WORLD WAR I IMPACTS ON CHILE’S SECURITY PRINTING PLANT DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

In 1912 Chile began exploring printing its own paper security items after 45 years of foreign production. It chose to obtain from distant England needed technical expertise, equipment, and supplies, not available domestically or from nearby countries. By the start of World War I, Chile had committed to the project by purchasing equipment and supplies, hiring staff, and building the plant in Santiago. There were war related challenges including export restrictions and shipping interruptions, but a small group of dedicated Chileans and Englishmen successfully coped with the challenges, and the plant produced the needed security products – bank notes, bonds, revenue paper, and of greatest interest here, postage stamps.