

THE SHAMEFUL EVENTS of the past few years in Chile, when "Provisional Presidents" were the order of the day, will not be repeated.

This is the confident assertion made in editorials cabled to **THE LITERARY DIGEST** from the Chilean press in their comment on the parade of 15,000 Fascists, members of the powerful new *Nacional Milicia Republicana* through down-town streets of Santiago, on May 7.

At the same time, Horacio Hevia, Premier and Minister of the Interior, resigned his office after failing to prevent the demonstration, which had the approval of President Arturo Alessandri.

A crowd estimated at more than 400,000, according to Santiago Associated Press dispatches, witnessed the first public display of the militia, which is a civilian organization, formed on military lines, with the avowed purpose of supporting a constitutional government and preventing the rise of de facto régimes.

A squadron of "Fascist" planes flew overhead as the units, unarmed, and marching to airs played by two dozen bands and five corps, moved from the Jockey Club, through the spacious Boulevard Alameda, past the Presidential Palace, where they saluted President Alessandri and government leaders, and then proceeded to the main reviewing center in the Plaza des Armas.

THE display of the militia, which previously had been semi-secret, is reported in the Santiago dispatches to have

Chile's New Fascist Force

THE
LITERARY DIGEST
MAY 20, 1933

p. 13

left the capital "almost gasping with surprize" at the strength of the first potent civil law-enforcement body since Diego Portales formed a civic guard one hundred years ago. We read further that:

"To date the organization has spent 6,000,000 pesos (approximately \$360,000), it is understood, all of it from private sources, for planes, tanks, field-guns, rifles, revolvers, trucks, field-hospital supplies—everything for offensive or defensive war.

"Along the line of march there were many demonstrations for the Fascists, and a few against them. Women tossed flowers from flag-bedecked windows. Domingo Duran, Minister of Education and Justice, a regimental commander of the militia, received almost continuous applause.

"His activities and President Alessandri's refusal to halt the parade led Premier Hevia to resign. Most of the units wore blue coveralls with blue overseas caps and belts. The provincial regiments wore khaki or gray uniforms.

"Señor Montero said enemies of the militia should be pleased with it, for, in the event of strife, the Fascists, who are not, he said, connected with the German Hitlerites or the Italian Fascists, would join the Army."

OldMagazineArticles.com