

FINAL STAGES OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT MORINIGO'S JOURNEY.

The final stages of the tour of his excellency President Morinigo included the visit to Friesland Colony, on Saturday last, where the President arrived at 9.40, where the illustrious ~~traveller~~ traveller and the members of his retinue were the objects of an enthusiastic reception on the part of the colonists, who presented themselves in a group to greet the Country's leader, carrying national flags and giving repeated vivas for General Morinigo and for the Fatherland.

During the journey to the Administration buildings of the Colony the travellers met large ~~placards~~ banners with words appropriate to the occasion. Some of these were as follows :-

"General Morinigo, welcome to the Friesland Colony" "Long live the high government of the nation" "The schools of Friesland Colony wish you hours of happiness" "Long live the Protector of Paraguayan Agriculture"

As soon as the honoured guests were ~~installed in the official box~~ installed in the official box, the program began immediately with the singing of the National Anthem, sung perfectly by a choir of school children.

Then, on behalf of the colonists, Mr. Cornelius Welde spoke a welcome to the Mandatory, in the following words :-

"Your excellency, Sr. President of the Republic, Sr. Ministeres, Senor Ambassador of the United States of Brasil, Ladies, Gentlemen: On this great day for our Friesland Colony, as representative of the Mennonite Colonies, the honour falls upon me to welcome you in the name of the Executive and of the members of this colony. It is difficult, almost impossible, to express in words the feelings of the colonists in these moments, and on this day, so honourable for our colony, and which we will never forget.

It is nearly 2 decades ago that we left our homeland in order to conserve our ideal of liberty and we came to Paraguay, and beneath the free clear sky of Paraguay we found a warm welcome, an abundance of promises in the atmosphere of security which its fundamental laws provide.

I take this opportunity of expressing to the Paraguayan people, through their chief mandate, our sincere thanks.

It is our deep eagerness to respond in a worthy way to the faith which the Government put in us, on encouraging the development of Mennonite immigration into this noble and heroic republic. It is our task to carry out the exalted work, of breaking up new ground, ~~xx~~ making fruitful the abundant furrows of plowed land, as yet unexploited by man, with the seeds of peace and prosperity, thus securing a better future, after several years of work on Paraguayan land. Here we have made our home and have learned to love it as our new fatherland. Our Colony sympathizes in a sincere and

enthusiastic way with with the present Superior Government in its self denying work for a large and prosperous fatherland reached by productive work, particularly that of farming and cattle rearing, the basic vein of Paraguay's riches".

After the speech of Sr. Walde, the program continued with several songs and recitations by the scholars. Then the Minister of Education, Doctor Quiroz congratulated the school teachers on the admirable way in which their scholars had sung the National Anthem, and the colonists on the magnificent array of their plantations.

Continuing, a brasilian artistic group, directed by Cap. Hurtado lent colour to the ^{proceedings} ~~dinner~~ with interesting singing and dancing items.

At 10'clock a lunch was served in honour of his Excellency the Head of State, and his fellow travellers, at which more than 200 people ~~took part. sat down~~ were seated.

The Mennonite Colony which was founded in the year 1937 has 900 inhabitants with a total area of 6.912 ha. of which 718 ha. are cultivated and in a flourishing condition.

..... General Morinigo and those accompanying him left for the Colony Sociedad Fraterna Hutteriana, arriving there at 2.30, where they were the object of great demonstrations of sympathy, and where a varied program of acts in homage to the Head of the State, took place.

El Paraguayo, 23 de Octubre 1945.

.....After visiting the Colony Sociedad Fraterna Hutteriana being received there with exceptional homage, the Mandatory