

MONTHLY BULLETIN
AMERICAN REPUBLICS BUREAU

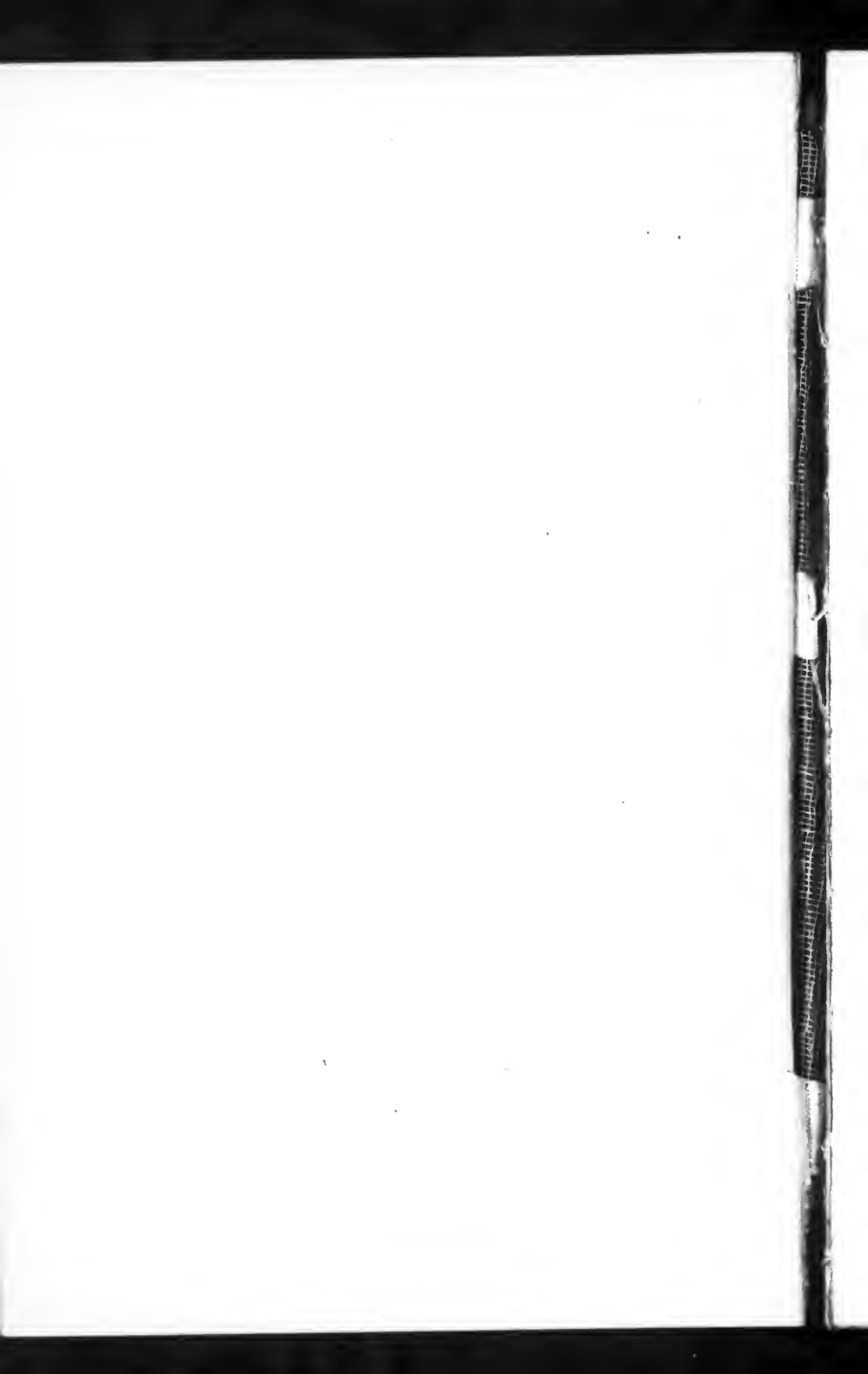
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1907

JOHN BARRETT

Director of the International Bureau of the American Republics.

FRANCISCO J. YANES,
Secretary.

WILLIAM C. WELLS,
Chief Clerk.

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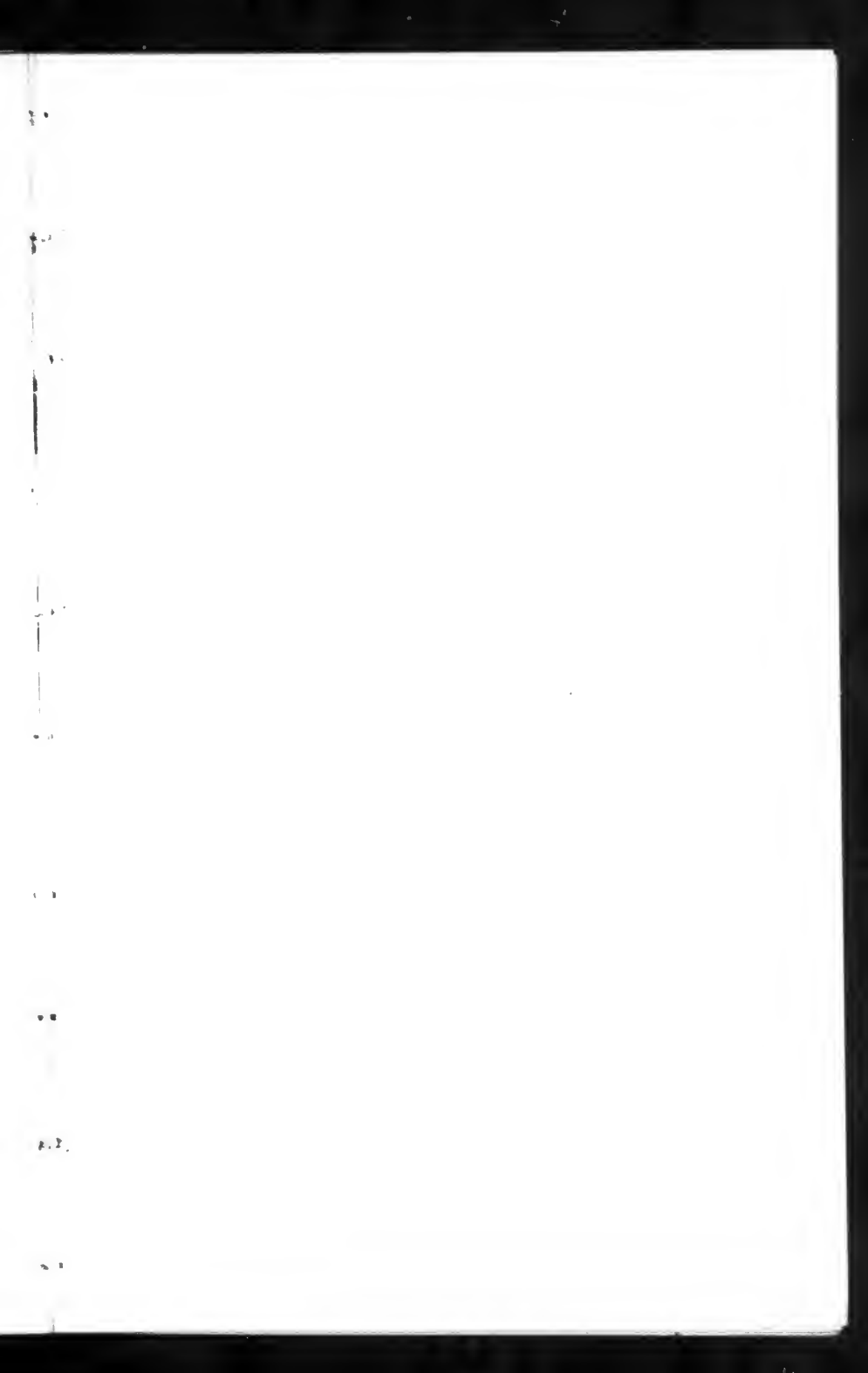
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SEÑOR DON JOSÉ F. GODOY, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY AND CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM
OF MEXICO IN WASHINGTON.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. XXV.

OCTOBER, 1907.

No. 4.

It is hoped that all persons interested in the International Bureau and in the MONTHLY BULLETIN will find time to glance through its first few pages of editorial comment. In this way they will be able to gain an idea of the principal features of the BULLETIN and have a bird's-eye view, as it were, of the most recent information from the Latin American Republics. Without appearing to show unwarranted enthusiasm, the Director desires to emphasize the evidences which are coming into the International Bureau every day of the remarkable era of industrial progress and material development upon which the Latin American Republics are now entering. In turn, he is impressed with the inquiries that reach the Bureau from all over the United States, Europe, and South America in regard to the opportunities for building up trade, for making investments, for travel, study, and investigation, for mining, manufacturing, and general industrial opportunities, and for scientific research. There is so much of interest in the Latin American newspapers and magazines and in the reports being received by the Department of State of the United States from its Ministers and Consuls there that only a small portion of the information can be reproduced in the BULLETIN. A careful effort, however, is made to summarize the most important features of Governmental action and material progress.

ECHOES OF THE VISIT OF SECRETARY ROOT TO MEXICO.

While the dispatches in the newspapers from Mexico have given some idea of the extent of the welcome accorded Hon. ELIHU ROOT, Secretary of State of the United States, by the Mexican Government and people, a true idea of the real enthusiasm, cordiality, and magnifi-

cence of the reception can only be appreciated by reading the Mexican papers. Everything was done on a large scale and as if the hearts of the Mexican officials and people were in their demonstration of feeling and interest. Everybody in Mexico City, from President DIAZ down to the lowest peon, seemed to have a personal pride in welcoming the American Secretary of State to their country and capital. Wherever he went, in the city or in the country, whether in a railroad train or in a carriage, there was no mistaking the earnestness of admiration and interest shown by those who tried to see him. Such treatment of the Secretary of State is not surprising to those who are familiar with Mexico. When the Second Pan-American Conference was held there, in 1901-2, no stone was left unturned by the Government and people to make the delegates from every American nation feel at home. Mexico can now be ranked among the first powers of the world, and it takes advantage of an opportunity like the visit of the Secretary of State to prove that it can treat distinguished foreigners with as much élat and cordiality as can the great countries of Europe and South America. The Secretary of State will never forget the wonderful receptions that were accorded him in Brazil, Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, Chile, Peru, Panama, and Colombia, and now, as a fitting complement to his experiences on the Southern Continent, he makes a memorable visit to the principal Latin country of the Northern Continent. Surely this will give him a familiarity with the conditions and affairs of our sister American Republics possessed by no other Secretary of State of the United States and will serve to strengthen the policy of mutual interest and confidence which he has so successfully initiated.

THE COMING CONFERENCE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

The Ministers at Washington of the Central American Republics, Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, of Costa Rica; Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, of Nicaragua; Señor Dr. Don LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, of Guatemala, Señor Don FEDERICO MEJÍA, of Salvador, and Señor Dr. Don ANGEL UGARTE, of Honduras, and the representatives of Mexico and the United States, Señor Don JOSÉ F. GODOY, chargé d'affaires of Mexico, Mr. ROBERT BACON, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, and Mr. A. A. ADEE, Second Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, who cooperated in the preliminary deliberations, are to be congratulated on the Protocol signed September 16, 1907, by the first five diplomatic representatives named for the holding of an international conference in Washington during November, 1907, for the adjustment of questions at issue. A spirit of mutual interest and diplomatic consideration marked the discussions leading up to the signing of the Protocol, which presages a

happy and satisfactory conclusion of the approaching conference. It will probably be held in rooms of the International Bureau which will be specially set aside and prepared for its sessions. This is a fitting arrangement, in view of the fact that the Bureau is as much an office of Central America and Mexico as of the United States.

UNIVERSITY STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA.

The Director of the International Bureau has referred from time to time to the growing interest which American universities and colleges are taking in the study of Latin America. Now comes a report from Prof. EDMOND S. MEANY, of the University of Washington, at Seattle, the principal city of that great Northwestern State. He states that he is giving a series of six lectures on Spain in America at this university before a large class of young men and women. The subjects which he treats are as follows: (1) Establishment of Spanish authority in America; (2) Progress toward civilization; (3) Struggle of the colonists to be free; (4) Spanish American Republics; (5) Spain in the United States; (6) Conclusion, covering (a) Intellectual progress, (b) Economic growth, (c) Political development, and (d) Pan-American Congresses. Professor MEANY is to be congratulated on initiating this course, which is sure to be popular. In this connection it should be noted that Prof. RUDOLPH SCHEVILL, of Yale, reports that the Spanish section of that university is growing rapidly and that he is planning a very interesting course of lectures for their study this winter. Prof. L. S. ROWE, of the University of Pennsylvania, has just returned from his extended tour through South America and will take up a comprehensive study of that part of the world with an unusually large class of young men. Probably no man in the United States to-day is better fitted to discuss actual conditions in Latin America than Professor ROWE. He visited every important capital and spent nearly a year and a half in his travels. In a short time Prof. WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD, of Columbia University, will return from his journey in South America and will begin a series of addresses before the students of that institution.

INTEREST IN THE NEW BUILDING OF THE BUREAU.

The International Bureau is very grateful to the large number of newspapers and magazines that have published portraits of its proposed new building. Such publicity makes the people of the United States and Latin America familiar with the character, scope, and purpose of the Bureau and proves to them that it is an institution which is of practical value in the promotion of greater commerce and

better understanding among all the American Republics. Often tangible evidence in the form of a picture does more to interest the average person than a long description in print. The list of daily newspapers throughout America which have reproduced the photographs of the architects' drawings would occupy too much space, but the BULLETIN takes pleasure in noting the descriptions and pictures published in "Harper's Weekly," the "National Magazine," the "Scientific American," the "Bankers' Magazine," the "Literary Digest," the "American Exporter," "Dun's Review," "El Comercio," "Cassier's Magazine," the "Illustrated Sunday Magazine," "El Tiempo Ilustrado," of Mexico, "El Anunciador Peruano," of Lima, "Correspondencia del Pacífico," of San Francisco, and "Modern Mexico," of New York and Mexico City.

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF LATIN AMERICA.

It is interesting to note that many of the large national associations which consider industrial, agricultural, and general economic questions affecting the welfare of the United States are anxious to learn more about the trade relations of the United States with her sister Republics, and have included in their programmes some discussion of this subject in one form or another. The National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, which met in Washington during the first week of October, invited the Director of the Bureau to address them on "The market for American cotton products and the development of the cotton industry in the Latin American Republics." The president of this association is WILLIAM D. HARTSHORNE, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and the secretary is C. J. H. WOODBURY, both of whom have labored earnestly for its building up, and who recognize the value of extending foreign markets for cotton manufactures. At the Deep Waterways Convention, Memphis, Tennessee, October 5, 1907, which was addressed by President ROOSEVELT, the Director was invited to discuss "The relation of the Panama Canal to deep waterways and the development of the trade of the Central West with South America." HARRY B. HAWES, one of the leading lawyers of St. Louis, Missouri, and chairman of the programme committee for the Memphis convention, is deeply interested in the promotion of closer ties of commerce and friendship among the American Republics. JOHN M. STAHL, president of the National Farmers' Congress, which met in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 22, extended an invitation to the Director to address that gathering, made up of over 2,000 representative farmers of the United States, on "The opportunity for building up a market for American farmers in Latin America and the influence thereon of improved interior waterways."

Mr. STAHL, in his labors on behalf of the farmers of the United States, recognizes that their interests are involved in building up trade with Latin America. In response to urgent invitations to the Director that he should discuss South America, he spoke, on October 9, before the Newark, New Jersey, Board of Trade; on October 15 before the Quill Club, of New York City; and on October 17 before the Chamber of Commerce of Trenton, New Jersey.

VISIT OF BRAZILIANS TO THE UNITED STATES.

It was a great pleasure for the Director of the Bureau to welcome to Washington a party of Brazilians who visited the United States during the latter part of September and the first week of October. There were about thirty men and women and they seemed to enjoy thoroughly what they saw. They were representative of the best class of people from that country and made an excellent impression wherever they went. They came to New York and returned to Brazil on the *Acre*, one of the new steamers of the Brazilian Lloyd Line, and special credit is due to that company for arranging this excursion. It is hoped that more groups of representative Brazilians may come to the United States, for they will receive a hearty welcome. In Washington, they were presented to Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, who made a happy little address of welcome in which he referred to the possibilities of the development of trade between the United States and Brazil. Later they were introduced to Hon. ROBERT BACON, Acting Secretary of State. He received them in the private office of Hon. ELIHU ROOT, Secretary of State, who was absent on his trip to Mexico. Mr. BACON expressed regret that the Secretary was not there to greet them, and referred to the magnificent reception the people of Brazil gave Mr. ROOT on his trip to South America. He expressed his pleasure, on behalf of the State Department, that a party of representative Brazilians had made this journey in order to get better acquainted with the United States and hoped that they would take back to Brazil pleasant impressions. In the interviews with both Secretary STRAUS and Acting Secretary BACON, Mr. PAES LEME and Mr. GONÇALVES made appropriate responses. After leaving these offices the Brazilians were taken for a view of the White House, being received earlier than usual by special arrangements. Later on they visited the principal points of interest in Washington. The party was in charge of W. A. REID, formerly an attaché of the Bolivian Legation in Washington, and was made up as follows: E. Guichara, Gabriel Botelho Sobrinho, Raymundo Bezerra, Domingos Gonçalves and wife, For-

tunato Meneres, Dr. Arthur Barbosa, Jose Ignacio de Sousa, Jose Porcopio de Araujo, Domingos Soriano da Costa, Guilherme Busch and wife, João Teixeira da Frota, Dr. Josias de Andrade, Antonio Sousa Silveira and wife, Otto Schlvemback, Col. Jose Piedade and wife, Luis de Almeida, Julio Matheus dos Santos, Crispim Celorio, wife, and niece, Alfredo Ruis, Francisco Gomez Nogueiro, wife, and daughter, and Felisberto C. Paes Leme, representative of SS. Lloyd Brasileiro.

In connection with the visit above described, the following letter is published as showing the appreciation of the Brazilians of the attentions they received in Washington:

"NEW YORK, *October 4, 1907.*

"HON. JOHN BARRETT.

"ESTEEMED SIR: AS I am about to return to Brazil, I wish to express to you, in the name of the Brazilian Lloyd, as well as personally, our appreciation of the many courteous attentions which you showed the Brazilian tourists while visiting Washington, such as coming to meet them, going around with them, and presenting them to Secretaries STRAUS and BACON.

"I beg you will also thank His Excellency the President and Secretary ROOT for the courtesies shown us through their kind intervention.

"I shall carry with me very pleasant memories of the cradle of the 'GREAT WASHINGTON,' and I hope the words so kindly spoken by Mr. STRAUS may be realized and that when the history of those who have brought about a closer union and friendship between Brazil and the United States is written, the name of the Brazilian Lloyd, M. Buarque & Co., may appear as one of those who have contributed to this immense edifice of the American nations.

"You who were so chivalrous in your conduct toward us can alone act as interpreter of our feelings of gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. YÁNES (wife of Mr. F. J. YANES, Secretary of the Bureau) for the short but very agreeable hours she spent with the ladies of our party.

"I beg that you who direct with so much dignity the International Bureau of American Republics will count among your friends and admirers the Brazilian Lloyd, M. Buarque & Co., where I hope to have the honor of receiving your orders.

"Yours, very respectfully,

"FELISBERTO C. PAES LEME."

GERMAN-ARGENTINE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

That German business interests are taking advantage of every opportunity in Latin America is shown by the organization of a German-Argentine company, which has for its purpose the development of closer commercial relations between Germany and the Argentine Republic. Its headquarters will be divided into two branches, one in Berlin and the other in Buenos Aires. The Argentine Government evidently looks with favor upon the movement, as it is giving governmental cooperation and assistance to the company. In turn, it has been decided that there shall be established in Germany a permanent exposition of Argentine products.

THE NEW ARGENTINE-ITALIAN TREATY.

The Argentine Republic has set an excellent example to the other nations of the world in signing a general arbitration treaty with Italy. It is especially fitting that these two countries should be parties to a convention of this noble character, because Italians form a large proportion of the total population of the Argentine Republic. If the present emigration from Italy to that country continues, it would seem to be only a question of time when Italians would outnumber those of original Spanish descent. There is an attraction about the opportunities for immigration in the Argentine Republic that makes it the most popular country, after the United States, for them to seek as a new home.

BOLIVIA'S PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT.

The message to the Bolivian Congress of President MONTES contains a very excellent review of the conditions in that Republic for the year 1906. It gives a comprehensive idea of Bolivia's advance in commerce and foreign relations. Its great resources are being appreciated not only by the people of the country but by foreign countries. There is hardly a Republic in all Latin America showing more activity in railroad, mining, and general development. Its foreign trade is advancing with most encouraging figures. In 1906 it approximated \$45,347,420, against \$35,000,000 in 1905. The greatest export item is tin, followed by rubber, copper, silver bullion in ore, and bismuth in the order named. Present indications point to Bolivia becoming permanently the greatest tin-producing country of the world.

BRAZILIAN RAILROAD MILEAGE.

The railroad progress of Brazil is one of the remarkable features of the present conditions in Latin America. There were in December, 1906, approximately 17,242 kilometers in use and 3,041 kilometers under construction. At the same time surveys had been approved for building 6,683 additional kilometers. In the distribution of the lines it is seen that São Paulo leads with 3,980 kilometers, followed by Minas Geraes with 3,957. After these comes Bahia, Pernambuco, Parana, and Ceara in the order named.

CHILEAN FINANCES AND REVENUES.

In this issue we publish a very interesting review of Chilean business and financial conditions prepared by Mr. ADOLFO ORTUZAR, Chilean Consul-General in New York. It should be read by all those who are following the progress of that enterprising Republic. It discusses carefully the different sources of revenue of the Government and shows clearly the present prosperity of Chile.

THE NEW MINISTER OF CHILE TO THE UNITED STATES.

About the time that this BULLETIN is issued there will arrive in Washington the new minister of Chile, Señor DON ANIBAL CRUZ DIAZ. The Bureau welcomes him to the Governing Board and believes that he will take an interest in the efforts of the Bureau to develop Pan-American commerce and comity. His standing as a statesman and diplomat are so well known that he will not be a stranger to Washington. In this connection the Bureau can not fail to commend the excellent work that has been done in this country for Chile by the present Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. ALBERTO YOACHAM. He has devoted his best energies and much time to interesting American manufacturers and capitalists in his country and in looking after the commissions which his Government has given him.

PLATINUM RESOURCES OF COLOMBIA.

The scarcity of platinum in the world and its great value have awakened particular interest in the platinum resources of Colombia, and in this issue of the BULLETIN considerable data on the subject are published. This information has been largely compiled from reports of United States Consuls MANNING, of Cartagena, and DEMERS, of Barranquilla, Colombia. The demand for platinum is so great and the sup-

ply is so correspondingly low that it is hoped the deposits of Colombia will show both quality and quantity. If these deposits are satisfactory it will relieve the great strain which the scientific and manufacturing world now feels as to the supply. The Colombian Government itself evidently realizes the importance of platinum mining and is taking steps to see that the section of country where it is found is explored and that concessions are granted which will be profitable alike to the Government and the concessionaires. There are few countries in the world which contain greater mineral resources than Colombia and indications point to the investment of a large amount of foreign capital within its borders during the next few years. It is so accessible to both Europe and the United States that it should not seem like a distant land. While the facilities for interior travel are not of the best, still with its navigable rivers and with increased railroad construction it offers an interesting field of exploitation.

THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL COMPANIES.

The Costa Rican Government is seizing every opportunity to build up its commerce and trade. One of the most important steps recently taken is its approval of the three contracts entered into July 15-18, 1907, with the Costa Rican Railway, The United Fruit Company, and the Northern Railway Company. All of these contracts should result well for the Government and the companies. A decree was issued on July 10, 1907, which provides for free entry into the Republic of various kinds of agricultural machinery and implements. This will surely give an impetus to the interests concerned and is in line with the policy of the Government to develop agriculture throughout the Republic. The last BULLETIN issued by the National Department of Statistics shows that on December 31, 1906, the total population was 341,590. These figures may not seem large, but they show great possibilities of increase of population in the future. Costa Rica has resources to easily support three millions of people.

REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BANANA TRADE.

One of the most interesting features of the development of closer trade relations between the United States and Europe and the countries bordering on the Caribbean is the growth of the banana business. It has advanced with such proportions that it is now far beyond the most optimistic predictions of ten years ago. If it builds up in the future as it has in the last few years it would seem to be

only a question of time when bananas would become one of the common food products of the masses of people in the United States and Europe. It was not long ago that bananas were regarded almost as a luxury; now they are becoming cheaper even than apples in the apple country of the United States. The great benefit to the Caribbean countries in the growth of this trade is the converting of large areas of apparently useless jungle into most valuable plantations. Thousands of square miles, which five years ago were considered valueless and only fit to breed mosquitoes, are now fruitful sources of revenue in the production of bananas, and towns are being built up all along the Caribbean coast where before there was no life or activity.

RECEIVER PULLIAM'S REPORT ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

The report of W. E. PULLIAM, Receiver of Dominican Customs, for the first six months of 1907 is full of interest, and the greater part of its contents are reproduced in this issue. The figures show an increase over last year of over \$300,000 for the imports and \$670,000 for the exports. When it is remembered that the population of the Republic is estimated at something less than 500,000 souls, it means an increase of about \$4 for each inhabitant for the full year of 1907.

This is a gratifying indication of prosperity. In August, according to a report of United States Minister McCREERY, there was opened in Santo Domingo an industrial exposition, which made an excellent display of native products and manufactures and indicated the possibilities of development in that Republic. The Government and people showed much interest in the exposition, and it is a pity that more foreigners could not have seen it.

OPPORTUNITY FOR AN AMERICAN BANK IN GUAYAQUIL.

HERMAN R. DIETRICH, United States Consul-General at Guayaquil, Ecuador, urges the establishment of an American bank in Guayaquil, and points out in a report some salient facts regarding banking conditions. He emphasizes the belief that, when the Panama Canal is completed, Guayaquil will become one of the most important ports of the west coast of South America. As the present population is 70,000, a bank ought to be successful. The banking law of Ecuador is reproduced in this issue.

PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS IN GUATEMALA.

The attention of medical men throughout the American Republics is called to the Fifth Pan-American Medical Congress, which is to meet in Guatemala in the middle of August, 1908. The last gathering was held at Panama in January, 1905. The Guatemalan Government commission, consisting of Señor Don JUAN J. ORTEGA, president, and JOSÉ AZURDIA, secretary, has sent out a circular invitation, a copy of which is given in the BULLETIN, to the medical men in the different American Republics inviting them to attend. As there are many important questions to come before this Congress which concern the medical interests in all countries, it is hoped that there will be a large attendance. It is understood that the Guatemalan Government is making special preparations to entertain the delegates in a fitting manner.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DIAZ.

The message which President DIAZ delivered to the Mexican Congress on September 16 was one of the most interesting and instructive statements issued by that able Executive. A résumé of it is published in this issue of the BULLETIN, and should be carefully read by those who are watching governmental, economic, and financial conditions in that Republic. One notable feature of the message is the announcement that the fiscal revenues for 1906-7 were \$20,000,000 (silver) in excess of the expenditures provided for in the Budget, and that, in spite of world-wide financial stringency, the Mexican monetary interests have shown a steady improvement. Another interesting fact is the establishment of a new Agricultural Bureau for the purpose of studying the questions connected with pastoral and agricultural pursuits and disseminating the results of its investigations to the farmers of the country. This step is sure to do much to advance agriculture in Mexico.

EXHIBITION OF MEXICAN RESOURCES IN LONDON.

Mexico is to be advertised in London by an exhibition of its railroad, industrial, and mining activities, which will be displayed in the Crystal Palace May to October, 1908. While this is being arranged by the directors of that institution, and it is not done on the initiative of the Mexican Government, an invitation has been extended to President DIAZ to lend his aid, and it is understood that the Government of Mexico has signified its willingness to cooperate for the success of the exhibition.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION IN MEXICO.

Much interest is evidenced in connection with municipal conditions in Mexico in the decree of the Mexican Government providing for a reduction of municipal taxation in certain sections of the country. There has been much complaint in the past about high taxation, and now the Government is making a very careful estimate of real estate properties and their taxable values in order to make sure that there is no greater burden imposed on the people than is absolutely required for the good of the public service. An official commission has been working for several years in order to bring about this new condition.

PROSPEROUS CONDITIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Reports from Panama indicate that the Republic is entering upon a period of prosperity and development not heretofore appreciated. It is being realized that Panama, despite its small area, has a remarkable variety of mineral, timber, and agricultural resources and possibilities. As soon as the interior is made accessible by railroads and better highways, there is no reason why there should not be a large increase in the population and in the improvement of the lands and sections which are now practically wildernesses. Many men who go first to the Isthmus to enter the employ of the Canal Commission are leaving it from time to time to establish themselves in some business or agricultural pursuit in different parts of the Republic. That Panama is benefiting from the development of the banana industry is shown by a report of Consul KELLOGG, of Colon. For instance, he points out that Bocas del Toro last year exported 3,212,504 bunches, and that the district surrounding that port has in operation 175 miles of railroad for the transportation of this product and 75 miles in course of preparation.

POPULATION AND COMMERCE IN URUGUAY.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, must soon take rank among the large capital cities of the world. It has nearly the same population as Washington, the capital of the United States. The last census, taken on the 31st day of December, 1906, gives it 308,435 inhabitants. It would seem as if Montevideo was getting the chief growth of the country, for it represents nearly one-quarter of the entire population, 1,103,004. Considering the area, resources, and climate of Uruguay, there is no reason why some day it should not support a population ten times as large. The latest full-trade statistics of Uruguay show a foreign trade of approximately \$61,000,000

for the year 1905, which was almost equally divided between exports and imports. This is an average of \$60 per head, which places Uruguay high in the per capita list of the nations in foreign commerce. Of the countries to the north, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium have the bulk of Uruguay's foreign commerce, while the United States and Italy take a secondary position.

TIMBER WEALTH OF THE ORINOCO.

The latest information from Venezuela would indicate that there is developing a realization of the immense possibilities in the exploitation of the national forests of the Orinoco delta. There are few portions of the world accessible to commerce and the high seas that have greater wealth in timber than the Orinoco Valley. On account of the comparatively close proximity of Venezuela to the United States and Europe, and of the fact that large vessels can approach close to points where great sawmills could be erected, there is no reason why there should not be in the near future a large trade in valuable timber between Venezuela and the United States and Europe. It would be a good thing for the preservation and protection of the forests of the United States if the demand for lumber there were met to a certain degree from Latin American countries. The forests of the United States are being destroyed too rapidly; while those of Latin America would be rather improved than harmed by some thinning out. Although Venezuela has been thoroughly advertised in the political and diplomatic world, its resources are little known or appreciated. It is in fact a country of marvelous natural possibilities.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES ON LATIN AMERICA.

Among the magazines received by the Columbus Memorial Library containing articles dealing with topics of interest to Latin America are the following:

September—"The Outlook;" Three South Americans and their doctrine, being a consideration of the personalities and characteristics of Señor TRIANA from Colombia; Señor BARBOSA from Brazil, and Doctor DRAGO from the Argentine Republic, all of whom represented their countries at the Hague Peace Convention;

"The Engineering Magazine" in which LEWIS R. FREEMAN discusses American trade opportunities and handicaps in South America;

"The Independent" containing a paper by Prof. L. S. ROWE on the era of good feeling in South America;

"The American Review of Reviews" wherein the position of Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic is considered by LEWIS R. FREEMAN, in relation to the development of West Indian commerce.

October publications covering the same ground are:

"The World To-Day" which shows the effect of South American immigration on North American trade; LEWIS R. FREEMAN;

"The Independent," in which the story of Bolivia's awakening is graphically told by Prof. L. S. ROWE, and the same country is described as the Switzerland of America by Dr. FRANCES E. CLARK;

"The Engineering Magazine" showing the bearing of South American copper upon the situation of that metal in the world's industries, by JAMES DOUGLAS; and

"Cassier's Magazine," which contains a sketch of the Bureau of the American Republics and details the work accomplished and in progress under the direction of that institution.

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PROTOCOL.

In deference to the joint suggestion of the Presidents of the United States and of Mexico, the five Central American Republics, through their diplomatic representatives accredited to Washington, met in the Department of State on September 11 and 17, 1907, for the purpose of fixing the bases upon which future peace and lasting friendly relations may be established.

The United States were represented at both meetings by Mr. ALVEY A. ADEF, at the time Acting Secretary of State, while Minister JOSÉ F. GODOY, Chargé d'Affaires of Mexico, represented his country. These nations were represented in recognition of their friendly mediation and efforts to bring about this meeting of the Central American States.

At the first meeting Señor DON JOAQUIN B. CALVO, Minister of Costa Rica, the senior diplomatic representative of Central America in Washington, was unanimously elected chairman and Dr. ANGEL UGARTE, Minister of Honduras, secretary.

After mature deliberation, inspired by the most conciliatory spirit, the following protocol was drawn up and signed:

"PROTOCOL.

"We, the representatives of the five Central American Republics, having met in the city of Washington at the instance of their Excellencies the Presidents of the United States of America and of the United Mexican States in order to devise the means of preserving the good relations among said Republics and of bringing about permanent peace in those countries, and for the purpose of establishing bases conducive to the attainment of such ends, being duly authorized by our respective Governments, have agreed to the following:

"ARTICLE I.

"Following a formal invitation which, as is understood, is to be made simultaneously to each of the five Central American Republics by their Excellencies the Presidents of the United States of America and of the United Mexican States, a conference of the plenipotentiaries to be appointed for the purpose by the Governments of the said Republics, viz, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, shall meet during the first fifteen days of November next in the city of Washington for the purpose of discussing the steps to be taken and the measures to be adopted in order to adjust any differences which may exist among said Republics or any of them, and for the purpose of concluding a treaty which shall determine their general relations.

"ARTICLE II.

"Their Excellencies the Presidents of the Central American Republics shall invite their Excellencies the Presidents of the United States of America and of the United Mexican States to appoint, if they deem proper, their respective representatives to lend their good and impartial offices in a purely friendly way towards the realization of the objects of the conference.

"ARTICLE III.

"Until the conference meets and accomplishes the lofty mission devolving upon it, the five Central American Republics, to wit, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, agree to maintain peace and good relations among one another, and they respectively assume the obligation not to commit or allow to be committed any act which might disturb their mutual tranquillity. To this end they shall refrain from an armed demonstration on their respective frontiers and shall withdraw their naval forces to their territorial waters.

"ARTICLE IV.

"If any unforeseen question should unfortunately arise among any of the said Republics pending the meeting of the conference, and if it should be impossible to adjust it by the friendly means of diplomacy, it is mutually agreed that the parties concerned shall submit the difference to the good counsels of His Excellency the President of the United States of America, or of the President of the United Mexican States, or of both Presidents jointly, according to circumstances and in conformity with the agreement to be concluded for the purpose.

"Signed in Washington, the seventeenth day of the month of September, one thousand nine hundred and seven.

"J. B. CALVO.

"F. MEJIA.

"LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE.

"ANGE' UGARTE.

"LUIS F. COREA."

The Minister of Costa Rica, in providing the International Bureau with copies of the protocol for publication, stated that Costa Rica, who maintains the best relations with all her sister Republics, has not taken, nor does she take in these negotiations other position than that of a friendly mediator, not only in San José, where several of the Central American Republics have been represented, but also in Washington, where the protocol has been signed upon the initiative of Costa Rica.

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE.

The following delegates have been selected by the various Central American Republics to represent them in the conference:

Costa Rica.—Señor DON JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, E. E. and M. P. in Washington; Dr. LUIS ANDERSON, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Guatemala.—Dr. LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, E. E. and M. P. at Washington; Dr. ANTONIO BATRES JAUREGUI, President of the Delegation to Rio de Janeiro and ex-Minister to the United States; Dr. VICTOR SANCHEZ OCAÑA, Chargé d'Affaires of Guatemala in Costa Rica.

Honduras.—Dr. ANGEL UGARTE, E. E. and M. P. in Washington; Dr. POLICARPO BONILLA, ex-President of Honduras; Dr. E. CONSTANTINO FIALLOS, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Nicaragua.—Dr. LUIS F. COREA, E. E. and M. P. at Washington; Dr. JOSÉ MADRIZ, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Salvador.—Señor DON FEDERICO MEJÍA, E. E. and M. P. at Washington; Dr. SALVADOR GALLEGOS, Minister of Salvador in Costa Rica; Dr. SALVADOR RODRIGUEZ, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA BEFORE THE QUILL CLUB.

At a banquet given in New York on October 16, 1907, by the Quill Club, an organization composed of representative editors, authors, publicists, and clergymen, on the occasion of its 140th regular meeting, the speakers were Señor DON ALBERTO YOACHAM, Chargé d'Affaires of Chile in the United States, and Mr. JOHN BARRETT, Director of the International Bureau of the American Republics.

The subject of Señor YOACHAM's address was "Chile: A Land of Progress." In dealing with the great financial and commercial development of that Republic, her advancement in educational matters, and the increasing importance of her railroads, he pointed out the failure on the part of the United States manufacturer to take full advantage of the great market offered for northern products. The

speaker was heard with great interest and enthusiasm, and the full text of his remarks will be reproduced in the November issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Mr. BARRETT, who spoke on "The New Central America and What It Means to the United States," said, in part:

"The coming conference of the Central American Republics in Washington will be one of the most important international gatherings that has ever assembled in North America. If it results in a treaty which will bring permanent peace to that important section of the northern continent, a new era will be inaugurated in the history of Pan-American unity and progress. While it is not possible for me to discuss the political phases of this conference or the different questions which are to be considered, I am at liberty to comment upon what is at stake in the commercial and material development of Central America.

"Few people in the United States realize the vast natural resources of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. A wrong impression of them is often gained by looking at the map. A glance of this kind creates the impression that they are almost entirely in the Tropics, and hence so disagreeably and uncomfortably hot that foreigners can not live there in health, prosperity, and favorable employment. This is a great error. Large sections of these Republics have an altitude above the sea which gives them the temperate climate of the central portion of the United States, without the extremes of cold or heat, which characterize the winters and summers of the United States. Ten times the population now found upon these plateaus could live there under prosperous conditions, and the time is surely coming when all of the higher area of the Central American Republics will be thickly settled.

"Then, again, it is a mistake to consider the area of the lower districts along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts as nothing but an impenetrable jungle, useless for general purposes of material exploitation. The time is coming when the entire jungle area from Mexico south to Colombia, on both Atlantic and Pacific sides, will be practically cleared away, to be occupied by banana, sugar, and other plantations, which will bring vast wealth and a larger population to Central America. When the principles and methods of sanitation are applied to the so-called Mosquito Coast, which are now so successful in Panama, there will be a wonderful transformation. Just as scores of millions of people live in tropical Asia under the sanitary conditions developed by the British Empire, so can they find homes in Central America when modern methods are applied.

"These Central American Republics possess a wealth of agricultural products, mineral resources, and timber that will invite the investment of great sums of American and European capital; railroads

will be built in all directions through them; new towns will spring up; immigration will pour into them from different parts of the world, and steamship connections with the United States, Europe, and South America will be increased and improved, provided the Washington Conference has a successful issue. It is a safe prediction that if all of the countries sign a convention that has the moral support of both the United States and Mexico, not only the United States but all the world will be surprised by the commercial, material, economic, educational, social, and general development of the Central American States. This does not mean that they have not been going ahead, and that they are not now worthy of close study on the part of those who want to know more about the possibilities of our sister Republics, but what they have done in the past will be nothing to the achievements of the future if permanent peace becomes assured."

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

FOREIGN COMMERCE FIRST HALF OF 1907.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Argentine Republic, published in the latter part of August, 1907, No. 134 of the bulletin entitled "Argentine Foreign Trade," containing the figures relating to the commercial intercourse of the nation during the first half of 1907 as compared with the same period of 1906.

The total imports during the first six months of 1907 amounted to \$130,561,685 gold, as compared with \$117,508,381 gold in the first half of the preceding year, an increase of \$13,053,304 gold. The total of exports was represented by a value of \$185,344,453 gold, while during the same period of 1906 they amounted to only \$154,766,110 gold, an increase in 1907 of \$20,668,343 gold.

The figures relating to the imports subject to duty and to those admitted free are highly suggestive and give an idea of the development of public works and agriculture, as it is well known that the majority of articles on the free list is composed of the various materials for construction and for agricultural and railroad purposes.

During the first half of 1907 the value of imports subject to duty amounted to \$81,807,348 gold, i. e., \$1,763,909 gold less than in the same period of the previous year, whose amount was \$83,570,357 gold. The imports free of duty amounted to \$48,754,337 gold against \$33,836,124 gold in the first half of 1906, or an increase of \$14,817,223 gold in the first six months of 1907.

An increase has also been recorded in the exports free of duty, being represented in the first half of 1907 by \$185,433,585 gold against \$164,766,110 gold in 1906.

The United Kingdom appears the first in the list of countries of origin, with a value of \$46,173,241 gold, an increase of \$8,567,677 gold over the first half of 1906. Germany is second, with \$21,037,876 gold, an increase of \$3,275,325 gold, followed by the United States with \$17,022,139 gold, a decrease of \$966,129 gold. France is credited with \$12,287,851 gold; Italy, with \$11,198,660; Belgium, with \$7,162,223; Spain, with \$3,202,982; Brazil, with \$3,195,214; Uruguay, with \$1,502,127; Holland, with \$709,715; Paraguay, with \$542,189; Sweden, with \$511,065; Austria-Hungary, with \$457,014; Cuba, with \$251,985; Chile, with \$163,582; Peru, with \$90,613; Bolivia, with \$76,599; Africa, with \$7,881, and Portugal, with \$3,970.

The import item showing the largest increase is recorded under the head of traction machinery, for which an advance of \$12,365,281 is noted as compared with 1906 (first half), the total importations being valued in the first six months of 1907 at \$25,909,453. This classification includes 262 locomotives as against 55 in 1906; 258 tram coaches, as compared with 65, and railway wagons and coaches to the number of 2,805 as against 811 in the corresponding period of 1906. Imports of electrical machinery advanced in value from \$1,089,641 to \$1,621,263. Paper and its manufactures show an increase of \$165,124; wood and manufactures thereof, an advance of \$50,057, while silk imports increased only to the amount of \$2,544. Wool, cotton, and other textiles declined greatly, nearly \$5,000,000 decrease being noted in these items.

Imports of live animals increased \$157,663; foodstuffs, \$1,614,953; vegetables and cereals, \$90,439; oils, \$704,590; chemical and pharmaceutical products, \$322,514; agricultural machinery, \$12,365,281; paper and manufactures thereof, \$82,736, and paints, etc., \$28,476.

The principal countries of destination during the period under review were: France, \$24,077,779; Germany, \$22,727,505; United Kingdom, \$20,386,587; Belgium, \$18,556,236; United States, \$6,523,287; Brazil, \$6,420,701; Italy, \$2,464,566; Holland, \$2,364,703; Uruguay, \$3,028,591; Chile, \$1,043,659; British colonies, \$1,632,679; Africa, \$1,055,928. The values of exports sent to other countries were as follows: Austria-Hungary, \$973,477; Switzerland, \$853,125; Spain, \$756,543; Peru, \$529,565; Bolivia, \$493,952; Canada, \$400,171; China, \$301,145; Norway, \$277,627; Russia, \$206,107; Portugal, \$127,198; Sweden, \$156,166; Japan, \$83,400; Cuba, \$99,527; Ecuador, \$19,170; Dutch colonies, \$19,756; Turkey, \$19,891; Denmark, \$16,977; Australia, \$43,330.

The quantities of the products shipped during the first half of 1907 were as follows: Wheat, 2,151,830 tons; linseed, 607,948 tons; maize, 354,548 tons; bran, 53,049 tons; oats, 106,037 tons; flour, 62,359 tons; fodder, 19,202 tons; sugar, 39 tons; quebracho logs, 177,952 tons; quebracho extract, 26,928 tons; frozen beef, 63,551

tons; wool, 88,884 tons; sheepskins, 12,373 tons; salted cowhides, 6,416 tons; dried cowhides, 6,380 tons; jerked beef, 6,416 tons; lard, 1,394 tons; tallow, 13,579 tons; pork, 899 tons; and frozen mutton, 1,327,348 tons.

The following table shows the exports of wheat, linseed, and maize during the first six months of 1907, as compared with the same period of 1906:

	First six months of—	
	1907.	1906.
Wheat.....	<i>Tons.</i> 2,151,830	<i>Tons.</i> 1,822,387
Linseed.....	407,948	324,436
Maize.....	354,548	741,120

The following were the destinations of exports during the first half of 1907: England, 1,311,077 tons of frozen mutton, 58,327 tons of frozen beef, 7,841 tons of wool, 6,919 tons of tallow, 246,477 tons of wheat, 22,506 tons of linseed, 38,503 tons of maize, 26,754 tons of oats, and products in less quantities; France, 18,085 tons of frozen mutton, 37,097 tons of wool, 10,751 tons of sheepskins, 34,611 tons of wheat, 28,908 tons of linseed, 19,839 tons of maize, and other products; Belgium, 11,844 tons of wool, 6,268 tons of salted cowhides, 260,931 tons of wheat, 61,682 tons of linseed, 29,323 tons of maize, 6,488 tons of bran, 24,232 tons of oats, etc.; Germany, 23,235 tons of wool, 8,124 tons of salted cowhides, 174,767 tons of wheat, 94,282 tons of linseed, 15,665 tons of maize, 39,397 tons of bran, 6,806 tons of oats, 22,613 tons of quebracho logs, 3,083 tons of quebracho extract, etc.; Holland, 204,135 tons of wheat, 21,059 tons of linseed, 8,535 tons of oats, etc.; Brazil, 134,290 tons of wheat, 1,405 tons of maize, 48,644 tons of flour, 13,439 tons of fodder, 38 tons of sugar, and 1,776 tons of jerked beef.

BANK STATEMENT, JUNE 30, 1907.

A communication received from the Department of Foreign Relations of the Argentine Republic, dated July 31, 1907, contains a statement published by the Minister of Finance, showing the situation of 15 of the Argentine banks on June 30, 1907. Their total deposits on that date amounted to \$25,855,911 gold and \$730,379,983 paper; discounts and loans, \$41,265,427 gold and \$601,073,350 paper; cash on hand, \$36,619,930 gold and \$253,074,195 paper.

Following is the statement referred to:

Banks.	Deposits.		Discounts and loans.		Cash on hand.	
	Gold.	Paper.	Gold.	Paper.	Gold.	Paper.
Alemán Transatlántico.....	\$1,067,528	\$27,738,836	\$4,774,369	\$28,004,806	\$1,514,885	\$6,833,773
Anglo Sudamericano (formerly Tarapacá).....	555,903	9,156,555	1,862,026	18,807,016	161,597	2,363,761
Británico de la América del Sur.....	1,246,364	33,941,947	3,734,092	30,969,606	1,542,478	6,720,951
Español del Río de la Plata.....	5,417,763	116,524,827	6,474,951	63,952,057	6,294,005	45,532,491
Francés del Río de la Plata.....	4,637,351	45,508,000	5,627,419	41,773,382	3,735,440	12,880,415
Galicía y Buenos Aires.....	16,405	3,492,881	36,521	5,517,278	68,032	1,747,730
Germanico de la América del Sur.....	196,683	3,161,373	1,707,734	5,380,881	421,100	3,802,828
Habilitador.....		138,276		169,675		119,861
Italia y Río de la Plata.....	2,251,040	72,091,217	3,615,214	51,578,619	4,943,380	16,402,846
Londres y Brazil.....	690,605	8,811,311	2,919,285	5,824,891	730,502	2,765,283
Londres y Río de la Plata.....	7,216,289	131,305,812	6,743,925	79,884,476	4,340,270	63,061,371
Nación Argentina.....	1,200,518	193,879,650	1,403,956	179,301,879	11,306,250	76,118,305
Nuevo Italiano.....	592,901	21,724,953	1,292,396	16,893,488	769,077	5,409,761
Popular Argentino.....	127,989	7,929,158	3,863	13,320,812	188,060	2,960,554
Provincia de Buenos Aires.....	579,082	55,386,352	1,069,616	42,540,594	604,796	16,356,265
Total.....	25,855,911	730,379,983	41,265,427	601,079,350	26,619,930	253,074,196

THE POPULATION OF BUENOS AIRES ON MAY 31, 1907.

According to statistics published in the monthly municipal bulletin for June, 1907, the population of the city of Buenos Aires on May 31, 1907, was 1,102,155 inhabitants.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORIES.

The Argentine Senate has approved a bill prepared by its committees on public works and agriculture for the development and exploitation of the National Territories. The principal rivers are to be made navigable by the construction of canals and communication is to be established between the various sections by means of new railway lines, while settlers and immigrants are to be encouraged through the adoption of an improved system for the sale of lands suitable for pasturage and agriculture.

PORT IMPROVEMENTS AT BUENOS AIRES.

A bill presented to the Argentine Congress by the Executive has for its purpose the enlargement of the port of Buenos Aires, the cost of the work to be limited to \$25,000,000 gold.

The rapid increase of commerce was not foreseen when the present plans of the port were adopted, and it was supposed that all requirements for a period of fifty years had been met. Numerous proposals have been made since the completion of the existing port for increasing its capacity, for improving the access to it and to Rosario, also for preventing the silting up of the bed of the river near the port.

The bill in reference provides for plans to be submitted by hydraulic engineers of the world, covering the necessities of the case, and when choice has been made of the most suitable, tenders will be invited for carrying it into execution.

The Government is empowered by the terms of the bill to expend \$1,500,000, paper in dredging one of the entrance channels to the depth of from 24½ to 26 feet.

REGULATION OF RAILWAYS.

The International Bureau of the American Republics has received through the Department of State of the United States a project of law relating to future railway concessions and to existing railways in the Argentine Republic, furnished by Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, United States Minister at Buenos Aires.

As presented by Deputy EMILIO MITRÉ to the Argentine Congress on August 6, 1907, the three principal objects of the bill are to make general regulations for all future concessions; to establish uniformity in the privileges granted to railway companies and as regards Government control of their tariffs; and to impose a fixed percentage tax on their net profits in exchange for their exemption from taxation and from customs duties upon materials for construction and operation.

The bill provides that until 1947 (when the privileges granted to the Southern Railway will cease) all materials imported for future railways will be free from duties, in consideration of an annual payment of 3 per cent upon the net profits, which will also free the company from the national, provincial, and municipal taxes. The existing companies may, within six months from the promulgation of the law, declare their option to avail themselves of the privileges, provided that they agree to pay the tax and consent to be subjected to the operation of article 9 of the bill, which declares that the National Executive shall fix the tariffs when the gross profits of the railway have in three successive years exceeded 17 per cent upon its capital in shares and debentures, the working expenses being limited to 60 per cent of the receipts and not to include remuneration of persons paid by the company abroad. For these purposes the capital will be fixed by the Executive when the line is opened and may not be increased without its consent.

If the existing companies do not declare such option within six months they will be subject, at the expiration of the term of their privileges, to the payment of all taxes and duties and to the prescriptions of the law in other respects. In this way uniformity of privileges and obligations will be established at the expiration of forty years at the latest. Afterwards the privileges will only be retainable by payment of a tax of 3 per cent on profits.

The minister says that it is quite probable that during the present session of Congress there will be some railway legislation based upon the fundamental idea of Mr. MITRÉ's project.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1907, noted the various privileges enjoyed by the railway companies operating under the laws of the Republic.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND GERMANY.

According to a communication from the French Consulate at Bahia Blanca published in the "*Moniteur Officiel*" of September 19, 1907, the Minister of Finance of the Argentine Republic has been informed by the Argentine Legation at Berlin of the organization of a company—the "Germano-Argentina"—for the development of commercial relations between Germany and that country. Industries, immigration, and in general everything contributing to the development of the exchange of products between these countries will receive attention.

The headquarters of this company will be in Berlin and Buenos Aires. Samples of all products of interest to German merchants or business men will be exhibited in a museum. Among the names of the founders of this company is that of a former minister plenipotentiary of the German Empire at Buenos Aires, as well as of bankers and merchants who have formerly been engaged in business with the Republic, and who are in consequence well acquainted with the country.

The Argentine Government is so convinced that this enterprise will be of great advantage to the Republic that it has decided to subsidize it, and will besides grant every necessary facility to assure its success. With this object in view, the Ministry of Finance will assume all expenses for the establishment of the permanent exposition of Argentine products in Germany.

ARBITRATION TREATY WITH ITALY.

On September 18, 1907, the general arbitration treaty between the Argentine Republic and Italy was signed at The Hague by the delegates of the respective nations to the Peace Conference.

The trade relations between the two countries are very close and of great importance. A number of Italian subjects have colonized in the Argentine Republic, and among the signers were Argentine citizens of Italian descent.

WOOL EXPORTS IN 1906.

Total wool shipments from the Argentine Republic during 1906 are reported by the National Statistics Bureau as 149,110 tons, as compared with 191,007 tons in 1905.

BOLIVIA.

COMMERCIAL STATISTICS, 1906.

Statistics issued by the Bolivian Government in August, 1907, report the total value of foreign commerce of the Republic for the year 1906 as 90,714,841 *bolivianos* (approximately \$45,347,420), as compared with 69,930,411 *bolivianos* (\$35,000,000) in the preceding year.

Export valuations are given as 55,654,515 *bolivianos* (\$27,827,258), against 42,060,869 *bolivianos* (\$21,030,435) in 1905, and imports figured for 35,087,325 *bolivianos* (\$17,543,662), as compared with 27,869,541 *bolivianos* (\$13,964,770) in the previous year. An increase of more than 13,000,000 *bolivianos* (\$6,500,000) is thus shown in exports and of over 7,000,000 *bolivianos* (\$3,500,000) in imports in the later period.

The principal articles exported and their respective valuations are reported officially as follows:

	Bolivianos.		Bolivianos.
Silver bullion and ore.....	4,786,752.51	Bismuth.....	1,155,472.60
Gold.....	36,984.00	Rubber.....	10,612,848.44
Tin.....	35,248,245.68	Sundries.....	497,327.00
Copper.....	3,316,885.36		

IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES IN 1907.

According to information furnished the International Bureau of the American Republics by Señor DON IGNACIO CALDERON, the Minister from Bolivia at Washington, the shipments of merchandise from the ports of New York and San Francisco to Bolivia during the first nine months of 1907 were valued at \$2,219,018.58. For the first of the half year these valuations were \$1,511,241.73.

The ascending scale followed by the receipts of United States wares in Bolivia is shown by the statement that in 1905 the total valuation was given at \$1,720,000 and in 1906 from the ports of New York and San Francisco alone shipments to Bolivia aggregated \$1,136,603.91 in value.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT MONTES.

On the occasion of the opening of the regular sessions of the Bolivian Congress, on August 6, 1907, President MONTES presented his message for the year 1906, reviewing the governmental administration of the Republic during said year. A perusal of this interesting document gives an exact idea of the remarkable development of the commerce, industry, and agriculture of the country.

The international relations during the year were most satisfactory. Special conventions were signed with Brazil and Chile for the settlement of the boundary questions. The friendly suggestion made by the Argentine Government for the agreement with Paraguay

of the basis of an arbitration treaty has been accepted. An agreement has been made with Chile for the designation of the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal at The Hague to settle all differences that may arise from the interpretation and enforcement of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of October, 1904, and it has been resolved by common consent, after taking into consideration the interests of both parties, to rectify in the points of Chajmuco and Collahuasi the boundary line fixed in said treaty; the settlement regarding the payment of the guaranty of railroads has been satisfactorily carried through. In respect to the Arica-La Paz Railroad, which is one of the important points of the treaty of October, 1904, the message states that the work of construction is being executed with the necessary impulse.

For the furtherance of the conditions of the Petropolis Treaty a protocol has been signed with the Republic of Brazil for the verification of the River Verde, and another for the demarcation of the boundary line; it has also been agreed with said Republic to extend for the period of one year the functions of the arbitration tribunal created by said treaty of Petropolis, the stipulations of which will be fulfilled as soon as the special treaty of commerce and navigation is signed, and the construction of the Madera-Mamore Railroad is completed. In reference to this line, the message announces that in April, 1907, the chief engineer and the manager-general of the company held an interview in San Antonio for the purpose of preparing the preliminary works. The company was formed with British capital.

The conventions signed with the Argentine Republic for the construction of railways are being enforced, and a protocol has been signed providing for the connection in Tupiza of the Bolivian line that is being constructed from Oruro, via Potosi, and the Central Northern of the Argentine Republic, which, about May, 1908, will reach the Bolivian border, according to recent estimates.

The boundary question with Peru, submitted to the decision of the Argentine Government, is nearing its settlement, which, it is hoped, will be satisfactory to both parties. In all other respects the relations between the two nations are most cordial, and the Peruvian Government has ordered the opening of the port of Ilo, after having been fitted adequately for the necessities of commerce, and the construction of a railroad to Moquegua with a branch on the Arequipa-Mollendo line for Bolivian traffic.

With the other nations of the world the most perfect and friendly relations are maintained, which tend to increase the commercial movement of the Republic.

Accepting the invitation of the Dutch Government, Bolivia sent to The Hague the envoys that represented the Republic in the Second International Peace Conference held at that capital.

Referring to the incident with the Holy See, President MONTES says:

"The attitude assumed by His Holiness Pope Pius X, by reason of the adoption of the amendment to Article II of the Constitution, and of the passage of the law abolishing the ecclesiastical privileges, and of the bills relating to the establishment of civil marriage * * * afflicted our sincerely Christian feelings, free from any partiality for any sect or denomination; but it did not, in the least, cause any hesitation in the duty sworn before the National Representatives, as a condition for the exercise of power, to uphold and defend the Constitution and the law. * * * The Executive notified the Pope, in a respectful manner and through the Foreign Office, that the Bolivian Congress does not share with anybody its high power of enacting the laws which it deems best for the government of the nation, and that, as it can not tolerate, in any wise, the ignoring of the principal powers of the national sovereignty, it had issued the letter of recall of the diplomatic representative we had accredited near the Holy See."

The internal affairs of the country were administered within the prescriptions of law and the proper functions of the Executive, and public order was preserved, its beneficial influence being noted in the increasing development of the finances, commerce, and industry, as well as in the enjoyment of all rights.

There has been a remarkable increase in the movement of the postal and telegraph services, making necessary the introduction of several improvements. In the postal service, several new offices have been established, and various subpost-offices have also been created in different parts of the Republic. In the telegraph service various lines have been repaired and reconstructed, and several new ones are under process of construction. Five wireless-telegraph stations will be opened during 1908. The adherence of Bolivia to the International Telegraphic Convention, signed at St. Petersburg in 1875, is being negotiated in London.

The construction and repair of roads received a great impulse during the year, and several sections of important highways in different departments will be completed in 1907.

The work of railroad construction is being carried on with great activity. The line from Oruro to Potosi will be completed in 1907, and special preference is given to the construction of the Tupiza-Potosi Railway, in order to connect it with the Argentine Central, in accordance with the agreements recently signed at Buenos Aires. The Eastern Bolivia Development Company (*Sindicato Ponto del Oriente Boliviano*) will very soon open to traffic the railroad from a point in the Paraguay River to Santa Cruz, and it has applied for the

necessary authorization to build branch lines from the main road to different points.

The financial situation is most satisfactory and it is an evident proof of the prosperity of the country, whose purchasing power is increasing every day. In support of this assertion, President MONTES cites the following figures:

"In 1904 the estimate of revenues amounted to 6,000,000 *bolivianos*; that of the year 1907 is 13,000,000 *bolivianos*, and the proposed budget for 1908 estimates the revenues at 16,000,000 *bolivianos*.

"The foreign trade in 1904 amounted to 52,601,988.76 *bolivianos*; in 1905, to 69,930,411 *bolivianos*; in 1906, to 90,714,841.15 *bolivianos*, and it may be stated with certainty that in 1907 it will reach the sum of 110,000,000 *bolivianos*.

"The banking institutions had in 1904 a capital, exclusively national, of 7,543,540 *bolivianos*; in 1905, of 8,560,866 *bolivianos*; in 1906, of 10,164,127 *bolivianos*, and on June 30, 1907, of 13,500,000 *bolivianos*.

"The capital of the foreign banks in the country was in 1906 of 1,904,803 *bolivianos*, and on June 30, 1907, 2,491,273 *bolivianos*.

"The deposits in the different banks of the Republic during the years in reference were as follows: 1904, 6,445,737 *bolivianos*; 1905, 6,921,546 *bolivianos*; 1906, 12,244,834 *bolivianos*, and 1907, 15,839,326 *bolivianos*."

In reference to the public debt, the message states:

"In accordance with the law of October 30, 1906, the conversion of Government bonds was effected, new certificates bearing 8 per cent interest, instead of the old ones at 10 per cent, having been issued and sold at par.

"The negotiation of the internal debt has been arranged, the inscription of which reached in June 30, 1907, the amount of 4,346,529.28 *bolivianos*, and for which, in accordance with the law relating thereto, bonds bearing 3 per cent interest for 1 per cent and amortization will be issued in January, 1908. These bonds have already been printed in London."

Public instruction received the special attention of the Government, and improved considerably during the year. Government students were sent abroad to study in the United States and in Europe. Ambulant schools were established for the education and instruction of Indians. These schools comprise at present a territorial extension of 30 leagues, and are attended to by eight teachers.

After some adverse years in agriculture, the crop of 1906 was very satisfactory throughout the Republic. The President urges in his message the adoption and introduction of important improvements in this branch, such as the importation of modern machinery, establishment of an irrigation system, etc. For this purpose well-

boring machines have already been ordered from abroad. During 1907, the building for the Practical School of Agriculture in Tarija will be completed, and in Cinti a school of viticulture will be organized. A normal station for agricultural experiments and for the reproduction of several races and species of useful animals will be established in Cochabamba. In La Paz a meteorological observatory and a garden of acclimatization and experimental grounds will be established, in connection with which there will be a veterinary school.

BANK STATEMENT, JUNE 30, 1907.

The status of the five banks of issue operating under the laws of Bolivia on June 30, 1907, is reported officially as follows:

	Capital.	Cash on hand.
National of Bolivia.....	<i>Bolivianos.</i> 5,000,000	<i>Bolivianos.</i> 4,254,423.66
Francisco Argandoña.....	3,500,000	2,553,940.10
Industrial.....	2,500,000	1,545,383.99
Agricultural.....	1,700,000	1,008,880.17
Merchandise.....	800,000	407,737.01
Total.....	13,500,000	9,770,364.93

The cash balance covers gold, silver, and nickel deposits, also revenue stamps and bonds.

The last-named bank is of recent creation, being inaugurated with a capital of 800,000 *bolivianos*.

TRANSIT OF MERCHANDISE THROUGH MOLLENDO, PERU, IN 1906.

"*El Peruano*," the official publication of the Republic of Peru, contains in its issue for June 13, 1907, the report for 1906 of the customs agent of Peru in La Paz, Bolivia, according to which the transit of imports and exports for Bolivia through Mollendo, Peru, during the period covered by the report was represented by the following figures: Imports, £734,889 2s. 02d.; exports, £333,299 7s. 27d.; general total, £1,068,188 9s. 29d. The revenue derived by Bolivia from this important traffic amounted to 1,573,872.50 *bolivianos*, not including the month of December, the figures for which are still unknown, while in 1905 it only reached the sum of 1,124,686.54 *bolivianos*, an increase in 1906 of 449,185.96 *bolivianos*.

BRAZIL.

COFFEE CROP OF 1907.

The final official figures for the coffee crop of Brazil for the year ending June 30, 1907, show that the total entries in all Brazil reached 20,409,180 bags, representing an increase over the previous year of 9,353,802 bags, or 84.6 per cent, and an amount over the average for

the past four years of 8,948,797 bags, and exceeding the previous banner crop of 1901-2 by 4,132,715 bags, or 25.4 per cent.

Of the crop, there have been shipped to foreign ports a total of 17,702,329 bags, or 6,745,931 bags more than last year. Of the total shipments, the United States took 6,520,323 bags, or 36.9 per cent of the crop, as compared with 5,068,472 bags, or 46.2 per cent of the crop last year, 6,329,760 bags, or 61.9 per cent of the crop in 1904-5, and 6,855,235 bags, or 45 per cent of the crop in the former banner year of 1901-2. Of the total amount of coffee sent by Brazil to the United States last year, Rio de Janeiro sent 2,033,371 bags, Santos 3,852,499, Victoria 402,450, Bahia 20,631, and other ports 501.

Of the total of 10,971,414 bags sent to all of Europe last year, Germany took 3,488,916, mostly at Hamburg; Great Britain, 412,384; Belgium, 1,416,644, mostly at Antwerp; Austria-Hungary, 929,045; Holland, 1,067,813; France, 3,126,894; Italy, 1,986,624; the rest scattering. The value of coffee shipped from Brazil last year, 17,125,282 bags, was officially fixed at the time of shipment so as to total £32,920,468, or \$159,993,474. The stock of coffee on hand at Rio de Janeiro and Santos June 30 was 3,014,280 bags, as compared with 830,599 the season previous, and 1,034,066 June 30, 1905.

The greater part of the increase in the crop came in the State of São Paulo, where the bulk of the crop generally is produced. All the States producing coffee, however, showed increases, except Bahia and Santa Catharina, where there was an average decrease of over 45 per cent. The increase in Rio de Janeiro amounted to 30.4 per cent, in São Paulo to 120.3 per cent, and in Espírito Santo to 3 per cent, all compared with the year before. As compared with the previous banner crop year of 1901-2, there was a decrease in all the States except São Paulo of about 27.5 per cent.

AUTHORIZATION OF THE COFFEE LOAN.

The law of the Brazilian Government authorizing the coffee loan of \$15,000,000 was promulgated by the Executive on August 12, 1907.

POPULATION STATISTICS.

Official figures published by the Brazilian Ministry of Public Works give the total population of Brazil as 19,910,646 in 1907, as against 19,523,222 in 1906. The total area, including the 191,000 kilometers embraced in the Acre Territory is placed at 8,497,940 kilometers.

IMPORT VALUATIONS, FIRST HALF OF 1907.

Figures showing the value of imports into Brazil for the six months, January to June, 1907, indicate a general expansion of trade values, increased receipts as compared with the corresponding period of 1906 being noted from all participating countries with the exception of

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Chile, Cuba, Japan, Paraguay, British India, Russia, and Asiatic Turkey.

Imports from Great Britain show the largest advance, of £1,661,177, followed by Germany, £896,536, and the United States, £470,631.

Total imports for the half year were £18,899,497, as compared with £14,424,974 in the first half of 1906, distributed during the two periods as follows:

	1906.	1907.		1906.	1907.
Germany.....	£1,955,519	£2,857,055	Peru.....	£880	£3,640
Argentina Republic.....	1,330,497	1,837,040	Portugal.....	975,540	1,167,006
Austria-Hungary.....	214,151	319,748	Canada.....	96,642	146,582
Belgium.....	662,176	670,833	India.....	105,120	47,580
Chile.....	18,611	11,329	New Zealand.....	862	4,814
China.....	15,922	21,057	New Foundland.....	190,373	239,457
Cuba.....	4,326	3,195	Other British possessions.....	14,240	22,436
Denmark.....	20,550	24,976	Russia.....	26,179	12,086
United States.....	1,928,066	2,398,727	Sweden.....	51,273	63,419
France.....	1,313,367	1,598,289	Norway.....	133,827	156,206
Great Britain.....	3,910,168	5,571,315	Switzerland.....	128,269	175,071
Greece.....	299	840	Turkey in Asia.....	3,550	2,044
Spain.....	98,630	140,375	Turkey in Europe.....	2,940	8,209
Holland.....	76,338	109,862	Uruguay.....	776,621	532,884
Italy.....	591,495	685,496	Other countries.....	14,442	16,229
Japan.....	5,321	3,358			
Paraguay.....	9,035	7,348			

CUSTOMS REVENUES, FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1907.

The following figures, taken from the latest official statistics, show the revenues collected by the various custom-houses of Brazil during the first six months of 1907:

	1907.	1906.		1907.	1906.
	<i>Milreis.</i>	<i>Milreis.</i>		<i>Milreis.</i>	<i>Milreis.</i>
Manaos.....	12,370,187	8,369,322	Rio de Janeiro.....	49,969,649	39,431,012
Belém.....	18,381,369	14,784,183	Santos.....	25,879,537	19,167,069
Maranhão.....	2,083,533	1,902,100	Paranáguá.....	1,503,401	987,828
Pernambuco.....	321,573	497,096	Florianópolis.....	940,932	614,207
Fortaleza.....	2,497,415	2,107,068	Rio Grande.....	5,665,609	4,267,892
Natal.....	137,791	132,628	Porto Alegre.....	5,139,387	4,128,204
Parahyba.....	641,960	623,150	Uruguayana.....	719,240	573,106
Recife.....	9,352,707	8,644,028	Santa Anna do Livramento.....	190,454	111,201
Macéio.....	1,130,875	830,426	Corumbá.....	987,642	718,292
Aracaju.....	240,067	164,381			
Bahia.....	8,818,099	6,496,633	Total.....	137,294,794	115,426,850
Victoria.....	239,376	176,274			

A NEW FRENCH BANK IN THE REPUBLIC.

In accordance with an Executive decree of August 1, 1907, authority has been granted to "La Banque du Crédit Foncier du Brésil" to engage in banking operations in the Republic. A house will be opened in Rio de Janeiro and the capital of the company increased to 25,000,000 francs. The bank will undertake all legitimate banking, mortgage and deposit business, and will lend money on collateral. Bonds will be issued redeemable by drawings or other means, with or without premium, the product of which will be used solely for the

purposes of legitimate banking business. Money will be advanced only on first mortgages, and the amount advanced must never exceed two-thirds of the value of the property. Questions of interest, duration, and redemption of these loans will be determined by the board or by their representatives in Brazil at the time that the loan is made.

It is provided that all questions arising between the bank and residents in Brazil shall be submitted to Brazilian tribunals.

FISCAL REVENUES, FIRST HALF OF 1907.

Fiscal receipts from the various sources of governmental revenue during the first half of 1907 show a total of £11,705,514 as compared with £9,434,457 in the same period of 1906, and £8,353,063 in the first six months of 1905.

Every item of revenue with the exception of inland and "sundry" shows an increase. For import dues, an advance of over 25 per cent is noted; on exports, 51 per cent; on consumption dues, 24.4 per cent; on shipping dues, 14.2 per cent, and on the paper-money redemption fund, an advance of 34.1 per cent.

FLOUR IMPORTATION, FIRST HALF OF 1907.

According to statistics compiled by the Bureau of Commercial Statistics of Rio de Janeiro, the imports of flour in Brazil during the first half of 1907, compared with the imports of this product for the same period of the preceding five years, were as follows:

Flour imports.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Argentine Republic.....	68,721,767	51,079,240	48,662,580	41,228,376	19,216,030	13,589,925
United States.....	13,908,795	11,557,694	9,042,584	19,216,030	23,904,271	23,543,674
Austria-Hungary.....	4,034,670	2,758,272	3,123,266	5,499,722	3,890,595	3,247,997
Other countries.....	1,976,309	404,364	3,489,179	3,951,943	1,461,530	5,023,111
Total.....	88,614,541	65,799,570	64,317,574	69,896,071	62,366,645	45,404,707

As compared with the first half of 1906, total flour imports show an increase of 34.7 per cent, those from the Argentine Republic having advanced 34.5; from the United States, 20.3; from Austria-Hungary, 46.3, and from "Other countries," 389.1 per cent.

The Argentine Republic furnished 77.53 per cent of the total; the United States, 15.69; Austria-Hungary, 9.23, and "Other countries," 4.55 per cent.

TRADE MOVEMENT OF THE PORT OF SANTOS, FIRST HALF OF 1907.

According to figures recently published, the imports at the port of Santos for the first half of 1907 amounted to 66,393,356 *milreis*, while the exports for the same period amounted to 175,059,854

milreis, compared with 42,490,741 *milreis* and 69,872,852 *milreis*, respectively, for the same period in 1906. Coffee constitutes the principal article of export, the exports of this product amounting to 174,208,498 *milreis*. The country having the largest share in the imports was Great Britain, contributing to the amount of 16,663,846 *milreis*, while the United States holds the first place in the exports.

EXPORT MOVEMENT AT THE PORT OF PERNAMBUCO, FIRST HALF OF 1907.

The "*Revista Commercial e Financeira*" publishes the following statistics of the export movement at the port of Pernambuco for the first six months of 1907:

Articles.	Quantity.	Articles.	Quantity.
Carnauba wax.....bags..	5,975	Soap.....boxes..	53,917
Mandioca flour.....do...	18,010	Oil.....do.....	7,275
Cacao.....do.....	80	Do.....barrels..	4,025
Rubber.....barrels..	130	Sugar.....kilos..	50,492,149
Do.....bales....	109	Cotton.....bags..	4,576
Textiles.....do....	5,192	Do.....bales....	52,104
Beans.....bags..	135	Rum.....pipes..	4,273
Corn.....do....	74,248	Alcohol.....do....	5,125
Skins.....bales....	693	Honey.....do....	68
Castor-oil beans.....bags..	6,271	Hides.....number.	3,302
Coffee.....do....	7,929	Cotton seed.....bags..	93,668

LEGAL DECISIONS REGARDING TRADE-MARK REGISTRATIONS.

In accordance with two recent decisions of the Rio de Janeiro Court of Appeals, it is held that the international registration of a trade-mark at Berne is of no effect in Brazil unless the provision of the Brazilian trade-mark law which prescribes publication in the "*Jornal Official*" is complied with. These decisions are important, as they affect all international registrations that have not been published as indicated.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

A bill has been introduced in the Brazilian Congress whereby it is purposed to encourage iron and steel manufacture in the country by granting a 4 per cent guaranty up to £187,000 to the first five factories employing national minerals. This bounty is to be increased to 6 per cent if Brazilian coal is used.

COCOA GROWING IN BAHIA.

The cocoa output of the State of Bahia is reported to have nearly doubled within the last six years, the exports in 1900 being given as 13,000 tons, as against 23,500 tons in 1906. The planters have found that more certain and larger profits are obtained through this culture than from either tobacco or coffee.

Of the total output in 1906, about 40 per cent was sent to the United States, the remainder being equally divided between France and Germany.

DRAINAGE AND ELECTRIC WORKS AT PERNAMBUCO.

The International Bureau of the American Republics has been informed through the Department of State of the United States of the purpose of the municipality of Pernambuco to issue calls for bids to supply the city with drainage and electric power installations. At present Pernambuco, which contains about 200,000 inhabitants, is without these equipments for modern sanitation. The time limit for these bids is reported at four months from August 27, 1907.

COTTON PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

In a report from Rio de Janeiro, United States Consul-General G. E. ANDERSON states that one of the most significant facts in the commercial situation in Brazil is that not only are the imports of cotton and cotton manufactures increasing, but that the development of the cotton producing and cotton manufacturing industries of the country is proceeding at a very rapid rate.

From the best estimates to be had at present it is probable that there are close to 200 cotton factories in Brazil, having probably in all about 1,300,000 spindles, with probably 45,000 looms and with an output of about 400,000,000 meters (meter, 39.37 inches) of cloth.

The steady decline in American cotton exports to Brazil has been due largely, of course, to the development in Brazil of the national industry, and the manner in which American goods once in the market have been imitated by Brazilian manufacturers and gradually driven from the market has been noted. This course of things continues and probably will continue indefinitely.

There is a vast increase in the consumption of cotton in all forms in Brazil, and the indications are that this increase will not only continue, but will be proportionately augmented within the next few seasons. The development of the trade generally seems to be due to the increased purchasing power of the people of the country. The actual duties charged upon imported cotton goods run from 75 to 300 per cent in round numbers. The rates upon goods within measurable distance of those which can be manufactured in Brazil are very high. That there is such a large and increasing import trade is demonstration of a strong market and an increasing demand for nearly all classes of goods. The goods manufactured in the country run to the coarser and rougher classes, and there is little development to be noted in the manufacture of the better grades. The cost of manufacturing cottons in the country continues very high, and it is very probable that such conditions will control the situation indefinitely.

The reported consumption of cotton by the Brazilian mills two years ago was approximately 32,000 metric tons (metric ton, 2,204.6 pounds). According to the figures now given for the number, size, and output of the factories, this home consumption probably has reached considerably over 50,000 metric tons. The exports of raw cotton from Brazil in 1906 amounted to 31,698 metric tons. Apparently Brazil's cotton production at present, therefore, is something over 80,000 metric tons. Practically all of the production of Minas Geraes and São Paulo is consumed in those States. The exports of raw cotton are almost entirely from the northern States, and the amount and destination of the exports for the past two years appears from the following table:

Port.	1905.	1906.	Destination.	1905.	1906.
	<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>		<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Metric tons.</i>
Maranhão.....	1,448	2,875	Germany.....	256	246
Ilha do Cajueiro.....	2,377	2,563	Great Britain.....	17,854	23,255
Ceará.....	2,964	4,210	France.....	1,043	2,123
Cabedello.....	4,750	7,352	Portugal.....	3,824	3,947
Pernambuco.....	9,352	9,809	Russia.....	1,060	1,116
Maceio.....	2,497	3,462	Other countries.....	45	971
Other ports.....	694	1,307			
All ports.....	24,682	31,668	Total.....	24,682	31,668

The value of the exports in 1905, with exchange at an average of 31.5 cents to the milreis, was \$5,391,222, and in 1906 the value of the exports, with exchange at an average of 32 cents to the milreis, was \$8,004,296. The average price f. o. b. Brazil was thus 10.2 cents per pound in 1905 and 11.5 cents in 1906.

What the potential cotton production of Brazil may be is beyond calculation. Its present cotton-producing area covers the greater portion of the settled country.

RAILROAD CONTRACTS AND UNITED STATES INTERESTS.

A bill was recently introduced in the Brazilian Congress authorizing the Government to revise the contracts for the lease of the Federal railways. The changes proposed include the equipping of the lines with cold storage, dining, and sleeping cars; the establishment of cold-storage warehouses at the terminals and other convenient points of the railways and the adoption of measures to promote the settlement of lands through which the lines run.

United States Consul-General G. E. ANDERSON, of Rio de Janeiro, calls attention in a recent report to the progress of American railroad interests in the Republic of Brazil.

He states that as a result of concessions secured and purchases made within the past year American interests, including Canadian interests and supported largely by French capital, have secured more or less perfect control of a system of rail and water transportation forming a

"belt line" about the whole of the better portion of Brazil, and which, with Government railway lines and Government subsidized steamships, reaches almost every portion of the immense Republic. This great system is composed of parts which may be conveniently grouped under three heads, as the São Paulo-Rio Grande Railroad lines; the Amazon-Bolivian system, and the Paraguayan-Bolivian connections.

The first of these subsidiary divisions will cover to a greater or less extent the southeastern portion of Brazil, reaching the coffee and live-stock country and connecting them with the seaboard. The third will connect this coast system with the Paraguayan Railroad, reaching eventually up into Bolivia, and by means of its own and Government lines penetrating the great grazing country in the interior table-lands and valley country of south-central Brazil. The second system represents the connection of Bolivia with the Atlantic Ocean by means of the Bolivian railways and rivers, and the Madeira River, the Madeira-Marmore Railway, and the Amazon River.

OUTLINES OF THE RAILWAY DIVISIONS.

The tangible outline of the first division is represented by the São Paulo-Rio Grande Railway, the Sorocabana Railway, and the port works at Rio Grande do Sul. The tangible outline of the second is represented by the concession for the Paraguayan Railway connections in relation to the line of the Brazilian Government into Matto Grosso and Goyaz, while that of the third division is represented by the port works at Para, the Madeira-Marmore Railway, and the connections of the Bolivian railways under contract held by what is known as the Speyer syndicate of New York.

About a year ago a concession was granted certain American-Canadian capitalists for the construction of docks and port works, and the removal of the sand bar which has concerned the port of Rio Grande do Sul and Port Alegre, on the Laguna dos Lagos. Within a very short time thereafter this same syndicate purchased the São Paulo and Rio Grande Railway and proceeded to open up that portion of Brazil. A well-known American railway constructor and manager was brought down for the completion of the road, the enterprise was put upon the way to immediate completion, and the development of that portion of Brazil with American capital seemed about to commence. Within the past month this same syndicate purchased or, as it is termed, leased the Sorocabana Railway.

COMPETITION OFFERED BY A NEW LINE.

The work on the São Paulo Railway now represents the construction of the remaining parts of a railway system which will reach from Rio de Janeiro to São Paulo over the Central Railroad of Brazil (Government owned and managed), and thence by the new lines to

the extreme southern portion of Brazil. It will force the English monopoly between São Paulo and Santos to afford reasonable rates for São Paulo's products, to be collected largely by the new American system, or will afford an outlet to the seaboard for such products either over its own lines to the south or by a new line to be constructed direct to the seaboard.

The great country to the south of São Paulo—great live stock, farming, timbering, and mineral country—will be opened up by affording it a route to the sea. That portion of Brazil which is susceptible to the most immediate and satisfactory development is reached by this American-Canadian railway property.

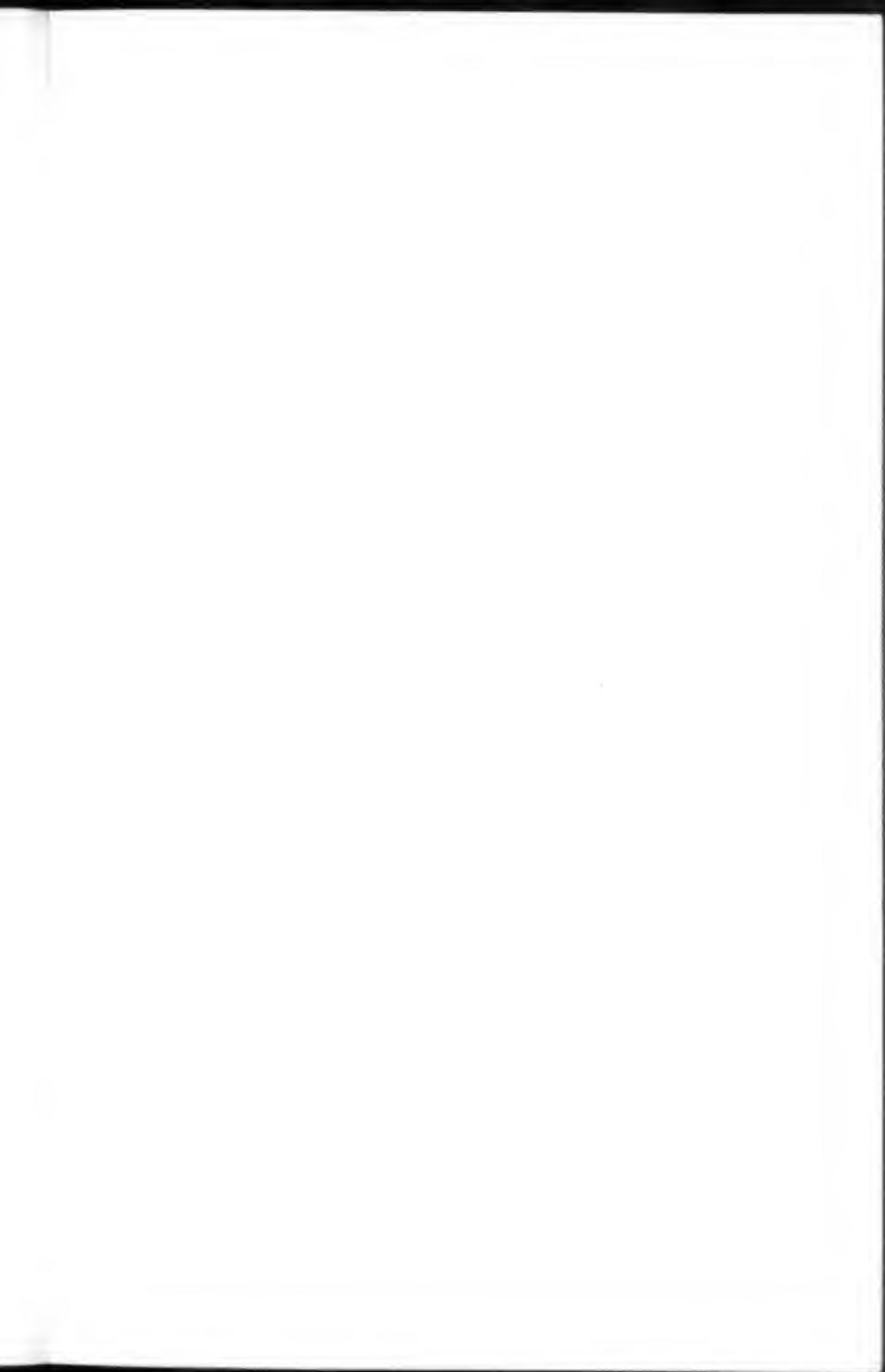
The feeling shown by English residents and English investors in Brazil over the turn of events is not so much due to disappointment over the loss of any single particular investment as it is to the fact that the American-Canadian syndicate has undertaken development in Brazil upon so extensive a scale that its ultimate effects will be felt in every line of foreign business in Brazil. The actual work to be done by the syndicate in São Paulo and through the interior to Rio Grande do Sul, and thence in fact to Montevideo, is to be strictly up-to-date, representing the best there is in American railroading. It represents American materials and methods, American locomotives, and American rolling stock. The port works at Rio Grande do Sul are indicative of the whole. There will be a double stone jetty extending over the bar, and within the port there will be a quay wall like that at Antwerp and the one at Hamburg. The railways will come to the quay. There will be electric cranes, fireproof warehouses, and the most modern equipment. The equipment of the railways will be in keeping with the ports they are to serve.

THE OPENING OF BOLIVIA TO THE ATLANTIC.

Part of the work of this syndicate in connection with the São Paulo-Rio Grande Railroad is the construction of a line 600 miles into the interior of the country to Ignassa Falls, starting from the port of San Francisco. This line will open up Paraguay to the Atlantic by rail and will, by means of the Paraguayan railways now existing and under concession, form connection with the new Bolivian railways, for Bolivia is to be thoroughly developed in a railway way and will have connections with the Atlantic Ocean, both to the north by way of the Amazon and to the south through Paraguay.

NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS.

The Brazilian engineers, FRANCISCO LARAYA and HENRIQUE FLORENCE, have asked the Government for a concession to build and operate a railway connecting São Paulo with Bello Horizonte in the State of Minas Geraes, which will have a total length of 720 kilometers.





SPECIAL BUILDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS AT THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION. IN THIS STRUCTURE WERE ALSO PLACED THE EXHIBITS OF MEXICO AND PORTO RICO.

The committee on public works of the Chamber of Deputies has reported favorably on the bill presented by the Brazilian engineer, OLIVEIRA MARTINS, which asks for a concession to build a railway between São Paulo and the Amazon. This line would start from some point on the Mogyana Railway and terminate on the right bank of the Guapore.

The government of the State of São Paulo recently granted a concession to Mr. AUGUSTO DA SILVA TELLES for the construction of a railway extending from the port of São Sebastião to the frontier of Minas Geraes, and a branch line running through the valley of the Parahytinga River.

At a special meeting of the shareholders of the Mogyana Railway Company, held on the 30th of July last, it was decided to approve the contract signed at São Paulo on June 17, 1907, for the purchase of the Muzambinho Railway and branch lines, including the Campanha line. By the terms of the contract the Mogyana company acquires all concessions granted to the Muzambinho line by the State and Federal Governments. For the purchase of this line the board of directors was authorized to issue debentures to the amount of 12,000,000 *milreis*, bearing 6 per cent.

SHIPMENTS OF HIDES.

Consul-General G. E. ANDERSON, of Rio de Janeiro, writes that exports of hides from Rio Grande do Sul for the past four years for the six months from January to June, inclusive, have been:

Year.	Salted.		Dry.		Total.
	Europe.	Europe.	United States.		
1907.....	367,811	140,336	10,000		518,147
1906.....	298,050	150,499	9,000		457,549
1905.....	278,110	185,377	8,571		472,058
1904.....	501,447	136,503	23,136		661,086

STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN PARANAGUA AND RIO DE JANEIRO.

Messrs. JUNQUEIRA, MOREIRA & Co., of Curitiba, have organized a navigation company for the purpose of establishing a steamship service between the ports of Paranagua, Cananea, Iguape, Santos, and Rio de Janeiro. The inauguration of this service will be of great benefit to the ports of Iguape and Cananea, as the steamers of other lines seldom touch at these ports.

FOURTH LATIN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

At the third Latin-American Medical Congress, held in Montevideo in March, 1907, the city of Rio de Janeiro was selected as the seat for the fourth congress, to be held in the year 1909.

REGULATIONS FOR THE PEOPLING OF THE SOIL.

According to Decree No. 6455 of April 19, 1907, the following regulations govern immigration into Brazil.

ARTICLE 1. The peopling of the soil will be promoted by the Union in agreement with State governments, railway and river navigation companies, other companies or associations, and with private individuals, provided that the sureties and rules hereby guaranteed and laid down are duly observed.

ART. 2. There shall be considered as immigrants all foreigners of less than 60 years of age who are not suffering from contagious diseases, nor plying illicit trades, and who are not criminals, rogues, beggars, vagabonds, lunatics, or invalids who arrive at Brazilian ports traveling third class at the cost of the Union, States, or third parties, as well as those who have paid their own passages and desire to enjoy the same privileges as granted to the new arrivals.

Individuals over 60 years of age or unfitted for work will only be admitted when accompanied by their families or when coming to join them, provided that there is in the family at least one able-bodied member against the invalid and one or two against the member over 60 years of age.

ART. 3. To immigrants who establish themselves in any part of the country and devote themselves to any branch of agriculture, industry, or trade, or to any useful craft or profession, the following privileges will be granted: Complete liberty of action and freedom to engage in any trade, provided that the same does not endanger public safety, health, or morals; complete liberty of religious belief, and, finally, civic rights, as enjoyed under the Constitution and laws by Brazilians themselves.

ART. 4. The Union, without interfering with the liberty of similar action on the part of the States, will enter into an accord with them to direct and facilitate the placing of immigrants who desire to settle as owners of their own land and will protect and advise such spontaneous immigrants as need material aid for their first installment, while only in special cases will it bring in at its own expense such immigrants as desire only to work without acquiring the land on which they settle.

DIVISION II.

CONCERNING COLONIZATION.

CHAPTER I.—*Concerning nucleus colonies and their foundation.*

ART. 5. By a "nucleus colony," for the operation of this decree, is understood a group of lots, duly measured and marked out, on land chosen as fertile and fitted for agriculture or cattle breeding, where the conditions are healthy and there is abundance of drinking

water to supply all the needs of the population. The colonies shall also be of sufficient extent to admit of their development, while they shall have easy and convenient means of transport, shall be possessed of favorable economic factors, and shall be prepared for the settling of immigrants as holders of their own land.

ART. 6. The establishment of nucleus colonies shall be undertaken—

I. By the Union with help from the States.

II. By the States with or without the help of the Union.

III. By railway or river navigation companies, other companies or associations, or by private individuals with or without the help of the Union and the States.

The Union may interfere in the establishment of nucleus colonies by railway or river navigation companies, other companies, associations, or private individuals when the founders are not in receipt of official aid and necessary rules and regulations have to be made or abuses remedied.

CHAPTER II.—*Concerning nucleus colonies founded by the Union.*

ART. 7. The foundation of nucleus colonies under the direct administration of the Union and with the aid of the interested State shall be effected in accordance with this decree, while the following rules must be observed:

I. The Union will choose the site and will undertake to form the nucleus.

II. If the land is fallow, or is the property of the State, the Federal Government will enter into an accord with the State government for the cession of the area required for the foundation of the nucleus.

In this case the State will aid in the marking out, if necessary, according to its land laws, and will permit the following work of preparation: Preliminary surveys for the best division of the lots and for the establishment of lines of communication, both internal and external; measuring and marking out of rural lots; sanitary works, when necessary; building of houses, roads, and paths; preparation of the areas set apart for the first cultivation in each rural lot; establishment of the headquarters of the nucleus, if convenient, together with the urban lots, and, finally, the settling of the immigrants.

III. So soon as the lots have been measured and marked out in accordance with the foregoing clause, they will be definitely handed over to the Union, on the distinct understanding that they will be sold to immigrants or otherwise used for the good of the nucleus.

IV. Lands belonging to private individuals will be acquired by amicable arrangement, i. e., by purchase or agreement, or will be disappropriated by the State, while the Union will undertake the work of preparation according to Clause II above.

V. The State will provide the immigrants with tools and seeds free of charge for their assistance on first being installed, while the Union may grant them these and other favors for the same purpose.

VI. Should the State desire to establish, at the headquarters of the nucleus, farms for experiments and instruction, a suitable area will be reserved for this purpose and pecuniary aid granted, as established by law, in accordance with plans and estimates previously approved.

ART. 8. The State may give any assistance to the immigrants independent of that given by the Union and may offer prizes to promote healthy emulation.

ART. 9. Provisional and definite titles to the lots will be indorsed by Federal officials appointed for this purpose.

ART. 10. The product of the sale of the lots will belong to the Union, except in case of arrangement with private owners of land, who, by contract will be obliged to allow the colony to be founded and the sale of lots at stipulated prices for the transfer of lands and improvements thereon.

ART. 11. The collection of immigrants' debts arising from the sale of lots and houses and from aid not granted free will be made by the Union.

ART. 12. The choice of localities for the nucleus colonies will be made in accordance with previous surveys and will be carefully supervised by the administration.

ART. 13. Localities for the foundation of nucleus colonies will be chosen which are healthily situated and conform to the conditions laid down in article 5, as well as the following:

I. Convenient altitude and soil fitted for all kinds of cultivation.

II. A position on or near railways actually working or in course of construction, on rivers navigated by steamers, or close to populous centers where the holders of the lots will find a ready market for their produce.

III. A constant and ample supply of running and drinking water which shall be adequate for the inhabitants and may be employed for agricultural and industrial purposes.

IV. Topographical configuration and conditions which will permit of the use of agricultural machinery.

V. Forests, on the spot or near, which, while improving the climatic conditions and productiveness of the district, will afford a sure and cheap supply of timber for building and other works on the colonies.

VI. A large enough area to admit of the increase of the nucleus, so that direct descendants of the first immigrants settled on the land, members of their families or persons connected with them, living

abroad, may be invited to come and form new households and hold lots in the same nucleus or in its vicinity.

ART. 14. When the locality for the nucleus has been chosen, a general plan and estimate of the probable cost of the work will be immediately drawn up, the ground will be divided into lots by exact measurement, the necessary works will be put in hand at once, and any factors dangerous to public health removed, while plans will be made and executed for the systematic construction of roads and paths according to the regulations.

ART. 15. When water courses are in the way, if convenient, the works can be commenced by goniometric survey of same, and stakes will be driven in with their tops level with the ground, each one marked with a copper plate showing exactly the direction indicated. At the side of the stakes signposts will be placed duly numbered so that the subsequent demarcation of the lots may be clearly indicated.

When the hydrographic plans have been drawn up, thereon will appear the distribution of lots according to the lay of the ground.

ART. 16. If there are no water courses, and such surveys are unnecessary, the land will be divided into lots in accordance with local conditions.

ART. 17. Lots will be duly numbered and the lines intersecting them will always, when convenient, run exactly north and south or east and west.

ART. 18. If the position and importance of the nucleus demand the establishment of headquarters, which will later be a township, sufficient land will be reserved for this purpose favorably situated in the part of the district which is flattest and which, from a hygienic point of view, is most fitted for a populous center. On this site the ground will be prepared and the necessary buildings erected in accordance with plans duly drawn up.

The headquarters will be the converging point for the principal roads of the nucleus.

ART. 19. In each nucleus ground will be set aside for the erection of schools and for experiments in the cultivation of vegetables, which may be grown with advantage in the district, for instruction farms, industrial purposes, etc.

ART. 20. The lots will be classified as rural and urban:

1. Rural lots will be devoted to agriculture and cattle breeding and will be of sufficient extent for the work of the colonists who own them.

2. As a general rule, rural lots will not exceed 25 hectares when situated along or near a railway or river navigated by steamers, but otherwise they may be up to 50 hectares.

3. Urban lots will be those situated at the headquarters and will ultimately form the township, and they must front on streets and squares.

4. No urban lot may exceed 3,000 square meters unless set apart for some special purpose.

ART. 21. As a general rule, a good and sanitary house will be built on each urban lot to be occupied by the immigrant and his family, while the ground will be prepared for the first cultivation to be made by the person who acquires it.

1. Immigrants who desire to erect houses at their own expense and according to their own taste will have lots without houses reserved for them.

2. Under the conditions of the preceding clause the immigrant and his family who acquire the lot will be afforded temporary quarters until they have built the house, which must be within the space of one year.

ART. 22. Rural lots will be sold either for cash or for payment in instalments. In the former case a definite title will be handed over immediately and in the latter a provisional title which will be substituted by a definite one as soon as all payments have been made.

1. Anyone purchasing a lot on the instalment plan may pay off the debt in full or in part before the due date at any time in order to shorten the period for receiving the definite title.

2. Under the conditions of the preceding paragraph the purchaser will enjoy the privileges of paragraph 2, article 40.

ART. 23. Urban lots will only be sold for cash.

ART. 24. Lots will be sold at a moderate price, which shall be previously fixed according to their size and position.

ART. 25. Where there is a house on the lot the cost price of the same will be added to the price of the lot.

ART. 26. Rural lots may be sold on the instalment plan to immigrants accompanied by their families.

ART. 27. Immigrants who are not accompanied by their families may only purchase rural lots for cash.

ART. 28. The immigrant who is accompanied by his family may acquire a new lot after he has obtained a definite title to the first. When the family consists of more than five persons fit for work, or when the immigrant has cultivated and improved his first lot, he will be allowed the preference for the purchase, even on the instalment plan, of a second lot adjoining or close to the first.

ART. 29. The foreign immigrant who is an agriculturist and has been less than two years in the country, who marries a Brazilian woman, or the daughter of a Brazilian born in the country, or the Brazilian agriculturist who marries a foreign woman who has been in the country as an immigrant less than two years, will be given a

lot with a provisional title, without the pair having to pay anything, provided that during the first year from the granting of the provisional title they have lived together in harmony and have shown by the way that they have cultivated and improved the lot that they mean to continue to do so.

ART. 30. If the foreign or Brazilian immigrant, under the conditions of the preceding article, desires to obtain a lot with a definite title immediately after his marriage, the same will be sold him for half the stipulated price.

ART. 31. On the provisional title granted to the immigrant shall be written the full price of the lot and the main conditions to be observed for the obtaining of a definite title.

ART. 32. When definite titles to the lots have been granted to immigrants who are not in debt to the nucleus, the same become their absolute property.

ART. 33. When the occupant of the lot is in debt to the nucleus he can not without a written authorization from the administrator, sell, mortgage, transfer, let, give as security, exchange, or alienate in any manner, directly or indirectly, the said lot, house, or improvements.

ART. 34. Immigrants will be transported free of charge to the nucleus.

ART. 35. Immigrants arriving for the first time at the nucleus will be given, free of charge, seeds and tools, such as hoes, spades, picks, axes, and scythes.

ART. 36. During the first six months from the date of their arrival at the nucleus and until the harvest and sale of their products immigrants coming from abroad and settled as owners of lots shall, when necessary, be granted means for the maintenance of their families.

ART. 37. For the space of one year, under the same conditions as in the foregoing article, all immigrants will receive medical attendance and medicines free of charge. This period may be prolonged at the discretion of the administrator of the nucleus.

ART. 38. Stores or depots, where foodstuffs and other articles of prime necessity will be sold at moderate prices, will be established in the nucleus colonies to guarantee supplies for the population, the immigrants being absolutely free to buy these goods for their own account wherever they like.

ART. 39. During the first year after their instalment or for a longer period, if the Government so decides, aid may be given to such immigrants as desire it, for the purchase or hiring of agricultural implements and machinery, live stock, and vehicles necessary for the cultivation of the lots, preparation and transport of the products.

ART. 40. The price of the lots, with or without house, when the same are purchased on the instalment plan, as well as any aid

granted, except for work done or classed as gratuitous, shall be written in a book and handed to the debtor in the form of a current account and shall constitute the debt of the immigrant for which the head of the family is responsible. He shall begin amortization by yearly instalments not later than at the end of the second year after his establishment. After this date, if no payment has been made, interest will be charged at the rate of 3 per cent per annum on the instalments due.

1. When the nucleus is situated on or near railways, or rivers, navigated by steamers, the period for amortization shall be five years, counting from the first day of the third year of the instalment of the immigrant; in other cases, or when the Government deems it advisable, the period will be eight years under the same conditions.

2. The immigrant who pays his debts in advance will have a right to a rebate at the rate of 12 per cent per annum on instalments that are outstanding.

3. The immigrant who pays the full value of the lot will immediately receive a definite title to the same, even though he has still other debts outstanding contracted with the administration of the nucleus.

ART. 41. In the event of the decease of the head of the family, in whose name the provisional or definite title had been drawn up, the lot will pass to his heirs or legal representatives on the same conditions on which he himself held it.

If the nucleus has not yet been emancipated, the transfer will be made by an official order of the administration without any legal intervention.

ART. 42. Any debt which the deceased head of the family had contracted with the nucleus will be considered extinct, if he leaves a widow and orphans, save that arising from the purchase of the lot on the instalment plan.

ART. 43. If the lot was purchased on the instalment plan and the deceased had already paid at least three instalments the remainder will be remitted in favor of the widow or orphans and a definite title granted.

ART. 44. The Government will maintain free primary schools and will organize exhibitions and fairs of agricultural and industrial products in the nucleus colonies, if deemed expedient.

ART. 45. Prizes will be offered for the reward of producers who most distinguish themselves at the exhibitions or in any other way.

ART. 46. Where the nucleus is intended for foreigners not more than 10 per cent of the lots may be sold to Brazilians, but when in a nucleus the number of lots held by foreigners is three hundred or more a special area near the lots will be set aside for Brazilian agriculturists, if deemed advisable.

ART. 47. In States or districts, where hitherto no colonies or nucleus colonies of foreign agriculturists have existed, the Federal Government may adopt special measures, when necessary, to guarantee the first nucleus under conditions favorable to its development so that it may serve as a center of attraction for the establishment of an increasing number of immigrants.

ART. 48. Each nucleus will be regulated according to special rules made with a view to the peculiarities of the locality and the needs which may arise.

ART. 49. The emancipation of the nucleus colonies will be granted by the Government so soon as the immigrants settled therein require no further aid.

CHAPTER III. — *Concerning nucleus colonies founded by the States in conjunction with the Union.*

ART. 50. The Union may bring in immigrants who, under the protection of the States, are to be settled as owners in nucleus colonies, which the State governments propose to found at their own expense, or by contract with landowners after the favorable conditions of the colonies, their hygienic condition, the good quality of their soil, and the works of preparation are approved.

ART. 51. The Union may grant aid to such States as found nucleus colonies under their own direct administration in accordance with the following article and the budgetary resources at its disposal.

ART. 52. The foundation of nucleus colonies under the direct administration of the State and with the aid of the Union will be in accordance with the conditions laid down in this chapter, with special regard to the following:

I. The State will choose the locality which it judges favorable from the point of view of health, cultivation, production, safety, facility of communication, and cheap transport, and shall submit its choice, together with the general plan of the colony, including the type of the houses and other necessary information, for the approval of the Federal Government, in order that the Union may give a grant in aid.

II. When the choice and plans have been approved, the State will make all the necessary preparations.

III. When all necessary work has been carried out so as to guarantee the convenient transport and the regular instalment of immigrants and their families on lots exactly measured out and defined, in accordance with the approved plan, the Union will, at its own expense, bring in the immigrants to be settled at the expense of the State, the latter being free to choose them by means of persons especially appointed for this purpose.

IV. All services of the nucleus will be at the cost of the State.

V. The Union will help the State to the extent of 25 per cent on all money which it has actually expended for the foundation of the nucleus, provided that this aid does not exceed 800 *milreis* for each foreign family settled.

The payments made by the Union will be in three instalments:

(a) The first, up to 250 *milreis* per house, of the type accepted by the Federal Government, erected on a rural lot.

(b) The second, also up to 250 *milreis*, when the immigrant and his family have taken possession of the lot and have received either the provisional or definite title to the same.

(c) The third and last, not to exceed 300 *milreis*, according to the valuation made by the Federal official appointed for this purpose, when the immigrant and his family have been established on the lot for six months.

ART. 53. On nucleus colonies in receipt of Union aid, the percentage of lots set aside for Brazilians may not exceed 10 per cent of those reserved for foreign agriculturists.

Aid granted for the settling of each family of Brazilian colonists may not exceed 500 *milreis* maximum, payable in instalments in accordance with sections (a) and (b) of paragraph V of the preceding article after the settling of foreign families, according to the percentage above mentioned.

Without Union aid the State may form, with any number of lots it pleases, areas close by intended for Brazilians.

ART. 54. Titles to the lots will be given by the State officials in accordance with the law.

ART. 55. Of the amount produced by the sale of lots, 75 per cent will belong to the States, except in case of agreements with regard to land sold by private individuals to immigrants or colonies, while the remaining 25 per cent will be handed over to the Union for the help which it has granted.

ART. 56. The State alone may collect debts contracted by the immigrants with the nucleus.

ART. 57. Nucleus colonies founded by States, with Union aid, must be regulated according to the rules adopted by the latter.

ART. 58. When it is deemed useful to construct a railway to link up fallow lands, which may be colonized, or nucleus colonies with railway stations, consuming centers, ports on the sea or rivers, the Union may help this construction by means of a subvention paid in a lump sum, when the lines are open to traffic, at the rate of 6,000 *milreis* per kilometer.

Conditions, whether of a technical nature or referring to dates for payment, indemnification for help given, maximum length to receive subsidy, and other matters, will be defined in the contract to be signed previously.

CHAPTER IV.—*Railway colonization.*

ART. 59. The settling of land along or near railways in course of construction or already in traffic, as well as along rivers navigated by steamers, ought to be undertaken and pushed by the various companies independent of any initiative on the part of the Federal or State government, of associations, or private individuals.

ART. 60. By "railway companies" or "company" for the purposes of this chapter is understood any single or collective entity which has for its purpose the construction of railways or carriage roads or the establishment of shipping lines in virtue of a contract made with the Union or with the State.

ART. 61. The settling will be effected by the installation of families of immigrants accustomed to agricultural labor or cattle breeding as owners of lots, properly measured and marked out, situated along or within twenty kilometers of either side of the railway or river and forming nucleus or service roads.

ART. 62. Any railway company which desires to obtain the aid and privileges indicated in this chapter must observe the provisions of this decree and obtain official authorization, which will be granted by the Government when it deems advisable, its responsibility being limited by the budgetary resources at its disposal.

ART. 63. The choice of the locality most fitted for nucleus and railway colonies will depend on careful study of all the circumstances essential to the development of the colony, special attention being paid to the mildness and healthiness of the climate, the abundance, quality, and distribution of the water, orographic conditions, the nature, fertility, and producing power of the soil, the extent of the forests, groves, plains, and land under cultivation, disposable area, and every other question which it may be necessary to consider for the proper establishment of the colony.

ART. 64. The choice of locality made by the company will be submitted for the study and report of the fiscal engineer or Federal official appointed for this purpose and for the examination and approval of the Federal Government.

ART. 65. The general plan, comprising the division of the land into lots, areas of the same, cart roads and paths to be made, type of houses for the immigrants, will be submitted for the approval of the Federal Government and shall be executed in accordance with that approval. Otherwise, the aid and privileges treated of in this chapter will not be granted.

ART. 66. The land required for the nucleus or railway colonies will be acquired by the company by purchase, concession, or by agreement with the States or private individuals and, when necessary, its disappropriation will be authorized.

It is absolutely necessary that the land should be previously proved to be free of any litigation, legal onus, concession, or contract, so that it may be transferred free from any claim whatsoever.

ART. 67. When the position of a nucleus or the number of the rural lots calls for the establishment of headquarters which shall ultimately become a township, the company will apportion the necessary urban lots according to approved plans.

ART. 68. As soon as the rural lots are ready and have proper means of communication the families of immigrants will be settled thereon.

ART. 69. The company will maintain, to the best of its ability and in combination with the Federal Government, a propaganda service abroad for the sale of lots, duly marked out and prepared, to immigrants accustomed to agricultural labor or to cattle breeding, in order that they may come and settle thereon.

ART. 70. The Federal Government may authorize or promote, at its own expense, introduction of immigrants for the nucleus or railway colonies, and will pay their passages from the port of their country of origin to that of their destination, effect their disembarkation, house and feed them, and give them free transport to the station nearest the nucleus.

ART. 71. The service of settling the immigrants, including help given them for the same, will be at the expense of the company, which shall furnish the new arrivals with tools and seeds and, whenever convenient, give them paid work on the railway or near the lots to make it easier for them to keep up the same, and shall supply them, whenever necessary, with advances of food or money until the first harvest.

ART. 72. Rural lots with any improvements thereon will be sold to the immigrants for cash or in instalments.

ART. 73. The price of lots and of houses and the conditions of payment depend on the approval of the Federal Government, which reserves to itself the right of fiscalizing anything which is in the interests of the colonists or deals with the rights which are guaranteed to them.

ART. 74. The company binds itself to aid the transport of the colonial produce and will grant a rebate or reduction in freights of 50 per cent on the tariff in force, for five years dating from the instalment of the first family on a lot of any nucleus or railway colony whose foundation was made under the conditions of this chapter or was undertaken by the Union or by the States for the settling of foreign immigrants as owners of the land.

ART. 75. The company will render every aid in its power to immigrants for the improvement of their products, and will stimulate the formation and increase of small industries; it will promote in the colonies, which it founds, the creation of free primary schools, and will build churches for the immigrants, irrespective of denomination.

ART. 76. The Federal Government will grant, under the heading of "aid," premiums to any railway company which carries on with regularity the settling of foreign immigrants as owners of the land as hereby laid down.

The premiums will be agreed upon and fixed when the general plan is approved (see art. 65 of this decree), and must not exceed the following maximums:

I. Two hundred *milreis* for each house constructed on a rural lot, so soon as the type has been officially approved and the house is in the possession of the immigrant family.

II. For each immigrant family which has never before been resident in the country, brought in from abroad at the expense of the company, and settled on a rural lot—

(a) One hundred *milreis* when the family has been settled for six months.

(b) Two hundred *milreis* when the family has been settled for a year, and has increased the area of cultivation and the live stock, and shows every intention of continuing to do so.

III. Five thousand *milreis* for each group of fifty rural lots occupied by families of foreign immigrants who, in the same colony and within two years of the settlement of the first family, have received definite titles of ownership.

ART. 77. When the families of immigrant farmers are not brought from abroad at the expense of the company, the latter shall undertake to establish them in the same conditions as those of article 76, but has no right to premiums I and III.

ART. 78. When fifty rural lots are definitely occupied by families of foreign immigrants, the company may settle five Brazilian families on neighboring lots, and so on in the same proportion, and the Government in this case will grant the same premium referred to in the preceding article for the settling of foreign families.

ART. 79. The company may obtain from the State interested any other privileges and aid besides those granted by the Federal Government.

CHAPTER V.—*Colonization by companies, associations, and private individuals.*

ART. 80. Companies or associations and reputable private individuals who have at their disposal land so situated as to be fitted for colonization and who undertake to divide the same into lots and to sell it to foreign immigrant farmers, so that the said immigrants may live on the lots as owners of the same, may receive grants in aid from the Union and the State as is most convenient in each particular case.

1. The following are the essential conditions to be observed if Union aid is to be lent:

(a) The estates must be free from litigation, mortgage, and every other legal onus, or the existence must be proved of a proper contract between the debtor and the creditor who holds the mortgage, the terms of which permit of the transference to immigrants free from any claim whatsoever.

(b) The area available must be sufficient, in the opinion of the Government, for the settlement of at least fifty families of immigrants on an equal number of rural lots, which shall be adjoining or spread over a district the greatest radius of which shall not exceed 12 kilometers.

(c) The soil must be fertile and the district healthy and the colonies within easy reach of commercial centers, to which they shall be joined by rail or carriage roads, and the conditions must be such as to allow for agricultural and industrial expansion on the part of the colonies and for the sale of their products in a favorable market. The supply of drinking water must be abundant and such that each lot shall be provided with a proper supply for private use and for irrigation, and, finally, the general conditions must be such as will insure the prosperity of the new owner of the lot.

(d) An official inspection will be made of the district and of all documents referring to the property, in order that the foregoing conditions may be found to have been complied with.

(e) The lots must be of sufficient size to allow of expansion.

2. The Federal Government will make no loans.

ART. 81. So soon as the essential conditions referred to in the preceding article have been found to be complied with, the immigrants and their families, who are to be settled as owners of the land, may be brought in by the Union directly or on the refunding of their passage money at current rates on the following conditions:

(a) That they are in a position to buy the lots cash down and have sufficient resources to keep themselves, while cultivating the land or starting any industry, until they begin to make a profit, without any other privileges; or

(b) The owners of the land shall prove that they have made a contract with the immigrants or with the Government of the State interested on such terms as to guarantee not only the sale of lots marked out and ready at a reasonable price, but also the granting of such aid as the immigrants shall need at the time of their first instalment and until they are in a position to support themselves.

ART. 82. Apart from the aid given in accordance with the preceding article the Union may grant to the respective companies, associations, or private individuals premiums for the families of immigrant

farmers settled when they have been installed for a year to a year and a half and are prospering and show intention to remain.

1. The number of families settled which will give a right to premiums, as well as the amount and mode of distribution of the same, will be arranged by the Federal Government in each case.

2. The State interested may aid in the measuring and marking out of the lots and grant any other privileges which it may see fit.

ART. 83. At the same time that the Federal Government recognizes, in accordance with articles 80 and 81, that the circumstances are favorable for the settling of immigrants as owners, and authorizes the company, association, or private individual to make the lots ready for their reception, it may fix a date by which time the necessary work must be concluded, and if it is not concluded by that date the Union will no longer be responsible for granting aid or premiums.

ART. 84. When companies, associations, or private individuals promote the settling, on a large scale, of land which belongs to them, as in paragraph 1, sections (a), (c), (d), and (e), of article 80, and propose to link up their property by branch lines to railway stations already existing, consuming centers and sea or river ports, the Federal Government may grant them, if it deems convenient and subject to contract made previously, a subsidy of 6,000 *milreis* per kilometer open to traffic.

In said contract shall be defined the conditions to be observed with regard to technical questions and those affecting date of payment, the maximum length to be subsidized, repayment of aid granted, etc.

ART. 85. Agricultural banks and syndicates, formed according to the laws at present in force, so soon as they have subscribed to the conditions of this decree, will be granted the preference for the obtaining of aid and premiums on the bases here laid down.

CHAPTER VI.—*Concerning service roads.*

ART. 86. Whenever convenient, service roads may be established at points starting from railways already in traffic or construction, or from rivers navigated by steamers.

ART. 87. A service road in accordance with this decree is a carriage road with lots on either side of it, duly measured and marked out and contiguous to each other, and intended for the settling of immigrants as owners of the soil.

ART. 88. Service roads ought to be situated in districts which satisfy all the essential conditions exacted for nucleus colonies, and by preference will be opened on fallow lands or private estates which have been abandoned, when accidents of position or splitting up into strips which are more fertile, or other circumstances, suggest the adoption of this system for their better exploitation.

ART. 89. Service roads will only be made over fallow lands by the State, or in agreement with it.

ART. 90. The definite construction of service roads over private estates will be undertaken by the owners, or in agreement with them, unless, when surveys and plans have been made, no agreement can be come to, and it is found necessary to disappropriate the estates in the public interest.

ART. 91. Service roads will be on the same basis as nucleus colonies in every respect.

DIVISION III.

CONCERNING IMMIGRATION.

CHAPTER I.—*Concerning the introduction of immigrants.*

ART. 92. The Federal Government will promote the introduction of immigrants who, being agriculturists and accompanied by their families, desire to settle in the country as owners of the land on lots belonging to nucleus colonies, or on such other estates as satisfy the requirements of this decree.

ART. 93. Immigrants will be introduced in proportion as the lots are measured, marked out, and ready for their reception.

ART. 94. In special circumstances and in order to meet an obvious and immediate want, the Federal Government may, at its discretion, bring in, at its own expense, professors of agriculture or industry or immigrants of any nationality and profession for the construction of railways, public works, factories, etc., which will be to the advantage of the immigrants.

ART. 95. Immigrants shall be considered spontaneous who come from foreign ports and travel second or third class at their own expense.

ART. 96. The Union will refund the third-class fares from the port of embarkation to the port of disembarkation to such spontaneous immigrants as are farmers and whose families consist of at least three persons of more than 12 and less than 50 years of age fitted for work and who settle as owners of the land.

1. The amount to be refunded for passages will be calculated according to the price paid during the same month to shipping companies who have carried immigrants between the same ports at the expense of the Union, or, failing this, at the expense of the States.

If no such basis is available, the fares will be refunded in accordance with the usual prices charged by the respective companies.

2. The right to this refunding lapses if the same is not claimed within two years from the date of entry of the ship on which they arrived.

ART. 97. When the number of spontaneous immigrants arriving in the country is not deemed sufficient or to be increasing satisfactorily, the Union will grant, free of charge (without any repayment whatso-

ever having to be made to the Government) to such foreigners who are farmers and arrive accompanied by their families or invited by them, when they have been recognized as immigrants according to the terms of article 2, and come with the intention of settling as owners of the land:

I. Third-class passage from the port of embarkation to the port of Rio de Janeiro or any other Brazilian port which is properly equipped with a department for their reception and housing.

II. At the above-mentioned ports, reception, disembarkation of themselves and their baggage, lodging, food, medical attention and medicine in case of illness, at their arrival and for such period as may elapse before they are settled at the point which they may choose.

III. Transport by rail or steamer to the station or port of destination

ART. 98. Such immigrants as are spontaneous or come with their passages paid by the States or third parties and arrive at Rio de Janeiro or any other Brazilian port, which is properly equipped for their reception and housing, will be granted the privileges mentioned in paragraphs II and III of the preceding article.

ART. 99. Such immigrants as come into the country at the expense of the Union, according to article 94, will also have a right to the privileges laid down by article 97.

ART. 100. Immigrants' baggage, including tools necessary to agriculture, or for the profession to which they belong, will be admitted duty free in accordance with the law at present in force.

ART. 101. All information that they may desire will be afforded to immigrants by means of interpreters, who will accompany them whenever necessary.

ART. 102. Immigrants are absolutely free to choose their destination, and it is strictly forbidden to influence them in any way in this matter.

ART. 103. Representatives of Brazil and immigration commissioners abroad will take every measure necessary to prevent the arrival of second and third class passengers who can not be recognized as immigrants *ex vi* article 2 of this decree.

The officials for the reception of immigrants, the doctors attached to the Public Health Department and the police of Brazilian ports will prevent the disembarkation of such persons and the shipping companies on whose vessels they arrive are obliged to repatriate them.

CHAPTER II.—*Concerning formalities for the introduction of immigrants.*

ART. 104. Immigrants will be brought in at the expense of the Union by shipping companies or shipowners who have been duly authorized by representatives of the Federal Government. The

price will be fixed beforehand; while the hygienic condition and the accommodation of the passengers must be assured in accordance with the provisions of this decree.

ART. 105. The agreement shall be fixed by one or more companies, as and when the Federal Government may determine, and preference shall be given to those who best meet the wishes of the Government and offer the best guarantees, together with low rates for rapid transit and good accommodation and treatment for the immigrants.

ART. 106. Any agreement for the introduction of immigrants will only remain in force at the convenience of the Federal Government, which reserves to itself the right, by its own action, or those of its accredited representatives, of exercising full fiscal action, of choosing immigrants, of refusing those who do not comply with established conditions, of refusing right to embark, of limiting the number of passengers, and, finally, of refusing to recognize the agreement at any time without any indemnity.

ART. 107. Only those immigrants will be introduced at the expense of the Union whose passages have been arranged with companies, with whom an agreement is in force, by the duly accredited representatives of the Government.

ART. 108. While the agreement is in force the companies will also bind themselves:

I. To grant to all emigrants who shall be classed as immigrants, according to article 2 of this decree, and who desire to come with second or third class passages, which they pay themselves (spontaneous) a rebate of 10 per cent on the official rates, according to their ages and the ports of embarkation and disembarkation.

II. To never charge higher prices than those arranged with the Federal Government, in accordance with age and between the same ports, for the transport of immigrants who are introduced through the officials of the Federal Immigration Service at the request of governors of States, companies, associations, and private individuals who undertake to bear the expense.

ART. 109. Preference for transport by shipping companies, who have contracts under this decree, will be given to spontaneous immigrants, those invited by their relations already established here, those called officially, and the families of farmers which consist solely of members of over 12 and under 50 years of age.

ART. 110. Companies which undertake the introduction of immigrants must advise the Government at least eight days before their arrival here as to the date of embarkation abroad, the probable date of arrival, the name of the ship on which they are coming, and their number.

ART. 111. Immigrants brought in at the expense of the Federal Government shall present a list in duplicate, in which shall be inscribed

their name, age, state, nationality, and profession, relationship to the head of the family and quantity of baggage, containing their own declaration that they have disbursed nothing for their own passages or those of their families or for the transport of their baggage.

These documents must bear the visé of the official appointed for this purpose at the port of embarkation, or, in default of this, the visé of the Brazilian Consul or Consular Agent.

ART. 112. The company carrying immigrants at the expense of the Federal Government will draw up a detailed list of the baggage handed to them, which, together with the other documents, will be presented to the officials at the port of arrival.

ART. 113. Such immigrants as are brought in at the request and expense of the States, companies, associations, and private individuals by the Federal Immigration Agency abroad must also possess documents similar to those held by immigrants brought in at the expense of the Federal Government.

ART. 114. Immigrants' baggage shall arrive on the same vessels as themselves and the company, when receiving it at the port of embarkation, shall hand to each immigrant, or head of the family, a receipt showing the number of pieces belonging to him and such marks as will facilitate their delivery.

These receipts must be checked with the list treated of in article 112 of this decree.

ART. 115. The parentage, age, morality, and profession of the immigrants shall be proved by trustworthy documents bearing the visé of the official appointed for this purpose at the port of embarkation, or, in default of this, the visé of the Brazilian Consul or Consular Agent, any of which officials shall have the right to refuse these and other documents which they may consider to be false or insufficient.

ART. 116. In the agreements made with the shipping companies rules shall be laid down affecting the constitution of families of immigrant farmers who are to be brought in at the expense of the Federal Government, as well as any other conditions which may affect the service.

CHAPTER III.—*Concerning the service of receiving, disembarkation, housing, feeding, and distribution of immigrants.*

ART. 117. The service of receiving, disembarkation, housing, feeding, and distribution of immigrants will be carried out at the expense of the Union at the port of Rio de Janeiro.

ART. 118. In State ports the services, treated of in the preceding article, will be at the expense of the State interested, while the Union may also lend aid, as indicated in this chapter, by mutual arrangement.

ART. 119. The Union will grant aid to the States toward defraying the expense of the service of receiving, disembarkation, housing, and distribution if the immigrants are brought in at the expense of the Federal Government or are spontaneous, according to the conditions of this decree.

ART. 120. In other cases than those provided for in the preceding article the cost of the said services will not be defrayed by the Union, but will be at the expense of the States, companies, associations, or private individuals.

ART. 121. Without previous official authorization the companies, associations, or private individuals may not undertake the disembarkation of immigrants.

ART. 122. Union aid, as referred to in article 119, will consist in payment to the States of an amount previously fixed and calculated on an average per immigrant, taking into consideration the conditions of the port and of disembarkation, the time spent in the hotels, which must not exceed six days, except in the case of the illness of an immigrant or of a member of his family.

So soon as the State government has made an arrangement with the Federal Government as to the amount payable the latter will appoint an official at the respective hotel who shall calculate the amount of the grant to be made and shall take such measures as may be necessary for arranging the destination of the immigrants and furnishing them with such information as they may require.

ART. 123. Transport by rail or boat will be paid for by the Union when the immigrants are spontaneous and when they request same, when they have been brought in at the expense of the Federal Government, companies, associations, or private individuals, and when the means of communication are under the administration of the Federal Government.

ART. 124. Transport by high roads or cart roads from the railway stations or ports where the immigrants disembark to the nucleus colonies or place of destination will be furnished by the Union if the said colony be under their administration, and at the expense of the States, companies, associations, or private individuals when these have founded the nucleus colonies or have brought in the immigrants.

ART. 125. The lodging of newly arrived immigrants at the nucleus colonies or place of destination will be at the expense of the administration of said colonies or of the parties who brought in the immigrants, whether these be the Union, the States, companies, associations, or private individuals.

ART. 126. The services of receiving, disembarkation, housing, feeding, and distribution of immigrants are worthy of the greatest care on the part of the officials, who shall carry out such services with the utmost zeal.

CHAPTER IV.—*Concerning repatriation.*

ART. 127. The Government will repatriate such agricultural immigrants as may desire it who have been brought in at the expense of the Union if they have resided in Brazil for less than two years and under the following conditions:

I. Widows and orphans who absolutely can not support themselves and have no members of their families to fall back upon.

II. Such immigrants as are incapacitated from work on account of incurable disease or from accidents arising from work if they have no other members of their family fit for work.

III. Wives and children (less than 12 years of age) of immigrants in the above-mentioned case if they have no means of support.

IV. Children of less than 12 years of age and members of immigrant families in the above-mentioned circumstances.

ART. 128. For repatriation to be granted to immigrants in cases I, III, and IV of the preceding article, they must have lived continuously under the roof of the head of the family, whose absence and incapacity is the reason for their request.

ART. 129. Repatriation will be granted, if requested, to spontaneous immigrants, or to those recognized as such according to the provisions of this decree, when they are in the condition mentioned in articles 127 and 128.

ART. 130. Such immigrants as are in the position referred to in the three preceding articles and wish to return to their country of origin will be given third-class passages by the Government to the port nearest their destination and aid toward their expenses of 50 to 200 *milreis*, according to the number of persons in the family and the length of the journey.

ART. 131. Lots which are held on definite titles by immigrants having a right to repatriation may be sold by them or transferred for their advantage, without prejudicing the rights of third parties, and on the liquidation of any debts they may have contracted with the Union. If the title is provisional they will be authorized to sell or transfer them for their own benefit according to the rights which they possess.

DIVISION IV.

SOLE CHAPTER.—*General regulations.*

ART. 132. The Federal Government may defray the expenses of a trip home as reward to such immigrants who have resided not under three and not over six years in Brazil and who own definite titles to landed property. Such rewards will be granted only to immigrants who by their good behavior, morals, and zeal in their work shall have deserved them.

ART. 133. The Federal Government shall every year fix the number of the rewards referred to in the preceding article and authorize the choice of the immigrants entitled to them, granting them free return tickets if desired.

ART. 134. The transmission and reception of letters and telegrams between immigrants and their relations or friends residing abroad will be facilitated as much as possible through interpreters or by other means.

ART. 135. Nucleus colonies for the exclusive reception of Brazilian farmers will only be founded by the Union when the public need demands it and the interested State can not undertake the same. The State will, however, contribute a share of the expenses.

ART. 136. The Federal Government will employ all the necessary means for disseminating knowledge by means of an active propaganda of the natural advantages, multifarious resources, and easily gained livelihood which Brazil offers to hardworking people who desire to employ their activity on any part of its territory.

ART. 137. For the full and complete execution of this decree supplementary instructions will be issued.

ART. 138. All provisions to the contrary are hereby revoked.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The *Lloyd Brasileiro* has directed a letter to all the governors and presidents of the States and prefects of municipalities in Brazil, asking them to send albums with photographs of the various points of interest in the districts under their jurisdiction, as well as publications referring to climate, production, trade, etc. These will be placed in the libraries on all the vessels of the Lloyd which run between Brazil and other countries.

Delegates from the States of São Paulo, Minas Geraes, Rio de Janeiro and the Federal District recently met at Rio de Janeiro for the purpose of reorganizing the public school system of Brazil and establishing it on a uniform basis. It is proposed to create a school board at the capital similar to the board of education in the United States.

The University of Paris has sent Mr. PIERRE DÉXIS to Brazil for the purpose of making a study of the conditions of immigration and agriculture in that country. Mr. DÉXIS is at present in the State of Rio de Janeiro and will later visit the States of Minas Geraes, São Paulo, Parana, and Santa Catharina.

The Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro offers an annual subsidy of 30,000 *milreis* for a period of four years to the first fiber and paper factory that shall be established in that State, provided the raw material used is of State production.

The sugar-growing States of Brazil have agreed to postpone the holding of the sugar conference which was to have taken place in August last, until June, 1908.

The Amazon Telegraph Company has decided to lay a double cable between Manaus and Para. A double cable already exists between Manaus and Amatory, and it is expected by the end of November the line will be duplicated as far as Belem.

CHILE.

FOREIGN TRADE IN 1906.

The latest issue of "Commercial Statistics of the Chilean Republic" for the year 1906, published in August, 1907, gives the following data in regard the foreign trade of the country during the year:

The total value of exports was 271,448,216 *pesos*, as compared with 265,209,192 *pesos* in the preceding year. The imports in 1906 amounted to 225,265,516 *pesos*, as against 188,596,418 *pesos* imported during 1905.

The values of the principal products exported were as follows:

Bran: 1906, 694,159 *pesos*; 1905, 650,548 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Germany, Great Britain, and Belgium.

Oats: 1906, 1,085,729 *pesos*; 1905, 3,339,311 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Great Britain, Peru, Bolivia, and Germany.

Wheat flour: 1906, 633,416 *pesos*; 1905, 1,041,439 *pesos*. Principal country of destination, Bolivia.

Compressed fodder: 1906, 169,173 *pesos*; 1905, 194,062 *pesos*. Principal country of destination, Bolivia.

Wheat: 1906, 32,004 *pesos*; 1905, 1,120,952 *pesos*. Principal country of destination, Brazil.

Wines: 1906, 37,400 *pesos*; 1905, 158,439 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Argentine Republic and Bolivia.

Borate of lime: 1906, 3,981,026 *pesos*; 1905, 2,611,350 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Germany, Great Britain, and France.

Copper: 1906, 22,311,303 *pesos*; 1905, 20,555,280 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Great Britain, United States, and France.

Silver: 1906, 36,154 *pesos*; 1905, 192,014 *pesos*.

Iodine: 1906, 4,390,200 *pesos*; 1905, 7,052,875 *pesos*.

Nitrate: 1906, 217,317,015 *pesos*; 1905, 184,421,848 *pesos*.

Wool: 1906, 2,086,419 *pesos*; 1905, 1,660,692 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Great Britain, France, and United States.

Wax: 1906, 684,810 *pesos*; 1905, 688,257 *pesos*. Principal countries of destination, Germany, and Great Britain.

Cowhides: 1906, 937,944 *pesos*; 1905, 271,890 *pesos*. Principal country of destination, France.

The principal articles of merchandise imported during the periods under comparison were as follows:

Cattle: 1906, 4,088,515 *pesos*; 1905, 5,409,495 *pesos*. Principal country of origin, Argentine Republic.

Sugar: 1906, 6,057,765 *pesos*; 1905, 3,443,343 *pesos*.

Wheat flour: 1906, 2,264,952 *pesos*; 1905, 113,127 *pesos*.

Wheat: 1906, 5,069,533 *pesos*; 1905, 454,936 *pesos*.

Coal: 1906, 20,308,580 *pesos*; 1905, 23,581,169 *pesos*.

Lumber: 1906, 3,477,014 *pesos*; 1905, 2,151,859 *pesos*.

PROVISIONS OF THE NEW FINANCIAL BILL.

The financial bill recently passed by the Chilean Congress has for its leading features the following provisions:

Customs duties will not be paid in gold as has been the practice hitherto, but in paper money of legal currency. The total amount of paper issued remains definitely fixed at 150,000,000 *pesos*, at a normal value of 18 pence per *peso*. The Government, which now has 100,000,000 *pesos* in gold (about £20,000,000) with which to redeem its notes, is authorized, when the time for conversion arrives, to contract, if necessary, a loan for the redemption of the balance. By agreement with the two chambers, and in accordance with the Government resolution, the amount of issue will never be increased, except through the intermediary of the issue department and against gold deposited by private individuals, to whom gold will be returned on presentation of their notes.

The law also authorizes a loan of £3,000,000, which will be employed in the work of reconstruction at Valparaiso and the construction of railways and ports.

The Government will establish a mortgage bank for the opening up of new nitrate fields. To this end, short-dated debentures will be issued in gold with a strong sinking fund and especially guaranteed by a quota payable for each quintal of nitrate exported, which will be levied by the Government at the same time as the export duty. This new institution will start with a working capital of 5,000,000 *pesos* (£1,000,000).

CHILEAN FINANCES.

Señor ADOLFO ORTUZAR, Consul-General of Chile in New York, has furnished the International Bureau of the American Republics with the following data covering Chilean finances:

I. The sources from which Chile derives her ordinary revenues are: The dues collected by the custom-houses of the Republic on foreign merchandise and export of nitrate and iodine; post and telegraph receipts and products of the State railways; national taxes; taxes and dues collected by the fiscal treasurers of the country; dues received by the Chilean consulates in foreign countries, etc.

The extraordinary revenues are derived from sales of fiscal properties, bills, and other bonds.

The customs in 1906 collected: On import dues on merchandise, \$337,062.22 paper and \$40,436,696.21 gold; dues on export of nitrate, \$59,722,025.28 gold; export dues on iodine, \$442,025.43 gold; postal dues, \$44,235.69 paper and \$310,730 gold; additional charges on the import of alcohols, \$1,057.08 paper and \$165,685.27 gold; taxes levied in the passes of the Andes, \$1,970.08 paper and \$827,150 gold; transportation of merchandise in the custom-houses, \$1,212,578.37; from various other dues, \$670.30 paper and \$26,328.42 gold; total, \$1,686,632.68 paper and \$101,930,640.61 gold. Posts and telegraphs give a revenue of \$1,689,895.53 paper, which, deducting the discount or commission of the sale of stamps, etc., leaves a total of \$1,165,088.18, and for other revenues in the postal department, \$89,681.08; total for postal and telegraph revenues, \$2,909,835.44 paper.

The treasury collects from the sale of stamped papers, \$506,688 paper, and from the sale of stamps, \$465,345.32; from dues on agricultural alcohols, \$517,020.12 paper; from dues on industrial alcohols, \$1,193,093.90; from light-house charges, \$2,239.56 paper and \$657,004.90 gold; from consular charges, \$101.55 paper and \$365,962.94 gold; from taxes paid by insurance companies, \$168,404.41; from other dues, \$1,089,266.60 paper and \$337,477.84 gold; from incomes of various kinds, \$1,700,076.85; from different treaties, leases of fiscal properties, payments of mortgages, interest on bonds, insurance companies' licenses, mining licenses, dock service, etc., \$5,564,881.09 paper and \$4,943.45 gold, which gives a total for these revenues of \$11,332,805.66 paper and \$1,506,749.12 gold.

The State railways render \$23,447,287.54 paper from passengers and freight and \$193,217.30 from other sources. The mint yields \$225,011.30. The total derived from these items is \$23,865,616.23 paper. The grand total of the nation's ordinary revenues in 1906, as resulting from the foregoing amounts, was \$39,800,798.01 paper and \$103,437,392.11 gold.

The extraordinary revenues of the nation amount to a total of \$37,976,310.85 paper. Thus the grand total of disposable revenues of the nation in 1906 was \$103,437,392.11 gold and \$77,777,100.86 paper.

II. The previous financial year (1905) closed with a surplus of \$24,002,829.36 in money deposited in the fiscal coffers. The general expenses of the year 1906 consisted in the inversion of the State budget of that year and the extraordinary expenses authorized by special laws and reached the figure of \$169,951,601.034.

After having paid all the expenses of the budget of 1906, as well as the extraordinary expenses caused by the earthquake in August of that year, the financial position on the 1st of January, 1907, was

flourishing, showing a balance in actual money of \$37,757,559.45, with \$24,055,000.98 to be paid out. Thus the financial year of 1907 opened with a surplus of \$13,702,558.47. This was the satisfactory condition on the 1st of January of this year, due to the constant development of business in Chile and especially to the prudence and discretion of the public administration in the investment of fiscal funds.

III. The resources, which, with the State, reckons for the year 1907, are the following:

Surplus from 1906, \$13,702,558.47; ordinary revenues calculated for the year 1907, \$115,238,182.12.

Extraordinary revenues \$23,000,000; funds disposable in cash, products of the railway from Arica to La Paz and the drainage of Santiago, \$21,000,000. The foregoing gives as result a sum disposable for the expenses of this year of \$212,940,740.59.

The revenues as noted in the beginning are calculated at their minimum, as the custom duties collected for the last nine months of the present year show already a considerable increase over this calculation. On the other hand the expenses of this year (of which we give particulars in the following) are calculated at their maximum.

The budget of this year authorizes the amount of \$193,627,313.19 for expenses. Besides this sum the amount of \$2,125,000 has been allowed for expenses by special laws and the different departments; for the construction of houses for workmen, \$200,000; for assistance of employees and other people impaired in the earthquake, \$3,950,000; for construction of public buildings destroyed in the same earthquake, \$2,000,000; maritime works in Antofagasta, \$500,000; for the initiation of the railway from Itata to Tome, \$1,000,000; for the studies of the railway "longitudinal," \$1,000,000; for the support of immigration, \$137,500.

Thus the possible inversion, besides the budget, for the present year, may reach the sum of \$10,992,000. Consequently the compromises of the State for this year (1907) are the following:

1. Total amount of the budget, upon which considerable economies may be calculated, (not taken into account in this treatise), \$193,627,313.19.

2. The amount of extraordinary expenses, \$10,992,000, the whole giving a total of \$204,619,313.19.

We have not taken into account when calculating the extraordinary revenues for this year the loan of £1,200,000 shortly negotiated (September 18, 1907) with Messrs. ROTHSCHILD, of London, destined for fiscal works.

Revenues and expenses for 1907 result in the following: Revenues, \$219,940,740.59; expenses, \$204,619,313.19; minimum surplus for the present year, \$8,321,427.40.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING CONSULAR INVOICES.

According to the provisions of a recent decree of the Chilean Treasury, invoices of merchandise to be considered authentic and obtain the visé of the Chilean Consul, must contain the following information:

(a.) Name of the seller of the merchandise and shipper of the invoice.

(b.) Name of the consignee and port of destination of the merchandise.

(c.) Name of the steamer, if the invoice is made out in the shipping port of the merchandise.

(d.) Marks, numbers, quantity, kind, and contents of the packages.

(e.) Gross and net weight of the merchandise.

(f.) Price of each of the articles mentioned in the invoice.

If the consuls decide that the prices mentioned in the invoice are not the correct ones, they are requested to indicate the real prices in a note at the bottom of the invoice.

CUSTOMS REVENUES, FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1907.

The custom-houses of the Chilean Republic collected during the first seven months of 1907 the amount of 61,034,911.94 *pesos*, as against 55,057,530.07 *pesos* collected during the same period of 1906, an increase of 5,977,391.87 *pesos*. The sum collected in July, 1907, was 8,533,293.68 *pesos*, as compared with 8,956,767.60 *pesos* in the same month of 1906.

NITRATE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION FOR 1907-8.

The total amount of nitrate that may be produced and exported during the nitrate year, beginning on April 1, 1907, and ending on March 31, 1908, fixed upon the basis of 30 per cent of the initial quotas assigned to each nitrate office, is as follows: Production, 54,945,864 Spanish *quintales*; exportation, 56,446,924 Spanish *quintales*.

It may be stated, for the information of the readers of the BULLETIN that the Association for Nitrate Propaganda, in order to prevent fluctuations in the prices of nitrate, fixes, at the beginning of every nitrate year, the quotas that each nitrate office may produce and export during that period. The quota thus prescribed must not be exceeded.

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.

According to the immigration figures just made public the Chilean Government is meeting with fair success in its effort to secure people for the mines, fields, and workshops. In 1905 there arrived in this country 230 immigrants; in 1906, 1,442; while for the first six months of 1907 there have arrived 3,209, with 530 reported *en route*.

BOUNTY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FISHING.

For the purpose of encouraging fishing in the waters of the Republic, the Chilean Congress has passed a law, promulgated on June 24, 1907, granting vessels flying the national flag and exclusively engaged in fishing an annual bounty of 15 *pesos* per ton of displacement, and of 10 *pesos* per ton of fish and mollusks brought to land for consumption. The total amount of payments to be made for this bounty shall not exceed 200,000 *pesos* per annum; but if the bounties to be paid should exceed said amount, the same shall be distributed in proportion to the total tonnage of vessels and the tonnage of fishing belonging to each vessel.

The bounties prescribed by the law referred to shall be paid in full during the period of ten years; five years thereafter 50 per cent shall be paid, and during the last five years 25 per cent.

Only those vessels having a displacement from 15 to 250 tons shall be entitled to the bounty of 15 *pesos*.

For the exploitation of mollusk hatcheries, the President of the Republic is authorized to grant leases for the period of twenty years or less of shore and water sections not exceeding 4 hectares.

CONCESSION FOR A POWER PLANT NEAR SANTIAGO.

Information has been received through the Department of State, in a communication made by United States Consul ALFRED A. WINSLOW, of Valparaiso, of a concession granted by the Chilean Government to the German Transatlantic Electric Company for the erection of an electric light and power plant on the Maipo River, near Santiago. This plant will cost \$4,015,000 gold, of which \$1,295,040 will be expended in materials and machinery. A petition has been presented to the Government requesting free entry for machinery and material for the five years to be employed in construction and equipment.

SANTIAGO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT.

In transmitting the translation of a circular issued by the "*Sociedades Nacional de Agricultura y de Fomento Fabril*," of Santiago, which proposes to hold an exposition at the Chilean capital during the month of November, Consul A. A. WINSLOW writes from Valparaiso:

"The exhibition departments include forestry, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and fish culture, including machinery, appliances, methods, and productions. The Chilean Government has made a liberal appropriation to assist the enterprise. Here is an opportunity to do some effective work by those at home who are interested in the introduction of machinery and appliances. Chile is making great progress, and much more interest is being taken in the development of the natural resources of the country than ever before. Many of

the people seem interested in improved machinery and up-to-date methods, largely because of the scarcity of labor and the desire to secure a greater production of articles, in order to meet the increasing demand. There is a great chance for improvement, and this is well understood by the Chilean Government, which is giving much attention to these matters.

"To secure space in the exposition, exhibitors should address a brief summary of the articles they intend to display to Don FEDERICO ALBERT, Casilla 44, Santiago, Chile, giving the number of square, horizontal, and vertical meters they will require. Transportation of exhibits will be free to exhibitors, with the exception of lading and landing charges. Steamer freight will be repaid to the exhibitor when the goods are received at the exposition. Cost of installation will be paid by the exhibitor."

The directors are: J. ABELARDO NUÑEZ, president; ANDRES RESPALDIZA, vice-president; FEDERICO ALBERT, commissioner, and MANUEL NUÑEZ, secretary.

COLOMBIA.

EXPORT DUTY ON MALE LIVE STOCK.

For the purpose of encouraging the exportation of live stock in the Republic, President REYES, of Colombia, in a decree dated July 22, 1907, has ordered the reduction of the export duty on male live stock to \$1 gold per head.

TOBACCO GROWING IN THE REPUBLIC.

United States Consul I. A. MANNING, of Cartagena, informs the International Bureau of the American Republics that a conservative estimate of the output of tobacco in the Republic of Colombia, principally from the districts of Carmen, Savana, and Sinu, places the 1907 crop at about 120,000 bales of 62½ kilograms each. Owing to the fact that German merchants have advanced very large sums of money to the tobacco growers of these districts, the entire output will probably go to Bremen, Germany.

This tobacco is said to be medium strength, and that of last year was valued as "A 11" in the Bremen market. Consul Manning states that were this tobacco properly treated and sweated it would grade up well with that of Cuba and other West Indian islands; also, that the territory available for its growth in Colombia is almost unlimited.

DUTY ON VEGETABLE IVORY EXPORTS.

The duty of 1.50 and 1.00 pesos gold per 50 kilograms fixed by decree 742 of 1907 on exports of vegetable ivory peeled and unpeeled, respectively, from the Colombian ports of Buenaventura and Tumaco became effective on September 1, 1907.

BOUNDARY CONVENTION WITH ECUADOR.

The "*Diario Oficial*" of July 6, 1907, publishes the text of a convention between Colombia and Ecuador, supplementary to the treaty of November 5, 1904, signed at Bogota on June 5, 1907, and approved by the National Assembly of Colombia the 13th of the same month. This convention creates an arbitration tribunal and a technical commission for the purpose of determining and delimiting the boundary line between the two countries. The arbitration tribunal shall be composed of three members on either side, and the technical commission of two engineers on either side also. The tribunal shall convene in the city of Quito, but it may remove to Bogota if it be deemed necessary. The commission may commence its work in the Ecuadorian capital, or in the nearest place to the point it may select for the initiation of the demarcation. The decision of the tribunal shall be final, and the demarcation of the boundary line shall be definitive.

MINING CONDITIONS IN THE REPUBLIC.

A valuable report on mines and mining in Colombia has recently been submitted to the Department of State of the United States by Consul PIERRE PAUL DEMERS, of Barranquilla, from which the following data are reproduced to meet the many demands for information along the lines covered. The object of the report is to present to the American miner and investor certain facts concerning Colombia as a mining field which may serve as a guide to intending prospectors.

At the time of the Spanish domination Colombia occupied first rank as a gold producer among the colonies and was extensively though superficially exploited. The present system of mining involves greater expense for machinery and preliminary installations, but at the same time tends to a more thorough exploitation of the mines. Mr. DEMERS states that among the obstacles encountered in mining operations in the Republic are scarcity of labor, unfavorable climatic conditions in some sections, the difficulty of adequate communications, insufficient food supplies, and, until recently, a state of political unrest. The latter condition has, however, been disposed of, and for the others noted, provision can be made through a previous understanding of the case.

GOLD PLACER MINING IN ANTIOQUIA.

The section of Colombia most noted for its gold production is the Department of Antioquia, followed by the Cauca, Bolivar, Tolima, Santander, Magdalena, Boyaca, Cundinamarca in the order named. Antioquia comprises a collection of cordilleras unusually favored for the formation of gold veins. Labor conditions are excellent and the climate is not only salubrious and temperate, but adapted to agricultural and pastoral enterprises.

The sections to be opened to exploitation are the mountains to the east and southeast of Remedios, the rivers Tamar and Ite, the region called Alicante, the left bank tributaries of the Magdalena, and the northeastern region. On the other hand, the rich groups of Titiribi and Andes to the southwest, Sonson to the southeast, the banks of the Cauca to the north, the banks of the Porce and Zaragoza to the northeast have been opened and are now actively developed. Many native proprietors assure to themselves perpetual ownership of their holdings by the payment of a small tax and await the coming of foreign capital for an adequate development of their properties. In making preliminary examination previous to purchasing it is important that the prospective buyer ascertain exactly the cause of abandonment of the working.

The principal group of mines comprise Remedios, Zaragoza, Nechi, Tigui, and Porce. Many of the villages are built on gold alluvion and surrounded with gold mines which formerly gave brilliant results but which are to-day practically unexploited. The whole of the Porce Valley is essentially auriferous. The bed of the river has been from time to time successfully exploited by divers, but dredging is almost impossible on account of the swift current and the geological character of the banks and bed itself. On the contrary the Nechi River, which empties into the Cauca, presents great advantages for dredging, due to its sandy shore, small gravel, and the flat bottom of the river. American and French companies have recently operated these placers with some success with monitors and steam shovels. In general, however, the Nechi current is insufficient for the successful operation of monitors, and hydraulic methods are only possible at some distance, sometimes many leagues from the bed of the river. The system of pumping the water from the river by means of steam power is expensive and almost inapplicable where the dirt does not pay very well. The average returns from these placers are from 40 to 60 cents per ton.

Starting from the mouth of the Porce, the principal sections are the following: Dos Boeas, where a French company is opening the "La Punta" mine; Pato, held and operated by an American company; Pinea, and Santa Isabel, all above Zaragoza; while below are Santa Margarita, La Llana, Caseri, and Barberi, worked by an American company, and San Pedro. On the right bank of the Nechi are Zaragoza and Remedios, 48 miles from the coast, with which communication is had by telegraph, cart road, and river communication via the Magdalena. The trip to Barranquilla takes five days.

An English company has been working the Remedios mines for thirty years, operating with modern machinery and methods. At San Nicolas and Anfora are a French and American Company, respectively, whose dividends have been paid regularly from the begin-

ning of their operations. Other smaller companies in the locality are doing well.

The Remedios-Zaragoza regions is generally hot, and malarial fever is prevalent. The country is not settled and the transport of beef cattle is made from Margento, some 150 miles distant in the Department of Bolivar. The cost per head on the spot is about \$40. Labor conditions are adequate.

The Tigui or Guamoco region possesses still unknown resources and presents a vast field to modern prospectors. It was little worked by the Spaniards, but since 1890 various companies have been formed for its exploitation. The principal placers are "Panama," on the Cañaverales River, "Atara," and "La Colorado." In their vicinity gold quartz has also been discovered. The auriferous mud has a thickness of 3 feet to 10 feet, and its gold is very fine. Isolated pan washers make from \$3 to \$5 per day. Some spots at the foot of the Henriquex vein have been found which gave from 240 grams to 1 pound of free gold per ton. Others have given on trial 196 grams per ton.

There are now two American companies on the Tigui, and a French company has made successful trials of the placers.

The climatic conditions are favorable, and the lands in the vicinity are adapted for agricultural development.

Ascending the Cauca, above its confluence with the Nechi, are the alluvial mines of Caceres, where many American companies are operating. In that section a good territory is yet to be exploited with hydraulic conditions, abundance of water, proper currents, and dumping facilities. Still further up river are the deserted regions of Sinatabe and Dabeiba on the left bank. This Dabeiba is altogether distinct from the new Dabeiba of the Choco, discovered a few years since at the source of the Andaguada River and exploited by a native company. Further south are the mines of Frontino, Buritica, and Cañasgordas, on the left, and Titiribi and Zancudo on the right. The latter has been worked for the last forty years, yielding gold and silver quartz with handsome profits. Special and complicated systems of amalgamation, concentration, and separating have rendered the workings very expensive.

The Andes group of mines, lying farther south on the left bank of the Cauca, are partially exploited by English companies, and are quite productive.

In the center of Antioquia, southeast of Medellin, is located "Sonson," where alluvions are found, as well as gold and silver quartz, copper, and other metals, all mixed up. It is necessary there to concentrate the mineral and send it to England to be amalgamated. The same is true of certain ores obtained from the Tolima Department.

In the elevated zones of the Cordillera, lying between the Cauca and the upper Magdalena, are many unexploited gold veins, as also allu-

vions at the foot of the hills west of Purificacion, Natagaima, and Neiba. Certain other mines have been operated for some years by French interests without brilliant results.

MINES OF THE CAUCA REGION.

In the Department of Cauca all rivers emptying into the Pacific Ocean are auriferous, and only a few have been examined. In this section is located the great Choco territory whose hydrographical and orographical characteristics bear many analogies to the western coast of the United States, and would seem to be of the same geological period. It includes the valleys of the Atrato and San Juan rivers, covering an immense region of more than 5,000 square leagues of alluvion, of which a good part is rich and exploitable. As yet but little work has been carried on, though an American company is operating a monitor at Bagado. Another operates a dredge at the mouth of the Andaguada, and other dredges have been worked with doubtful results in the low Atrato and the Auito rivers. A French company has been working between the Bebara and Bebarama rivers, right tributaries of the Atrato, and a Colombian company has opened the quartz mine of "Dabeiba" on the upper Andaguada. These are practically the only exploitations found in this immense territory.

The mining regions of Medio form an immense deposit and millions of dollars have been obtained from the Choco region since the Conquest, from 1 to 2 ounces per cubic yard being reported for many of the gold deposits. In the Cargozan mine, near Barbacoas on the Pacific coast, 10,300 ounces of gold have been taken from 200 cubic yards of auriferous dirt.

The Andaguada, one of the principal tributaries of the upper Atrato, offers admirable conditions for hydraulic enterprises. The region is relatively healthy, and good cultivable lands abound. The same may be said of the Capa River, but the lower Atrato region is unhealthy and swampy. Communication with the coast is by river communication, with the exception of a recently opened bridle road permitting the introduction of cattle, mining material, and provisions for enterprises removed from navigation facilities.

On the divide between the heads of the Atrato and San Juan rivers is the "Tado" group, which produces platinum, recently made a government monopoly.

The Choco presents a favorable outlook for hydraulic enterprises, and though labor is scarce and high Antioquia is not far away and could furnish abundant laborers.

The region of the Gulf of Darien, south of the Isthmus of Panama and west of the Gulf of Uraba, was exploited at the time of the Spaniards, but is to-day almost unknown. Its position is, however, advantageous and has many good mining districts.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

The Bolivar and Atlantico Departments contain many important deposits of petroleum principally in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Sinu River and Tubara near the Atlantic Ocean. A Canadian company has recently been organized and concessions have also been granted to a Colombia prospector.

Copper is found in Bolivar, and a Barranquilla company has recently started work on a mine located at Sabaneta, 2 leagues from Simiti. North of the Simiti lagoon is a vast auriferous region in the mountains of San Lucas.

Cudinamarca is rich in coal deposits, which, unfortunately, are too far from transportation for other than local purposes.

The same is true of Boyaca. In this Department are two emerald mines, the "Somonduco" and "Muzo," the property and monopoly of the Government. The former is no longer exploited, but the latter yields a good revenue.

The quartz mines of Santander, extensively worked by the Spaniards, are not productive to-day, though a French Company has been lately organized for exploitation purposes. Petroleum is found to the north of Cucuta.

The Department of Magdalena is practically unexploited, though the presence of gold has been noted in some of its rivers. Coal has also been discovered that might easily be made available by building a short railroad to the port.

It is thus seen that Colombia offers a large field for the mining explorer, the prospector, and the investor. There are immense mines of alluvion, of medium wealth, which may not enrich in a day, but with an average return of 50 cents per ton can still give fair results. As for quartz mines, they are almost virgin, and as the programme of the new Colombian is to construct more railroads, the lack of transportation, which has previously hindered their development, will be overcome.

Mr. DEMERS considers that successful operation of Colombian mines is possible, but he urges an equipment of energy, perseverance, special knowledge, an understanding of the country, and, in addition to health, a suitable amount of money to support preliminary discouragements.

Primitive measures are the rule in mining operations and the native laborers have to be handled with circumspection and cordiality.

Gold is found everywhere, but is spread over a great deal of territory, rarely existing in great quantities in any determined places.

PLATINUM DEPOSITS IN COLOMBIA.

The International Bureau of the American Republics has received so many inquiries in regard to the deposits of platinum in Colombia, and the possibilities of that South American Republic as a future source for the supply of this extremely rare and useful metal, that it has been at especial pains to obtain the fullest, most recent, and accurate information available on the subject. Mr. ISAAC A. MANNING and Mr. P. P. DEMERS, United States Consuls at Cartagena and Barranquilla, respectively, the two principal seaports of Colombia, have courteously forwarded to the Bureau exceedingly valuable data on the platinum resources of the Republic. Their communications, together with facts gathered from the most authentic Spanish, British, and French literature relating to this metal, form the basis of the following information.

The long isolation of Colombia, from which she is now fortunately rapidly emerging under the enlightened administration of President RAFAEL REYES, has hitherto operated to prevent the American public from knowing much about the wonderful mineral wealth of that naturally highly endowed Latin-American country. Mr. JOHN BARRETT, Director of the International Bureau of the American Republics, submitted a special report to the State Department on the resources of Colombia at the time that he was United States Minister to that Republic, and, alluding to her extraordinary wealth of minerals, declared that "silver is found in Antioquia, Cauca, and Tolima; copper in Boyaca; platinum in Cauca; petroleum in Tolima; while lime, alum, chalk, magnesia, sulphur, marble, asphalt, cinnabar, lead, and quicksilver ore are found in large deposits in many parts of the country."

The mineral resources of Colombia, especially her precious metals, early attracted the attention of the Spanish conquerors, discoverers, and rulers. Indeed, during the Spanish régime of three hundred years, the Colombian gold fields were admittedly the richest in the world, and down to 1848, when those of California were discovered, they furnished fully one-third of the whole supply of American gold, in spite of the extremely primitive methods employed by the Spaniards. It was while engaged, through their thousands of Indian slaves, in extracting gold and silver from the alluvial beds of the streams and rivers of western and southern Colombia that the first traces of platinum were discovered. The new metal came to be so highly prized that, in 1804, Don VENTRA SALZAS MALIBRAN, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Atara, submitted a curious report to the Viceroy Don ANTONIO AMAR, in which the author adduces arguments to prove that platinum is really a kind of white gold. Whether it be true or not that platinum was first discovered as long ago as 1720, it is recorded that 4,202 pounds of it were shipped

to the Spanish King in 1788. According to Dr. Don VICENTE RESTREPO, in his admirable work on the gold and silver mines of Colombia (*Estudio sobre las minas de oro y plata de Colombia, Bogota, 1888*), platinum first began to attract attention in Europe in 1748. It had previously been observed by miners in the Choco and Barbacoas, but it was thrown aside as useless. In 1720, it is said, the method of separating it from gold by means of quicksilver was known in Popoyan, Cauca. The Spanish Government, in 1778, ordered all platinum to be sent to the Royal Treasury, but without offering any remuneration. Ten years later \$2 a pound was offered for it in the name of the King, and at the end of 1788 about 3,820 pounds of platinum had been collected in the Choco. The mines then producing most platinum were those of the Opagado, a tributary of the Atrato. The low price paid by the Government led to its being sold to foreigners, who gave as much as \$12 per pound for it and made fortunes by reselling it in Europe.

The value of Colombian platinum was recognized, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, by the great German explorer and scientist Baron HUMBOLDT, who wrote:

"Platina in grains is only found in two places in the known world, viz, in the Choco and Barbacoas. It is peculiar to certain sedimentary lands that cover surfaces of 600 square leagues. The price of this metal on the spot is \$8, or 40 francs, per pound, while in Paris it generally costs 130 to 150 francs."

The Choco platinum is the purest and best sold in foreign markets, as it contains 80 to 85 per cent of pure metal. Its price had already risen in 1894 to 900 francs, or £17 (\$85) per pound. In spite of the high price it commands in the world's markets, the exploitation of the potentially rich platinum deposits of Colombia has been so slight that, as stated by Mr. P. P. DEEMERS, the American consul at Barranquilla, only 661 pounds of it were produced in the Choco in 1905.

The region in which native Colombian platinum is found in greatest abundance is in the western Department of Cauca, more especially in the south central and southern districts of the Choco, Barbacoas, and Supia, between the western foothills of the Cordillera of the Andes and the Pacific. The entire territory of this Cauca Department has been renowned, from the earliest days of the Spanish conquest, as the richest of all the mineral-bearing sections of Colombia. From 1654 up to 1890 the Department yielded \$137,000,000 in gold, of which the Choco region alone produced \$115,000,000, or 84 per cent.

The most profitable field for the extraction of platinum is on the divide between the heads of the Atrato and San Juan rivers, in the Choco region, around Tado, the San Juan, Condoto, and Iro. This territory is comprised between 1° 30' and 6° north latitude—that is,

in the southern and equatorial portion of Colombia. The platinum lies hidden in the auriferous sands and alluvial deposits of streams fed by the melting snows of the Andes, and flowing westward into the Pacific. In these districts one finds a zone or layer of gravel, sand, stone, and various clays, parallel with the horizon and lying within very narrow limits. The lowest part of this layer lies at about 80 or 100 yards above sea level and the highest at about 800 or 820 yards, and its thickness is about 720 yards. Higher up or lower down, not one grain of platinum has been found. The farther from the sea the more difficult the extraction. The breadth of the zone is from 10 to 12 leagues. The work of many thousands of negroes since their discovery has not sufficed to exhaust these deposits (superficial). Their wealth is not unvariable; there are rich and poor spots in the zones. From latitude $1^{\circ} 30'$ north of the line the wealth of the deposits gradually falls off; in latitude 1° they are scarcely working, and on the equator there is no trace of them left. On the south side the expressions gold, platinum, veins, mines, etc., are never heard.

The platinum deposits of Colombia are comparatively accessible for international exportation. Most of the platinum extracted is exported from the Pacific port of Buenaventura, on the Bay of Choco, which is conveniently reached, in a few days, by steamers sailing southward from Panama City. To proceed thence inland to the alluvial deposits bearing native platinum is not difficult. An alternate route, recommended by Consul MANNING, is to proceed first to Cartagena, on the Gulf of Darien, Northern Colombia, thence south to the head of that gulf, and up the historic Atrato River 400 miles to its source, where it is separated from the San Juan by such a low and narrow divide that this route has been regarded as an available one for an interoceanic canal for connecting the Atlantic and Pacific. The trip may be made in four or five days from Cartagena, allowing for touching at way stations and other detentions.

It is said that no effort has ever been made to discover platinum in ore bodies or vein deposits, nor, so far as can be learned, has it ever been found in quartz, even in the shape of float.

Concerning the location of the best platinum mines of Colombia, Mr. LUCINDO POSSO, of Cartagena, an exporter of the metal, gave Consul MANNING the following information:

"The richest mines are on the Rio Condoto, an affluent of the San Juan, the Opagado, and the Tamanal, all branches of the San Juan River. In the province of Atrato there is only one small district from which platinum is taken, Negua. Some new mines have lately been discovered in Nobitu which promise to be very rich, and a com-

pany of French capitalists have recently made very large purchases in the platina district. This company is headed by ALBERT L. DE LANTREPPE, of London, England, and they are soon to send competent engineers to make a careful study of the region and especially of the properties which have fallen into their hands. Gen. RAMÓN BUENDIA, a Colombian, has bought a great quantity of mineral lands in Condoto and Nobitu. There is yet a great expanse of country, rich in minerals of all kinds, and where platinum must exist in goodly quantities, yet unprospected and virgin. A great field for the prospector and miner exists there."

Judging by the statements of various exporters in Cartagena, there is reason to believe that a great deal of the platinum and gold of the Cauca is shipped out through Buenaventura and via Panama, and that it is divided between France and the United States. It seems that France and other European countries received the larger portion up to a short time since, but now there seems to be a tendency to forward the bulk of the output to the United States where the demand has increased wonderfully and where the price is satisfactory.

Through the courtesy of Señor Don WASHINGTON MÉNDEZ, of Cartagena, Mr. MANNING has been enabled to make public the following extract from a report made by the former in January last to a firm in Paris, which report is very valuable as giving essential information regarding the character of the country in which the mines are located, its healthfulness (or lack of it), etc.:

"Platinum is found in its greatest abundance in the region of Choco, Barbacoas, and San Juan, and especially in the latter. The district is easily accessible by steamboats to Quibdo by way of Cartagena, in four or five days of travel, including in this time the detentions in the ports. The principal places are Quibdo and San Pablo, specially Quibdo, which is the capital of the Province of this name.

"There are no mines in exploitation. The mineral which they export from here is that encountered in the bottom of the canyons of the rivers in the form of powder (dust), and in the exploitation of the bars which contain it. The work is of a very primitive mode, like that in practice in ancient times. Labor is abundant.

"It is not possible to find anyone willing to contract a certain quantity of platinum, not having, as I have said, made serious explorations, nor there being no acquired rights. In order to understand the situation properly, it would be necessary, at the beginning, to send a mining engineer to study the ground. However, the enormous riches that the region contains are nearly virgin, unexplored, owing in part to the lack of capital and the unhealthfulness of the climate, it raining there ten months in the year and the district being

very swampy. The annual production is principally exported through the port of Buenaventura, and it would be venturous to fix the quantity of the export, because the Government has placed an export duty on metals, and above all, in regions where the action of the Government is weak, it is presumed that 90 per cent of that which goes out will be contraband.

"Propositions have been made to the Government that it should declare the platinum deposits national property, but they are so extensive and variable that the Government has done nothing in this particular. Scientific investigations will be necessary for the discovery of the ledges from which the platinum comes, which is now taken from the beds of the rivers."

Although it is true that the platinum industry in Colombia has been retarded by the unhealthy nature of some of the localities in which the deposits are found, there are excellent platinum-bearing sections, such as Supia, in latitude north $5^{\circ} 21'$, and longitude west from Bogota $1^{\circ} 40'$, at an elevation of 4,144 feet above the sea, which are quite salubrious. It should, moreover, be borne in mind that, with due regard to strict sanitary measures, proper dieting, regulation of the habits of life to meet the requirements of a tropical climate, and the wearing of suitable clothing, the most unsanitary of the mineral regions of Colombia may be robbed of their terrors.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PACKING HOUSE.

The "*Diario Oficial*" of Colombia publishes in its issue for July 30, 1907, the text of a contract entered into between the Government and Señor AQUILEO OSORIO on the 25th of April, 1907, and approved by the Executive on the 29th of the same month, for the establishment in either of the Departments of Bolivar or Magdalena of a packing house. The factory shall be completed and in a condition to produce within two years from the date of the approval of the contract. The Government grants the concessionaire exclusive privilege for the period of ten years, but in the aforementioned Departments only.

NEW BANK AT CARTAGENA.

The International Bureau of the American Republics has been informed by United States Consul I. A. MANNING, at Cartagena, that the house of MARTINEZ BOSSIO & Co., in connection with the Banco Central of Bogota, will open a new bank in that city within the next sixty days, to be called Banco de Bolivar, with GERONIMO MARTINEZ manager, with a capitalization of \$500,000, and a governmental authorization of an emission of bills to the amount of \$1,000,000.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION BUREAUS IN EUROPE.

For the purposes of propaganda of the Colombian natural sources of wealth, and for the promotion of foreign trade in general, President REYES, on August 13, 1907, issued a decree establishing in London, Paris, and Barcelona bureaus of information, similar to those already organized in Hamburg and New York. These bureaus, besides their general duties, shall collect and send to Colombia commercial samples of articles having a large consumption in the Republic, for exhibition. In each bureau shall be established a permanent exhibit of Colombian products, mineral and agricultural as well. For this purpose the decree provides for the establishment in Bogota of a bureau whose duty shall be the gathering of samples of mineral and other natural products to be sent to the bureaus of information in New York, Hamburg, London, Paris, and Barcelona.

ELECTRIC LIGHT IN SAN JUAN DEL CORDOBA.

The "*Diario Oficial*," of Colombia, of August 22, 1907, publishes the text of a contract entered into between the municipality of the District of San Juan del Cordoba and Señor JUAN AMARIS MAYA, under date of May 14, 1907, for the establishment in the district of a plant for the generation of electric light and power. The duration of the contract shall be fifty years, at the end of which the municipality may purchase and the concessionaire shall sell the plant and its appurtenances. If at the expiration of this period the District should not decide to purchase, the contract shall be extended for twenty-five years longer, at the end of which the District may purchase at one-half of the price which may have been previously agreed upon. Should the municipality decide not to purchase at the end of this second period, a further extension of twenty-four years shall be granted, upon whose expiration the plant and its appurtenances shall become the property of the District without any compensation whatever.

RAILWAY CONCESSION.

The Colombian Government has entered into a new contract with CARLOS TANCO for the construction of railways in the Department of Tolima, granting him a concession for fifty years, with the exclusive privilege of constructing, equipping, operating, and exploiting a new line from Espinal to Ibague, and one from Espinal toward the south to Nevia. Work is not to begin on the latter line until the former is completed. To secure the necessary capital the concessionaire is authorized to organize a company either within or outside of Colombia. The Government guarantees 7 per cent interest, including a 2 per cent sinking fund for the return of the original capital, on a capitalization of \$30,000 gold per kilometer for every kilometer opened to public service after the twenty-sixth kilometer.

TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.

The "*Diario Oficial*" of Colombia, of the 24th of August, 1907, publishes a decree of President REYES, dated August 5, 1907, containing the following tariff modifications:

Printing presses, articles necessary for their operation, and types imported by departmental and municipal governments shall be admitted free of duty.

Printing presses, types, and other articles necessary for the operation thereof, shall be classified under Class II of the tariff.

Carriages and vehicles of all kinds, and automobiles, shall be classified under Class II of the tariff, without the surtax of 70 per cent.

COSTA RICA.**LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF IMPORTANT CONTRACTS.**

In a decree dated September 11, 1907, and published in "*La Gaceta*" of the 13th of the same month, the Constitutional Congress of Costa Rica approved three contracts entered into on July 15 and 18, 1907, between the Government and the Costa Rica Railroad Company, the United Fruit Company, and the Northern Railway Company, respectively, with the amendments made thereto by said legislative body.

CONTRACT WITH THE COSTA RICA RAILROAD COMPANY.

In the contract of July 15, 1907, with the Costa Rica Railroad Company, several articles of the Astua-Pirie contract of October 18, 1907, are repealed, and article 13 of the same agreement is amended to the effect that the company shall make all the improvements which had not been made of those specified in article 6 of the Pacheco-Pirie contract of February 14, 1900, which are: New supply of rolling stock; completion of the new station at San Jose before December 31, 1908; replacing of rails and ties in the Guapiles branch road, and other works.

CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY.

The second contract approved in the decree referred to was entered into with the United Fruit Company on July 18, 1907, whereby this corporation waives the right to export bananas free of duty, to which right it was entitled by virtue of the contract of July 2, 1900, between the Government and the Tropical Trading and Transport Company, of which the former company is transferee. It is agreed, therefore, that the exportation of bananas be taxed, but under the following conditions: (1) That the tax shall not exceed 1 cent American gold per bunch exported; (2) that the tax shall not be increased either

before October 29, 1910 (date of the expiration of the right waived), or within ten years thereafter; (3) that during the period of the contract the lands cultivated with banana shall not be specially taxed with any impost, except the land tax; (4) that neither before October 29, 1910, nor during ten years thereafter, shall any wharf dues be collected on the exportation of bananas, nor any other impost or tax, whatever the name by which it may be designated. The export tax on bananas is fixed in the maximum agreed to, i. e., 1 cent gold per bunch.

The company shall renew the contracts entered into with private persons for the supply of bananas, if the interested parties so desire, until the 29th of October, 1910, at least, and at the minimum price of 31 cents gold per bunch of first class and of 15½ cents per bunch of second class.

In order that the banana planters may build tramways in their plantations, the Government shall allow the free importation of construction materials and rolling stock for said railways, and the company shall secure from the Northern Railway a reduction of 50 per cent on the freight charges for the transportation of said materials.

The United Fruit Company shall enter into contracts with private persons for the cultivation of bananas in 2,800 hectares of land under the conditions prescribed in the contract.

The company shall establish in Puerto Limon a new wireless telegraph station to communicate with Swan Island and Cuba, or other stations near by, or with a port in the State of Louisiana, via Cuba. The service shall be opened to the public, and the Government shall pay only one-half of the prices which may be prescribed in the tariff. The company is authorized to charge a maximum price of 10 centavos per word.

For the payment of its expenditures the United Fruit Company shall import from the United States not less than \$500,000, but the sums imported by the Northern Railway Company shall be included in that amount.

CONTRACT WITH THE NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The third contract is the one made with the Northern Railway Company and the Costa Rica Railroad Company, also on July 18, 1907. In this agreement the Government declares that it was duly notified of the contract signed on June 15, 1905, between the Costa Rica Railroad Company, the Northern Railway Company, and the United Fruit Company, by the terms of which the Northern assumed the management and administration of the Costa Rica Railroad. The contract of 1907 provides that, notwithstanding the agreement of 1905, the Costa Rica Railroad Company shall be responsible to the Government for the fulfillment of the contracts it has entered into

therewith, particularly that of 1894, known as the Soto-Keith contract, and the articles in force of the Astua-Pirie contract, signed the 28th of December, 1904. The accounts, books, inventories, records, etc., of the aforesaid railroad companies shall be kept separately.

The Northern Railway Company agrees to—

(a) Reduce to one-half—that is to say, to 10 cents Costa Rican gold, the maximum of the freight charges for the transportation of bananas.

(b) Reduce the charge for the transportation of coffee to ₡3 per ton of 1,000 kilograms.

(c) Reduce to a 25 per cent the local and export freight of rubber, cacao, fruits, cereals, and vegetables.

(d) Reduce the maximum of freight charges on agricultural machinery and implements in the manner prescribed in the contract.

(e) Grant a 25 per cent discount on the freight charges on merchandise imported by municipalities, churches, hospitals, and school boards.

(f) To grant free first-class transportation to the members of the Cabinet, members of Congress, and justices of the Supreme Court.

Section 2 of the decree in reference provides that the revenues derived from the export duty on bananas shall be applied exclusively to the payment of the external debt. Section 3 prescribes that the exportation of coffee shall be exempt from wharf or any other taxes.

FREE ENTRY FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED ARTICLES.

A Costa Rican decree of July 10, 1907, covering the free entry into the Republic of grain residues and agricultural machinery and implements, provides as follows:

“ARTICLE 1. The duties from which exemption is accorded to bran and other residues of wheat, linseed, maize, and other grains used as cattle foods by the law of August 20, 1903, comprises all fiscal duties, including ‘wharfage.’

“ART. 2. The following are also declared free of these duties: Machinery and utensils for the preparation of cheese and butter, machinery for the extraction of fiber from plants and its treatment, hydraulic rams, windmills, plows, rollers, harrows, seed-sowing machines, cultivators, reapers, fertilizer carts, huskers, shovels, axes, machetes, and all kinds of agricultural machinery for the preparation of the ground and for sowing and gathering fruit and crops, such as carts, the tires or wheels of which are 10 centimeters or more in width.”

POPULATION, DECEMBER 31, 1906.

On March 15, 1907, the National Department of Statistics of Costa Rica published the census of the Republic on December 31, 1906, according to which the number of inhabitants on that date was 341,590.

EXPORT DUTY ON BANANAS.

According to information received through the Department of State of the United States from United States Minister WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY at San José, the Costa Rican Government has fixed the duty on banana exports at the rate of 1 cent gold per bunch for a period of ten years after 1910, the application of said rate to begin with the promulgation of the Executive decree.

It is not considered that the imposition of this duty will check local production, whereas it will add approximately \$100,000 gold to the annual revenue of the Republic.

Trial shipments of bananas are being made to European ports with encouraging prospects, and it is probable that exports from Puerto Limon will shortly reach 10,000,000 bunches annually.

CUBA.**WIRELESS TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.**

On September 13, 1907, the governmental decree was signed granting to the United Fruit Company the right to establish and operate a wireless telegraph station at Cape San Antonio, the western extremity of Cuba.

Primarily the company is authorized to establish connection with other wireless stations making up the system and with those vessels of the company which may be equipped with wireless installations. The company binds itself to receive and transmit at the station, free of charge, messages to and from vessels belonging to the Cuban and United States Governments and the naval and military stations of the United States.

In part recompense for this service the Cuban Government will transmit over its land lines all of the company's messages from Pinar del Rey to the large plantations it owns and operates at Banés and Preston free of charge.

The United Fruit Company has about sixty steamers engaged in the transport of fruit from the West Indies and Central America to the United States, and there are usually forty of their ships in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico at a time.

It is proposed to so enlarge the system that all the ships of the company may be in constant range of some shore station. A wireless station is in process of erection on Swans Island off the Honduran coast and about 260 miles south of Cape San Antonio, which will give complete connections for their various stations on the mainland.

The United States, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama have all granted the necessary licenses for the complete installation of stations.

ADHERENCE TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1899.

The "*Gaceta Oficial*" of August 26, 1907, publishes the proclamation of Provisional Governor MAGOON of the adherence of Cuba to the Hague Convention of July 29, 1899, for the peaceful arrangement of international controversies, usually called the Arbitration Convention.

This convention was approved and ratified on behalf of Cuba by Governor MAGOON on April 16, 1907, and the protocol of adherence thereto was signed on June 16, 1907, by the Cuban delegates to the Second International Peace Conference at the Hague.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

FOREIGN COMMERCE, FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1907.

Figures compiled in the office of the general receiver of Dominican customs, Mr. W. E. PULLIAM, and furnished the International Bureau of the American Republics through the Department of Insular Affairs of the War Department of the United States, show that the foreign trade of the Dominican Republic increased during the first six months of 1907 in the amount of \$983,750 over the corresponding period of 1906.

Total imports are reported at \$2,376,652, against \$2,064,068 in 1906, and exports figure for \$4,678,324 compared with \$4,007,158 in the first half of the preceding year.

The participating countries and the share furnished and taken by each were as follows:

Aggregate foreign trade.

Countries.	First six months—		Increase for 1907.	Decrease for 1907.
	1906.	1907.		
United States.....	\$4,000,478	\$4,029,548	\$29,070	.....
United Kingdom.....	282,692	704,453	421,761	.....
Germany.....	1,285,328	1,379,348	94,020	.....
France.....	332,063	716,965	384,902	.....
Spain.....	48,283	52,481	4,198	.....
Italy.....	32,750	65,742	32,992	.....
Belgium.....	2,231	2,117	.....	\$114
Cuba.....	29,709	27,203	.....	2,506
Porto Rico.....	8,713	24,450	15,737	.....
Other countries.....	48,979	52,699	3,690	.....
Total.....	6,071,228	7,054,976	986,370	2,620

Recapitulation of imports.

Countries.	First six months 1906.		First six months 1907.	
	Value.	Percentage of the whole.	Value.	Percentage of the whole.
United States.....	\$1,169,953	56.3	\$1,326,666	55.8
United Kingdom.....	259,626	12.2	387,950	16.3
Germany.....	436,105	21.1	386,022	16.2
France.....	101,630	4.9	128,303	5.4
Spain.....	48,283	2.3	49,032	2.1
Italy.....	32,750	1.6	58,226	2.5
Belgium.....	2,231	.1	2,117	.1
Cuba.....	6,197	.3	11,019	.5
Porto Rico.....	8,713	.4	10,556	.4
Other countries.....	16,580	.8	10,761	.7
Total.....	2,064,068	100.0	2,376,652	100.0

NOTE.—The total value of imports from the United States includes gold and silver currency amounting to \$176,809 for the first six months of 1906 and \$113,169 for the corresponding period of 1907.

Recapitulation of exports.

Countries.	First six months 1906.		First six months 1907.	
	Value.	Percentage of the whole.	Value.	Percentage of the whole.
United States.....	\$2,839,525	70.9	\$2,702,882	57.8
United Kingdom.....	32,066	.8	316,503	6.7
Germany.....	849,223	21.2	963,326	21.2
France.....	230,433	5.7	588,662	12.6
Spain.....	.....	.....	3,449	.1
Italy.....	.....	.....	7,518	.2
Cuba.....	23,512	.6	16,184	.3
Porto Rico.....	.....	.....	13,894	.3
Other countries.....	32,399	.8	35,908	.8
Total.....	4,007,158	100.0	4,678,324	100.0

NOTE.—The total value of exports to the United States includes gold and silver currency amounting to \$2,241.98 for the first six months of 1906 and \$2,110 for the corresponding period of 1907.

The gain in trade was shared by nearly all countries having commercial relations with the Republic, only Belgium and Cuba showing a slight decline in their respective aggregate trade.

The United States continues to lead in both imports to and exports from the country, having secured 55.8 per cent of the former and 57.8 per cent of the latter, valued, respectively, at \$1,326,666 and \$2,702,882. The next countries in order of importance with regard to imports were Great Britain and Germany, and between the two the commercial contest was an even one, the former sending 16.3 per cent and the latter 16.2 per cent of the total imports, valued, respectively, at \$387,950 and \$386,022. With reference to the value of exports received, the relative position of the two countries named was reversed, and the difference between them quite marked. While Great Britain bought but \$316,503, or 6.7 per cent, Germany purchased \$963,326, or 21.2 per cent. France comes fourth on the list, and has to her credit \$128,303, or 5.4 per cent of imports, and \$588,662,

or 12.6 per cent of exports. Both Spain and Italy supplied over 2 per cent of the imports, and no other country received as much as 1 per cent of the exports from the Dominican Republic.

Exports, as noted in previous reports, continued to exceed in value the imports, for, while during the first six months of 1907 the Republic bought merchandise from other countries at an invoiced value of \$2,263,492, there was sold to these same countries merchandise valued at \$4,676,214 (these figures do not include imports and exports of gold, silver, and paper currency), which fact, viewed as a transaction involving an exchange of commodities, leaves a balance of trade of \$2,412,722 to the credit of the Republic. This means an increase for the Dominican people of almost \$5,000,000 per annum, and should remove the fear entertained in some quarters that the depositing of \$100,000 per month for payment on the indebtedness of the Dominican Government will drain the country of money and leave no circulating medium.

For the six months ending June 30, 1907, there was set aside and deposited in the National City Bank of New York \$743,653.44 from the revenue received, to apply on the public debt, but this was accomplished in the form of exchange, and no currency was exported on this account.

Importations of gold and currency in the money of the United States to the amount of \$113,160 were received, and the small quantity of \$2,110 exported.

IMPORTS.

The principal classes of commodities imported, in order of their relative importance, were cotton goods, iron and steel manufactures, breadstuffs, rice, meat, and dairy products, oils, manufactures of vegetable fibers, wood manufactures, preserved fish, leather and its manufactures, hats and caps, beer, chemicals, etc., and sugar and confectionery. The foregoing represents about 84 per cent of the total importations, and with one exception, that of rice, there was a general increase in all of the above classes; but in the case of cotton goods, manufactures of vegetable fibers, hats and caps, and iron and steel manufactures, the increase was marked, both in quantities and values, over the corresponding six months of 1906. The balance of the imports was composed of products of a miscellaneous character.

During the six months of 1907, as compared with that period of 1906, the importations of rice decreased in quantity received to the extent of 1,961,885 pounds, and in value \$21,563, Germany continuing to furnish the greater part of this food. The loss in this trade with the United States is represented by \$10,596, while the decrease for Germany was \$4,855. The only other country supplying rice to any considerable extent during the first six months of 1907 was Great Britain, which furnished, practically, rice of an equal value for the

two half years under comparison—for 1906, \$10,956 and 1907, \$10,322. This is considered a good omen for the future welfare of the country where rice is a staple article of food. Rice can be and has been grown to splendid advantage in certain parts of the Republic, and to buy the article abroad means a drain of the resources of the country for a necessity that easily can be produced at home. Rice importations are principally from Germany, which is, however, only a country of transshipment; the countries of origin being India and French China. In addition to the original cost price, the Dominican consumer must pay the freight and incidental charges for transporting this commodity a distance of more than one-half around the world, necessitating two transshipments.

Of the few other imports, in which there appear a decrease, the most apparent are glass and its manufactures, and agricultural implements, which fell off 123 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively.

Of the increased trade in cotton manufactures the United States and Great Britain each received about \$80,000, while Germany lost ground in its sales of these articles to the Republic. Such goods were invoiced during the first six months of 1906 from the two first-mentioned countries at a value of \$195,275 and \$173,503, respectively, while during the same period of the present year the values were \$277,856 and \$254,008, respectively. From Germany there was received during the comparative period of 1906 values to the amount of \$66,150, and in 1907, \$36,793; France, Spain, and Italy together furnished \$57,641 in 1906, and \$64,448 in 1907.

As was true of cotton goods, so it was of iron and steel manufactures, the United States and Great Britain receiving the greatest proportion of the increased trade with the Republic; the latter country increasing her sales in those lines by \$23,000, or over 100 per cent, while the gain of the former country was \$36,000, or almost 38 per cent more than its previous trade for the comparative half year. The iron and steel importations from Germany showed a decline of \$22,000, or about 250 per cent.

Practically all of the wheat flour and other breadstuffs consumed in the Republic were furnished by the United States, as in the past. Out of a total of 29,805 barrels of wheat flour, invoiced at a value of \$132,462, that country supplied 29,710 barrels, and of other breadstuffs invoiced at \$12,546 it contributed in value \$11,087.

Increase in the value of meat and dairy products imported is represented by larger receipts from the United States and Porto Rico. The first-named country supplied these articles valued at \$53,044 for the first half of 1906 and \$73,754 during the same period of 1907. Germany supplied \$44,716 in value in the former period and \$48,007 during the latter. The trade in these commodities with Porto Rico amounted to \$1,789 in 1906 compared with \$4,214 in 1907.

Of the total amount of oils imported, at an invoiced value of \$128,695, the United States furnished \$116,698, or 90 per cent, comprising cotton-seed, illuminating, and lubricating oils; the remaining 10 per cent of the total importations consisted of olive and other oils from European countries.

Invoiced values of manufactures of vegetable fibers were greatly increased over those for the first half of the year 1906. Great Britain and Germany received as their shares of the increase \$22,035 and \$7,485, respectively, while the gain of the United States under this head was \$2,622. Empty sacks for containers of cacao, sugar, etc., constituted the principal proportion of this class of importations. The average invoiced value per 100 sacks for 1906 was \$12.41, compared with \$17.42 for the six months ending June 30, 1907.

Of the increased importations of wood and manufactures thereof, amounting to \$30,355, the United States realized a net gain of \$28,136, the invoiced value of articles of this class from that country during the first six months of 1906 being \$50,981, compared with \$79,117 for the same period of 1907. Germany increased her trade in this line to the extent of \$1,123. The amount received from other countries was small.

About 97 per cent of the preserved fish importations was supplied by the United States, there having been invoiced from that country \$75,523, compared with \$64,533 for the same period of 1906.

There was an increase in the importations of leather and its manufactures to the extent of \$8,411. The exact values in figures for the comparative periods were \$52,133 in 1906 and \$60,544 in 1907. Of the increase the United States and Great Britain received the greater proportion. The trade in these articles with Germany showed a slight decrease.

Italy furnished over 81 per cent of the total value of hats and caps imported, there having been received from that country goods of this class invoiced at \$33,645, while the total amount received from all sources was \$41,509.

Germany, as usual, continued to supply the greater part of the beer consumed in the Republic, 20,428 dozen bottles, at an invoiced value of \$31,652, having been imported from that country during the first six months of 1907. From the United States there were received during the same period 3,780 dozen bottles, invoiced at \$4,938. The total amount of malted beverages from all countries was 25,835 dozen bottles, invoiced at \$38,930.

Chemicals, drugs, and dyes, invoiced at \$35,292, represented the total importations under this class. Such articles from the United States were valued at \$24,775; from France, \$6,837; and from Germany, \$1,896. The amounts received from other countries were too small to require special mention.

Sugar and confectionery were received in the amount of \$30,786, of which over 83 per cent came from the United States, while the remainder was furnished by European countries.

Agricultural implements valued at \$18,965 were imported, a decrease from the corresponding period preceding, when \$28,124 represented the volume of the trade. The loss was sustained entirely by Germany, as the annexed table under the above particular group head will show.

Germany, the United Kingdom, and America principally supplied paints, pigments, and colors to the extent of \$10,093.

Paper and manufactures of were imported valued at \$20,941, an increase of \$4,266 over the first six months of 1906, when \$16,675 worth of this article was received.

EXPORTS.

In the order of their importance, indicated by values, the principal articles of export were sugar, cacao, bananas, tobacco, and coffee, these five products representing over 98 per cent of the total exportations of the Republic during the first six months of 1907. There was a general increase along all lines in prices received as compared with the corresponding period of 1906, but in the case of cacao a startling increase of approximately 100 per cent was realized, for during the first six months of 1906 the average invoiced price was \$6.60 per 100 pounds of cacao, as against \$12.62 obtained for a similar quantity during the present year.

Although the United States continued to be the largest buyer of Dominican sugar, there having been invoiced to that country, during the first half of the year 1907, \$6,454,126 pounds at a value of \$1,686,161, the exportations of this staple to Great Britain and Germany show a marked increase over the corresponding period of 1906. There were consigned to Great Britain and Germany during the first six months of 1906 sugar to the value of \$24,408 and \$643, respectively, while for the same period of the current year the values were \$314,728 and \$5,832, respectively.

Of cacao shipments there was quite a decrease in quantity, but on account of the phenomenal increase in the prices received the exporters realized \$640,000 more for their product than during the same season ending June 30, 1906. The United States and Germany received proportionately the same amount as last year, 4,955,950 pounds and 5,634,856 pounds, respectively. France increased her purchases of the product from 2,475,983 pounds in the first six months of 1906 to 4,106,361 pounds for the same period of 1907. The countries above named practically purchased the entire production of Dominican cacao.

Banana exportations, which go exclusively to the United States, increased from 434,600 bunches in the comparative period of 1906 to

479,000 bunches in 1907. The former invoiced price of 50 cents per bunch still prevailed.

Tobacco exports rose from 1,752,728 to 2,859,768 pounds, and the average price per 100 pounds increased from \$3.43 to \$5.51. Germany extended her purchases nearly 300 per cent, and to Porto Rico, which bought no tobacco in the Republic during the first six months of 1906, there was invoiced 179,681 pounds. Of the remaining exportations of this product the United States and France received, respectively, 145,089 and 17,496 pounds, compared with 659,374 and 349,174 pounds during the first half of 1906.

A slight decrease is shown in the total amount of coffee invoiced for shipment abroad, but the average price per 100 pounds advanced from \$7 to \$7.20. Of the quantity sent to Germany a decrease from 1,203,444 pounds at \$76,945 to 470,046 pounds valued at \$27,603 is noted. Coffee shipments to France increased from 316,527 pounds, valued at \$18,344, to 763,387 pounds, valued at \$53,251. The only other buyer of note was the United States, to which country were sent 392,070 pounds during the first six months of 1906, compared with 499,167 pounds for the present corresponding half year.

TONNAGE.

The aggregate foreign tonnage of the several ports of the Republic for the half year was 787,831 tons, an increase over the same period of the previous year of 61,320 tons. While the entrances and clearances of vessels showed a decrease in number of 43, this fact indicates that ships of greater tonnage and larger carrying capacity were attracted to the Republic by reason of its awakened commercial activity.

The coastwise tonnage likewise showed a gratifying gain in volume. Local traffic was carried in Dominican vessels of aggregate tonnage 73,191, against 60,133, an increase of 13,058 tons for 1907. The above transactions represented entrances and clearances of 3,345 vessels for the six months of 1906, and 3,775 for 1907.

Of the grand total of imports, values to the extent of \$1,279,720, or 54 per cent, were brought in American vessels; \$753,119, or 32 per cent, in German vessels; \$197,029, or 8 per cent, in French vessels, \$76,854 in British vessels, \$35,092 in Norwegian vessels, and the remainder in vessels of various nationalities.

Vessels of American registry transporting Dominican exports carried in value \$1,569,826, or 33 per cent; German vessels, \$1,254,917, or 27 per cent; Norwegian, \$803,291, or 18 per cent; British, \$544,181, or 12 per cent, and French, \$445,745, or 9½ per cent. The remainder of the export trade was handled by vessels of other nationalities, the exact particulars of which may be ascertained readily by reference to the accompanying table.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The new Constitution of the Dominican Republic, approved on June 14, 1907, was promulgated by President CACERES on September 9, 1907, and published in the "*Gaceta Oficial*" of the 11th of the same month.

The National Congress, in a decree dated September 20, 1907, has declared the necessity of amending said Constitution from article 6 to 104, inclusive, and from article 107 to the last. Therefore, it has issued another decree under the same date calling for an extraordinary session of the constituent assembly to make the amendments indicated. Both decrees were published in the "*Gaceta Oficial*" of the 21st of the same month.

INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION IN SANTO DOMINGO.

In a communication addressed to the Department of State of the United States, Mr. FENTON McCREERY reports from Santo Domingo of the opening on August 16, 1907, of the Dominican Industrial Exposition.

Every Province of the Republic was represented and great interest and enthusiasm were displayed in preparing and installing the exhibits. The exposition was held solely for the display of native products and manufactures and is an earnest of the possibilities for development in the country where nature has been so lavish with her gifts.

BOND ISSUE TO COVER LOAN.

The "*Gaceta Oficial*" of September 18, 1907, published the act of Congress approved by President CACERES on September 16, authorizing the Minister of Finance to issue and sell bonds for \$20,000,000, as required under the terms of the new treaty between the United States and Santo Domingo, which was ratified by the Dominican Congress May 3 of this year.

The loan is for the purpose of taking up the outstanding obligations of the Dominican Republic. The money, it is understood, is to be advanced by a New York banking house.

ECUADOR.**BANK RATES AND INTERESTS IN THE REPUBLIC.**

The United States Consul-General at Guayaquil, Mr. HERMAN H. DIETRICH, reports, in response to inquiries addressed to him in regard to banking conditions in the Republic of Ecuador, that Guayaquil offers many inducements that ought to be looked upon as encouraging for the establishment of an American bank in Guayaquil. He

considers that the establishment of such an institution would meet with the approval of a great many of the citizens and that a considerable amount of the capital could be raised here.

The banks buy drafts from the exporters, with bill of lading attached, drawn on London, Paris, or Hamburg at ninety days' sight, and on New York at sixty days' sight, paying $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent less than their selling prices. Out of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent the banks have to pay their discount on the ninety or sixty days and the banking commission abroad for accepting and paying their own drafts. When exporters offer sight or three days' sight drafts, the banks buy them at $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent less. Drafts, as a rule, are drawn against produce shipped, principally cocoa, hides, rubber, coffee, ivory nuts, and straw hats (Panama hats), on banks, banking houses, or A 1 commercial houses. Banks draw at three days' sight only.

INTEREST AND DISCOUNTS.

The rate of discount is at present 8 per cent per annum. Only A 1 commercial paper is handled, which must not have more than six months to run. These documents (*pagarés*) are generally signed by merchants to merchants for goods actually purchased. No accommodation notes are accepted for discount at the banks, nor do the banks give any blank credits. Banks only operate with those who keep an account current with them. No interest is paid on sight deposits or in accounts current. On time deposits the following interest is paid by the banks: Deposit on fifteen days, 3 per cent per annum; on three months, 4 per cent; on six months, 5 per cent; on twelve months, 5 per cent.

COMMISSIONS.

For collecting and remitting foreign drafts 1 per cent is charged by the banks.

BANKS.

There are four banks in Guayaquil, viz: *Banco Comercial y Agrícola*, capital 5,000,000 *suces*; *Banco del Ecuador*, capital 3,000,000 *suces*; *Banco de Crédito Hipotecario*, capital 1,000,000 *suces*; *Banco Territorial*, capital 400,000 *suces*. There are also two small savings banks with a capital of 100,000 *suces* and 50,000 *suces*.

The *Banco Hipotecario* and the *Banco Territorial* are only mortgage banks; the *Comercial y Agrícola*, besides doing a general banking business, also operates in mortgages. All four are what might be called national banks, being established under the banking laws of this Republic. They have the advantage of being allowed to issue notes. Private banks and banking houses can do all the banking

business they wish to, but can not issue any paper notes. National banks are taxed with 2 per cent on their yearly profits. Private banks, banking houses, or merchants have to pay yearly 3 per mil (thousand) on the capital they are working with.

Mortgage banks issue for every operation they make warrants called "cédulas," which the bank may keep or sell to the public. The cédula bears 9 per cent interest, which is paid semiannually by the bank to the holder of the same, for which purpose the cédulas are provided with coupons. The cédula being issued by the bank, is guaranteed by the bank's capital and the mortgage on the property, and is considered here the safest paper. The party who gives a mortgage to the bank generally does it for twenty-five years, paying the interest semiannually, including amortization and profits, or 11.80 per cent per annum in all, out of which the bank pays the 9 per cent per annum to the holder of the cédula. One per cent is for the sinking fund or amortization, and the balance of 1.80 per cent is the profit of the bank. The bank only gives 50 per cent of the real value of the mortgaged property, and holds the insurance policy on the same (when city property) for an equal amount. The banks also give money on shorter periods, such as ten, fifteen, or twenty years, but as a rule the twenty-five-year table is taken. Every six months the banks, by drawing lots, call in and pay an equal amount of cédulas as paid to them in cash by the parties who have given the mortgages. The cédulas called in by the banks are paid at par. A mortgage, although made for a fixed time, may be canceled at any time, and the bank must, in that case, call in and pay those cédulas at once.

Guayaquil's present officially estimated population is 70,000, and it is safe to assume that when the Panama Canal is completed it will become one of the most important ports on the west coast of South America.

BANKING LAW.

The Congress of the Republic of Ecuador decreed the following banking law in September, 1899:

"ARTICLE 1. The banks of issue, circulation, and discount shall be established in the Republic with a subscribed capital of at least 400,000 sucres.

"Only such banks as may have been established or shall legally be established shall be entitled to issue bank notes.

"Notes or documents payable to the bearer, with the exception of checks—that is to say, drafts—drawn on a legally established bank, are hereby prohibited.

"ART. 2. The Executive power, with the consent of the council of state, shall approve the by-laws of such banks as may be established, provided they do not conflict with the laws already in force.

"ART. 3. No bank whatever shall be entitled to commence its

operations before having cash on hand to the amount of 50 per cent of its capital stock in gold coins of legal circulation, and 10 per cent in national silver money. This requisite shall also be complied with when the capital stock of the bank is increased.

"ART. 4. After complying with the provisions contained in the foregoing articles, any bank may commence operations, provided it complies with the provisions of the present law.

"ART. 5. The issue of bank notes shall not exceed double the capital subscribed, nor shall the circulation be greater than double the amount of cash the bank has on hand as a reserve fund. Should the circulation be excessive, the Comptroller of the Currency shall direct, at the request of the Assistant Attorney, that it be withdrawn and he shall impose on the bank a fine equal to one-tenth of the excess, without prejudice to such civil or criminal responsibility as the president of the bank may have incurred.

"ART. 6. No bank notes shall be issued the value of which is less than 1 *sucre*.

"ART. 7. After presenting a bank note to the bank that issued it, to be exchanged for specie, the bank shall do so, without any excuse or reservation whatever, under the penalty of the fine referred to in article 25. No bearer of bank notes shall be compelled to receive in silver or nickel coin an amount greater than that fixed by law concerning coins, whatever may be the amount he is willing to exchange for specie. The branch offices shall be compelled to exchange for specie, to the amount of their capital, such bank notes as the main bank may have issued.

"ART. 8. For the operation of exchanging bank notes for specie, each bank shall, with the approval of the governor, fix at least four hours daily, and it shall post a permanent notice on its doors for the information of the public.

"ART. 9. Each stockholder is responsible to the extent of the value of his share or shares for the operations of the bank.

"ART. 10. The shares of the bank are indivisible, and consequently no share shall have more than one holder.

"ART. 11. The shares shall not be used as a guaranty or bond of any contract entered into with the same bank.

"ART. 12. Shares can not be attached except in conformity with the Commercial Code.

"ART. 13. Any stockholder delinquent in the payment of the quota corresponding to him shall pay as a fine 3 per cent monthly of the sum to which said quota amounts, provided the delay does not exceed three months. After the expiration of this term the bank shall proceed to sell at public auction, before the Comptroller of the Currency, the share of the delinquent debtor, without any further proceeding than the previous notification to said debtor.

"ART. 14. The banks of issue shall be limited to the following operations:

"1. The purchase or sale of silver or gold, coined or in bars.

"2. The drawing of bills of exchange.

"3. The discounting of bills of exchange or other certificates of credit.

"4. Deposits.

"5. Loans.

"6. Advances on goods or merchandise in bonded warehouses or on insured cargoes.

"ART. 15. Banks are specially prohibited:

"1. To take part directly or indirectly in industrial enterprises, and even in such mercantile enterprises as are not comprised in those specified in the foregoing article.

"2. To keep, without the consent of the Congress, such real estate as they may have acquired and which is not considered strictly necessary for the foundation or service of the bank. Without the aforesaid consent they shall be compelled to sell said real estate within the following four years to that in which the title of property thereto was recorded.

"3. To include in the assets credits against persons whose insolvency is notorious.

"ART. 16. Should any bank fail to comply with the provision referred to in section 2 of the foregoing article, said bank shall pay a fine equal to one-tenth of the value of such real estate the ownership of which is unduly held; and the Assistant Attorney shall prosecute the president of the bank before the Comptroller of the Currency, in order that the aforesaid real estate may be immediately sold at public auction.

"ART. 17. The presidents and other officers of banks shall not directly or subsidiarily contract debts therewith, nor shall they carry out any negotiations with the same.

"ART. 18. Every bank shall have a reserve fund to which shall be applied a portion of the profits, which shall not be less than 30 per cent of the net annual profits, after deducting a dividend of 12 per cent on its paid up capital. This fund shall be applied:

"1. To replace the losses of the capital stock.

"2. To complete, whenever the president shall deem it advisable, the 12 per cent annual dividend on the amounts delivered by the stockholder.

"ART. 19. The president or presidents are the legal representatives of the banks.

"ART. 20. The president shall be elected by the general board in accordance with the by-laws, and in order to prove that he is such it shall be sufficient for him to produce the certificate which, signed by

the president and secretary of the general board, makes known to him his election. Whenever the president should execute public deeds or other authenticated documents, it will be sufficient to copy verbatim the contents of the aforesaid certificate.

"ART. 21. Banks shall be under the inspection and direction of their presidents appointed in conformity with the provisions of the by-laws.

"ART. 22. The presidents of banks shall take care that neither this law nor the by-laws of the bank are violated.

"ART. 23. The presidents of banks are responsible for fraud, incompetency, or misdemeanor in the performance of the duties of their office, as well as for such operations as they may carry out contrary to this law or to the by-laws of the bank, and consequently they shall pay such damages as they may cause to the bank and meet such obligations as may have been contracted with the public by reason of such acts.

"ART. 24. The president of each bank shall send to the Government, within the first fifteen days of each month, the statement of the bank corresponding to the foregoing month, in order that the same may be published in the official newspaper; and within the first thirty days of each year they shall send a summary of the operations and of the distribution of the dividends for the year ended. For each day of delay in the performance of the duty referred to in the foregoing section, the president or presidents shall pay a fine of 25 *suces*. If the aforesaid documents are not produced, or should they contain any misrepresentation, the bank shall immediately be declared in liquidation, without prejudice to the payment of a fine of from 100 to 1,000 *suces*, for each violation.

"ART. 25. The Executive power, through his agents or through a special commissioner, shall inspect the operations of the banks and, particularly, the issue and exchange of bank notes. Should it be found that this law or the by-laws have been violated, he shall order that the Assistant Attorney prosecute the violator before the Comptroller of the Currency, who shall have right to impose on the president or presidents a fine of from 80 to 400 *suces*. Should said attorney conclude that a criminal offense has been committed, he shall prosecute the perpetrator thereof before the proper judge.

"ART. 26. Any amendment of the by-laws shall be made known to the Executive power, who may approve of it, with the consent of the council of state, in case it does not conflict with the law.

"ART. 27. Such banks as are already established, or which may hereafter be established, may open their branch offices and agencies in such places as they may deem most convenient, under the inspection and responsibility of the main offices.

"ART. 28. Banks shall pay the general tax on the total amount of their issues.

"ART. 29. All the fines referred to in this law shall be imposed by the Comptroller of the Currency, who shall immediately notify the Treasurer of the Republic for the collection thereof.

"ART. 30. All suits against the bank, or of the latter against its debtors, on account of banking operations, shall be settled before the Comptroller of the Currency, in accordance with the Commercial Code.

"ART. 31. The provisions of the Commercial Code shall be applied in toto, except as otherwise specially provided in the present law.

"ART. 32. The fines referred to in articles 24 and 25 shall be turned over to the public Treasury.

"ART. 33. Such banks as at present exist are subject to all the provisions of this law, with the exception of the provisions of article 2.

"ART. 34. All laws relating to banks of issue are hereby repealed, even though they do not conflict with the present law."

LOADING AND UNLOADING OF MERCHANDISE IN GUAYAQUIL.

President ALFARO, of Ecuador, in an Executive decree dated August 30, 1907, has ordered that the loading and unloading of merchandise in the port of Guayaquil be done by the Government, either by itself or by contract with a private individual or company. This decree may be made applicable to the other ports of the Republic whenever the President may deem such a course necessary.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE WITH VALPARAISO.

United States Consul-General DIETRICH reports from Guayaquil that a syndicate is being formed by well-known business men of that city for the purpose of establishing a line of steamers to ply between Guayaquil and Valparaiso. The vessels are to be of a storage capacity of 500 tons or more, with refrigeration for the preservation of fruit, and also with separate apartments for fuel, sufficient for five or six days, which is to be either coal or petroleum. The speed to be from 12 to 15 knots per hour.

These vessels are to engage chiefly in the traffic of fruit and other products that abound in Ecuador—such as bananas, oranges, lemons, pineapples, cocoanuts, mangoes, aguacates, papayas, etc.—which are to be distributed in all the ports south. It is also proposed to export a large quantity of bamboo poles (split), for which there is a good demand in some of the ports of Peru and Chile, especially in Callao, Antofagasta, and Iquique, where they are principally used for building warehouses for storing saltpeter and for building the inside walls of houses. Iquique and Antofagasta afford the best market for the poles. On returning from Valparaiso, general cargo will be accepted by these vessels for northern ports.

In addition to the establishing of the line to Valparaiso, it is also proposed to put into service one or more vessels which are to be employed in a general trade between Guayaquil and Panama and intermediate ports, making also frequent trips to the Galapagos Islands, where many herds of cattle, hogs, and sheep are found, which up to the present time have virtually had no market. The sugar industry is also developed to some extent on these islands, the product of which heretofore has been brought to Guayaquil in sailing vessels.

To encourage the establishment of the service of these new steamers, the Ecuadorian Congress on October 7, 1905, passed an act providing for a subsidy of \$750 to be paid monthly for each such vessel put into service, which is an important item.

GUATEMALA.

FOREIGN COMMERCE IN 1906.

In a report prepared for his home Government, the British Minister in Guatemala states that the invoiced value of merchandise imported into the Republic during 1906 was \$5,745,321, but with the addition of 25 per cent, covering the cost of packing, freight, insurance, and commissions, official returns fix the amount at \$7,220,759. Export valuations are given as \$7,136,271 gold.

Of the imports, about 50 per cent are of United States origin, 25 per cent from the United Kingdom, and the remainder from Germany, in the greater part.

Exports of coffee are first on the list, the greater portion going to Germany. Rubber, timber, hides, and bananas are also shipped, mainly from ports on the Caribbean Sea.

Mr. CARDEN further reports that the trade route hitherto in use for the transport of merchandise from Europe or the eastern part of the United States to the city of Guatemala has been by way of Colon and the Isthmus of Panama for the better class of goods and by the long sea route through the Straits of Magellan for cheaper articles. The bulk of the carrying trade on the Pacific is performed by the steamers of the Pacific Mail Company, the principal ports being San Jose and Champerico. On the Atlantic side are two excellent and well-sheltered harbors, Puerto Barrios and Livingston, which are, however, as yet cut off from adequate communication with the interior.

In comparison with the preceding year there was a marked decline in the imports of breadstuffs. In 1905 total imports of maize were valued at nearly \$400,000 while in 1906 they figured for but little more than \$10,000. This was due to increased acreage under cultivation of this commodity.

Very nearly \$500,000 worth of railway material was imported from the United States during 1906 for the use of American companies in the Republic, and flour receipts from the same source were valued at \$400,000. Other items on the import list from the United States were: Tallow, \$65,000; coal, \$65,000; lard, \$57,000; leather, \$45,000; timber, \$40,000; preserves, \$53,000; iron tubes, \$22,000; iron buildings, \$17,000; petroleum, \$28,000; potatoes, \$16,000; and sewing machines, \$15,000.

Customs receipts for 1906 are quoted at \$1,900,000, as compared with \$1,970,000 in the preceding year.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF NATIVE FISHERIES.

In order to promote the production of fish in the Republic, President ESTRADA CABRERA, of Guatemala, issued on August 23, 1907, a decree providing for the establishment of a piscicultural station in the southeastern section of Lake Amatitlan. The passing of the fishes from one section to the other shall be prevented by means of wire gauze placed at the outlet flowing from the southeastern to the northwestern section. Fishing in that section of the lake is absolutely prohibited from the date of the decree and for an indefinite period.

CONVENTION WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RECIPROCAL PROTECTION OF PATENTS.

A convention between the Republic of Guatemala and the United States of America for the reciprocal protection of patents having been duly ratified by the contracting parties and the exchange of ratifications made in the city of Guatemala on June 13, 1907, the said convention was proclaimed by the President of the United States on July 9, 1907.

Article I provides that citizens of each of the high contracting parties shall, in the territory of the other, enjoy the same rights as are enjoyed by native citizens in all matters pertaining to the protection of inventions by letters patent.

Article II requires that for the protection of their inventions the citizens of each country shall fulfill the formalities required by the laws of the country in which the protection is solicited.

The duration of the convention is covered by Article III, it being stipulated that it shall become effective immediately upon its proclamation by both countries and remain in force until the expiration of one year after either of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other of its wish to terminate the same.

REUNION OF THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS, 1908.

Official notification has been received by the International Bureau of the American Republics of the Fifth Reunion of the Pan-American Congress to be held in the city of Guatemala from August 6 to 9, inclusive, 1908, in accordance with the decision taken at the last Congress which assembled in Panama, January, 1905.

Following is the text of the notice issued by the committee in charge:

[Committee on organization of the Fifth Medical Pan-American Congress, Republic of Guatemala, Central America—Committee on organization: Chairman, Dr. Juan J. Ortega; members, Dr. Manuel Aparicio, Dr. Nicolás Zufiiga; secretary, Dr. José Azurdia.]

Sir: The Fourth Medical Pan-American Congress, held at Panama in January, 1905, resolved that the capital of the Republic of Guatemala should be the place where the subsequent Congress should be held.

The Government and people of the Republic, as well as the official committee created to organize the Fifth Medical Pan-American Congress, earnestly desire that said assembly carry out its important purposes in a sure and efficient manner.

To that end the committee on organization has the honor to invite you personally and to the medical association or associations over which you so worthily preside, in order that by their presence and with their works they may give to the Congress the actual prestige which science is entitled to demand of its representatives.

The committee hopes that, in accordance with the inclosed special rules and regulations, you and the fellow professors of that institution will be present at the sessions which will be held at Guatemala on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th of August, 1908, and therefore the committee sincerely requests of all that they from this moment may consider themselves not only to have established fraternal relations with this committee, but to announce in advance whether they intend to be personally present at the Congress, together with such works as they may have prepared.

The committee hopes to receive a prompt reply to this invitation, which, in addition, implies an appeal for the unification of professional interests; for promoting the advance of medical science, and to earnestly contribute to the preservation of health and the lengthening of the life of the peoples of America.

The committee avails itself of this most pleasant opportunity to offer itself as,

Your obedient servant,

JUAN J. ORTEGA, *President.*

JOSÉ AZURDIA, *Secretary.*

NOTE.—Inclosed please find a number of invitations for the members of that scientific body, in order that said invitations may be distributed in due time; and kindly let us know at your earliest con-

venience how many more invitations you desire to have, in order that the invitation may also be extended to the professional members of that same body.

**DELEGATES TO THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SANITARY
CONFERENCE.**

The International Bureau of the American Republics has been informed through the Legation of Guatemala in Washington of the appointment of DRS. SALVADOR ORTEGA and JOSÉ AZURDIA as delegates from that country to participate in the deliberations of the Third International Sanitary Conference, to be held in the city of Mexico in December, 1907.

HAITI.

MANGANESE DEPOSITS.

United States Vice-Consul ALEXANDER BATTISTE, of Port au Prince, reports that a concession was obtained from the Haitian Government by a business man in his district to exploit a mine of manganese discovered about three years ago in Coteaux, Province of Cayes. The vice-consul adds:

"A merchant interested in the enterprise, who recently returned from a visit to the mining district, states that he found the ore more or less in some places in a pure state and in others mixed with manganese rock. The deposits of manganese ore are very rich and can be found in sufficient quantities to make the working of the mines profitable. An important fact which gives value to the concession is that the central point of deposit lies within 700 meters (meter=39.37 inches) from the coast, and the workable surface dominates in a straight line the seacoast, thereby making it easy to transport the ore to the coast at a small cost by means of a suspended railway.

HONDURAS.

LIVE STOCK IN THE REPUBLIC.

From an article written in French by M. DÉSIÉ PECTOR, on the economic conditions of the Republic of Honduras, a Spanish translation of which was published by "*La Bandera Nacional*," of Tegucigalpa, the following data regarding the live stock of the country was taken.

Cattle raising is one of the principal sources of wealth in the Republic. More than 600,000 head, the average value of each being 12 pesos,

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INTERIOR VIEW OF THE EXHIBIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS AT THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION, SHOWING RAISED MAP OF SOUTH AMERICA IN CENTER OF ROOM.

make up the general total. The annual exports of cattle amount to 30,000 head—shipped to Cuba, British Honduras, Central America, Mexico, and the United States. This exportation increases every year. The export value of cattle varies from 30 to 50 *pesos*.

There are about 45,000 horses, and their average price is 20 *pesos*. The exportation of horses is insignificant. Of mules there are about 15,000 head, the minimum value being 50 *pesos*.

The raising of swine is widely exploited throughout the Republic, and there are about 120,000 hogs, the major part of which is located in Choaulteca. The minimum price per head is 4 *pesos*. Three thousand hogs are slaughtered every month. The number of sheep amounts to 15,000, and the average price per head is 2 *pesos*.

MEXICO.

FOREIGN COMMERCE IN JUNE, 1907, AND THE FISCAL YEAR 1906-7.

According to figures issued by the Statistical Division of the Treasury Department of the Republic of Mexico, the foreign commerce of the Republic for June, 1907, and for the fiscal year 1906-7 was represented by the following valuations:

The total foreign trade of the Republic is valued at \$481,381,398.85, silver, for 1906-7, as against \$491,143,564.32 in the previous year. This net decrease of \$9,762,165.47 is explained in the fact that exports of gold bars decreased \$8,815,664.16 and of silver bars \$2,851,851.63; these metals being required for the home currency under the new monetary system.

The total value of importations during the year under review was \$233,363,388.85 in Mexican currency, an increase of \$13,358,633.85, as compared with the preceding year.

The exports for the year were valued at \$248,018,010, silver, showing a decrease of \$23,120,799.32 as compared with 1905-6.

In the matter of imports, it is found that the United States remains in the lead and supplies the Mexican market with more goods than all the countries of Europe taken together. Total receipts from the United States figure for \$146,376,585, silver, as compared with \$145,541,633 in the preceding fiscal year, while Europe totaled for all countries but \$83,298,697, distributed as follows:

	Silver.		Silver.
Germany.....	\$24,429,252	Belgium.....	\$3,123,190
Great Britain.....	23,592,923	Italy.....	1,964,772
France.....	17,633,785	Austria-Hungary.....	1,338,387
Spain.....	7,972,976	Switzerland.....	1,074,208

It is seen from the above statement that Germany leads in the European import list, a position formerly occupied by Great Britain.

The United States continues to be the leading purchaser of Mexican products, taking \$175,809,123 worth in 1906-7, the next ranking country being Great Britain, with \$31,874,023, followed by Germany, \$20,109,664; France, \$8,054,972; Belgium, \$5,308,503; and Spain, \$2,988,411. France and Spain increased their purchases by \$44,693 and \$787,116, respectively, while the United States receipts of Mexican goods declined by \$10,200,928; those of Great Britain declined by \$9,798,849; Germany, by \$413,492; and Belgium, by \$1,958,318.

Out of the total shipments to Latin America, valued at \$3,267,906, Cuba took \$2,372,180. Imports from Latin America figure for but \$645,607, including the West Indies.

Imports and exports and their valuation were as follows:

IMPORTS.

[Mexican currency.]

Articles.	June—		Fiscal year—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
Animal substances.....	\$1,549,413.26	\$1,470,252.83	\$19,234,180.85	\$16,319,191.42
Vegetable substances.....	3,436,120.29	3,021,646.77	31,730,755.30	32,574,204.22
Mineral substances.....	7,490,458.12	10,533,732.74	82,871,771.52	90,743,251.67
Dry goods.....	2,319,928.30	1,992,588.80	26,498,604.37	22,654,312.72
Chemical and pharmaceutical substances.....	1,013,975.47	728,835.49	9,506,953.39	7,726,364.85
Beverages.....	741,276.66	617,415.63	7,296,233.52	7,264,826.86
Paper and its applications.....	596,632.39	530,105.59	6,027,056.36	5,437,920.47
Machinery and apparatus.....	2,819,635.28	1,954,900.81	27,735,743.65	20,410,722.73
Vehicles.....	773,916.45	489,260.03	9,000,308.49	4,595,157.58
Arms and explosives.....	342,017.59	566,304.66	3,907,928.42	4,122,865.80
Miscellaneous.....	995,419.04	809,866.10	9,553,762.98	8,155,876.68
Total.....	22,048,788.85	22,724,939.45	233,363,388.85	220,004,755.00

EXPORTS.

Precious metals.....	\$9,193,339.76	\$12,902,456.28	\$123,735,504.00	\$157,095,861.15
Other articles.....	10,752,897.00	10,166,611.94	124,282,506.00	114,042,948.17
Total.....	19,946,236.76	23,069,068.22	248,018,010.00	271,138,809.32

The details of the export trade show the following classification of figures:

	June—		Fiscal year—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
Mineral products:				
Mexican gold coin.....			\$29,990.00	\$240.00
Foreign gold coin.....			10,070.00	4,835.98
Gold in bars.....	\$1,657,471.87	\$2,021,157.93	18,905,646.10	27,721,310.26
Gold in other forms.....	320,483.19	602,540.71	4,928,007.84	3,969,391.14
Total gold.....	1,977,955.06	2,623,698.64	23,873,713.94	31,695,777.38
Mexican silver coin.....	182,607.00	4,858,816.00	24,521,921.00	49,671,025.00
Foreign silver coin.....	7,840.00	1,769.00	161,829.00	123,453.50
Silver in bars.....	6,036,723.43	4,683,381.96	63,191,248.18	66,043,099.81
Silver in other forms.....	988,214.27	734,799.68	11,986,791.88	9,562,505.46
Total silver.....	7,215,384.70	10,278,757.64	99,861,790.06	125,400,083.77
Total gold and silver.....	9,193,339.76	12,902,456.28	123,735,504.00	157,095,861.15

	June -		Fiscal year -	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
Mineral products— Continued.				
Antimony.....	\$130,784.00	\$106,991.00	\$1,427,421.00	\$1,039,080.96
Copper.....	1,961,053.00	1,373,528.45	25,018,693.00	28,655,897.35
Marble.....	4,350.00	900.00	81,724.00	77,923.00
Plumbago.....	18,800.00	16,500.00	134,365.00	145,021.51
Lead.....	390,955.00	216,756.79	3,644,738.56	4,967,806.23
Zinc.....	228,453.00	87,071.00	2,010,508.12	336,234.99
Other metals.....	47,433.00	1,929.00	1,193,150.42	390,760.80
Total.....	11,975,167.76	14,705,532.52	160,246,004.10	192,709,185.99
Vegetable products:				
Coffee.....	598,443.00	677,915.02	7,237,529.34	9,288,623.32
Casahuate and tanning barks.....			8,269.00	21,012.00
Rubber.....	809,873.00	444,684.00	6,678,926.00	2,300,425.29
Chicle.....	59,351.00	164,071.90	2,144,724.00	1,696,523.33
Beans.....	59,236.00	25,243.00	862,695.00	716,133.72
Fruits.....	21,068.00	14,868.40	329,990.43	295,334.20
Chick-peas.....	799,007.00	825,286.00	4,084,521.00	2,940,822.25
Guayule.....		9,033.00	61,225.00	117,026.00
Horse beans.....		2,147.00	2,550.00	114,257.00
Heniquen.....	2,012,745.00	3,406,782.50	31,440,245.77	29,437,318.50
Ixtle.....	296,096.00	320,595.00	3,813,176.00	3,067,844.88
Woods.....	186,002.00	152,283.49	2,109,778.50	1,881,961.68
Maize.....	2,751.00	2,995.00	8,870.80	67,705.15
Mahogany.....	15,402.00	16,993.00	94,725.00	93,328.87
Dyewoods.....	135,238.00	67,529.00	739,810.12	535,688.39
Xacaton.....	185,654.00	195,216.00	1,831,217.00	1,872,757.00
Leaf tobacco.....	227,566.00	240,984.00	1,894,830.35	2,216,282.06
Vanilla.....	755,041.00	607,144.00	2,662,266.00	4,157,394.99
Other vegetables.....	730,441.00	71,374.50	5,745,025.20	1,397,496.88
Total.....	6,946,129.00	7,245,244.81	71,810,374.51	62,928,135.51
Animal products:				
Cattle.....	125,567.00	222,077.00	1,560,202.00	3,271,837.50
Skins and hides.....	588,465.00	586,262.70	8,875,091.03	7,882,867.25
Other animal products.....	80,158.00	39,939.65	716,474.99	568,720.48
Total.....	794,190.00	848,279.35	11,151,928.02	11,723,425.23
Manufactured articles:				
Sugar.....	8,425.00	428.00	1,164,330.00	674,235.00
Ropes.....	28,191.00	15.00	1,122.00	45.00
Flour and pastes.....		66,118.00	846,290.00	565,700.00
Dressed skins.....	802.00	11,094.00	34,883.00	215,830.00
Straw hats.....	28,289.00	56,469.00	631,218.80	556,748.29
Manufactured tobacco.....	31,510.00	44,361.00	493,228.60	373,330.59
Other manufactures.....	33,358.00	43,888.54	595,422.32	592,573.14
Total.....	130,665.00	222,313.54	3,766,493.72	2,978,441.02
Miscellaneous articles.....	100,085.00	47,698.00	1,643,209.65	799,621.57

Following is a resumé of the valuations of Mexican imports during the periods under comparison, with reference to their countries of origin:

	June—		Fiscal year—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
Europe.....	\$7,407,406.07	\$6,429,870.59	\$83,298,097.15	\$71,836,309.65
Asia.....	197,653.36	163,219.37	2,253,871.46	1,671,868.63
Africa.....	18,876.00	2,438.00	236,197.00	46,281.21
North America.....	14,271,341.02	16,084,131.70	146,825,066.34	145,820,032.91
Central America.....	3,921.60	1,738.70	72,965.59	44,093.16
South America.....	120,555.55	19,185.65	585,457.50	249,526.82
West Indies.....	15,446.25	19,968.44	187,185.55	258,077.70
Oceania.....	13,589.00	4,387.00	103,947.36	78,564.62
Total.....	22,048,788.85	22,724,939.45	233,363,388.85	220,004,755.00

Following is a résumé of the valuations of Mexican exports during the periods under comparison, with reference to their countries of destination:

	June—		Fiscal year—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
Europe.....	\$4,607,437.42	\$5,580,556.81	\$68,482,705.06	\$79,804,232.98
Asia.....			796.00	
North America.....	14,906,438.34	17,068,055.41	176,265,802.43	186,218,387.43
Central America.....	38,834.00	57,330.00	790,332.31	1,021,019.59
South America.....	5,036.00	5,178.00	103,394.00	65,573.32
West Indies.....	268,471.00	327,948.00	2,374,180.00	4,028,996.00
Oceania.....			800.00	
Total.....	19,946,236.76	23,009,068.22	248,018,010.00	271,138,869.32

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DIAZ, SEPTEMBER 16, 1907.

On the occasion of the opening of the third session of the Twenty-third Mexican Congress on September 16, President DIAZ delivered his usual semiannual message, in which was epitomized the financial, political, and economic conditions prevalent throughout the Republic.

After alluding to the spirit of concord and good will existing between Mexico and the various nations of America, President DIAZ stated that there had been submitted to the Senate during the last period of its sessions a convention signed at the Third International Conference of American States at Rio de Janeiro providing for the creation of an international commission of jurists, composed of one representative for each of the signatory States, to draft proposals for codes of private and public international law to regulate the relations of American nations with one another. The convention, after being approved by the Senate, was ratified by the Executive and promulgated officially with a view to its observance. Two other conventions to be submitted to the present Congress originating in the Rio Conference provide as follows: One for the renewal for five years of the treaty in regard to pecuniary claims and damages signed at the Second International Conference of American States held in Mexico, and the other fixing the status of persons who, having become naturalized in another country, return to the land of their birth to reside. The object of both conventions is to prevent occasions of friction between the signatory powers.

The labor troubles, while not entirely at an end, are said to be in a fair way to settlement, and the public health of the country is satisfactory. In the national capital sanitation and paving works are proceeding, 7,500 meters of sewers and 8,000 meters of drains having been constructed, while more than 18,000 square meters of asphalt paving, 7,000 square meters of stone paving, and 3,000 square meters of cement and 1,000 square meters of stone sidewalks have been laid.

Real estate transactions registered in the registrar's office of the capital during the first half of the present calendar year (January-June)

show a total valuation of \$242,239,275, silver, an increase of \$17,500,000 being noted over the corresponding period of 1906.

Educational matters have progressed steadily and the Republic at present maintains 568 primary schools, of which 398 are situated in the Federal District and 170 in the Territories. Attendance aggregates 62,686, or 3,330 more pupils than were recorded for last year. At the International Congress of Dermatologists held in New York during September, 1907, and the National Association of American Schoolmasters in Los Angeles in August, Mexican delegates were present, in the last-named instance public recognition and appreciation of their attendance being unanimously voted.

From January to June, 1907, title deeds to the number of 1,134, covering an area of 381,479 hectares, were issued. During the same period the Geological Survey Commission determined astronomically the situation of 39 important points for the map of the Republic; ascertained the altitude above sea level of 296 towns; traced the course of roads and rivers for a distance of 8,378 kilometers; concluded the field work for the State of Puebla; printed and published four installments of the general map of the Republic, as well as a wall map of Nuevo Leon, and drew up and delivered in duplicate 18 charts showing the boundary line agreed upon between the States of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, the length of which is 897 kilometers.

The Geodetic Survey has completed the scientific work in the south necessary for measuring the ninety-eighth meridian west of Greenwich, running along the coast of Oaxaca, and has now carried its operations to the north of the Republic, selecting vertices on the plains of Tamaulipas right up to the boundary line with the United States, where work will be carried on in conjunction with that country, in accordance with an international agreement.

Various measures have been taken for keeping the Republic in touch with other parts of the world through participation in agricultural and scientific expositions, and on July 1, 1907, a new agricultural bureau was established as part of the National Government, for the purpose of studying questions connected with pastoral and agricultural pursuits and of disseminating the results of such investigations for the benefit of native husbandmen. Foreign companies have been organized for the exploitation of the guayule and other shrubs having a commercial value, while concessions have been granted for the development of marine industries and the utilization of waterways.

From January to June, 1907, contracts for waterways were entered into on the part of the National Government aggregating a volume of 589,300 liters per second, covered by 20 contracts, while 36 title deeds were issued, either confirming old water rights or in connection with new concessions.

The ever increasing development of mining in the period under review is worthy of note, 2,600 new title deeds, covering 40,698 pertenencias having been issued in the half year, which, added to the first half of the fiscal year 1906-7, makes a total for the twelve months of 4,600 deeds to mines and 71,347 pertenencias or claims.

Patents of invention numbering 583 were issued from January 1 to June 30, 1907, while 393 trade-marks, 12 proprietary advertisements, and 35 commercial names were registered.

Harbor works at Salina Cruz, Coatzacoalcos, and Manzanillo have made satisfactory progress since the last Presidential message.

In regard to railways, it is stated that the total length of the system is 22,392 kilometers, the construction on lines subject to Federal jurisdiction having been 277 kilometers in the first six months of 1907, and on private lines and State roads 207 kilometers. The earnings of the Tehuantepec Railway show an increase of 265 per cent over those recorded for the corresponding half year of 1906. The freight demands on the line have necessitated the acquisition of 300 new cars, which, with those built and repaired in the shops, give a total of 1,062 freight cars. The monthly average of goods transferred over the route is estimated at 24,600 tons.

Postal conventions with the Dominion of Canada, Italy, and the Republic of Salvador have been entered into for the exchange of money orders and parcels post-packages. The general earnings of the post-office department for the half year, January to June, 1907, aggregated \$2,063,000, which, added to the amount recorded for the previous six months, gives a total of \$4,018,000 for the fiscal year 1906-7. International money orders were exchanged in the six months under review to the value of \$2,434,157 and interior postal money orders were issued to the value of \$24,100,000 for the half year and \$46,480,000 for the whole year.

The telegraph system of the Republic has been increased by 1,242 kilometers of line, and 6 new offices and 1 telephone exchange were opened to the public. Messages sent show an increase of 8 per cent and earnings of 11 per cent over the records for the previous half year.

The fiscal revenues for the year 1906-7 are estimated to have been \$20,000,000 in excess of expenditures provided for in the budget. Collections from normal budget sources and profits obtained from the Exchange and Currency Commission reached the sum of \$113,000,000. Import duties furnished \$6,000,000 and stamp taxes \$1,500,000 of the increase over the preceding year. The \$52,000,000 yielded by import duties is just double the amount collected from the same source in 1901-2.

In spite of a world-wide financial stringency and the necessity laid upon Mexican monetary interests to exercise the greatest caution, the situation throughout the Republic has been one of uninterrupted

improvement. The coinage of the new currency, which, up to April 1, 1907, had amounted to \$60,000,000 gold, increased by September to \$68,000,000, and the output of silver subsidiary coins increased from 22,000,000 *pesos* to 30,000,000 *pesos*.

Owing to the unpropitious condition of foreign markets, the arrangements for the merger of the National Railroad of Mexico with the Mexican Central have not as yet been consummated, though the necessary authorization thereof was granted by the governmental action of July 6, 1907.

On August 21, 1907, the final action in regard to adherence to the Geneva Convention was taken on the part of Mexico.

ARGENTINE WHEAT IN THE REPUBLIC.

An experimental shipment of wheat from the Argentine Republic to Mexico, consisting of 5,000 tons, has been reported. Received at the port of Tampico, its final destination is Monterey, and should it prove satisfactory it is purposed to establish direct importation service between the River Plate and Monterey.

RAILWAYS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

By the terms of the railway consolidation recently effected in the Mexican Republic, in accordance with the law of Congress of December 26, 1906, and the decree of President DIAZ dated July 6, 1907, the texts of which were published in the BULLETIN for August, 1907, the Government exercises absolute control over the following lines:

	Kilometers.
Mexican Central, including the Coahuila and Pacific leased line.....	6,004
National Railroad of Mexico.....	3,100
Mexican International.....	1,683
Interoceanic.....	1,184
Hidalgo and Northeastern.....	244
Total.....	12,215

The International and the Interoceanic are controlled by the National, and the Hidalgo was purchased and is owned by the National.

In addition to these roads the Government controls the Tehuantepec National line, connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific, and whose extension is 304 kilometers; and the Veracruz and Pacific, from Santa Lucrecia, on the Tehuantepec road, to Cordoba, 327 kilometers; and from Tierra Blanca, on this line, to Veracruz, 100 kilometers, making together 731 kilometers, which, added to the new merger system, give the Mexican Government absolute control of 12,946 kilometers of the railways in the Republic.

DEVELOPMENT OF COAL AND PETROLEUM DEPOSITS.

The development of coal mines and boring for petroleum have entered a practical commercial field in the Republic of Mexico. The known carboniferous areas are located in the States of Puebla, Oaxaca, and Coahuila. Coal has also been found in sections of Sonora but not under conditions to permit commercial development. The principal fields now being exploited are in the vicinity of Sabinas in the State of Coahuila, the product being extensively used in the smelters of Monterey, Saltillo, and Torreon as well as for mining and industrial purposes in Durango, Jimulco, Gomez, Palacio, Mapimi, and Parral, while the Mexican National and the International rail-ways also make extensive use of this native coal. These coal fields are similar to those of Texas.

Petroleum deposits have been known to exist for some years in the Republic. Petroliferous regions extend from the hacienda of San José de las Ruinas in Central Tamaulipas to the district of Vailes in San Luis Potosi (where the Ebano oil deposits are being worked) through the counties of Uzuluama, Tuxpam, and Papantla in Veracruz. Further to the south, another region is found which embraces the Veracruz counties of Acayucan and Minatitlan, and extends southward through the States of Tabasco, Campeche, and Chiapas. Petroleum has also been found in small quantities in the Federal District, Jalisco, and Oaxaca.

The Ebano oil is being used as fuel for locomotives on the Mexican Central Railway. Active development is in progress of the northern Veracruz oil fields while that from the deposits of southern Veracruz is being stored preparatory to the completion of large refining works.

Bituminous asphalt occurs in parts of the States of Veracruz and San Luis Potosi.

SILVER BASIS OF THE STAMP AND CUSTOMS TAXES, OCTOBER, 1907.

The usual monthly circular, issued by the Department of Finance of the Mexican Republic, announces that the legal price per kilogram of pure silver during the month of October, 1907, is \$44.41, according to calculations provided for in the decree of March 25, 1905. This price will be the basis for the payment of the stamp tax and customs duties when silver is used throughout the Republic.

REDUCTION OF MUNICIPAL TAXATION.

According to the terms of a governmental decree which, although of recent issue, is retroactive in character, and effective from July 1, 1907, properties belonging to the municipalities of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Atzapotzalco, and Tacuba in the Federal District have had the rate of taxation reduced.

This measure is in pursuance of the policy of the Mexican Government to reduce taxation as much as is compatible with a proper attention to public service. A commission has been at work during the past four years verifying the limits and extent of all real estate properties with a view to carrying out the provisions of the law in reference.

MEXICAN EXPOSITION IN LONDON.

The "Mexican Herald" of September 11, 1907, reports the intention of the directors of the Crystal Palace in London to authorize and encourage an exhibit of Mexican resources, to be held in that city from May to October, 1908.

The invitation to President DIAZ to lend his aid and government participation has already been extended. It will afford the opportunity of presenting to the attention of Great Britain and Europe the recent marked development in the railroad, industrial, mining, and other activities of the Mexican Republic.

EXPLOITATION OF GUANO ON ISLANDS OF THE GULF.

The "*Diario Oficial*" of Mexico publishes in its number for September 21, 1907, the text of a contract entered into on the 13th of the same month between the Government and Señor AURELIO CADENA Y MARÍN for the exploitation, during the period of ten years, of guano in the islands of Aguada or Puerto Real, Cayo Chalem, Sabancuy, Holbox, Sisal, Xamachtun, Tecchal, Temalcab, Triangulos, and Blanca, in the Gulf of Mexico. The concessionaire shall pay the Government 75 cents per ton of guano extracted, besides the export duties on whatever amount of guano he may ship abroad. The work of exploration must begin within six months from the date of the promulgation of the contract, and that of exploitation within one year.

To guarantee the fulfillment of the terms of the contract, the concessionaire has made a deposit of 3,000 pesos in bonds of the national consolidated debt.

PANAMA.

TRADE CONDITIONS AT BOCAS DEL TORO.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, according to information furnished the Department of State of the United States by Consul JAMES C. KELLOGG at Colon, the value of imports at Bocas del Toro was \$968,409, an increase of \$197,535 over the preceding year, while exports were valued at \$839,037, a decrease of \$590,850, in the later period.

Bananas formed the bulk of the exports, 3,212,504 bunches, valued at \$803,126, being the leading item, followed by tortoise shell, \$13,460;

sarsaparilla, \$11,891; rubber, \$6,908, and cocoa, \$1,666 in the order named. The bananas were shipped to New Orleans, while other commodities went mainly to Europe. It is purposed to extend the banana trade to European markets.

General merchandise imported came in great part from the United States, many of the items reported covering railroad material.

Consul KELLOGG comments on the fact that while all the export business of the port was practically with the United States, shipment was made entirely in British or Norwegian bottoms. To meet the European trade in the coming year, the Hamburg-American Line is building steamers to be equipped with refrigerating apparatus for the preservation of banana cargoes.

The banana industry, which occupies the inhabitants of this district, has in operation 175 miles of railroad for the transportation of its product and 75 miles in process of construction. Ordinary flat cars and light locomotives are employed and the greater part of the rolling stock and equipment is of United States origin.

THE PORT OF COLON IN 1906.

United States Consul JAMES C. KELLOGG, of Colon, forwards the following report covering the trade of that Atlantic port of Panama for the calendar year 1906:

"The value of imports into Colon during 1906 amounted to \$2,774,435, an increase of \$777,123 over the previous year, the United States showing the largest gain. Of the total imports the principal amounts, by countries, were as follows:

Countries.	Value.	Increase.	Countries.	Value.	Increase.
United States.....	\$1,937,383	\$561,309	Italy.....	\$23,292	\$11,806
Great Britain.....	382,379	153,272	Other countries.....	60,844	α 940
Germany.....	224,647	28,563	Total.....	2,774,435	777,123
France.....	107,432	18,184			
Spain.....	38,458	4,930			

α Decrease.

"The imports, by articles, from the four leading countries were:

Articles.	United States.	Great Britain.	Germany.	France.
Dry goods, including boots and shoes, etc.....	\$674,172	\$208,860	\$80,800	\$41,906
Hardware.....	68,873	18,409	18,342	.....
Drugs.....	29,630	6,730	5,107	2,872
Provisions.....	\$47,885	54,960	58,815	16,982
Lumber.....	41,870	.....	.....	.....
Liquors.....	186,120	23,420	23,742	29,848
Other articles.....	88,833	70,000	28,841	15,824

"The imports from Germany and France include articles from Austria and Switzerland in transit through the former countries. During 1906, several vessels bound for the Isthmian Canal Zone have entered at Colon and cleared for the neighboring port of Cristobal

with their original cargoes from the United States, consisting of about 60,000 tons of coal valued at \$154,000, and lumber and ties worth about \$105,000.

"The export value of articles of produce to the United States was \$156,654, an increase of \$15,170 over 1905. The principal articles were: Bananas, worth \$30,965; cocoanuts, \$66,067; hides, \$7,812; ivory nuts, \$25,394; rubber, \$8,685, and tortoise shell, \$13,210. This does not include the large quantities of cocoanuts and ivory nuts shipped from the San Blas coast on small coasting vessels and not invoiced at this consulate. Returned American goods amounted to \$45,922, which included 3,200 tons of scrap iron, valued at \$27,361; 1,000 bars of pig lead, worth \$3,000, and drugs valued at \$5,480. The estimated value of exports to Great Britain was \$215,380, and to Germany \$108,540. These exports consisted chiefly of tortoise shell, hides, and cocoa.

" ISTHMIAN TRANSIT TRADE SHIPPING.

"Freight traffic from the United States to the South Pacific ports via Panama for the fiscal year amounted to \$1,718,389, an increase of \$228,228 over 1905. The total earnings of the Panama railroad and steamship line for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1906, amounted to \$3,917,840, which, compared to the preceding year, shows an increase of \$840,229. The traffic from Europe to Central America and Mexico, via the Isthmus, shows an increase of 2,621 tons, and to the South Pacific ports 4,110 tons. The traffic from Central America and Mexico to Europe shows a decrease of 7,826 tons, and from the South Pacific ports to Europe a decrease of 6,897 tons. The total through traffic from both directions showed an increase of 13 per cent. The total tonnage carried from Colon to Pacific ports amounted to 409,890, as against 301,171 during the previous year, an increase of 36 per cent. The tonnage from Pacific ports to Colon amounted to 255,821, as against 181,091 during the previous year, an increase of 41 per cent. The decrease in percentage of earnings as compared with increased volume of tonnage handled is due to reductions in traffic rates.

"The freight traffic from New York and New Orleans to South Pacific ports increased to 2,797 tons; to Panama the increase was 3,719 tons, and to Mexico and Central America there was a decrease of 954 tons. Tonnage from Central America and Mexico to Europe decreased 7,825 tons, and from South Pacific ports to Europe decreased 5,897 tons. The through traffic amounted to 50.83 per cent of the total tonnage handled by the Panama railroad. The number of through passengers amounted to 448,230, an increase of 230,300 over the preceding year, or about 105 per cent. The total earnings of the Panama Railroad Company's steamships was \$1,347,012, an increase of \$31,178, or about 2½ per cent.

"During the year 1906, the following number of steamers and sailing vessels entered this port, viz, 72 American, with a tonnage of 200,858; 145 British, with a tonnage of 443,445; 66 German, of 175,448 tons; 73 Norwegian, of 139,257 tons; 24 French, of 87,424 tons; 12 Spanish, of 50,509 tons; 12 Italian, of 38,660 tons; 5 Austrian, of 11,417 tons, and 2 Danish, of 3,152 tons. Of sailing vessels 18 American, of 9,664 tons, entered, and 14 British, of 4,081 tons."

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BREWERY IN PANAMA CITY.

The "*Gaceta Oficial*" of Panama, of August 9, 1907, publishes the text of a contract entered into between the Government and the "Panama Brewing Company," on the 8th of the same month, for the establishment in the city of Panama of a large brewing plant on the same lines as those existing in the United States. The concessionaire is authorized to import free of duty, from the United States and for the period of twenty-five years, all machinery, construction materials, etc., for use in the plant, and shall pay the Government, in consideration for the privileges granted in the contract, the sum of 75 cents of *balboa* per keg of beer manufactured. The work of construction shall begin within one year after the signing of the contract, and must be completed within four years from the commencement thereof.

PARAGUAY.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WITH THE PARAGUAY CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY (LIMITED).

On July 20, 1907, the Paraguayan Government caused to be promulgated as a law of the Republic the *ad referendum* agreement signed on September 1, 1906, between the Executive power and the Paraguay Central Railway Company (Limited).

The company is authorized to extend its lines to any part of the Republic, but is obligated to construct and complete a new line from the present terminus at Pirapo for a distance of 120 kilometers to Villa Encarnación. This extension will run through a comparatively well-populated district, rich in vegetation and embracing the best alfalfa and tobacco lands in the Republic, with an abundance of timber on both sides of the proposed line. Five years is stipulated as the period for its compulsory completion, but it is the purpose of the company to push the construction works as much as possible.

To facilitate the building of this extension, the Government binds itself to cede to the company all fiscal lands necessary of a specified area on both sides of the track. For twenty-five years the company is to be exempt from all national or municipal taxes, during which

time Government mail is to be transported gratis, while half rates are to be charged for the communication of official telegrams, the conveyance of public servants on Government duty, troops, ammunition, arms, horses, provisions, and clothing for the forces in the national service, in addition to free transport of emigrants and their belongings sent forward by the Department of Immigration and Colonization.

The authorized capital of the undertaking is £1,500,000, in five per cent debentures, of which £1,014,000 have already been issued; and £272,000 in ordinary shares, all issued.

STAMP TAX ON INSURANCE POLICIES.

The "*Diario Oficial*" of Paraguay, in its issue for June 20, 1907, publishes a law of Congress, approved on June 11, 1907, modifying the act of November 24, 1906, in the part relating to the taxes on insurance policies in general. By virtue of this amendment, insurance policies of all kinds shall pay a stamp tax on the amount insured as follows: Policies from 100 to 1,000 *pesos*, 25 cents; from 1,001 to 2,000 *pesos*, 50 cents; from 2,001 to 3,000 *pesos*, 75 cents; from 3,001 to 4,000 *pesos*, 1 *peso*; and so on in the same proportion, at the rate of 25 cents per 1,000 *pesos* or fraction thereof. They shall pay, besides, a stamp tax of 1 per cent of the amount of the premium, fractions of 5 *pesos* to be accounted as integers.

Fire insurance policies for a period of more than one year shall pay double the amount of the taxes prescribed. Maritime insurance policies wherein no amount is specified shall pay a stamp tax of 10 *pesos* per copy.

Life and accident insurance policies shall pay one-half of the taxes established by this law. Insurance against agricultural risks shall be exempt from the payment of taxes.

Policies issued abroad must pay double the amount of the taxes prescribed, in order that they may be legally valid in the Republic. Renewals of policies of all kinds shall pay only one-half of the taxes referred to.

COLONIZATION IN VILLA DEL ROSARIO.

The Congress of the Republic of Paraguay approved on May 27, 1907, a decree, published in the "*Diario Oficial*" of June 1, 1907, authorizing the Executive to grant to the South American Lumber Company 22,500 hectares of public land in the Trinacria colony, Villa del Rosario, for colonization purposes and under the conditions prescribed in the decree.

The Executive shall transfer to the company 1,875 hectares for each group of 25 families which it may establish therein, but it shall, in turn, grant each family a parcel of not less than 25 hectares. The

concessionaire shall establish, within the first two years of the concession, a steam sawmill, workshops, and a plant for the manufacture of furniture and vehicles. Within the first three years of the concession it shall build a steam or electric railroad from the colony to the port of Villa Rosario, or other convenient point on the Paraguay River. During the first four years the company shall clear 1,875 hectares of land, for agricultural purposes exclusively; the fields shall be prepared for the raising of live stock. After the first 1,875 hectares shall have been cleared, the Government shall make the final transfer thereof. Within eight years, 1,875 hectares more shall be cleared and fitted for agriculture. When the company shall have established in the colony 200 families, the definitive transfer of the remaining 20,625 hectares shall be made in its behalf. The company shall prepare the plans of a city, and it shall construct the necessary buildings for schools, churches, post-offices, etc., within the period of eight years.

All families must belong to the European white race. To guarantee the fulfillment of the conditions of the concession, the company has made a deposit of \$5,000 gold.

ADHERENCE TO THE HAGUE CONVENTIONS.

The Congress of Paraguay, on June 22, 1907, passed a law authorizing adherence to the second and third conventions signed at The Hague, in regard to the laws and customs of war on land, and for the application to maritime war of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

AUTOMOBILES AND CARRIAGES ON FREE LIST.

On June 18, 1907, the Paraguayan Congress passed a law providing that automobiles and carriages shall be admitted free of duty for the period of two years from the date of its promulgation, June 20, 1907.

PERU.

FOREIGN TRADE, FIRST HALF OF 1906.

The "*Boletín de Estadística Comercial*," published by the Superintendent-General of Customs of the Republic of Peru, in its issue for the month of April, 1907, contains the figures relating to the foreign commerce of the country during the first six months of 1906, as compared with those of the same period of 1905.

The total imports during the first half of 1906 amounted to £2,492,710 2s. 72c., as against £2,032,026 0s. 66c. in the same half of 1905, an increase of £26,394 0s. 66c. The exports made a total of £2,800,017 8s. 72c., as compared with £2,522,024 2s. 14c. in 1905, an increase of £94,303 6s. 14c.

The origin of imports was as follows:

	First half of—					
	1906.			1905.		
	£	s.	c.	£	s.	c.
America.....	748,832	6	37	525,402	0	32
Europe.....	1,509,394	1	69	1,375,651	4	98
Asia.....	88,821	5	76	57,137	3	64
Australia.....	145,661	8	90	73,835	1	72
Total.....	2,492,710	2	72	2,032,026	0	66

The principal articles imported during the first six months of 1906 were the following: Minerals, metals, and their alloys, £480,716 2s. 15c.; cotton textiles, £317,369 0s. 33c.; woolen textiles, £132,449 1s. 61c.; machinery, £115,876 1s. 19c.; coal, £106,472 3s. 96c.; wheat, £129,623 3s. 62c.

Following was the destination of the exports:

	First half of—					
	1906.			1905.		
	£	s.	c.	£	s.	c.
America.....	1,215,276	1	69	766,033	0	27
Europe.....	1,572,358	2	03	1,755,688	8	84
Asia.....	12,383	3	00	302	3	03
Total.....	2,800,017	8	72	2,522,024	2	14

The principal products exported during the first half of 1906 were: Minerals, £513,228 2s. 82c.; rubber and rosin, £252,201 4s. 22c.; cotton, £168,402 7s. 29c.; and guano, £88,004.

SALVADOR.

SURTAX ON RAW MATERIALS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SOAP, CANDLES, AND MATCHES.

On August 16, 1907, the Government of the Republic of Salvador issued a resolution providing that a surtax of 2 cents per kilogram, gross weight, shall be collected on raw materials for the manufacture of candles; and another surtax of 1 cent per kilogram, gross weight, on raw materials for matches. Soap manufactories of the first class shall pay an additional tax of 100 *pesos* per month, and those of the second class, 50 *pesos* per month.

NEGOTIATION OF A LOAN IN EUROPE.

By virtue of the authorization granted by the legislative decree of May 2, 1907, President FIGUEROA, of Salvador, has ordered the Consul-General of the Republic in Great Britain, under date of August 24, 1907, to negotiate in London, or any other European city, a loan amounting to \$5,000,000 gold.

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Following is the latest statement, from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Department of Commerce and Labor, showing the value of the trade between the United States and Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of August, 1907, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the eight months ending August, 1907, as compared with the same period of the preceding year. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the returns for August, for example, are not published until some time in October.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	August -		Eight months ending August -	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
<i>Cocoa (Cacao; coco ou cacao; cacao):</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Central America.....	827	1,430	14,603	38,787
Brazil.....	73,365	376,199	852,972	1,639,171
Other South America.....	169,716	208,584	1,573,924	1,988,312
<i>Coffee (Café; café; café):</i>				
Central America.....	150,306	206,560	5,704,182	1,408,755
Mexico.....	94,555	70,210	1,971,975	1,514,893
Brazil.....	1,972,310	3,767,348	22,687,713	33,111,904
Other South America.....	948,932	675,256	6,704,435	6,372,685
<i>Copper (Cobre; cobre; cobre):</i>				
Mexico.....	1,402,481	1,855,194	12,272,807	13,689,041
Cuba.....	5,667	7,279	38,597	106,066
South America.....	104,681	70,752	582,956	925,286
<i>Fibers:</i>				
<i>Cotton unmanufactured (Algodón en rama; algodón en rama; cotton non manufacture):</i>				
South America.....	6,799	28,789	43,248	81,907
<i>Ixtle or Tampico fiber (Irtle; Irtle; Irtle):</i>				
Mexico.....	112,083	108,333	761,691	824,508
<i>Sisal grass (Henequen; henequen, henequen):</i>				
Mexico.....	1,033,785	1,059,079	8,663,394	9,557,070
<i>Fruits</i>				
<i>Bananas (Plátanos; bananas; bananes):</i>				
Central America.....	581,000	532,972	3,882,458	3,842,556
Cuba.....	100,084	111,933	1,108,081	1,052,309
South America.....	.....	36,721	369,464	220,300
<i>Oranges (Naranjas; laranjas; oranges):</i>				
Mexico.....	172	141	5,062	13,564
Cuba.....	204	6	5,880	3,806
<i>Furs and fur skins (Pielcs finas; pelles fines; peaux):</i>				
South America.....	56,661	20,030	125,844	112,815
<i>Hides and skins (Cueros y pieles; couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux):</i>				
Mexico.....	217,946	145,883	1,882,007	1,912,312
Brazil.....	131,568	55,277	1,210,249	1,155,781
Other South America.....	228,165	61,444	1,701,408	1,188,308

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August		Eight months ending August	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
<i>Hides of cattle (Cuecos vacunos; couros de gado; cuirs de bétail):</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Mexico.....	134,869	74,928	1,016,926	1,133,596
Cuba.....	35,117	20,398	62,385	217,186
Brazil.....	16,542	34,148	140,674	224,355
Other South America.....	674,884	793,668	6,442,787	6,779,128
<i>India rubber, crude (Goma elástica; borracha crua; caoutchouc):</i>				
Central America.....	54,975	61,309	542,374	579,962
Mexico.....	114,690	326,662	924,078	2,734,562
Brazil.....	1,284,846	878,891	17,648,453	21,147,664
Other South America.....	127,277	98,893	777,125	753,829
<i>Iron ore (Mineral de hierro; mineral de ferro; mineral de fer):</i>				
Cuba.....	167,352	279,323	1,462,418	1,631,350
<i>Lead ore (Plomo; chumbo; plomb):</i>				
Mexico.....	148,378	328,345	2,025,319	1,876,964
<i>Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (Azúcar, inferior al No. 16 del modelo holandés; açúcar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 15):</i>				
Mexico.....	790	833	77,496	1,019,438
Cuba.....	5,130,164	5,015,076	51,715,398	63,555,322
Brazil.....			328,646	278,491
Other South America.....	61,636	149,799	787,534	609,511
<i>Tobacco and manufactures (Tabaco y sus manufacturas; tabaco e sus manufacturas; tabac et ses manufactures):</i>				
Cuba.....	1,520,600	1,555,278	12,186,082	9,819,336
<i>Wood, mahogany (Caoba; mogno; acajou):</i>				
Central America.....	38,063	43,020	301,497	324,170
Mexico.....	70,076	41,956	333,069	484,368
Cuba.....	12,952	31,326	125,222	118,796
<i>Wool (Lana; la; laine):</i>				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing).....	9,131	79,406	6,527,083	4,928,336
Class 2 (combing).....	16,586		245,417	365,979
Class 3 (carpet).....	97,743	10,608	672,539	407,577

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

<i>Agricultural implements (Instrumentos agrícolas; instrumentos de agricultura; machines agricoles):</i>				
Mexico.....	\$40,321	\$14,369	\$371,050	\$339,568
Cuba.....	8,554	11,417	97,082	90,268
Argentine Republic.....	565,041	687,638	3,126,437	2,315,364
Brazil.....	5,730	16,780	64,474	100,633
Chile.....	93,087	82,154	314,724	337,469
Other South America.....	38,633	33,344	206,165	129,656
<i>Animals:</i>				
<i>Cattle (Cunado vacuno; gado; bitail):</i>				
Mexico.....	81,629	66,154	520,691	450,400
Cuba.....	66,273	19,867	962,497	201,775
South America.....	5,967		56,377	33,524
<i>Hogs (Cerdos; porcós; pores):</i>				
Mexico.....	15,204	12,059	127,037	108,428
South America.....	219	60	2,374	7,914
<i>Horses (Caballos; cavallos; chevaux):</i>				
Mexico.....	18,400	5,770	187,291	238,662
<i>Sheep (Ovejas; ovelhas; brebis):</i>				
Mexico.....	201	7,942	73,493	51,097
<i>Books, maps, etc. (Libros, mapas, etc.; livres, mappes, etc.):</i>				
Central America.....	5,010	13,637	42,131	45,712
Mexico.....	16,429	15,244	132,534	213,040
Cuba.....	41,935	34,634	210,156	210,981
Argentine Republic.....	11,457	5,088	72,468	59,686
Brazil.....	10,061	2,909	72,486	55,063
Chile.....	33,754	5,328	112,288	92,351
Other South America.....	2,897	5,466	52,916	104,598

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EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (Maiz; milho; maïs):				
Central America.....	Dollars. 3,710	Dollars. 16,737	Dollars. 47,671	Dollars. 56,591
Mexico.....	149,143	80,829	788,824	812,034
Cuba.....	107,392	113,591	878,754	1,233,335
South America.....	577	787	10,262	8,073
Oats (Avena; aveia; aveine):				
Central America.....	3,237	4,949	20,750	30,076
Mexico.....	2,390	2,842	36,411	45,037
Cuba.....	25,857	22,409	169,009	184,997
South America.....	1,612	713	15,633	5,384
Wheat (Trigo; trigo; blé):				
Central America.....			18,768	17,777
Mexico.....	401	719	1,366,273	1,436,400
South America.....	1,616	4,055	165,129	104,194
Wheat flour (Harina de trigo; farinha de trigo; farina de blé):				
Central America.....	137,227	146,298	1,080,097	1,280,536
Mexico.....	6,412	8,559	69,790	94,584
Cuba.....	228,311	286,558	2,004,075	2,305,992
Brazil.....	110,885	149,495	809,991	993,719
Colombia.....	12,604	16,248	73,536	119,325
Other South America.....	173,314	138,857	1,733,746	1,006,516
Carriages, etc:				
Automobiles (Automobiles; automobiles; automobiles):				
Mexico.....	103,498	34,488	484,865	487,099
South America.....	12,093	25,050	84,409	153,540
Cars, passenger and freight (Trenes para pasaje y carga; carros de pasajeros e carga; wagons de voyageurs et de marchandises):				
Central America.....	84,624	12,889	1,799,876	1,350,606
Mexico.....	105,329	131,639	772,492	1,306,929
Cuba.....	63,215	20,080	794,613	413,707
Argentine Republic.....	75,215	44,078	637,005	1,042,874
Chile.....	7,138	17,735	106,694	97,182
Other South America.....	18,630	153,123	303,058	658,975
Cycles and parts of (Bicicletas y sus accesorios; bicycles e partes; bicyclettes et leurs parties):				
Mexico.....	11,764	8,390	79,853	61,735
Cuba.....	3,556	4,853	23,087	33,554
Argentine Republic.....	5,115	88	15,033	11,946
Brazil.....	631	403	6,776	9,174
Other South America.....	1,016	1,892	12,308	9,622
Clocks and watches (Relojes de pared y bolsillo; relojos de bolso y pared; horloges et montres):				
Central America.....	1,976	3,306	11,880	14,345
Mexico.....	4,244	6,944	55,805	46,236
Argentine Republic.....	3,008	3,773	44,441	48,071
Brazil.....	7,470	10,009	42,688	64,977
Chile.....	3,156	9,219	33,115	41,158
Other South America.....	4,716	1,882	25,640	26,177
Coal (Carbón; carvão; charbon):				
Mexico.....	320,023	316,135	2,234,399	2,278,878
Cuba.....	113,753	145,562	1,265,336	1,490,141
Copper (Cobre; cobre; cuivre):				
Mexico.....	205,109	184,332	807,657	1,177,905
Cotton:				
Cotton, unmanufactured (Algodón en rama; algodão en rama; cotton non manufacturé):				
Mexico.....	6,160		497,589	9,270
Cotton cloths (Tejidos de algodón; fazendas de algodão; cotton manufacturé):				
Central America.....	128,776	116,221	1,081,506	1,212,847
Mexico.....	24,128	21,033	155,010	182,370
Cuba.....	161,537	114,521	613,311	623,972
Argentine Republic.....	22,215	4,331	139,312	83,728
Brazil.....	39,925	44,049	321,447	339,234
Chile.....	24,124	36,701	493,519	444,484
Colombia.....	65,556	29,464	529,756	491,464
Venezuela.....	55,065	32,870	306,325	205,935
Other South America.....	33,531	43,138	269,074	331,091
Wearing apparel (Ropa de algodón; roupa de algodão; vêtements en coton):				
Central America.....	30,158	40,263	193,870	378,542
Mexico.....	22,381	56,450	165,282	289,069
Cuba.....	31,773	38,357	194,929	281,767
Other South America.....	8,771	11,692	70,368	70,913

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Twine:				
Twine (<i>Bramante; barbaute; ficelle</i>):				
Argentine Republic.....	Dollars. 278,625	Dollars. 424,079	Dollars. 437,445	Dollars. 547,081
Other South America.....	33,152	25,466	112,594	111,574
Fish:				
Salmon (<i>Salmon; salmão; saumon</i>):				
Colombia.....	232	253	2,386	3,214
Other South America.....	8,082	8,361	94,972	270,191
Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; frutas e nozes; fruits et noix</i>):				
Central America.....	6,641	16,696	61,914	97,627
Mexico.....	20,333	15,904	133,421	141,549
Cuba.....	8,169	13,028	81,492	125,514
South America.....	8,339	7,087	74,935	94,642
Glucose and grape sugar (<i>Glucosas; glucosas; glucoses</i>):				
Argentine Republic.....	17,428	2,430	58,190	30,855
Other South America.....	1,035	1,993	3,471	6,908
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (<i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; aparatos electricos e científicos; appareils électriques et scientifiques</i>):				
Central America.....	15,191	21,713	110,307	164,613
Mexico.....	88,466	37,133	661,421	518,164
Cuba.....	40,469	36,483	339,564	218,614
Argentine Republic.....	53,645	23,462	245,142	114,165
Brazil.....	41,528	167,869	524,358	855,778
Other South America.....	46,457	79,259	273,627	520,420
Scientific apparatus (<i>Aparato científicos; aparatos científicos; appareils scientifiques</i>):				
Central America.....	7,322	11,452	54,378	54,904
Mexico.....	29,184	34,178	236,090	304,473
Cuba.....	14,181	17,161	109,032	120,548
Argentine Republic.....	17,257	17,368	83,026	110,704
Brazil.....	15,878	11,412	62,407	67,432
Other South America.....	11,144	18,613	96,894	138,713
Electrical machinery (<i>Maquinaria eléctrica; máquinas eléctricas; machines électriques</i>):				
Central America.....	4,598	6,320	22,730	68,351
Mexico.....	88,593	162,196	729,200	1,044,779
Cuba.....	3,659	8,056	407,203	39,223
Argentine Republic.....	21,380	29,878	114,170	94,173
Brazil.....	16,367	210,670	300,130	759,472
Other South America.....	3,938	3,835	84,021	98,304
Iron and steel manufactures of:				
Steel rails (<i>Carriles de acero; trilhos de aço; rails d'acier</i>):				
Central America.....	12,120	131,535	487,877	577,629
Mexico.....	109,180	47,784	536,069	775,872
South America.....	96,995	305,349	1,987,355	1,945,582
Structural iron and steel (<i>Hierro y acero para construcción; ferro para construção; fer et acier pour la construction</i>):				
Mexico.....	56,279	114,623	372,296	643,177
Cuba.....	45,266	69,195	281,905	208,603
South America.....	33,227	165,913	253,614	538,608
Wire (<i>Alambre; arame; fil de fer</i>):				
Central America.....	12,310	20,185	158,160	140,461
Mexico.....	42,293	92,063	420,475	644,001
Cuba.....	51,830	41,364	347,139	340,956
Argentine Republic.....	193,832	174,667	1,076,098	955,695
Brazil.....	19,188	42,547	137,824	216,646
Other South America.....	41,816	72,103	275,755	406,896
Builders' hardware, etc. (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción; ferragens; matériaux de construction en fer et acier</i>):				
Central America.....	33,651	33,430	213,542	243,958
Mexico.....	81,346	96,382	725,131	851,223
Cuba.....	50,666	64,663	401,931	420,224
Argentine Republic.....	75,256	64,045	529,091	470,286
Brazil.....	44,129	56,371	332,044	375,672
Chile.....	7,879	35,760	172,169	251,404
Colombia.....	7,212	8,878	51,933	61,222
Venezuela.....	3,331	4,112	40,694	39,907
Other South America.....	20,909	27,369	197,833	251,412
Metal-working machinery (<i>Maquinaria para trabajar metales; maquinismos para trabajar en metal; machines pour travailler les métaux</i>):				
Mexico.....	5,914	6,476	35,585	49,729
South America.....	2,295	9,708	37,840	133,889

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE Continued.

Articles and countries.	August		Eight months ending August	
	1906.	1907.	1905.	1907.
Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y sus accesorios; máquinas de coser e accesorios; machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>):	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Central America.....	8,586	15,770	94,717	94,379
Mexico.....	97,430	52,195	542,391	503,876
Cuba.....	45,829	24,420	257,084	234,286
Argentine Republic.....	46,454	32,321	387,832	274,538
Brazil.....	32,062	52,104	154,727	303,968
Colombia.....	7,897	7,988	51,060	56,893
Other South America.....	42,910	59,230	305,501	276,775
Steam engines and parts of (<i>Locomotores y accesorios; locomotivas e accesorios; locomotifs et leurs parties</i>):				
Central America.....	45,228	5,500	985,010	759,082
Mexico.....	52,580		391,160	314,005
Cuba.....	33,039	33,567	187,100	284,362
Argentine Republic.....	23,580	105,725	195,745	206,491
Brazil.....	20,590	19,500	551,370	548,906
Other South America.....		5,962	482,856	522,292
Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Mecanógrafos y accesorios; máquinas de escribir e accesorios; machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>):				
Central America.....	5,421	4,179	32,093	34,033
Mexico.....	37,268	38,405	241,946	251,474
Cuba.....	10,977	6,195	55,194	58,894
Argentine Republic.....	6,108	14,472	69,788	64,679
Brazil.....	6,328	11,118	43,541	61,413
Colombia.....	756	3,184	6,039	18,056
Other South America.....	15,868	21,530	101,869	143,883
Pipes and fittings (<i>Caherías; tubos; tuyaux</i>):				
Central America.....	50,772	53,583	464,071	432,901
Mexico.....	107,063	160,202	1,141,721	888,217
Cuba.....	90,078	118,931	297,555	643,195
Argentine Republic.....	2,307	1,617	96,562	84,957
Other South America.....	8,017	42,112	124,829	182,842
Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suelas; cauro, não para solas; cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):				
Central America.....	6,155	18,797	130,483	169,038
Cuba.....	11,565	12,853	119,282	89,463
Argentine Republic.....	45,983	14,733	215,798	127,125
Brazil.....	11,154	18,371	102,527	98,565
Other South America.....	42,073	31,398	198,250	125,851
Boots and shoes (<i>Calzados; calçados; chaussures</i>):				
Central America.....	48,169	52,996	307,176	466,396
Mexico.....	105,913	149,239	946,695	1,129,581
Colombia.....	4,158	538	41,068	17,273
Other South America.....	24,584	38,083	200,065	273,809
Meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (<i>Carne de vaca en latas; carne de vacca em latas; bouf conservé</i>):				
Central America.....	7,011	6,764	43,446	51,601
Mexico.....	1,526	2,348	16,319	15,370
Cuba.....	2,075	1,226	13,061	11,071
Other South America.....	4,437	3,119	32,013	21,635
Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca, salada ó ahogada; carne de vacca, salgada; bouf salté</i>):				
Central America.....	9,691	14,286	81,681	134,834
South America.....	27,703	10,852	166,654	99,828
Tallow (<i>Sebo; seba; suif</i>):				
Central America.....	10,863	4,012	88,674	85,419
Mexico.....	1,133	1,769	14,450	17,368
Cuba.....	871	13,039	9,802	63,340
Chile.....	16,310	5,145	78,168	53,784
Other South America.....	3,622	8,357	33,680	35,352
Bacon (<i>Tocino; toucinho; lard jume</i>):				
Central America.....	1,413	2,311	17,812	30,874
Mexico.....	4,800	5,328	32,511	48,539
Cuba.....	69,257	50,417	352,747	423,847
Brazil.....	17,437	13,894	110,398	132,462
Other South America.....	577	615	8,732	15,065
Hams (<i>Jamones; presuntos; jambons</i>):				
Central America.....	11,874	16,965	72,671	119,144
Mexico.....	7,304	11,599	67,107	87,005
Cuba.....	53,432	53,723	372,504	423,237
Venezuela.....	3,535	3,391	27,549	25,432
Other South America.....	4,280	3,616	48,348	37,710
Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; carne de porco; porc</i>):				
Cuba.....	68,242	76,943	474,649	568,767
South America.....	27,164	16,937	179,590	166,432

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August		Eight months ending August	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Meat and dairy products—Continued.				
Lard (Manteca; banha; saindouz):				
Central America.....	Dollars. 77,690	Dollars. 37,751	Dollars. 291,112	Dollars. 445,421
Mexico.....	31,705	42,076	307,556	437,470
Cuba.....	260,773	318,341	2,009,653	2,274,877
Brazil.....	98,200	58,340	368,109	887,348
Chile.....	9,981	25,501	110,656	110,531
Colombia.....	6,530	8,975	55,300	49,682
Venezuela.....	28,085	13,993	217,814	95,437
Other South America.....	53,683	60,651	396,663	433,407
Butter (Mantequilla; manteiga; beurre):				
Central America.....	18,910	20,890	95,792	120,266
Mexico.....	8,398	13,894	91,569	109,080
Cuba.....	4,817	7,314	39,418	52,616
Brazil.....	13,004	2,412	84,810	28,369
Venezuela.....	7,954	6,487	72,780	26,472
Other South America.....	2,676	1,726	30,442	25,644
Cheese (Queso; queijo; fromage):				
Central America.....	8,143	6,179	50,167	67,731
Mexico.....	2,029	5,416	28,127	32,893
Cuba.....	688	1,572	9,686	21,145
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (Resina, alquitran, etc.; resina e alcatraz; résine et goudron):				
Cuba.....	9,856	8,203	46,930	61,672
Argentine Republic.....	104,770	52,185	324,229	147,035
Brazil.....	74,438	12,747	497,069	434,031
Other South America.....	17,491	21,416	181,857	130,085
Turpentine (Aguarrás; aguara; térébenthine):				
Central America.....	1,429	3,344	33,969	33,750
Cuba.....	8,963	3,755	52,782	54,316
Argentine Republic.....	32,009	41,533	230,198	230,205
Brazil.....	16,795	20,878	101,842	117,119
Chile.....	4,775	21,761	58,298	95,166
Other South America.....	5,960	16,296	56,797	62,033
Oils:				
Mineral, crude (Aceites minerales, crudos; oleos minerales, crus; huiles minerales, brutes):				
Mexico.....	223,921	124,897	765,867	719,742
Cuba.....	98,133	46,034	440,866	244,082
Illuminating (Aceites para alumbrado; oleos para iluminación; huiles d'éclairage):				
Central America.....	12,588	22,410	179,518	195,211
Cuba.....	4,320	31,951	55,016	141,399
Argentine Republic.....	246,460	141,862	1,267,370	1,345,311
Brazil.....	317,204	251,681	1,745,027	1,743,975
Chile.....	6,469	127,459	519,585	607,167
Other South America.....	94,908	102,309	651,270	837,357
Lubricating (Aceites para la lubricación; oleos para lubrificação; huiles à graisser):				
Mexico.....	29,562	14,010	176,960	119,007
Cuba.....	33,337	7,010	149,191	244,788
Argentine Republic.....	36,729	69,156	253,291	311,202
Brazil.....	35,591	46,329	176,397	242,188
Chile.....	10,021	21,645	149,816	148,713
Vegetable (Aceites vegetales; oleos vegetales; huiles végétales):				
Central America.....	3,687	2,141	23,294	50,868
Mexico.....	116,850	24,064	507,944	621,773
Cuba.....	17,847	11,339	174,986	199,084
Argentine Republic.....	17,641	12,558	64,588	69,226
Brazil.....	32,788	28,423	196,045	546,968
Chile.....	1,711	29,220	20,548	153,160
Other South America.....	12,120	23,103	121,951	206,942
Paper (Papel; papel; papier):				
Mexico.....	2,205	4,087	22,276	48,507
Cuba.....	13,546	15,389	106,391	149,226
Argentine Republic.....	19,954	13,828	157,662	114,579
Brazil.....	2,291	1,488	26,912	6,745
Chile.....	5,693	26,560	96,651	117,079
Other South America.....	8,815	13,882	53,289	70,003
Paraffin (Parafina; paraffina; paraffine):				
Central America.....	1,037	9,131	41,461	54,561
Mexico.....	54,980	38,256	364,671	435,592
South America.....	1,454	3,515	18,731	38,512

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	August—		Eight months ending August—	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco en rama; tabacco nao manufacturado; tabac non manufacturé</i>):	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Central America.....	4,777	8,020	46,810	37,653
Mexico.....	8,814	9,929	64,155	91,482
Argentine Republic.....	10,525	7,700	19,508	116,772
Colombia.....	2,070	1,280	9,002	10,212
Other South America.....	8,391	5,757	45,792	56,922
Manufactured (<i>Tabaco elaborado; tabacco manufacturado; tabac manufacturé</i>):				
Central America.....	9,509	9,615	43,593	60,537
Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera sin labrada; madeira nao manufacturado; bois brut</i>):				
Central America.....	48,169	13,146	406,053	354,959
Mexico.....	132,487	187,452	873,312	1,084,643
Cuba.....	111	6,537	130,782	59,382
Argentine Republic.....	18,078	2,643	94,293	49,053
Other South America.....	3,873		80,947	107,387
Lumber (<i>Maderas, madeiras, bois de construction</i>):				
Central America.....	115,242	169,242	697,268	906,065
Mexico.....	187,186	312,715	1,558,263	1,834,002
Cuba.....	186,200	166,020	1,726,576	1,779,187
Argentine Republic.....	594,645	246,814	2,894,478	3,052,608
Brazil.....	86,997	64,053	516,990	748,938
Chile.....	132,436	182,644	490,144	1,101,327
Other South America.....	122,830	70,960	731,362	1,115,285
Furniture (<i>Muebles; moblas; meubles</i>):				
Central America.....	31,601	35,495	202,646	229,790
Mexico.....	62,620	69,148	603,050	697,147
Cuba.....	40,178	62,261	426,077	485,582
Argentine Republic.....	40,680	56,457	218,157	334,619
Brazil.....	4,553	4,529	39,513	66,092
Chile.....	2,395	22,652	51,567	78,051
Colombia.....	1,885	2,026	12,652	10,735
Venezuela.....	786	634	13,658	14,282
Other South America.....	6,486	14,926	63,556	92,586

FOREIGN COMMERCE, AUGUST, 1907.

Statistics of the foreign commerce of the United States for the eight months ending August, 1907, show a gain in the value of exports of \$94,333,400, and in imports of \$256,168,398, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. Two-thirds of the gain in exports is accounted for by the increase in our sales of raw cotton abroad. The increase in imports is equally distributed under the various heads to which foreign purchases are assigned, but is greatest in value under the head of "Crude materials for use in manufacturing," which also accounts for 33.58 per cent of the total imports.

In the distribution of export trade among the countries of the world there has been little proportionate change. Sales to Canada, which increased \$18,000,000 during the first eight months of 1906 over the corresponding period of 1905, show a like increase during the first eight months of the present year. The export trade with Mexico and Cuba maintains its annual average of increase, as does that with the various countries of South America.

Figures in detail are as follows:

	Eight months ending August—	
	1906.	1907.
IMPORTS.		
Free and dutiable:		
Foodstuffs in crude condition, and food animals.....	\$80,304,711	\$99,867,396
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	92,629,099	112,417,983
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	294,617,460	336,331,723
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	159,404,274	192,058,476
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	212,794,787	253,890,329
Miscellaneous.....	5,898,453	7,251,285
Total imports of merchandise.....	845,648,794	1,001,817,192
Duties collected from customs.....	205,057,485	226,976,322
EXPORTS.		
Domestic:		
Foodstuffs in crude condition, and food animals.....	114,184,807	107,399,500
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	227,501,301	232,713,180
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	255,131,775	315,666,888
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	162,722,161	177,703,059
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	317,252,297	337,907,493
Miscellaneous.....	5,156,747	4,892,168
Total domestic.....	1,081,949,088	1,176,282,458
Foreign:		
Free of duty.....	8,977,377	10,544,794
Dutiable.....	8,411,005	9,433,102
Total foreign.....	17,388,382	19,987,896
Total exports.....	1,099,337,470	1,196,270,354

By countries, the trade was distributed as follows:

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Europe.....	\$339,377,780	\$509,499,355	\$737,243,447	\$787,751,499
North America.....	174,893,921	201,696,552	216,342,445	247,668,393
South America.....	87,198,863	105,675,783	49,708,806	56,278,402
Asia.....	118,096,433	142,312,257	58,292,010	65,065,500
Oceania.....	17,393,291	24,075,441	25,322,365	28,781,532
Africa.....	8,688,006	18,557,804	12,428,397	10,725,022

COTTON CROP OF 1906-7.

The cotton crop of the United States for the season of 1906-7, according to the annual report of the Secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, aggregated 13,510,982 bales, an increase of 2,164,994 bales over the preceding year and a decrease of 54,903 from the production of 1904-5 being thus shown. The value of the crop is given as \$716,352,265, as compared with \$641,720,435 in 1905-6.

The importation of foreign cotton during the year amounted to 110,076,982 pounds, of which 16,547,379 pounds were reexported, leaving the net amount retained in the country 93,529,603 pounds, equivalent to 181,604 bales.

IMPORTS FROM MEXICO.

The report states that a most interesting feature of the year's trade was the increased cotton production of Mexico, whereby not only was a sufficiency provided for home mills but a surplus was available for export.

During the year United States shipments to Mexico decreased to 843 bales, against 24,620 in 1906 and 68,487 in the previous year.

On the other hand, Galveston received from Mexico 26,791 bales and New Orleans 151, making a total of 26,942 bales.

DISINFECTION OF IMPORTED HIDES.

In accordance with Treasury circular of the United States Government issued on July 18, 1907, it is ordered that—

"After August 1, 1907,* no hides of horses or cattle exported from the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America, except dry hides that have been arsenic cured, shall be admitted to entry at any port of the United States unless a certificate, signed by the American Consul at the place from which exported, be produced on entry, showing that such hides were disinfected prior to shipment by immersion in a 1 to 1,000 solution of bichloride of mercury until thoroughly wet with such solution and kept immersed for not less than thirty minutes.

"Dry hides which have been arsenic cured will be accepted as having been disinfected by the process of curing, and when shown by the invoice or consular certificate to have been arsenic cured such hides will be admitted without requiring the production of certificates therefor.

"As herein used the term horses shall be held to include horses, asses, and mules, and the term cattle shall be held to include all domestic animals of the bovine species, and in addition thereto bisons and various kinds of buffaloes."

URUGUAY.

STATISTICS OF FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENT.

In its issuance of volume 1 of the "*Anuario Estadístico del Uruguay*" the Statistical Office of the Republic has supplied data of great value to all persons interested in the commercial and economic development of the country.

Full trade statistics are given only to the close of 1905, for which year total imports figured for \$30,778,000 and exports \$30,865,000.

* Postponed until February 1, 1906.

The percentage of trade credited to the leading participating countries in the years 1903-1905 is as follows:

Country.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
United Kingdom.....	16.42	15.91	15.83
Germany.....	13.29	12.99	12.06
Argentine Republic.....	15.19	16.54	16.92
Belgium.....	13.03	13.09	12.26
Brazil.....	10.78	10.84	7.78
Spain.....	3.15	3.22	3.36
United States.....	6.18	6.89	8.18
France.....	13.03	14.40	14.59
Italy.....	5.38	4.82	5.73

Great Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium are thus shown to divide the bulk of the foreign trade of the country, Brazil, the United States, and Italy occupying a secondary position.

The percentage of imports and exports taken and received by the countries during the last two years covered by the statistics is shown to have been as follows:

Country.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
United Kingdom.....	25.21	25.79	6.41	5.89
Germany.....	12.28	13.53	13.37	10.57
Argentine Republic.....	15.98	14.92	16.86	18.90
Belgium.....	4.17	4.43	18.03	20.07
Brazil.....	7.23	5.12	10.84	10.44
Cuba.....			3.29	2.08
Spain.....	5.54	4.89		
United States.....	9.67	9.66	5.38	6.57
France.....	9.64	11.28	17.03	17.90
Italy.....	8.47	8.48	2.79	3.00

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS FOR JULY, 1907.

Customs receipts reported for the Republic of Uruguay during the month of July, 1907, show a total of \$1,140,144.50, an increase of \$200,167 over the corresponding month of the preceding year.

Throughout the seven months of the current fiscal year, the monthly receipts from customs have exceeded \$1,000,000 for each month except June, the total for the period being reported as \$7,927,541, as against \$7,611,660 in the same period of the year 1905-6, the net increase being \$315,881.

Present estimates for the whole year fix government receipts from this source at \$12,500,000.

OUTPUT OF THE CUÑAPIRU MINE.

According to official data, the output of the Cuñapiru mine for the first six months of 1907 was 7,694 kilograms of ore, from which the gold obtained aggregated 47 kilograms 612 grams, valued at \$20,949.

POPULATION STATISTICS.

On the 31st of December, 1906, the population of the Republic of Uruguay was 1,103,040, of which 308,434 were resident in the city of Montevideo.

 VENEZUELA.

CUSTOMS REVENUES, CALENDAR YEAR 1906.

According to the report for the year 1906 presented on the 23d of May to the Congress of Venezuela by the Minister of Finance, the maritime custom-houses of the Republic collected during the period in reference the amount of 20,370,988.11 *bolivares* for customs duties, and that of 5,791,894.64 *bolivares* for transit taxes, or a total of 26,162,882.75 *bolivares*.

FISCAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES DURING 1906.

The revenues and expenditures of the Venezuelan Government during the calendar year 1906, as compared with 1905, were as follows, according to the report of the Minister of Finance and Public Credit: Revenues, 53,225,630.63 *bolivares*, as against 56,343,380.94 *bolivares* in 1905; expenditures, 51,874,694.98 *bolivares*, as compared with 54,718,163.24 *bolivares* in the preceding year.

EXPLOITATION OF NATIONAL FORESTS ON THE ORINOCO DELTA.

A decree of the National Congress of Venezuela, dated July 26, 1907, and published in the "*Gaceta Oficial*" of August 22, 1907, approves the contract entered into on January 2, 1907, between the Government and Señor Don VICENTE BETANCOURT ARAMBURU for the exploitation and exportation of timber in the national forests on the Orinoco Delta. The concessionaire shall pay the Government a tax, which shall be the only one, of 1.50 *bolivares* per cubic meter of timber exported, and shall put the contract into execution within eight months after the publication thereof in the "*Gaceta Oficial*." The duration of the contract shall be ten years from the expiration of said term of eight months.

NATIVE CEMENT CONCESSION.

A concession granted on September 6, 1907, by the Venezuelan Government to a native of the Republic for the establishment of plants for the manufacture of roman cement has been reported to the Department of State of the United States by Minister WILLIAM W. RUSSELL at Caracas. According to the terms, the concessionaire binds himself to furnish the Government with cement at the rate of 16 *bolivares* (\$3.20) per barrel of 180 kilograms, this price being 6

bolivares less than the current rate; while to private individuals the price is fixed at 20 *bolivares* per barrel. At present the retail price of the cement per barrel to private individuals is about \$4.60.

CONCESSION FOR A COLD-STORAGE PLANT.

The establishment of cold-storage plants for the preservation of meat for exportation has been provided for by a recent concession granted by the Venezuelan Government to ESTEBAN HERRERA SUCRE. The first plant is to be established in Puerto Cabello. The concession also carries with it the right to extend operation in other sections of the Republic if rendered necessary by increased exportation for the Panama Canal and the development of other centers of consumption.

RATIFICATION OF THE POSTAL CONVENTION OF ROME.

The Universal Postal Convention signed in Rome on the 30th of June, 1906, was ratified by the Venezuelan Congress on July 12, 1907, and promulgated by President CASTRO on the 6th of August, 1907. The text of the convention was published in the "*Gaceta Oficial*" of September 7, 1907.

COCOANUTS AND THE COPRA OF COMMERCE.

The coconut is marketed chiefly in the form of copra, a name applied to the dried meat of the nut, used in the production of oil, which is in turn employed in the manufacture of soap, candles, and a so-called butter.

The fibers are used in the manufacture of mattings, some of which are reimported into the countries whence the fibers were obtained, and they are also used in the manufacture of brushes, brooms, rope, and twines of several kinds.

The lands in the neighborhood of Cartagena, in the Republic of Colombia, are admirably suited for the cultivation of coconut trees. These trees grow and prosper well, and their fruits are delicious and very rich in oil. This fact has not been overlooked and there have been planted from 50,000 to 80,000 trees, and 4,000,000 coconuts are exported annually and sold at prices varying from \$12 to \$20 per thousand.

The following table shows the quantity and value, by countries, of the imports of coconuts received at the port of Hamburg in 1905:

From—	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Marks.</i>
Dominican Republic.....	178,200	28,200
Trinidad.....	38,900	6,950
Colombia.....	243,800	48,310
Dutch West Indies.....	89,500	154,540

Formerly copra was obtained from the cocoanut by crude and primitive methods; but at present there are plants established for the manufacturing of copra, oil, and cocoanut fibers with greater rapidity, less expense, and greater perfection. Machinery is used to break the cocoanuts and to facilitate the preparation of cocoa, and may be operated by hand, employing only two men therefor. These two men can cut or break 6,000 cocoanuts daily. This machine can be bought for 300 *marks* free on board at Hamburg. A complete plant for the manufacture of cocoanut oil, with a capacity of 1,000 kilograms of dry pulp or copra, can be bought for about 24,000 *marks*, exclusive of the packing thereof. Supposing the copra to yield 60 per cent of oil in 300 working days of the year, the plant would have an output of 180,000 kilograms, which, at the price of 66 *marks* per 100 kilograms, would bring 118,800 *marks* at Hamburg. In order to produce that quantity of oil in one year it would be necessary to use 1,200,000 nuts of medium size, which, if exported and sold at an average price of \$16 a thousand, would yield \$19,200, or 76,800 *marks*, thus leaving a balance of about 42,000 *marks* in favor of the industry. The expense of the wages paid to laborers, as well as other expenses, should be taken into consideration in connection with this industry, and it should also be borne in mind that for what might be called the natural exploitation of cocoanuts only the large and select fruits are available, while for the purposes of extracting the copra from said fruit all the cocoanuts are available, and, finally, it should be borne in mind that the yield of oil is greater when the most improved and modern machinery is employed for extracting the pulp from the cocoanut, whereby an output of 66 per cent, instead of 60 per cent, is secured.

In the cultivation of cocoanut trees it should be borne in mind that the trees require sufficient space so that their leaves may swing freely and receive the rays of the sun and have proper ventilation. These three conditions are essential in order that the trees may bear fruit in abundance. It is likewise essential that the soil be fertilized when the trees are planted and that this fertilizing should be repeated frequently when the trees commence to bear fruit. The excrement of cattle and horses is a good fertilizer. A hole 60 centimeters deep by 60 wide should be dug at the place where each tree is to be planted, and the hole should be filled with straw and dry leaves, which should afterwards be burned in order to protect the trees from all kinds of insects; then the holes are filled with rich earth, mixed with the fertilizer and seaweed, all of which should be in a state of putrefaction. A little sea salt should be added. In Ceylon, where great attention is paid to the cultivation of these trees, they are planted 10 meters apart. If the trees are properly taken care of each one produces from 60 to 100 cocoanuts from the eighth until the eightieth year of

its life. The wood of the cocoanut tree is sold at good prices in England for cabinet works.

Inasmuch as the trees are planted at a considerable distance apart, many other products may be raised in the intervening spaces during the first four or five years of the life of the trees, such as corn, cotton, and hemp, but there should always be left a space of about two meters around each tree which should be weeded and kept entirely clean. Later on, the leaves of the trees furnish a good shade for cattle and other animals which may be raised in the groves of cocoanut trees. With the proceeds of the corn, cotton, and hemp (and it should be added that yucca, yams, sweet potatoes, beans, etc., may also be raised) the expenses of planting the cocoanut trees may be covered and still leave a balance as net profit.

Cocoanut trees grow well at a distance of 150 kilometers from the sea and especially on the banks of large rivers.

Of the three important products obtained from cocoanuts, namely, cocoanut oil, flour, and lard, the first product is manufactured at the places where the cocoanuts are cultivated, by extracting the white pulp of the nut and depositing the same in pieces in a wooden trough, from which the oil drips and flows by itself when exposed to the sun. As the liquid thus obtained abounds in impurities and is liable to decomposition, the copra or pulp is at present treated by means of improved processes in the factories established at Marseille, which are the most important in Europe, yielding as much as 60 per cent of refined cocoanut oil. From this refinement of the cocoanut has naturally resulted the cocoanut lard industry, which has become so general abroad under the names of *vegetaline*, *vegetable lard*, *taline*, and *cocoline*. These lards are rich in nutritious substances, and neither in flavor nor appearance remind the consumer of their origin. Its patrons have gone so far as to affirm that this vegetable lard is more nutritious than animal lard, inasmuch as it contains 90 per cent of grease, while the beef lard, for instance, contains only 80 per cent.

Cocoanut oil is mainly used in the manufacture of soap, three-fourths of the soap stock in the great manufactories of perfumery consisting of cocoanut oil, which communicates to the paste formed an extraordinary fineness, rendering it also exceedingly foamy.

The flour which is made of cocoanut, and which is a product derived from the dry pulp after being ground or scraped, is exclusively used in confectionery stores.

The cocoanut tree yields many other valuable products. For instance, the outer cover of the fruit is used in the manufacture of rope for ships, tow for calking, and for many other purposes. The inner cover, which is hard and smooth, is used as vessels, spoons,

coffee cups, and also for veneering furniture, while the outer part of the trunk is considered very valuable, and is used for English cabinet works under the name of "porcupine wood," and in addition, the trunk itself is utilized in the construction of houses, bridges, etc. Finally, the leaves of the tree are used by Indians for making baskets and mattresses, and with the residuous fibers they manufacture excellent brooms. Manufactories established mainly in England and the United States, also use to great advantage the leaves of the cocoanut tree, from which they manufacture brushes, mattresses, etc. It should also be stated that the inventor, Dawe, has constructed his armor-plating of the woody fibres of the cocoanut tree, pressing and folding them one upon the other.

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DR. LUIS M. DRAGO, JEFE DE LA DELEGACIÓN DE LA
REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA EN LA CONFERENCIA DE
LA HAYA.

BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

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Es de desear que todas las personas que se interesan en la Oficina Internacional y en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL tengan tiempo para echar una ojeada á las primeras páginas de las notas editoriales. De esta manera lograrán alcanzar una idea de los rasgos principales que caracterizan la índole del BOLETÍN, llegando á adquirir lo que pudieramos llamar conocimiento á vuelo de pájaro de las informaciones más recientes de las Repúblicas Latino-americanas. El Director desea llamar la atención, sin que en ello haya entusiasmo infundado, á las pruebas que diariamente recibe la Oficina Internacional de la era brillante de progreso industrial y docente en que han entrado las Repúblicas de la América Latina. De la misma manera es notable el número de preguntas que de todos los Estados Unidos, Europa, y la América del Sur se hacen á la Oficina acerca de las ocasiones que se presentan para desarrollar el comercio, invertir capitales, viajar, estudiar, fomentar la minería, hacer trabajos científicos, y también por conocer otras oportunidades industriales en general. Hay tanta materia de interés en los periódicos y revistas de la América Latina y en los informes que de los ministros y cónsules americanos acreditados allí, recibe el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, que sólo se puede publicar en el BOLETÍN una pequeña parte de esta información. En estas circunstancias, se tiene cuidado especial en hacer un sumario de lo más importante que suceda ya sea en las regiones gubernamentales, como en el progreso material de esos países.

ECOS DE LA VISITA DEL SECRETARIO ROOT Á MÉXICO.

Aún cuando las correspondencias de México que trae la prensa han dado, en cierto modo, una idea de lo brillante del recibimiento que el Gobierno y el pueblo mexicanos han hecho al Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos, para saber apreciar el verdadero

entusiasmo, la cordialidad y la esplendidez de la recepción, es necesario leer la prensa de México. Todo ha sido hecho con la mayor munificencia, como si los funcionarios y el pueblo mexicanos hubiesen puesto en ello todo su corazón. En la capital de México todos, desde el Presidente Díaz hasta el último de los hombres del pueblo, parecen haber tenido orgullo particular en dar la bienvenida á su país y á su capital al Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos. Donde quiera que fué, en la ciudad ó en el campo, ya viajase en tren de ferrocarril ó en carruaje, fueron tan grandes las demostraciones de admiración é interés, que no se puede dudar de la cordialidad del agasajo. Para los que conocen á Mexico, el recibimiento acordado al Secretario de Estado americano nada tiene de sorprendente. Cuando se reunió allí la Segunda Conferencia Pan-Americana en 1901-2 no se omitió por parte del Gobierno y del pueblo nada para que los delegados de los países latino-americanos se sintieran verdaderamente como estuviesen en su propia casa. México, que hoy ocupa lugar distinguido entre las primeras potencias del mundo, no pierde oportunidad, como lo ha probado con motivo de la visita del Secretario de Estado, para demostrar que puede recibir extranjeros distinguidos con tanto brillo, pompa y cordialidad como cualquiera de las grandes capitales de Europa ó de la América del Sud. El Secretario de Estado no olvidará nunca la esplendidez del recibimiento de que fué objeto en el Brasil, Uruguay, la Argentina, Chile, Perú, Panamá y Colombia, y hoy, como digno complemento de su experiencia en el hemisferio sur, ha hecho una visita memorable al más notable de los países del norte de la América Latina. Esta experiencia le familiarizará con las condiciones y los asuntos de nuestras Repúblicas hermanas de la América, más de lo que jamás pudiera estarlo otro Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos, y servirá para robustecer la política de mútuo interés y confianza que él ha sabido iniciar con tanto acierto.

LA PRÓXIMA CONFERENCIA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS CENTRO-AMERICANAS.

Los Ministros de las Repúblicas Centro-Americanas en Wáshington, Don JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, de Costa Rica, el Dr. LUIS F. COREA, de Nicaragua, el Dr. LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, de Guatemala, Don FEDERICO MEJÍA, de El Salvador, y el Dr. ANGEL UGARTE, de Honduras, y los representantes de México y de los Estados Unidos, respectivamente, Don JOSÉ F. GODOY, Ministro, Encargado de Negocios de México, Mr. ROBERT BACON, Sub-Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos, y Mr. ALVEY A. ADEE, Segundo Sub-Secretario de Estado, que prestaron su cooperación en las deliberaciones preliminares, merecen las felicitaciones de todos por el Protocolo firmado el 16 de septiembre de 1907 por los Representantes Diplomáticos de Centro América, estipulando que en el mes de noviembre

de este año se reuna una Conferencia Internacional Centro-Americana con el objeto de arreglar las cuestiones que se han suscitado. Las discusiones que precedieron á la firma el Protocolo referido fueron inspiradas todas en un espíritu de noble interés común y consideración diplomática que no puede menos que augurar la terminación más feliz á los trabajos de la próxima Conferencia. Las reuniones se verificarán quizás en los salones de la Oficina Internacional, que ésta destina y prepara para tan fausto acontecimiento. Nada podía ser más á propósito, puesto que esta Oficina es tanto dependencia de la América Central y de México, como de los Estados Unidos.

ESTUDIO DE LA AMÉRICA LATINA EN LAS UNIVERSIDADES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El Director de la Oficina Internacional ha hecho refereneia más de una vez al interés creciente que las universidades y colegios de los Estados Unidos han comenzado á demostrar en el estudio de la América Latina. El Profesor EDMOND S. MEANY, de la Universidad de Wáshington, situada en Seattle, una de las ciudades principales de ese gran Estado del noroeste, informa que se prepara á dar una serie de seis conferencias sobre España en América en la referida universidad, ante una numerosa clase de estudiantes de ambos sexos. Las materias de que tratan dichas conferencias son: (1) Establecimiento de la autoridad española en América; (2) Progreso hacia la civilización; (3) Lucha de las colonias por su libertad; (4) Las Repúblicas hispano-americanas; (5) España en los Estados Unidos; (6) Conclusión, que abraza los siguientes puntos: (a) Progreso intelectual; (b) Desarrollo económico; (c) Desarrollo político; (d) Congresos Pan-Americanos. El Profesor MEANY merece las más calurosas felicitaciones por haber iniciado este curso, que indudablemente habrá de ser muy concurrido. Á este respecto no está de más hacer notar que el Profesor RUDOLPH SCHEVILL, de la Universidad de Yale, dice que la sección de español de la Universidad va en aumento rápido, y que está preparando un curso muy interesante para este invierno. El Profesor L. S. ROWE, de la Universidad de Pensilvania, que acaba de volver de un largo viaje por toda la América del Sur, va á emprender, ante una clase numerosísima, el estudio de los países donde ha viajado. Quizás no haya hoy en los Estados Unidos persona más competente que el Profesor ROWE para tratar de las condiciones actuales de la América Latina; por la experiencia adquirida después de año y medio de viajes, durante el cual visitó las principales capitales de Sud América. Dentro de poco el Profesor WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD, de la Universidad de Columbia, estará de regreso de su viaje á la América del Sur, y dará principio á una serie de conferencias ante los estudiantes de dicha institución.

INTERÉS POR EL NUEVO EDIFICIO DE LA OFICINA.

La Oficina Internacional agradece sinceramente la galantería que ha tenido un buen número de periódicos y revistas, al publicar los grabados del nuevo edificio proyectado. Esta publicidad familiarizará á los pueblos de los Estados Unidos y de la América Latina con el carácter, la esfera de acción y los fines de la Oficina, demostrando que es de valor práctico para el fomento del comercio y del conocimiento de todas las Repúblicas Americanas. Á menudo la impresión que se recibe al ver un grabado despierta en la generalidad mayor interés que una larga descripción impresa. La lista de los diarios que han reproducido las fotografías y los planos de los arquitectos ocuparía demasiado espacio. La Oficina, sin embargo, tiene particular complacencia en mencionar las descripciones acompañadas de grabados que han publicado los siguientes periódicos: "*Harper's Weekly*," "*National Magazine*," "*The Scientific American*," "*Bankers' Magazine*," "*Literary Digest*," "*American Exporter*," "*Dun's Review*," "*El Comercio*," "*Cassier's Magazine*," "*Illustrated Sunday Magazine*," "*El Tiempo Ilustrado*," de México, "*El Anunciador Peruano*," de Lima, "*Correspondencia del Pacífico*," de San Francisco, y "*Modern Mexico*," de New York y México.

DISERTACIONES PÚBLICAS SOBRE LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

Es bien interesante el notar que muchas de las grandes asociaciones nacionales, que se dedican al estudio de las cuestiones industriales, agrícolas y económicas que afectan el bienestar de los Estados Unidos, desean tener mayor conocimiento sobre las relaciones comerciales de la Gran Unión con sus hermanas las Repúblicas Latinas, con cuyo fin han incluido en sus programas algunas disertaciones sobre este punto, en una ú otra forma. La Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Algodón, que se reunió en Wáshington durante la primera semana de octubre, invitó al Director de la Oficina para que pronunciara un discurso sobre "El mercado para productos de algodón americano, y el desarrollo de la industria algodonera en las Repúblicas Latino-Americanas." El Presidente de esta sociedad es Mr. WILLIAM D. HARTSHORNE, de Lawrence, Estado de Massachusetts, y el secretario es Mr. C. J. H. WOODBURY, quienes han contribuído eficazmente en la formación de la misma, y los cuales reconocen la utilidad del ensanche de los mercados extranjeros para fabricaciones de algodón. El Director fué también invitado para que dirigiera la palabra ante la Convención sobre Canales Profundos, celebrada en Memphis, Estado de Tennessee, el 5 de octubre, y ante la cual habló el Presidente ROOSEVELT, siendo el tema de la diser-

tación de Mr. BARRETT, "La relación del Canal de Panamá con los trabajos de canalización y el desarrollo del tráfico del oeste central con la América del Sur." Mr. HARRY B. HAWES, uno de los principales abogados de San Luis, Missouri, y Presidente de la Comisión de Programas de la Convención de Memphis, se halla muy interesado en el fomento de las relaciones comerciales y de amistad con las Repúblicas Americanas. Mr. JOHN M. STAHL, Presidente del Congreso Nacional de Agricultores, que se reunió en la ciudad de Oklahoma el 22 de octubre, invitó al jefe de la Oficina para pronunciar un discurso ante la convención (en la cual estuvieron presentes más de 2,000 agricultores prominentes de los Estados Unidos), sobre "La oportunidad de abrir un mercado para los agricultores americanos en la América Latina, y la influencia en ésta de mejoradas vías fluviales interiores." El Señor STAHL, en sus trabajos en pro de los agricultores de los Estados Unidos, reconoce el hecho de que sus intereses dependen del establecimiento de relaciones comerciales más íntimas con la América Latina. Aceptando invitaciones urgentes para que disertara sobre Sud América, el Director hizo uso de la palabra en el día 9 de octubre ante la Junta de Comercio de Newark, Estado de New Jersey; el 15 de octubre ante el Quill Club de Nueva York, y el 17 del mismo mes ante la Cámara de Comercio de Trenton, New Jersey.

VISITA DE BRASILEÑOS DISTINGUIDOS Á LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Motivo de complacencia especial para el Director de la Oficina fué el dar la bienvenida á Washington á un número de brasileños que visitaron los Estados Unidos durante los últimos días de septiembre y la primera semana de octubre. Formaban parte de la excursión unos treinta caballeros y señoras; parece ser que quedaron muy satisfechos del viaje. Representaban la mejor clase social de su país, é hicieron muy buena impresión en dondequiera que fueron. Vinieron á Nueva York y volvieron al Brasil en el *Aere*, uno de los nuevos vapores de la línea *Lloyd Brasileiro*, á cuya empresa se deben los arreglos hechos para esta excursión. Es de esperar que vengan á los Estados Unidos más excursionistas brasileños, pudiéndoseles asegurar una cordial bienvenida.

Durante su estancia en la capital fueron presentados al Honorable OSCAR S. STRAUSS, Secretario de Comercio y Trabajo, quien les dirigió la palabra con un breve y oportuno discurso de bienvenida. Después fueron presentados al Honorable ROBERT BACON, Secretario interino de Estado, el cual recibió en el despacho particular del Honorable ELIHU ROOT, Secretario de Estado, que estaba á la sazón en viaje para México. El Señor BACON les manifestó que sentía que el Secretario no estuviera presente para recibirles, é hizo referencia á la mag-

nifica recepción que el pueblo brasileño dió á Señor ROOT en su viaje por la América del Sur. En nombre del Departamento de Estado, expresó la satisfacción que sentía al ver que brasileños tan distinguidos hayan hecho este viaje para tener mejor conocimiento de los Estados Unidos. Los Señores PAES LEME y GONÇALVES pronunciaron las contestaciones de lugar en estas presentaciones. Después de visitar la Oficina, los brasileños fueron conducidos á la Casa Blanca, en donde fueron recibidos más temprano que de costumbre, gracias á arreglos especiales que se hicieron de antemano. También visitaron los principales puntos de interés en Washington. La excursión estuvo á cargo de Señor W. A. REID, attaché que fué de la Legación Boliviana en Washington, y la formaban las siguientes personas: E. Guichara, Gabriel Botelho Sobrinho, Raymundo Bezerra, Domingos Gonçalves y señora, Fortunato Meneres, Dr. Arthur Barbosa, José Ignacio de Sousa, José Porcopio de Araujo, Domingos Soriano da Costa, Guillermo Buseh y señora, João Texeira da Frota, Dr. Josias de Andrade, Antonio Sousa Silveira y señora, Otto Schelvembæk, Coronel José Piedade y señora, Luis de Almeida, Julio Matheus dos Santos, Crispim Cellorio, señora y sobrina, Alfredo Ruis, Francisco Gomes Nogueiro, señora é hija, y Felisberto C. Paes Leme, representante del *Lloyd Brasileiro*.

En relación con la visita arriba descrita, se publica la siguiente carta, en la que se expresa la apreciación de los brasileños por las atenciones de que fueron objeto en Washington:

“NUEVA YORK, 4 de octubre de 1907.

“HONORABLE JOHN BARRETT.

“ESTIMADO SEÑOR: Antes de retornar al Brasil, desco hacerle presente, en nombre del *Lloyd Brasileiro* y en el mío propio, nuestro agradecimiento por las altas atenciones que tuvo Vd. la galantería de dispensar á los excursionistas brasileños en la visita que hicieron á la ciudad de Washington, tales como la de ir á recibirlos, la de acompañarlos, y la de presentarlos á los Secretarios STRAUSS y BACON.

“Ruégole que se sirva dar las gracias al Señor Presidente de la República y al Señor Secretario ROOT por las atenciones que gracias á su cortesía nos fueron concedidas.

“Llevaré conmigo los más gratos recuerdos de la cuna del gran Washington, y espero que las palabras pronunciadas por el Señor STRAUSS puedan ser realizadas y que cuando se escriba la historia de los que han fundado la amistad y prosperidad del Brasil unido á los Estados Unidos, el nombre del *Lloyd Brasileiro*, M. Buarque y Compañía, aparezca juntamente con los de los que han contribuido á esta grande obra de las naciones americanas.

“Solamente Vd., cuya conducta ha sido tan caballerosa para con nosotros, podrá interpretar nuestros sentimientos de gratitud y aprecio á la Señora DE YÁNES, esposa del Señor Secretario de

la Oficina, por los breves pero agradabilísimos momentos que las señoras de la excursión pasaron con ella.

“Suplico á Vd., que tan dignamente dirige la Oficina Internacional de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se sirva contar entre sus amigos y admiradores al *Lloyd Brasileiro*, M. Buarque y Compañía, en la cual espero tener el honor de recibir sus órdenes.

“Soy su atento y seguro servidor,

“FELISBERTO C. PAES LEME.”

INTERESES COMERCIALES GERMANO-ARGENTINOS.

La organización reciente de una compañía alemano-argentina es prueba evidente de que los capitalistas alemanes se aprovechan de todas las oportunidades que ofrece la América Latina. El principal objeto de esta sociedad es el fomento del desarrollo de relaciones comerciales más íntimas entre Alemania y la Argentina. Sus oficinas centrales estarán situadas en Berlín y en Buenos Aires. Es evidente que el Gobierno Argentino favorece este movimiento, puesto que presta su cooperación y apoyo á la mencionada empresa. En cambio, se ha acordado el establecimiento en Alemania de una exposición de productos argentinos.

EL NUEVO TRATADO ARGENTINO-ITALIANO.

Excelente ejemplo ha sido el dado por la República Argentina á las demás naciones del mundo al firmar un tratado de arbitraje general con Italia. Un convenio como éste, tan altamente noble, no podía ser más adecuado entre países que, como la Argentina é Italia, tienen intereses tan íntimamente ligados. Una gran parte de la población argentina está formada por italianos, y si la inmigración procedente de Italia continúa siendo como hasta ahora, será solamente cuestión de tiempo que el número de italianos exceda al de habitantes de origen español. Tal es la atracción de las oportunidades que la República Argentina ofrece á la inmigración, que ella es, después de los Estados Unidos, el país más preferido por los italianos para establecer en él su nuevo hogar.

LA PROSPERIDAD DE BOLIVIA.

El mensaje que el Presidente MONTES presentó al Congreso Boliviano en la apertura de las sesiones ordinarias de 1907 contiene un interesante repaso de la marcha de los asuntos generales de la República en 1906. Da una buena idea del progreso de Bolivia en sus

relaciones comerciales é internacionales. No solamente en el país, sino también en el extranjero se empieza á apreciar las grandes riquezas que encierra la nación. Pocas son las Repúblicas de la América Latina que demuestran tanta actividad en el desarrollo de sus ferrocarriles, minas y recursos en general. Su tráfico exterior aumenta rápidamente. El de 1906 aleanzó la cifra de \$45,347,420, en tanto que el de 1905 fué solamente de \$35,000,000. El principal artefelo de exportación es el estaño, y síguenle, por el orden que se mencionan, los siguientes: Goma, cobre, plata en pasta y bismuto. A juzgar por los indicios actuales, Bolivia llegará á ser permanentemente el principal productor de estaño entre los países del mundo.

KILOMETRAJE DE LOS FERROCARRILES BRASILEÑOS.

El progreso ferroviario del Brasil es uno de los rasgos más notables de las condiciones actuales de la América Latina. En diciembre de 1906 había, más ó menos, 17,242 kilómetros en uso, y 3,041 en construcción, en tanto que se han aprobado los planos para el tendido de 6,683 más. En la distribución de las líneas se vé que el Estado de São Paulo está á la cabeza con 3,980 kilómetros, ocupando el segundo lugar Minas Geraes con 3,957. Síguenles Bahía, Pernambuco, Paraná y Ceara por el orden en que se mencionan.

EL PLATINO EN COLOMBIA.

La escasez del platino y su inapreciable valor han despertado interés particular en Colombia por la explotación de los depósitos que de este metal contiene su suelo. En este número se publican informaciones detalladas sobre la materia, la mayor parte de las cuales han sido tomadas de informes presentados por el Cónsul MAXNING, de Cartagena, y por el Cónsul DEMERS, de Barranquilla, Colombia. Es tal la demanda de platino y su producción tan pequeña, que se espera que las minas de Colombia lo suministrarán de buena calidad y en grandes cantidades. Si estos depósitos dan resultados satisfactorios, quedará desvanecido el temor, que abrigan los hombres de ciencia y los fabricantes, de que se agote la existencia de tan preciado metal. Es evidente que el mismo Gobierno Colombiano se hace cargo de la importancia de la explotación de los depósitos de platino, y ha dispuesto que se exploren las regiones del país en donde se encuentre ese metal, y que se otorguen privilegios que sean lucrativos tanto para el Gobierno como para los concesionarios. Pocas son los países del mundo que cuentan con tantas riquezas minerales como Colombia, y los indicios predicen que dentro de breves años se invertirá en el país capital extranjero en grandes cantidades. Es

de tan fácil acceso para Europa y los Estados Unidos que no debiera parecer como una tierra lejana. Si bien no cuenta con muy buenas vías de comunicación interior, con sus ríos navegables y el ensanche de las líneas ferrocarrileras ofrece un vasto campo de explotación.

EL GOBIERNO COSTARRICENSE Y LAS COMPAÑÍAS COMERCIALES.

El Gobierno de la República de Costa Rica no desperdicia oportunidad alguna para fomentar el comercio de la nación. Uno de los pasos más importantes que ha dado recientemente ha sido la aprobación de tres contratos celebrados en julio de 1907 con la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, la *United Fruit Company* y la *Northern Railway Company*. Es indudable que estos contratos redundarán en beneficio del Gobierno y de las compañías interesadas. Con fecha 10 de julio, el Poder Legislativo expidió un decreto que admite la introducción libre de derechos de varias clases de maquinaria é instrumentos agrícolas. Esta medida dará seguramente un gran impulso al desarrollo de los intereses á que se refiere, y está en armonía con el programa del Gobierno para el fomento de la agricultura en la República. El último boletín publicado por el Departamento Nacional de Estadística demuestra que la población del país en 31 de diciembre de 1906, ascendía á 341,590 habitantes. Estas cifras no parecerán muy importantes, pero son indicio de que en el futuro aumentará la población considerablemente, pues Costa Rica cuenta con recursos amplios para poder mantener fácilmente á 3,000,000 de habitantes.

NOTABLE INCREMENTO DEL TRÁFICO BANANERO.

Uno de los rasgos más interesantes del desarrollo de las relaciones comerciales entre los Estados Unidos, Europa y los países contiguos al Mar Caribe, es el incremento que ha tomado la industria bananera. Ha aumentado en tales proporciones que ha sobrepasado las predicciones mas optimistas de diez años há. Si este incremento continúa en lo futuro al mismo paso que ha ido en los últimos años, será lógico deducir que dentro de poco tiempo el banano constituirá uno de los productos alimenticios más comunes entre las masas populares de los Estados Unidos y Europa. No hace mucho tiempo era considerado como una fruta de lujo; ahora es casi más barato que la manzana en las regiones de los Estados Unidos en donde se produce esta última fruta. El grande beneficio que los países del Mar Caribe han experimentado con este incremento, ha sido la transformación de considerables extensiones de terreno inútil en plantaciones valiosísimas. Miles de

millas cuadradas que cinco años atrás eran consideradas como improductivas y adecuadas unicamente para la propagación de mosquitos, son ahora fértil suelo para la producción del banano; se están erigiendo pueblos á lo largo de la costa del Caribe, en donde antes no había vida ni actividad.

EL COMERCIO Y LA HACIENDA EN CHILE.

En este número se publica una interesante análisis de las condiciones comerciales y económicas de Chile, preparada por el Señor Don ADOLFO ORTÚZAR, Cónsul General de la República en Nueva York. Deben leerla todos los que se interesan por el progreso de aquella emprendedora nación. Trata minuciosamente de las diversas fuentes de ingreso con que cuenta el Gobierno, y demuestra patentemente la prosperidad de que goza el país en la actualidad.

EL NUEVO MINISTRO DE CHILE EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Hacia la fecha en que este número vea la luz, llegará á Wáshington el nuevo Ministro de Chile, Señor Don ANÍBAL CRUZ DÍAZ. La Oficina le dá la bienvenida por su ingreso en el seno del Consejo Directivo, y no duda que se interesará en los esfuerzos que ella está realizando para ensanchar el comercio y amistad pan-americanos. Es tan bien conocida su reputación como hombre de estado y diplomático, que no será un extraño para los residentes de esta capital. Al dar cuenta de esta noticia, la Oficina se complace en ensalzar la excelente gestión llevada á cabo en este país por el actual Encargado de Negocios, Señor Don ALBERTO YOACHAM. Se ha esforzado con eficacia en hacer que fabricantes y capitalistas americanos se interesen en empresas chilenas, al par que ha desempeñado con celo los deberes que su Gobierno le encomendara.

INFORME DEL RECEPTOR GENERAL PULLIAM SOBRE EL COMERCIO DOMINICANO.

La memoria del Receptor General de Aduanas de la República Dominicana, correspondiente á los primeros seis meses de 1907, es muy interesante, y en este número se reproduce gran parte de su texto. Las cifras demuestran un aumento sobre el mismo período de 1906 de unos \$300,000 en las exportaciones y de \$670,000 en las importaciones. Si se toma en cuenta que la población de la República se calcula en poco menos de 500,000 almas, se verá que estas cifras equivalen á un aumento de \$4 por cada habitante durante todo el año de 1907. Éste es un indicio satisfactorio de la prosperidad de que

goza el país. Según un despacho recibido del Ministro McCREERY de los Estados Unidos, en agosto último se inauguró en Santo Domingo una exposición nacional industrial que fué una demostración excelente de productos y fabricaciones del país, y en la cual se hicieron patentes las posibilidades de desarrollo que hay en la República. El Gobierno y el pueblo demostraron grande interés por ella, y es de lamentarse que no hayan podido concurrir más extranjeros.

OPORTUNIDAD PARA EL ESTABLECIMIENTO DE UN BANCO AMERICANO EN GUAYAQUIL.

Mr. HERMAN R. DIETRICH, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Guayaquil, Ecuador, hace presente la urgencia del establecimiento de un banco americano en Guayaquil, y en un informe apunta los rasgos más salientes de las condiciones bancarias. De manera enfática expresa la opinión de que cuando esté abierto al tráfico el Canal de Panamá, Guayaquil será uno de los puertos más importantes de la costa occidental de Sud América. Un banco en una ciudad de 70,000 almas debiera tener éxito. En este número se publica la ley bancaria del Ecuador.

EL CONGRESO MÉDICO PAN-AMERICANO DE GUATEMALA.

Se llama la atención de los médicos de las Repúblicas Americanas al Quinto Congreso Médico Pan-americano que se celebrará en la ciudad de Guatemala á mediados de agosto de 1908. La última reunión tuvo lugar en la ciudad de Panamá en enero de 1905. La comisión del Gobierno Guatemalteco, cuyo Presidente es el Señor Don JUAN J. ORTEGA, y Secretario el Señor Don JOSÉ AZURDIA, ha enviado una circular, el texto de la cual se publica en este número, á los médicos de las Repúblicas Americanas, invitándoles á participar en el Congreso. Como son muchas las cuestiones importantes que se tratarán en esa reunión, las cuales afectan á los intereses médicos de todos los países, se espera que su concurrencia será grande. Se sabe que el Gobierno de Guatemala está haciendo preparativos especiales para hospedar de una manera digna á los delegados.

EL MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE DÍAZ.

El mensaje que el Presidente Díaz sometió al Congreso Mexicano el 16 de septiembre último, es uno de los documentos más interesantes é instructivos que ha expedido este competente ejecutivo. Publíquese en este número del BOLETIN un extracto de este mensaje, que deben leer cuidadosamente los que estudian las condiciones gubernamen-

tales, económicas y financieras de aquella República. Un rasgo notable del mensaje es la constancia que se hace en él de que las rentas fiscales de 1906 excedieron en 20,000,000 de pesos á los gastos prescritos en el presupuesto, y de que, á pesar de la escasez de dinero que se siente en el mundo, los intereses financieros de la República han tenido un incremento constante. Otro rasgo de interés es el establecimiento de una oficina de agricultura que tiene por objeto el estudio de las cuestiones relacionadas con la ganadería y la agricultura, y la publicación de los resultados de las investigaciones para el conocimiento de los agricultores del país. Es indudable que esta sabia medida será muy beneficiosa para la agricultura de México.

EXHIBICIÓN DE PRODUCTOS MEXICANOS EN LONDRES.

Las riquezas del suelo mexicano serán dadas á conocer en Londres mediante una exhibición ferroviaria, industrial y minera que se celebrará en el Palacio de Cristal en los meses de mayo á octubre de 1908. Si bien los arreglos para esta exhibición son llevados á cabo por los directores de esa institución, y no se hace á iniciativa del Gobierno Mexicano, se ha enviado una invitación al Presidente Díaz para que preste su apoyo, y se dice que el Gobierno ha manifestado su deseo de cooperar en el éxito de la exhibición.

LA REDUCCIÓN DE LAS CONTRIBUCIONES EN MÉXICO.

En lo tocante á los asuntos municipales de México, se manifiesta mucho interés por el decreto del Gobierno que dispone la reducción de contribuciones municipales en varias de las principales ciudades de la República. Durante el pasado, las altas contribuciones fueron origen de muchas quejas, y ahora el Gobierno está haciendo una minuciosa tasación de los bienes raíces, con el fin de asegurarse que no se grava al pueblo con más impuestos que los estrictamente necesarios para el bien del servicio público. Una comisión oficial ha estado trabajando hace varios años en la consecución de este fin.

LA PROSPERIDAD DE PANAMÁ.

Noticias recibidas de Panamá indican que la República ha entrado en un período de prosperidad y desarrollo que hasta ahora no ha sido apreciado. Se empieza á descubrir que Panamá, á pesar de su pequeño territorio, tiene una notable variedad de riquezas minerales, forestales y agrícolas. Tan pronto como se establezcan facilidades de comunicación por el interior, mediante ferrocarriles y buenos

caminos, no habrá obstáculo alguno para el aumento de la población y la explotación de tierras y regiones casi vírgenes en la actualidad. Muchos de los que ahora van al Istmo para emplearse con la Comisión del Canal, dimiten para establecerse por su cuenta en algún negocio ó empresa agrícola, en diferentes puntos de la República. Que el desarrollo de la industria bananera es beneficioso para Panamá, lo demuestra un informe del Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Colón, Mr. Kellogg. Como ejemplo apunta el hecho de que en Bocas del Toro se exportaron durante el año pasado 3,212,504 racimos de banano, y que el distrito que rodea esta ciudad tiene en operación 175 millas de ferrocarril para el transporte de la fruta, y 75 millas en construcción.

LA POBLACIÓN Y EL COMERCIO DEL URUGUAY.

Montevideo, la capital del Uruguay, pronto ocupará un puesto entre las ciudades más populosas del mundo. Tiene aproximadamente el mismo número de habitantes que Washington, la capital de los Estados Unidos de América. Según el censo del 31 de diciembre de 1906, la población de la capital uruguaya ascendía á 308,435 habitantes. Parece que Montevideo se lleva la mayor parte del crecimiento de la población del país, puesto que tiene aproximadamente una cuarta parte del total de 1,103,004. Tomando en consideración el área, las riquezas y el clima del Uruguay, se puede predecir que algún día tendrá una población diez veces mayor. Las estadísticas comerciales más recientes demuestran que el comercio exterior de 1905 fué de unos \$61,000,000, cantidad que se divide casi igualmente entre las exportaciones y la importaciones, y que da un promedio de \$60 por cada habitante, que coloca al Uruguay en un puesto alto en la lista del comercio exterior *per capita* de las naciones. Gran Bretaña, Francia, Alemania, y Bélgica toman la mayor parte del comercio uruguayo, en tanto que los Estados Unidos é Italia ocupan un puesto secundario.

LA RIQUEZA FORESTAL DEL ORINOCO.

Los despachos recientemente recibidos de Venezuela patentizan que se está efectuando la realización de las inmensas posibilidades en la explotación de los bosques nacionales de la Delta del Orinoco. Contadas son las partes del mundo accesibles al comercio y á los grandes mares que contengan mayor riqueza forestal que el Valle del Orinoco. Gracias á la relativa proximidad entre Venezuela y los Estados Unidos y Europa, y al hecho de que vapores de gran calado pueden anclar cerca de los sitios en que podrían construirse aserradoras de madera, en fecha no lejana se establecera un gran tráfico de maderas preciosas con la América del Norte y los países del Viejo Con-

tinente. Sería un buen paso para la conservación y protección de los bosques de los Estados Unidos el que se abastecieran los pedidos de madera hasta una cantidad determinada con la que se importe de los países latino-americanos. Grande es la rapidez con que se están destruyendo los bosques de los Estados Unidos, en tanto que los de la América Latina serían beneficiados, en vez de perjudicados, si fueran desmontados en parte. Por más que Venezuela es bien conocida en el mundo político y diplomático, sus riquezas son poco apreciadas ó conocidas. Es, en realidad, un país que cuenta con naturales y maravillosas posibilidades.

ARTÍCULOS SOBRE LA AMÉRICA LATINA PUBLICADOS EN REVISTAS AMERICANAS.

Entre las Revistas que ha recibido la Biblioteca de Colón y que contienen artículos de interés para la América Latina, deben mencionarse las siguientes: "The Outlook," correspondiente al mes de septiembre que publica un trabajo intitulado "Tres Eminencias Sudamericanas y sus Doctrinas," el cual describe de una manera gráfica los rasgos característicos más salientes de los Señores PÉREZ TRIANA de Colombia, BARBOSA del Brasil, y el Doctor DRAGO de la República Argentina, quienes representaron á sus respectivos países en la Conferencia de La Paz que se ha celebrado en La Haya; "The Engineering Magazine," en la cual el Señor LEWIS R. FREEMAN diserta tanto acerca de las oportunidades como de los inconvenientes que se le presentan al comercio americano en la América del Sur; "The Independent," que contiene un artículo escrito por el Profesor L. S. ROWE, acerca de la era de buena voluntad y cordiales relaciones en la América del Sur; "The American Review of Reviews," en la cual el Señor LEWIS R. FREEMAN trata de la actual situación de Cuba, Haití y la República Dominicana en relación con el desarrollo del comercio de las Antillas.

Las siguientes revistas correspondientes al mes de octubre también contienen trabajos de interés para la América Latina: "The World To-Day," en la cual el Señor LEWIS R. FREEMAN describe la influencia que ejerce la inmigración sudamericana en el comercio norteamericano; "The Independent," en el cual el Profesor L. S. ROWE hace una descripción gráfica de lo que él denomina el despertar de Bolivia, al paso que el Doctor FRANCES E. CLARK dice que la precitada República es la Suiza de América; "The Engineering Magazine," en cual el Señor JAMES DOUGLAS explica la influencia que la producción de cobre sudamericano ejerce en las industrias del mundo, y la "Cassier's Magazine," que contiene un bosquejo de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas y que, además, hace una relación detallada del trabajo que ésta ha hecho, así como del que se está haciendo bajo la dirección de dicha institución.

PROTOCOLO DE PAZ CENTRO AMERICANA.

Defiriendo á la excitativa que conjuntamente hicieron los Presidentes de los Estados Unidos y México, las cinco Repúblicas Centroamericanas, representadas respectivamente por sus Ministros diplomáticos acreditados ante el Gobierno de Wáshington, se reunieron en el Departamento de Estado los días 11 y 17 de septiembre de 1907, con el objeto de fijar las bases de una paz duradera entre aquellos países y la manera de conservar las buenas relaciones entre ellos.

En ambas reuniones los Estados Unidos estuvieron representados por el Señor ALVEY A. ADEE, Secretario de Estado interino á la sazón, y México por el Señor Don JOSÉ F. GODOY, Ministro, encargado de negocios interinamente. Ambos países estuvieron presentes en las deliberaciones de los Ministros Centroamericanos, en deferencia á la mediación y gestiones amistosas que han hecho por el establecimiento de la paz en la América Central.

Constituída la mesa, el Señor Don JOAQUÍN B. CALVO, Ministro de Costa Rica, el más antiguo de los miembros del Cuerpo Diplomático Centro-americano en Wáshington, fué elévido por unanimidad presidente, recayendo de idéntica manera, el nombramiento de Secretario en el Dr. ANGEL UGARTE, Ministro de Honduras.

Después de madura deliberación, animada del más cordial espíritu de conciliación, se redactó el siguiendo protocolo:

PROTOCOLO.

Reunidos en la ciudad de Wáshington, los Representantes de las cinco Repúblicas Centroamericanas, en vista de la excitativa de los Excelentísimos Señores Presidentes de los Estados Unidos de América y de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, para establecer la manera de conservar las buenas relaciones entre dichas Repúblicas y conseguir una paz duradera en aquellos países; y con el propósito de fijar las bases que pueden conducir á la realización de tales fines, debidamente autorizados por nuestros respectivos Gobiernos, hemos convenido en lo siguiente:

ARTÍCULO I.

Previa una invitación formal que, según está entendido, se hará simultáneamente á cada una de las cinco Repúblicas Centroamericanas, por los Excelentísimos Señores Presidentes de los Estados Unidos de América y de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, se reunirá una Conferencia de los Representantes Plenipotenciarios que al efecto nombren los Gobiernos de las Repúblicas referidas, á saber: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua, en los primeros quince días del mes de noviembre próximo entrante, en la ciudad de Wáshington, para discutir los pasos que deben darse y

medios que tengan que adoptarse á fin de ajustar cualesquiera diferencias que existen entre dichas Repúblicas ó entre algunas de ellas, y con el objeto de concluir un tratado que precisará sus relaciones generales.

ARTÍCULO II.

Los Excelentísimos Señores Presidentes de las Repúblicas de Centro América invitarán á los Excelentísimos Señores Presidentes de los Estados Unidos de América y de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, para que, si lo tienen á bien, se sirvan nombrar sus representantes respectivos, á fin de que, con carácter puramente amistoso presten sus buenos é imparciales oficios para la realización de los propósitos de la Conferencia.

ARTÍCULO III.

Mientras se reúne la Conferencia y cumple la alta misión que le corresponde, las cinco Repúblicas Centroamericanas, á saber: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua, convienen en mantener entre sí la paz y buenas relaciones, y asumen respectivamente la obligación de no cometer ni permitir que se cometa acto alguno que pueda estorbar su mutua tranquilidad. Con tal objeto se abstendrán de toda manifestación armada en sus respectivas fronteras y retirarán á sus aguas jurisdiccionales sus fuerzas marítimas.

ARTÍCULO IV.

Si, por desgracia, se suscitare cuestión imprevista entre algunas de dichas Repúblicas, mientras se reúne la Conferencia, y no pudiere arreglarse por los medios amigables de la diplomacia, queda mutuamente convenido que las partes interesadas someterán la diferencia á los buenos consejos del Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, ó de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, ó de los dos Señores Presidentes conjuntamente, según el caso, y de conformidad con el acuerdo que al efecto se celebre.

Firmado en la ciudad de Washington, á los diez y siete días de septiembre de mil novecientos siete.

J. B. CALVO.

F. MEJIA.

LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE.

ANGEL UGARTE.

LUIS F. COREA.

El Ministro de Costa Rica, al facilitar á la Oficina para su publicación copia del protocolo, ha hecho constar que Costa Rica, que mantiene las mejores relaciones con todas sus hermanas Repúblicas, no ha tenido ni tiene en estas negociaciones otra parte que la de sus gestiones amigables, lo mismo en San José, donde varias de las Repúblicas de Centro América han estado representadas, que en Washington, donde se ha firmado el protocolo á iniciativa de su Ministro.

DELEGADOS Á LA CONFERENCIA.

Las varias Repúblicas de la América Central han nombrado los siguientes delegados para que las representen en la Conferencia:

Costa Rica.—Señor DON JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Costa Rica en Washington; Doctor LUIS ANDERSON, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

Guatemala.—Doctor LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario en Washington; Doctor ANTONIO BATRES JAUREGUI, Presidente de la Delegación que fué á Río de Janeiro y ex-Ministro de Guatemala en los Estados Unidos; Señor DON VÍCTOR SÁNCHEZ OCAÑA, Encargado de Negocios de Guatemala en Costa Rica.

Honduras.—Doctor ANGEL UGARTE, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario en Washington; Doctor POLICARPO BONILLA, ex-Presidente de Honduras; Doctor E. CONSTANTINO FIALLOS, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

Nicaragua.—Doctor LUIS F. COREA, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario en Washington; Doctor JOSÉ MADRIZ, ex-Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

Salvador.—Señor DON FEDERICO MEJÍA, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario en Washington; Doctor SALVADOR GALLEGOS, Ministro del Salvador en Costa Rica; Doctor SALVADOR RODRÍGUEZ, ex-Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

CENTRO Y SUD AMÉRICA ANTE EL "QUILL CLUB."

En el banquete celebrado en Nueva York el día 16 de este mes por el círculo de escritores, periodistas, autores, y hombres de letras, llamado "Quill Club," con motivo de la 140ª remiión del mismo, estuvieron presentes el Señor DON ALBERTO YOACHAM, Encargado de Negocios de Chile, y el Director de la Oficina Internacional de las Repúblicas Americanas, Mr. JOHN BARRETT. Tocó al Señor YOACHAM hablar sobre el tema "Chile, tierra del progreso," y su discurso, que fué muy aplaudido, versó acerca del gran desarrollo económico y comercial de su país, los progresos alcanzados en materia de instrucción, el fomento de sus ferrocarriles, y las inmensas riquezas que encierra el suelo chileno. Llamó también la atención el Señor YOACHAM al poco ó ningún interés de los fabricantes y capitalistas americanos en aprovechar las ventajas y oportunidades que el mercado de Chile ofrece á los productos americanos. El texto de su discurso será publicado en el número de noviembre.

El Director de la Oficina, Mr. BARRETT, discurreó sobre el tema "La nueva América Central y su significación para los Estados Unidos," expresándose, en parte, como sigue:

"La conferencia de las Repúblicas Centro-americanas que se ha de reunir en Washington próximamente, se contará entre las con-

venciones internacionales de mayor importancia que se hayan celebrado en la América del Norte. Si de ella resultare un tratado que asegure la paz permanente en tan importante región del Hemisferio Norte, la historia de la unidad y del progreso pan-americanos habrá comenzado una nueva era. Aún cuando no me es posible discutir el aspecto político de esta Conferencia, ni las diferentes cuestiones que con ella se relacionan, puedo, sí, hablar de lo que toca al desarrollo comercial y material de Centro-América.

“Pocos son los que en los Estados Unidos se dan cuenta de lo vasto de las riquezas naturales de Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, y Costa Rica. Los mapas á veces producen impresiones erróneas de lo que representan. Una simple ojeada nos induce á creer que estos países están completamente en los trópicos, es decir, que son tan cálidos y desagradables que se hace imposible allí para el extranjero una vida próspera, lucrativa y saludable. No puede ser más craso el error. Hay regiones en la América Central cuya altura sobre el nivel del mar les favorece con una temperatura igual al clima templado de la parte central de los Estados Unidos, sin que haya los extremos de calor y frío que caracterizan el verano y el invierno en este país. Una población diez veces mayor que la que hoy ocupa las altas mesetas de Centro-América, podría vivir allí en la prosperidad, y no está lejano el día en que toda la parte alta de la América Central esté bien habitada.

“Por otra parte, es también un error considerar que la parte baja que se extiende á lo largo de las costas atlántica y pacífica de la América Central es sólo un boscaje impenetrable y malsano, cuya explotación es imposible. El día llegará en que esa región montuosa que se extiende de México hasta Colombia, á ambos lados de la costa, haya desaparecido, levantándose allí en su lugar plantaciones de bananos, caña de azúcar, y otros productos agrícolas, aumentando así la riqueza y la población de Centro América. La transformación será inmensa cuando se hayan aplicado á la costa de la Mosquitia los mismos métodos higiénicos que han dado tan buen éxito en Panamá. Así como en el Asia tropical viven millones de personas debido á las medidas de higiene que ha implantado el Imperio Británico, así también en la América Central la población ha de desarrollarse cuando el saneamiento esté establecido en toda forma.

“Las Repúblicas de Centro América tienen tal abundancia de productos agrícolas, minerales, y forestales, que necesariamente han de atraer grandes capitales americanos y europeos, que construyan una red ferrocarrilera que se extienda por todas partes, funden nuevas poblaciones, atraigan la inmigración de todo el mundo, establezcan, aumenten y mejoren la comunicación por vapor con los Estados Unidos, y Europa y Sud América. Todo esto depende del resultado de la Conferencia de Washington.

“No es aventurado decir que, si estos países firman una convención que tenga el apoyo moral de los Estados Unidos y de México, el mundo entero se sorprendería del desarrollo comercial, material, económico, intelectual, social y general de las Repúblicas Centro-americanas. Esto no es decir, sin embargo, que dichos países no hayan adelantado ó que no sean hoy dignos de la atención de los que deseen familiarizarse con el fomento alcanzado y las oportunidades que ofrecen nuestras Repúblicas hermanas. Cuanto han hecho hasta hoy no es nada comparado con todo lo que les ofrece el porvenir, si se asegura una paz permanente.”

REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

EL COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN EL PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1907.

La Dirección General de Estadística de la República Argentina publicó á mediados del mes de agosto de 1907 el número 134 del boletín “El Comercio Exterior Argentino,” el cual contiene las cifras del intercambio comercial de la nación durante el primer semestre de 1907, comparadas con las del mismo período de 1906.

La importación total durante los seis primeros meses de que se trata ascendió á un valor de \$130,561,685, oro, en comparación con \$117,508,381, oro, que arrojó en igual período de 1906, con un aumento de \$13,053,304, oro. El total de la exportación está representado por un valor de \$185,344,453, oro, mientras que en los mismo meses de 1906 tan sólo acusó un valor de \$154,766,110, oro, cantidad que comparada con la anterior arroja una diferencia á favor de 1907 de \$20,668,343, oro.

Las cifras que se relacionan con las importaciones sujetas á derechos, y con las que tienen entrada libre son altamente sugerentes y dan una idea del incremento que van tomando el movimiento de las obras públicas y de la agricultura en el país, por cuanto que sabido es que la generalidad de los artículos que se introducen sin pagar derechos la constituyen los distintos materiales de construcción, como asimismo de construcciones agrícolas y ferroviarias.

En el primer semestre de 1907, la importación sujeta á derechos acusa una cifra de \$81,807,348, oro, es decir, \$1,763,909, oro, menos que que en el mismo ejercicio del año anterior, cuya suma fué de \$83,570,357, oro.

La importación libre alcanzó á un total de \$48,754,337, oro, contra \$33,836,124, oro, correspondiente al mismo período de 1906. De manera que sólo durante la primera mitad de 1907, se introdujeron libres de derechos \$14,817,223, oro, más que en los seis primeros meses de 1906.

También acusa una diferencia en más la exportación libre, con \$185,433,585, oro, contra \$164,766,110, oro, del mismo período del año 1906.

El Reino Unido figura al frente de los países de origen, con un valor de \$46,173,241, oro, y un aumento de \$8,567,677, oro, sobre el primer semestre de 1906. En segunda fila viene Alemania con un valor de \$21,037,876, oro, y un aumento de \$3,275,325, oro. Síguenle los Estados Unidos, con una importación de \$17,022,139, oro, y una merma de \$966,129, oro. Francia figura con un valor de \$12,287,851, oro; Italia, con \$11,198,660; Bélgica, con \$7,162,223; España, con \$3,202,982; Brasil, con \$3,195,214; Uruguay, con \$1,502,727; Países Bajos, con \$709,715; Paraguay, con \$542,189; Suecia, con \$511,065; Austria-Hungría, con \$457,014; Cuba, con \$251,985; Chile, con \$163,582; Perú, con \$90,613; Bolivia, con \$76,599; Africa, con \$7,881; y Portugal, con \$3,970.

EXPORTACIONES.

Las exportaciones que se hicieron durante el semestre de que se trata fueron las siguientes: Trigo, 2,151,830 toneladas; lino, 607,948 toneladas; maíz, 354,548 toneladas; afrecho, 53,049 toneladas; avena, 106,037 toneladas; harina, 62,359 toneladas; pasto seco, 19,202 toneladas; azúcar, 39 toneladas; quebracho en rollizos, 177,952 toneladas; quebracho en extracto, 26,928 toneladas; vacunos congelados, 63,551 toneladas; lana, 88,884 toneladas; cueros lanares, 12,373 toneladas; cueros vacunos salados, 6,416 toneladas; cueros vacunos secos, 6,380 toneladas; tasajo, 6,416 toneladas; manteca, 1,394 toneladas; sebo, 13,579 toneladas; cerda, 899 toneladas, y carnero congelado, 1,327,348 toneladas.

El siguiente cuadro se refiere á la exportación de trigo, lino y maíz, en el primer semestre de 1907, comparado con él de 1906:

	Primer semestre de—	
	1907.	1906.
	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>
Trigo.....	2,151,830	1,822,387
Lino.....	607,948	324,636
Maíz.....	354,548	741,120

Los principales países de destino de las exportaciones de la primera mitad de 1907 fueron los siguientes: Inglaterra, que tomó 1,311,077 carneros congelados, 58,327 toneladas de cuartos vacunos congelados, 7,841 toneladas de lana, 6,919 toneladas de sebo, 246,477 toneladas de trigo, 22,506 toneladas de lino, 38,503 toneladas de maíz, 26,754 toneladas de avena, y otros productos en menor escala. A Francia se enviaron 18,085 toneladas de carnero congelado, 37,097 toneladas de lana, 10,751 toneladas de cueros lanares, 34,611 toneladas de trigo,

28,908 toneladas de lino, 19,839 toneladas de maíz, y otros artículos. Bélgica recibió 11,844 toneladas de lana, 6,268 toneladas de cueros vacunos salados, 260,931 toneladas de trigo, 61,682 toneladas de lino, 29,323 toneladas de maíz, 6,488 de afrecho, 24,232 de avena, etc. A Alemania se exportaron 23,235 toneladas de lana, 8,124 toneladas de cueros vacunos salados, 174,767 toneladas de trigo, 94,282 de lino, 15,665 de maíz, 39,397 de afrecho, 6,806 de avena, 22,613 de quebracho en rollizos, 3,083 de extracto de quebracho, etc. Holanda tomó 204,135 toneladas de trigo, 21,059 de lino, 8,535 de avena, etc. Al Brasil se enviaron 134,290 toneladas de trigo, 1,405 de maíz, 48,644 de harina, 13,439 de pasto, 38 de azúcar, y 1,776 de tasajo.

Durante los seis meses mencionados, los siguientes fueron los principales países compradores de productos argentinos; Francia, que recibió productos por valor de \$24,077,779, oro; Alemania, que aparece con \$22,727,505; el Reino Unido, con \$20,386,587; Bélgica, con \$18,556,236; Estados Unidos, con \$6,523,287; Brasil, con \$6,420,701; Italia, con \$2,464,566; Países Bajos, con \$2,364,706; Uruguay, con \$3,028,591; Chile, con \$1,043,659; posesiones inglesas, con \$1,632,679; Africa, con \$1,055,928. Luego siguen: Austria-Hungría, con \$973,477; Suiza, con \$853,125; España, con \$756,543; Perú, con \$529,565; Bolivia, con \$493,952; Canadá, con \$400,171; China, con \$301,145; Noruega, con \$277,627; Rusia, con \$206,107; Portugal, con \$127,198; Suecia, con \$156,166; Japón, con \$83,400; Cuba, con \$99,527; Ecuador, con \$19,170; posesiones holandesas, con \$19,756; Turquía, con \$19,891; Dinamarca, con \$16,977; y Australia, con \$43,330.

LA POBLACIÓN DE BUENOS AIRES EN EL 31 DE MAYO DE 1907.

Según estadísticas publicadas en el Boletín Municipal del mes de junio de 1907, la población de Buenos Aires en el 31 de mayo de 1907 ascendió á 1,102,155 habitantes.

BOLIVIA.

ESTADÍSTICA COMERCIAL CORRESPONDIENTE Á 1906.

Los datos estadísticos publicados por el Gobierno de Bolivia en agosto de 1907, anuncian que el valor total del comercio de la República, en el año de 1906, ascendió á 90,714,841 de bolivianos (\$45,347,420, aproximadamente), en comparación con 69,930,411 de bolivianos (\$35,000,000) en el año anterior.

El valor de las exportaciones se calcula en 55,654,515 de bolivianos (\$27,827,258), contra 42,060,869 de bolivianos (\$21,030,435) en 1905, y el valor de las importaciones se calcula en 35,087,325 de

bolivianos (\$17,543,662), en comparación con 27,869,541 de bolivianos (\$13,964,770) el año anterior. De esta manera se muestra un aumento de más de 13,000,000 de bolivianos (\$6,500,000), en el valor de las exportaciones, y un aumento de más de 7,000,000 de bolivianos (\$3,500,000), en el valor de las importaciones en el último período.

Los artículos principales que se exportaron, así como su valor respectivo, se anuncian oficialmente de la manera siguiente:

	Bolivianos.		Bolivianos.
Barras y mineral de plata.	4,786,752.51	Bismuto.....	1,155,472.60
Oro.....	36,984.00	Goma.....	10,612,848.44
Estaño.....	35,248,245.68	Artículos diversos.....	497,327.00
Cobre.....	3,316,885.36		

EL MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE MONTES.

El día 6 de agosto de 1907 en que se celebró la apertura del Congreso ordinario de 1907, el Presidente MONTES, de la República de Bolivia, presentó su mensaje correspondiente al año anterior y en el que da cuenta de la administración y marcha de los asuntos gubernamentales. La lectura de este interesante documento da una buena idea del marcado desarrollo del comercio, la industria y la agricultura de la nación.

Las relaciones internacionales durante el año han sido muy satisfactorias. Hanse celebrado convenios especiales con el Brasil y Chile para el arreglo de cuestiones sobre límites. Se ha aceptado deferentemente la amistosa sugestión del Gobierno Argentino para convenir con el Paraguay las bases de un tratado de arbitraje. Con Chile se ha convenido en nombrar al Tribunal Permanente de Arbitraje de La Haya para que conozca de las diferencias que pudieran surgir en la interpretación y aplicación del tratado de paz y amistad celebrado en octubre de 1904, y se ha acordado, consultando los intereses de ambas partes, rectificar en los puntos Chajmuco y Collahuasi la línea de frontera indicada en ese tratado y se han terminado satisfactoriamente los arreglos referentes al pago de la garantía de ferrocarriles. Respecto al Ferrocarril de Arica á La Paz, que es otro de los puntos principales del tratado de octubre de 1904, se ejecuta la obra con el vigor é impulso necesarios.

Á fin de llenar los puntos pendientes del tratado de Petrópolis, se ha suscrito con la República del Brasil el protocolo referente á la verificación del Río Verde y el de instrucciones para la demarcación de la frontera, habiéndose convenido también con la misma República en prorrogar por un año las funciones del tribunal arbitral creado por el mencionado tratado de Petrópolis, cuyas estipulaciones quedarán cumplidas en cuanto se suscriba el tratado particular de comercio y navegación y se construya el Ferrocarril Madera-Mamoré, acerca del cual anuncia el mensaje que en abril de 1907 el ingeniero

en jefe y el administrador general de la empresa se entrevistaron en San Antonio para preparar los trabajos que han de ejecutarse por cuenta de capitalistas ingleses.

Los acuerdos celebrados con la Argentina sobre la construcción de ferrocarriles son realizados del mejor modo posible, y con ese objeto se ha suscrito un protocolo con el propósito de unir en Tupiza el ferrocarril boliviano que se trabaja de Oruro, vía Potosí, y el Central Norte Argentino, el cual, para mayo de 1908 estará en la frontera, según cálculos recientes de positiva exactitud.

La cuestión sobre límites con el Perú, que fué sometida al fallo del Gobierno Argentino, sigue tramitándose con la misma sinceridad que determinó su acuerdo, esperándose que dentro de poco tiempo se pronunciará el fallo correspondiente. Por lo demás, las relaciones entre Bolivia y el Perú son muy cordiales, y esta última nación ha acordado recientemente la habilitación del puerto de Ilo, dotándolo de condiciones adecuadas para servir ampliamente á las necesidades del comercio, y la construcción de un ferrocarril que al dirigirse á Moquegua desviará un ramal sobre la línea de Arequipa-Mollendo, destinada al tráfico boliviano.

Con las demás naciones del mundo se mantienen las más perfectas y amistosas relaciones, que tienden al mayor desarrollo del comercio exterior de la República.

Aceptando la invitación del Gobierno Holandés, Bolivia envió á La Haya los emisarios que la representaron en la Segunda Conferencia Internacional de la Paz que se celebró en aquella ciudad.

Al hacer mención del incidente ocurrido con la Santa Sede, el Presidente MONTES dice:

“Me refiero á la actitud asumida por Su Santidad el Papa Pro X con motivo de haberse sancionado la reforma del Artículo II de la Constitución y la ley derogatoria del fuero eclesiástico, así como de las iniciativas camarales referentes al establecimiento del matrimonio civil. * * * Ese inesperado incidente conturbó nuestros sentimientos sinceramente cristianos y por lo mismo ajenos á todo convencionalismo de secta ó doctrina; pero no hizo vacilar, ni un instante, el deber jurado ante la misma representación nacional, como condición del ejercicio del poder, de sostener y defender la Constitución y las leyes. * * * El Ejecutivo se dirigió por medio de la Cancillería á la Curia Romana haciéndole saber, en términos respetuosos, que las Cámaras bolivianas no comparten con nadie su alta facultad de dictar las leyes que, según su criterio, mejor convengan para el Gobierno de la nación, y que, no pudiendo consentir, de modo alguno, el desconocimiento de los principales atributos de la soberanía nacional, se había expedido la correspondiente carta de retiro del representante diplomático que teníamos acreditado cerca de la Santa Sede.”

En el régimen interno la administración se ha desenvuelto dentro de las prescripciones de la ley y de las facultades propias del Ejecutivo, y el orden público se mantuvo inalterable, notándose su salvable influencia, tanto en el amplio ejercicio de todos los derechos, como en el creciente desenvolvimiento de las finanzas, del comercio y de la industria.

Los servicios de correos y telégrafos han aumentado su movimiento notablemente, habiéndose hecho necesaria la introducción de varias mejoras. En el ramo de correos se han establecido algunas oficinas nuevas, y se han creado también varias subadministraciones en diferentes puntos de la República. En el de telégrafos se han reconstruido y reparado varias líneas, y otras nuevas se hallan en vías de construcción. Durante 1908 se instalarán cinco estaciones de telégrafos sin hilos. Se gestiona en Londres la incorporación de Bolivia á la Convención Telegráfica Internacional celebrada en San Petersburgo en 1875.

La construcción y la reparación de caminos han recibido grande impulso durante el año, debiendo terminarse en 1907 varias secciones de caminos importantes en diferentes Departamentos.

En cuanto á las obras ferroviarias, los trabajos se ejecutan con actividad, debiendo quedar terminada en 1907 la línea de Oruro á Potosí; empréndese con preferencia la construcción del Ferrocarril Tupiza-Potosí, á fin de conectarlo con el Central Argentino á la mayor brevedad, conforme á los arreglos internacionales celebrados ultimamente en Buenos Aires. El Sindicato Fomento del Oriente Boliviano terminará muy pronto la construcción del ferrocarril de un puerto adecuado del Río Paraguay á Santa Cruz, y actualmente gestiona ante el Gobierno la ampliación de la concesión primitiva á fin de extender ramales de la línea principal sobre diversos puntos.

La situación financiera se desarrolló de modo muy satisfactorio, y patentiza manifiestamente la prosperidad de que goza el país, cuyo poder económico es cada día más creciente. Para atestiguar este hecho, el Presidente MONTES hace mención de los siguientes datos:

“En 1904, el presupuesto de ingresos alcanzaba á 6,000,000 de bolivianos, deduciendo las tres partidas nominales á que ha referencia la cuenta general de esa gestión; el actual dá 13,000,000 de bolivianos, y el proyecto ya formado para el año próximo sube á 16,000,000 de bolivianos.

“El intercambio comercial ascendió en 1904 á 52,601,988.76 bolivianos, en 1905 á 69,930,411.06 bolivianos y en 1906 á 90,741,841.15, no siendo aventurado afirmar que el de 1907 alcanzará á 110,000,000 de bolivianos.

“El capital bancario íntegramente nacional era, en 1904, de 7,543,540 bolivianos; en 1905, de 8,560,866 bolivianos; en 1906, de 10,164,127 bolivianos, y en 30 de junio de 1907 de 13,500,000 bolivianos.

“El capital de los bancos extranjeros radicados en el país ascendió, en 1906, á 1,904,803 bolivianos, y en 30 de junio de 1907 á 2,491,273 bolivianos.

“Los depósitos en los diferentes bancos de la República tuvieron la siguiente escala: 1904, 6,445,737 bolivianos; 1905, 6,921,546 bolivianos; 1906, 12,244,834 bolivianos, y 1907, 15,839,326 bolivianos.”

Hablando de la deuda pública, dice el mensaje:

“Conforme á la ley de 30 de octubre de 1906, se ha efectuado la conversión de bonos del Estado, emitiéndose y colocándose á la par nuevos títulos con 8 por ciento de interés en cambio de los antiguos del 10.

“Se encuentra también completamente preparada la movilización de la deuda interna, cuya inscripción alcanzó el 30 de junio último á la cantidad de 4,346,529.28 bolivianos, por la cual y conforme á la ley que le es relativa ha de emitirse en enero de 1908 bonos de 3 por ciento de interés y uno de amortización, ya impresos en Londres. El proyecto de presupuesto formado para esa gestión consigna la partida correspondiente para el servicio de dichos bonos.”

La instrucción pública fué objeto de particular atención por parte del Gobierno, habiendo mejorado muy notablemente durante el año. Al extranjero se enviaron los pensionados que el Gobierno destina anualmente para hacer sus estudios en la América del Norte y Europa. Se han establecido escuelas ambulantes para la educación de indígenas; estas escuelas comprenden, por ahora, una extensión superficial de 30 leguas y están servidas por ocho maestros.

Después de algunos años adversos en la agricultura, el de 1906 se presentó satisfactoriamente en toda la República; el Presidente recomienda urgentemente la introducción de varias mejoras en este ramo, tales como la introducción de maquinaria moderna, implantación de un sistema de irrigación y aprovechamiento de aguas; con este objeto ya se han pedido al extranjero varias máquinas perforadoras de pozos artesianos. Durante 1907 se terminará el edificio destinado á la Escuela Práctica de Agricultura en Tarija, y en Cinti se establecerá otra de vinicultura. En Cochabamba se fundará una quinta normal para ensayos agrícolas y de reproducción de varias razas y especies de animales útiles. En La Paz se está organizando el establecimiento de un observatorio meteorológico y de un jardín de aclimatación y campo experimental, en conexión con el cual se fundará una escuela de veterinaria.

IMPORTACIONES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, 1907.

Según datos facilitados á la Oficina Internacional de las Repúblicas Americanas por el Señor DON IGNACIO CALDERÓN, Ministro de Bolivia en Wáshington, las importaciones recibidas en aquella República

con procedencia de los puertos de Nueva York y San Francisco, durante los primeros nueve meses de 1907, ascendieron á la suma de \$2,219,018.58. Durante el primer semestre del citado año, las importaciones del mismo origen sumaron un total de \$1,511,241.73.

La escala ascendente que han seguido las importaciones de los Estados Unidos en Bolivia se demuestra con la comparación de las cifras que anteceden con los valores de las importaciones totales dl los años 1905 y 1906. Las de aquél fueron de \$1,720,000, y las de éste ascendieron á \$1,136,603.91, incluyéndose en esta última cifra las precedentes de Nueva York y San Francisco solamente.

ESTADO DE LOS BANCOS EL 30 DE JUNIO DE 1907.

Se anuncia oficialmente que el 30 de junio de 1907, el estado de los cinco bancos de emisión que hacen operaciones con arreglo á las leyes de Bolivia era el siguiente:

	Capital.	Dinero en caja.
	<i>Bolivianos.</i>	<i>Bolivianos.</i>
Banco Nacional de Bolivia.....	5,000,000	4,254,423.66
Banco de Francisco Argandoña.....	3,500,000	2,535,940.10
Banco Industrial.....	2,500,000	1,545,383.99
Banco Agrícola.....	1,700,000	1,008,880.17
Banco Mercantil.....	800,000	507,737.01
Total.....	13,500,000	9,776,364.93

El saldo del dinero en caja comprende oro, plata, y depósitos de níquel, y también sollos de la renta del Gobierno y bonos.

El banco últimamente mencionado se organizó hace poco tiempo, y cuenta con un capital de 800,000 bolivianos.

EL TRÁNSITO POR EL PUERTO DE MOLLENDON EN EL PERÚ DURANTE 1906.

"El Peruano," diario oficial de la República del Perú, publica en su número del 13 de junio de 1907 el informe correspondiente á 1906 del agente de aduanas de aquella nación en La Paz, Bolivia, según el cual el tránsito de importaciones y exportaciones bolivianas por el Puerto de Mollendo, Perú, durante el año de 1906 representa los siguientes totales: Importaciones, £734,889 2s. 02d.; exportaciones, £333,299 7s. 27d.; total general, £1,068,188 9s. 29d. El rendimiento que tan importante comercio ha producido á Bolivia ha sido de 1,573,872.50 bolivianos, sin incluir el mes de diciembre, cuyos datos no se conocen aún, en tanto que en 1905 sólo alcanzó á 1,124,686.54 bolivianos, habiendo, por lo tanto, un aumento á favor de 1906 de 449,185.96 bolivianos.

BRASIL.

VALOR DE LAS IMPORTACIONES EN EL PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1907.

Las cifras relativas al valor de las importaciones al Brasil en semestre transcurrido de enero á junio de 1907 indican un aumento general, en comparaci3n con el período correspondiente de 1906, en el valor del comercio con todos los países que han tomado parte en él, con excepci3n de Chile, Cuba, el Jap3n, Paraguay, la India Inglesa, Rusia y la parte asiática de Turquía.

En el valor de las importaciones procedentes de Inglaterra se advierte un aumento de £1,661,177, luego sigue Alemania con un aumento de £896,536, y los Estados Unidos con £470,631.

El valor total de las importaciones en el semestre de referencia ascendió á £18,899,497, en comparaci3n con £14,424,974 en el primer semestre de 1906, que durante los dos períodos se distribuyen de la manera siguiente:

Valor de importaciones.

	1906.	1907.		1906.	1907.
Alemania.....	£1,955,519	£2,857,055	Perú.....	£880	£3,660
República Argentina.....	1,530,497	1,857,060	Portugal.....	975,500	1,167,906
Austria-Hungría.....	214,151	319,748	Canadá.....	96,402	146,582
Bélgica.....	642,176	670,833	India.....	105,130	87,380
Chile.....	18,611	11,329	Nueva Zelanda.....	802	4,814
China.....	15,922	21,057	Terranova.....	190,373	239,457
Cuba.....	4,326	3,195	Otras posesiones in-		
Dinamarca.....	20,550	24,976	glesas.....	14,249	22,436
Estados Unidos.....	1,928,096	2,308,727	Rusia.....	26,179	12,086
Francia.....	1,113,367	1,508,280	Suecia.....	51,278	63,419
Gran Bretaña.....	3,910,168	5,571,315	Noruega.....	133,827	136,265
Grecia.....	290	840	Suiza.....	128,299	175,071
España.....	98,630	140,375	Turquía asiática.....	3,550	2,044
Holanda.....	76,338	109,862	Turquía europea.....	2,940	8,200
Italia.....	501,405	685,496	Uruguay.....	776,621	532,884
Jap3n.....	5,321	3,358	Otros países.....	14,442	16,229
Paraguay.....	9,035	7,348			

AUTORIZACI3N DEL EMPRÉSTITO DEL CAFÉ.

El día 12 de agosto de 1907, el Ejecutivo promulgó la ley del Gobierno brasileño por virtud de la cual se autoriza el empréstito del café que asciende á \$15,000,000.

ESTADÍSTICA RELATIVA Á LA POBLACI3N.

Las cifras oficiales publicadas por el Ministerio brasileño de Obras Púlicas, indican que en 1907 el Brasil tenía un total de 19,910,646 habitantes, contra 19,523,222 en 1906. Se calcula que el área total, incluso los 191,000 kilómetros que contiene el Territorio del Acre, asciende á 8,497,940 kilómetros.

UN NUEVO BANCO FRANCÉS EN LA REPÚBLICA.

En conformidad con un decreto del Ejecutivo del 1° de agosto de 1907, se le ha concedido autorización á "La Banque du Crédit Foncier du Brésil," para que haga operaciones bancarias en la República del Brasil. Se abrirá un establecimiento en Río de Janeiro, y la Compañía aumentará su capital hasta 25,000,000 de francos. Dicho banco hará toda clase de negocios bancarios, hipotecas y depósitos y, además, prestará dinero con las debidas garantías. Se emitirán bonos que serán redimibles por medio de sorteos ó de otra manera, con premio ó sin él, cuyo producto se usará únicamente para llevar á cabo un negocio bancario legítimo. Sólo se harán anticipos de dinero sobre hipotecas de preferencia, y la cantidad que se anticipa jamás excederá de dos terceras partes del valor de la propiedad. Las cuestiones de interés, duración y redención de estos préstamos, las resolverá la Junta ó sus representantes en el Brasil, en la época en que se haga el préstamo.

Se prescribe que todas las cuestiones que surjan entre el banco y los residentes del Brasil, se han de someter á la consideración de los tribunales brasileños.

RENTAS DEL ESTADO EN EL PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1907.

Los ingresos derivados de las varias fuentes de la renta del Gobierno en el primer semestre de 1907, ascendieron á un total de £11,705,514, en comparación con £9,434,457 en el mismo período de 1906, y £8,353,063 en el primer semestre de 1905.

Toda fuente de renta, excepción hecha de los productos del país y artículos diversos, muestran un aumento. Los derechos de importación han aumentado en más de un 25 por ciento; los de exportación un 51 por ciento; los de consumo un 24.4 por ciento; los de embarque un 14.2 por ciento, y los derechos sobre fondo de redención del papel moneda muestran un aumento de un 34.1 por ciento.

IMPORTACIONES DE HARINA, EN EL PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1907.

Según cifras compiladas por la oficina de estadísticas comerciales de Río de Janeiro, las importaciones de harina en el Brasil durante el primer semestre de 1907, comparadas con las del mismo período de 1906, fueron como sigue:

Paises de origen.	1906.	1907.
	<i>Kilogramos.</i>	<i>Kilogramos.</i>
República Argentina.....	51,079,240	68,721,717
Estados Unidos.....	11,557,964	13,908,795
Austria-Hungría.....	2,758,272	4,034,670
Otros paises.....	404,364	1,976,309
Total.....	65,799,570	88,614,541

Esta comparación demuestra que las importaciones de harina durante el primer semestre de 1907 han aumentado un 34.7 por ciento; las procedentes de la República Argentina han tenido un incremento de 34.5; las de los Estados Unidos de 20.3; las de Austria-Hungría de 46.3, y las de otros países de un 389.1.

La República Argentina suministró un 77.53 por ciento del total de dichas importaciones; los Estados Unidos el 15.69; Austria-Hungría el 9.23, y los demás países el 4.55.

CUARTO CONGRESO MÉDICO LATINO-AMERICANO.

En el Tercer Congreso Médico Latino-Americano celebrado en Montevideo, Uruguay, la ciudad de Río de Janeiro fué designada para que tenga lugar en ella la cuarta reunión que se celebrará en el año de 1909.

COLOMBIA.

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LÍMITES CON EL ECUADOR.

El "Diario Oficial" de Colombia, de fecha 6 de julio de 1907, contiene el texto de la convención con el Ecuador, adicional al tratado del 5 de noviembre de 1904, firmada en Bogotá el 5 de junio de 1907 y aprobada por la Asamblea Nacional el 13 del mismo mes. Por esta convención se crea un tribunal de arbitraje y una comisión técnica para el efecto de la determinación y demarcación de la línea fronteriza de los dos países. El tribunal de arbitraje se compondrá de tres individuos por cada parte, y la comisión técnica se compondrá de dos ingenieros por cada parte también. El tribunal se reunirá en Quito, pudiendo trasladarse á Bogotá, si lo estimara conveniente. La comisión podrá comenzar sus trabajos en la misma capital ecuatoriana, ó en el lugar más próximo al punto que escogiera como inicial de la demarcación. El fallo que los árbitros pronunciarán será inapelable y la línea de demarcación definitiva.

DERECHO DE EXPORTACIÓN SOBRE EL GANADO.

Con el fin de fomentar la exportación del ganado, el Presidente REYES, de la República de Colombia, en decreto de 22 de julio de 1907, ha dispuesto la reducción del derecho de exportación sobre el ganado macho á 1 peso oro por cabeza.

ESTABLECIMIENTO DE OFICINAS DE INFORMACIÓN EN EUROPA.

Para los fines de propaganda de las riquezas naturales de Colombia y para ensanchar el comercio exterior de la República, el Presidente REYES ha dictado un decreto disponiendo el establecimiento de una oficina de información en cada una de las ciudades de Londres, París

y Barcelona, semejantes á las ya creadas en Nueva York y Hamburgo. Estas oficinas, además de sus funciones generales, coleccionarán, para ser exhibidas en Colombia, muestras de artículos de comercio de mayor consumo en el país. En cada oficina habrá una exhibición de muestras de productos nacionales, tanto agrícolas como minerales. Con este fin se establecerá en Bogotá una oficina encargada especialmente de formar colecciones de muestras de minerales y demás productos naturales del país, para que se exhiban en las mencionadas oficinas de información en Hamburgo, Nueva York, Londres, París y Barcelona.

MODIFICACIONES ARANCELARIAS.

El "Diario Oficial" del 24 de agosto de 1907 contiene el texto de un decreto del Presidente REYES, de fecha 5 de agosto de 1907, en el cual se dictan las siguientes disposiciones arancelarias:

Las prensas para imprenta y demás elementos esencialmente necesarios para su funcionamiento, y los tipos, que introduzcan los Departamentos y municipios, se admitirán libres de derecho de importación.

Las prensas, los tipos, é instrumentos esencialmente necesarios para imprenta corresponden á la segunda clase de la tarifa.

Los coches y carruajes de todas clases y los automóviles corresponden á la segunda clase de la tarifa, sin recargo del 70 por ciento.

ALUMBRADO ELÉCTRICO EN SAN JUAN DEL CÓRDOBA.

El "Diario Oficial" de Colombia, del 22 de agosto de 1907, contiene el texto de un contrato celebrado entre el consejo municipal del distrito de San Juan del Córdoba y el Señor JUAN AMARIS MAYA, con fecha 14 de mayo de 1907, para el establecimiento en dicho distrito de una planta de fuerza ó energía eléctrica para el alumbrado público y particular y otros usos. La duración del contrato será de cincuenta años, al terminarse los cuales la municipalidad podrá comprar y el concesionario estará obligado á vender la planta con todos sus accesorios. Si al cabo de dicho período el distrito resolviere no comprar, se extenderá el contrato por veinticinco años más, terminados los cuales la venta se hará por la mitad del precio estipulado anteriormente. Si terminado este nuevo período, el distrito tampoco resolviere la compra, se extenderá el contrato por veinticuatro años más, á la expiración de los cuales la empresa con todas sus anexidades pasará á ser propiedad del distrito sin que éste tenga que dar remuneración de ninguna clase.

FÁBRICA DE CONSERVAS ALIMENTICIAS EN EL DEPARTAMENTO DE MAGDALENA.

El "Diario Oficial" de Colombia, de fecha 30 de julio de 1907, contiene el texto de un contrato celebrado, en 25 de abril de 1907,

entre el Gobierno de la República y Don AQUILEO OSORIO para el establecimiento de una fábrica de conservas alimenticias en uno cualquiera de los Departamentos del Atlántico, Bolívar ó Magdalena. La fábrica deberá estar terminada y en estado de producir dentro de dos años, á contar desde la fecha de la aprobación del contrato, que es el 29 de abril de 1907. El Gobierno otorga al concesionario privilegio exclusivo por diez años en los Departamentos mencionados.

COSTA RICA.

APROBACIÓN LEGISLATIVA DE CONTRATOS IMPORTANTES.

En decreto de fecha 11 de septiembre de 1907, publicado en "La Gaceta" del 13 del mismo mes, el Congreso Constitucional de Costa Rica tuvo á bien aprobar los tres contratos celebrados los días 15 y 18 de julio de 1907 por la Secretaría de Fomento con la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, la *United Fruit Company*, y la *Northern Railway Company*, respectivamente, con las modificaciones introducidas por dicho cuerpo legislativo.

En el contrato de 15 de julio, celebrado con la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, se dispone, en primer lugar, la rescisión de varias cláusulas del contrato Astúa-Pirie, de 18 de octubre de 1904; la cláusula 13 del mismo queda reformada en el sentido de que la empresa se obliga á hacer las mejoras que aún faltan de las especificadas en la cláusula 6 del contrato Pacheco-Pirie de 14 de febrero de 1900, las cuales son: Provisión de material rodante, terminación de la nueva estación de San José antes del 31 de diciembre de 1908, cambio de rieles y durmientes en el ramal de Guápiles, y otras obras.

El segundo contrato que aprueba el decreto de referencia es el celebrado con la *United Fruit Company* el 18 de julio, por el cual renuncia ésta al derecho que para exportar bananos libre de todo impuesto le concedió el contrato de 2 de julio de 1900 celebrado entre el Gobierno y la *Tropical Trading and Transport Company*, de que aquélla es cesionaria. Estipúlase por lo tanto que la exportación del banano se grave con un impuesto, pero bajo las condiciones siguientes: (1) Que dicho impuesto no exceda de 1 centavo oro americano por cada racimo exportado. (2) Que dicho impuesto no pueda aumentarse ni antes del 29 de octubre de 1910, fecha en que vence la franquicia renunciada, ni en los diez años posteriores. (3) Que durante el término de la concesión los terrenos cultivados de banano no sean especialmente gravados con ningún impuesto, excepción hecha de los contribuciones generales sobre la propiedad territorial. (4) Que ni antes del 29 de octubre de 1910 ni durante los diez años siguientes podrá cobrarse derecho de muellaje por los bananos que se exporten, ni ningún otro impuesto ó derecho, sea cual

fuere el nombre con que se le designe. Durante todo el tiempo del vigor de este contrato, respecto de los bananos que la compañía exporte, sean de su propia producción, sean comprados á otros plantadores, el pago del impuesto será á cargo de la *United Fruit Company*, y se fija en el máximo estipulado, es decir, 1 centavo oro por racimo.

La compañía renovará los contratos que tiene celebrados con particulares para la provisión de bananos, si así lo desearan los interesados, por un período de tiempo que llegue, al menos, al 29 de octubre de 1910, al precio mínimo de 31 centavos oro por cada racimo de primera clase, y de 15½ centavos oro por cada uno de segunda.

Para que los plantadores de bananos puedan construir tranvías en sus plantaciones, el Gobierno no les cobrará derechos de aduana ó de muellaje sobre los materiales de construcciones y rodante de dichos tranvías, y la compañía se obliga á obtener de la *Northern Railway* que rebaje en un 50 por ciento su tarifa de fletes en el transporte de tales materiales.

La *United Fruit Company* se obliga á ofrecer contratos á particulares para que hagan en los años de 1908 y 1909 la siembra de 2,800 hectáreas de banano bajo las condiciones que se establecen en el contrato.

La compañía colocará en Puerto Limón una nueva estación de telégrafo sin hilos, suficientemente capaz para comunicarse con Swan Island y la Isla de Cuba, ó algunas de las próximas, ó por medio de Cuba, con un puerto del Estado de Luisiana en los Estados Unidos. Una vez montadas las necesarias estaciones, el servicio se abrirá al público, y el Gobierno pagará solamente la mitad de la tarifa que se establezca. Por tal servicio ó de comunicaciones la compañía podrá cobrar un máximo de 10 céntimos de colón por palabra. Por último se obliga á importar, para el pago de sus gastos, oro acuñado de los Estados Unidos, en cantidad no menor de \$500,000, pero serán contadas como parte de esa suma las importaciones que haga de esa moneda la *Northern Railway Company*.

El tercer contrato es el celebrado con la *Northern Railway Company* y la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, y cuya fecha es la misma del anterior. En este convenio, el Gobierno declara que fué oportunamente notificado del contrato que se firmó el 15 de junio de 1905 entre la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, la *United Fruit Company* y la *Northern Railway Company*, en virtud del cual esta última compañía tomó á su cargo el manejo y administración del ferrocarril y de la empresa de la primera. Sin embargo de tal contrato de administración, la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Costa Rica será responsable para con el Gobierno del cumplimiento de los contratos que tiene con él celebrados, muy especialmente del principal de 1894, llamado Soto-Keith, y de las estipulaciones vigentes del Astúa-Pirie, de 28 de diciembre de 1904. La contabilidad de ambas empresas se llevará por separado, así como los inventarios, registros, etc.

La Northern Railway se compromete—

(a) *Á* reducir á la mitad, ó sea, á 10 centavos oro de Costa Rica, el máximum de la tarifa vigente para el flete de bananos.

(b) *Á* rebajar el precio del transporte del café á £3 por tonelada de 1,000 kilogramos.

(c) *Á* rebajar en un 25 por ciento el actual flete local y de exportación del hule, cacao, frutas, cereales y verduras.

(d) *Á* reducir el máximum de la tarifa de fletes de maquinaria agrícola y herramientas de labranza en la forma que se estipula en el contrato.

(e) *Á* conceder un 25 por ciento de rebaja en los fletes de artículos importados por municipalidades, iglesias, hospitales, hospicios y juntas de educación.

(f) *Á* conceder pasaje libre en primera clase á los Secretarios de Estado, Diputados al Congreso y Magistrados de la Corte Suprema.

El decreto de que se trata prescribe en su artículo 2 que el impuesto de 1 centavo oro sobre la exportación de cada racimo de bananos sea aplicado exclusivamente al pago de la deuda exterior. El artículo 3 del mismo dispone que la exportación del café queda exenta del derecho de muellaje, así como de cualquier otro impuesto.

ENTRADA LIBRE DE CIERTOS ARTÍCULOS.

Un decreto del Gobierno de Costa Rica, fecha 10 de julio de 1907, relativo á la entrada libre en la Republica de residuos de granos y maquinaria é instrumentos agrícolas, prescribe lo siguiente:

ARTÍCULO 1. Los derechos de los cuales con arreglo á la ley del 20 de agosto de 1903, quedan exentos el afrecho y otros residuos de trigo, linaza, maíz y otros granos que se usan para alimentar el ganado, comprenden todos los derechos que impone el Gobierno, incluso los de muellaje.

ART. 2º. También se declaran libres de derechos los siguientes artículos: La maquinaria y utensilios que se usan para preparar el queso y la mantequilla, la maquinaria para extraer fibras de las plantas y para su tratamiento, arietes hidráulicos, molinos de viento, arados, rodillos, mielgas, máquinas sembradoras de semilla, cultivadoras, segadoras, carretones de fertilizadoras, descascaradoras, palas, hachas, machetes y toda elase de maquinaria agrícola que se usa para preparar los terrenos y para sembrar y segar las frutas y cosechas, tales como carretones cuyas llantas ó ruedas tengan un ancho de 10 centímetros ó más.

DERECHOS DE EXPORTACIÓN SOBRE BANANOS.

Según los informes que el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos ha recibido del Señor WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en San José, el Gobierno Costarricense le ha impuesto un derecho de exportación de 1 centavo en oro por cada

racimo de bananos durante un período de diez años, á contar de 1910, quedando entendido que el expresado derecho comenzará á recaudarse desde la fecha en que el decreto del Ejecutivo se promulgue.

Se cree que la imposición de este derecho no ha de estorbar la producción local, por cuanto de esta manera la renta anual de la República se aumenta como en \$100,000 en oro.

Se están haciendo embarques de bananos, de ensayo, á los puertos europeos, los cuales están dando buenos resultados, y es probable que las exportaciones de dicha fruta que se hacen por Puerto Limón en breve alcancen la cifra de 10,000,000 de racimos anualmente.

POBLACIÓN DE LA REPÚBLICA EL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1906.

El 15 de marzo de 1907 el Departamento Nacional de Estadística de Costa Rica publicó el censo de población de la República hasta el 31 de diciembre de 1906. Según dicho censo, el número total de habitantes en aquella fecha ascendía á 341,590.

CUBA.

COMUNICACIÓN POR EL TELÉGRAFO SIN HILOS CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El 13 de septiembre de 1907 el Gobierno expidió un decreto anunciando un contrato celebrado con la *United Fruit Company* por virtud del cual á dicha compañía se le concede el derecho de establecer y poner en operación un estación de telégrafo sin hilos en el Cabo de San Antonio, extremidad occidental de Cuba.

Á la expresada compañía se le autoriza, principalmente, para establecer conexiones con otras estaciones de telégrafo sin hilos que constituyen el sistema y con los buques de la compañía que estén provistos de instalaciones de telégrafo sin hilos. La compañía se obliga á recibir y transmitir gratuitamente en la estación los mensajes que se envían á los buques, así como los que se reciban de ellos, cuando estos últimos pertenezcan á los Gobiernos de Cuba y de los Estados Unidos, y á hacer otro tanto respecto de las estaciones navales y militares de los Estados Unidos.

En recompensa por este servicio el Gobierno Cubano transmitirá gratuitamente por sus líneas telegráficas terrestres todos los partes de la compañía desde Pinar del Río á las haciendas que posee y explota en Banes y en Preston.

La *United Fruit Company* tiene como sesenta buques que se emplean en el transporte de frutas de las Antillas y de la América Central á los Estados Unidos, y por lo general hay cuarenta de sus buques á la vez en el Mar Caribe y en el Golfo de México.

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MUELLE EN LA HABANA DONDE DESEMBARCAN LOS PASAJEROS PROCEDENTES DEL EXTRANJERO.

Se intenta aumentar el sistema de tal manera que todos los buques de la compañía siempre estén al alcance de alguna estación terrestre. En la actualidad se está construyendo una estación de telégrafo sin hilos en la isla de Swan, en la costa hondureña, como á 260 millas al sur del Cabo de San Antonio, que ha de conectar completamente las varias estaciones terrestres.

Los Estados Unidos, Costa Rica, Nicaragua y Panamá han concedido las licencias necesarias para llevar á cabo la completa instalación de estaciones de telégrafo sin hilos.

ADHESIÓN Á LA CONVENCION DE LA HAYA DE 1899.

La "Gaceta Oficial" del 26 de agosto de 1907 contiene el texto de una proclama del Gobernador Provisional MAGOON, dando conocimiento de la adhesión de Cuba á la convención de La Haya del 29 de julio de 1899 para el arreglo pacífico de conflictos internacionales, comúnmente conocida con el nombre de "Convención de Arbitramento."

Este tratado fué aprobado y ratificado en nombre de la República de Cuba por el Gobernador MAGOON el 16 de abril de 1907, y el protocolo de adhesión al mismo fué firmado el 16 de junio de 1907 por los delegados cubanos á la Segunda Conferencia de la Paz en La Haya.

CHILE.

COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN 1906.

La "Estadística Comercial de la República de Chile" correspondiente al año de 1906, que fué publicada en el mes de agosto de 1907, contiene los datos que se dan á continuación relativos al comercio exterior durante el año de 1906, en comparación con el de 1905.

El valor total de las exportaciones ascendió á 271,448,216 pesos, contra 265,209,192 pesos en que se avaluaron las de 1905. Las importaciones ascendieron á 225,265,516 pesos, en comparación con 188,596,418 pesos que sumaron las del año anterior.

Los valores de los principales productos exportados durante los años que se comparan, fueron como sigue:

Afrecho: 1906, 694,159 pesos; 1905, 650,548 pesos. Países principales de destino, Alemania, Gran Bretaña y Bélgica.

Cebada: 1906, 1,085,729 pesos; 1905, 3,339,311 pesos. Países principales de destino, Gran Bretaña, Perú, Bolivia y Alemania.

Harina de trigo: 1906, 633,416 pesos; 1905, 1,041,439 pesos. Principal país de destino, Bolivia.

Pasto aprensado: 1906, 169,173 pesos; 1905, 194,062 pesos. Principal país de destino, Bolivia.

Trigo: 1906, 32,004 pesos; 1905, 1,120,952 pesos. Principal país de destino, Brasil.

Vinos: 1906, 37,400 pesos; 1905, 158,439 pesos. Países principales de destino, Bolivia y República Argentina.

Borato de cal: 1906, 3,981,026 pesos; 1905, 2,611,350 pesos. Países principales de destino, Alemania, Gran Bretaña y Francia.

Cobre en barras: 1906, 19,750,936 pesos; 1905, 19,075,605 pesos. Países principales de destino, Gran Bretaña, Estados Unidos y Francia.

Cobre en ejes: 1906, 2,560,367 pesos; 1905, 1,479,675 pesos. Países principales de destino, Gran Bretaña, Estados Unidos y Francia.

Plata: 1906, 36,154 pesos; 1905, 192,014 pesos.

Yodo: 1906, 4,390,200 pesos; 1905, 7,052,875 pesos.

Salitre: 1906, 217,317,015 pesos; 1905, 184,421,848 pesos.

Lana: 1906, 2,086,419 pesos; 1905, 1,660,692 pesos.

Cera: 1906, 684,810 pesos; 1905, 688,257 pesos; principales países de destino, Gran Bretaña, Francia y los Estados Unidos.

Cueros vacunos: 1906, 937,944 pesos; 1905, 271,257 pesos; país principal de destino, Francia.

Los totales de los artículos principales que se importaron durante los años comparados fueron los siguientes:

Ganado vacuno: 1906, 4,088,515 pesos; 1905, 5,409,495 pesos. País principal de origen, República Argentina.

Azúcar: 1906, 6,057,765 pesos; 1905, 3,443,343 pesos.

Harina de trigo: 1906, 2,264,952 pesos; 1905, 113,127 pesos.

Trigo: 1906, 5,069,533 pesos; 1905, 454,581 pesos.

Carbón de piedra: 1906, 20,308,580 pesos; 1905, 23,581,169 pesos.

Madera de construcción: 1906, 3,477,014 pesos; 1905, 2,151,859 pesos.

CUOTAS DE PRODUCCIÓN Y EXPORTACIÓN DE SALITRE EN 1907-8.

El total de las cuotas de producción y exportación de salitre para el año salitrero comprendido del 1° de abril de 1907 al 31 de marzo de 1908, sobre la base del 30 por ciento de las cuotas iniciales fijadas á cada oficina, es como sigue: Producción, 54,945,864 quintales españoles; exportación, 56,446,924 quintales españoles.

Con el fin de impedir fluctuaciones en los precios del salitre, al principio de cada año salitrero la Asociación Salitrera de Propaganda fija las cuotas que cada oficina puede producir y exportar; la cuota así fijada no puede ser excedida.

RENTAS ADUANERAS EN LOS PRIMEROS SIETE MESES DE 1907.

Las aduanas de la República de Chile recaudaron durante los primeros siete meses de 1907 la suma de 61,034,911.94 pesos, en com-

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CATEDRAL DE SANTO DOMINGO. DÍCESE QUE LOS RESTOS DE COLÓN ESTÁN ENTERRADOS EN ELLA.

paración con 55,057,530.07 pesos que se cobraron en igual período de 1906. La recaudación del mes de julio de 1907 ascendió á 8,533,293.68 pesos, contra 8,956,767.60 del mismo mes del año anterior.

PRIMAS Á LA PESQUERÍA.

Con el fin de fomentar la pesca en las aguas de la República, el Congreso Chileno ha aprobado una ley, promulgada el 24 de junio de 1907, por la cual se concede á los buques de bandera nacional que se ocupen exclusivamente en el ejercicio de la pesquería una prima anual de 15 pesos por cada tonelada de desplazamiento y de 10 pesos por tonelada de peces y mariscos que internen para el consumo del país. El monto total de esta prima no podrá exceder de 200,000 pesos al año; pero si las primas que hubieran de pagarse fueran mayores que la suma indicada, ésta se distribuirá á prorrata del tonelaje total de las naves y del tonelaje de pesca que corresponda á cada embarcación.

Las primas que establece esta ley se pagarán íntegramente por espacio de diez años; en los cinco años siguientes á la expiración de los primeros diez, se pagará un 50 por ciento, y un 25 por ciento en los cinco últimos años.

Para los efectos de la prima de tonelaje de desplazamiento, sólo se tomará en cuenta embarcaciones de 15 á 250 toneladas.

Para la explotación de criaderos de moluseos, el Presidente de la República queda autorizado para dar en arrendamiento hasta por veinte años playas ó partes de mar en secciones que no excedan de 4 hectáreas.

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA.

COMERCIO EXTERIOR DURANTE EL PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1907.

La Oficina de Asuntos Insulares del Departamento de Guerra de los Estados Unidos, se ha servido facilitar á la Oficina Internacional de las Repúblicas Americanas las estadísticas compiladas por el Receptor de las Aduanas Dominicanas, Mr. W. E. PULLIAM, relativas al comercio exterior de la República durante el primer semestre de 1907. Según dichas cifras, el conjunto total del tráfico extranjero durante el período de referencia ascendió á la suma de \$7,054,976, indicándo un aumento de \$983,750 sobre el comercio del semestre primero del año anterior.

Las importaciones se hallan acreditadas con un total de \$2,376,652, contra \$2,064,068 en igual período de 1906; las exportaciones figuran con \$4,678,324, en comparación con \$4,007,158 en los primeros seis meses de 1906.

946 OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

Los países que tomaron parte en este movimiento comercial, y las cantidades que corresponden á cada uno de ellos en las importaciones y exportaciones, fueron los siguientes:

Conjunto del tráfico extranjero.

Paises.	Valor de los primeros seis meses de 1906.	Valor de los primeros seis meses de 1907.	Aumento 1907.	Disminución 1907.
Estados Unidos.....	\$4,000,478	\$4,029,548	\$29,070	.....
Inglaterra.....	282,692	704,453	421,761	.....
Alemania.....	1,285,328	1,379,348	94,020	.....
España.....	332,283	716,965	384,682	.....
Francia.....	48,283	52,481	4,198	.....
Italia.....	32,750	65,742	32,992	.....
Belgica.....	2,231	2,117	.....	114
Cuba.....	29,709	27,203	.....	2,506
Puerto Rico.....	8,713	24,450	15,737	.....
Otros paises.....	48,979	52,669	3,690	.....
Total.....	6,071,226	7,054,976	986,370	2,620

Resumen de las importaciones.

Paises.	Enero 1º de 1906 á junio 30 de 1906.		Enero 1º de 1907 á junio 30 de 1907.	
	Valor de las importaciones.	Tanto por ciento del total.	Valor de las importaciones.	Tanto por ciento del total.
Estados Unidos.....	\$1,160,953	56.3	\$1,326,666	55.8
Inglaterra.....	250,626	12.2	287,950	16.3
Alemania.....	436,105	21.1	386,022	16.2
Francia.....	101,630	4.9	128,303	5.4
España.....	48,283	2.3	49,032	2.1
Italia.....	32,750	1.6	58,226	2.5
Belgica.....	2,231	.1	2,117	.1
Cuba.....	6,197	.3	11,019	.5
Puerto Rico.....	8,713	.4	10,556	.4
Otros paises.....	16,580	.8	16,761	.7
Total.....	2,064,068	100.0	2,376,652	100.0

NOTA.—El valor total de las importaciones de los Estados Unidos incluye la suma de \$176,800 monedas de oro y plata durante los primeros seis meses del año 1906, y \$113,160 durante el correspondiente periodo de 1907.

Resumen de las exportaciones.

Paises.	Enero 1º de 1906 á junio 30 de 1906.		Enero 1º de 1907 á junio 30 de 1907.	
	Valor de las exportaciones.	Tanto por ciento del total.	Valor de las exportaciones.	Tanto por ciento del total.
Estados Unidos.....	\$2,839,525	70.9	\$2,702,882	57.8
Inglaterra.....	32,046	.8	316,503	6.7
Alemania.....	859,223	21.2	993,326	21.2
Francia.....	230,433	5.7	588,662	12.6
España.....	.....	.....	3,449	.1
Italia.....	.....	.....	7,516	.2
Cuba.....	23,512	.6	16,184	.3
Puerto Rico.....	.....	.....	13,894	.3
Otros Paises.....	32,309	.8	35,908	.8
Total.....	4,007,158	100.0	4,678,324	100.0

NOTA.—El valor total de las exportaciones á los Estados Unidos incluye la suma de \$2,241.98 monedas de oro y plata durante los primeros seis meses del año 1906, y \$2,110 durante el correspondiente periodo de 1907.

NUEVA CONSTITUCIÓN DEL ESTADO.

La nueva Constitución de la República Dominicana, aprobada el 14 de junio de 1907, fué promulgada por el Presidente CÁCERES el 9 de septiembre de 1907, y publicada en la "Gaceta Oficial" del 11 del mismo mes.

El Congreso Nacional, en decreto de fecha 20 de septiembre de 1907, ha declarado la necesidad de la reforma de dicha Constitución en sus artículos 6º y siguientes hasta el 104, inclusive, y los artículos 107 y siguientes hasta el final. Así pues, en otro decreto dictado en la misma fecha, se convoca extraordinariamente la Asamblea Constituyente, que deberá llevar á efecto la indicada reforma. Ambos decretos fueron publicados en la "Gaceta Oficial" del 21 del mismo mes.

EXPOSICIÓN INDUSTRIAL EN SANTO DOMINGO.

En una comunicación dirigida al Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, el Señor FENTON MCCREERY anuncia desde Santo Domingo que el 16 de agosto de 1907 se efectuó la apertura de una Exposición Industrial Dominicana.

En dicha exposición estuvieron representadas todas las Provincias de la República y se demostró un gran interés y entusiasmo en preparar é instalar los objetos que se exhibieron. Dicha exposición se celebró con el exclusivo objeto de mostrar los productos y fábricas del país, y constituye un ejemplo práctico de las magníficas oportunidades que hay en dicho país para llevar á cabo el desarrollo de los grandes recursos que la naturaleza le ha prodigado á manos llenas.

AUTORIZACIÓN DEL EMPRÉSTITO DE VEINTE MILLONES.

La "Gaceta Oficial" de la República Dominicana del día 18 de septiembre de 1907 contiene una ley del Congreso, de fecha 16 del mismo mes, por la cual se autoriza al Poder Ejecutivo para que emita y venda bonos de la República hasta un total que no exceda de \$20,000,000 oro, devengando interés de 5 por ciento anual, pagadero semestralmente, amortizables en cincuenta años, y redimibles, transcurridos diez años, al 102½ por ciento de su valor nominal, requiriendo el pago del 1 por ciento por lo menos al año para su amortización. Estos bonos ó el producto de ellos serán aplicados á los fines indicados en la Convención firmada con los Estados Unidos.

ECUADOR.**LEY DE BANCOS.**

El Congreso de la República del Ecuador decreta la siguiente ley de bancos:

"ARTÍCULO 1º. Los bancos de emisión, circulación y descuento se establecerán en la República con 400,000 sucses de capital suscrito, por lo menos.

“Sólo los bancos que se hubieren establecido ó se establecieren legalmente pueden emitir billetes.

“Prohíbense los vales ó documentos al portador, que no consistan en cheques, esto es, libranzas giradas contra un banco establecido legalmente.

“ART. 2º. El Poder Ejecutivo, de acuerdo con el consejo de Estado, aprobará los estatutos de los bancos que se trate de fundar, si no contravienen á las leyes.

“ART. 3º. Ningún banco podrá empezar sus operaciones antes de tener en caja el 50 por ciento de su capital social en oro sellado de curso legal, y el 10 por ciento en moneda nacional de plata. Este requisito se observará, también, cuando se aumente el capital con que se estableció.

“ART. 4º. Llenados los requisitos exigidos por los artículos anteriores, puede el banco comenzar sus operaciones, conformándose en todo á la presente ley.

“ART. 5º. La emisión de billetes no excederá del duplo del capital suscrito, ni la circulación será mayor que el duplo del valor efectivo en oro que tenga el banco en su caja, como reserva en numerario. Si en la circulación hubiere exceso, el juez de comercio ordenará, á solicitud del agente fiscal, que se lo recoja inmediatamente, ó impondrá al banco una multa igual á la décima parte del exceso, sin perjuicio de la responsabilidad civil ó criminal en que incurra el gerente.

“ART. 6º. No se podrá emitir billetes cuyo valor sea menor de 1 sucre.

“ART. 7º. Presentado un billete al banco que lo emitió, para que sea cambiado por metálico, lo será precisamente, sin excusa ni reserva alguna, bajo la multa á que se refiere el artículo 25. Ningún portador de billetes podrá ser obligado á recibir en moneda de plata ó de vellón mayor cantidad que la determinada por la ley sobre monedas, sea que fuere la cantidad que quisiere cambiar en metálico. Las sucursales estarán obligadas á cambiar en numerario, hasta la concurrencia de su capital, los billetes que el banco principal hubiere emitido.

“ART. 8º. Para el canje de billetes por moneda metálica, cada banco señalará, de acuerdo con el gobernador, cuatro horas diarias, por lo menos; fijando un aviso permanente en las puertas del establecimiento, para conocimiento del público.

“ART. 9º. Todo accionista es responsable con el valor de su acción ó acciones por las operaciones del banco.

“ART. 10. Las acciones de los bancos son indivisibles, y no podrán pertenecer sino á una sola persona.

“ART. 11. Las acciones no podrán servir como prenda para seguridad de ningún contrato que celebre con el mismo banco.

"ART. 12. Las acciones no son embargables sino conforme al Código de Comercio.

"ART. 13. Todo accionista moroso en el pago del dividendo que le corresponda, satisfará, como multa, el 3 por ciento mensual de la suma á que el dividendo monte, siempre que la mora no pase de tres meses. Transcurrido este plazo, el banco procederá á vender en subasta, ante el juez de comercio, la acción del deudor moroso, sin más trámite que el de notificar previamente al deudor.

"ART. 14. Los bancos de emisión se limitarán á las siguientes operaciones:

"1ª. Compra ó venta de plata ú oro, acuñados ó en barras;

"2ª. Giros de letras de cambio;

"3ª. Descuento de letras de cambio ó de otros títulos de crédito;

"4ª. Depósitos;

"5ª. Préstamos; y

"6ª. Adelantos sobre mercaderías en depósito ó sobre cargamentos asegurados.

"ART. 15. Prohíbese en especial á los bancos:

"1º. Tomar parte, directa ó indirecta, en empresas industriales y aun mercantiles no comprendidas en las enumeradas en el artículo precedente.

"2º. Conservar, sin permiso del Congreso, los bienes raíces que hubieren adquirido y que no sean estrictamente necesarios para la fundación ó servicio del establecimiento. Sin ese permiso, estarán obligados á vender dichos bienes dentro de los cuatro años siguientes al día en que se hubiere inscrito el título de propiedad.

"3º. Hacer figurar en el activo créditos contra personas cuya insolvencia sea notoria.

"ART. 16. Si un banco contraviene á la prohibición puntualizada en el No. 2 del artículo anterior, pagará una multa igual á la décima parte del valor de los bienes raíces cuya propiedad se conserve indebidamente; y el agente fiscal perseguirá al gerente, ante el juez de comercio, para que, en el acto, se proceda á vender en subasta los sobredichos bienes.

"ART. 17. Los gerentes y demás empleados de un banco no pueden ser sus deudores, directa ni subsidiariamente, ni pueden negociar con él.

"ART. 18. Todo banco tendrá un fondo de reserva, al cual se destinará una parte de las utilidades, que no podrá ser menor del 30 por ciento de la ganancia líquida anual, después de deducido el dividendo del 12 por ciento sobre su capital pagado. Este fondo se destina:

"1º. Á reparar las pérdidas del capital social; y

"1º. Á completar, cuando el gerente lo crea conveniente, el dividendo del 12 por ciento anual sobre las cuotas entregadas por los accionistas.

"ART. 19. El gerente ó gerentes son los representantes legales de los bancos.

"ART. 20. El gerente será elegido por la junta general, conforme á los estatutos; y para justificar que lo es, le bastará presentar el oficio que, suscrito por el presidente y secretario de la junta general, le anuncie la elección. Cuando el gerente otorgare escrituras públicas ú otros documentos auténticos, bastará que se inserte literalmente el contenido del sobredicho oficio.

"ART. 21. Los bancos estarán bajo la inspección y dirección de sus gerentes nombrados en conformidad con lo que prevengan los estatutos.

"ART. 22. Los gerentes del banco cuidarán de que no se infrinja esta ley ni los estatutos del establecimiento.

"ART. 23. Los gerentes del banco son responsables por fraude, inaptitud ó mala conducta en el desempeño de su cargo, así como por las operaciones que hicieren contrarias á esta ley ó á los estatutos del establecimiento; debiendo, por consiguiente, indemnizar los perjuicios que causaron al banco y responder de las obligaciones que, por estos actos, se hubiesen contraído para con el público.

"ART. 24. El gerente del banco dirigirá al Gobierno, en los quince primeros días de cada mes, el estado del establecimiento en el mes precedente, para que se publique en el periódico oficial; y en los primeros treinta días de cada año, un resumen de las operaciones y de la distribución de los dividendos del año vencido. Por cada día de demora en el cumplimiento del deber prescrito en el inciso anterior, se impondrá al gerente ó gerentes una multa de 25 sucres. Si no se presentasen los documentos predichos ó se descubriese falsedad en ellos, se pondrá el banco en inmediata liquidación, sin perjuicio de pagar una multa de 100 á 1,000 sucres por cada caso de contravención.

"ART. 25. El Poder Ejecutivo, por medio de sus agentes ó de un comisionado especial, vigilará las operaciones de los bancos, y, en particular, la emisión y cambio de billetes. Si resultase que se ha infringido esta ley ó los estatutos, dispondrá que el agente fiscal persiga la infracción ante el juez de comercio, el cual podrá imponer al gerente ó gerentes una multa de 80 á 400 sucres. Si el fiscal juzgare que se ha incurrido en responsabilidad criminal, perseguirá la infracción ante el juez letrado.

"ART. 26. Toda reforma de los estatutos se pondrá en conocimiento del Poder Ejecutivo, el cual podrá aprobarla, con acuerdo del consejo de Estado, si no se contraviniere á la ley.

"ART. 27. Los bancos establecidos, y que en adelante se establecieren, pueden poner sucursales y agencias donde les convenga, bajo la vigilancia y responsabilidad de los establecimientos principales.

"ART. 28. Los bancos pagarán la contribución general sobre el monto total de su emisión.

"ART. 29. Todas las multas de que habla esta ley, se impondrán por el juez de comercio, quien dará aviso inmediato al tesorero de hacienda, para su recaudación.

"ART. 30. Toda demanda contra el banco, ó de éste contra sus deudores, sobre operaciones bancarias, será ventilada ante el juez consular de comercio, en conformidad con las leyes mercantiles.

"ART. 31. Las disposiciones del Código de Comercio se aplicarán en todo lo que no estuviera expresamente determinado por la presente ley.

"ART. 32. Las multas de que hablan los artículos 24 y 25 serán para fondos de la Hacienda pública.

"ART. 33. Los bancos que existen actualmente quedan sujetos á todas las disposiciones de esta ley, exceptuándose lo dispuesto en el artículo 2.

"ART. 34. Quedan derogadas todas las leyes sobre bancos de emisión, aunque no fueren contrarias á la presente.

"Dado en Quito, Capital de la República, á cinco de noviembre de mil ochocientos noventa y ocho.

"El Presidente de la Cámara del Senado,

"M. A. LARREA.

"El Presidente de la Cámara de Diputados,

"JOSÉ LUIS TAMAYO.

"El Secretario de la Cámara del Senado,

"ENRIQUE BUSTAMANTE L.

"El Secretario de la Cámara de Diputados,

"ANDRÉS DUARTE CUEVA.

"Palacio de Gobierno, en Quito, á 12 de septiembre de 1899. Ejecútese.

"El Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores,

"ELOY ALFARO.

"Encargado del Despacho de Hacienda,

"J. PERALTA."

CARGA Y DESCARGA DE MERCANCÍAS EN GUAYAQUIL.

El Presidente ALFARO, de la República del Ecuador, ha dispuesto, en decreto ejecutivo de fecha 30 de agosto de 1907, que la carga y descarga de mercancías en el puerto de Guayaquil la haga el Gobierno, el cual podrá efectuarlo por sí ó por delegación. Este decreto podrá hacerse extensivo á los demás puertos de la República cuando el Ejecutivo lo crea necesario.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 894 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América Latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Comercio y Trabajo de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de agosto de 1907, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los ocho meses que terminaron en agosto de 1907, comparados con igual período de 1906. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Comercio y Trabajo hasta el 20 del mes siguiente, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión; de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de agosto, por ejemplo, no se publican hasta octubre.

COMERCIO EXTRANJERO EN AGOSTO DE 1907.

La estadística del comercio extranjero de los Estados Unidos correspondiente á los ocho meses que terminaron en agosto de 1907, muestra un aumento de \$94,333,400 en el valor de las exportaciones, y un aumento de \$256,168,398 en el de las importaciones, en comparación con el período correspondiente del año anterior. Dos terceras partes del aumento en el valor de las exportaciones se atribuye al aumento en las ventas de algodón en rama que los Estados Unidos han hecho al extranjero. El aumento en el valor de las importaciones se distribuye por igual bajo las varias denominaciones que se han aplicado á las compras extranjeras, pero el mayor de todos se advierte en la denominación de "Materia prima para usarse en las fábricas," que también representa un 33.58 por ciento del total de las importaciones que los Estados Unidos han hecho de otros países.

Es muy pequeño el cambio proporcional que se advierte en la distribución del comercio de exportación entre los países del mundo. Por ejemplo, las ventas que se le hicieron al Canadá y que durante los ocho primeros meses de 1906 arrojan un aumento de \$18,000,000, respecto del período correspondiente de 1905, muestran un aumento semejante durante los ocho primeros meses del año actual. El comercio de exportación con México y Cuba sostiene su proporción de aumento anual, y lo propio puede decirse respecto de los varios países de la América del Sur. Las cifras detalladas son las siguientes:

	Ocho meses que terminaron en agosto—	
	1906.	1907.
IMPORTACIONES.		
Mercancías libres de derechos ó imponibles:		
Substancias alimenticias en bruto y animales para el consumo.....	\$80,304,711	899,867,396
Substancias alimenticias parcial ó enteramente elaboradas.....	92,629,099	112,417,983
Materia prima para usarse en las fábricas.....	294,617,460	335,231,723
Artefactos para usarse otra vez en las fábricas.....	159,404,274	192,058,476
Artículos manufacturados listos para el consumo.....	212,794,787	253,890,329
Artículos diversos.....	5,898,463	7,251,285
Total de importaciones de mercancías.....	845,648,794	1,001,817,192
Derechos recaudados en las aduanas.....	205,057,485	226,976,322
EXPORTACIONES.		
Productos domésticos:		
Substancias alimenticias en bruto y animales por el consumo.....	114,184,807	107,309,500
Substancias alimenticias parcial ó enteramente elaboradas.....	227,501,301	252,713,180
Materia prima para usarse en las fábricas.....	255,131,775	315,663,888
Artefactos para usarse otra vez en las fábricas.....	162,722,161	177,703,059
Artículos manufacturados listos para el consumo.....	317,252,297	337,907,693
Artículos diversos.....	5,156,747	4,892,168
Total de productos domésticos.....	1,081,949,088	1,176,282,488
Productos extranjeros:		
Libres de derechos.....	8,977,377	10,544,764
Imponibles.....	8,411,005	9,443,102
Total de productos extranjeros.....	17,388,382	19,987,866
Total de exportaciones.....	1,099,337,470	1,196,270,354

LA COSECHA DE ALGODÓN DE 1906-7.

Según el informe anual del Secretario de la Bolsa de Algodón de Nueva Orleans, la cosecha de algodón de los Estados Unidos en la estación correspondiente á 1906-7, ascendió á un total de 13,510,982 de pacas, ó sea un aumento de 2,164,994 de pacas, respecto del año anterior, mostrándose así una disminución de 54,903 pacas respecto de la producción de 1904-5. El valor de la cosecha se calcula en \$716,352,265, contra \$641,270,435, en 1905-6.

Las importaciones de algodón extranjero durante el año de referencia ascendieron á 110,076,982 libras, de las cuales se exportaron 16,547,379 libras, dejando así en el país una cantidad neta de 93,529,603 libras, que equivalen á 181,604 pacas.

IMPORTACIONES HECHAS DE MÉXICO.

El expresado informe hace constar que el rasgo más interesante del comercio del año fué el aumento en la producción de algodón de México, gracias á lo cual no sólo se obtuvo el abastecimiento necesario para los molinos ó fábricas domésticas, sino que también quedó un sobrante para la exportación.

Durante el año de referencia los embarques que se hicieron de los Estados Unidos con destino á México, quedaron reducidos á 843 pacas, contra 24,620 en 1906, y 68,487 pacas en el año anterior.

Por otra parte, Galveston recibió de México 26,791 pacas, y Nueva Orleans recibió 151 pacas, todas las cuales arrojan un total de 26,942 pacas.

GUATEMALA.

COMERCIO EXTRANJERO EN 1906.

En un informe que el Ministro inglés en Guatemala le envió á su Gobierno, hace constar que el valor, según factura, de las mercancías que se importaron á dicha República en el año de 1906, ascendió á \$5,745,321, pero con la adición de un 25 por ciento, que comprende el costo de embalaje, flete, seguros y comisiones, las cifras oficiales fijan la cantidad en \$7,220,759. El valor de las exportaciones se calcula en \$7,136,271, en oro.

Como un 50 por ciento de las importaciones á dicha República procedieron de los Estados Unidos; un 25 por ciento procedieron del Reino Unido, y la mayor parte del resto procedieron de Alemania.

El café figura en primera línea en la lista de los artículos exportados, y la mayor parte de dicho producto se exportó á Alemania. También se exportaron goma, maderas, cueros y bananos, principalmente de los puertos del Mar Caribe.

Dicho Ministro anuncia, además, que la ruta que hasta ahora se ha usado para efectuar el transporte de mercancías procedentes de Europa ó de la parte oriental de los Estados Unidos á la ciudad de Guatemala ha sido por Colón y el Istmo de Panamá, siempre que se ha tratado de las clases superiores de mercancías, y por la larga ruta marítima del Estrecho de Magallanes, cuando se ha tratado de mercancías inferiores. La mayor parte del transporte de mercancías en el Pacífico se efectúa por los vapores de la "Pacific Mail Company" (Compañía de Vapores Correos del Pacífico) debiendo advertirse que los puertos principales son San José y Champerico. Por el lado del Atlántico hay dos puertos excelentes y bien protegidos, á saber: Puerto Barrios y Livingston, los cuales, sin embargo, hasta ahora no tienen una comunicación adecuada con el interior.

Hubo una merma muy notable en las importaciones de harinas, en comparación con el año anterior. En 1905 el valor total de las importaciones de maíz ascendió á cerea de \$400,000, en tanto que en 1906, el valor de dichas importaciones sólo ascendió á un poco más de \$10,000. Esto fué debido al aumento del área cultivada de este grano.

En 1906, de los Estados Unidos se importaron materiales de ferrocarril por valor de cerea de \$500,000, para el uso de las compañías americanas que hay en la República, y las importaciones de harina del mismo origen se evaluaron en \$400,000. En la lista de importaciones hechas de los Estados Unidos figuran también los siguientes artículos: Sebo, por valor de \$65,000; carbón de piedra, por valor de \$65,000; manteca, \$57,000; cuero curtido, \$45,000; maderas, \$40,000; conservas de todas clases, \$53,000; tubos de hierro, \$22,000;

armazones para edificios de hierro, \$17,000; petróleo, \$28,000; papas, \$16,000, y máquinas de coser, \$15,000.

La renta de aduanas en 1906 ascendió á \$1,900,000, contra \$1,970,000 en el año anterior.

LOS DELEGADOS Á LA TERCERA CONFERENCIA SANITARIA INTERNACIONAL.

Por conducto de la Legación de Guatemala en Wáshington, á la Oficina Internacional de las Repúblicas Americanas se le ha hecho saber el nombramiento de los Doctores SALVADOR ORTEGA y JOSÉ AZURDIA, como delegados de aquel país, para que tomen parte en las deliberaciones de la Tercera Conferencia Sanitaria Internacional que se ha de celebrar en la Ciudad de México en el mes de diciembre de 1907.

ESTACIÓN DE PISCICULTURA EN EL LAGO DE AMATITLÁN.

Con el fin de fomentar el desarrollo de la piscicultura en la República, el Presidente ESTRADA CABRERA, de Guatemala, expidió el 23 de agosto de 1907 un decreto que dispone el establecimiento en la sección sudeste del Lago de Amatitlán, de una estación de piscicultura. Desde la fecha del decreto y por un término indefinido, queda prohibida en absoluto la pesca en dicha sección del lago. El paso de los peces de una á otra sección será impedido por medio de telas alambradas dispuestas en el desagüe que de la parte sudeste va hacia la noroeste.

HONDURAS.

LA GANADERÍA EN LA REPÚBLICA.

De un artículo escrito por M. DESIRE PECTOR, sobre las condiciones económicas de la República de Honduras, del cual ha publicado una traducción "La Bandera Liberal" de Tegucigalpa, han sido tomado los datos que se publican á continuación, relativos á la riqueza pecuaria del país.

El ganado vacuno constituye una de las riquezas principales de la República. Se cuentan más de 600,000 cabezas, calculándose el valor medio de cada una en 12 pesos. Se exportan al año cerca de 30,000 cabezas con destino á Cuba, Bélíco, América Central, México y los Estados Unidos. Esta exportación aumenta de año en año, variando entre 30 y 50 pesos por cabeza el precio medio del ganado así exportado.

Del ganado caballar existen unas 45,000 cabezas, y su valor medio es de 20 pesos. La exportación de caballos es insignificante.

Existen en el país cerca de 15,000 mulos y mulas. Su valor mínimo es de 50 pesos por cabeza. Se cuenta 1,000 crías por año.

La industria porcina está muy extendida, contándose unos 120,000 puercos, la mayor parte provenientes de Cholouteca. El precio mínimo por cabeza es de 4 pesos. Se destazan 3,000 al mes.

El número de carneros existentes en la República se eleva á 15,000, y su valor medio es de 2 pesos.

MÉXICO.

COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN EL MES DE JUNIO DE 1907 Y DURANTE EL AÑO DE 1906-7.

La Secretaría de Hacienda de México acaba de publicar los datos relativos al comercio exterior de la República en el mes de junio de 1907 y en el año económico de 1906-7, comparados con los correspondientes á los de igual período de 1905-6.

En 1906-7 el valor total del comercio extranjero de la República se calculó en \$481,381,398.85, contra \$491,143,564.32 en el año anterior. Esta disminución de \$9,762,165.47 se atribuye al hecho de que las exportaciones de oro en barras mostraron una disminución de \$8,815,664.16, y las de plata en barra mostraron una disminución de \$2,851.851.63, por haberse necesitado estos metales para la acuñación de la moneda nacional, con arreglo al nuevo sistema monetario.

Mercancías extranjeras, con un valor de \$233,363,388.85 moneda mexicana, fueron importadas, las cuales, comparadas con \$220,004,-755 importadas durante el año fiscal precedente, muestran un aumento de \$13,358,633.85 á favor del año fiscal 1906-7.

Las exportaciones durante el año fiscal de 1906-7 fueron \$248,-018,010 moneda mexicana, una diferencia en contra de \$23,120,799.32 moneda mexicana.

En cuanto á las importaciones, se advierte que los Estados Unidos continúan figurando á la cabeza de las otras naciones, por cuanto suministran al mercado mexicano más mercancías que todas las naciones de Europa juntas. El valor total de mercancías importadas de los Estados Unidos ascendió á \$146,376,585 (en plata), contra \$145,541,633 en el año económico anterior, en tanto que el total de las importaciones de todas las naciones de Europa sólo ascendió á \$83,298,697, distribuidos de la manera siguiente:

	Plata.		Plata.
Alemania.....	\$24, 429, 252	Bélgica.....	\$3, 123, 190
Gran Bretaña.....	23, 592, 923	Italia.....	1, 964, 772
Francia.....	17, 633, 785	Austria-Hungría.....	1, 338, 387
España.....	7, 972, 976	Suiza.....	1, 074, 208

Por la relación que antecede se ve que Alemania es la nación europea de la cual se hacen más importaciones, debiendo advertirse que la Gran Bretaña ocupaba antes este puesto.

Los Estados Unidos continúan siendo la nación que más productos mexicanos compra, por cuanto en 1906-7 le compró productos por valor de \$175,809,123. Después sigue la Gran Bretaña, que compró \$31,874,023; Alemania, que compró \$20,109,664; Francia, \$8,054,972; Bélgica, \$5,308,503, y España, \$2,988,411. Las compras de Francia y España muestran un aumento de \$44,693 y \$787,116, respectivamente, en tanto que las compras de los Estados Unidos á México muestran una merma de \$10,200,928, las de Gran Bretaña muestran una baja de \$9,798,849, las de Alemania una merma de \$413,492, y las de Bélgica de \$1,958,318.

Del total de las exportaciones á la América Latina, evaluadas en \$3,267,906, Cuba compró mercancías por valor de \$2,372,180. Las importaciones de la América Latina á México sólo se valuaron en \$645,607, incluso las Antillas.

El siguiente cuadro muestra el comercio de importación en detalle:

IMPORTACIÓN.

[Valor de factura en moneda mexicana.]

Clasificación según la tarifa de importación.	Junio		Año fiscal—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Materias animales.....	1,549,413.26	1,470,252.83	19,234,180.85	16,319,191.42
Materias vegetales.....	3,436,126.29	3,021,646.77	31,730,755.30	32,574,264.22
Materias minerales.....	7,490,448.12	10,533,762.74	82,871,771.52	90,743,251.67
Tejidos y sus manufacturas.....	2,319,928.30	1,992,588.80	26,498,694.37	22,654,312.72
Productos químicos y farmacéuticos.....	1,013,975.47	728,835.49	9,506,953.39	7,726,364.85
Bebidas espirituosas, fermentadas y naturales.....	741,276.66	617,415.63	7,296,233.52	7,264,826.86
Papel y sus aplicaciones.....	566,632.39	530,105.59	6,027,056.36	5,437,920.47
Máquinas y aparatos.....	2,819,635.28	1,964,900.81	27,735,743.65	20,410,722.73
Vehículos.....	773,916.45	489,260.03	9,000,308.49	4,595,157.58
Armas y explosivos.....	342,017.59	506,304.66	3,907,928.42	4,122,865.80
Diversos.....	995,419.04	809,866.10	9,553,762.98	8,155,876.08
Total importación.....	22,048,788.85	22,724,939.45	243,363,388.85	220,004,755.00

EXPORTACIÓN.

[Valor declarado en moneda mexicana.]

	Junio—		Año fiscal—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Metales preciosos.....	9,193,353.76	12,902,456.28	123,735,504.00	157,095,861.15
Demás artículos.....	10,752,897.00	10,166,611.94	124,282,506.00	114,042,948.17
Total.....	19,946,250.76	23,069,068.22	248,018,010.00	271,138,809.32

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Las exportaciones en detalle son como sigue:

[Valor declarado en moneda mexicana.]

Clasificación según la nomenclatura de exportación.	Junio—		Año fiscal—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
Productos minerales:				
Oro añeado mexicano			29,900.00	240.00
Oro añeado extranjero			10,070.00	4,835.98
Oro en pasta	1,657,471.87	2,021,157.93	18,905,636.10	27,721,310.26
Oro en otras especies	320,483.19	602,540.71	4,928,007.84	3,969,391.14
Total oro	1,977,955.06	2,623,698.64	23,873,713.94	31,695,777.88
Plata añeada mexicana	182,607.00	4,878,816.00	21,521,921.00	49,671,025.00
Plata añeada extranjera	7,840.00	1,769.00	161,829.00	123,453.50
Plata en pasta	6,036,723.43	4,683,381.56	67,191,248.18	66,043,092.81
Plata en otras especies	988,214.27	734,799.68	11,986,791.88	9,562,505.46
Total plata	7,215,384.70	10,278,757.64	93,561,790.66	125,400,083.77
Total oro y plata	9,193,339.76	12,902,456.28	123,735,504.60	157,095,861.65
Antimonio	130,784.00	106,991.00	1,427,421.00	1,039,080.96
Cobre	1,661,033.00	1,373,528.45	28,018,693.10	28,635,897.35
Mármol en bruto	4,350.00	300.00	81,724.00	77,923.00
Plombagina	18,800.00	16,500.00	134,365.00	145,621.51
Plomo	360,955.00	216,756.79	3,644,738.56	4,967,866.23
Zinc	228,453.00	87,071.00	2,010,408.12	336,234.90
Demás productos minerales	47,433.00	1,920.00	1,193,156.42	300,760.80
	11,975,167.76	14,705,532.52	160,246,094.10	192,709,185.09
Productos vegetales:				
Café	598,443.00	677,015.02	7,237,529.34	9,288,623.32
Casahuate, y cortezas y raíces para curtir			8,269.00	21,012.00
Cañaho	869,873.00	444,684.00	6,678,926.00	2,390,425.29
Chicle	59,361.00	164,071.90	2,144,724.00	1,666,523.33
Frijol	59,236.00	25,243.00	862,695.00	716,133.72
Frutas frescas	21,688.00	14,868.40	329,960.43	295,331.20
Garbanzo	799,607.00	825,286.00	4,084,521.00	2,560,822.25
Guayule		9,033.00	61,225.00	117,626.00
Haba		2,147.00	2,550.00	114,257.00
Henequén en rama	2,012,745.00	3,406,782.50	31,440,245.77	29,437,318.70
Ixtle en rama	296,096.00	329,595.00	3,813,176.00	3,667,844.88
Maderas	186,002.00	152,283.49	2,169,778.50	1,881,161.65
Maíz	2,751.00	2,965.00	8,870.80	67,705.15
Palo de moral	15,402.00	16,993.00	94,725.60	93,528.87
Palo de tinte	135,238.00	67,529.00	739,810.12	555,688.39
Rafz de zacaón	185,654.00	155,216.00	1,831,217.60	1,872,757.00
Tabaco en rama	227,566.00	240,684.00	1,894,830.35	2,216,282.00
Vainilla	753,041.00	607,144.00	2,662,266.00	4,157,394.69
Demás productos vegetales	730,441.00	71,374.50	5,745,625.20	1,307,466.88
	6,936,129.00	7,245,244.81	71,810,374.51	62,928,135.51
Productos animales:				
Ganados	125,567.00	222,077.00	1,560,362.60	3,271,837.50
Pielés sin curtir	588,463.00	586,262.70	8,875,091.03	7,882,867.25
Demás productos animales	80,158.00	39,939.65	716,474.99	568,720.48
	794,190.00	848,279.35	11,151,928.62	11,723,425.23
Productos manufacturados:				
Azúcar	8,425.00	428.00	1,164,339.60	674,235.00
Henequén en jarcia	28,191.00	15.00	1,122.00	15.00
Harina y pasta de semilla de algodón, y harinolina		66,118.00	846,280.00	565,700.00
Pielés curtidas	862.00	11,094.00	34,883.00	215,839.00
Sombreros de palma	28,289.00	56,409.00	631,218.80	556,748.20
Tabaco labrado	31,510.00	44,361.00	493,228.60	373,350.59
Demás productos manufacturados	33,358.00	43,888.54	595,422.32	592,573.14
	130,665.00	222,313.54	3,766,493.72	2,978,441.02
Diversos	100,085.00	47,698.00	1,043,269.65	799,621.57

Los países de procedencia fueron como sigue:

	Junio—		Año fiscal—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Europa.....	7,407,406.07	6,424,870.59	84,238,697.15	71,836,309.95
Asia.....	197,653.36	165,219.37	2,253,871.16	1,671,808.63
África.....	18,876.00	2,458.00	234,197.00	46,281.21
América del Norte.....	14,271,311.02	16,084,131.70	116,825,066.34	115,820,032.91
América Central.....	3,921.60	1,738.70	72,965.59	44,093.16
América del Sur.....	120,555.55	19,185.65	385,457.50	219,526.82
Antillas.....	15,446.25	19,968.44	187,185.55	258,077.70
Oceania.....	13,589.00	4,387.00	103,917.36	78,561.02
Total.....	22,018,788.85	22,724,939.45	233,363,388.85	220,004,755.00

Los países de destino de las mercancías exportadas fueron los siguientes:

	Junio—		Año fiscal—	
	1907.	1906.	1906-7.	1905-6.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Europa.....	4,667,437.32	5,580,556.81	68,482,705.06	73,804,232.98
Asia.....	11,906,158.31	17,098,035.11	796.00	.....
América del Norte.....	38,831.00	57,330.00	176,265,802.63	186,218,387.43
América Central.....	5,036.00	5,178.00	790,332.51	1,021,619.59
América del Sur.....	268,471.00	327,948.00	103,391.00	65,573.32
Antillas.....	.....	.....	2,374,180.00	4,028,996.00
Oceania.....	.....	.....	800.00	.....
Total.....	19,946,236.76	23,069,068.22	248,018,610.00	271,138,809.32

MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE DÍAZ EL 16 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1907.

Con motivo de la apertura de la tercera sesión del Vigésimo-tercero Congreso Mexicano, el 16 de septiembre, el Presidente Díaz leyó su mensaje semiannual de costumbre en el cual hizo una relación concienzuda que comprende las condiciones financieras, políticas y económicas que prevalecen en todos los ámbitos de la República.

Después de aludir al espíritu de concordia y buena voluntad que existe entre México y las diferentes naciones de América, el Presidente Díaz dijo que á la consideración del Senado se había sometido, en el último período de sus sesiones, una convención que había sido firmada en la Tercera Conferencia Internacional de Estados Americanos en Río de Janeiro, que prescribe la creación de una comisión internacional de juriconsultos, compuesta de un representante de cada uno de los Estados signatarios, para dictar las proposiciones por códigos de derecho internacional privado y público, á fin de regir las relaciones de las naciones americanas entre sí. Después de haber sido aprobada por el Senado, dicha convención fué ratificada por el Ejecutivo y promulgada oficialmente para su debido cumplimiento. Las otras convenciones que han de ser sometidas á la

consideración del actual congreso, y que tuvieron su origen en la conferencia de Río de Janeiro, prescriben lo siguiente: Una prescribe la renovación, por un término de cinco años, del tratado relativo á reclamaciones y perjuicios pecuniarios, que fué firmado en la Segunda Conferencia Internacional de Estados Americanos celebrada en México, y la otra fija el estado de las personas que, habiendo obtenido carta de naturalización en otros países, regresen á su país natal, con el fin de residir en él. Ambas convenciones tienen por objeto impedir que ocurran choques provocativos entre los Estados signatarios.

El Presidente dice que los trastornos que se relacionan con los obreros, si bien no han terminado aún, por completo, están en vías de arreglarse equitativamente, y que el estado de la salud pública del país es satisfactorio. Las obras de sanidad y de pavimentación en la capital nacional se continúan con actividad, habiéndose construído 7,500 metros de cloacas y 8,000 metros de desagües, en tanto que se han construído más de 18,000 metros cuadrados de pavimento de asfalto, 7,000 metros cuadrados de pavimento de piedra, 3,000 metros cuadrados de cemento, y 1,000 metros cuadrados de aceras de piedra.

El importe de las operaciones anotadas en el Registro Público de la Propiedad de esta capital, ascendió en el primer semestre del año actual á la suma de 242,239,275 pesos, que, comparada con la del primer semestre del año anterior, arroja un aumento de más de diecisiete millones y medio á favor del primero.

La instrucción pública ha progresado constantemente, y en la actualidad la República sostiene 568 escuelas primarias, de las cuales 398 están situadas en el Distrito Federal y 170 en los Territorios. El número de alumnos que concurrieron á dichas escuelas ascendió á 62,686, ó sea un aumento de 3,330 alumnos respecto de los que concurrieron á dichas escuelas el año pasado. Delegados mexicanos concurrieron al Congreso Internacional de Dermatólogos, que se celebró en la ciudad de Nueva York en el mes de septiembre de 1907, y á la Asociación Nacional de Maestros Americanos, que se reunió en Los Angeles en el mes de agosto, y debe mencionarse el hecho de que la referida asociación, por unanimidad de votos, resolvió hacer constar que la concurrencia de los delegados oficiales mexicanos constituye un suceso de primera importancia para las futuras relaciones de las Repúblicas Americanas.

Del mes de enero al mes de junio del año económico de 1907 se expedieron 1,134 títulos de propiedad sobre terrenos baldíos y nacionales, que comprenden una superficie de 381,479 hectáreas.

En el mismo período la Comisión Geográfico-Exploradora situó astronómicamente 39 puntos de importancia para la carta de la República; determinó la altura sobre el nivel del mar de 296 poblados; hizo levantamientos de 8,378 kilómetros de itinerarios topográficos y de ríos; terminó los trabajos de campo para la carta del Estado

de Puebla; imprimió y publicó cuatro hojas del fraccionamiento de la carta general de la República y la mural del Estado de Nuevo León, y construyó y entregó por duplicado en 18 hojas el plano de la línea divisoria, convenida como lindero, entre los Estados de Nuevo León y Tamaulipas, línea que mide 897 kilómetros.

La Comisión Geodésica terminó, por el lado del sur, sus trabajos de precisión para medir el arco meridiano de 98° al oeste de Greenwich en las costas de Oaxaca, y concentró sus elementos en la parte norte, eligiendo vértices en las llanuras de Tamaulipas hasta cerca de la frontera Mexicana con los Estados Unidos, donde sus operaciones se ligarán con las de este último país, según el convenio internacional celebrado con él.

Se han tomado varias medidas con el fin de que la República esté en comunicación con otras partes del mundo culto tomando parte en las exposiciones agrícolas y científicas, y el 1° de julio de 1907 se estableció una nueva Sección de Agricultura como una dependencia del Gobierno Nacional, con el fin de estudiar los asuntos que se relacionan con las industrias pastoral y agrícola y de divulgar los resultados de dichas investigaciones en beneficio de los agricultores del país. Se han organizado compañías extranjeras para llevar á cabo la explotación del guayule y otros arbustos valiosos desde el punto de vista comercial, en tanto que se han hecho concesiones con el fin de desarrollar las industrias marítimas y de utilizar las vías fluviales y marítimas.

En el segundo semestre del año económico próximo pasado se celebraron 20 contratos para el uso y aprovechamiento de las aguas de jurisdicción federal en cantidad de 589,300 litros por segundo, y se expidieron 36 títulos, ya confirmando derechos antiguos ó ya por virtud de nuevas concesiones.

Es digno de mención el creciente desarrollo de la industria minera en el período á que se ha hecho referencia, habiéndose expedido 2,600 nuevos títulos, que comprenden 40,698 pertenencias en el semestre, los cuales, agregados á los del primer semestre del año económico de 1906-7, arrojan un total de 4,600 títulos sobre minas y sobre 71,347 pertenencias mineras.

Del 1° de enero al 30 de junio de 1907 se concedieron 583 patentes de invención, y se registraron 393 marcas de fábrica, 12 avisos y 5 nombres comerciales.

Las obras de puerto en Salina Cruz, Coatzacoalcos y Manzanillo, han progresado de una manera satisfactoria desde el último mensaje presidencial á la fecha.

Los ferrocarriles representan una longitud total de 22,392 kilómetros, y en el primer semestre de 1907 se construyeron 277 kilómetros de líneas sujetas á la jurisdicción federal, y 207 kilómetros en líneas particulares y de los Estados. Los ingresos del Ferrocarril de Tehuantepec muestran un aumento de 265 por ciento, respecto de los

que se anotaron en el semestre correspondiente de 1906. Las exigencias de la carga en las líneas han hecho necesaria la adquisición de 300 nuevos carros, los cuales, agregados á los que se han construido y reparado en los talleres correspondientes, arrojan un total de 1,062 carros de carga. El promedio mensual de mercancías transportadas por esta ruta se calcula en 24,600 toneladas.

Se han celebrado convenciones postales con el Dominio de Canadá, Italia, y la República del Salvador, con el fin de efectuar el cange de giros postales y bultos postales. En el semestre transcurrido de enero á junio del año económico de 1907, los ingresos generales del Departamento de Correos ascendieron á \$2,063,000, que, agregados á la cantidad anotada en el semestre anterior, arroja un total de \$4,018,000 en el año económico de 1906-7. En el semestre al cual se ha hecho referencia, los giros postales internacionales ascendieron á \$2,434,157, y los giros postales domésticos que se expidieron ascendieron á la suma de \$24,100,000 en dicho semestre, y á \$46,480,000 durante el año entero.

La red federal de telégrafos ha tenido un aumento de 1,242 kilómetros, y durante el mismo período fueron abiertas al servicio público seis oficinas telegráficas y una telefónica.

Los mensajes que circularon por dichas líneas en el último año económico excedió en un 8 por ciento al del año anterior, en tanto que los productos tuvieron un aumento de un 11 por ciento.

Se calcula que en el año económico de 1906-7 las rentas federales excedieron en \$20,000,000 á los egresos calculados en el presupuesto. La recaudación hecha de las fuentes del presupuesto normal y los ingresos derivados de la Comisión de Cambios y Moneda ascendió á la suma de \$113,000,000. Los derechos de importación suministraron \$6,000,000, y la renta del timbre suministró \$1,500,000 del aumento respecto del año anterior. Los \$52,000,000 que rindieron los derechos de importación representan justamente el doble de la suma que fué recaudada de la misma fuente en 1901-2.

Á pesar de la escasez de dinero que se siente en el mundo entero y la necesidad que han tenido las instituciones bancarias mexicanas de tomar medidas de precaución, la situación financiera por todos los ámbitos de la República ha mejorado continuamente. La acuñación de nueva moneda que hasta el 1º de abril de 1907 había ascendido á la suma de \$60,000,000 en oro, en el mes de septiembre ya había llegado á \$68,000,000, y la producción de monedas de plata fraccionarias de 22,000,000 pesos subió á 30,000,000 pesos.

Debido al mal estado de los mercados extranjeros todavía no se ha llevado á cabo la consolidación de las propiedades de los ferrocarriles Nacional de México y el Central Mexicano, por más que el Gobierno concedió la autorización necesaria para ello, por decreto de 6 de julio de 1907.

El 21 de agosto de 1907 el Gobierno de México tomó una resolución final respecto á su adhesión á la Convención de Ginebra.

EL TRIGO ARGENTINO EN LA REPÚBLICA.

Dícese que se ha hecho un embarque de ensayo de trigo de la Argentina á México, que consistió de 5,000 toneladas. Dicho embarque fué recibido en el puerto de Tampico, y su destino final fué Monterey, y si da buenos resultados, se intenta establecer un servicio de importación directo entre Río de la Plata y Monterey.

EXPOSICIÓN MEXICANA EN LONDRES.

El periódico intitulado el "Mexican Herald," en su edición correspondiente al 11 de septiembre de 1907, anuncia que los directores del Palacio de Cristal, de Londres, intentan autorizar y estimular una exhibición de productos mexicanos que se ha de celebrar en dicha ciudad de mayo á octubre de 1908.

Ya se ha hecho una invitación al Presidente Díaz, con el fin de que le preste su ayuda y de que el Gobierno tome parte en la expresada exposición, la cual proporcionará la oportunidad demostrar á la Gran Bretaña y á Europa el reciente notable desarrollo ferrocarrilero, industrial, minero y en otros ramos de la República Mexicana.

BASE DE LOS IMPUESTOS DE TIMBRE Y ADUANAS EN OCTUBRE DE 1907.

La circular mensual publicada por el Departamento de Hacienda de México anuncia que el precio legal por kilogramo de plata pura durante el mes de octubre de 1907 será de \$44.41, con arreglo á los cálculos prescritos en el decreto de 25 de marzo de 1905. Este precio servirá de base para el pago de impuestos de timbre y derechos de aduana en toda la República cuando se use la moneda de plata mexicana.

FERROCARRILES QUE ESTÁN BAJO EL DOMINIO DEL GOBIERNO.

En virtud de la fusión de ferrocarriles que se ha efectuado recientemente en la República de México, de acuerdo con la ley del Congreso del 26 de diciembre de 1906, y del decreto del Presidente Díaz, fechado el 6 de julio de 1907, cuyos textos fueron publicados en el BOLETÍN de agosto de 1907, el Gobierno ejerce dominio absoluto sobre las líneas que á continuación se mencionan, con sus respectivos kilómetros:

	Kilómetros.
Central Mexicano, incluyendo la línea de Coahuila y el Pacífico	6,004
Nacional de México	3,100
Internacional Mexicano	1,683
Interoceánico	1,184
Hidalgo y Noreste.....	244
Total	12,215

El Internacional y el Interoceánico están administrados por el Nacional, así como también el Ferrocarril de Hidalgo.

Además de estas líneas, el Gobierno ejerce dominio sobre el Ferrocarril Nacional de Tehuantepec, que une el Atlántico y el Pacífico y cuya extensión es de 304 kilómetros, y sobre el Ferrocarril de Veracruz y el Pacífico, de Santa Lucrecia, en la línea de Tehuantepec, á Córdoba, con 327 kilómetros de extensión, y de Tierra Blanca, en esta línea, á Veracruz, con 100 kilómetros; todos los cuales hacen un total de 731 kilómetros, los que, sumados al nuevo sistema consolidado, dan al Gobierno absoluto dominio sobre 12,946 kilómetros de los ferrocarriles de la República.

EXPLOTACIÓN DE GUANO EN VARIAS ISLAS DEL GOLFO DE MÉXICO.

El "Diario Oficial" de México, del 21 de septiembre de 1907, publica el texto de un contrato celebrado entre el Gobierno y el Señor AURELIO CADENA Y MARÍN, el 13 del mismo mes, para la explotación de guano en las Islas Aguada ó Puerto Real, Cayo Chelem, Sabancuy, Holbox, Sisal, Xamachtun, Tecchal, Temalcab, Triángulos y Blanca, en el Golfo de México. El concesionario pagará al Gobierno la suma de 75 centavos por cada tonelada de guano que extraiga, pagando además en la aduana respectiva los derechos arancelarios por la cantidad de guano que desee exportar. El período de esta concesión es de diez años. Los trabajos de exploración deberán comenzar dentro de seis meses á contar desde la fecha de la promulgación del contrato, y los de explotación á los seis meses siguientes á aquéllos.

Para garantizar el cumplimiento de las obligaciones impuestas, el concesionario ha hecho un depósito de 3,000 pesos en bonos de la deuda nacional consolidada.

PANAMÁ.

ESTADO DEL COMERCIO EN BOCAS DEL TORO.

Según informes que el Señor JAMES C. KELLOGG, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Colón, le ha remitido al Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, el valor de las importaciones hechas á Bocas del Toro durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1907 ascendió á \$968,409, ó sea un aumento de \$197,335 respecto del año anterior, al paso que el valor de las exportaciones sólo ascendió á \$839,037, ó sea una disminución de \$590,850 en el último período.

Los bananos constituyeron la parte principal de las exportaciones, habiéndose exportado 3,212,504 racimos, evaluados en \$803,126. Á

este producto principal sigue el carey, por valor de \$13,460; la zarzaparrilla, \$11,891; goma, \$6,908, y el cacao, \$1,666, en el orden mencionado. Los bananos se embarcaron para Nueva Orleans, en tanto que los otros productos se remitieron mayormente á Europa. Se intenta extender el comercio de bananos á los mercados europeos.

La mayor parte de las mercancías importadas procedieron de los Estados Unidos, representadas principalmente por los materiales para ferrocarriles.

El Cónsul KELLOGG llama la atención hacia el hecho de que si bien es verdad que todos los negocios de exportación del expresado puerto se hicieron prácticamente con los Estados Unidos, no es menos cierto que todos los embarques se hicieron en buques ingleses ó noruegos. Á fin de hacerle frente al comercio europeo en el año entrante, la Línea Americana de Hamburgo está construyendo vapores que tendrán aparatos refrigeradores, con el fin de conservar en buen estado los cargamentos de bananos.

La industria de bananos, en la cual se ocupan los habitantes de este distrito, tiene en operación 175 millas de ferrocarril para el transporte de sus productos, y 75 millas en vías de construcción.

En este transporte se emplean carros de plataforma ordinarios y locomotoras de poco peso, debiendo agregarse que la mayor parte del material rodante y otros utensilios se importan de los Estados Unidos.

ESTABLECIMIENTO DE UNA FÁBRICA DE CERVEZA.

La "Gaceta Oficial" de Panamá, del 9 de agosto de 1907, contiene el texto del contrato celebrado el 8 del mismo mes entre el Gobierno y la *Panama Brewing Company* para el establecimiento en la ciudad de Panamá de una gran fábrica de cerveza como las que existen en los Estados Unidos de América. La compañía concesionaria podrá por espacio de venticinco años, importar libre de derechos maquinarias, materiales de construcción, etc., para uso en la fábrica, y pagará al Gobierno, en compensación de las franquicias que le concede, la suma de 75 centavos de balboa por cada barril de cerveza que fabrique. Los trabajos de implantación de la fábrica comenzarán antes de una año después de la fecha en que se firmó el contrato, y deberán quedar terminados dentro de cuatro después de haberse comenzado.

PARAGUAY.

ADHESIÓN Á LAS CONVENCIONES DE LA HAYA.

Por ley del Congreso, de fecha 22 de junio de 1907, el Presidente de la República del Paraguay ha quedado autorizado para adherirse á

la segunda y tercera de las convenciones firmadas en La Haya, referentes á las leyes y usos de la guerra terrestre y para la adopción á la guerra naval de los principios de la Convención de Ginebra de 1864.

IMPUESTO DE TIMBRE SOBRE SEGUROS.

El "Diario Oficial" del Paraguay, de fecha 20 de junio de 1907, publica el texto de una ley del Congreso, aprobada el 11 de junio de 1907, que modifica la ley de 24 de noviembre de 1906 en la parte relativa á los derechos que deben pagar los seguros en general. Las pólizas de seguro en general pagarán sobre las sumas aseguradas un derecho de timbre con arreglo á la siguiente escala: De 100 á 1,000 pesos, 25 centavos; de 1,001 á 2,000 pesos, 50 centavos; de 2,001 á 3,000 pesos, 75 centavos; de 3,001 á 4,000 pesos, 1 peso, y así sucesivamente en igual proporeción á razón de 25 centavos por cada 1,000 pesos, ó fracción de esta cantidad. Además, pagarán sobre el importe del premio un derecho de timbre de por ciento, calculándose las fracciones de 5 pesos como íntegras. Los seguros contra incendios por más de un año pagarán el doble de los derechos que fija esta ley. Las polizas de seguros fluviales y marítimos que no especifican cantidad, pagarán un derecho de timbre de 10 pesos por cada ejemplar.

Las pólizas de seguro contra la vida y accidentes pagarán la mitad de los derechos establecidos. Quedan libres de todo derecho las pólizas de seguro contra el granizo y otros riesgos agrícolas.

Las pólizas expedidas en el extranjero, para tener fuerza legal en el país, deberán pagar el doble de los derechos prescritos. Las pólizas de reaseguro en general pagarán la mitad de los derechos establecidos.

COLONIZACIÓN EN VILLA DEL ROSARIO.

El Congreso de la República del Paraguay aprobó el 27 de mayo de 1907 un decreto, publicado en el "Diario Oficial" del 1 de junio de 1907, que autoriza al Poder Ejecutivo para conceder gratuitamente á *The South American Lumber Company* 22,500 hectáreas de tierra de la Colonia Trinaeria en Villa del Rosario para los fines siguientes: El Ejecutivo otorgará escritura de transferencia á favor de la mencionada Compañía de 1,875 hectáreas para cada grupo de 25 familias que instale en ellas, pero con la condición de que ella, á su vez, escrituraré á favor de cada familia un lote no menor de 25 hectáreas. La compañía concesionaria estará obligada á establecer, dentro de los dos primeros años de la concesión y en la colonia, un aserradero á vapor, un taller mecánico, y otro para la construcción de muebles, y vehículos; á construir, dentro de los tres primeros años, un ferrocarril, á vapor ó eléctrico, desde la colonia hasta el Puerto de Rosario ó cualquier otro punto que más convenga sobre el Río Paraguay; á desmontar, dentro de los cuatro primeros años, 1,875 hectáreas de montes, y las dedicará exclusivamente á la agricultura; los campos

serán destinados á la cría de animales finos, vacunos y yeguarizos. Habilitada para la agricultura estas primeras 1,875 hectáreas, el Gobierno le otorgará la escritura de transferencia definitiva, siempre que hayan sido instaladas las 25 familias. Á los ocho años de la concesión quedarán desmontados otras 1,875 hectáreas y habilitadas para la agricultura. Si la compañía tiene instaladas 200 familias, se le otorgará la transferencia definitiva de las 20,625 hectáreas restantes. La compañía levantará los planos para una ciudad, y construirá los edificios necesarios para escuelas, iglesias, colegios, correos y otros servicios, dentro del plazo de ocho años.

Todas las familias deben pertenecer á la raza blanca europea. Para garantizar el cumplimiento de las condiciones de la concesión, la compañía ha hecho un depósito de \$5,000 oro.

IMPORTACIÓN LIBRE DE AUTOMÓVILES Y CARRUAJES.

Con fecha 18 de junio de 1907, el Congreso Paraguayo aprobó una ley que exonera de todo derecho de importación y por el término de dos años, desde su promulgación, los automóviles y carruajes que se introduzcan en la República.

PERÚ.

EL COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN EL PRIMER SEMESTRE DE 1906.

El "Boletín de Estadística Comercial," publicado por la Superintendencia General de Aduanas de la República del Perú, en su número correspondiente al mes de abril de 1907, contiene las cifras relativas al comercio del país durante el primer semestre de 1906, en comparación con las de igual período de 1905.

Las importaciones durante el período de referencia ascendieron á un total de £2,492,710 2s. 72c., en comparación con £2,032,026 66c. en igual período de 1905; las exportaciones sumaron la cantidad de £2,800,017 8s. 72c., contra £2,522,024 2s. 14c., en 1905. Los aumentos á favor del primer semestre de 1906 son por lo tanto: Importaciones, £26,394 66c.; exportaciones, £94,303 6s. 14c.

El origen de las importaciones fué como sigue:

	Primer semestre de—			
	1906.		1905.	
	£	s. c.	£	s. c.
América.....	748,832	6 37	525,402	0 32
Europa.....	1,509,394	1 69	1,375,651	4 98
Asia.....	88,821	5 76	57,137	3 64
Australia.....	145,661	8 90	73,835	1 72
Total.....	2,492,710	2 72	2,032,026	0 66

Los principales productos importados durante los seis primeros meses de 1906 fueron: Tejidos de algodón, £317,369 33c.; minerales, metales y sus aleaciones, £480,716 2s. 15c.; maquinaria y sus útiles, £115,876 1s. 19c.; carbón, £106,472 3s. 96c.; trigo en grano, £129,623 3s. 62c., y tejidos de lana, £132,449 1s. 61c.

El destino de las exportaciones durante los períodos comparados fué el siguiente:

	Primer semestre de—					
	1906.			1905.		
	£	s.	c.	£	s.	c.
América.....	1,215,276	1	69	766,033	0	27
Europa.....	1,572,338	2	03	1,755,688	8	84
Asia.....	12,383	5	00	302	3	03
Total.....	2,800,017	8	72	2,522,024	2	14

Los principales productos exportados durante el semestre de que se trata fueron los siguientes: Azúcar, £931,452 5s. 33c.; minerales, metales y sus aleaciones, £513,228 2s. 82c.; goma y resina, £252,201 4s. 22c.; algodón, £168,402 7s. 29c., y guano, £88,004.

SALVADOR.

NEGOCIACIÓN DE UN EMPRÉSTITO.

En virtud de la autorización que le ha concedido el Decreto Legislativo de 2 de mayo de 1907, el Presidente FIGUEROA, de la República de El Salvador, ha ordenado al Cónsul General en Inglaterra, con fecha 24 de agosto de 1907, que negocie y contrate en Londres, ó en cualquiera otra plaza europea, un empréstito, por la suma de \$5,000,000 oro.

RECARGO SOBRE LA IMPORTACIÓN DE CIERTAS MATERIAS PRIMAS.

Con fecha 16 de agosto de 1907, el Gobierno de la República de El Salvador expidió un acuerdo que dispone que las aduanas cobren á las materias primas para velas esteáricas un aforo extra de 2 centavos por cada kilogramo de peso bruto; á las materias primas para fósforos un recargo de 1 centavo por cada kilogramo, peso bruto. Las fábricas de jabón de primera clase pagarán un impuesto adicional de 100 pesos mensuales, y las de segunda 50 pesos mensuales.

URUGUAY.

ESTADÍSTICA DEL DESARROLLO DEL COMERCIO EXTRANJERO.

En el volumen I del "Anuario Estadístico del Uruguay," la Oficina de Estadística de la República proporciona datos muy valiosos para todas las personas que se interesen en el desarrollo comercial y económico de dicho país.

Los datos estadísticos comerciales que se suministran sólo alcanzan hasta la terminación de 1905, en el cual el valor total de las importaciones ascendió á \$30,778,000, en tanto que el de las exportaciones aseendió á \$30,865,000.

La proporción del comercio correspondiente á los principales países que tomaron parte en él en los años de 1903 hasta 1905, fué la siguiente:

Países.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	<i>Por ciento.</i>	<i>Por ciento.</i>	<i>Por ciento.</i>
Reino Unido.....	16.42	15.91	15.83
Alemania.....	13.29	12.99	12.06
República Argentina.....	15.19	15.54	16.92
Bélgica.....	13.03	13.09	12.26
Brasil.....	10.78	10.84	7.78
España.....	3.15	3.22	3.36
Estados Unidos.....	6.18	6.89	8.18
Francia.....	13.93	14.40	14.59
Italia.....	5.38	4.82	5.73

La tabla que anteede muestra que la mayor parte del comercio extranjero del país se divide entre la Gran Bretaña, Francia, Alemania y Bélgica, ocupando el Brasil, los Estados Unidos é Italia un puesto secundario.

La siguiente tabla muestra la proporción de las importaciones y exportaciones respectivamente, de los expresados países durante los dos últimos años á los cuales se refieren los datos estadísticos que se citan:

Países.	Importaciones.		Exportaciones.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	<i>Por ciento.</i>	<i>Por ciento.</i>	<i>Por ciento.</i>	<i>Por ciento.</i>
Reino Unido.....	23.21	25.79	6.41	5.89
Alemania.....	12.28	13.53	13.57	10.57
República Argentina.....	15.98	14.92	16.86	18.90
Bélgica.....	4.17	4.43	18.03	20.07
Brasil.....	7.23	5.12	10.84	10.44
Cuba.....	.....	.....	3.29	2.08
España.....	5.54	4.89	.....	.....
Estados Unidos.....	9.67	9.66	5.38	6.57
Francia.....	9.64	11.28	17.03	17.90
Italia.....	8.47	8.48	2.79	3.00

ESTADÍSTICA DE POBLACIÓN.

El 31 de diciembre de 1906 la República del Uruguay tenía 1,103,040 de habitantes, de los cuales 308,434 residían en la ciudad de Montevideo.

VENEZUELA.

INGRESOS Y EGRESOS EN EL AÑO DE 1906.

Los ingresos y egresos fiscales de la República de Venezuela durante el año de 1906, en comparación con el año de 1905, fueron como sigue, según la memoria del Ministro de Hacienda, correspondiente á 1906: Ingresos en 1906, 53,225,630.63 bolívares, en comparación con 56,343,380.94 en 1905; egresos en 1906, 51,874,694.98 bolívares, contra 54,718,163.24 bolívares en 1905.

INGRESOS DE ADUANA EN EL AÑO DE 1906.

Según la memoria correspondiente al año de 1906, presentada el 23 de mayo de 1907 al Congreso de Venezuela por el Ministro de Hacienda de la República, las aduanas marítimas de la misma recaudaron durante el mencionado período la cantidad de 20,370,988.11 bolívares por concepto de derechos aduaneros, y la de 5,791,894.64 bolívares por el impuesto de tránsito, ó sea un total de 26,162,882.75 bolívares.

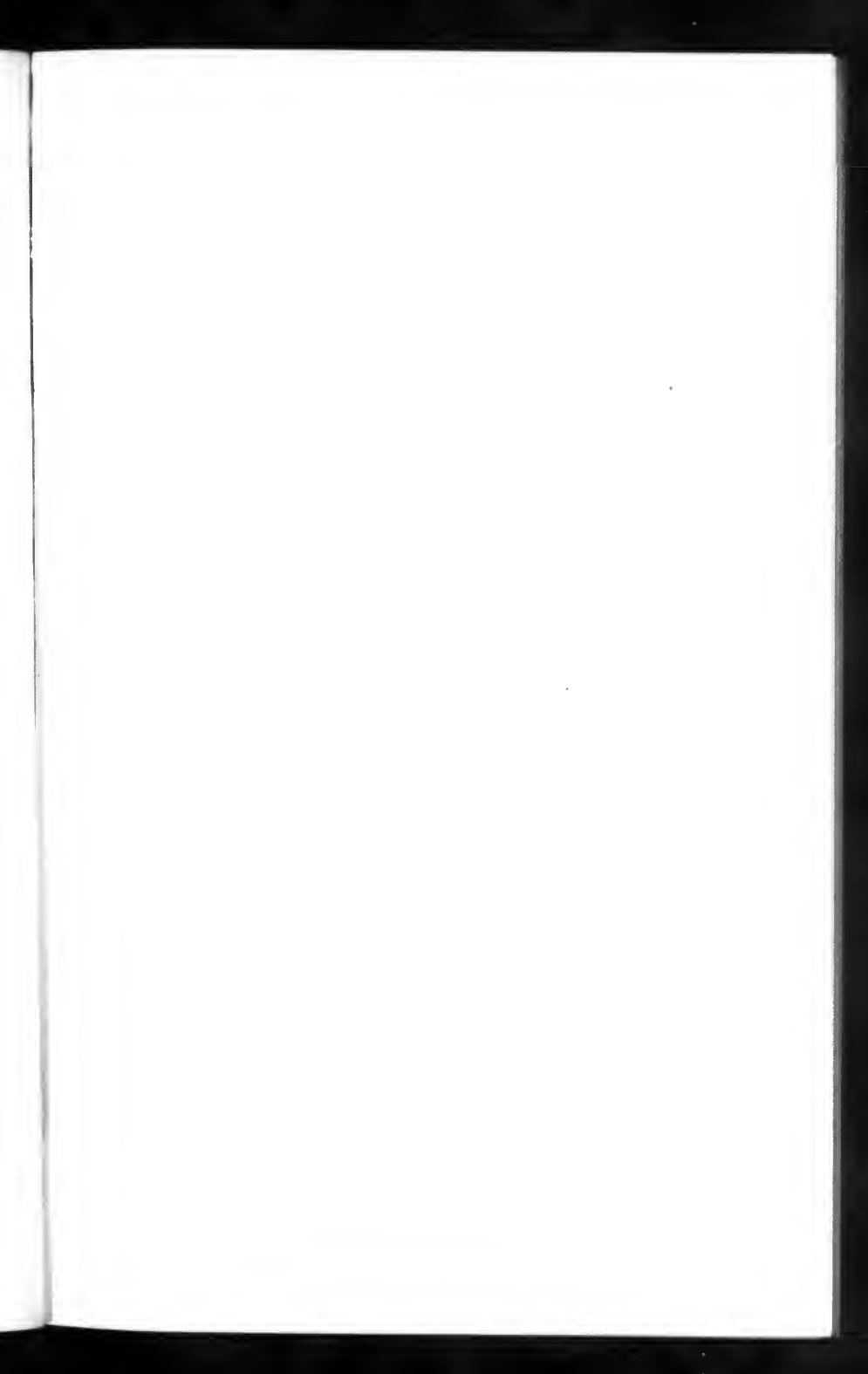
EXPLOTACIÓN DE BOSQUES NACIONALES EN LA DELTA DEL ORINOCO.

En decreto de fecha 26 de julio de 1907 y publicado en la "Gaceta Oficial" del 22 de agosto de 1907, el Congreso Nacional de Venezuela aprobó el contrato celebrado el 2 de enero de 1907 entre el Gobierno y Don VICENTE BETANCOURT ARAMBURU para explotar y exportar las maderas de los bosques de la Nación existentes en la región del Delta del Orinoco.

El concesionario pagará como único impuesto al Gobierno de la República la suma de 1.50 bolívares por cada metro cúbico de madera que exporte, y pondrá en ejecución el contrato dentro del término de ocho meses á contar desde la fecha de la publicación del mismo en la "Gaceta Oficial." La duración del contrato será de diez años contados desde la expiración del mencionado plazo de ocho meses.

RATIFICACIÓN DE LA CONVENCION POSTAL UNIVERSAL DE ROMA.

La Convención Postal Universal, firmada en Roma el 30 de junio de 1906, fué ratificada por el Congreso Venezolano el día 12 de julio de 1907, y promulgada por el Presidente CASTRO el 6 de agosto de 1907. El texto de la convención fué publicado en la "Gaceta Oficial" del 7 de septiembre de 1907.





DR. RUY BARBOSA, CHEFE DA DELEGAÇÃO BRAZILEIRA NA CONFERENCIA DE HAYA.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA INTERNACIONAL DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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No. 4.

É de esperar que todos os que se interessam pela Secretaria Internacional e pelo BOLETIM MENSAL tenham o tempo para ler as primeiras paginas dos editoriaes. Deste modo poderão obter, n'um lanço de olhos, uma idea geral dos artigos mais importantes do BOLETIM e conhecer os dados mais recentes sobre as Republicas Latino-Americanas. Sem querer mostrar um enthusiasmo injustificavel, o Director deseja manifestar que a Secretaria recebe todos os dias informações que são provas irrefutaveis de que as Republicas Latino-Americanas entram em uma grande era de desenvolvimento industrial e moral. Tambem llic causa forte impressão o grande numero dos pedidos, vindos de toda a parte dos Estados Unidos, Europa e a America do Sul, solicitando informações relativas ás oppportunidades para o desenvolvimento do commercio, para o emprego de capitaes, para realizar viagens de recreio, de estudo e de investigação, para a exploração de minas e industrias e para estudos scientificos. Devido a grande copia de informes interessantes que se encontram nos periodicos e revistas Latino-americanos, assim como nos relatorios que os Ministros e Consules dos Estados Unidos apresentam ao seu Governo, é impossivel reproduzir todos elles no BOLETIM. Esforçaremos-nos, porém, para dar um summario dos principaes actos dos Governos e do progresso material.

ECHOS DA VISITA DO SECRETARIO ROOT AO MEXICO.

Ainda que os telegrammas da imprensa recebidos do Mexico dão uma idea parcial do ardor das manifestações com que o Exmo. Sr. ELMU ROOT, Secretario de Estado dos Estados Unidos, foi recebido pelo Governo e o povo do Mexico, para ter-se uma concepção verdadeira do enthusiasmo, cordialidade e brilho da sua recepção, é preciso

ler os periodicos mexicanos. Os festejos que se prepararam em sua honra foram magnificos, e o mundo official, assim como a massa popular do Mexico, foram entusiasticos em suas demonstrações de sympathy e interesse. Parece que toda a população da cidade de Mexico, desde o Presidente DIAZ até o mais baixo *peon*, teve um orgulho pessoal em aeolher o Secretario de Estado dos Estados Unidos na sua visita á capital. Em todos os pontos que visitou foram entusiasticas as aclamações que lhe foram feitas. A extraordinaria ovação de que era alvo o Secretario de Estado, não causa surpresa aos que conhecem o povo do Mexico. Na Segunda Conferencia Pan-Americana que se realizou naquella cidade em 1901-2, o Governo e o povo fizeram tudo que podiam para o entretenimento dos delegados das nações Americanas. A Republica do Mexico é hoje classificada entre as primeiras potencias do mundo e aproveita esta oportunidade que lhe offerece a visita do Secretario de Estado, para mostrar que pode receber homens eminentes de paizes estrangeiros com o mesmo brilho e cordialidade com que os recebem as grandes capitães da Europa e da America do Sul. O Secretario de Estado jamais esquecerá a triumphal recepção que lhe foi feita na sua visita ao Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Panamá e Colombia, e agora, como complemento de suas experiencias no Continente do Sul, faz essa memoravel visita ao principal paiz latino do Continente do Norte. De certo, como resultado dessa visita, ha de ter um conhecimento das condições nas Republicas nossas irmãs, maior que o que tem tido qualquer outro Secretario de Estado dos Estados Unidos, e além disto, essa visita concorrerá poderosamente para promover a politica de interesse e confiança mutuos que elle com tanto exito iniciou.

A PROJECTADA CONFERENCIA DAS REPUBLICAS DA AMERICA CENTRAL

Os Ministros em Washington das Republicas da America Central, os Srs. JOAQUIM BERNARDO CALVO, de Costa Rica, Dr. LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, de Guatemala, FEDERICO MEJÍA, de S. Salvador, e Dr. ANGEL UGARTE, de Honduras, e os representantes do Mexico e dos Estados Unidos, os Srs. JOSÉ F. GODOY, Encarregado de Negocios do Mexico, ROBERT BACON, Secretario Ajudante de Estado dos Estados Unidos, e ALVEY A. ADEE, Segundo Secretario Ajudante Estado, merecem ser felicitados por motivo do protocollo que foi assignado em 16 de setembro de 1907, pelos cinco representantes destes paizes, em virtude do qual será realizada na cidade de Washington, em novembro de 1907, uma Conferencia Internacional para o ajuste das questões pendentes. As discussões preliminares desse protocollo foram caracterizadas por um espirito de cortezia e interesse que augura bem da feliz conclusão da Conferencia. É provavel que a

Conferencia realizar-se-á nas salas da Secretaria Internacional, as quaes serão reservadas e especialmente preparadas para suas sessões. Parece conveniente que a Conferencia se realize aqui, pois a Secretaria pertence tanto á America Central e ao Mexico, como aos Estados Unidos.

ESTUDO UNIVERSITARIO DA AMERICA LATINA.

O Director da Secretaria Internacional já fez referencia muitas vezes ao crescente interesse que as universidades e collegios americanos manifestam no estudo da America Latina. Agora chega a informação de que o Professor EDMOND S. MEANY, da Universidade de Washington, de Seattle, que é a principal cidade daquelle grande Estado do noroeste, está fazendo uma serie de seis conferencias sobre a Hespanha na America, perante numerosa assemblea de moços e moças. Os assumptos de que trata nessas conferencias são os seguintes: (1) Dominio da Hespanha na America; (2) Progresso na eivilização; (3) Luctas dos colonos em prol da liberdade; (4) As Republicas Hispano-Americanas; (5) Hespanha nos Estados Unidos; (6) Conclusão, comprehendendo (a) o progresso intellectual, (b) desenvolvimento economico, (c) desenvolvimento politico, e (d) congressos pan-americanos. O Professor MEANY merece ser felicitado por ter iniciado este curso que será sem duvida alguma muito popular. A este respeito, convem notar que o Professor RUDOLPH SCHEVILL, da Universidade de Yale, informa que a secção hespanhola daquella universidade augmenta rapidamente, e que se propõe realizar uma serie de conferencias este anno. O Professor L. S. ROWE, da Universidade de Pennsylvania, já regressou de sua visita á America do Sul e abrirá um curso para o estudo comprehensivo daquella parte do mundo, o qual será frequentado por grande numero de alumnos. Talvez não ha nos Estados Unidos um homem melhor habilitado para discutir as condições actuaes da America Latina que o Professor ROWE. Elle visitou todas as principaes capitais da America Latina, estando ausente do seu paiz cerca de um anno e meio. Dentro de pouco tempo, o Professor WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD, da Universidade da Columbia, estará de volta da sua viagem pela America do Sul e iniciará uma serie de conferencias perante os alumnos daquella instituição.

INTERESSE NO NOVO EDIFICIO DA SECRETARIA.

A Secretaria Internacional deseja exprimir seu reconhecimento a grande numero de periodicos e revistas por terem reproduzido em suas paginas as photographias do seu novo edificio. Por meio desta publicidade o povo dos Estados Unidos familiariza-se com os tra-

balhos, escopo e fins da Secretaria e convence-se da sua utilidade para promover as relações commerciaes e de amizade entre as Republicas Americanas. Muitas vezes uma photographia attrahe mais a attenção que uma longa descripção na imprensa. A lista dos diarios de toda a America que reproduziram em suas paginas as photographias das plantas dos architectos é demasiado extensa para dar aqui, porém, o BOLETIM tem prazer em notar as descripções e photographias publicadas pelas seguintes revistas: "*Harper's Weekly*," "*The National Magazine*," a "*Scientific American*," "*The Banker's Magazine*," "*The Literary Digest*," a "*American Exporter*," a "*Dun's Review*," "*El Comercio*," "*Cassier's Magazine*," a "*Illustrated Sunday Magazine*," "*El Tiempo Ilustrado*," do Mexico, "*El Anunciador Peruano*," de Lima, "*Correspondencia del Pacifico*," de San Francisco, e "*Modern Mexico*," de New York e Mexico.

DISCUSSÃO PUBLICA DA AMERICA LATINA.

É de interesse saber que grande numero das associações nacionaes que se occupam de questões industriaes, agricolas e economicas que se relacionam com o bem estar dos Estados Unidos, manifestam o desejo de obter informações mais exactas respeito das relações commerciaes dos Estados Unidos com as Republicas suas irmãs. A Associação dos Manufactureiros Nacionaes de Algodão, que se reuniu na cidade de Washington na primeira semana de outubro, convidou ao Director da Secretaria para realizar uma conferencia sobre o assumpto de "O mercado para os artefactos de algodão norte-americano e o desenvolvimento da industria algodoeira nas Republicas Latino-Americanas." O Sr. WILLIAM D. HARTSHORNE, de Lawrence, Estado de Massachusetts, é presidente desta associação, e o Sr. C. J. H. WOODBURY, secretario, tendo ambos trabalhado esforçadamente para pôr esta industria em base mais segura, e reconhecem a necessidade de conquistar novos mercados para as manufacturas de algodão. Na Convenção para o Melhoramento das Vias Fluviaes que se realizou na cidade de Memphis, Estado de Tennessee, em 5 de outubro, e em que o Presidente ROOSEVELT pronunciou um discurso, o Director foi convidado para discutir o assumpto de "O Canal de Panama em relação com as vias fluviaes e o desenvolvimento do commercio do oeste central com a America do Sul." O Sr. HARRY B. HAWES, um dos primeiros advogados da cidade de St. Louis e presidente da comissão incumbida de organizar o programma da Convenção de Memphis, tem grande empenho em promover e fortalecer as relações commerciaes e de amizade entre as Republicas Americanas. O Sr. JOHN M. STAHL, presidente do Congresso de Fazendeiros Nacionaes que teve lugar na cidade de Oklahoma, Estado de Oklahoma, em 22 de outubro, fez um convite

ao Director para discutir perante esta assemblea, constituida por mais de 2,000 fazendeiros dos Estados Unidos, o thema: "As oppor-tunidades que se offereem na America Latina aos agricultores norte-americanos para conquistar novos mercados, e a influencia que exercerá sobre elles o melhoramento das vias fluviaes internas." O Sr. STAHL reconhece que os interesses dos agricul-tores norte-americanos são intimamente ligados ao desenvolvimento do com-mercio com a America Latina. Em resposta a convites recebidos, o Director pronunciou discursos sobre a America do Sul perante a Junta Commercial da cidade de Newark, Estado de New Jersey, em 9 de outubro, perante o *Quill Club* da cidade de New York em 15 de outubro, e ante a Junta Commercial da cidade de Trenton, New Jer-sey, em 17 de outubro.

EXCURSÃO BRAZILEIRA AOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Foi com muito prazer que o Director da Secretaria recebeu na cidade de Washington os excursionistas brasileiros que visitaram os Estados Unidos em fins de setembro e principios de outubro. A excursão foi constituida por uns trinta senhores e senhoras e parece que o seu passeio aqui lhes foi muito agradável. Eram represen-tantes da classe mais culta do paiz e fizeram uma excellente impres-são em todos os pontos do paiz que visitaram. A viagem de ida e volta foi feita com o paquete *Aere*, que é um dos melhores vapores do Lloyd Brasileiro, e esta empreza merece louvores espeeciaes por ter organizado essa excursão. É de esperar que outros Brasileiros venham aos Estados Unidos, pois terão um acolhimento muito cordial. Durante sua estadia na cidade de Washington, foram apresentados ao Exmo. Sr. OSCAR S. STRAUS, Secretario do Commercio e Trabalho, quem fez um discurso de boas vindas em que fez referencia ás possibilidades do desenvolvimento do commercio entre os Estados Unidos e o Brazil. Mais tarde foram apresentados ao Exmo. Sr. ROBERT BACON, Secretario de Estado Interino, quem os recebeu no gabinete do Exmo. Sr. ELIHU ROOT, Secretario de Estado, que estava ausente em viagem para o Mexieo. O Sr. BACON manifestou pesar por causa da ausência do Secretario e fez referencia ás cordiaes demonstrações com que o Sr. ROOT foi acolhido pelo povo brasileiro por occasião de sua visita á America do Sul. Em nome do Depar-tamento de Estado exprimiu grande satisfação por motivo dessa visita, e disse que nutria a esperança de que os excursionistas levarão ao Brazil impressões agradaveis deste paiz. Nas entrevistas tidas com o Secretario STRAUS e o Secretario Interino BACON, os Srs. PAES LEME e GONÇALVES, fizeram respostas condignas. Em seguida a esta visita, os brasileiros foram conduzidos á Casa Branca, onde foram recebidos a uma hora mais cedo que de costume, em virtude

de arranjos especiaes. Mais tarde visitaram os principaes pontos de interesse em Washington. A excursão foi ao cargo do Sr. W. A. REID, outr'ora addido da Legação da Bolivia em Washington, e foi constituída assim: E. Guichara, Gabriel Botelho Sobrinho, Raymundo Bezerra, Domingos Gonçalves e senhora, Fortunato Menezes, Dr. Arthur Barbosa, José Ignacio de Sousa, José Porcopio de Araujo, Domingos Soriano da Costa, Guilherme Busch e senhora, João Teixeira da Frota, Dr. Josias de Andrade, Antonio Sousa Silveira e senhora, Otto Schlvemback, Coronel José Piedade e senhora, Luiz de Almeida, Julio Matheus dos Santos, Crispim Cellorio, senhora e sobrinha, Alfredo Ruis, Francisco Gomes Nogueiro, senhora e filha, Felisberto C. Paes Leme, representante do S. S. Lloyd Brasileiro.

Em relação com essa visita recebemos a seguinte carta que manifesta o reconhecimento dos Brasileiros pelas attenções que lhes foram dispensadas durante sua visita á cidade de Washington.

"NEW YORK, 4 de outubro de 1907.

"Illmo. Senhor JOHN BARRETT.

"ESTIMADO SENHOR: De volta ao Brazil, devo manifestar-lhe em nome do Lloyd Brasileiro e pessoalmente, o nosso reconhecimento pelas grandes attenções que teve a gentileza de dispensar aos excursionistas brasileiros, na visita que fizeram á cidade de Washington; vindo ao encontro dos mesmos, acompanhando-os aos Srs. Secretarios STRAUS e BACON.

"Rogo-lhe tambem agradecer ao Exmo. Sr. Presidente da Republica e ao Sr. Ministro ROOT, as attenções que por sua amabilidade nos foram concedidas.

"Levando as mais vivas saudades do berço do 'Grande Washington,' espero que as palavras que teve a amabilidade de nos dirigir o Sr. STRAUS, se realizem, e que escrevendo a historia dos fundadores da união, amizade e prosperidade do Brazil unido aos Estados Unidos da America, o nome do Lloyd Brasileiro, M. Buarque & Ca., appareça como um dos concorrentes desse immenso edificio das nações americanas.

"Só a sua pessoa, tão cavalleira para convosco, poderá ser interprete junto á Exma. Senhora YÁNES, da gratidão e saudades das horas curtas, mas tão amenas, que proporcionou ás Sras. Brasileiras que fazem parte da excursão.

"A si, que tão dignamente dirige o 'International Bureau of the American Republics,' peço contar entre os seus amigos e admiradores o Lloyd Brasileiro, M. Buarque & Ca., aonde espero ter a honra de receber suas ordens.

"De V. Ex., Atto. Venerador e Criado,

"FELISBERTO C. PAES LEME."

INTERESSES COMMERCIAES GERMANO-ARGENTINOS.

Que as empresas industriaes e commerciaes da Allemanha estão aproveitando todas as oportunidades para desenvolver seus interesses na America Latina, é evidenciado do facto que acaba de organizar-se uma empresa germano-argentina com o fim de estabelecer relações commerciaes mais estreitas entre a Allemanha e a Argentina. A sede desta companhia será estabelecida na cidade de Berlin, com uma agencia em Buenos Aires. É evidente que o Governo Argentino é muito favoravel a este movimento, pois está dando-lhe seu apoio e auxilio. Por outro lado, ficou determinado que será estabelecida na Allemanha uma exposição permanente de productos argentinos.

O NOVO TRATADO ITALO-ARGENTINO.

A acção do Governo da Republica Argentina, concluindo um tratado geral de arbitragem com a Italia, merece ser imitada pelas outras nações do mundo. Foi muito conveniente que esses dois paizes entrassem em um accordo deste alto caracter, pois os Italianos constituem grande parte da população da Republica Argentina. Si o movimento inmigratorio italiano na Republica Argentina continuar na mesma proporção que o verificado nestes ultimos annos, parece que não estará longe o dia em que a população italiana excederá a nacional de descendencia hespanhola. As vantagens que a Republica Argentina offerece para attrahir a immigração fazem que este, depois dos Estados Unidos, é o paiz mais procurado pelos inmigrantes.

PROGRESSO E DESENVOLVIMENTO DA BOLIVIA.

A mensagem que o Presidente MONTES apresentou ao Congresso da Bolivia examina cuidadosamente as condições daquella Republica para o anno de 1906, e dá excellente idea do progresso que este paiz tem feito no seu commercio e relações exteriores. Começa a ser apreciado, não só pelo povo do paiz mas tambem pelas nações estrangeiras o facto de que este paiz tem grandes recursos naturaes. A actividade manifestada por este paiz na construcção de vias ferreas e exploração de recursos mineraes não tem sido excedida por qualquer outra Republica da America Latina. Seu commercio exterior é muito satisfactorio, tendo attingido ao valor de \$45,347,420 em 1906, contra \$35,000,000 em 1905. Os principaes productos exportados são o estanho, borracha, cobre, minerio de prata e bismutho. A julgar-se pelas condições actuaes, a Bolivia tornar-se-á o paiz maior-productor de estanho do mundo.

EXTENSÃO DAS VIAS FERREAS DO BRAZIL.

É digno de nota o grande desenvolvimto havido na rede ferroviaria do Brazil. A extensão das vias ferreas do Brazil em 31 de dezembro de 1906 attingiu a 17,242 kilometros, estando em construção 3,041 kilometros, ao passo que foram approvados os estudos de vias ferreas em uma extensão de 6,683 kilometros. Quanto á distribuição das linhas, vê-se que o Estado de São Paulo vem em primeiro lugar com 3,980 kilometros, e o Estado de Minas Geraes occupa o segundo lugar com 3,957 kilometros, seguindo-lhe Bahia, Pernambuco, Paraná e Ceará na ordem dada.

SITUAÇÃO FINANCEIRA E ECONOMICA DO CHILE.

Neste numero do BOLETIM publicamos uma resenha interessante da situação financeira e economica da Republica do Chile que foi preparada pelo Sr. ADOLFO ORTUZAR, Consul Geral do Chile em New York, e merece ser lida por todos os que acompanham o progresso daquella Republica. O artigo examina demoradamente as diversas fontes de renda do Governo e demonstra á evidencia a prosperidade que na actualidade goza esta Republica.

NOVO MINISTRO DO CHILE ACREDITADO AO GOVERNO DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

No momento em que este numero do BOLETIM sahir á luz, já deve ter chegado á cidade de Washington o novo Ministro do Chile, Sr. ANIBAL CRUZ DÍAZ. A Secretaria o acolhe com muito agrado como membro do Conselho Director e conta com seu valioso concurso na obra de promover as relações commerciaes e de boa vontade entre as Republicas Americanas. Sua reputação como estadista e diplomata é bem conhecida, e, portanto, não chegará á cidade de Washington como um extranho. A este respeito, a Secretaria não pode deixar de exprimir sua apreciação do valor dos trabalhos que tem feito em prol do seu paiz o actual Encarregado de Negocios do Chile, o Sr. ALBERTO YOACHAM. Elle consagrou suas melhores energias á obra de attrahir a attenção dos capitalistas e industrialistas norte-americanos para o seu paiz, e esforçou-se para desempenhar as commissões que lhe foram confiadas.

DEPOSITOS DE PLATINA NA COLOMBIA.

Devido á escassez da platina e seu grande valor commercial, despertaram especialmente o interesse os depositos de platina da Colombia, e neste numero do BOLETIM publicamos dados detalhados

sobre o assumpto, os quaes foram compilados dos relatorios do Consul MANNING, de Cartagena, e do Consul DEMERS, de Barranquilla, Colombia. Tal é a procura deste producto e tão diminuta a produção que é de desejar que as jazidas da Colombia sejam de primeira classe, tanto na quantidade como na qualidade deste mineral. É evidente que o Governo da Colombia reconhece a importancia desta industria, pois já está tomando os passos necessarios para a exploração desses depositos, e está dando concessões em condições vantajosas tanto ao Governo como aos concessionarios. Poucos são os paizes que têm uma riqueza mineral maior que a da Colombia, e tudo leva a creer que durante os proximos annos serão empregados neste paiz avultados capitães. A Republica da Colombia fica tão proxima tanto á Europa como aos Estados Unidos, que não deve ser considerada como um paiz distante. Este paiz, com o seu systema de rios navegaveis e especialmente quando fôr augmentada sua rede de vias ferreas, offerecerá um excellento campo para ser explorado.

CONTRACTOS CONCLUIDOS ENTRE O GOVERNO DE COSTA RICA E COMPANHIAS COMMERCIAES.

O Governo de Costa Rica aproveita todas as opportunidades que se lhe offerecem para augmentar seu commercio externo. Um dos passos mais importantes que deu ultimamente foi a approvação dos tres contractos que foram celebrados em julho de 1907, com a Companhia da Estrada de Ferro de Costa Rica, a "United Fruit Company" e a Companhia da Estrada de Ferro do Norte. Esses contractos deverão resultar em grande beneficio tanto para o Governo como para as companhias concessionarias. Foi promulgado em 10 de julho de 1907, um decreto concedendo isenção de direitos de importação ás machinas e instrumentos agricolas de diversas classes. Isto dará um grande impulso aos interesses agricolas e está ao par de outras medidas que o Governo adoptou para desenvolver a agricultura do paiz.

DESENVOLVIMENTO ASSOMBROSO DA INDUSTRIA DE BANANAS.

O desenvolvimento da industria de bananas é um dos resultados interessantes do estabelecimento de relações mais estreitas entre os Estados Unidos, a Europa e os paizes situados no Mar Caribbeano. Essa industria attingiu a proporções taes que hoje vai além das expectativas mais ousadas de ha dez annos, e si continuar a desenvolver-se na mesma proporção, não estará longe o dia em que a banana se tornará um dos productos alimenticios mais communs da massa do povo dos Estados Unidos e da Europa. Não ha muito

tempo que a banana foi considerada como um artigo de luxo; hoje essas fructas sãõ mais baratas que as maçãs, e isto mesmo nos Estados Unidos que é o paiz productor por excellencia da maçã. O grande beneficio que os paizes do Mar Caribbeano auferirão do desenvolvimento desta industria consiste na transformação de extensas areas cobertas de mattos em plantações valiosas de bananas. Milhares de milhas quadradas de terrenos que cinco annos atraz se considerava que não prestavam para nada, senão a criação de mosquitos, estão hoje convertidos em valiosas fontes de renda e em toda a costa Caribbeana estão se construindo cidades onde outr'ora não se encontrava vida ou actividades.

RELATORIO DO SENHOR PULLIAM SOBRE A REPUBLICA DOMINICANA.

Reproduzimos neste numero do BOLETIM o relatorio apresentado pelo Sr. W. E. PULLIAM, Recebedor das rendas aduaneiras da Republica Dominicana. Por estas cifras se vê que houve um augmento nas exportações de cerca de \$300,000, comparadas com as do anno anterior, ao passo que as importações mostram um augmento de \$600,000. Quando se toma em consideração que a população da Republica é calculada em menos de 500,000 de almas, isto significa um augmento para o anno de 1907 de cerca de \$4 por habitante, o que demonstra uma situação de prosperidade muito satisfactoria. Segundo o relatorio apresentado pelo Sr. McCREERY, Ministro dos Estados Unidos na Republica Dominicana, foi inaugurada na cidade de São Domingo, no mez de agosto ultimo, uma exposição de productos industriaes do paiz. O Governo e o povo manifestaram grande interesse na exposição, e é pena que não foi visitada por maior numero de estrangeiros.

OPPORTUNIDADE PARA O ESTABELECIMENTO DE UM BANCO NORTE-AMERICANO EM GUAYAQUIL.

O Sr. HERMAN R. DIETRICH, Consul Geral dos Estados Unidos em Guayaquil, Equador, recommenda urgentemente o estabelecimento de um banco norte-americano na cidade de Guayaquil, e em um relatorio sobre o assumpto salienta alguns factos relativos ás condições banqueiras neste paiz. Diz que está convencido de que o porto de Guayaquil, quando fôr concluido o Canal de Panamá, tornar-se-á um dos mais importantes da costa occidental da America do Sul. Como a população da cidade é de 70,000 habitantes, parece que um estabelecimento desta natureza deve ser proveitoso. Reproduzimos neste numero do BOLETIM a lei sobre bancos do Equador.

CONGRESSO MEDICO PAN-AMERICANO EM GUATEMALA.

A atenção dos medicos das Republicas Americanas é chamada para o Quinto Congresso Medico Pan-Americano, que terá lugar na cidade de Guatemala em agosto de 1908. O ultimo Congresso realizou-se em Panamá em janeiro de 1905. A Comissão do Governo de Guatemala, composta dos Srs. JUAN J. ORTEGA, Presidente, e JOSÉ AZURDIA, Secretario, expediu uma carta circular que publicamos neste numero do BOLETIM, convidando os medicos das diversas Republicas Americanas para assistirem ao Congresso. Em vista do facto que grande numero de assumptos de interesse aos medicos serão discutidos neste Congresso, é de esperar que haverá numerosa assistencia. Ao que consta, parece que o Governo de Guatemala está fazendo grandes preparativos para entreter os delegados.

MENSAGEM DO PRESIDENTE DÍAZ.

A mensagem que o Presidente Díaz apresentou ao Congresso Nacional em 16 de setembro ultimo contem dados muito valiosos e é uma das mais interessantes que foram submettidas por este Executivo. O resumo della que se publica neste numero do BOLETIM deve ser cuidadosamente lido por todos os que se interessam na situação economica e financeira daquela Republica. A mensagem salienta o facto que a receita da União para o exercicio de 1906, excedeu em 20,000,000 de dollars a estimativa orçamentaria da despeza, e que, apesar da escassez de fundos que é quasi universal, a situação financeira da Republica tem mellorado sem cessar. Outro facto de importancia foi a criação de uma nova Secção de Agricultura, que terá ao seu cargo o estudo das questões concernentes ás industrias pastoris e agricolas e o fornecimento de informações em beneficio dos agricultores do paiz. Este passo ha de ser de grande beneficio á industria agricola do paiz.

EXHIBIÇÃO DE PRODUCTOS MEXICANOS EM LONDRES.

Propõe-se fazer a propaganda das riquezas do Mexico em Londres por meio de uma exhibição ferro-viaria, industrial e mineira que será feita no Palacio Crystal nos mezes de maio a outubro de 1908. Essa exposição está sendo organizada pelos directores daquela instituição e não é devida á iniciativa do Governo Mexicano; diz-se, porém, que em resposta a um convite especial, o Presidente DIAZ manifestou o desejo de cooperar para seu exito.

REDUCCÃO DOS IMPOSTOS NO MEXICO.

Com relação ás condições municipaes do Mexico, é de interesse o decreto promulgado pelo Governo do Mexico, reduzindo os impostos municipaes em certas secções do paiz. Os elevados impostos que se cobram no Mexico têm sido objecto de muitas queixas no passado, e agora o Governo está fazendo um novo calculo do valor dos bens immoveis para o lançamento de impostos equitativos. Uma commissão official já tem estado trabalhando muitos annos para levar a effeito esta obra.

SITUAÇÃO PROSPERA DA REPUBLICA DE PANAMÁ.

As informações recebidas de Panamá demonstram que esta Republica está entrando em um periodo de prosperidade e desenvolvimento até agora não bem comprehendido. Começou a ser crença geral que Panamá, apesar de sua pequena area, tem immensos recursos mineraes, florestaes e agricolas que offerecem grandes oportunidades para exploração. Quando a região interior fôr dotada de vias ferreas e boas estradas de rodagem, ha toda a razão para creer que haverá um enorme augmento da população e grande exploração das secções do paiz que hoje estão virtualmente desertas. Grande numero dos que vão ao Isthmo como empregados da Commissão do Canal, frequentemente abandonam seus trabalhos para dedicarem-se a algum negocio ou empreza particular em uma ou outra parte do paiz. Que a Republica de Panamá está auferindo grandes vantagens com o desenvolvimento da industria de bananas, o prova o relatorio apresentado pelo Sr. KELLOGG, Consul dos Estados Unidos em Colon. Por exemplo, faz notar que só pelo porto de Bocas del Toro foram exportados, no anno passado, 3,212,504 cachos de bauanas e que o districto servido por este porto tem em uso 175,000 de vias ferreas e 75,000 em construcção para o transporte deste producto.

POPULAÇÃO E COMMERCIO DO URUGUAY.

A cidade de Montevidéo, a capital do Uruguay, ha de occupar em breve um lugar proeminente entre as grandes capitaes do mundo. A população desta cidade é quasi a mesma que a da cidade de Washington. Segundo o ultimo recenseamento que foi levado a effeito em 31 de dezembro de 1906, a população dessa cidade foi de 308,435 habitantes. Parece que o augmento total verificado realizou-se principalmente nesta cidade, pois sua população representa quasi a quarta parte do total, que foi de 1,103,004 habitantes. Tomando-se em consideração sua area, recursos naturaes e clima, a Republica do Uruguay deveria supportar uma população dez vezes maior. Se-

gundo os dados estatísticos mais recentes, o commercio exterior da Republica attingiu ao valor de \$61,000,000, approximadamente, no anno de 1905, sendo esta somma dividida igualmente entre as exportações e importações. Isto representa um movimento commercial no valor de \$60 por habitante, o que mostra que a Republica occupa um lugar proeminente entre as nações de grande movimento commercial. Os principaes paizes que contribuíram para este commercio foram Grã Bretanha, França, Allemanha, Belgica, os Estados Unidos e a Italia.

RIQUEZA FLORESTAL DO ORINOCO.

As ultimas informações recebidas de Venezuela demonstran que se está apreciando as grandes opportunidades para exploração offerecidas pelas florestas nacionaes do delta do Orinoco. Poucas são as secções do mundo que têm uma riqueza florestal maior que a do valle do Orinoco. Devido á proximidade relativa de Venezuela aos Estados Unidos e á Europa, e tendo em consideração o facto que navios de grande calado podem chegar a pontos onde podem ser construidas grandes serrarias, é de creer que no proximo futuro haverá um enorme commercio de madeiras entre Venezuela e os Estados Unidos e a Europa. Seria de grande vantagem para a protecção e conservação das florestas dos Estados Unidos si o mercado deste paiz fo supprido em parte com madeiras de procedencia dos paizes latino-americanos. As florestas dos Estados Unidos estão sendo derrubadas mais rapidamente que devem ser, ao passo que os cortes poderiam ser feitos com vantagem nas florestas da America Latina. Ainda que Venezuela é bem conhecido no mundo politico e diplomatico, seus recursos são pouco conhecidos ou apreciados. É de facto um paiz de maravilhosos recursos naturaes.

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

COMMERCIO EXTERIOR NO PRIMEIRO SEMESTRE DE 1907.

A Repartição de Estatistica da Republica Argentina publicou em fins de agosto ultimo o BOLETIM No. 134 intitulado "O Commercio Exterior Argentino," que contem as cifras relativas ao commercio externo da Republica para o primeiro semestre de 1907, comparadas com as do mesmo periodo de 1906.

Segundo estes dados o valor total da importação no primeiro semestre de 1907 foi de \$130,561,685, ouro, contra \$117,508,381, ouro, no periodo correspondente do anno anterior, o que mostra um augmento de \$13,053,304, ouro. A exportação no primeiro semestre em questão foi no valor de \$185,344,453, ouro, ou mais \$20,668,343,

ouro, que em egual periodo de 1906, quando a exportação apenas importou em \$154,766,110.

As cifras relativas aos artigos que pagaram direitos de importação e aos que entraram livres de direitos, são muito significativas e dão idea do desenvolvimento no paiz da agricultura e obras publicas, pois é bem sabido que a maior parte dos artigos a que se concede isenção de direitos consistem em materiaes importados para a construção de obras publicas ou vias-ferreas, ou para a industria agricola.

Os generos sujeitos a direitos de importação que se impertaram no primeiro semestre de 1907, foram no valor de \$81,807,348, ouro, ou menos \$1,763,909, ouro, que em egual periodo do anno anterior, quando essas importações attingiram a \$83,570,357, ouro. Os generos importados livres de direitos foram na importancia de \$48,754,337, ouro, contra \$33,836,124, ouro, no periodo correspondente de 1906, o que accusa um augmento de \$14,817,223, ouro, para o primeiro semestre de 1907.

Tambem accusam augmento os generos exportados livres de direitos, tendo sido no valor de \$185,433,585, ouro, no primeiro semestre de 1907, contra \$164,766,110, ouro, em egual periodo de 1906.

Na importação, o Reino Unido occupa o primeiro lugar com um valor total de \$46,173,241, ouro, ou mais \$8,567,677, ouro, que em egual periodo de 1906; seguem-se-lhe a Allemanha, com o valor total de \$21,037,876, verificando-se um acrescimo de \$3,275,325; os Estados Unidos, com o total de \$17,022,139, ouro, ou menos \$966,129 que em egual periodo de 1906; França, com \$12,287,851, ouro; Italia, com \$11,198,660; Belgica, com \$7,162,223; Hespanha, com \$3,202,982; Brazil, com \$3,195,214; Uruguay, com \$1,502,127; Hollanda, com \$709,715; Paraguay, com \$542,189; Suecia, com \$511,065; Austria-Hungria, com \$457,014; Cuba, com \$251,985; Chile, com \$163,582; Peru, com \$90,613; Bolivia, com \$76,599; Africa, com \$7,881; e Portugal, com \$3,970.

As exportações, discriminadas por paizes de destino, foram como se segue: com destino á França, \$24,077,779; Allemanha, \$22,727,505; Reino Unido, \$20,386,587; Belgica, \$18,556,236; Estados Unidos, \$6,523,287; Brazil, \$6,420,701; Italia, \$2,484,566; Hollanda, \$2,364,706; Uruguay, \$3,028,591; Chile, \$1,043,659; as colonias britannicas, \$1,632,679; Africa, \$1,055,928; Austria-Hungria, \$973,477; Suissa, \$853,125; Hespanha, \$756,543; Peru, \$529,565; Bolivia, \$493,952; Canadá, \$400,171; China, \$301,145; Noruega, \$277,627; Russia, \$206,107; Portugal, \$127,198; Suecia, \$156,166; Japão, \$83,400; Cuba, \$99,527; Equador, \$19,170; as colonias hollandezas, \$19,756; Turquia, \$19,891; Dinamarca, \$16,977; Australia, \$43,330.

POPULAÇÃO DE BUENOS AIRES EM 31 DE MAIO DE 1907.

Segundo os dados estatísticos publicados no numero do "*Monthly Bulletin of Municipal Statistics*" correspondente ao mez de junho de 1907, a população da cidade de Buenos Aires em 31 de maio de 1907 foi de 1,102,155 habitantes.

COLOMBIA.**ESTABELECIMENTO DE UM NOVO SALADERO.**

O "*Diario Oficial*" da Colombia em sua edição de 30 de julho de 1907, publica o texto de um contracto celebrado entre o Governo e o Sr. AQUILEO OSORIO em 25 de abril de 1907, e approved pelo Executivo em 29 do mesmo mez, para a installação no departamento de Bolivar ou no de Magdalena, de uma empreza destinada ao preparo de carnes. O estabelecimento deverá ser prompto para iniciar a matança dentro de dous annos, contados da data da approvação do contracto. O Governo concede ao concessionario o privilegio exclusivo da exploração desta industria nos referidos departamentos pelo prazo de dez annos.

COSTA RICA.**POPULAÇÃO EM 31 DE DEZEMBRO DE 1906.**

Em 15 de março de 1907, a Repartição de Estatica da Republica de Costa Rica publicou o resultado do recenseamento que se levou a effeito em 31 de dezembro de 1906, do qual se vê que a população da Republica naquella data foi de 341,590 habitantes.

CHILE.**PRODUÇÃO E EXPORTAÇÃO DO SALITRE PARA O ANNO DE 1907-8.**

A quantidade total de salitre que se deve produzir e exportar durante o anno salitreiro que começa o 1º de abril de 1907 e termina em 31 de março de 1908, calculada na base de 30 por cento das quotas fixadas para os estabelecimentos de salitre, é como segue: Produção, 54,945,864 quintaes hespanhóes; exportação, 56,446,924 quintaes hespanhóes. Pode-se dizer para o conhecimento dos leitores do **BOLETIM** que a Associação de Propaganda Salitreira, com o intuito de impedir as oscillações nos preços do salitre, fixa, no começo de cada anno salitreiro, as quotas que os estabelecimentos de salitre devem produzir e exportar durante este anno, as quaes não podem ser excedidas.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMMERCIO COM OS PAIZES LATINO-AMERICANOS.

RELAÇÃO MENSAL DA IMPORTAÇÃO E EXPORTAÇÃO.

O quadro apresentado na pagina 894 é extrahido dos dados compilados pelo chefe da Repartição de Estatistica do Departamento do Commercio e Trabalho, mostrando o movimento commercial entre os Estados Unidos e os paizes latino-americanos. A relação corresponde ao mez de agosto de 1907 com uma identica comparativa para o mez correspondente do anno anterior, assim como para os doze mezes findos em agosto de 1907, comparados com o periodo correspondente do anno precedente. Deve-se explicar que os algarismos das diversas alfandegas, mostrando as importações e exportações de um só mez, são recebidos no Departamento do Thesouro até quasi o dia 20 do mez seguinte, e perde-se algum tempo necessariamente em sua compilação e impressão. Por consequente, as estatísticas para o mez de agosto, por exemplo, não são publicadas até os primeiros dias de outubro.

COLHEITA DE ALGODÃO EM 1906-7.

Segundo o relatorio annual do Secretario da Bolsa de Algodão de New Orleans, a produção de algodão nos Estados Unidos na safra de 1906-7, attingiu a 13,510,982 fardos, verificando-se assim um acrescimo de 3,164,994 fardos sobre a safra de 1905-6, e uma diminuição de 54,903 fardos, comparada com a safra de 1904-5. O valor official da colheita em 1906-7 foi de \$716,352,265, contra \$641,720,435, em 1905-6.

A quantidade de algodão importada durante o anno foi de 110,076,982 libras, das quaes foram reexportadas 16,547,379 libras, ficando no paiz 93,529,603 libras, ou sejam 181,604 fardos.

Diz o relatorio que a feição mais interessante do commercio de algodão neste anno foi o augmento verificado na produção do Mexico, pois a colheita não só bastou para o consumo nacional, mas houve um excedente para a exportação.

As importações no Mexico de algodão de procedencia norte-americana diminuíram a 843 fardos, contra 24,620 fardos em 1906, e 68,487 fardos no anno anterior. Por outro lado foram importados pelo porto de Galveston 26,791 fardos de algodão mexicano, e pelo porto de New Orleans, 151 fardos, perfazendo o total de 26,942 fardos.

DESINFECÇÃO DE COUROS IMPORTADOS.

O Secretario do Thesouro dos Estados Unidos expediu em 18 de julho de 1907 uma nota circular determinando que de 1º de agosto de 1907 (esta medida não será posta em execução até 1º de fevereiro

de 1908), em deante, não poderão ser admittidos nos portos dos Estados Unidos couros de bois ou de cavallos de procedencia de Europa, Asia, Africa, Australia e a America do Sul, excepto couros seccos que tenham sido preparados a arsenico, a menos que sejam acompanhados de um certificado passado pelo consul dos Estados Unidos no porto de embarque, no qual se declare que taes couros foram desinfectados antes de serem exportados pela immersão durante trinta minutos pelo menos, em uma solução de bichlorureto de mercurio até fiquem bem molhados.

Os couros seccos que tenham sido preparados a arsenico serão considerados como desinfectados, e quando a factura consular contenha a declaração de que taes couros foram preparados a arsenico, poderão ser admittidos sem a apresentação de certificados.

O termo "cavallos," no sentido aqui empregado, comprehende gado cavallar, asinino e muar, e no termo "bois" devem ser comprehendidos todos os animaes bovinos domesticos, além do bisão e o bufalo.

GUATEMALA.

CONGRESSO MEDICO PAN-AMERICANO EM 1908.

A Secretaria Internacional das Republicas Americanas foi officialmente notificada de que o Quinto Congresso Medico Pan-Americano terá lugar na cidade de Guatemala de 6 a 9 de agosto de 1908, de conformidade com a resolução adoptada no ultimo Congresso, que se realizou em Panamá em janeiro de 1905.

MEXICO.

MENSAGEM DO PRESIDENTE DIAZ.

Por occasião da abertura da terceira sessão do Vigésimo-terceiro Congresso da Republica do Mexico, no dia 16 de setembro, o Presidente DIAZ apresentou sua mensagem correspondente ao segundo semestre do exercicio de 1907, em que dá conta da situação financeira, politica e economica do paiz.

Depois de referir-se ás relações de concordia e boa vontade que actualmente existem entre o Mexico e as varias nações americanas, o Presidente DIAZ disse que no ultimo periodo de sessões foi submettida á consideração do Senado uma convenção assignada na Terceira Conferencia Internacional Americana do Rio de Janeiro, que estabelece a criação de uma Comissão Internacional de Jurisconsultos, constituida por um representante de cada um dos Estados signatarios, que será encarregada de preparar um Codigo de Direito Internacional Privado e outro de Direito Internacional Publico, que regulem as

relações entre os paizes da America. Essa convenção, depois de approvada pelo Senado, foi ratificada pelo Executivo e promulgada. Serão tambem submettidas á consideração do Senado mais duas convenções assignadas na Conferencia de Rio: Uma prescreve a prorogação por cinco annos do tratado sobre reclamações pecuniarias, assignado na Conferencia Internacional do Mexico; e a outra fixa a condição dos cidadãos naturalizados que renovam a sua residencia no paiz de origem. As duas convenções tem por objecto evitar conflictos entre os Estados signatarios.

Diz a mensagem que as greves dos operarios não desapareceram por completo mas são menos frequentes. O estado sanitario do paiz é muito satisfactorio. Proseguem as obras de saneamento e de calçamento na capital da Republica, tendo sido construidos 7,000 metros de galerias de esgotos e 8,000 metros de collectores. Foram assentados mais de 18,000 metros quadrados de calçamentos de asphalto, 7,000 metros quadrados de calçamentos empedrados, 3,000 metros quadrados de calçadas de cimento e 1,000 metros quadrados de calçadas de pedra.

A importancia das operações consignadas no Registro Publico da Propriedade da Capital elevou-se no primeiro semestre do anno actual á somma de \$242,239,275, a qual, comparada com a do primeiro semestre do anno anterior, accusa um augmento de mais de \$17,500,000.

As questões affectas á instrucção progrediram extraordinariamente, e a Republica actualmente mantem 568 escolas primarias, das quaes 398 se acham no Districto Federal e 170 nos Territorios. A frequencia foi de 62,686 alumnos, isto é, 3,330 mais que no anno passado. No Congresso Internacional de Dermatologistas reunido em New York em setembro de 1907, e na Associação Nacional de Professores Americanos em Los Angeles em agosto, estiveram presentes delegados mexicanos. Nesta ultima passou-se unanime e officialmente o voto de reconhecimento e de apreciação referente ás frequencias.

Passaram-se escripturas de propriedades, no periodo de janeiro a junho de 1907, avultando o numero de 1,134, quer dizer cobrindo uma area de 381,479 hectares. Em idêntico periodo a Comissão de Estudos Geologicos determinou astronomicamente a posição de 39 pontos de importancia para o mappa da Republica; a altitude, acima do nivel do mar, de 296 cidades; delinhou o percurso de estradas e rios em uma extensão de 8,378 kilometros; concluiu os trabalhos de campo para a carta do Estado de Puebla; imprimiu e publicou quatro secções do mappa geral da Republica e o mural do Estado de Nuevo León, e construiu e entregou por duplicata, em dezoito folhas, o plano da linha divisoria estabelecida entre os Estados de Nuevo León e Tamaulipas, linha que mede 897 kilometros.

A Comissão Geodesica acabou com os trabalhos scientificos no Sul, necessarios para medir o nonagesimo-oitavo meridiano oeste de Greenwich nas costas de Oaxaca, e estendeu seus trabalhos agora para o norte da Republica, escolhendo os cimos nos planaltos de Tamaulipas até a linha de limites com os Estados Unidos, onde continuar-se-á o trabalho conjuntamente com esse paiz, segundo o accordo internacional.

Empregaram-se todos os meios para manter a Republica em contacto com as outras partes do mundo, em participando nas exposições agricolas e scientificas. Organizou-se em 1° de julho de 1907 uma nova Secção de Agricultura, sendo este departamento publico destinado a estudar as questões concernentes ás industrias pastoris e agricolas e a fornecer as informações em beneficio dos agricultores do paiz. Foram organizadas companhias estrangeiras com o objecto de explorar o guayule e outras fibras de valor commercial, e foram celebrados contractos para a pesca e exploração de productos marinhos.

No segundo semestre do exercicio proximo passado foram celebrados 20 contractos para o uso e aproveitamento de aguas de jurisdicção federal, em quantidade de 589,300 litros por segundo, e foram expedidos 36 titulos confirmando direitos antigos sobre agua, ou referentes a novas concessões.

É notavel o progresso havido na industria mineira durante o periodo em questão. Expediram-se 2,600 titulos no segundo semestre, comprehendendo 40,698 propriedades mineiras, e si ajuntarmos a esse semestre o semestre anterior, teremos o total para o anno de 4,600 titulos e 71,347 posses. Concederam-se, no segundo semestre do exercicio em referencia, 583 patentes de invenção, assim como foram registradas 393 marcas industriaes, 12 especialidades medicinaes e 35 firmas commerciaes.

As obras do porto de Salina Cruz, Coatzacoalcos e Manzanillo estão em bom andamento desde a ultima mensagem presidencial.

Em referencia ás estradas de ferro, calcula-se que a extensão total deste systema de communicação va a 22,392 kilometros, a construção de linhas debaixo da jurisdicção federal sendo de 277 kilometros no primeiro semestre de 1907, e vias ferro-viarias particulares e dos Estados, 270 kilometros. Ha um augmento de 265 por cento nas receitas da Estrada de Ferro de Tehuantepec sobre as arrecadadas no semestre correspondente de 1906. A quantidade da carga foi tão grande nas linhas que se fez necessario adquirir mais 300 carros novos, carros esses que, com os antigos e com os reformados nas officinas perfazem o total de 1,062 wagões de carga. É calculado em 24,600 toneladas a média mensal dos artigos transportados pelas linhas.

Celebraram-se convenções postaes com o Dominio do Canadá, Italia e a Republica de São Salvador para troca de vales e encom-

mendas postaes. A receita geral do correio no segundo semestre do exercicio em referencia perfaz o total de \$2,063,000, que, adicionados á somma relatada no primeiro semestre, dá a somma de \$4,018,000, para todo o anno. O movimento dos vales postaes internacionaes no semestre a que estamos nos referindo, representa o valor de \$2,434,157, ao passo que os vales nacionaes internos elevaram-se a \$24,100,000 no semestre e a \$46,480,000, no anno inteiro.

A rede telegraphica da Republica augmentou de 1,242 kilometros durante o segundo semestre do exercicio, e foram abertas ao serviço publico seis estações telegraphicas e uma telephonica. O numero dos telegrammas expedidos durante o exercicio excedeu em 8 por cento o do exercicio anterior, ao passo que as receitas accusam um augmento de 11 por cento.

A receita arrecadada no exercicio de 1907 excedeu a estimativa orçamentaria da despesa em \$20,000,000. As rendas arrecadadas por ramos normaes do orçamento e por utilidades realizadas pela Comissão de Cambios e Moeda elevaram-se a somma de \$113,000,000. Para este augmento contribuíram os direitos de importação com \$6,000,000, e a renda do sello, com \$1,500,000. O producto dos direitos de importação arrecadados em 1907 foi de \$52,000,000, quantia que é precisamente o dobro do rendimento dos mesmos direitos de importação em 1901-2.

Apezar da escassez de fundos que é quasi universal e da necessidade em que se acham os bancos da Republica de exercer a maior prudencia, a situação financeira da Republica tem melhorado sem cessar. A cunhagem das novas moedas, que em 1º de abril de 1907 foi na importancia de 60,000,000 pesos ouro, elevou-se em 1º de setembro a 68,000,000 pesos ouro. As moedas miudas de prata augmentaram durante o mesmo periodo de 22,000,000 pesos a 30,000,000 pesos.

Devido á má situação dos mercados estrangeiros, ainda não se têm levado a effeito os arranjos relativos á consolidação das propriedades das Estradas de Ferro Nacional de Mexico e Central Mexicano.

A convenção celebrada em Genebra foi approvada pelo Governo do Mexico em 21 de agosto de 1907.

ESTRADAS DE FERRO DE PROPRIEDADE NACIONAL.

Pelos termos do acto de consolidação das vias ferreas mexicanas que se effectuou ultimamente, de conformidade com a lei de 26 de dezembro de 1906 e o decreto expedido pelo Presidente DIAZ em 6 de julho de 1907, cujos textos foram publicados no BOLETIM do mez de agosto de 1907, adquire o Governo domínio absoluto sobre as seguintes linhas:

	Extensão em kilometros.
Estrada de Ferro Central Mexicana, incluindo a linha de Coahuila ao Pacifico...	6.004
Estrada de Ferro Nacional do Mexico.....	3.100
Estrada de Ferro Internacional Mexicana.....	1.683
Estrada de Ferro Interoceanica.....	1.184
Hidalgo e Noroeste.....	244
Total.....	12.215

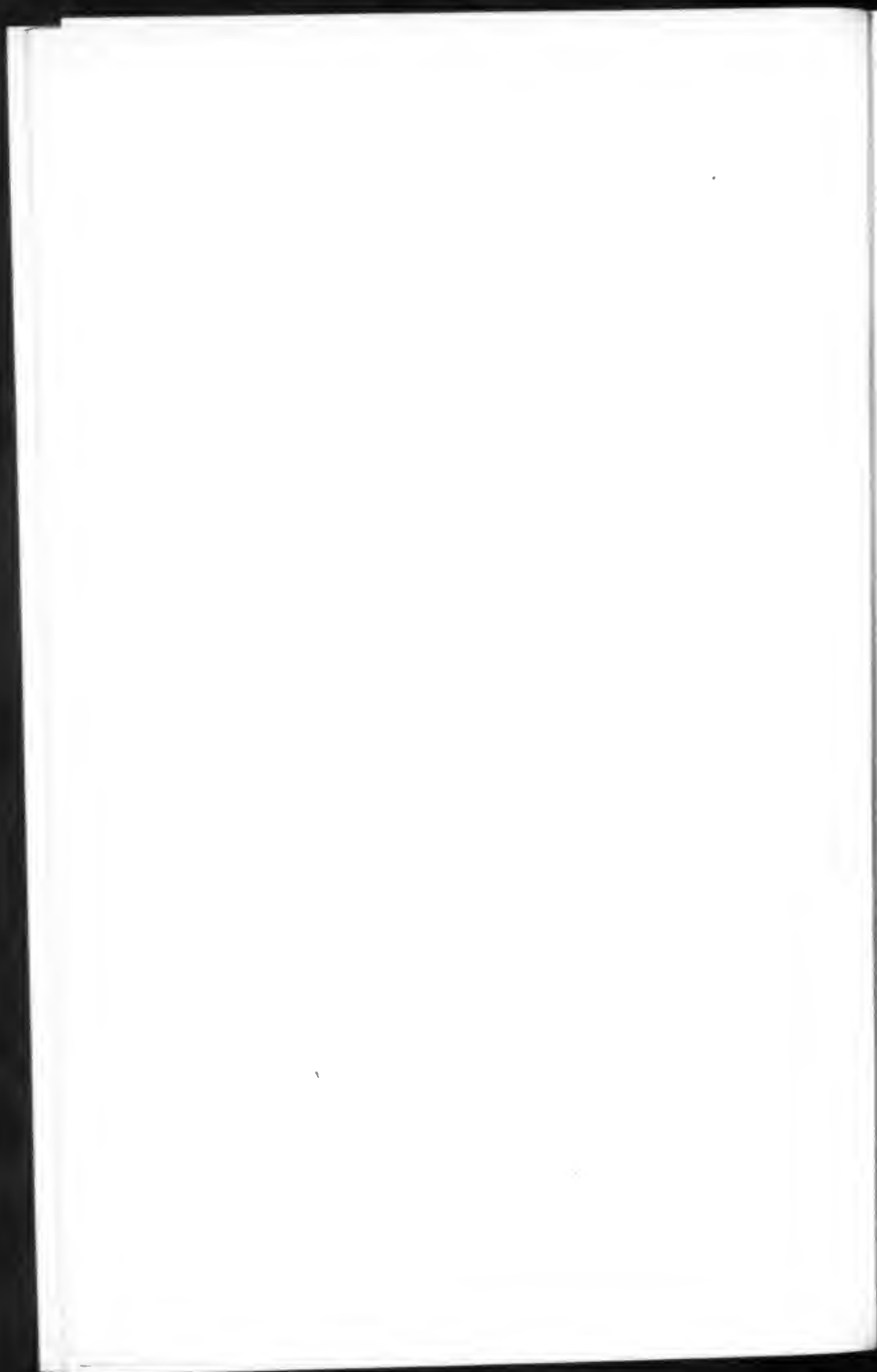
As Estradas de Ferro Internacional e Interoceanica estão sob a administração da Estrada de Ferro Nacional, e a Estrada de Ferro de Hidalgo é de propriedade da Nacional.

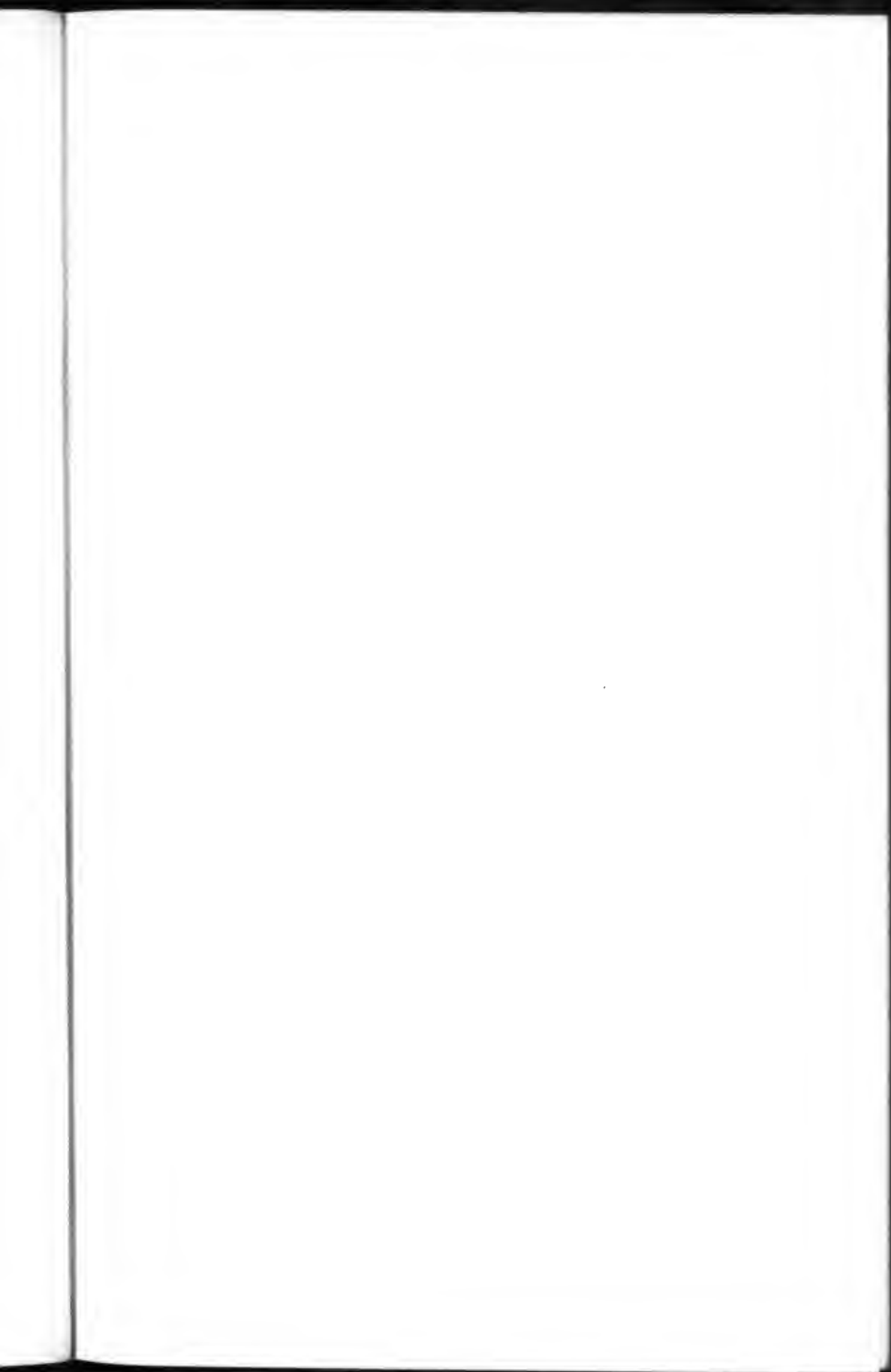
Além dessas linhas, estão sob a direcção do Governo a Estrada de Ferro Nacional de Tehuantepec, com uma extensão de 304 kilometros; o ramal de Veracruz e Pacifico que vae de Santa Lucrecia, ponto na Estrada de Ferro de Tehuantepec, até Cordoba, com 327 kilometros; e o ramal que se estende de Tierra Blanca até Veracruz, com 100 kilometros, o que perfaz o total de 731 kilometros. Adicionando-se a esses kilometros a extensão da nova rede ultimamente incorporada, verifica-se que o Governo Mexicano terá sob seu dominio absoluto 12,946 kilometros das vias-ferreas da Republica.

VENEZUELA.

EXPLORAÇÃO DAS FLORESTAS NO DELTA DO ORINOCO.

Em virtude de um decreto do Congresso Federal de Venezuela, promulgado em 26 de julho de 1907 e publicado na "Gaceta Oficial" de 22 de agosto de 1907, ficou approvedo o contracto celebrado em 2 de janeiro de 1907 entre o Governo e o Sr. VICENTE BETANCOURT ARAMBURU, para a exploração e exportação das madeiras nas florestas nacionaes que margeiam o delta do Orinoco. O concessionario pagará ao Governo o imposto de 1.50 *bolivares* por metro cubico de madeiras que fôrem exportadas, devendo pôr em execução o contracto dentro de oito mezes depois de publicado na "Gaceta Oficial." O prazo do contracto é de dez annos, contados da expiração dos oito mezes.







LE PALAIS NATIONAL, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAÏTI.



RUE AMÉRICAINÉ, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAÏTI.

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Il est à souhaiter que tous ceux qui s'intéressent au Bureau International et au BULLETIN MENSUEL trouvent le temps de jeter un coup d'œil sur les premières pages des articles de fond. De cette manière ils pourront se rendre compte des principaux articles publiés dans le BULLETIN et se donner un aperçu des plus récentes nouvelles des Républiques de l'Amérique Latine. Sans avoir l'air de montrer un enthousiasme non autorisé, le Directeur désire faire remarquer les preuves qu'on reçoit journellement au Bureau International qui montrent une ère remarquable de progrès industriel et de développement intellectuel des Républiques Américaines. De plus, il est non seulement surpris, de voir le grand nombre des demandes de renseignements qui arrivent au Bureau, venant de toutes les parties des États-Unis, de l'Europe et de l'Amérique du Sud, au sujet des occasions qui s'y présentent pour développer le commerce, placer des capitaux, voyager, étudier, faire des recherches, exploiter des mines, y établir des manufactures, s'y livrer à l'industrie en général, et enfin, pour y faire des recherches scientifiques. Il y a tant de choses intéressantes qui paraissent dans les journaux et revues de l'Amérique Latine, ainsi que dans les rapports transmis au Département d'Etat des États-Unis par ses ministres et consuls, qu'on ne peut en reproduire dans le BULLETIN que quelques extraits. Toutefois, on fait tous les efforts possibles pour donner des résumés succincts des actes les plus importants du Gouvernement et du progrès matériel.

ÉCHOS DE LA VISITE DE M. ROOT AU MEXIQUE.

Bien que les dépêches télégraphiques du Mexique, publiées dans les journaux des États-Unis, donnent une idée du bon accueil fait à l'Honorable ELIHU ROOT, Secrétaire d'Etat des États-Unis par le Gouvernement et le peuple mexicains, on ne peut se donner une idée juste

de l'enthousiasme réel, de la cordialité et de la magnificence de cette réception, qu'en lisant les journaux mexicains. Tous les préparatifs ont été faits sur une grande échelle et comme si les fonctionnaires et le peuple mexicains avaient voulu mettre leurs cœurs dans leurs démonstrations amicales. Tout le monde à Mexico, depuis M. DIAZ, Président de la République, jusqu'au plus bas des peons, semblait avoir à cœur de recevoir dignement le Secrétaire d'Etat américain dans leur pays et leur capitale. Partout où il est allé, dans la ville ou dans la campagne, soit en chemin de fer, soit en voiture, il n'y avait pas à douter de la sincérité d'admiration et d'intérêt montrée par ceux qui ont essayé de le voir. Ceux qui connaissent le Mexique ne doivent pas être surpris de voir une telle manière d'agir à l'égard du Secrétaire d'Etat. Lorsque la Seconde Conférence Pan-américaine s'est réunie à Mexico en 1901-2, le Gouvernement et le peuple n'ont rien négligé pour le plaisir et le confort des délégués de toutes les nations américaines. On peut maintenant considérer le Mexique comme faisant partie des grandes puissances du monde entier et il profite de la visite du Secrétaire d'Etat américain pour prouver qu'il peut recevoir les étrangers distingués avec autant d'éclat et de cordialité que les grandes capitales de l'Europe et de l'Amérique du Sud. Le Secrétaire n'oubliera jamais les réceptions magnifiques que lui ont été données au Brésil, dans l'Uruguay, dans la République Argentine, au Chili, au Pérou, au Panama et en Colombie et maintenant, comme pour terminer dignement cette série de triomphes sur le continent méridional, il fait une visite mémorable à la plus importante des contrées latines du continent septentrional. Il se sera familiarisé avec les conditions et les affaires de nos républiques-sœurs plus que tout autre Secrétaire d'Etat des Etats-Unis, ce qui lui permettra d'affermir la politique d'action et de confiance mutuelle qu'il a inaugurée avec tant de succès.

LA PROCHAINE CONFÉRENCE DES RÉPUBLIQUES CENTRO-AMÉRICAINES.

On doit féliciter les ministres des Républiques centro-américaines à Washington, Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, de Costa Rica, Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, de Nicaragua, Señor Dr. Don LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, du Guatemala, Señor Don FEDERICO MEJIA, du Salvador, et Señor Dr. Don ANGEL UGARTE, du Honduras, et les représentants du Mexique et des Etats-Unis, Señor Don José F. GODDY, chargé d'Affaires du Mexique; M. ROBERT BACON, 1^{er} sous-Secrétaire d'Etat, et M. A. A. ADEE, 2^{ème} sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Etats-Unis, qui ont pris part aux délibérations préliminaires sur le protocole, signé le 16 septembre 1907, par les cinq premiers représentants diplomatiques

pour la réunion d'une Conférence Internationale à Washington pendant le mois de novembre 1907, dans le but de régler les questions en litige. Un sentiment d'intérêt mutuel et de considération diplomatique s'est fait voir dans les discussions qui ont précédé la signature du protocole qui présage l'issue heureuse et satisfaisante de la future conférence. Il est probable que la conférence se tiendra dans le bâtiment du Bureau International où l'on doit réserver des salles préparées spécialement pour ses réunions. Le Bureau sera un lieu de réunion bien approprié à la circonstance, puisqu'il est autant la propriété de l'Amérique Centrale et du Mexique que celle des Etats-Unis.

ÉTUDE DE L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE DANS LES UNIVERSITÉS.

Le Directeur du Bureau International a parlé, de temps en temps, de l'intérêt croissant qui se manifeste d'une manière si visible dans les universités et collèges américains au sujet de l'étude de l'Amérique Latine. Aujourd'hui, c'est M. EDMOND S. MEANY, professeur à l'Université de Washington à Seattle, ville principale de ce grand Etat du nord-ouest qui en fait mention dans un rapport. Il dit qu'il donne à cette université, devant une classe nombreuse de jeunes gens et de jeunes filles, un cours de conférences sur l'Espagne en Amérique. Voici quels sont les sujets qu'il traite: (1) Etablissement de l'autorité espagnole en Amérique; (2) Progrès faits vers la civilisation; (3) Lutte des colonies pour conquérir leur liberté; (4) Républiques hispano-américaines; (5) L'Espagne aux Etats-Unis; (6) Conclusion embrassant (a) le progrès intellectuel, (b) le développement économique, (c) le développement politique et (d) les Congrès Pan-américains. On doit féliciter M. MEANY d'avoir inauguré ce cours qui certainement sera très suivi. A ce sujet, on doit remarquer que M. RUDOLPH SCHNELL, professeur à l'Université de Yale, fait savoir que les inscriptions dans la section espagnole de cette université augmentent rapidement et qu'il prépare pour cet hiver un cours de conférences très intéressantes à leur intention. M. L. S. ROWE, professeur à l'Université de Pennsylvanie, vient de rentrer de son voyage dans l'Amérique du Sud et il fera une étude complète de cette partie du monde devant une nombreuse classe de jeunes gens. Il n'y a probablement pas dans tous les Etats-Unis, quelqu'un qui soit mieux en mesure que lui, pour discuter les conditions actuelles de l'Amérique Latine. Il a visité toutes les capitales importantes et a passé près d'un an et demi à voyager dans ce continent. D'ici peu, M. WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD, professeur à l'Université de Colombie, sera de retour de son voyage autour de l'Amérique du Sud et il commencera aussi une série de conférences devant cette université.

INTÉRÊT MANIFESTÉ PAR LA PRESSE AU SUJET DU NOUVEAU BÂTIMENT
DU BUREAU.

Le Bureau International exprime toute sa reconnaissance au grand nombre de journaux et de revues qui ont reproduit dans leurs publications des photographies et des plans de son nouveau bâtiment. Cette publicité fait connaître aux habitants des États-Unis, l'existence du Bureau, sa sphère d'action et le but qu'il se propose et leur prouve aussi que c'est une institution qui a une grande valeur pratique pour encourager un plus grand commerce et une meilleure entente parmi toutes les Républiques Américaines. Souvent une preuve tangible sous forme de gravures fait beaucoup plus qu'une longue description par écrit pour exciter l'intérêt de la plupart des lecteurs. Il nous faudrait trop de place pour publier dans le BULLETIN la liste des journaux quotidiens des États-Unis, qui ont reproduit les photographies des dessins des architectes, mais c'est avec plaisir que le BULLETIN mentionne d'une manière toute spéciale les descriptions publiées et les gravures reproduites dans les revues suivantes: "*Harpers Weekly*," "*National Magazine*," "*Scientific American*," "*Banker's Magazine*," "*Literary Digest*," "*American Exporter*," "*Dun's Review*," "*El Comercio*," "*Cassiers Magazine*," "*Illustrated Sunday Magazine*," "*El Tiempo*," "*El Tiempo Ilustrado*" du Mexique, "*El Anunciador Peruano*" de Lima, "*Correspondencia del Pacífico*" de San Francisco et "*Modern Mexico*" de New York et de Mexico.

DISCUSSIONS PUBLIQUES SUR L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE.

Il est intéressant de remarquer que plusieurs des grandes sociétés nationales s'occupant de questions industrielles, agricoles et économiques, qui sont la cause directe du bien-être des États-Unis, désirent vivement augmenter leurs connaissances au sujet des relations commerciales des États-Unis avec leurs républiques-sœurs et qu'elles ont compris dans leurs programmes des discussions sur ce sujet sous une forme ou sous une autre. L'Association Nationale des Manufacturiers de Coton, qui s'est réunie à Washington pendant la première semaine d'octobre, a invité le Directeur du Bureau à faire une conférence sur "Les débouchés qui sont offerts aux articles de coton américains et sur le développement de l'industrie du coton dans les Républiques latino-américaines." Le président de cette association, M. WILLIAM D. HARTSHORNE, de Lawrence, Massachusetts, et le Secrétaire, M. C. J. H. WOODWARD, ont travaillé sérieusement à sa formation et son accroissement et ils voient combien il est nécessaire d'augmenter les débouchés extérieurs des articles de coton.

À la convention des "Voies fluviales navigables pour les navires de gros tonnage" qui a eu lieu à Memphis, Tennessee, le 5 octobre et devant laquelle le Président ROOSEVELT a porté la parole, on a invité le Directeur du Bureau à parler sur les rapports qu'il peut y avoir entre le Canal de Panama et les voies fluviales navigables et aussi sur le développement du commerce des États du Centre-ouest avec l'Amérique du Sud. L'un des avocats les plus distingués de Saint Louis, Missouri, M. HARRY B. HAWES, Président du Comité, chargé d'élaborer le programme de la convention de Memphis, s'intéresse beaucoup au resserrement des liens d'amitié qui existent entre les Républiques Américaines et il désire vivement en augmenter les relations commerciales. M. JOHN M. STAHL, Président du Congrès National des Agriculteurs, qui s'est réuni à Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, le 22 octobre, a invité le Directeur à parler devant cette assemblée se composant de plus de 2,000 agriculteurs des États-Unis, sur "Les occasions qui se présentent aux fermiers américains d'ouvrir des débouchés à leurs produits dans l'Amérique Latine et aussi sur l'influence que pourrait avoir sur ces débouchés l'amélioration des voies fluviales. Dans les efforts qu'il fait pour augmenter le bien-être des fermiers des États-Unis, M. STAHL reconnaît qu'il est pour eux du plus grand intérêt de travailler au développement du commerce avec l'Amérique Latine. En réponse aux invitations pressantes qui lui ont été faites, le Directeur a donné des conférences sur l'Amérique du Sud le 9 octobre à la Chambre de Commerce de Newark, New Jersey; le 15 octobre au Cercle Quill de New York et le 17 octobre à la Chambre de Commerce de Trenton, New Jersey.

VISITE DE BRÉSILIENS AUX ÉTATS-UNIS.

C'est avec le plus grand plaisir que le Directeur du Bureau a reçu à Washington une société de Brésiliens qui ont visité les États-Unis à la fin de septembre et au commencement d'octobre. Cette société se composait de trente personnes des deux sexes représentant la meilleure classe de leur pays. Elles ont paru très satisfaites de tout ce qu'elles ont vu et ont laissé une excellente impression partout où elles ont passé. Elles sont venues à New York et retournées au Brésil par le paquebot *L'Aere*, un des nouveaux vapeurs de la ligne Lloyd Brasileiro. On doit savoir gré à cette compagnie de la manière dont elle a su arranger ce voyage. Il est à souhaiter que d'autres Brésiliens puissent venir aux États-Unis, car ils sont certains d'y être accueillis à bras ouverts. A Washington, ils ont été présentés à l'Honorable OSCAR S. STRAUS, Ministre du Commerce et du Travail, qui leur a souhaité la bienvenue en quelques mots bien sentis dans

lesquels il a fait allusion aux nombreuses occasions qui se présentent pour le développement du commerce entre les Etats-Unis et le Brésil. Ensuite ils sont allés faire visite à M. BACON, Secrétaire d'Etat intérimaire, qui les a reçus dans le bureau particulier de l'Honorable ELIHU ROOT, Secrétaire d'Etat, en ce moment au Mexique. M. BACON a regretté vivement que M. ROOT ne fût pas là pour les recevoir et il a parlé de la réception magnifique que les Brésiliens ont faite à M. ROOT, lors de son voyage dans l'Amérique du Sud. Il a exprimé de la part du Département d'Etat le plaisir qu'il éprouvait de cette visite des Brésiliens venus dans ce pays afin de mieux le connaître et il a dit qu'il espérait que tous, une fois revenus au Brésil, garderaient les meilleurs souvenirs de leur séjour aux Etats-Unis. Dans les entrevues qu'ils ont eues avec le Secrétaire STRAUS et M. BACON, Secrétaire d'Etat intérimaire, M. PAES LEME et M. GONÇALVES ont répondu en des termes appropriés à la circonstance. En quittant ces Ministères, les Brésiliens sont allés à la Maison Blanche où, par suite d'un arrangement spécial, on leur a permis d'entrer avant l'heure habituelle. Plus tard ils sont allés visiter les principaux endroits intéressants de Washington. M. W. A. REID, ancien Attaché de la Légation bolivienne à Washington, s'est chargé d'accompagner et de diriger le groupe qui se composait des membres suivants: M. E. Guichara, M. Gabriel Botelho Sobrinho, M. Raymundo Bezerra, M. et Mme. Domingos Gonçalves, M. Fortunato Meneres, le Dr. Arthur Barbosa, M. José Ignacio de Sousa, M. José Porcopio de Araujo, M. Domingos Soriano da Costa, M. et Mme. Guilherme Busch, M. João Teixeira da Frota, M. Dr. Josias de Andrade, M. et Mme. Antonio Sousa Silveira, M. Otto Schlvemback, M. le Colonel et Mme. Jose Piedade, M. Luis de Almeida, M. Julio Matheus dos Santos, M. et Mme. Crispim Cellorio et leur nièce, M. Alfredo Ruis, M. et Mme. Francisco Gomez Nogueiro et leur fille, M. Felisberto C. Paes Leme représentant de la Compagnie Lloyd Brésilienne.

Au sujet de la visite dont on vient de parler, on publie la lettre suivante qui montre combien les Brésiliens ont su apprécier les politesses et les attentions dont ils ont été l'objet pendant leur séjour à Washington.

“NEW YORK, le 4 octobre 1907.

“A MONSIEUR JOHN BARRETT,

“MONSIEUR: Étant sur le point de retourner au Brésil, je désire vous exprimer au nom de la Compagnie Lloyd Brésilienne et aussi en mon nom personnel, notre reconnaissance pour les nombreuses et délicates attentions que vous avez montrées aux touristes brésiliens pendant leur visite à Washington, non seulement en venant au devant d'eux, mais encore en les accompagnant dans diverses places et en les présentant aux Ministres STRAUS et BACON. Je vous prie aussi de vouloir bien remercier Monsieur le Président de la République et

le Secrétaire d'Etat des politesses que l'on a eues envers nous par leur aimable entremise.

Je conserverai dans ma mémoire le plus agréable souvenir du berceau du "Grand WASHINGTON" et j'ai tout lieu de croire que les espérances de M. STRAUS, exprimées en des termes si pleins de bonté, se réaliseront un jour; quand enfin les noms de ceux qui ont contribué au resserrement des liens d'amitié entre le Brésil et les Etats-Unis seront passés dans le domaine de l'histoire, j'espère qu'on verra le nom de M. Buarque de la Compagnie Lloyd Brésilienne au nombre de ceux qui auront contribué à cette grande tâche, le groupement des nations américaines.

"Vos attentions envers nous ont été si grandes que je ne puis faire de choix plus heureux, en vous priant d'être notre interprète près de Madame YANÈS pour lui exprimer nos sentiments de vive reconnaissance au sujet des quelques heures trop courtes qu'elles a passées avec les dames qui nous accompagnaient.

"Soyez assuré que Monsieur Buarque de la Compagnie Lloyd Brésilienne sera au nombre des amis et des admirateurs d'un homme qui dirige avec tant de zèle le Bureau International des Républiques Américaines.

"Quant à moi, vous pouvez être certain que je serai à votre disposition pour vous procurer tous les renseignements qui pourraient vous être utiles.

"Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de mes sentiments respectueux et dévoués.

"FELISBERTO DE PAES LEME."

INTÉRÊTS COMMERCIAUX GERMANO-ARGENTINS.

L'organisation d'une Compagnie Germano-Argentine, dont le but est de développer des relations commerciales plus suivies entre l'Allemagne et la République Argentine, montre que les personnes qui s'intéressent au commerce et à l'industrie en Allemagne cherchent à profiter de toutes les occasions qui peuvent s'offrir à elles dans l'Amérique Latine. La compagnie aura deux maisons, l'une à Berlin et l'autre à Buenos-Ayres. Le Gouvernement argentin voit d'un bon œil l'établissement de cette institution, et il se propose de contribuer à sa réussite en lui donnant son oppui. En revanche, on a décidé d'établir en Allemagne une exposition permanente de produits argentins.

TRAITÉ ARGENTIN-ITALIEN.

La République Argentine a donné un bien bon exemple aux nations du monde entier en signant avec l'Italie un traité d'arbitrage pour

tous les litiges qui pourraient s'élever entre elles. Un traité de ce genre entre ces deux nations est d'autant plus important qu'un grand nombre des habitants de la République Argentine sont Italiens. Si le mouvement d'émigration d'Italie dans la République Argentine continue au même taux, ce ne sera qu'une question de temps pour qu'on voie les Italiens en nombre supérieur à ceux d'origine espagnole. Il y a certainement de grandes raisons pour attirer les émigrants dans ce pays, et c'est lui qui est le plus en vogue après les États-Unis pour ceux qui cherchent à se créer une nouvelle patrie.

PROGRÈS ET DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BOLIVIE.

Le message que Monsieur MONTES, Président de la République de Bolivie a adressé au Congrès, donne un excellent résumé des conditions du pays pour l'année 1906. Il donne une idée très bonne et très claire du progrès que la Bolivie a fait au point de vue du commerce et des relations extérieures. Ses habitants, aussi bien que ceux des pays étrangers, se rendent compte des grandes ressources que le pays renferme et il n'y a peut-être pas d'autre république dans toute l'Amérique Latine qui montre plus d'activité pour la construction de chemins de fer, pour l'exploitation des mines et pour toute espèce de travail en général. Son commerce avec l'étranger augmente d'une manière très satisfaisante comme on peut s'en rendre compte par les chiffres donnés dans ses statistiques. En 1906, il s'est élevé à environ \$45,347,420 contre \$35,000,000 en 1905. L'article le plus important de ses exportations est le fer-blanc, puis par ordre d'importance: le caoutchouc, le cuivre, l'argent en lingots et en minerai et le bismuth. D'après ce que l'on peut voir maintenant, la Bolivie est appelée à devenir le plus grand centre producteur de fer-blanc du monde entier.

LONGUEUR DES CHEMINS DE FER DU BRÉSIL.

Le progrès que l'on constate au Brésil au point de vue de la construction des chemins de fer est un des traits caractéristiques des conditions actuelles dans l'Amérique Latine. En décembre 1906, il y avait environ 17,242 kilomètres de chemins de fer en exploitation, 3,041 kilomètres en voie de construction et 6,683 kilomètres dont le tracé avait été approuvé pour en commencer la construction. Dans la répartition des lignes, on voit que c'est le chemin de fer de São Paulo qui vient en tête avec 3,980,211 kilomètres, puis celui de Minas Geraes avec 3,957,591 kilomètres, ensuite, par ordre d'importance, les chemins de fer de Bahia, de Pernambuco, de Parana et de Ceara.

FINANCES ET IMPÔTS DU CHILI.

On publie dans ce numéro un rapport très intéressant sur les affaires commerciales du Chili et aussi sur les conditions financières de ce pays. Ce rapport a été fait par M. ADOLFO ORTUZAR, consul général du Chili à New York et tous ceux qui suivent avec intérêt les progrès de cette entreprenante république feront bien de le lire. On y discute avec le plus grand soin les différentes sources de revenu du gouvernement et on y met clairement en relief la prospérité dans laquelle se trouve actuellement le Chili.

NOUVEAU MINISTRE DU CHILI AUX ÉTATS-UNIS.

Presqu'en même temps que la publication de ce numéro du BULLETIN, SENOR DON ANIBAL CRUZ DIAZ, nouveau ministre du Chili arrivera à Washington. Le Bureau lui souhaite la bienvenue en lui ouvrant les portes du Comité de Direction et il pense qu'il contribuera aux efforts faits par le Bureau pour développer le commerce et resserrer les liens d'amitié entre toutes les nations américaines. Ses qualités comme homme d'état et comme diplomate sont si bien connues qu'il ne sera pas considéré comme un étranger à Washington. À ce sujet, le Bureau ne peut passer sous silence, le travail excellent que M. ALBERT YOACHAM, le chargé d'affaires actuel, a fait dans ce pays au profit du Chili. Il a consacré toute son énergie et tout son temps à intéresser les manufacturiers et les capitalistes américains aux affaires de son pays et aussi à s'acquitter consciencieusement des missions que son gouvernement lui avait confiées.

GISEMENTS DE PLATINE EN COLOMBIE.

La rareté du platine et sa grande valeur ont fait naître un grand intérêt dans les ressources que la Colombie offre aux acheteurs de ce minéral, et on trouvera dans ce BULLETIN un article des plus intéressants à ce sujet, article extrait des rapports de M. MANNING, Consul à Cartagène, et de M. DEMERS, Consul à Barranquilla, Colombie. La demande du platine est si grande et la quantité disponible en est si petite qu'on espère que les dépôts de Colombie seront tout à la fois riches en quantité et en qualité. Si ces dépôts répondent aux espérances qu'ils ont fait naître, ils seront d'un grand secours au monde scientifique aussi bien qu'au monde commercial. Le Gouvernement colombien lui-même se rend tellement compte de l'importance de l'industrie minière du platine, qu'il prend les mesures nécessaires pour que l'on explore la partie du pays où se trouvent les gisements de ce minéral et que l'on accorde des concessions pouvant donner tout

à la fois des bénéficiaires au Gouvernement et aux concessionnaires. Il y a très peu de pays dans le monde contenant de plus grandes ressources minérales que la Colombie, et tout fait prévoir qu'on y fera un placement énorme de fonds étrangers d'ici quelques années. L'accès de ce pays est si facile, soit en venant d'Europe ou des Etats-Unis, qu'il ne semble pas même en être très éloigné. Quoique les voyages à l'intérieur n'offrent pas toutes les facilités qu'on pourrait désirer, cette contrée présente cependant un champ d'exploitation très intéressant au moyen de ses cours d'eau navigables et de ses chemins de fer dont la construction augmente tous les jours.

DÉVELOPPEMENT COMMERCIAL DE COSTA-RICA.

Le Gouvernement de Costa-Rica saisit toutes les occasions qui se présentent pour augmenter le commerce et les affaires du pays. Une des mesures les plus importantes prises dernièrement est la ratification des marchés passés le 18 juillet 1907 entre le Chemin de Fer de Costa-Rica, le Chemin de Fer du Nord et la Compagnie "United Fruit." Tous ces marchés apporteront de grands avantages au Gouvernement et aux compagnies. On a passé un décret en date du 10 juillet 1907, accordant l'entrée en franchise de droits, sur le territoire de la République, de différentes espèces d'outils et de machines agricoles. Ceci ne manquera pas de donner un nouvel essor aux intérêts qui sont en jeu et sera en parfait accord avec la politique du Gouvernement, tendant à développer l'agriculture dans le pays. Le dernier bulletin qui a été publié par le Bureau National des Statistiques montre qu'au 31 décembre 1906, il y avait une population de 341,590 habitants. Quoique ces chiffres ne semblent pas très élevés, ils laissent entrevoir l'accroissement de la population dans l'avenir. Costa-Rica, au moyen de ses propres ressources, peut facilement subvenir aux besoins de 3,000,000 d'habitants.

AUGMENTATION SENSIBLE DANS LE COMMERCE DES BANANES.

L'importance toujours croissante du commerce des bananes est un des faits les plus intéressants qui montrent l'accroissement de relations commerciales plus suivies entre les Etats-Unis, l'Europe et les pays baignés par la mer des Antilles. Ce commerce s'est tellement développé qu'il est maintenant au delà de tout ce qu'on aurait pu prévoir il y a dix ans. Si son importance augmente encore dans l'avenir dans les mêmes proportions qu'elle l'a fait depuis quelques années, ce ne sera plus qu'une question de temps pour voir la banane devenir l'aliment le plus commun pour les masses dans les Etats-Unis et l'Europe. Il n'y a pas encore très longtemps, on regardait

la banane presque comme un fruit de luxe, mais maintenant elle est meilleur marché que les pommes, même dans la partie des États-Unis où l'on récolte ce fruit. Les pays qui se trouvent sur la côte des Antilles ont grandement bénéficié de ce nouvel état de choses, en ce sens que l'impulsion donnée au commerce des bananes a nécessité la conversion de grandes étendues de terrain, qui semblaient n'être que des fourrés inutiles, en riches plantations de bananes. Des mille et mille kilomètres carrés que l'on considérait il y a cinquante ans comme des terrains sans valeur, bons seulement pour la propagation des moustiques, sont maintenant d'un grand rapport pour leurs propriétaires, et on construit des villes le long de la côte de la mer des Antilles, dans des endroits qui auparavant étaient complètement déserts et par conséquent n'avaient jamais vu d'activité commerciale.

RAPPORT DE M. PULLIAM, RECEVEUR GÉNÉRAL DES DOUANES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE.

On reproduit dans ce numéro du BULLETIN la plus grande partie du rapport, si intéressant, que M. W. E. PULLIAM, Receveur Général des Douanes de la République Dominicaine, a fait pour le premier semestre de l'année 1907. Les chiffres accusent une augmentation sur l'année précédente de \$300,000 pour les exportations et de \$670,000 pour les importations. Si l'on se rappelle que la population totale de la République Dominicaine n'est que de 500,000 habitants à peine, on verra que ces chiffres indiquent une augmentation de \$4 par habitant pour l'année 1907, ce qui est la preuve certaine d'une prospérité satisfaisante. D'après un rapport de M. McCREERY, Ministre des États-Unis, on a ouvert au mois d'août dans la ville de Saint-Domingue une exposition industrielle d'objets manufacturés et de produits du pays. Cette exposition fait voir que la République de Saint-Domingue est susceptible de faire des progrès. Le Gouvernement et le peuple ont pris beaucoup d'intérêt à cette exposition, et il est regrettable qu'il n'y ait pas en plus d'étrangers à la visiter.

MOMENT FAVORABLE POUR FONDER UNE MAISON DE BANQUE AMÉRICAINE À GUAYAQUIL.

M. HERMAN R. DIETRICH, consul général des États-Unis à Guayaquil, Equateur, insiste beaucoup pour qu'on établisse une banque américaine à Guayaquil et dans un rapport circonstancié, il relate des faits saillants au sujet des conditions dans lesquelles se trouvent les affaires de banque. Il est fortement convaincu qu'aussitôt après l'achèvement du canal de Panama, Guayaquil deviendra un des ports les plus importants de la côte occidentale de l'Amérique du Sud.

En ce moment, la population de la ville est de 70,000 habitants et une banque devrait y faire de bonnes affaires. On trouvera reproduite dans ce numéro du BULLETIN la loi sur les banques dans la république de l'Equateur.

CONGRÈS MÉDICAL PAN-AMÉRICAIN À GUATÉMALA.

L'attention du monde médical des Républiques Américaines se porte sur le Cinquième Congrès Médical Pan-Américain qui doit avoir lieu à Guatémala au milieu du mois d'août 1908. La dernière réunion avait eu lieu à Panama en janvier 1905. La Commission spéciale nommée par le Gouvernement guatémaltèque qui se compose de M. J. ORTEGA, Président, et de M. JOSÉ AZURDIA, Secrétaire, à envoyé une lettre circulaire invitant le monde médical des différentes républiques américaines à y prendre part. On trouvera dans ce numéro du BULLETIN une copie de cette circulaire.

MESSAGE DE MONSIEUR DÍAZ, PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU MEXIQUE.

Le Message que le Président de la République a envoyé au Congrès Mexicain le 16 septembre est un des documents les plus intéressants et les plus instructifs que cet homme de valeur ait faits jusqu'ici. On en publie un résumé dans ce numéro du BULLETIN, et ceux qui suivent avec intérêt les conditions gouvernementales, économiques et financières de cette République devront le lire avec soin. Un des passages importants à noter est celui dans lequel il est dit que les recettes fiscales pour l'année 1906 ont été de 20,000,000 de dollars supérieures aux dépenses prévues dans le budget et que malgré le resserrement général des fonds, la situation monétaire s'est continuellement améliorée. Un autre fait aussi intéressant à remarquer est l'établissement d'un Bureau Agricole, qui a pour objet d'étudier les questions ayant trait aux recherches pastorales et agricoles, et de distribuer parmi les cultivateurs du pays les résultats de ses investigations. L'agriculture au Mexique est sûre de faire des progrès par l'adoption de cette mesure.

EXPOSITION MEXICAINE À LONDRES.

On va faire de la réclame à Londres en faveur du Mexique au moyen d'une exposition ou l'on verra tout ce qui regarde les chemins de fer, l'industrie et les mines. Cette exposition aura lieu dans le Palais de Cristal de mai en octobre 1908, et bien qu'elle soit entre les mains

des directeurs de cette institution et qu'elle ne soit pas due à l'initiative du Gouvernement Mexicain, on a envoyé une invitation à Monsieur Díaz, Président de la République, en le priant de lui venir en aide. On a appris que le Gouvernement Mexicain a fait savoir qu'il était tout disposé à prêter son concours afin de contribuer à la réussite de cette exposition.

RÉDUCTION DES TAXES MUNICIPALES AU MEXIQUE.

Le décret passé par le Gouvernement Mexicain autorisant la réduction des taxes municipales dans certaines parties du pays a éveillé un intérêt considérable au point de vue des conditions municipales du Mexique. Depuis longtemps, on s'était beaucoup plaint des taxes que l'on trouvait trop élevées et maintenant le Gouvernement se livre à un examen très minutieux des propriétés foncières, ainsi que de leur valeur, pour servir de base à l'impôt. Il fait cela afin de s'assurer qu'on ne charge pas le peuple d'un fardeau plus lourd que cela n'est absolument nécessaire pour le bien des services publics. Il y a déjà plusieurs années qu'une commission officielle travaille pour en arriver à ce nouvel état de choses.

CONDITIONS PROSPÈRES DANS LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE PANAMA.

Des rapports reçus de Panama font voir que la République entre dans une ère de prospérité et de développement qu'on n'avait pas encore appréciée à sa juste valeur. On voit que Panama, malgré le peu d'importance de son étendue territoriale, renferme une grande variété de ressources minérales, forestières et agricoles faciles à exploiter. Dès qu'il sera possible de pénétrer dans l'intérieur du pays au moyen de chemins de fer et de routes mieux entretenues, il y a tout lieu de croire que la population augmentera sur une grande échelle, et qu'on améliorera les terres ainsi que les parties du pays qui sont aujourd'hui presque inexplorées. Beaucoup de personnes qui sont d'abord venues pour trouver de l'occupation au service de la Commission du Canal, abandonnent quelquefois ce genre de travail pour monter un commerce quelconque ou se lancer dans l'agriculture sur différents points du territoire. Un rapport de Monsieur KELLOGG, Consul des Etats-Unis à Colon, montre que Panama profite aussi beaucoup de l'accroissement du commerce des bananes. Ainsi, il fait remarquer que Bocas-del-Toro a exporté l'année dernière 3,212,504 régimes de bananes et que dans le district qui entoure cette partie, il y a 175 milles de chemins de fer en exploitation pour le transport de ce fruit et que 75 autres milles sont à l'étude.

POPULATION ET COMMERCE DE L'URUGUAY.

D'ici peu, Montévidéo, capitale de l'Uruguay, sera au nombre des grandes villes capitales du monde entier. Elle a à peu près la même population que Washington, capitale des États-Unis. Lors du dernier recensement qui a eu lieu le 31 décembre 1906, le nombre d'habitants était de 308,435. On dirait que Montévidéo est l'endroit où l'accroissement de la population se fait le plus sentir de tout ce pays; en effet, elle représente presque un quart de la population totale, qui est de 1,103,004 habitants. Si l'on examine la superficie, les ressources et le climat de l'Uruguay, il y a tout lieu de croire qu'un jour à venir il pourra suffire aux besoins d'une population dix fois plus grande. Les dernières statistiques complètes montrent que le commerce extérieur s'est élevé à \$61,000,000 environ pour l'année 1905, somme se divisant à parts égales entre les exportations et les importations. Ceci donne une moyenne de \$60 par habitant, ce qui permet ainsi à l'Uruguay d'occuper parmi les nations du monde un rang assez élevé dans la liste donnant la moyenne du commerce extérieur par habitant.

RICHESSE DE L'ORÉNOQUE EN BOIS DE CONSTRUCTION.

Les renseignements les plus récents reçus du Vénézuéla montrent que l'on commence à se rendre compte des immenses avantages que l'on peut retirer en exploitant le bois des forêts nationales du delta de l'Orénoque. Il y a peu d'endroits dans le monde entier accessibles au commerce et ayant des débouchés à la mer qui aient une plus grande richesse que la vallée de l'Orénoque. Par suite de la proximité relativement grande du Vénézuéla par rapport aux États-Unis et à l'Europe, et aussi parce que les navires de gros tonnage peuvent s'approcher très près de l'endroit où on pourrait installer des scieries à vapeur, il est certain que dans un avenir prochain il y aura un grand commerce de bois de construction entre le Vénézuéla, les États-Unis et l'Europe. Ce serait une bien bonne chose pour la préservation et la protection des forêts des États-Unis si les pays de l'Amérique Latine pouvaient jusqu'à un certain degré exécuter les commandes données au pays ci-dessus mentionné. Les forêts des États-Unis disparaissent trop vite, tandis que celles de l'Amérique se trouveraient plutôt améliorées que détériorées si on les désépaississait un peu. Bien qu'on ait beaucoup entendu parler du Vénézuéla dans le monde politique et diplomatique, ses ressources sont peu connues ou appréciées. Réellement, c'est un pays qui peut procurer des avantages naturels merveilleux.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

AMÉLIORATIONS APPORTÉES DANS LES COMMUNICATIONS ET LA VENTE DES TERRES PUBLIQUES.

Le Sénat argentin a approuvé un projet de loi préparé par les comités des travaux publics et de l'agriculture afin d'améliorer la situation des territoires nationaux et d'en faciliter l'exploitation. On doit creuser des canaux pour rendre les principaux fleuves navigables et aussi construire des lignes de chemins de fer afin d'établir des communications entre les différentes parties du pays. On doit adopter un nouveau système pour la vente des terres propres à l'élevage et au labour afin d'encourager les colons et les immigrants.

TRAVAUX D'AMÉLIORATION AU PORT DE BUENOS-AYRES.

Le Président de la République vient de soumettre au Congrès un projet de loi ayant pour but l'agrandissement du port de Buenos-Ayres et limitant les dépenses de ces travaux à \$25,000,000 or. Quand on fit les plans du port de Buenos-Ayres, il était impossible de prévoir l'accroissement rapide du commerce de cette ville et on croyait que tout était suffisant pour une période de cinquante ans. Depuis l'achèvement des travaux, on a fait un grand nombre de projets pour l'agrandir, pour en améliorer l'entrée, ainsi que celle du port de Rosario, et pour empêcher l'accumulation des vases à un endroit du fleuve près du port. Dans le projet de loi en question, il est dit que les ingénieurs du monde entier, s'occupant spécialement de travaux hydrauliques, seront appelés à soumettre des plans en rapport avec les besoins du présent, et quand on aura choisi le meilleur, on ouvrira une adjudication pour sa mise à exécution.

D'après les termes du projet de loi, le Gouvernement est autorisé à dépenser \$1,500,000 en papier pour les travaux de dragage d'un des chenaux de l'entrée à une profondeur de 24½ à 26 pieds.

COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR PENDANT LE PREMIER SEMESTRE DE L'ANNÉE 1907.

Le Bureau des Statistiques de la République Argentine a publié dans la dernière partie du mois d'août 1907, le No. 134 du BULLETIN intitulé: "Commerce extérieur de la République Argentine." Ce numéro contient les chiffres qui ont trait aux rapports commerciaux du pays pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1907, comparés à ceux de la même période de l'année 1906.

Le total des importations pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1907 s'est élevé à \$130,561,685 en or contre \$117,508,381 en or pendant le premier semestre de l'année précédente, soit une augmentation de \$13,053,304 en or. Le total des exportations s'est élevé à

\$185,344,453 en or contre \$154,766,110 en or pendant la même période de l'année 1906, soit une augmentation de \$20,668,343 en or pour l'année 1907.

Les chiffres des importations sujettes aux droits et de celles qui ont été admises en franchise, parlent hautement et donnent une idée du progrès des travaux publics de l'agriculture, car on sait fort bien que la plus grande partie des articles importés franco se composait de différents matériaux de construction et aussi de choses nécessaires à l'agriculture et aux chemins de fer.

Pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1907, la valeur des importations sujettes aux droits s'est élevée à \$81,807,348 en or, c'est-à-dire, \$1,763,909 en or de moins que pour la même période de l'année précédente dont le total était de \$83,570,357 en or. La valeur des importations en franchise de droits s'est élevée à \$48,754,337 en or contre \$33,836,124 en or pour le premier semestre de l'année 1906, soit une augmentation de \$14,817,223 en or pour le premier semestre de l'année 1907.

Il y a eu aussi une augmentation dans les exportations en franchise de droits; leur valeur s'est élevée à \$185,433,585 en or contre \$164,766,110 en or pour la même période de l'année 1906.

Voici par ordre d'importance les pays d'origine: l'Angleterre pour une valeur de \$46,173,241 en or, soit une augmentation de \$8,567,677 en or sur le premier semestre de 1906; l'Allemagne pour une valeur de \$21,037,876 en or, soit une augmentation de \$3,275,325 en or; les Etats-Unis pour une valeur de \$17,022,139 en or, soit une diminution de \$966,129 en or; la France pour une valeur de \$12,287,851 en or; l'Italie pour \$11,198,660; la Belgique pour \$7,162,223; l'Espagne pour \$3,202,982; le Brésil pour \$3,195,214; l'Uruguay pour \$1,502,127; la Hollande pour \$709,715; le Paraguay pour \$542,189; la Suède pour \$511,065; l'Autriche-Hongrie pour \$457,014; Cuba pour \$251,985; le Chili pour \$163,582; le Pérou pour \$90,613; la Bolivie pour \$76,599; l'Afrique pour \$7,881 et le Portugal pour \$3,970.

Voici par ordre d'importance les principaux pays de destination pendant la période en question: la France, \$24,077,779; l'Allemagne, \$22,727,505; l'Angleterre, \$20,386,587; la Belgique, \$18,556,236; les Etats-Unis, \$6,523,287; le Brésil, \$6,420,701; l'Italie, \$2,464,566; la Hollande, \$2,364,706; l'Uruguay, \$3,028,591; le Chili, \$1,043,659; les Colonies Anglaises, \$1,632,679; l'Afrique, \$1,055,928. Les autres pays auxquels la République Argentine a expédié des marchandises sont: l'Autriche-Hongrie, \$973,477; la Suisse, \$853,125; l'Espagne, \$756,543; le Pérou, \$529,565; la Bolivie, \$493,952; le Canada, \$400,171; la Chine, \$301,145; la Norvège, \$277,627; la Russie, \$206,107; le Portugal, \$127,198; la Suède, \$156,166; le Japon, \$83,400; Cuba, \$99,527; l'Equateur, \$19,170; les Colonies Hollandaises, \$19,756; la Turquie, \$19,891; le Danemark, \$16,977; l'Australie, \$43,330.

DÉVELOPPEMENT DES ÉCHANGES COMMERCIAUX ENTRE LA RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE ET L'ALLEMAGNE.

D'après une communication du consulat de France à Bahia-Blanca, publiée dans le *Moniteur Officiel* du 19 septembre 1907, le Ministre des Finances de la République Argentine à Buenos-Ayres a été informé par la Légation argentine à Berlin de la constitution d'une puissante société dénommée la "Germano-Argentina," dont le but principal consiste à développer les relations commerciales entre l'Allemagne et cette République, les industries, l'immigration et en général tout ce qui peut contribuer à favoriser l'échange des produits de ces deux pays.

Les maisons principales auront naturellement leurs sièges à Berlin et à Buenos-Ayres.

La nouvelle société exposera dans un musée les spécimens de tous les produits argentins qui peuvent intéresser les industriels et les commerçants allemands. On remarque parmi les noms des fondateurs celui d'un ancien ministre plénipotentiaire de l'Empire allemand à Buenos-Ayres, des banquiers et des gros commerçants qui ont déjà traité des affaires dans la République Argentine et qui, par conséquent, connaissent très bien ce pays.

Le Gouvernement argentin, convaincu que cette entreprise doit être une source de sérieux profits pour la République, a résolu de la subventionner; il lui accordera, en outre, toutes les facilités nécessaires pour lui permettre de mener à bien le but qu'elle se propose d'atteindre. À cet effet le ministre des finances prendra à la charge du budget de son département les frais occasionnés par l'exposition permanente des produits argentins en Allemagne.

BRÉSIL.**NOUVELLE BANQUE FRANÇAISE.**

D'après un décret du Pouvoir Exécutif en date du 1^{er} août 1907, on a autorisé la Banque du Crédit Foncier du Brésil à ouvrir une maison de banque à Rio de Janeiro.

La société portera son capital à la somme de 35,000,000 de francs, fera toutes les opérations de banque autorisées par la loi, recevra des fonds en dépôt et prêtera de l'argent sur hypothèques et sous caution. Il y aura une émission d'obligations remboursables avec ou sans lots par voie de tirage au sort ou autres et le produit en sera spécialement affecté aux affaires de banque autorisées par la loi. La société n'avancera d'argent que sur première hypothèque et seulement pour deux tiers de la valeur de la propriété donnée en garantie. Au moment de l'emprunt le Conseil d'Administration ou ses représentants au Brésil

fixeront le taux de l'intérêt, la durée de cet emprunt et la date du remboursement.

Il est spécifié que toutes les questions en litige qui pourraient s'élever entre la banque et les résidents du Brésil seront soumises aux tribunaux brésiliens.

RECETTES POUR LE PREMIER SEMESTRE DE L'ANNÉE 1907.

Les recettes provenant des différents impôts, pour le premier semestre de l'année 1907, s'élèvent à la somme de £11,705,514 contre £9,434,457 pendant la même période de 1906 et à £8,353,063 pour le premier semestre de l'année 1905.

Il y a une augmentation de plus de 25 pour cent sur les droits d'importation, 51 pour cent sur les exportations, 24 pour cent sur les droits de consommation, 14.2 pour cent sur les droits de navigation et 34.1 pour cent sur les fonds de remboursement du papier-monnaie.

VALEUR DES IMPORTATIONS POUR LE PREMIER SEMESTRE DE L'ANNÉE 1907.

Si l'on compare les chiffres représentant la valeur des importations faites au Brésil pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1907, c'est-à-dire, du 1^{er} janvier au 1^{er} juillet, à la période correspondante de l'année 1906, on voit qu'il y a une grande augmentation sur les impôts perçus et sur le commerce en général provenant de tous les pays exportateurs à l'exception du Chili, de Cuba, du Japon, du Paraguay, des Indes Anglaises, de la Russie et de la Turquie d'Asie.

C'est l'Angleterre qui vient la première pour les importations, l'augmentation étant de £1,661,177, puis l'Allemagne avec une augmentation de £896,536; viennent ensuite les Etats-Unis avec une augmentation de £470,631.

Le total des importations pour le premier semestre de l'année 1907 s'est élevé à £18,899,497 contre £14,424,974 pour la même période de l'année 1906.

DRAINAGE ET INSTALLATION DE LA LUMIÈRE ÉLECTRIQUE DANS LA VILLE DE PERNAMBUCO.

Le Département d'Etat des Etats-Unis vient d'informer le Bureau International des Républiques Américaines que la municipalité de Pernambuco a procédé à l'adjudication des travaux de drainage de la ville, ainsi que de l'établissement d'une usine de force motrice pour la fourniture du fluide électrique qui lui est nécessaire. En ce moment, Pernambuco, qui compte 200,000 habitants, est totalement dépourvu de ce genre de canalisation reconnu si nécessaire par les règles de l'hygiène moderne. Les soumissions doivent être remises au plus tard dans un délai de quatre mois à partir du 27 août 1907.

APPROBATION DE L'EMPRUNT SUR LE CAFÉ.

Le 12 août 1907 le Président du Brésil a promulgué la loi autorisant l'emprunt de \$15,000,000 sur le café.

STATISTIQUES DÉMOGRAPHIQUES.

D'après les chiffres officiels publiés par le Ministère des Travaux Publics, la population totale du Brésil en 1907 est de 19,910,846 habitants contre 19,523,222 habitants en 1906. La superficie totale, y compris les 191,000 kilomètres du territoire de l'Acree, est de 8,497,940 kilomètres.

DÉCISIONS LÉGALES AU SUJET DE L'ENREGISTREMENT DE MARQUES DE FABRIQUE.

Conformément à deux décisions récentes de la Cour d'Appel de Rio de Janeiro, l'enregistrement international d'une marque de fabrique à Berne n'a aucune valeur au Brésil à moins de remplir les prescriptions de la loi brésilienne sur les marques de fabrique qui en exige la publication dans le *Jornal Official*. Ces décisions sont importantes en ce sens qu'elles ont trait à tous les enregistrements internationaux qui n'ont pas été publiés dans le *Jornal Official*.

ENCOURAGEMENT DE L'INDUSTRIE DU FER ET DE L'ACIER.

On a soumis au Congrès brésilien un projet de loi ayant pour but d'encourager les fonderies de fer et d'acier dans le pays en accordant une prime de 4 pour cent, jusqu'à concurrence de £187,000, aux cinq premiers établissements qui traiteront des minerais provenant du pays. Cette prime sera portée à 6 pour cent si on se sert du charbon brésilien.

CULTURE DU CACAO À BAHIA.

La production du cacao de l'Etat de Bahia a presque doublé dans les six dernières années, les exportations en 1906 s'étant élevées à 23,500 tonnes, contre 13,000 tonnes en 1900. Les planteurs trouvent que cette culture donne des bénéfices plus sûrs et plus considérables que le tabac ou le café.

Sur la production totale de l'année 1906, on en a expédié environ 40 pour cent aux Etats-Unis et le reste a été partagé également entre la France et l'Allemagne.

CHILI.**NOUVEAU PROJET DE LOI FINANCIER.**

Aux termes d'un projet de loi financier récemment approuvé par le Congrès chilien, les droits de douane ne seront plus acquittés en or comme autrefois, mais en papier-monnaie au cours légal. Le montant

total de l'émission reste définitivement fixé à 150,000,000 de pesos; sa valeur nominale est de 18 pence par peso. Le Gouvernement qui a aujourd'hui 100,000,000 de pesos or pour racheter ses billets reste autorisé, par un accord conclu entre les deux chambres et la firme, à contracter, s'il est nécessaire, un emprunt pour le solde quand le moment de la conversion sera arrivé.

Le Gouvernement a décidé que le montant de l'émission ne sera jamais augmenté que par l'intermédiaire de la caisse d'émission et contre le dépôt par les souscripteurs du montant en or de leurs souscriptions. Cet or leur sera rendu quand ils présenteront leur papier-monnaie.

La loi autorise également l'émission d'un emprunt de 3,000,000 de livres sterling qui seront employées aux travaux de reconstruction de Valparaiso et à la construction de lignes de chemins de fer et de ports.

Le Gouvernement a, en outre, décidé la création d'une institution qui servira de banque hypothécaire pour les établissements salpêtriers. Un emprunt sera également émis pour cette création. Ce sera un emprunt à court terme, dont l'amortissement sera garanti spécialement par un droit perçu par le Gouvernement sur chaque quintal de salpêtre exporté. Ce droit viendra s'ajouter aux droits d'exportation. L'institution projetée commencera ses opérations avec 5,000,000 de pesos alloués par le Gouvernement comme fonds spécial de garantie.

CONCESSION POUR L'ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UNE USINE DE FORCE MOTRICE PRÈS DE SANTIAGO.

M. ALFRED A. WINSLOW, consul des États-Unis à Valparaiso, vient de faire connaître au Département d'État que le Gouvernement chilien vient d'accorder une concession à la Compagnie Electrique Allemande Transatlantique pour construire sur le fleuve du Maipo près de Santiago, une usine de force motrice pour produire le fluide électrique nécessaire à l'éclairage.

Cette usine doit coûter \$4,015,000 or. Sur cette somme on consacra \$1,295,040 à l'acquisition de matériaux et de machines. On a déposé entre les mains du Gouvernement une pétition demandant l'entrée en franchise de droits pendant cinq ans de tous les matériaux et machines devant servir à la construction et à l'installation de cet établissement.

RENSEIGNEMENTS QUE DOIVENT CONTENIR LES FACTURES CONSULAIRES.

Aux termes d'un décret du Ministre des Finances chilien en date du 2 août 1907, les consuls du Chili à l'étranger n'admettront comme

authentiques et ne viseront les factures de marchandises que si les renseignements suivants y sont mentionnés :

A. Le nom du vendeur de la marchandise et expéditeur de la facture ;

B. Le nom du consignataire et le port de destination des marchandises ;

C. Le nom du bateau, si la facture est établie dans le port d'embarquement des marchandises ;

D. Les marques, numéros, quantités, genres et contenus des colis ;

E. Les poids bruts et nets des marchandises ;

F. Le prix de chacune des marchandises énoncées sur la facture.

Si les consuls jugent que les prix désignés ne sont pas ceux de la place, ils devront, par une note portée au bas de la facture, indiquer les prix réels.

COLOMBIE.

DÉLIMITATION DE FRONTIÈRES AVEC L'ÉQUATEUR.

Le "Diario Oficial" du 6 juin 1907, publie le texte d'une convention passée entre la Colombie et l'Équateur et signée à Bogotà le 5 juin 1907. Cette convention qui fait suite au traité du 5 novembre 1904, a été approuvée le 13 juin 1907 par l'Assemblée nationale de Colombie et elle établit un tribunal d'arbitrage et une commission technique afin de déterminer et démarquer la frontière entre les deux pays. Le tribunal d'arbitrage doit se composer de trois membres de chaque pays et la commission technique de deux ingénieurs aussi de chaque pays. Le tribunal se réunira dans la ville de Quito, mais il peut siéger à Bogotà si on le juge nécessaire. La commission commencera ses travaux dans la capitale équatorienne ou dans l'endroit le plus proche de la place qu'elle choisira pour le point de départ de la ligne de démarcation. La décision du tribunal sera sans appel et la démarcation de la frontière sera définitive.

DROITS SUR LES EXPORTATIONS D'IVOIRE VÉGÉTAL.

Le décret No. 742 en date de l'année 1907, établissant le droit sur les exportations d'ivoire végétal des ports colombiens de Buenaventura et Tumaco, est entré en vigueur le 1er septembre 1907.

COSTA-RICA.

POPULATION DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE, 1906.

Le 15 mars 1907, le Bureau des Statistiques de Costa-Rica a fait connaître les résultats du dénombrement de la population du pays au 31 décembre 1906. D'après ces données, il y avait à cette date 341,590 habitants.

CUBA.

ÉTABLISSEMENT DE COMMUNICATION AVEC LES ÉTATS-UNIS
PAR LE TÉLÉGRAPHE SANS FIL.

Par décret du Pouvoir Exécutif en date du 13 septembre 1907, la "United Fruit Company" a été autorisée à construire et à ouvrir une station de télégraphe sans fil au Cap San Antonio, situé à l'extrémité occidentale de l'île de Cuba.

La compagnie est autorisée à établir des communications avec les autres stations de télégraphe sans fil qui font partie du système et aussi avec les navires de la compagnie ayant des appareils sans fil.

La compagnie s'engage à recevoir et à transmettre gratis à la station, les dépêches pour les navires et celles venant des navires appartenant aux gouvernements de Cuba et des Etats-Unis et aussi les dépêches des stations navales et militaires des Etats-Unis.

En compensation de ce service le gouvernement cubain transmettra gratis par ses lignes de l'intérieur, toutes les dépêches de la compagnie, allant de Pinar del Rey aux grandes plantations qu'elle possède et qu'elle fait valoir à Banes et à Preston.

La "United Fruit Company" possède soixante bateaux à vapeur faisant le transport de fruits entre les Antilles, l'Amérique du Centre et les Etats-Unis. Ordinairement, il y a à la fois quarante de ses navires dans la mer des Antilles et le Golfe du Mexique.

On se propose d'augmenter le nombre des stations du système de manière à ce que tous les navires de la compagnie puissent être constamment dans le rayon d'action d'une des stations côtières. On construit en ce moment une station télégraphique sans fil dans l'île des Cygnes, au large de la côte du Honduras et à environ 260 milles au sud du Cap San Antonio. De cette manière, les différentes stations de la compagnie sur le continent seront en complète communication.

Les Etats-Unis, Costa Rica, le Nicaragua et Panama ont tous donné les autorisations nécessaires pour l'installation complète des dites stations.

RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE.

COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR PENDANT LE PREMIER SEMESTRE DE L'ANNÉE 1907.

Les chiffres préparés par le Bureau du Receveur des Douanes dominicaines et fournis au Bureau International des Républiques Américaines par le Bureau des Affaires Insulaires du Département de la Guerre des Etats-Unis montrent une augmentation de \$983,750 pour la République dominicaine pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1907 sur la période correspondante de l'année 1906.

Le total des importations s'est élevé à \$2,376,652 contre \$2,064,068 en 1906 et le total des exportations s'est élevé à \$4,678,324 contre \$4,007,158 pour le premier semestre de l'année précédente.

ÉTATS-UNIS.

COMMERCE AVEC L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE.

IMPORTATIONS ET EXPORTATIONS.

On trouvera à la page 894 le dernier rapport du commerce entre les Etats-Unis et l'Amérique Latine, extrait de la compilation faite par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère du Commerce et du Travail. Le rapport a trait au mois d'août 1907, et donne un tableau comparatif de ce mois avec le mois correspondant de l'année 1906. Il donne aussi un tableau des huit mois finissant au mois d'août 1907, en les comparant avec la période correspondante de l'année précédente. On sait que les chiffres des différents bureaux de douane montrant les importations et les exportations pour un mois quelconque ne sont reçus au Ministère des Finances que le 20 du mois suivant, et qu'il faut un certain temps pour les compiler et les faire imprimer, de sorte que les résultats pour le mois d'août ne peuvent être publiés avant le mois d'octobre.

GUATÉMALA.

DÉLÉGUÉS À LA TROISIÈME CONFÉRENCE SANITAIRE INTERNATIONALE.

La Légation de Guatémala à Washington vient d'informer le Bureau International des Républiques Américaines que Messieurs

SALVADOR ORTEGA et JOSÉ AZURDIA viennent d'être nommés délégués à la Troisième Conférence Sanitaire Internationale qui aura lieu dans la ville de Mexico au mois de décembre 1907.

RÉUNION DU CONGRÈS DE MÉDECINE PAN-AMÉRICAIN 1908.

On vient de faire connaître au Bureau International des Républiques Américaines que la cinquième réunion du Congrès de médecine pan-américain aura lieu dans la ville de Guatémala du 6 au 9 août 1908, inclusivement, selon la décision prise au dernier congrès qui s'est réuni à Panama en janvier 1905.

MEXIQUE.

CHEMINS DE FER DE L'ÉTAT.

D'après les conditions de la fusion de plusieurs compagnies de chemins de fer qui a été faite dernièrement au Mexique selon les lois du Congrès en date du 26 décembre 1906, et le décret de Monsieur DIAZ, Président de la République, en date du 6 juillet 1907, dont on a publié les textes dans le BULLETIN de mois d'août dernier, le Gouvernement a la haute main sur les lignes suivantes dont nous donnons la longueur kilométrique.

	Kilomètres.
Le chemin de fer Mexicain du Centre y compris le Coahuila et la ligne affermée du Pacifique.....	6,001
Le chemin de fer National du Mexique.....	3,400
Le chemin de fer Mexicain International.....	1,683
Le chemin de fer Interocéanique.....	1,184
Le chemin de fer d'Hidalgo et du Nord-Est.....	244
Total.....	12,215

L'International et l'Interocéanique dépendent du National et l'Hidalgo a été acheté par le National qui en est propriétaire.

Outre ces chemins de fer, le Gouvernement possède encore: la ligne Nationale de Tehuantepec qui relie l'Atlantique au Pacifique sur une longueur de 304 kilomètres; la ligne de La Vera Cruz et du Pacifique; de Santo Lucrecia, sur la ligne de Tehuantepec, à Cordoba, longueur 327 kilomètres; et de Tierra Blanca, sur la même ligne, à La Vera Cruz, longueur 100 kilomètres; soit ensemble 731 kilomètres. En ajoutant ce dernier chiffre au nouveau système fusionné, on a un total de 12,946 kilomètres de chemins de fer qui relèvent entièrement du Gouvernement Mexicain.

PANAMA.

ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UNE BRASSERIE DANS LA VILLE DE PANAMA.

La "Gaceta Oficial" de Panama du 9 août 1907, publie le texte d'un marché fait le 8 du même mois entre le Gouvernement et la "Panama Brewing Company" pour l'établissement dans la ville de Panama d'une grande brasserie sur le modèle de celles des Etats-Unis. Le concessionnaire est autorisé à importer des Etats-Unis en franchise de droits, et cela pendant 25 ans, toutes les machines, tous les matériaux de construction, etc., nécessaires à l'établissement et pour compenser les privilèges qui lui sont accordés, il s'engage à payer au Gouvernement la somme de 75 centimes de *balboa* par baril de bière. Les travaux de construction doivent commencer dans un délai d'un an à partir de la signature du marché et doivent être achevés dans quatre ans.

URUGUAY.

RECETTES DOUANIÈRES EN JUILLET 1907.

Les recettes douanières de la République de l'Uruguay pendant le mois de juillet 1907, accusent un total de \$1,140,144.50, soit une augmentation de \$200,167 sur le même mois de l'année précédente.

Les recettes douanières mensuelles pendant les sept mois de l'année fiscale courante se sont élevées à plus de \$1,000,000 pour chaque mois à l'exception du mois de juin. Le total des recettes pour la période en question s'est élevé à \$7,927,541 contre \$7,611,660 pour la même période de l'année 1905-6, soit une augmentation nette de \$315,881. D'après les prévisions pour l'année entière les recettes provenant de cette source atteindront la somme de \$12,500,000.

PRODUCTION DE LA MINE DE CUNAPIRU.

D'après les données officielles la production de la mine de Cunapiru pendant les six premiers mois de 1907 a été de 7,694 kilogrammes de minerai, dont on a extrait 47 kilogrammes 612 gr. d'or, évalués à \$20,949.

VÉNÉZUÉLA.

RECETTES DOUANIÈRES POUR L'ANNÉE 1906.

D'après le rapport que le Ministre des Finances a envoyé au Congrès en date du 23 mai, les douanes maritimes du pays, pendant la période en question, ont perçu des droits s'élevant à la somme de

20,370,988 bolivares 11; de plus, il a été perçu sur les marchandises en transit 5,791,894 bolivares 64; le tout s'élevant à la somme de 26,162,882 bolivares 75.

RECETTES ET DÉPENSES PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1906.

D'après le rapport du Ministre des Finances et du Crédit Public, voici quelles ont été les recettes et les dépenses du Gouvernement pendant l'année 1906 comparées à celles de 1905. En 1906, les recettes se sont élevées à 53,225,630 bolivares 63 contre 56,343,380 bolivares 94 en 1905. En 1906, les dépenses se sont élevées à 51,874,694 bolivares 98 contre 54,718,163 bolivares 24 en 1905.

LATIN-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES.

AMBASSADORS EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

Brazil	Mr. JOAQUIM NABUO, 11 Lafayette Square, Washington, D. C.
Mexico	Señor Don ENRIQUE C. CREEL, Absent. Office of Embassy, 1415 I street, Washington, D. C.

ENVOYS EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTERS PLENIPOTENTIARY.

Argentine Republic	Señor Don EPIFANIO PORTELA, Absent. Office of Legation, 2108 Sixteenth street, Washington, D. C.
Bolivia	Señor Don IGNACIO CALDERÓN, Office of Legation, 1633 Sixteenth street, Washington, D. C.
Chile	Señor Don JOAQUÍN WALKER-MARTÍNEZ, Absent.
Colombia	Señor Don ENRIQUE CORTES, Office of Legation, 1728 N street, Washington, D. C.
Costa Rica	Señor Don JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Office of Legation, 1329 Eighteenth street NW, Washington, D. C.
Cuba	Señor Don GONZALO DE QUESADA, Absent.
Ecuador	Señor Don LUIS FELIPE CARBO, Absent. Office of Legation, 1302 Connecticut avenue, Washington, D. C.
Guatemala	Señor Dr. Don LUIS TOLEDO HERRARTE, Office of Legation, "The Highlands," Washington, D. C.
Haiti	Mr. J. N. LÉGER, Absent.
Honduras	Dr. ANGEL UGARTE, "The New Willard," Washington, D. C.
Nicaragua	Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, Office of Legation, 2003 O street, Washington, D. C.
Panama	Señor Don J. DOMINGO DE OBALDÍA, Absent.
	Señor Don JOSÉ AGUSTÍN ARANGO, Office of Legation, "The Highlands," Washington, D. C.
Peru	Señor Don FELIPE PARDO, Office of Legation, 1737 H street, Washington, D. C.
Salvador	Señor Don FEDERICO MEJÍA, Office of Legation, "The Arlington," Washington, D. C.
Uruguay	Señor Dr. Don LUIS MELIÁN LAFINUR, Office of Legation, 1529 Rhode Island avenue, Washington, D. C.

MINISTER RESIDENT.

Dominican Republic	Señor Don EMILIO C. JOUBERT, "The Shoreham," Washington, D. C.
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CHARGÉS D'AFFAIRES.

Chile	Señor Don ALBERTO YOACHAM, Office of Legation, "The Burlington," Washington, D. C.
Colombia	Señor Don JOSÉ MARIA PAZOS, "The Cairo," Washington, D. C.
Cuba	Señor Don ARTURO PADRÓ Y ALMEIDA, Office of Legation, "The Wyoming," Washington, D. C.
Haiti	Mr. PERCEVAL THOBY, Office of Legation, 1429 Rhode Island avenue, Washington, D. C.
Venezuela	Señor DON AGUSTO F. PULIDO, Office of Legation, "The Rochambeau," Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES IN THE LATIN-AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

AMBASSADORS EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

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Mexico	DAVID E. THOMPSON, Mexico.

ENVOYS EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTERS PLENIPOTENTIARY.

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Bolivia	WILLIAM B. SORSBY, La Paz.
Chile	JOHN HICKS, Santiago.
Colombia	THOMAS C. DAWSON, Bogotá.
Costa Rica	WILLIAM L. MERRY, San José.
Cuba	EDWIN V. MORGAN, Havana.
Ecuador	WILLIAMS C. FOX, Quito.
Guatemala	JOSEPH W. J. LEE, Guatemala City.
Haiti	HENRY W. FURNESS, Port au Prince.
Honduras	(See Guatemala.)
Nicaragua	(See Costa Rica.)
Panama	HERBERT G. SQUIERS, Panama.
Paraguay	(See Uruguay.)
Peru	LESLIE COMBS, Lima.
Salvador	(See Costa Rica.)
Uruguay	EDWARD C. O'BRIEN, Montevideo.
Venezuela	W. W. RUSSELL, Caracas.

MINISTER RESIDENT AND CONSUL-GENERAL.

Dominican Republic.....	FENTON R. MCCREERY, Santo Domingo.
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VALUE OF LATIN-AMERICAN COINS.

The following table shows the value, in United States gold, of coins representing the monetary units of the Central and South American Republics and Mexico, estimated quarterly by the Director of the United States Mint, in pursuance of act of Congress:

ESTIMATE OCTOBER 1, 1907.

Countries.	Standard.	Unit.	Value in U. S. gold or silver.	Coins.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.	Gold	Peso	\$0.965	Gold—Argentine (\$4.824) and $\frac{1}{2}$ Argentine. Silver—Peso and divisions.
BOLIVIA	Silver	Boliviano	.499	
BRAZIL	Gold	Milreis	.546	Gold—5, 10, and 20 milreis. Silver— $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 milreis.
CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES— Costa Rica	Gold	Colon	.465	
Guatemala	Silver	Peso	.499	Silver—Peso and divisions.
Honduras				
Nicaragua				
Salvador				
CHILE	Gold	Peso	.365	Gold—Escudo (\$1.825), doubloon (\$3.650), and condor (\$7.300). Silver—Peso and divisions.
COLOMBIA	Gold	Dollar	1.000	
ECUADOR	Gold	Sucre	.487	Gold—10 sucres (\$4.8665). Silver—Sucre and divisions.
HAITI	Gold	Gourde	.965	
MEXICO	Gold	Peso ^a	.498	Gold—5 and 10 pesos. Silver—Dollar ^b (or peso) and divisions.
PANAMA	Gold	Balboa	1.000	
PERU	Gold	Libra	4.866 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gold— $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 libra. Silver—Sol and divisions.
URUGUAY	Gold	Peso	1.034	
VENEZUELA	Gold	Bolivar	.193	Gold—5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 bolivars. Silver—5 bolivars.

^a75 centigrams fine gold.

^b Value in Mexico, 0.498.

