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CAIXA POSTAL 571

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(THE RIO DE JANEIRO TRAMWAY, LIGHT AND POWER CO., LTD.)

AVENIDA MARCHEL FLORIANO. 168

RIO DE JANEIRO.

5 Fev° '42.

Dear Mr. Simons:

The mails are, of course, all upset, so your kind letter of Jan. 8 was a month en route, though none the less welcome on its arrival.

Thanks for your thoughtfulness in including news of my Aunt Lece and her son, Benji, as she calls him. A letter from her, on two scraps of paper as evidence of her thrift, travelled to Rio with your letter. At her age she's still active, her handwriting is better than mine and the whole family brags about her. Ben's a good boy.

Yes, I darned near kicked the bucket last March, after sixteen years in this hectic game and fourteen Carioca summers. But I had a good bringing up and pulled through, although I spent four months in the hospital, virtually without wiggling a finger. I'm chugging along again, at reduced speed but still able to make the grade unless the going gets too hard.

We don't get the extreme heat you all do in Kansas, but it's the muggy kind and, once the dog days start, they seem endless. The nights are the worst and one gets up in the morning unrested and feeling like a wet bar rag. The family, wife and two young'uns, 2 and 5, have gone to Paineiras, half way up Corcovado Mountain, where there's a hotel of sorts. At least they can sleep at night. I've got to stick it out at sea level.

Our fair city figured prominently in the world's news last month, and with reason. While, to observers in the USA, it might not have seemed much of a feat to get the unanimous agreement of 21 republics, to those of us veterans who've spent years in Latin America, it was nothing less than a miracle. I've spent years in Gringo-hating countries and was amazed that the dislike and distrust of the USA had softened to the extent it has.

A common cause and mutual peril, of course, contributed to the success of the conference, even if the success wasn't 100%. That is easily explainable because of domestic conditions in Chile and Argentina. But Chile seems to be coming through and Argentina also is moving along the route indicated by the majority of the republics. But when I read of Ezequiel Padilla, of México, sounding off against his fellow Latins in Chile and Argentina, in favour of Uncle Sam I could hardly believe my eyes. Argentina never has liked, and never will like to play second fiddle to Uncle Sam, even if her national existence is at stake. But she'll come through after saving her face.

We had a busy year in 1941 and my annual report shows we put out 2,930 advertisements, totalling 742,026 lines, in 105 different publications; published 276 news articles, with 129,967 lines, plus 15,852 lines of free publicity; broadcast 422 one-hour programmes, with 33,720 lines of free publicity as trimmings.