while existing accommodations were extended. Thus the previous deplorable state of affairs became but an evil memory in Argentina and the old unsuitable buildings where there was neither light or fresh air disappeared.

A brief account of the works accomplished will give us a clear idea of the scope and significance of the achievements: In the year 1946 the Río Cuarto (Córdoba) Hospital with accommodation for 340 patients and the Ojo de Agua Hospital in Santiago del Estero were inaugurated. On June 4, 1947, fifteen new hospitals which had been provided with all modern requirements were officially inaugurated. At the same time new wings were added to two others and necessary reparations were made on a third. Thirteen maternity homes and public consulting rooms were likewise inaugurated as well as nine medical institutes and many new medical services.

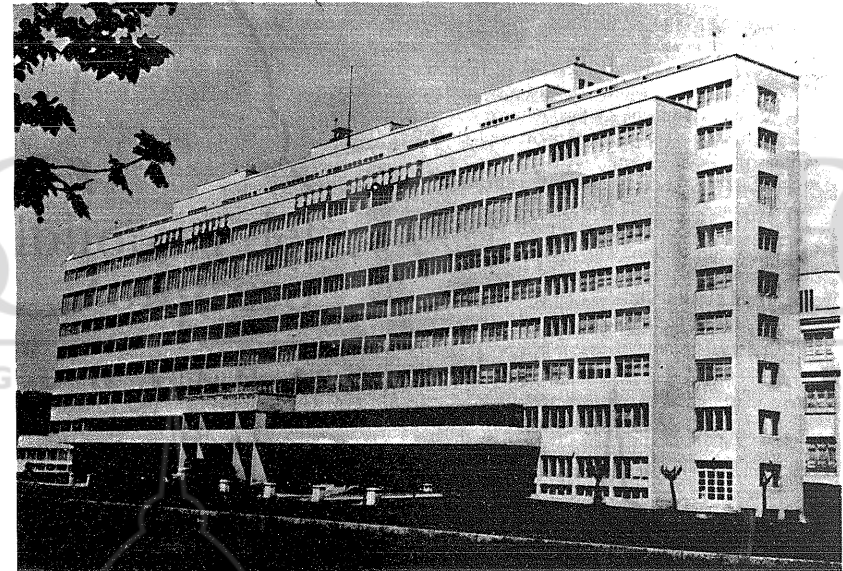
During the same year new wings were built in many hospitals and public consulting rooms were inaugurated in eighteen hospitals in different parts of the country.

The Government action was intensified during the year 1948 when a special institute for the treatment of lepers was inaugurated as well as twenty nine new hospitals and other essential medical services. The intensification of the Government programme continued until 1952 by means of the creation of new institutes and the building of new wings in several hospitals. In this manner the main objectives of the First Five-Year Plan were successfully attained.

Nothing has been overlooked in the organization of the Public Health services carried out by the present Justicialist Government and the benefits have been extended to everybody. At the present rate of progress the day is not far off when General Perón will have the satisfaction of announcing that a major aspiration has been achieved for the benefit of the Argentine people: that of having suitable hospitable accommodation for one of every hundred inhabitants.

It is opportune to add that there is not a single remote part in the country where there is not an available supply of blood plasma for use in an emergency. This has been made possible due to the creation of National Hemotherapeutic Institutes in the Federal Capital and cities of the interior. Special medical services organized by the State attend to the requirements of all sectors of the population throughout the Republic. The Hemotherapeutic Technical Department and the National Institute have demonstrated the efficiency of their services in cases of serious accidents which occurred both in Argentina and abroad. Argentine institutions have rendered valuable services in the following cases: During the civil war in Paraguay; an emergency hospital was installed in the Argentine town of Clorinda in the National Territory of Formosa near the Paraguayan frontier. At the same time the Argentine institutions sent blood plasma to Paraguay by air and the Argentine medical men, experts in blood transfusions, established their headquarters in the Central Military Hospital of Asunción. They brought with them necessary modern equipment from Argentina.

When a railway accident occurred in La Cruz in the Province of Corrientes the personnel and equipment of the institutes were immediately sent to the scene of the disaster by air. On the other hand emergency services were sent to the Province of Salta in the year 1948 to aid the victims of another railway accident, to Resistencia



The Railwaymen's Polyclinic. It is one of a series of similar institutions which are being built throughout Argentina.

The care of the health of the workers is the constant concern of the Justicialist Government. It has built polyclinics for all trade unions such as this one for workers of the glassware industry.



capital of the "Presidente Perón" Province after a serious air accident and to Corrientes when a serious automobile accident took place.

Urgent medical services were sent to Colombia by air from Argentina during the recent Bogotá revolution and a similar mission was sent to Bolivia to aid the victims of an explosion in one of that country's important oil fields.

The Argentine Government and the "Eva Perón" Foundation also sent special aid missions to Ecuador and Colombia for the purpose of giving medical attention as well as distributing foodstuffs and clothing among the victims of disastrous earthquakes.

In the year 1950 a complete and mobile medical organization was created in the country. It is directed by a group of specialists and was provided with modern equipment for blood transfusions and other urgent medical requirements. This organization has demonstrated its great efficiency during the holding of popular gatherings and important sporting events in the country.

"Motherhood in Argentina is protected by the wise social welfare measures of the Justicialist Government".

We no longer read in Argentine newspapers sad stories about the sufferings and poverty as well as the complete lack of medical attention of women during childbirth in remote parts of the Republic. This was remedied by means of the beneficial action of the present Justicialist Government which established maternity centres in all provinces and national territories of Argentina. In these institutions pregnant women receive instructions on the care of babies and the future education of their children.

At the same time measures have been taken in the Argentine Republic for the protection and care of orphans who receive education and are provided with a home by the State. With reference to the care and preservation of health and the education of children in Argentina the State has taken important steps. In this respect all children receive medical attention and they are regularly visited by government dentists at the schools, their homes or at special consulting rooms situated nearby. The State has also organized a programme for the adoption of hygienic measures and for the prevention of diseases. In the schools rational diets are observed in special diningrooms for children; the government likewise has opened a number of home-schools where children living far away from all urban centres are schooled and housed and yearly provided with clothing and footwear. These home-schools have been built in the provinces and national territories of Argentina.

On the other hand important and extensive research work is being carried out in the country by groups of specialists. Thus in the year 1947 the National Institute for the Treatment of Allergic Diseases was created; the study of this speciality was an urgent necessity in Argentina where large sectors of the population are affected by different forms of the disease. Argentine specialists have already produced efficient antidotes and medicines against allergic diseases at a much lower cost than those coming from abroad. The Institute has attended to over 12,000 patients, it has studied over 400,000 cases and made over four million analysis...

Another Argentine creation, the Institute of Thoracic Surgery and Tuberculosis has accommodation for 103 patients, in the year 1951, 75,000 patients were treated in the Institute and over 3,300 surgical operations were performed, while over 8,600 analysis were made. Special courses are delivered and lectures held in the Institute which has also published several important scientific works.

In the year 1947 the Institutes of Gastroenterology and of Hemotherapy were created. The latter Institute organized a blood reserve bank and recruited a great number of voluntary blood donors. In the same year a special institute for the treatment of eye diseases was established.

In the year 1948 several central hemotherapeutic institutes were opened in the country as well as institutes for the treatment of lung diseases, 34 maternity homes and special surgery courses for physicians in the interior. On the other hand the National Odon-

tological Hospital was inaugurated and a plant for the manufacture of surgery instruments set up in the Federal Capital.

Important services are rendered gratuitously by the National Institute on Nutrition which was created at the initiative of the Argentine Public Health Ministry which at the same time created the Institute of Endocrinology.

For the treatment of curable mental cases, nervous diseases, and drug addicts the Psycho-Pathological Institute was created. This was followed by the inauguration of the Central Dermatological Institute and the Hydro-Thermal Institute. Treatment is given in the latter to patients who are unable to pay for costly therapeutic applications. In this way poor people are able to enjoy the benefits of climatic and thermal cures free of charge.

An another important Argentine Institution was created, the Institute for the Treatment of Hereditary Eye Diseases, and four consulting rooms were inaugurated for the treatment of patients suffering from different diseases. In these Institutes over 200,000 patients underwent a thorough medical examination.

The Institute of Phonetics was created towards the end of the year 1948 for the purpose of correcting deficiencies in pronunciation and speech.

During the year 1949 twenty maternity homes were created as well as the Surgical Institute for the treatment of nervous diseases, many central laboratories, and new haemotherapeutic institutes and sanatoriums for the treatment of heart diseases in the provinces. In this respect as an indication of the important functions of these sanatoriums, it is opportune to note that in less than three years over 150,000 patients received treatment in the National Institute of Cardiology.

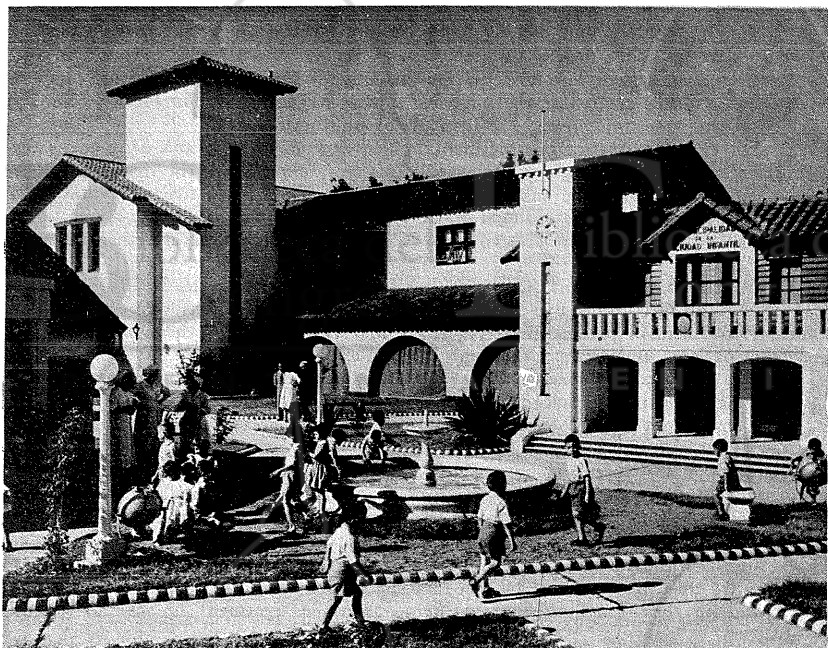
In this same year the Health Centre of Villa Lugano was inaugurated and its great importance was certified by the fact that in less than three years over 150,000 patients—in their great majority workers—received treatment in the meritorious institution.

In the year 1950 a Regional Institute for the treatment of people suffering from severe burns was created; its necessity became apparent due to the fact that over 5,000 people had to be treated annually under such circumstances in the Federal Capital and the Greater Buenos Aires. At the same time several other medical centres were established throughout the country which specialized in the early diagnosis of cancer in the stomach and other important matters. At the same time special medical services were created such as that of the Argentine Sports Confederation, for Traumatic cases and orthopedic treatment, for physical recuperation, etc. . . The year's work was completed with the inauguration of the Institute for the Prevention and Treatment of Deafness.

In the year 1951 ten new medical institutions were established in the provinces and many institutes for the treatment of different diseases were inaugurated throughout the country. A Sanitary Department was instituted in the new Eva Perón Province and ten different dentists' consulting rooms began to function in different zones of the Federal Capital. In this year a sanatorium for personnel of the Argentine Public Health Ministry was inaugurated in the city of Buenos Aires.

Special mention must be made of the most southernly doctors consulting rooms in the whole world. In effect, these were inaugurated at Bahía Margarita at the General San Martín Base in Argentine Antarctic Territory.

Another important aspect of the work of the State which was aided by the valuable contribution of the "Eva Perón" Foundation was the inauguration of a special sanitary train service which made regular visits to all parts of the Argentine Republic thus attending to the requirements of the population. This service was known as the "Justicialist Social Welfare Medical Campaign" and a group of physicians, trained nurses, medicines, and necessary instruments and equipment were conveyed aboard the special "Eva Perón" sanitary train. The importance of the colossal undertaking is evidenced by the fact that during the first tour of the country over 110,000 patients were attended for different ailments by the sanitary train specialists.



A view of the Children's City a marvellous accomplishment of Señora Eva Perón.



A partial view of the City in which the beauty of its tiny buildings can be fully appreciated.

This brief account is but a single aspect of the extraordinary social welfare work carried out by the present Justicialist Government in Argentina. However, it is a clear indication of the constant preoccupation of the Argentine Government over the spiritual and physical health of the population.

A new era has dawned in the Argentine Republic and the population will now be benefitted by the enjoyment of a longer average term of life which until quite recently was far below that of most European nations.

The infantile mortality index has been considerably reduced and the same can be said with regard to the mortality index of people suffering from tuberculosis, leprosy, and venereal diseases. It can be added that malaria has been definitely banished as His Excellency President Perón said in the year 1949 when he announced that it had disappeared as an endemic sickness from Argentina.

Almost 115,000 beds were provided to Argentine hospitals in a five-year period by the present Justicialist Government which also spent on the country's sanitary organization and the supply of medicines and medical equipment the sum of one thousand million pesos. These figures refer to the government expenditure and the amount would be doubled if we took into account the expenses incurred by the "Eva Perón" Foundation and Argentine trade unions. In this manner Argentina has almost reached the ideal percentage with regard to the medical attention given to its inhabitants, in effect, there is not a single Argentine who does not receive the benefits of the the Public Health Services.

Finally it has been established without the shadow of a doubt that 65 per cent of the population receive free medical attention, 20 per cent pay for the services at very reduced rates while the remaining 15 per cent alone pay normal doctors' fees.

A GENEROUS PEOPLE AND AN EXEMPLARY WOMAN (THE EVA PERON FOUNDATION)

THE BIRTH OF THE FOUNDATION

IF the social welfare work in Argentina can be considered apart from Justicialism or as beyond the sphere of the official action of the Argentine Government all the merit would undoubtedly go to the "Eva Perón" Foundation. In the beginning joint action was taken by the Government and the Foundation but later in the planning of the programme of social welfare works to be accomplished in the country the meritorious social aid institution was assigned increasingly important tasks and was finally looked upon as the symbol of transcendental social welfare achievements carried out in the Argentine Republic. How was the Foundation actually created . . . ? Eva Perón herself describes the manner of its birth in her famous book "My Mission in Life": "Perón had explained to me all that had to be accomplished in order to consolidate Social Justice in Argentina. How can I attend to the requirements of the people he said, if the country's natural riches and the key to the national economy are not in the hands of the Government . . . ? We must reconquer everything and recover the economic resources

of the Republic in order to impose Justicialism in the country on a firm and definite footing. Meanwhile many Argentines will die without ever having enjoyed the benefits of Justicialism". Eva Perón in referring to this transcendent moment in her life said: "I felt that something had to be done in the meantime... I had no idea what course to follow... But something had to be done to speed the coming of Justicialism and to solve urgent problems and satisfy the initial fair demands of the people... I spent long hours in thought over these matters and finally one day I took a decision. I went into the streets and said: Here I am, I am the wife of the President and I want to do something to help on the popular Cause..."

Thus, in this simple manner, without any previous planning or organization, without any inauguration feasts or appointments, the greatest social aid institution ever known to the world, the most sublime expression of fraternal love, was born. Eva Perón herself said in her book that a great number of people submitted their problems to her consideration and that many others offered their help attracted by the generosity and noble spirit of the undertaking.

As the initial problems were solved she began to receive an increasing number of visitors and letters. Señora Perón then decided to employ an assistant, later another, and still a third... And one day a group of humble people—"I always choose humble people to help me"—united their efforts working for the same Cause: the advent of Justicialism. They took the initial steps and solved the most urgent problems. The "Eva Perón" Foundation had begun its work; at first it attended to individual cases and personal aspirations. But it soon became a powerful organization which attended to the requirements of thousands of humble people who could not and "should" not wait...

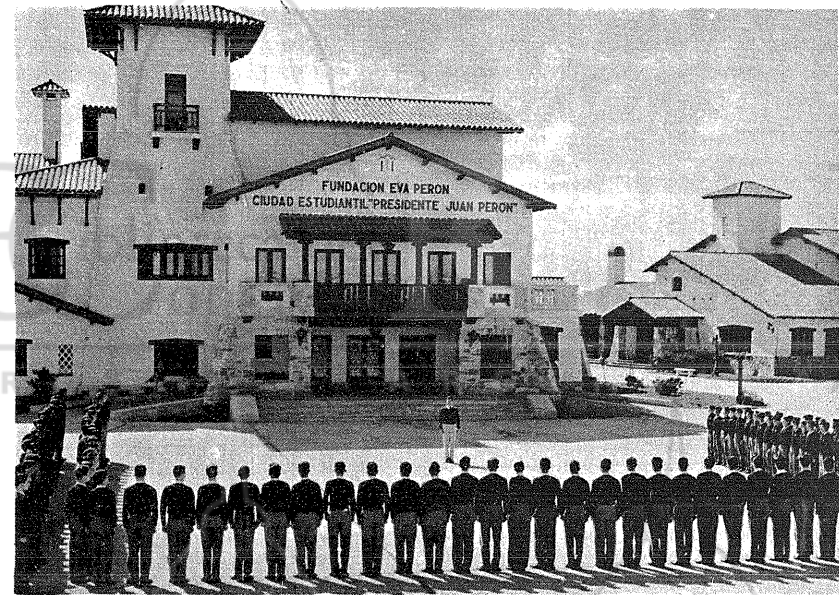
In this way the Cause of Justicialism was furthered in Argentina and the "Eva Perón" Foundation co-operated with the Government in order to consolidate Social Justice in the Republic.

"I GIVE TO THE PEOPLE..."

Señora Eva Perón in her book told of the difficulties encountered and the spirit with which she undertook her noble task. In this respect she wrote: "Nobody is indebted to me for anything because I give to the people what is their own, that which they are fully entitled to". In order to make quite clear that her work was done in a spirit of social justice and not as charity, Sra. Perón repeatedly stated: "I always tell people who are eager to thank me for benefits received that I do nothing but return to them what they have given to me..."

A notable feature of the "Eva Perón" Foundation, besides the vast scope of its undertakings, is that it is the property of the people and created for the benefit of the people. It is supported by popular donations delivered by the trade unions and property retrieved from international trusts—property which had been robbed from the people... The retrieved property is distributed amongst the people in accordance with their most urgent requirements.

The Foundation also had a specific function which could not be carried out by any other institution or organization, its doors were permanently open to the people and its authorities were constantly alert and ready to interpret the most diverse aspirations of the population. Perón often said that he would never trust the fulfilment of such a lofty mission to any public office in view of the unavoidable weaknesses of the bureaucratic system. These could only be overcome by an organization based on principles of love and understanding and animated by a spirit of full faith in the undertaking. At the same time the directors must be ready to sacrifice many comforts in order to carry out a work of an eminently social and profoundly humane character. With the creation of the Foundation social aid was undertaken in Argentina with a significance



Group of students lined up before the central building of the Children's City. The youth of Argentina receive mental and physical training to prepare a healthy population for the future.

Partial view of the Students' City. There are class rooms, study rooms, reception rooms, dining rooms, dormitories, swimming pools and grounds for recreation and gymnastics in the City.



and scope which surpassed all previous attempts made by any nation during any period in history.

Señora Eva Perón with great intuition often anticipated the wishes of her "des-camisados" and provided the necessary solutions for urgent problems even before they had been formulated. The "Eva Perón" Foundation extended its aid to all parts of the Argentine Republic and even to many peoples in America and Europe whose urgent needs were never satisfied by any other international organization . . .

The Social Aid Foundation exercises direct action by means of which it carries out social and Christian work of a humane character. The organization often comes to the assistance of poor people who have not requested aid thus saving them the humiliation of asking for help which in some cases is more embarrassing for them than the endurance of their suffering.

The mission of the Social Aid Foundation is to offer its assistance in such a manner that those who receive its benefits feel that they have favoured its aims in the sense that it has been able to prove its efficiency as a useful organization. Its great work is carried out with an authentic spirit of social justice in keeping with a revolutionary concept of a popular origin.

Somebody in order to explain the principles upon which the social action of the Foundation was based called to mind the words of a famous Argentine poem: "Long bleeds the heart of him who must ask for help . . ." On making reference to this poem the writer stressed the way in which the Foundation aid was given: "It is offered and provided without ceremony coming as natural as if it was given by a brother . . ." The Foundation in the same manner extended its aid to all sister nations promptly sending help to the victims of national disasters in Colombia, Ecuador, Japan, Italy, France, Spain and many other countries. The Foundation on these occasions sent special aid missions which distributed clothing, foodstuffs, and medicines. At the same time groups of doctors and trained nurses were flown in Foundation planes to the scenes of disaster.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The "Eva Perón" Foundation was created over four years ago. Since its foundation it has accomplished so much that a detailed account of its numerous achievements would occupy far more space than that which we are allowed for this work. We will, therefore, only give a brief account of the main achievements of the meritorious Argentine institution.

In the first place we will make reference to the Travellers' Hostels which were built for the purpose of providing temporary homes for families who for diverse motives had been rendered homeless. Such families are adequately housed in the Hostels where they also receive the necessary moral support and fresh hopes for a brighter future.

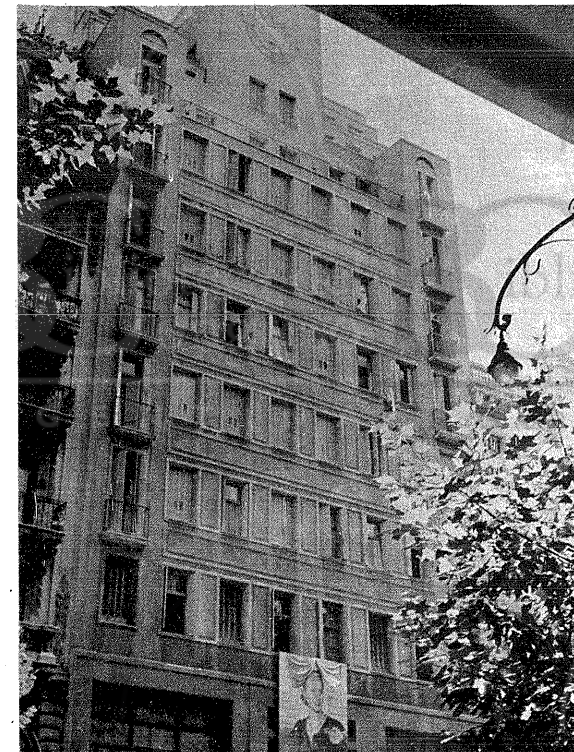
One of the most important advantages provided by such homes is that they offer protection to children who are thus not exposed to the dangers of the streets. At the same time together with their mothers they receive moral and material support without any distinction as to race, religious belief or political ideologies.

The social undertaking which we have just referred to is one which provides aid to the destitute. The Foundation is also greatly interested in the health of the population, preventing the spread of diseases when possible and curing in all cases. The hospitals built by the Foundation are exemplary institutions both in Argentina and abroad. In this respect, undoubtedly, the model achievement of the Foundation is the monumental "Presidente Perón" Polyclinic which has been built in Avellaneda an industrial city densely populated by workers on the outskirts of the Federal Capital.

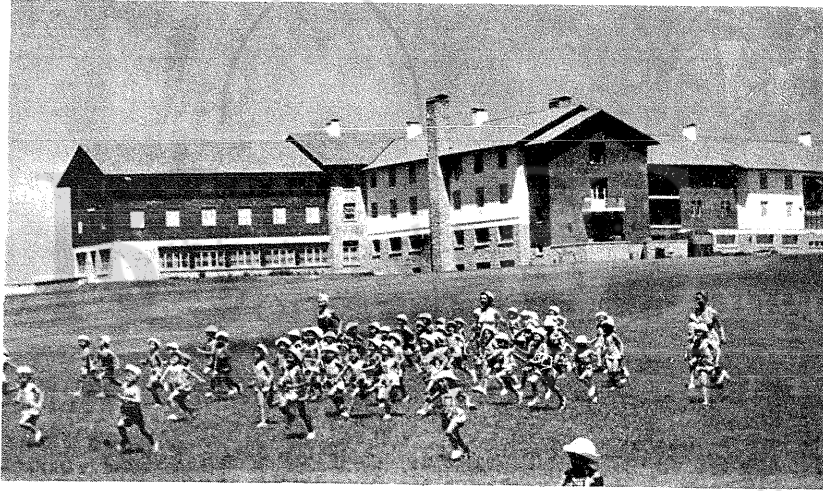
Free medical attention is given to all patients in this monumental polyclinic as well as in another 34 hospitals situated in different parts of the Republic. These ins-



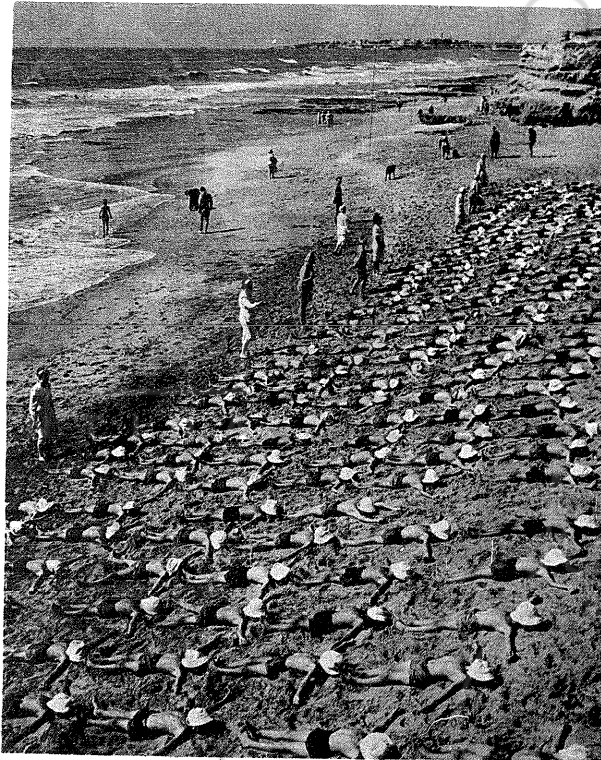
The atmosphere of cordiality and comradeship which prevails at the Home for Women Employees is indicated in this instance of musical entertainment.



Women employees are provided with a home which is a vital necessity in a great city like Buenos Aires.



Children playing happily on the beautiful Chapadmalal beach. They are cared for by trained personnel of the Chapadmalal Holiday Colony.



A healthy and agreeable life. Children enjoying the sun before their daily swim.

tutions are a source of pride for Argentina and constitute eloquent testimonials of the social work carried out in the country for the purpose of preserving and caring for the health of the population.

Eva Perón in her book: "My Mission in Life" in referring to the magnificence and luxury of the polyclinics said: "I have been reproached for the luxury evidenced in the works of the Foundation such as the Traveller's Hostels, the Polyclinics and many others. I have been told that poor people thus become accustomed to live in luxury like the rich. I do not see that there is anything wrong in this. It is only human that my people should enjoy the luxuries and comforts of life while such things are available. I do not build asylums, the Foundation will not build those sombre hospitals which were feared both by patients and those who visited them. The Foundation wants to impose Social Justice and attain the welfare of the people, the very best in all things must be given to the people. I who am a "descamisada" want everything of the best for myself and I choose a room in every building that is finished, in every hospital, in every hostel as if I had to live there one day... When I plan the building of new works with the Foundation's architects I always insist that they should be expressions of Social Justice... When they are about to be completed I look into final details with the same care and affection as if they were being built for myself. Thus I can feel confident that each "descamisado" of the New Argentina will enter the homes or polyclinics of the Foundation with a glad heart".

Could there be anything more christian, fraternal or moving than these heartfelt sentiments expressed in simple words by Señora Eva Perón...?

Before building the "Presidente Perón" Polyclinic the Foundation had completed another two large hospitals, the "17 de Octubre" and the "Coronel Perón" which jointly provided accommodation for 2,000 patients.

Another notable achievement of the "Eva Perón" Foundation is the Sanitary Train which is a veritable hospital on wheels which visits the most remote parts of the Argentine Republic giving medical aid to the inhabitants. This initiative of the Foundation was accomplished with the co-operation of the Argentine Public Health Ministry and it has been greatly welcomed by the population thus acquiring the greatest significance. As a complementary measure to this sanitary policy—which occupies an important chapter in the activities of the Foundation—the social aid institution has created the "Eva Perón" School for Nurses. These schools are model institutions of their kind which prepare the youth of Argentina for the fulfillment of the humanitarian and noble task of nursing the sick. The skill and training of the nurses graduated in the "Eva Perón" Schools is recognized both in Argentina and abroad where the Argentine nurses have often come to the rescue of victims of national disasters.

CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE

Señora Eva Perón on founding the Social Aid Foundation which bears her name had two major considerations in view: the happiness of the children and the welfare of old people.

The Foundation has transformed into a reality in the country the words of General Perón: "The only privileged ones in Argentina are the children". In this respect the Foundation received first by tens, then by hundreds and later by thousands children coming from the most remote parts of Argentina, from the interior provinces. Thus these youths who had never left their small native villages and who otherwise might never have known the capital of the Republic were welcomed to the great city by the social aid institution. In these pleasant surroundings the children from the provinces spent twenty days or a month as guests of the institution directed by Señora Perón. The First Lady of Argentina in answer to criticisms to the effect that it was harmful to

provide such temporary pleasures to children repeatedly affirmed: "I firmly believe that bad men are the result of an unhappy childhood and nothing else..."

These holiday trips were regularly organized and have now become one of the children's rights. The Foundation later built what was to be the accomplishment of the marvellous dreams of children: the Children's City.

In this dream city one thousand five hundred children at school age live; this is their tiny city where everything has been built in proportion to their stature: streets, public squares, service stations for automobiles, stores, residences, chalets, public buildings, churches, theatres, etc. . . The children spend long or short terms in the city according to special circumstances while they are completing their education. In these fantastical surroundings they live and are cared for by trained personnel who have been specially chosen due to their patience, abnegation and love for children. The noble sentiments of Señora Perón and her great concern for the welfare and happiness of children are fully revealed in the Children's City, her favourite accomplishment as she repeatedly asserted during her frequent visits.

Another major undertaking of the "Eva Perón" Foundation was built facing the Children's City; it is the University City. Here secondary school and university students both from the Federal Capital and the interior find a home while at the same time they are provided with all necessary requirements for the successful completion of their careers. Students in this city also enjoy the pleasures afforded by sports fields and swimming pools.

Señora Eva Perón as another demonstration of her constant concern for the happiness and physical health of the children organized sporting competitions which became eminently popular events amongst the youth of Argentina.

These competitions were called the "Evita" Football, Basketball and Athletic Championships and constitute annual events which are enthusiastically welcomed by the children of Argentina.

Special attention was given to sports initially in keeping with the President of Argentina's express wish that the children should be kept off the streets — specially in the large cities. Later the Foundation organized the first championships in the Federal Capital and very soon afterwards similar competitions were held in the provinces under the auspices of the Foundation. At present the annual competitions are major events in the life of all educational institutions throughout the country and they are eagerly awaited by hundreds of thousands of children in the Argentine Republic.

The competitions are held in diverse series, supremacy in the local order is first established, next provincial selections are made and the finals take place in the city of Buenos Aires. Thus the character of the future citizens of Argentina is moulded in the best possible manner, in a spirit of comradeship their physical and mental health is developed . . .

At the same time the "Eva Perón" Foundation regularly distributes sporting outfits amongst the children and donates prizes for all championships held in the districts of the Federal Capital and cities of the interior.

In this respect the team which won the 1951 Evita Football Championship was sent as a special reward and in compliance with the promises of Señora Perón to Helsinki where the young Argentines were able to follow the development of the different competitions of the 1952 Olympic Games. All expenses were paid by the Foundation and the Argentine students besides visiting Helsinki spent four months travelling in Europe . . .

On the other hand the "Eva Perón" Foundation also demonstrated great concern over the welfare and happiness of the old people. In this respect the work accomplished by Señora Perón has no parallel in history. Señora Perón felt that the aged had never been treated with the respect and consideration they deserved in any place in the whole world.



The "Eva Perón" Foundation did not forget to provide for the welfare and happiness of old people during their final years. A view of a room of the "Colonel Perón" Home for Old People.



An old man contemplating the plaque upon which the "Rights of the Aged" are engraved. They are a symbol of an ideal of social justice for the aged.



Partial view of a dining room of a Travellers' Hostel. All home comforts have been provided in these institutions.



Special play rooms and study rooms have been built in the Travellers' Hostels. Children study and play under the care of their parents or the trained staff of the institution.

Thus the First Lady of Argentina built the "Colonel Perón" Home for old people in 1948 and at the same time she drafted the "Rights of the Aged" which were later incorporated into the modern 1949 Argentine National Constitution.

A work of love evidencing a Christian spirit the "Rights of the Aged" will be recorded in history as one of the greatest social justice achievements of all times . . .

The inauguration of the "Colonel Perón" Home for old people was followed soon afterwards by the building of several similar institutions throughout the Republic. Equal comforts have been provided for inmates in all homes where the old people are surrounded by every comfort and where they can chose the form of entertainment they prefer. And if they feel inclined to work suitable occupation is provided for them as light labour is recommended as a suitable means of distraction for old people.

Owing to space considerations we will only mention two more of the many important accomplishments of the "Eva Perón" Foundation in Argentina: these are the General José de San Martín Home for Women Employees and the Holiday Centres.

The Home for Women Employees is a magnificent 13-story building in the heart of Buenos Aires where over five hundred women workers find board and lodging at highly reduced prices. The Home also runs economic dining rooms where all workers in the city can eat a hearty meal far cheaper than in the current Buenos Aires restaurants . . .

Holiday Centres have been built at the beauty spots and beaches in the interior of the Argentine Republic by the social aid foundation. Señora Eva Perón gave preferential attention to the development of tourism for all the country's workers as she considered that labourers are fully entitled to spend their annual holidays in agreeable surroundings in keeping with the principles of social justice.

The Foundation built several holiday centres in the interior of the Republic and eight magnificent hotels at the most beautiful beach on Argentina's Atlantic coast. The hotels form part of the magnificent Chapadmalal Holiday Colony near Mar del Plata, the pearl of the Atlantic which is the centre of attraction for all Argentine and foreign tourists.

The Chapadmalal Colony provides accomodation for 30,000 tourists and thus becomes a populous town during the summer season. The Colony has its own electricity plant, a bakery which daily produces 2,700 kilos of bread, a butcher's shop and packing plants and all necessary requirements for the comfort of the tourists.

A notable feature and one which could not be missing is the existence among the eight hotels of one specially dedicated to children — a Children's City on the Atlantic coast. Children from all parts of the country spend their summer holidays at this hotel and all expenses are paid by the Foundation.

The conclusion we arrive at in this work is that the restitution campaign — the restitution of its property to the people— being carried out by the Justicialist system at present will be totally unnecessary in future due to the general happiness and welfare which is being attained by the people. On the other hand this is the supreme ideal of Social Justice, to be the medium for the rehabilitation of the peoples . . .



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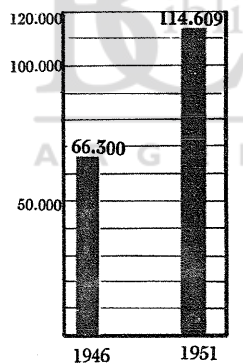
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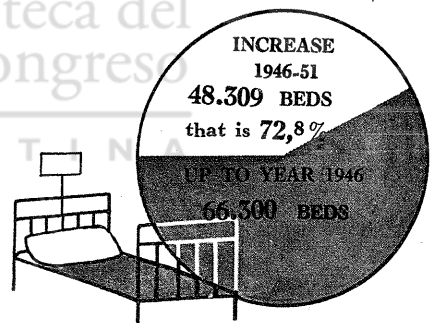
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1. — TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL, PRIVATE AND "EVA PERÓN" FOUNDATION HOSPITALS.

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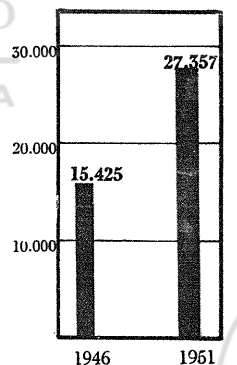


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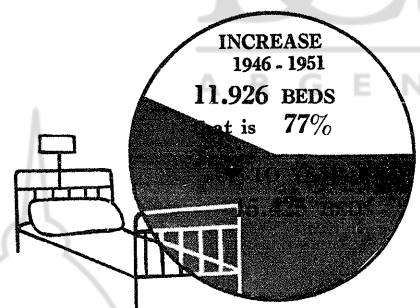


2. — TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS CORRESPONDING TO THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY. (1946 - 1951)

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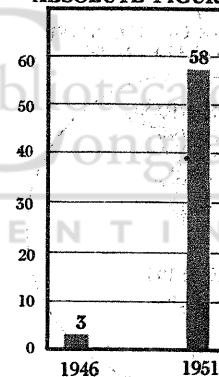


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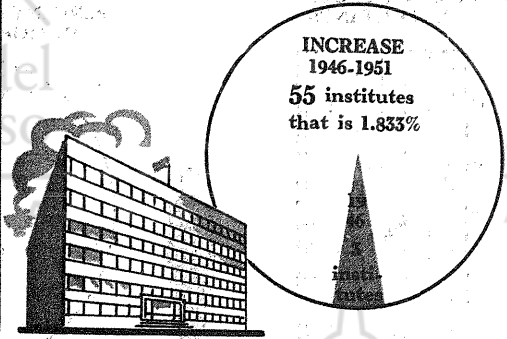


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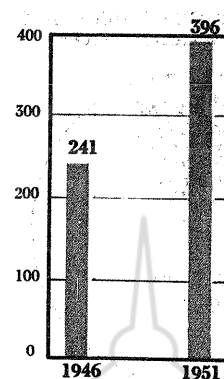


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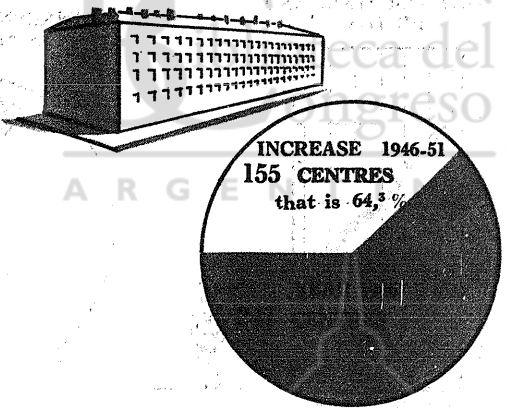


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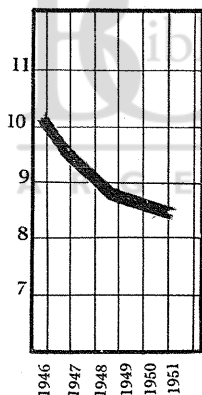


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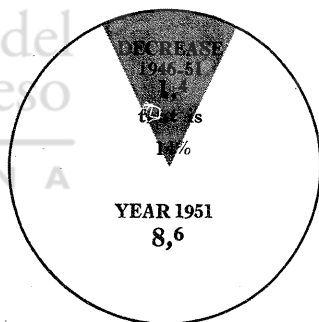


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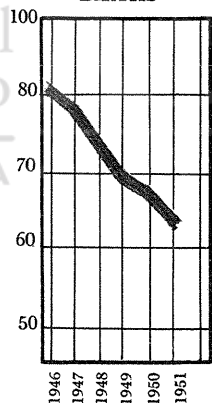


PERCENTAGE OF DECREASE IN MORTALITY RATE

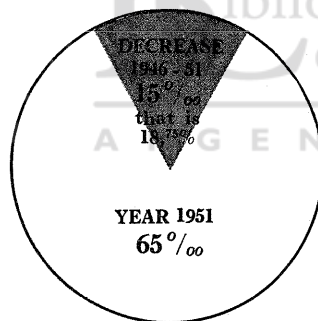


6. — INFANTILE MORTALITY INDEX OF ARGENTINA. (1946 - 1951)

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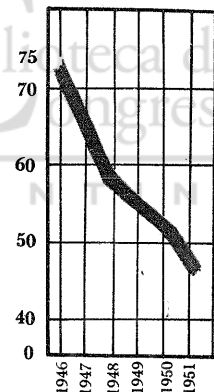


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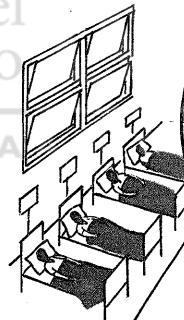
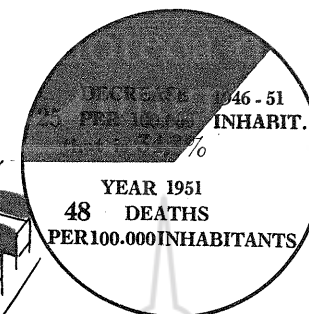


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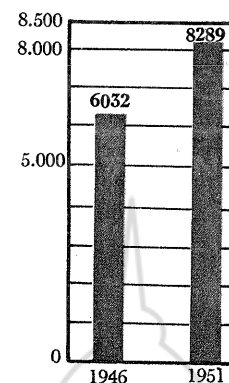


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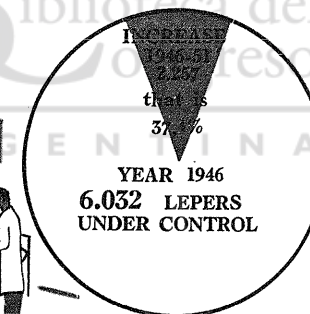


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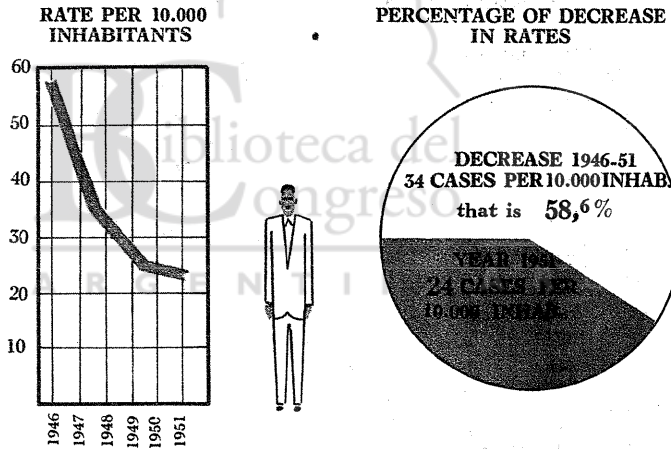
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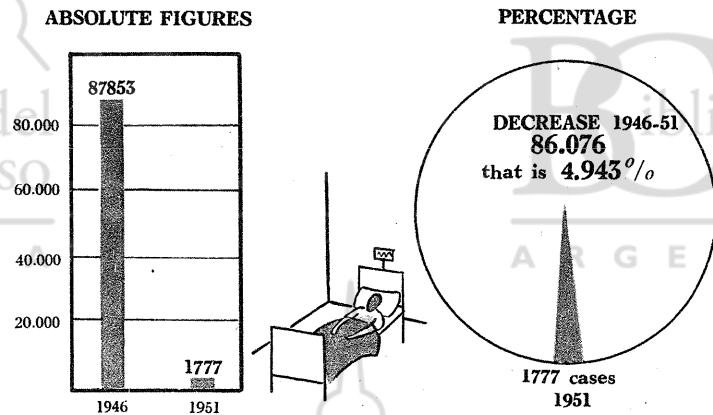
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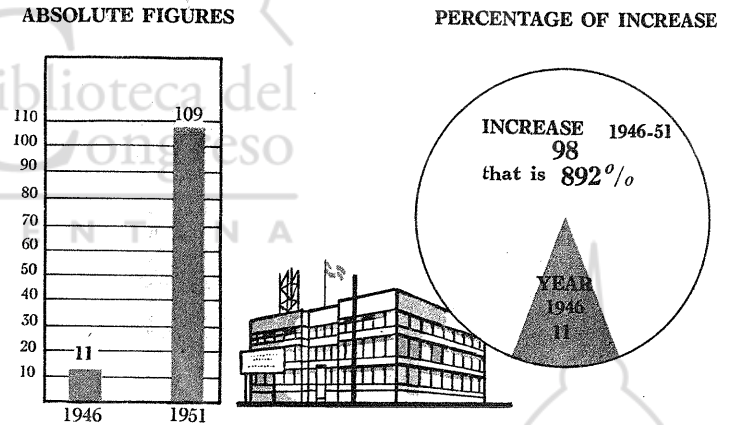
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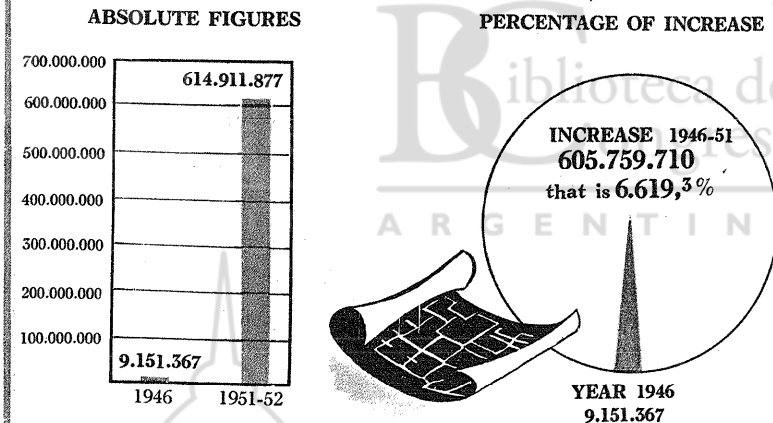
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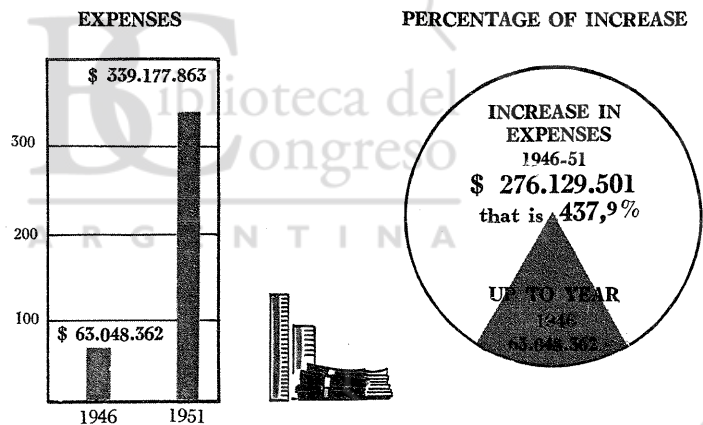
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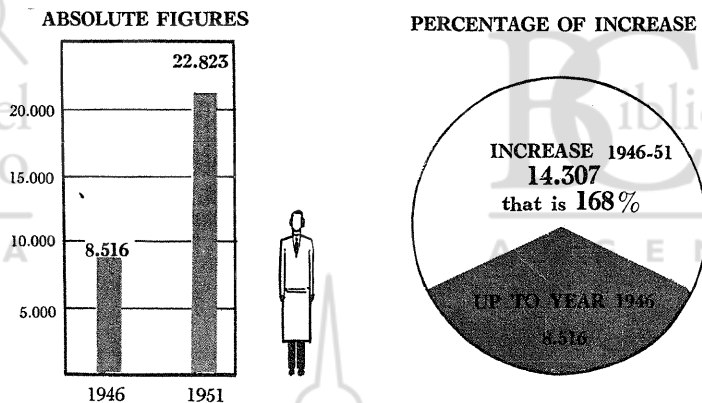
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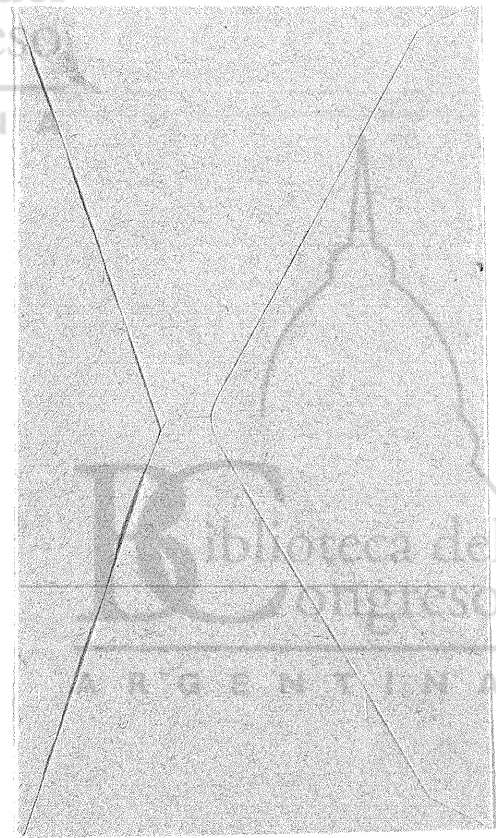
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