RemitEx: The Exhibition

Alqueria was the scene of frantic endeavour, marquees were being erected, streets steam-cleaned, litter collected and houses painted. Everyone in the Village was putting their 'shoulders to the grindstone' for the mutual good of the Republic. Some people even worked three of four hours a week, it was humbling to watch. Manuela wiped a tear from her eye as she surveyed the exertions of her fellow countrymen.

RemitEx the exhibition, designed to restore confidence in Remitroot and its associated products after the evil Rodriquez had all but destroyed the goodwill built up over two millennia. Tents had been erected to demonstrate its important uses and downplay the side-effects. These included severe and lifelong addiction, swelling of the male organ, and a strange fungal foot-rot that turns the toes bright green and smells like the putrefying carcass of a estuarine crocodile.

'Remitroot the alcohol' naturally had the biggest tent. The whisky, rum, wine and beer derived from the Root were potent beverages and had enhanced effects on those whose mental state was in any way impaired. This guaranteed that the population of Alqueria lived their daily lives in a perpetual state of intoxication.

'Remitroot the aphrodisiac' was a sound proofed, pink quilted affair organised, operated and jealously guarded by the lovely Manuela.

'Remitroot the corrosion retardant' This was a small not very interesting tent but highly lucrative, it was shared by 'Remitroot the pipe lagger'. Customers to this venue would be directed to the first two tents and therefore be in no fit state to question inflated prices and vague delivery promises. Potential customers for all Remitroot products were promised free beer and dancing girls.

Came the opening day of RemitEx and, rather unusually for Alqueria it went like a piece of Swiss clockwork. The beverage tent soon needed to send for resupply and the

samples, free at first attracted rising prices proportional to the degree of intoxication of the would be customers. A veil should be perhaps drawn over the activities in 'Remitroot the aphrodisiac' tent, suffices to say those leaving were but a shadow of themselves on entering.

Come the evening and fights had broken out in every venue. An alcohol induced free for all was in full swing in the beverage tent while a fist fight among those waiting to enter the aphrodisiac tent started when drunken queue jumpers tried to push themselves in. Sheer boredom in the anti-corrosion tent led to a mêlée of biting and kicking which seemed a more exciting alternative to the world of rust retardants.

Manuela was well pleased.

Remitroot once more took its rightful place as the world's leading product offering immediate and intense intoxication, disturbing mind alteration and stimulation a stud stallion would be proud of. Alqueria was once more a going concern.