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Travel Congress

The Third Inter-American Travel Congress will meet in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, February 15-25, 1949, to continue the important work of facilitating travel between the 21 member nations in the Western Hemisphere. This work was begun in San Francisco in 1939 and continued in Mexico City in 1941.

Several postponements of previously scheduled meetings of the Third Congress will probably work to advantage in the long run. Interest in Western Hemisphere travel problems was never higher than now. The indications are that, in addition to the official United States delegation, many representatives of private firms, and organizations will attend and take an active part in the program.

The war and resulting disrupted economic conditions have prevented effective use of many of the good principles enumerated at the first two Inter-American Travel Congresses and at the Bogota Conference in March 1948. The free exchange of travel between neighboring nations is hampered by excessive procedures and the cost involved in obtaining visas, photographs, health certificates, good conduct letters, and exit permits.

The difficulties involved in simplifying these procedures are great, but the rewards from doing so would also be great. The economic and social welfare of the entire family of nations in the Western Hemisphere could be strengthened more easily through increasing the flow of travel than in any other way presently available.

The travel industry of the U.S.A. has a big stake in the facilitation of inter-American travel. Our steamship lines and air lines need passengers. They particularly need passengers coming to the U.S.A. The hotels, resorts and transportation facilities in the U.S.A. need the new business represented by an increase in travel from foreign countries to the U.S.A. They need it to help offset, in some measure, the heavy travel by United States nationals to foreign countries. They also need it to help meet a declining trend in domestic travel, brought on by the slowing down of postwar spending and the general leveling-off of our postwar economy.

It behooves all concerned, therefore, to take an interest in the proceedings of the Third Inter-American Travel Congress and to lend support to the practical application of the findings and recommendations that will be issued by the Congress.

THE COVER

Denver's Civic Center.
Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Photo

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