

THE
MONTHLY BULLETIN
OF THE
Bureau
OF THE
American Republics

WASHINGTON, U. S. A.

MAY, 1895

AMERICAN LIVE STOCK. (English and Spanish.)	
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AMERICAN LIVE STOCK.

(ENGLISH AND SPANISH.)

(Continued.)

CHAPTER X.

POULTRY.

PURE-BRED CHICKENS.

There are, including all classes of games, several hundred breeds of chickens, but those which are most popular and best known are classed as Asiatics, American, English, French and Spanish. The Asiatics are feathered on the legs; the Americans are clean-legged; the English and French are compact (the favorite breeds possessing five toes), and the Spanish are non-sitters. No particular breed possesses all the qualities necessary to perfection. Though excelling in some respects, a breed may be deficient in others. But each is adapted to certain climates, soils and modes of management. The best breed depends upon the purposes for which it is intended, the distance from market, the quarters, the range, the fences, and the color of its carcass when dressed.

In an examination of the breeds, the Asiatics may be divided into light Brahmas, dark Brahmas, Partridge, buff, white, and black Cochins and Langshans. The light and

dark Brahmas in appearance differ in plumage, though the lights have been bred more carefully for utility than the darks. They have stood the test of several decades, and are as great favorites to day as at any previous period. The advantages possessed by the Brahmas are pea combs and short wattles, which fit the heads closely and enable the birds to endure exposure without being subjected to frosted combs and wattles—a great advantage in a cold climate. They are all heavily feathered, being protected with short, fluffy down on every portion of the body, while their powers of digestion enable them to consume large quantities of food, and thereby not only create a sufficiency of animal heat, but also to lay during the cold season under disadvantages that would be fatal to some breeds. Hence, many persons, while admitting the Brahmas to be excellent layers, do not approve of their capacity for eating a large amount of food, which, however, is really an excellent and necessary qualification instead of being a cause for objection. As they can not fly, low fences easily confine them; and they usually lay dark colored eggs. The Brahmas are heavily feathered on the legs and to the ends of the outer toes, even the middle toe being covered. This is objectionable where the ground is damp and muddy, often causing the feet to become frozen. Some care is also necessary in feeding them, as they readily become fat after maturity and cease to lay. They seldom begin laying before they are eight months old, but if fed judiciously they lay well at all seasons. As market fowls their yellow legs and skin, as well as bodies, render them very attractive, and when crossed upon other breeds they always effect an improvement.

The Cochins differ very little from the Brahmas so far as hardiness and general market purposes are concerned; but they are more compact in body, and have single combs, yellow legs and skin, are feathered probably even more heavily on the shanks and toes than the Brahmas, and can be easily kept in confinement. The different varieties of Cochins are alike in nearly all respects but color, the Partridge being extremely beautiful. The Cochins are the best sitters and

mothers of all breeds, though their large size is often a disadvantage to them where eggs used for hatching are thin shelled.

The Langshan is the latest addition to the Asiatic breeds, and is the only one that has not been changed by the breeders of Europe and America, as it is the same in form and characteristics as when first brought from China. The fowls greatly resemble the black Cochin, but an observer may notice that the Langshan, though nearly as large as the Cochin, can fly over a high fence while the Cochin cannot leave the ground. The Langshan has white, thin skin, pinkish webs between the toes, legs the color of those of the turkey, and long sickle feathers; it lays when from six to seven months old. It is not at an attractive market fowl, its dark legs and white skin being objectionable; nevertheless it excels as a table fowl, and as layers, also, the Langshans are said to be intermediate between the sitters and the non-sitters.

The American breeds are the Plymouth Rocks, Dominiques, Javas, and Wyandottes. They are all clean legged, with yellow shanks and skin. Their popularity is due to their hardiness, medium size and adaptation to nearly all climates. They combine partially the heavy feathering of the Asiatics with the long duration of the laying season of the non-sitters. They are not only easily kept in confinement, but also make excellent foragers when running at large. They lay eggs darker in color than those of some breeds, which, added to their early maturity, considering their size, is one of their desirable qualities. The Dominiques are of small size. The black or mottled color of the Java is not preferred by many, as they are, in other respects, very similar to the Plymouth Rocks—some classifying them as black or mottled Plymouth Rocks, though they are really distinct.

Of the non-sitters, the Houdans (a French breed) are the largest, and they are excellent table fowls, but their dark legs are an objection in market, while the crests render them liable to roup in damp weather. The Black Spanish is one of the old established breeds, and once a favorite; but breeding close for a white face has taken away their compactness

and injured them in vitality. The Leghorns are the best layers, and are hardy, while the Hamburgs are considered by some as possessing an excellent merit in the rose comb. All the non-sitters lay white eggs, and all mature early and are good flyers. Hence, while they are inveterate layers, and will even lay well in winter if kept warm, they feather quickly when young and are therefore not so easily raised as the larger breeds. Their heavy combs and wattles are not in their favor in winter, while they, like all other breeds, cease laying at certain times, both for the purpose of moulting and recuperation.

The Minorcas, which it is claimed are the best layers of all, even excelling the Leghorns, may be mentioned as being of the same size as the Black Spanish, but more compact. There are three varieties—black, white, and red. They are non-sitters, and of fair size for that class, and are also considered hardy; they are likely to become favorites. The Games are not considered fully up to the average as layers, but in proportion to weight they possess less offal and more breast meat than any other breed, and stand at the head of the list for the table. Crossed on large Asiatic hens, the Game produces the finest of market poultry, while the largest and choicest capons are the result of a Dorking cock and Asiatic hen.

The breeds best adapted to the Northwest, where the temperature gets below zero and there remains, are the Brahmans and Cochins, the former being perhaps the better layers and the latter more suitable for hatching young turkeys and ducks; but where there are good markets for poultry and eggs, the Wyandottes and the Plymouth Rocks are excellent if they can have outdoor exercise. The Asiatics, if not fed too heavily, can be under shelter with contentment; but other breeds are liable to the evil of feather pulling if confined too closely. The Asiatics may be used for crossing upon the common breeds; but the crossing should be continued until the stock is three-fourths Asiatic, and the last cross should be Brahma, in order to secure the small pea comb as a protection against severe cold.

In the East, or where the winters are not as severe as in the Northwest, the American or Spanish breeds may be used, while the Asiatics would not be out of place. On wet soils, avoid feathered legs. Where there is much rain in spring, crested breeds often suffer. There are but few breeds that can not be adapted to the Eastern and Middle states; a warm, dry poultry house compensating for many disadvantages.

The best breeds for the southern countries are the Leghorns and Minorcas for eggs, and the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes for market; as the winters are mild, and these breeds, being active, have a longer season for foraging. But where one is not partial to the keeping of breeds in their purity, many advantages may be secured by crossing, provided pure bred males only are used for that purpose. Any of the breeds may be kept in any section if properly managed, there being greater distinction between those kept under confinement and those roaming at large than between those raised in different climates.

HOW TO BREED AND RAISE CHICKENS.

Where fowls are desired merely for their beauty or for amusement, several breeds and different varieties of breeds can be kept; but where the largest return in dollars and cents is of importance, and particularly where space is limited, we strongly recommend keeping only one breed.

The choice of breed must be determined by the special object for which it is intended. Fowls that yield the largest number of eggs in a year usually produce the most of them when prices are low, and lay very sparingly, if at all, during severest weather when prices are highest. The most plentiful layers do not make the best market poultry, especially as broilers and roasters, and the breeds that are the most valuable for market purposes, are not the most prolific layers. Further: Some breeds that make the very choicest roasters when weighing five or six pounds each, are so long legged and ill shaped at half this size, as then to be almost unsaleable and refused by the best class of customers.

While nearly all the leading breeds possess excellencies and advantages peculiar to each, yet where both eggs and poultry enter largely into the source of income, as is usually the case, the most desirable breed is one that occupies a middle ground rather than either of the two extremes. Whatever breed is decided upon, the breeding stock should be chosen with great care, because upon their vigor and general character depends the success in hatching and rearing, and the usefulness of future flocks. The breeding stock being the very foundation of the business, should be selected from farms where they have enjoyed unlimited range, which is indispensable to the very highest type of perfection, and no matter how high their "score," or how many premiums they have won, should never be purchased from yards where they have been raised in partial confinement or in circumscribed quarters.

It is a prevailing belief that adult fowls, two years old or more, constitute the best breeders; and this idea has been repeated, parrot like, by successive writers year after year, until it has been stereotyped. Facts, however, do not substantiate the theory, and we regard fully matured pullets, for breeders, quite equal to hens, and infinitely better for winter layers, while as a rule, fully matured cockerels for service are far superior to old cocks.

Particular attention should be given to the continued health of breeding stock. Their house should be comfortable both in summer and winter, but we are opposed to artificial heat in their case. Not less than four square feet of floor room is enough for each fowl, and more space is better still. Where natural drainage is good, the very best floor is bare earth, and no other can compare with it, but every particle of dampness must be avoided, and where this cannot otherwise be accomplished, as in damp locations having no drainage, a floor of some kind becomes necessary as the least of two evils. We prefer cement to a board one, because the latter is a first class harbor for rats and other enemies, soon decays, and is no cheaper than the former, which, if well laid will last almost indefinitely. One objection to floors is

that they must of course be covered with dirt, more in winter than in summer, and this dirt is apt to become so dry and dusty as to be unpleasant for the attendant, and uncomfortable and unhealthy for the fowls, producing sore eyes and other troubles. If the dirt is covered with litter, as explained a few pages further on, this difficulty is considerably lessened, but not entirely remedied.

Ventilation is indispensable, but no direct drafts of air should reach the fowls, for they will catch cold as quickly as children. A simple and very good ventilator is obtained by nailing four boards together, in the form of a box 8x12 inches square, open at both ends, having one end project through the roof and the other extending within a foot or two of the floor. It necessary to protect it from entrance of snow or rain, the top can be notched, and a board nailed over it; or this board can be somewhat larger than the top and fastened a few inches above it—being held in place by any of the many ways that will suggest themselves to a person of ordinary ingenuity.

Our roosts for adult fowls are 2x3 joists planed and with corners slightly rounded. Being smooth, they can be readily washed with kerosene by means of a sponge or brush, which should be done as often as necessary to effectually guard against vermin. Round roosts should never be used either for fowls or chickens, as they injure the breast bone. Many eminent breeders of valuable poultry use 2x6 plank for roosts, and some prefer to have their exhibition fowls use no roosts, but squat on clean litter, like ducks. Roosts should be placed low, and for large breeders from eighteen to twenty-four inches high. Even for Leghorns we would not have them over thirty inches high at most. Platforms under roosts greatly assist in keeping poultry houses in proper condition, and they should be cleaned daily. There are some advantages in placing the roosts on movable horses in the center of the house, but where the droppings mingle with the dirt and litter, even if removed every three or six months, it usually produces scurvy legs, and the fowls do not otherwise thrive as well: Nests are generally louse-traps, for which

reason we long since adopted single ones, fourteen inches square, with sloping top. We suspend them to the sides of the house, and can remove, clean and replace them easily and quickly. A dust bath should be in every house, and a bottomless box will answer the purpose very well. Dry road dust is the very best material to use in it, but any dry fine dirt will do. A proportion of coal ashes is also good, and perhaps improves it, and some breeders mix a liberal addition of sulphur, but wood ashes should be used with great care, for if it becomes wet, a caustic lye is formed, which is injurious to the fowls and does more harm than good.

Next in importance to comfortable, suitably ventilated and properly furnished quarters, is exercise. This is true of all poultry, of all ages, and for whatever purpose kept, and no less so for ordinary laying stock than of breeding stock. Exercise must be had in abundance, or speedy failure is inevitable, for it is the immutable law of nature and cannot be disregarded with impunity. When fowls are at liberty, as in summer, this matter will take care of itself; but when confined, as in winter, they must be furnished with the means of obtaining it, and this can be secured by a proper system of feeding, to which subject we now refer.

(To be continued.)

ANIMALES AMERICANOS.

(Continúa.)

CAPÍTULO X.

AVES DOMÉSTICAS.

POLLOS Y GALLINAS DE RAZA FINA.

Contando todas las clases de pollos y gallinas puede decirse que hay muchos centenares de razas de estas aves. Las de mayor fama son las denominadas asiática, americana, inglesa, francesa y española. Las de la raza asiática tienen plumas en las patas; las de la americana presentan las patas descarnadas y sin pluma; las de la inglesa y la francesa son de cuerpo compacto, distinguiéndose las mejores familias por tener cinco dedos en las patas; y las de la española no empo llan los huevos. Ninguna raza por si sola posee todas las cualidades necesarias para hacerla perfecta, y una que es excelente en algunos respectos puede ser deficiente en otros. Pera cada una está adaptada para ciertos climas, ciertos sue los y cierta manera especial de tratamiento. La determina ción de cual es la mejor raza depende de los objetos á que se la destine, de la distancia del mercado, de las condiciones locales, del terreno, de las cercas, y del color de la piel del animal después de desplumado.

Examinando las diferentes razas se encuentra que la asiá tica puede subdividirse en siete grupos á saber: los "Brah mas" de color claro, los "Brahmas" de color oscuro, los "Cochins" llamados perdices (partridges), los de color amari llo, los blancos, los negros y los "Langshans." Los "Brahmas" claros y los oscuros solo se diferencian en el plu maje, á pesar de que los claros han sido criados con mayor cuidado para objetos de utilidad que los oscuros. Unos y

otros han resistido á la acción del tiempo por varias décadas, y en el día gozan de tanta popularidad como en cualquiera otra época anterior. La ventaja que los "Brahmas" poseen consiste en que sus crestas y los apéndices carnosos de sus cabezas están muy junto á esta, de modo que los animales pueden sufrir mejor la intemperie sin peligro de que se les hielen aquellos órganos, lo cual es una gran ventaja en los países frios. Todos tienen muchas plumas, consistiendo una parte de estas en un plumón corto y ligero que cubre la totalidad del cuerpo. Tienen un gran poder digestivo y consumen por lo tanto grandes cantidades de alimento, de donde se origina que no solo pueden crear una cantidad suficiente de calor animal, sino también que pueden poner huevos durante el invierno, aún en condiciones desventajosas que serían fatales para otras razas. Muchas personas, admitiendo que las gallinas "Brahmas" son excelentes como ponedoras, no las quieren á causa de la gran cantidad de alimento que requieren; pero esto en realidad es una cualidad excelente y necesaria, mas bien que una objeción. Estas aves no pueden volar, y con cercas bajas pueden fácilmente tenerse encerradas. Sus huevos son generalmente de color oscuro. Sus patas están muy cargadas de plumas que llegan hasta los extremos de los dedos exteriores en ambos lados. El dedo medio está también cubierto. Esta disposición no es favorable cuando el suelo es húmedo y fangoso, porque muchas veces hace que se les hielen las patas.

Se necesita algún cuidado para alimentar las gallinas de esta clase, porque se engordan con mucha facilidad después de llegar á cierta edad, y entonces dejan de poner huevos. Raras veces empiezan á ponerlos antes de tener ocho meses de edad, pero si se las alimenta con cuidado, ponen en todas las estaciones. Como aves para el mercado sus patas y su piel de color amarillo, así como sus cuerpos, hacen á los "Brahmas" muy atractivos; y cuando se cruzan con otras razas producen siempre una mejora.

Los "Cochins" difieren muy poco de los "Brahmas," en cuanto á resistencia y utilidad general; pero son mas compactos de cuerpo y tienen la cresta sencilla, y las patas y la

piel amarilla, y mas plumas probablemente todavía en las patas y los dedos que los "Brahmas." Se les puede fácilmente tener encerradas. Las diferentes variedades de los "Cochins" son casi iguales unas á otras en todos los respectos, menos en el color; y las llamadas perdices (partridges) son extremadamente bellas. Las gallinas "Cochins" son las mejores, como ponedoras y como madres, entre todas las razas, aunque su grande tamaño es á menudo una desventaja cuando los huevos que se les ponen á empollar tienen la cáscara fina.

Los "Langshan" forman la última y única clase de la raza asiática, que no ha sido modificada por los criadores de Europa y de América, y que es igual en forma y cualidades características á la primera que se trajo de China. Se parecen mucho á las "Cochin" de color negro; pero un observador cuidadoso puede advertir que las "Langshan," aunque casi tan grandes como las "Cochin," pueden volar por encima de una cerca alta, mientras que las "Cochin" no pueden alzarse del suelo. Las "Langshan" tienen el pellejo delgado y blanco, con la membrana interdigital de color rosado, las patas del mismo color que las del pavo y las plumas encorvadas de la cola bastante largas. Las gallinas ponen desde que tienen seis á siete meses de edad. No son aves atractivas en el mercado porque sus patas oscuras y su piel blanca, no gustan pero son sin embargo excelentes para la mesa, y como ponedoras ocupan el lugar intermedio entre las que empollan y las que no empollan.

Las razas americanas son las denominadas "Plymouth Rocks," "Dominiques," "Javas" y "Wyandottes." Todas tienen las patas sin plumas, cubiertas de un pellejo amarillo y la piel del mismo color. Su popularidad se debe á su robustez, su tamaño mediano y su adaptación á casi todos los climas. Se combina en ellas parcialmente el pesado plumaje de las asiáticas, con la larga duración de la época de poner huevos, característica de las razas que no empollan. No solo se las puede tener encerradas con facilidad, sino que también son excelentes para buscarse la comida en el campo cuando se las deja sueltas. Los huevos que ponen son mas oscuros que los de las otras razas, lo que añadido á su pronto desarrollo con-

siderando su tamaño, es una de sus mejores cualidades. Las "Dominiques" son todas de pequeño tamaño. El color negro ó jaspeado de las "Javas" no les gusta á muchos. Las "Javas" en otros respectos son muy semejantes á las "Plymouth Rocks," hasta tal punto que muchos las clasifican como "Plymouth Rocks" negras ó mosqueadas aunque, en realidad son distintas.

Entre las que no empollan, las llamados "Houdans" (una raza francesa) son las mas grandes y constituyen excelentes aves para la mesa, aunque sus patas oscuras las hacen no ser admitidas sin objeción en el mercado: sus crestas suelen también enfermarse en tiempo húmedo. Las negras de raza española (Black Spanish) forman una de las familias mas antiguas y acreditadas, que gozó en un tiempo de mucha popularidad; pero los cruzamientos que de ella se han hecho con el objeto de conseguir que su cabeza sea blanca han disminuido la forma compacta de su cuerpo y perjudicado su vitalidad. Las gallinas de la familia llamada "Leghorns" son las mejores ponedoras, y están dotadas también de mucha robustez. Las "Hamburgs" se consideran por algunos como poseedoras de un mérito excelente por causa de su cresta de color de rosa. Todas las gallinas que no empollan ponen huevos blancos, se desarrollan en edad temprana, y son buenas voladoras. Ponen huevos en todo tiempo, hasta en invierno, si se las tiene en lugar caliente: se empluman pronto cuando son chiquitas y no se las cría tan fácilmente como á las aves de las otras razas. La pesadez de sus crestas y de los apéndices carnosos de su cabeza no les es ventajosa en invierno. Como sucede en todas las demás familias dejan de poner huevos cuando están mudando la pluma.

Las gallinas "Minorcas," que según se pretende son las mejores ponedoras de todas, aún mas que las "Leghorns," son del mismo tamaño que las españolas negras, pero más compactas. Hay entre ellas dos variedades, las blancas y las rojas. Pertenecen á la clase de las que no empollan, son de un tamaño bastante grande para su clase, y se las considera también como robustas. Están destinadas probablemente á gozar de mucha popularidad. Las llamadas "Games" no

pueden ocupar un alto puesto entre las buenas ponedoras de huevos; pero en proporción á su peso tienen menos intestinos y más pechuga que cualesquiera otras de las demás razas, por lo que ocupan el primer lugar en la lista de las que son propias para la mesa. Por su cruzamiento con las grandes gallinas asiáticas, las "Games" producen la mejor clase de aves para el mercado. Los mejores y más grandes capones son el resultado de un gallo "Dorkin" y una gallina asiática.

Las razas mejor adaptadas para el Noroeste, donde la temperatura baja á más de cero y permanece en ese estado por algún tiempo, son las "Brahmas" y las "Cochins," las primeras por ser quizás las mejores ponedoras de huevos, y las segundas por que son muy á propósito para empollar los huevos de pavo y los de pato. Pero donde quiera que hay un buen mercado para aves y para huevos, las "Wyandottes" y las "Plymouth Rocks" se llevan la palma cuando han podido tener ejercicio al aire libre. Las de la raza asiática, si no están demasiado alimentadas, pueden permanecer bajo techo sin experimentar descuento; pero las de las otras razas están expuestas á contraer el vicio de arrancarse las plumas si se las tiene demasiado encerradas. Las asiáticas pueden usarse con provecho para cruzarlas con las razas comunes, pero el cruzamiento debe continuarse hasta que el animal obtenido sea asiático en sus tres cuartas partes, debiendo ser "Brahma" el último cruzamiento para asegurar que la cresta sea pequeña, como protección contra el frío.

En el Este, ó donde los inviernos no sean tan severos como en el Noroeste, las razas americana y española pueden usarse con preferencia, pero no por ello deben desecharse las asiáticas. En terrenos húmedos deben evitarse las que tienen las patas con plumas. En las localidades donde llueve mucho en la primavera las familias de mucha cresta sufren á menudo. No hay más que unas pocas razas que no puedan adaptarse á los Estados del Centro y del Este. Un gallinero seco y caliente puede compensar muchas desventajas.

Las mejores razas para los países del Sud son las "Leg-horns" y las "Minorcas" como buenas ponedoras de huevos, y las "Plymouth Rocks" y las "Wyandottes" para el mer-

cado. Como allí los inviernos son benignos y estas aves son activas pueden por mucho tiempo andar sueltas en el campo buscando que comer. Cuando uno no es particularmente cuidadoso en mantener en su pureza las razas, puede asegurar muchas ventajas por medio del cruzamiento, con tal que no use para ello sino gallos de raza pura. Todas las aves de cualquier clase que sean pueden tenerse en cualquier lugar del país si se las trata debidamente; habiendo mayor distinción entre las que se tienen encerradas y las que andan sueltas que entre las que son criadas en climas distintos.

MANERA DE CRIAR LOS POLLOS Y GALLINAS.

Cuando se desea tener estas aves solo por su belleza, ó para recreo y entretenimiento, son varias las clases que pueden escogerse; pero cuando se las quiere para propósitos lucrativos, es importante, y en particular si el espacio de que se puede disponer es pequeño, que no se dedique la atención sino á una sola raza.

La elección de esta debe hacerse según el objeto especial que se tiene en mira. Hay gallinas entre las que ponen mayor cantidad de huevos al año, que aciertan á ponerlos en mayor número cuando están baratos, y solo ponen pocos, ó ninguno, durante el tiempo frío, y cuando los precios son más altos. Las que más ponen no son tampoco las que mejor se venden en el mercado, ó cuya carne sea mas apetecida en las mesas. Hay aves de esta clase, que cuando pesan de cinco á seis libras son excelentes para la cocina, pero que antes de llegar á aquel tamaño son tan zancudas y tan mal formadas que casi no pueden venderse para ese objeto y son rechazadas por todos los compradores.

En casi todas las principales razas de pollos y gallinas se encuentran excelencias y ventajas especiales, propias de cada una de ellas; pero cuando se trata, como generalmente sucede, de producir una grande cantidad de huevos, y de la multiplicación de las aves, la raza más útil es la que ocupa el término medio, sin inclinarse á ninguno de los dos extremos. Y sea cual fuere la raza que se prefiera, hay que escoger los indi-

viduos con gran cuidado, puesto que de su vigor y carácter general depende el buen éxito de la cría, y su utilidad futura. Debe irse en busca de estos individuos, que para los propósitos de la cría forman la verdadera base del negocio, á aquellas haciendas en que han andado completamente sueltos. Esto es indispensable para conseguir el más alto tipo de perfección; y poco importará su renombre, ó el número de premios que hayan ganado en las Exposiciones, si se les compra en puntos donde han sido criados en corrales pequeños, ó donde se les ha tenido encerrados más ó menos estrechamente. Es general la creencia de que las aves cuando llegan á la edad de dos años ó más, están en la mejor época para la cría; y esto se ha dicho y repetido tanto, día tras día, y año tras año, por varios escritores, que puede decirse que se ha estereotipado la idea. Los hechos, sin embargo, no justifican esta teoría, y para nosotros es cosa clara que para criar son tan buenas las de la edad antedicha como las más viejas, y que estas son infinitamente mejores para poner huevos en el invierno. Por regla general son también mejores para la cría los gallos plenamente desarrollados que los viejos.

Debe concederse especial atención á conservar en buena salud los individuos escojidos para la cría. El gallinero debe ser cómodo, tanto en invierno, como en verano, pero nos oponemos decididamente á que se le caliente artificialmente. No menor espacio que el de cuatro piés cuadrados se necesita para cada ave, y si se les da más sera mejor. Cuando el terreno es naturalmente seco, el mejor piso del gallinero es el mismo suelo, y ninguno otro puede comparársele. La humedad se debe evitar con cuidado, y donde no pueda conseguirse esto, como en los lugares que no tienen el propio desagüe, se necesitará construir un piso artificial de cualquiera clase. Para nosotros es mejor el de cimientó que el de madera, porque este último es muy á propósito para guarecer ratas y toda clase de sabandijas, á más de que se destruye pronto. No es tampoco más barato que el de cimientó, que cuando está bien hecho dura casi indefinidamente. La objeción contra los pisos artificiales consiste en que la basura acumulada sobre ellos, en invierno más aún que en verano, después de seca y reducida

á polvo, puede ser muy molesta para el que cuida las aves, y malsana para estas, produciéndoles enfermedades en los ojos y otras molestias. Si se cubre esa basura con paja ó yerba, como se explicará algunas páginas más adelante, se alijera considerablemente esta dificultad, pero no se la remedia del todo.

La ventilación es indispensable, pero debe evitarse que las aves se encuentran bajo la acción de una corriente directa, porque se acatarran con tanta facilidad como un niño. Puede conseguirse un ventilador muy bueno á la vez que sencillo usando cuatro tablas clavadas de manera que formen una especie de tubo cuadrado ó prismático, cuya base mida de 8 á 12 pulgadas cuadradas, y que esté abierto por ambos extremos, uno de los cuales atraviere el techo saliendo al exterior y el otro alcance hasta la distancia de uno á dos piés cerca del suelo. Si se necesita proteger el interior de este tubo contra la nieve ó la lluvia, pueden hacerse en él los arreglos que se usan en estos casos para las chimeneas ordinarias.

Nuestras perchas ó escaleras para las aves adultas son de dos ó tres escalones acepillados y con los ángulos ó filos ligeramente redondeados y pulidos. Esto último permite que puedan lavarse fácilmente con aceite de carbón por medio de una esponja ó brocha, y este lavado debe hacerse con la frecuencia necesaria para impedir la cría de parásitos. Las perchas redondas deben evitarse lo mismo para las aves grandes que para los pollitos, porque con ellas se les daña el hueso de la pechuga. Muchos criadores de pollos y gallinas de gran valor usan las perchas bajas, y algunos prefieren no usar ninguna y que sus aves duerman en paja limpia como los patos. De todas maneras las perchas deben ser bajas, y para las aves de gran tamaño su altura no deba pasar de diez y ocho á veinte y cuatro pulgadas. Hasta para las "Leg-horns" nunca tendríamos perchas colocadas á más de treinta y seis pulgadas de altura. La colocación de un tablado debajo de las perchas ayuda mucho para tener los gallineros en la propia condición de aseo. Estos tablados deben limpiarse diariamente. Hay alguna ventaja en colocar las perchas sobre apoyos movibles en el interior del gallinero: pero cuando

los excrementos de las aves se mezclan con el polvo del suelo y con la paja que en él se encuentre puede suceder, aunque el todo se barra cada tres ó cada seis meses, que se produzcan enfermedades escorbúticas entre los animales ó les acontezcan otros males.

En los nidos se aglomera generalmente el piojillo, y por esta razón hemos adoptado los que se construyen para solo una gallina, que son de 14 pulgadas cuadradas, con techo inclinado, como en otro lugar se describe y dibuja. Estos nidos se suspenden en los costados del gallinero y pueden quitarse, limpiarse y volverse á poner con facilidad y prontitud. En cada gallinero debe haber facilidad para que las gallinas y los pollos se revuelquen en el polvo, y esta especie de baño puede arreglarse facilmente construyendo una caja grande sin fondo. El polvo seco del camino es el mejor material que puede usarse, pero cualquiera tierra fina sirve para el mismo objeto. Es bueno también que se ponga en este polvo cierta cantidad de ceniza y hay algunos criadores que agregan azufre en bastante proporción. Las cenizas de carbón son mejores que las de leña, pero unas y otras deben usarse con gran cuidado, porque si se humedecen forman una especie de lejía cáustica que es dañina para las aves, produciendo su uso más daño que provecho.

(Continuará.)

BRAZIL.

NEW INTERNAL LOAN.

For the purpose of meeting the deficit in the national treasury for the fiscal year 1895, caused by the extraordinary expenditures incurred in suppressing the naval revolt of 1893, and for the further purpose of withdrawing from circulation a certain amount of paper money, the last congress empowered the government to negotiate a domestic or internal loan to the amount of 100,000,000 milreis—about \$20,000,000.

Subscriptions were received at certain banking houses in the city of Rio from February 28 to March 9, and the loan was enthusiastically accepted, not only by the capitalists, but also by citizens of small means desirous of finding a safe depository for their savings. Latest advices indicate that at the time for closing the subscriptions more than double the amount of the issue had been taken.

Article 7 of the decree authorizing the loan says: "Half of the product of the loan shall be applied to the redemption of the paper money issued in virtue of Decree No. 1,616A, of December 23, 1893."

BRAZILIAN NOTES.

PURCHASE OF AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES.

The French line of railway from Paranaguá to Curitiba, Parana, has been authorized to purchase four American locomotives to be substituted for others, condemned as unserviceable.

THE FRENCH GUIANA BOUNDARY.

The government has voted 120 contos gold (about \$65,000) for the expenses of a commission to be appointed for the exploration of the Guiana boundary, with a view to settling the dispute with France. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in a note to the French legation, has requested the appointment of a commission of that nationality to act in conjunction with the Brazilian commission, in order to have this much-vexed question set at rest.

ANNUAL EXPORTS FROM PARA AND AMAZONAS.

The exportation of rubber and cacao from the states of Para and Amazonas for the years 1893 and 1894 was as follows:

From Para—Rubber—1893, 42,125,953 pounds; 1894, 42,927,971 pounds. Cacao—1893, 10,134,963 pounds; 1894, 7,571,943 pounds.

From Amazonas—Rubber—1893, 10,457,876 pounds; 1894, 9,650,772 pounds.

CHILE.

PROPOSED LEGATION IN ASUNCIÓN.

It is stated that Chile, desiring to court closer diplomatic relations with Paraguay, has established a legation in Asunción whose special mission will be to thoroughly study the question of present and future communications through the Bolivian and Paraguayan Chaco.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The superintendent of Chilean customs has reported to the finance minister that the imports and exports of Chile for the last three years were as follows:

	Imports.	Exports.
1892.....	\$78,003,104	\$64,205,038
1893.....	68,235,874	72,245,111
1894 (estimated).....	55,000,000	72,500,000

It will be seen that there has been a considerable balance in favor of Chile during the past two years, being \$4,009,240 in 1893, and \$17,500,000 in 1894.

COLOMBIA.

CHANGES IN TARIFF AND DOMESTIC TAXES.

In order to meet the extraordinary expenses incurred in suppressing the late revolution, the government of Colombia has, by decree dated March 22, 1895, established the duty on imports and exports, as well as certain domestic taxes, as follows:

1. Fifteen per cent additional to existing tariff on all imports, to be levied and collected from and after the promulgation of the decree.
2. The export duty on coffee from date of decree to be as follows: Husked coffee, \$1.50 per quintal (100 pounds); unhusked coffee, \$1.20 per quintal.
3. The tax on slaughtered cattle to be \$10 per head. This provision to take effect April 1, 1895.
4. All stamped paper—revenue, and all other stamps, from date of the decree, shall be increased to double the present amount.

By the same decree, and for the same purpose, the governor of the state of Panama is authorized to make a forced loan of \$250,000.

TEXTILE GOODS.

The French consul at Panama, in a report to his government, dated December 9, 1894, says:

“Cotton piece goods are the chief articles of import to Cauca; at present they all come from England, but the

United States make better and cheaper goods and could in a short time become master of the situation. The few woolen cloths, cashmeres, merinos and cheviots imported come from France. Germany also supplies cotton and woolen cloths. A coarse woolen cloth called 'bayetones' is imported from Manchester."

COSTA RICA.

CONTRACT WITH PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

No. 502.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.
SAN JOSE, C. R. April 15, 1895.

Hon. W. Q. GRESHAM,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that Mr. W. P. Tisdell, general agent of the Pacific mail steamship company, has recently renewed the contract of that company with the government of Costa Rica, the last of the five Central American states.

The contract took effect on March 14, 1895 and will expire on April 8, 1898. The term of this contract is two years shorter than that of the contracts with the other republics. The company is to receive a subsidy of \$12,000, Costa Rican currency, annually, for transporting the mails and having its steamers touch at the port of Puntarenas three times a month, each, going north and south. I etc.,

(Signed.)

LEWIS BAKER.

ECUADOR.

STATISTICS OF REVENUE AND COMMERCE.

The following statistical information regarding the commercial and financial condition of Ecuador is derived from the Official Budget Report for 1892-93:

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue and expenditure for the two years were:

	Amount.	
	1892.	1893.
Revenue.....	Sucres. 3,799,304	Sucres. 4,325,702
Expenditure.....	4,080,525	4,433,450
Deficit.....	281,221	107,748

Conjointly, the deficits amount to slightly over $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, but taken separately, and allowing for increased revenue in 1893, they stand proportionately in the ratio of 7 to 3. During the latter year, there was an increase of $13\frac{7}{8}$ per cent in the revenue, but only 8 per cent in expenditure, which, together with a policy of retrenchment that would appear to have been inaugurated, accounts for the decrease in the deficit.

The yield to the revenue during 1892-93 from each of the fifteen provinces of Ecuador, excluding the trans-Andean

territory of Oriente, which may be classed as unproductive was as follows:

Table showing the amount contributed by each Province to the national income.

Province.	Amount.
	Sucres.
Guayas.....	6,679,350
Los Rios.....	334,859
Manabi.....	275,220
Pichincha.....	219,431
Esmeraldas.....	99,090
Azuay.....	89,384
Chimborazo.....	76,215
Tungurahua.....	69,393
Del Oro.....	60,817
Loja.....	48,875
Imbabura.....	47,746
Leon.....	38,829
Carchi.....	34,018
Bolivar.....	26,343
Cauar.....	25,436

In no case, with the exception of Guayas, is a province self-supporting. The province of Los Rios, and the littoral or coast provinces of Manabi, Esmeraldas, and Del Oro, however, as a set-off against their deficits, raise almost all the produce that is exported from the country, and thus contribute indirectly much larger amounts than appear in the foregoing list.

The expenditure of each province, excepting Guayas, as mentioned above, ranges between double and five times the amount of its local income, and this is particularly noticeable in the province of Azuay, where the annual income is about 44,000 sucres, and the expenditure 120,000 sucres, and in Chimborazo, with an income of 38,000 sucres, and expenditure of 180,000 sucres. The province of Pichincha, which derives its revenue mainly from a tax on white rum (aguardiente) and excise dues, expends annually between 720,000 sucres and 960,000 sucres, whereas its income averages 110,-

ooo sures, but this expenditure is explained by Quito (the capital), which is situated in this province, being the seat of government and the center of administration.

The remaining ten inland provinces, which are very fruitful, at present produce crops for local consumption only, as owing to the rudimentary stage of roads to the coast and consequent exorbitant charges for transport, they are debarred from exporting any surplus, or even supplying Guyaquil and other coast ports with sufficient for their requirements.

The day that a railway or system of railways becomes established, connecting these inland provinces with the Pacific seaboard, the trade of Ecuador will be considerably enhanced, for then, instead of importing flour from California and Chile, and swine, vegetables, fruit and other articles of everyday-consumption from Peru, Ecuador will be in a position to export large quantities of this class of produce.

The value of the foreign trade was:

	Amount.	
	1892.	1893.
Exports.....	£ 1,510,770	£ 1,805,223
Imports.....	1,047,250	1,315,270
Difference.....	463,520	489,953

This shows an excess of exports over imports of $44\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in 1892, and $37\frac{1}{4}$ per cent in 1893. The percentage of increase of exports and imports in 1893, as compared with the year previous, was 19 per cent and $25\frac{1}{2}$ per cent respectively: but allowing for the larger stride in the export trade during the latter year, the proportionate increase of imports was only 5 per cent. In "Annex C" are given details of the export and import trade of the Republic for 1893.

The value of the local or home coast trade was £219,242 in the year 1892, and £259,840 in 1893.

Post and Telegraphs.

Five new post offices have been opened, and with rare exceptions, every parish throughout the Republic has its respective postal establishment.

During the years 1892 and 1893, sixteen new telegraph stations were established, which raises the total number to sixty. The length of lines in operation is 1,242 miles.

Annex C.—Return of Ecuadorian trade for the year 1893.

Countries.	Value.	
	Exports.	Imports.
	£	£
Great Britain.....	213,297	381,700
France.....	700,318	260,254
Germany.....	314,237	210,983
Spain.....	163,653	29,706
Portugal.....	.....	65
Italy.....	4,432	14,829
Holland.....	56,384	48
Belgium.....	.....	14,673
Austria.....	.....	45
Switzerland.....	.....	159
United States.....	187,414	250,643
China.....	.....	15,038
Mexico.....	6,648	.....
Central America.....	16,560	4,696
Colombia.....	15,487	3,627
Venezuela.....	710	.....
Peru.....	40,300	78,746
Bolivia.....	147	.....
Chile.....	71,715	46,730
Argentine Republic.....	593	.....
Santo Domingo.....	362	.....
Cuba.....	12,166	3,328
St. Thomas (W. I.).....	800	.....
Total.....	1,805,223	1,315,270

The value of the Ecuadorian sucre as used in the above statistics is sixty cents in United States coin.

HONDURAS.

TREATY WITH NICARAGUA.

Advices from Tegucigalpo of recent date are to the effect that the constitutional assembly has approved the treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation between Honduras and Nicaragua.

TRADE OF PUERTO CORTES.

Mr. R. J. Maclachlan, British consul at Puerto Cortes, speaking of the trade of his consular district, in his report to the foreign office for the year 1894, says:

“Second in value on the list of exports, coffee at present is taking a leading position, and coffee growing will very soon be the principal industry on this side of Honduras. There is a large area adapted for its cultivation, and the quality of Honduras coffee is considered superior to that of Guatemala or Costa Rica. Six years ago only 2,000 soles* worth of coffee was exported; in 1892, four years later, the value of this export exceeded 20,000 soles. Last year the value of coffee exported from Puerto Cortes is stated by the collector of customs to have been one-third more.

“Nearly every steamer brings people from the states anxious to embark in coffee planting. The planter has to wait five years for the first crop, but is then rewarded by a return averaging one and a half pounds per tree.

“The only drawback to its cultivation on a large scale is the want of labor; but this can be remedied, as the governr

*Note —The sol as used here is equivalent to 48 cents in United States currency, and the centavo to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.

ment does all in its power to facilitate and promote agricultural industry.

"The construction of the wharf by the lessee of the railway is of much advantage to shipping; and as there are no charges for wharfage, pilotage, or lights, steamers incur little expense in calling at this port.

"Port charges are as follows:

Description.	—Charges.—	
	Soles.	Centavos
Manifest of cargo.....	1	50
Permit to discharge	2	0
Permit to load.....	2	0
Passport	2	0
Bill of health.....	2	0
Consular bill of health	5	50
Ship broker's commission	25	0
	40	0
Total	40	0
Equivalent in sterling, £4.		

"The wharf admits of vessels drawing thirty feet to come alongside, and the anchorage is good.

"Provisions are dear, with the exception of beef, which is sold to vessels at the rate of 25 centavos per pound, equal to sixpence. Water is scarce.

"The following steamship lines are now running steamers regularly to Puerto Cortes:

From New Orleans, weekly: The Royal mail, Belize, and Central American steamship company. From New York, fortnightly: The United States and Central steamship company, and the Merchants' regular steamship line.

"In addition to these regular steamers, many others call during the fruit season, from March to August."

POPULATION.

"According to the latest census the population within the limits of the municipality of Puerto Cortes is 1,780. The population of Unoa is about 800, and that of San Pedro, now the capital of the department of Cortes, is estimated at 4,000. The adjoining country, with the exception of a few scattered

settlements upon the coast, and on the banks of the rivers, is nearly all in a state of nature."

MINES.

"In this district almost all the mines have ceased to work. One, named the "Oro," is still working on a small scale, and I am informed pays expenses. The want of roads for the conveyance of machinery, and the heavy cost for transportation of mining materials and provisions, are much against their development."

WAGES.

"The wages of laborers vary a good deal at Puerto Cortes. Mechanics and carpenters are paid from 5 to 3 soles per day, railway and dock laborers 1 sole 50 centavos per day, and field or plantation laborers 1 sole, all in Honduras currency."

MEXICO.

STEP TO STIMULATE NEW ENTERPRISES.

General Porfirio Diaz, president of the Republic, has tendered to Mr. Edward Page Gaston of this city the appointment of representative of the Department of Fomento, to act for the Mexican government in the encouragement of colonization, industries and the general promotion of commercial interests in Mexico, and its advantages abroad. Mr. Gaston has accepted the appointment, and will serve as attache to this department under Cabinet Minister Manuel Fernandez Leal, with the object of influencing capitalists and others looking for safe and profitable investments, to locate in this Republic.

The government evidently realizes that the present is a peculiarly opportune time for pushing forward the claims of Mexico in the field of investment, and its future policy will seemingly not be a backward one in this respect, especially with regard to the great advantage offered United States and other foreign capitalists of nearly doubling their money when converted into Mexican silver by the long prevailing high rates of exchange. The number of inquiries regarding conditions in this Republic is constantly on the increase; and, with the well known policy of encouragement and liberality employed on the part of the general and state governments toward all intending investors, it is not difficult to predict a large increase in the amount of capital coming into this country in the near future.

IMPORTATION OF MERCHANDISE FOR THE FREE ZONE.

Under decree of President Diaz, dated April 27, importation of foreign merchandise destined for the free zone can be made through the ports of Guaymas, Vera Cruz, and Tampico, and the remission of duty on goods deposited in the bonded warehouses of Guaymas to the zone is also authorized.

The free zone duties, which are 10 per cent of the regular duties to other parts of Mexico, are payable at the frontier custom house in the zone to which the merchandise is consigned.

IMPORTACIÓN DE MERCANCÍAS DESTINADAS Á LA ZONA LIBRE,

Por decreto del Presidente Diaz, fechado el 27 de April, podrán importarse en transito por Guaymas, Veracruz y Tampico las mercaderias extranjeras destinadas á la zona libre, autorizándose al mismo tiempo la remisión á la misma zona de las mercancías introducidas en los Almacenes de depósito de Guaymas.

Eos derechos de zona, que son un diez por ciento de los derechos pagaderos en cualquiera otra parte de México, se causarán en la aduana fronteriza adonde vayan consignados los efectos.

O MEXICO.

O CAFÉ—IMMIGRAÇÃO—ESTADO FINANCEIRO.

Tudo que diz respeito aos paizes produtores do café, e nos quaes o Brazil pode sentir rivaes possiveis n'um futuro mais ou menos remoto, deve ter um interesse para os Brasileiros.

Nestes ultimos annos o Mexico está-se esforçando para attrahir a immigração europea e asiatica, e ainda que até hoje esta não tenha attingido proporções consideraveis, dizem que o futuro promette resultados mais importantes.

Alguns capitalistas dos Estados Unidos estão estudando a questão de estabelecer plantações em grande escala na zona cafeeira e o resultado, que se espera ser favoravel, não pode deixar de ser um augmento notavel na produção e exportação do café. Já se nota um crescimento consideravel nestas.

Ligado intimamente com as questões agricolas e commerciaes é naturalmente o estado financeiro do paiz, o qual, segundo a ultima Mensagem Annual do Presidente Dias, e a todos os respeitos satisfactorio.

No orçamento do Ministro da Fazenda para o anno fiscal de 1894-'95, este contou com um augmento de 500,000 libras esterlinas nas rendas aduaneiras, sendo este calculo bastante escarnecido da parte dos adversarios politicos. Agora, porem, parece que a previsão do Ministro está plenamente justificada, sendo as ditas rendas em excesso de seu calculo.

A baixa grande e inesperada no valor da prata, que constitue exclusivamente a moeda nacional, foi para o Mexico um golpe mais duro do que para as outras nações americanas, e podia bem ser mortal para suas industrias e commercio. De um abatimento tão profundo não se podia prever um levantamento tão rapido como aquelle que se está realizando sob o governor firme e prudente do presidente Dias.

O Governor evidentemente reconhece a oportunidade actual de chamar a attenção dos capitalistas, e especialmente dos Estados Unidos, ás vantagens offercidas pelo paiz para o emprego lucrativo de quantias consideraveis. Para estes uma consideração importante é o facto de que, por causa do combio alto, seu capital ficaria dobrado na troca para prata mexicana.

Já ha muita procura por informações relativas ás vantagens e facilidades offercidas pelos governos federal e estadoaes, quer á immigration, quer para o emprego de capital estrangeiro.

A estatistica mineira do Mexico para o anno de 1894 mos-

tra um augmento de 2,700,000 onças na producção de prata, e de cerca de 100,000 na de ouro.

CUSTOM HOUSE RECEIPTS.

Following are the receipts of the frontier and maritime custom houses of this Republic for the month of March, 1895:

Acapulco	\$ 3,595 83
Campeche	12,137 42
Coatzacoalcos	3,543 88
Ciudad Juarez	75,436 50
Camargo	179 24
Frontera	19,528 27
Guaymas	19,295 67
Guerrero	64 41
Isla del Carmen	8,727 78
La Paz	4,436 87
La Morita	1,055 69
Laredo de T	141,332 19
Mazatlan	96,393 90
Matamoros	3,948 37
Manzanillo	6,446 00
Mier	573 95
Nogales	43,244 22
Progreso	90,953 61
Puerto Angel	5,079 12
Ciudad Porfirio Diaz	77,694 15
San Blas	6,422 89
Salina Cruz	1,970 62
Santa Rosalia	324 25
Soconusco	19,676 34
Tampico	157,016 30
Tuxpan	3,355 46
Todos Santos	3,566 34
Tonala	7,194 60
Tijuano,	134 62
Vera Cruz	1,057,449 44
Zapaluta	5 30
Total	\$1,870,783 23

IMPROVING THE HARBOR OF VERA CRUZ.

The Mexican government has closed a contract with the English firm of S. Pearson & Son for the improvement of the harbor of Vera Cruz. The contract is one of the largest ever made by the government with private parties, involving an expenditure of eighteen to twenty millions of dollars.

The terms require that within four years from the date of the contract the work of deepening the harbor shall have so far advanced that six vessels of the largest class may lie alongside of the pier and simultaneously discharge their cargoes directly into the railway cars. The entire work is required to be completed in five years.

The firm undertaking the contract is the same that is now finishing the canal and tunnel for draining the Valley of Mexico.

Sir Weetman Pearson, and a party of engineers have left the City of Mexico for Vera Cruz for the purpose of inaugurating the work.

MEXICAN NOTES.

Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, has issued the following order:

“Mexican cattle which have been inspected by an authorized officer of this department and found free from any infectious or contagious diseases, may be admitted into that portion of the state of California south and west of the quarantine line through the port of San Diego, and into that portion of the state of Texas, south and east of the quarantine line, through the ports of Eagle Pass and Laredo, for grazing or for immediate slaughter.

“Cattle may be admitted through the port of El Paso for immediate slaughter only. In all cases where cattle are admitted for immediate slaughter they shall be shipped by rail or boat to the point of destination.

“On and after May 1, 1895, cattle will be admitted at the port of Brownsville, Texas, for grazing and immediate slaughter.”

CONCESSION MODIFIED.

The concession held by Mr. Enrique Baz, promulgated June 17, 1891, which empowered him to construct a railway starting from the city of Lampazos, Nuevo Leon, touching at Las Hermanas, a station of the Mexican International, at Cuatro Ciénegas and Sierra Mojada, in the state of Coahuila, and terminating at the station of Jimenez, on the Mexican Central, with the right to build a branch from Hermanas station to the coal fields of Carrizo and Mota del Cura and to the town of Muzquiz, as well as any other branches that the company might deem fit, provided none exceeded 100 kilometers, has been modified in such manner as to empower the concessionaire to tap several important districts not included in the original concession.

According to the new concession, promulgated on the 18th instant, Mr. Baz is empowered to build a railway from Barroteran, Coahuila, to Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, to prolong the line from the last named point to the port of Tampico, touching the towns of Mier and Camargo, with a branch starting from Santa Teresa, or other convenient point, and terminating at the port of Matamoras.

By the former concession the company was obliged, after January 1, 1894, to construct in each fiscal year a given number of kilometers, to be fixed by the ministry of communications before the close of the preceding year. By the modified concession at least 120 kilometers must be completed by June 17, 1896, another 120 kilometers by June 17, 1897, and another 130 kilometers by June 17, 1898. The remainder of the main line and branches must be completed within the two years following.

Under the original concession the subsidy was \$8,000 per kilometer, payable by means of a special issue of six per cent bonds, to be taken by the company at ninety per cent of

their par value. Agreeably to Minister Limantour's scheme for unifying all classes of subvention bonds, it has been arranged under the new concession that the company shall receive in the new five per cent bonds of the Interior redeemable debt, created by law of September 6, 1894, a subsidy of \$9,200 per kilometer, but no subsidy shall be paid with respect to more than 370 kilometers.

The above modifications in no wise affect the line from Jimenez to Sierra Mojada, for which the concession was sold on February 3, 1893, to the British Mexican railway company, limited.

MEXICAN INTERNATIONAL RAILROAD.

This company has purchased in Europe 3,000 tons of steel rails, which will be used on the extension from Reata to Monterey. Track laying has begun on the branch from Monclova to Sierra Mojada.

AN IMPORTANT CONTRACT PROPOSED.

On the 29th of April last, Messrs. Samuel Brothers, of the City of Mexico and New York, submitted to the Mexican government a proposition to supply \$2,000,000 worth of roll-stock, shop machinery, bridges, etc., for the Tehuantepec railway; dredges, tugs and lighters for the harbors, also steamers for lighthouse purposes.

It is understood that Messrs. Samuel Brothers are also negotiating for the construction of the harbors of Coatzacoalcos and Salina Cruz, the termini of the Tehuantepec railroad.

VENEZUELA.

EXECUTIVE DECREE OF FEBRUARY 23, 1893.

ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE LAW
OF IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION, IN VENE-
ZUELA, OF JANUARY 7, 1893.

I, Joaquin Crespo, chief magistrate of the Republic, in pursuance of article 39 of the law of January 7, 1893, on immigration and colonization, do hereby decree:

CHAPTER I.

IMMIGRATION BOARDS.

Article 1.—The central board of immigration created by article 9 of the law of January 7, 1893, shall meet for the purpose of organization as early as practicable after the promulgation of the present decree.

Article 2.—The director (commissioner) of statistics and immigration in the department of fomento shall be necessarily a member of the central board.

Article 3.—The central board shall elect, at its first meeting, by majority of votes, and from its own members, its president, secretary and treasurer. All these officers shall serve for six months and may be re-elected.

Article 4.—The central board shall take no action whatsoever without the presence of a quorum, consisting of at least four members.

Article 5.—In the absence of the president and the vice-president, the central board shall elect from the members present a president *pro tempore*, who shall act as such at that special meeting.

Article 6.—The members of the central board of immigration shall be appointed by the federal executive.

Six alternates, or deputy members, shall be also appointed by the federal executive, to take the place of the regular members of the board in cases of absence, and they shall be called to attend the meetings and do all other duties of the absent member, in the order in which their names are given in the decree by which they were appointed.

If the list of the six alternates becomes exhausted, it shall be renewed by the federal executive, at the request of the central board.

The federal executive shall also have the power to appoint a clerk and a messenger for the central board; but the central board itself may remove both employes, provided that it gives information thereof to the secretary of fomento.

Article 7.—The emoluments of the members of the central board of immigration for attending the meetings, and the salaries of the president, secretary, treasurer, clerk and messenger shall be paid out of the immigration and colonization appropriation bill. The expense of stationary, and all other expenses necessary for the work of the central board shall be provided for in the same way.

Article 8.—The director (commissioner) of statistics and immigration shall perform no other duties in the board than those of a regular member. He shall receive no pecuniary compensation whatever for his services in this respect.

Article 9.—No salaried officer of the central board shall be allowed to receive, in addition to his salary, the emoluments which he might have claimed for his attendance at the meetings if such salary had not been paid to him.

Article 10.—The payment of emoluments to the members of the central board for their attendance at the meetings shall be made every fifteen days, upon examination of the minutes of the proceedings. That estimate shall be approved by the president of the central board.

Article 11.—The central board shall meet to discuss matters belonging to it whenever called by its president, or by two members, or by its secretary; but the latter shall have no

authority to issue the call except when directed to do so by the secretary of fomento, for the purpose of considering or reporting upon some special matter. If the business for the transaction of which the central board meets cannot be disposed of at one meeting, the latter may be adjourned as many times as may be necessary for the completion of the work.

Article 12.—The central board of immigration shall have the following powers:

1. To establish, as provided by article 10 of the Immigration law, a subaltern board, or sub-board, in each principal port, city, town, or locality of the Republic wherein a principal depot for immigrants may be in existence, or in which the said subaltern board may for some reason be necessary. The central board shall fix the territorial jurisdiction of each sub-board, and shall give notice of its action in this respect to the federal executive.

2. To ask the subaltern boards for such reports as may be necessary in order to grant or refuse the applications made to the federal executive, either directly or through the government of some state, or by companies or private individuals, for permission to bring immigrants.

3. To make such reports as are necessary under article 18 of the Immigration and Colonization law, founded upon the information required by article 21 of the same law, or any others which may be asked for by the national executive.

4. To transmit to the department of fomento the reports received from the subaltern boards, and to express at the same time its own opinion concerning them.

5. To cause its secretary to keep a journal of its proceedings, and also a book wherein a copy of all the correspondence of the board shall be copied, and another book especially set apart for recording in full all the resolutions passed by the board, and the reports made by it to the government.

6. To keep a register, where the following shall be stated chronologically, to wit.: (1) The arrival of each immigrant; (2) the name and nationality of the ship in which the immigrant came, and whether the said ship was or was not chartered for immigration purposes, and by whom, and, if so, its

burden; (3) the port from whence the vessel sailed, and all ports at which it touched during the trip for the purpose of taking immigrants; (4) whether the immigrants have come on their own account, and if not, the name of the company or individual who brought them to the country; (5) the name of each immigrant, age, sex, nationality, state of life, religion, trade, occupation or profession, whether or not he knows how to read and write, and whether he came under any contract, and, if so, with whom the contract was entered into.

7. To make a list of not less than four nor more than six persons, from which the national executive may select the person for appointment to any position in the immigration service.

In making these lists, the names shall be chosen by the board by secret ballot and by a majority of votes.

8. To keep itself in active and direct communication, as far as may be necessary, with the information agents of the Republic abroad, with the immigration officers, and all the public authorities and officials of Venezuela, in everything relating to the encouragement of immigration.

9. To stimulate the immigration of honest and industrious people, and suggest such measures as may be proper to prevent the coming of undesirable immigrants.

10. To inspect ships bringing immigrants to Venezuela imported by companies or individuals, under contracts with the government, and also the immigrant depots established within its jurisdiction. The inspection of ships may be made by the board itself, or by special commissioners who may be selected from its members. Any infraction of the law which may be disclosed as the result of this inspection shall be reported to the government.

11. To intervene whenever it may be deemed advisable in the landing of immigrants and the payment of fares.

12. To receive, through one of its members or officials, immigrants arriving at the capital of the Republic, and to see that they are comfortably lodged in the proper depot.

13. To aid immigrants who have not come under contract, to get work or occupation in the country.

14. To see that the immigrants are taken to the places for which they are intended, or to those places which the government has set apart for colonization purposes.

15. To appoint special commissioners, who may be members either of the central or subaltern boards, to inspect the immigrant colonies, whatever may be their character.

16. To supervise the contracts which may be entered into with the immigrants, and the treatment accorded them, and to see that the laws on immigration and colonization are duly complied with.

17. To encourage the discovery of lands belonging to the state, and make charts of the same, explaining their geographical position, climate, quality of the soil, supply of water, and all other circumstances requisite to make a proper use and distribution of the lands.

18. To apply to the national executive for the selection of such tracts of public lands as are referred to in article 37 of the Immigration law, and to cause the same tracts to be surveyed, classified, and adjudicated to immigrants, in pursuance of the provisions of article 12 of the same law.

As soon as the conditions required by the said article 12 of the Immigration law are duly complied with, it shall be the duty of the central board to report the fact to the national executive, through the secretary of fomento, in order that the proper land patent may be issued.

19. To execute, under article 33 of the Immigration law, the conveyance of the first parcels of land to pioneer immigrants, founders of colonies, and to award, in cases of sale at auction, the ownership of the lands, or to enter in regard to the latter into such agreements as may be deemed proper, under the same article, and to fix the time in which the second sale shall be made.

20. To execute the conveyance of such lots as are mentioned in article 34 of the Immigration law.

21. To manage the funds appropriated for immigration and colonization purposes, which shall be received by the board every fifteen days, and keep proper account thereof. It shall submit, monthly, to the secretary of fomento, an

itemized statement of the expenses, and of the amount of money on hand.

If at the end of the year there should be an unexpended balance, it shall be applied, together with the amount of the next year's appropriation, to the payment of passenger fares, or if approved by the national executive, to some work tending to promote immigration, or enlarge the means of support of the people, such as the construction of wagon roads to the principal centers of agricultural production, the study and introduction of new industries, the improvements of breeds of useful animals, etc.

22. To submit every year to the secretary of fomento, the estimate of the expenses required to carry on the department of immigration and colonization, so as to obtain through the interposition of that official the necessary appropriation.

23. To suggest and recommend to the national executive all measures which in the opinion of the board may be conducive to the promotion of immigration, or improving the existing plans of colonization.

24. To submit every year a report or "memoria," stating the number of immigrants that arrived in the country, the classes to which they belong respectively, their ages, etc., making suggestions and recommendations as to the best manner of promoting and increasing immigration, and explaining, in case the movement in this respect has been less active than before, what in the opinion of the board are the causes of the stagnation or decline. This report shall be appended to the report which the secretary of fomento shall himself submit to the legislative body.

TITLE II.

THE SUBALTERN BOARDS.

Article 13.—The subaltern immigration boards shall consist of five members, appointed by the central board, with the approval of the executive. No action can be taken by these boards unless a quorum of at least three members is present. They shall elect their own officers in the same manner as the central board.

To fill the places which may be left vacant, either temporarily or permanently, in each subaltern board, the central board shall make, with the approval of the executive, a list for each board containing the names of five alternates.

When the list is exhausted it shall be renewed by the central board at the request of the respective subaltern board.

The secretary shall keep the same books as are provided by No. 5 of article 12 of the present rules.

Article 14.—The subaltern board shall have the following powers:

1. To meet whenever called by their respective president.
2. To consider such matters as may be submitted to them by the central board or by the national government, and make the proper reports.
3. To inform the central board of the difficulties which may be found in their respective localities for the proper development of immigration and colonization, and to suggest measures which, in their opinion, may be conducive to removing those obstacles.
4. To perform any duty which may be intrusted to them either by the central board or by the national executive.
5. To receive the immigrants arriving in the place where the subaltern board is established, and see that they are properly installed in the depot.
6. To inspect the ships bringing immigrants to Venezuela on account of companies or individuals, under contracts with the government, and also the immigrant depots established within their respective jurisdiction. They shall also supervise the action of the immigration officers, and either correct or report to the central board whatever irregularities may have been noticed by them.
7. To examine and approve, or disapprove, the expenditures which may be required for the immigration service in their respective jurisdiction; and in case of disapproval to refer the matter with the proper explanation to the central board.
8. To appoint auxiliary boards, consisting of at least three

members each, in such departments or districts, municipalities, and towns, as they may deem advisable.

9. To make active propaganda in favor of immigration.

TITLE III.

PROVISIONS COMMON TO THE CENTRAL AND THE SUBALTERN BOARD.

Article 15.—Should it be impossible for the property owners, referred to in section 2 of article 23 of the Immigration law of January 7, above named to reach the agreement therein provided for, it shall be their duty to refer the matter to the respective board for such decision as may be proper.

Article 16.—The government does hereby grant full authority to the owners of the lots referred to in section 3 of article 33 of the decree of January 7, above named to regulate the free distribution of the waters pertaining to them, and in case of failure to agree they shall refer the same for decision to the respective board.

Article 17. The immigration boards are hereby authorized within their respective jurisdictions to provide for the acquisition of books, periodical publications, newspapers, maps, views, etc., and the collection of specimens of natural products and manufactured articles, all of which are to be used in the formation of libraries and sample rooms to be attached to the bureaus of agencies of information.

The central board shall however have the power to control the acquisition of such books, papers and samples, even in places subject to the jurisdiction of the subaltern boards.

CHAPTER II.

INFORMATION AGENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

TITLE I.

THE AGENCIES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS.

Article 18.—Four offices or bureaus of information shall be created abroad, in the following way, namely: one at

Bordeaux, having the whole of France under its jurisdiction; another at Barcelona, having under its jurisdiction the whole of Spain and Portugal; another at Genoa, having the whole of Italy under its jurisdiction; and another at Las Palmas, having under its jurisdiction the Canary Islands and the Portuguese islands of Madeira and Porto Santo.

Article 19.—The business of each one of these offices shall be conducted by an agent of information, whose salary shall be paid out of the funds provided by the annual appropriation for immigration purposes.

Article 20.—A special appropriation shall be made to meet the expenses required for the establishment of each agency, its library, and sample room, as well as furnishing of the agent's office.

Article 21.—The information agents and the consuls shall have all the powers and fulfill all the duties mentioned in the Immigration and Colonization law of January 7, 1893, and in this decree.

Article 22.—The information agents and the consuls residing in places outside the territorial jurisdiction of the agencies above named shall have the following additional duties, namely:

1. To furnish gratuitously, either verbally or in writing and in the language of the nation wherein they exercise their functions, all the information which may be asked of them by private individuals, or corporations, or companies, in regard to the physical and material conditions and resources of the Republic her codes, laws, and treaties, general statistics, production, tariff, prices current, finance, industry, and, generally everything relative to the condition of things and progress of the nation.

2. To visit from time to time the whole district under their jurisdiction, so as to make the working classes thereof acquainted, by means of short and succinct advertisements, circulars, or other publications *ad hoc*, profusely distributed, the inducements which Venezuela offers the immigrant who may desire to settle on her soil, and the advantages granted them by her laws.

3. To report to the central board of immigration the condition, prosperous or otherwise, of the working classes in their respective agencies, and furnish by special report, either to the central board or to any executive department or office, both federal and state, whatever information may be desired from them.

4. To keep a register wherein shall be inscribed the name and surname of each immigrant, sex, age, country of birth, trade or occupation, civil status, religion, port of embarkation, name of the person or company for whose account he comes, or whether he came at his own expense, and issue to the emigrant the proper certificate (cédula), which must be, moreover, viséd by the consul of the Republic at the port of embarkation.

5. To see that the registered parties are either mechanic tradesmen, professional men, or laborers by occupation, and ascertain that they have no organic or contagious disease, or are not disabled in any way.

6. To transmit to the central board of immigration a copy of each notice, review or any other publication they may undertake, besides a monthly report giving a detailed account of the work of the office, of the results expected from their efforts, and of anything relating to progress in the way of immigration.

7. To take the declaration of every alien, who, coming a, his own expense, desires to receive the benefits of the Immigration law of January 7, 1893, and assume the obligations imposed thereby, or of such as, accepting the free transportation of the nation, may come in the vessels and in the class that the companies or individuals authorized to introduce them may have selected.

A minute shall be made of such declaration, which shall be recorded in a special register, setting forth the aforesaid circumstances, and further, the port of embarkation if possible, the name and nationality of the vessel in which he expects to sail, the name and surname of the declarant, place of residence, age, sex, civil status or condition, nationality, religion, trade or profession, whether able to read and write, and

whether he comes under contract, and with whom, signed by the agent, or in his default by the consul, and by the declarant, who will receive a certified copy thereof for the effects of article 79.

Immigrants coming at their own expense may make this declaration before the consuls exercising their functions within the jurisdiction of an information agent, and in such case the consuls will transmit a certified copy of the declaration to the proper agent.

8. To make, through the agents, and with the intervention of the government, the contract which, according to article 21 of the Immigration law above cited, private individuals or companies may wish to enter into, and see that the immigrants meet all the requirements of said individuals or companies.

9. To keep a register which shall record the fact and circumstances of having made known to the immigrants the provisions of the Immigration law. This declaration shall be signed by the agent or consul, and by the immigrant.

Article 23.—To attain the end the government has in view in establishing information offices, the latter shall use the following means:

1. The organization in each office of a free public library, containing works on the Republic, both official and unofficial, maps, views, plans, and the principal dailies of the capital and the states.

2. The holding of public lectures.

3. The correction of erroneous notices of the country which may be published, and the spreading, through the press or by pamphlet, of correct information touching the advantages offered by the Republic through her climate, institutions, and industries, to foreigners and capital.

4. A permanent exhibition in the said offices of samples of the national and industrial products of the Republic, to which end the manufacturers, and the government of the nation and the states, shall be invited to take part.

Whenever practicable the collection of products should consist of duplicate samples for each office, so that one of the collections may be used to enable the Republic to take part in

the local and district exhibitions, which are frequently organized.

Article 24.—Catalogues will be made of the library and archives, as well as of the sample room, which shall be placed at the disposal of the public, one copy thereof being annually sent to the ministry of fomento, and another to the central board of immigration.

Article 25.—The officers will give their entire attention to the encouragement of the development of natural products, opening markets therefor, or enlarging the same, through a propaganda consistent with the circumstances and the locality; and shall devote themselves to an examination of the causes which may hinder the importation of raw articles and material from Venezuela, transmitting to the central board of immigration, for publication, the result of their investigations.

Article 26.—When the information agents shall receive from aliens residing within their jurisdictions, applications to come to the Republic as immigrants, and the agents cannot, or do not deem it expedient, to send them on vessels bringing parties of immigrants for account of companies or individuals who may have entered into a contract for the purpose with the government, they shall transmit said applications to the ministry of fomento, which will pass upon them, following the provisions of title V, chapter I of the Immigration law.

The authority to forward immigrants having been obtained, the agent will embark them, taking care to see that they are provided with all proper documents, and will draw on the central board of immigration for the amount of the passage agreed on with the national government, and the central board will accept the draft after the immigrants have been received and the passage paid.

In case immigrants arrive on vessels bringing parties on account of companies or individuals who may have contracted with the government for bringing them, they will be computed in the number which the contractor may be authorized to introduce, and considered in every way as though introduced by him.

[Title 2, on the duties of the agents of information in their relations with the agent in Bordeaux; Title 3, on the interior organization of the offices; Title 4, on libraries; Title 5, on sample rooms, and Title 6, on local exhibitions—are omitted owing to their purely domestic characters.]

TITLE VII.

VISÉING OF DOCUMENTS.

Article 64.—Agents may visé personal documents of immigrants applying to them, especially such as refer to their good habits, emanating from the local authorities. This viséing shall be in the following form: “Viséed, to leave for Venezuela as an immigrant under the law of January 7, 1893. (Date, signature and seal.)”

CHAPTER III.

ON THE DEPARTURE OF EMIGRANTS FROM PORTS OF EMBARKATION, AND THE MEANS OF COMING.

Article 65.—Emigrants shall be cleared at the ports of embarkation by the respective consuls.

Article 66.—Consuls shall not clear emigrants except they are bound to the port of La Guayra, or to some other port which the government may determine.

Article 67.—At points where there is no consul of the republic, the information agent shall issue to the emigrants the passport referred to in No. 4 of article 11, of the Immigration law of January 7, 1893.

Article 68.—Consuls shall not clear any emigrant who is not provided with the proper certificate, issued by the respective information agent.

Article 69.—Immigrants may come, according to the law aforesaid, by paying personally their passage; that is to say, at their own expense, or accepting the payment the nation offers.

These last named may come on vessels bringing parties of immigrants on account of companies or individuals, who may

have contracted with the government to bring them, or on vessels and in the class that the companies or individuals authorized to introduce them may select.

Article 70.—On clearing a vessel carrying a body of emigrants on account of some company or individual who may have contracted with the government to bring them, the consul at the port of embarkation shall make a list, on which shall appear the name, tonnage and nationality of the vessel and the name of the captain, the date of departure, the names and surnames of the emigrants, their places of residence, age, sex, condition, nationality, religion, trade or profession, whether they can read and write, and whether they come under contract, and with whom. He shall make two copies of this list, delivering one to the captain and sending the other one, closed and sealed, at the earliest opportunity, to the president of the central board of immigration.

Article 71.—Immigrants coming to the Republic in the vessels and class which the companies or individuals authorized to introduce them may have selected, shall present themselves to the agent of information in whose jurisdiction the port of embarkation may be, or to the consul, if the port should be beyond the jurisdiction of an agent, and shall make the declaration referred to in No. 7 of article 22 of this decree.

Emigrants coming on their own account shall make this declaration before the agent of information, or according to No. 7 of article 22, before the consul at the port of embarkation, although the latter may be within the jurisdiction of an agent of information.

Article 72.—Consuls shall give the respective agents of information notice sufficiently in advance of the sailing of vessels carrying emigrants to Venezuela.

CHAPTER IV.

ARRIVAL, DISEMBARKATION AND STAY OF IMMIGRANTS AT THE DEPOTS.

Article 73.—The port of La Guayra, and others which the

government may designate, shall be ports of entry for the introduction of immigrants.

From the port of disembarkation the superintendent of the immigrants' depot will transfer them to the principal depots to which they are destined, and will attend to everything relating to the dispatch of the baggage through the custom house, its transportation, and everything relating to the landing. In all of this the superintendent will act in concert with the president of the subaltern board, who will authorize the necessary expenses and will transmit a detailed report thereof to the central board, that the order for payment may be issued.

Article 74.—Immediately upon the arrival at the port of disembarkation of a vessel carrying a body of immigrants brought on account of a company, or individual, who may have contracted with the government for the purpose, the president of the subaltern board shall make it known to the minister of fomento and to the president of the central board, who shall inform the minister of the treasury, who shall then issue the landing order to the custom house.

Article 75.—The order to which the preceding article refers having been received, the landing of the immigrants will be proceeded with. The landing may be witnessed either by the central board of immigration or by any one duly commissioned by it, or by the president of the respective subaltern board, or, in his absence, by one of its members; by the health officer, and by the custom house interpreter.

Article 76.—It is optional with the minister of fomento whether or not to send an official of his department to witness the landing of the immigrants, together with the officials referred to in the preceding article.

Article 77.—The landing effected, a minute thereof shall be drawn and subscribed by all the persons mentioned in the preceding articles, which minute shall express who the importer of the immigrants is, if any there be; the class, tonnage, nationality, and name of the vessel; the name of the captain, the date and port of the departure of the vessel, the number of immigrants landed, the place of residence thereof,

their names, ages, sex, civil condition, nationality, religion, trade or profession, whether they can read and write, the date of landing, and whether they come under contract, and with whom.

Article 78.—The original minute shall be sent by the president of the subaltern board by registered mail to the president of the central board, who shall cause it to be published by the press, and transmit a certified copy thereof to the minister of fomento.

Article 79.—Immigrants coming on their own account, or on vessels and in the class selected by companies or individuals authorized to introduce them, shall present themselves to the president of the subaltern board at the port of destination, and shall make known the circumstances aforesaid, the date of landing, the name and nationality of the vessel bringing them, the port of departure, the name and surname of the declarant, place of residence, age, sex, civil status, nationality, religion, trade or profession, whether able to read and write, and whether coming under contract, and with whom.

This declaration shall be transmitted to the president of the central board in order that, together with the copy to which No. 7 of article 22 refers, it may serve as a voucher for the immigrant to enjoy the benefits of the law of January 7, 1893, if he came on his own account, or if otherwise, for the payment of the passage.

Article 80.—When the immigrants come on their own account, the superintendent of the depot at the port of destination shall assume charge of their transportation to the principal depot they may select, and shall attend to everything relating to the dispatch of the baggage through the custom house, its transportation, and all matters connected with the landing. In this the superintendent of the depot shall act in concert with the president of the subaltern board, who will authorize the necessary expenses and transmit a detailed account of the respective order for payment.

Article 81.—When immigrants come under contract with the government of a state, a company or individual, the superintendent of the depot will render them the same services as

to those who may come on their own account, and will send them to the principal depot when the government shall have agreed to receive them.

Article 82.—To meet the expense of boarding the immigrants in the depots, the salaries of employes, and other expenses of the establishment, the superintendent shall make out a daily statement of such expenditures, authenticated by himself and viséd by the president of the respective subaltern board, who shall draw for the amount thereof on the central board of immigration.

The statement of expenses for the Caracas depot shall be presented to the president of the central board, who shall order the corresponding payment.

Article 83.—The cost of maintenance of immigrants in the depots shall be estimated and paid as follows:

For each person over twelve years, 1 bolivar and 50 céntimos per day.

For each person under twelve years and over two, 75-100 of a bolivar per day.

And nothing for those under two years of age.

Article 84.—The salaries of employes, and other expenses of the depots, shall be included in the immigration estimates.

CHAPTER V.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS.

Article 85.—An employment bureau shall be annexed to the principal immigration depot, in charge of an agent under the respective board, whose duties are: (1) To invite calls for farm hands, workmen, artisans, day laborers, etc., who may be in the depot, and to furnish those requested; (2) to endeavor to seek favorable conditions in procuring places for the immigrants and taking care that the employment is with honorable parties; and (3) to enter on a special register the number of employments secured, giving the date, kind of work, conditions of the contract, and the names of the persons connected therewith.

CHAPTER VI.

RATES OF PASSAGE AND THEIR PAYMENT.

Article 86.—Passage may be requested for one or more parties at the same time.

Article 87.—No rates higher than those given below shall be paid for the passage of immigrants:

From Europe to the Canary Islands:	
From twelve to sixty years.....	120 bolivars*
From three to twelve years.....	60 bolivars
From the United States to Venezuela:	
From twelve to sixty years.....	80 bolivars
From three to twelve years.....	40 bolivars

Article 88.—For persons over sixty or under three years of age no passage will be paid unless the former are the father or mother of a family, accompanying the same, or which may be already in the country, which fact must be proved by the importers or contractors, in case there be any, or by the immigrants themselves, should they come on their own account.

Article 89.—For the land transportation, from the place of residence of the emigrant to the port of embarkation, the government shall not pay more than twenty bolivars.

Article 90.—For the payment of the passage of immigrants coming in vessels, or in the class selected by persons authorized to bring them, it is necessary that such persons present to the central board of immigration the copy of the declaration to which No. 7 of article 22 refers, and that the subaltern board at the port of destination shall have transmitted that to which article 79 refers.

Article 91.—The passage of immigrants not provided with the certificate which should be issued to them by the agent of information within whose jurisdiction the port of embarkation lies, will not be paid.

* NOTE.—The bolivar is equivalent to 19.3 cents in United States currency.

CHAPTER VII.

NATURALIZED IMMIGRANTS.

Immigrants who become naturalized must prove the fact before the minister of war by the production of a certificate of the central board of immigration showing that they are such immigrants, and also the naturalization papers they may have secured, in order that they may enjoy the privileges accorded them by article 14 of the law of January 7, 1893.

CHAPTER VIII.

REQUISITES TO BE COMPLIED WITH BY IMMIGRANTS DESIRING TO ABSENT THEMSELVES.

Article 93.—An immigrant desiring to absent himself from Venezuela should secure in every case from the central board of immigration a certificate showing the date of his arrival in the country, the port of disembarkation, from whence he came, his nationality, and the name of the vessel bringing him. Without this requisite, and the proof of having made the reimbursement prescribed by article 15 of the Immigration law, or given security according to article 16 of the same, in case one or the other should have been made or given, he will not be permitted to absent himself prior to the eighteen months of residence in the country.

CHAPTER IX.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Article 94.—As the ministry of fomento receives propositions to enter into immigration or colonization contracts, the original propositions will be referred to the central board of immigration, which will make the report to which article 18 of the law refers, on the last day of each month, or as soon thereafter as possible, making a comparison of all the reports received during the month.

Article 95.—The guarantees referred to in article 18 of the law of January 7, 1893, relating to immigration and colonization, may be given, offering real or personal security. In the first case the board will pass upon the sufficiency of the security, and in the second will see that the bondsman conforms to the following qualifications:

1. That he has no legal disability, and enjoys no jurisdictional privileges.
2. That he is domiciled within the jurisdiction of the courts of the federal district, or declares himself willing to submit to the same.
3. That he has property sufficient to meet the obligation; but sequestrated property or that in litigation shall not be considered, nor such as is situated beyond the territory of the Republic. In both cases—that is to say, if the security be real or personal—the board shall determine the minimum amount for which security is to be given.

Article 96.—The authority granted by article 19 of the Immigration law to the individuals or companies who may desire to introduce immigrants, to bring them on the vessels and in the class they prefer, is understood to mean individuals or companies who may have obtained authority to introduce the same and who have established by agreement with the government the rates of passage, but reserved the right of exercising that privilege for the benefit of the immigrants.

Article 97.—So soon as the ministry of fomento shall have made a contract relating to immigration or colonization he shall transmit a certified copy thereof to the central board.

CHAPTER X.

CONTRACTS MADE WITH IMMIGRANTS.

Article 98.—The contract to which article 21 of the Immigration law relates shall consist of a minute which shall set forth that the emigrants have accepted the proposition of the petitioners sent to the agent of information by the minister of fomento. This minute shall be certified by the court of Venezuela before whom the contract was made, and shall be

signed on the one hand by the emigrants and on the other by the agent of information as representative of the companies or individuals to which said article 21 refers.

This original minute shall be recorded in a register kept for the purpose by the consuls, and four certified copies thereof will be made; one to be delivered to the emigrant, another to the respective agent of information, another to be transmitted to the minister of fomento, and the last to the central board of immigration.

Article 99.—Should any immigrant and the government of the state, or the person or company with whom he may have contracted, desire to extend the contract, it will suffice to make it known in writing to the minister of fomento before the termination of such contract, which fact will be reported to the central board of immigration.

CHAPTER XI.

PURCHASES OF PUBLIC LANDS MADE BY IMMIGRANTS DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THEIR RESIDENCE IN THE REPUBLIC.

Article 100.—An immigrant desiring to exercise the right granted him by article 24 of the law of January 7, 1893 relating to immigration and colonization, must give a satisfactory bond to the central board of immigration.

If at the lapse of the term the immigrant fails to pay the price of the land purchased, he shall be summarily compelled to make payment, the land sold being especially mortgaged therefor; and if through any cause this land should return again to the Republic the immigrant shall not be entitled to indemnity for the improvements made thereon.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC SALE OF PARTS OR LOTS OF GROUND IN COLONIES FOUNDED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ON LANDS BOUGHT FROM PRIVATE PARTIES.

Article 101.—The public sale of parts or lots of ground to

which articles 33 and 34 of the law of January 7, 1893, relating to immigration and colonization refer, will be held before the central board of immigration and will be advertised by public notices three times, ten days apart, and in the press, should any newspaper be published in the locality.

Article 102.—Said notices will be posted in the capital of the Republic as well as at the place where the lots or parcels of land to be sold are situated.

Article 103.—The notices shall state clearly the dimensions and location of the parcel or lot of land and the price, to serve as a basis for the sale.

Article 104.—The notice shall be fixed to the door of the office of the central board of immigration, and of the subaltern board of the place where the parcel or lot may be situated, and the last notice shall designate the day and hour at which the sale shall take place. Should there be no subaltern board in the place where the parcel or lot is situated, the central board will commission the highest civil authority of said place to affix the notices.

Article 105.—In designating the day on which the sale is to be held, the distance of the parcels or lots from the capital of the Republic shall be taken into account.

Article 106.—On the day of the sale the board shall meet to consider the proposals that may have been submitted up to the moment of beginning the sale, and shall cause to be opened and read publicly by the secretary all proposals submitted by the bidders.

Article 107.—Bids submitted to the board must be in writing, and signed, closed and sealed, without containing conditions of any kind whatsoever, limiting themselves to stating that such an amount in cash is offered for the parcel or lot offered for sale. The board shall deem as not made, and therefore shall not consider such bids as are not submitted in accordance with the clear and explicit terms laid down in this article, or which shall be for a less price than that established as the basis.

Article 108.—The reading of the bids being concluded, the president of the board shall immediately designate the day

and hour when the award will be made to those offering the greatest advantages to the national treasury, provided however, that this award shall not be made until twenty-four hours subsequent to the sale.

Article 109.—The board having met at the appointed day and hour to make the award, it will give preference to bids offering the greatest advantage to the national treasury, and in case of tie-bids the award will be made publicly by lot, should the law not provide otherwise.

Article 110.—No bidder shall withdraw his proposal after it has once been deposited in the office of the central board of immigration.

Article 111.—The bidder securing the award shall at once pay to the board in gold or silver, in cash, the price of the parcel or lot awarded to him, with the understanding that in default thereof the bid shall not only be immediately thrown out, but he shall summarily be made to pay without resort to the courts, the difference between his bid and the next highest. Bidders to whom this article refers will be disqualified from making proposals at subsequent sales.

Article 112.—Any doubt or difficulty arising in the conduct of the sale will be at once decided by the board by a majority of votes, and its decision will take immediate effect.

Article 113.—The board shall immediately publish in the press the result of the sale, giving a detailed account of the bids received, of the bid securing the award, and of the parcel or lot sold.

Article 114.—The award having been made and the price tendered, the central board of immigration shall make a minute of the sale, signed by all the members present, and the secretary shall furnish a certified copy thereof to the vendee, who shall cause it to be registered.

CHAPTER XIII.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Article 115.—Immigrants are bound to comply with the formalities which have been, or may hereafter be, estab-

lished by the laws of the Republic regarding the baggage or articles not subject to duty embarked in foreign countries destined to Venezuela; and the agents as well as the consuls will furnish all necessary information on the subject.

Article 116.—In every case where the emigrant or immigrant may be required to sign any document and may be unable to do so, a witness will sign for him, the fact being noted on the document itself and on the register where such document should be received.

Article 117.—The ministry of public works shall superintend the construction of the immigrant depots, taking care that they satisfy all hygienic conditions, demands of comfort, etc., required by the object for which they are intended, and shall consult with the central board of immigration as to the plans.

Article 118.—The central and subaltern boards of immigration shall act as supervising boards for the construction of the depots in their respective localities.

Article 119.—The boards of immigration are authorized to make their own regulations, and the central board those of the depots.

Article 120.—The minister of fomento is charged with the execution of this decree.

Made, signed by my hand, sealed with the great national seal, and attested by the Minister of Fomento in the federal palace of the capitol in Caracas, the 23d of February, 1893.

JOAQUIN CRESPO.

Attest:

V. RODRIGUEZ,

Minister of Fomento.

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

Frequent application is made to the Bureau for the address of United States Consuls in the South and Central American Republics. Those desiring to correspond with any consul can do so by addressing "The United States Consulate" at the point named. Letters thus addressed will be delivered to the proper person. It must be understood, however, that it is not the duty of consuls to devote their time to private business, and that all such letters may properly be treated as personal and any labor involved may be subject to charge therefor.

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Coquimbo.
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COLOMBIA—

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Medillin.
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COSTA RICA—

San José.

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Samana.
Santo Domingo.

ECUADOR—

Guayaquil.

GUATEMALA—

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UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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Mazatlan.
Merida.
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Saltillo.
Tampico.

MEXICO—*Continued.*

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Vera Cruz.

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Managua.
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Asuncion.

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CLINTON FURBISH,
Director.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 1, 1895.

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VALUE OF 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:

Countries.	standard.	Unit.	Value of U. S. gold and silver	Coins.
Argentine Republic	Gold and silver.	Peso.	0.96, 5 (fixed).	{ Gold—Argentine (\$1.82, 4) and ½ Argentine. { Silver—Peso and divisions.
Bolivia	Silver.	Boliviano.	0.44, 1.	Silver—Boliviano and divisions.
Brazil	Gold.	Milreis.	0.54, 6 (fixed).	{ Gold—5, 10, and 20 milreis. { Silver—½, 1, and 2 milreis.
Central America	Silver.	Peso.	0.44, 1	{ Gold—Onza and divisions. { Silver—Peso and divisions.
Chile	Gold and silver.	Peso.	0.91, 2 (fixed).	{ Gold—Escudo (\$1.82, 4), doubloon (\$4.95), { condor (\$3.12, 3), and divisions. { Silver—Escudo (\$2.96, 7) and divisions.
Colombia	Silver.	Peso.	0.44, 1.	{ Gold—Condor (\$2.96, 7), double condor. { Silver—Peso and divisions.
Cuba	Gold and silver.	Peso.	0.92, 6 (fixed).	{ Gold—Doubloon (\$5.01, 7). { Silver—Peso.
Ecuador	Silver.	Sucres.	0.44, 1.	{ Gold—Condor (\$2.96, 7) and divisions. { Silver—Sucra and divisions.
Mexico	Silver.	Dollar.	0.47, 2.	{ Gold—Dollar (\$2.96, 3), 2½, 5, 10, and 20 dols. { Silver—Dollar (or peso) and divisions.
Haiti	Gold and silver.	Gourde.	0.96, 5.	Silver—Gourde.
Peru	Silver.	Sol.	0.44, 1.	Silver—Sol and divisions.
Venezuela	Gold and silver.	Bolivar.	0.19, 3 (fixed).	{ Gold—5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 bolivars. { Silver—5 bolivars.

Uruguay has the gold standard without a gold currency. One million dollars in silver of various denominations were coined two years ago,

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.—(Continued.)

and \$1,000,000 more are now being issued. This currency is accepted as legal tender.

Paraguay has no gold or silver coins of its own stamping. The silver peso of other South American republics circulates there, and has the same value as in the countries that issue them.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The following table gives the chief weights and measures in commercial use in Mexico and the republics of Central and South America, and their equivalents in the United States:

Denomination.	Where used.	United States equivalents.
Are	Metric	0.02471 acre.
Arroba	Paraguay	25 pounds.
Arroba (dry).....	Argentine Republic.....	25.3175 pounds.
do.	Brazil	32.35 pounds.
do.	Cuba	25.3664 pounds.
do.	Venezuela	25.4024 pounds.
Arroba (liquid)....	Cuba and Venezuela.....	4.263 gallons.
Barril	Argentine Republic and Mexico...	20.0787 gallons.
Carga	Mexico and Salvador.....	300 pounds.
Centavo	Central America	4.2631 gallons.
Cuadra	Argentine Republic.....	4.2 acres.
do.	Paraguay.....	78.9 yards.
do.	Paraguay (square).....	8.077 square feet.
do.	Uruguay.....	2 acres (nearly).
Cubic meter.....	Metric.....	35.3 cubic feet.
Fanega (dry).....	Central America	1.5745 bushels.
do.	Chile	2.575 bushels.
do.	Cuba	1.599 bushels.
do.	Mexico	1.54728 bushels.
do.	Uruguay (double)	7.776 bushels.
do.	Uruguay (single)	3.888 bushels.
do.	Venezuela.....	1.599 bushels.
Frasco.....	Argentine Republic	2.5996 quarts.
do.	Mexico.....	2.5 quarts.
Gram.....	Metric.....	15.432 grains.
Hectare	do.	2.471 acres.
Hectoliter (dry)....	do.	2.835 bushels.
do. (liquid).	do.	26.417 gallons.
Kilogram (kilo)....	do.	2.2046 pounds.
Kilometer	do.	0.621376 mile.
League (land)	Paraguay	4.633 acres.
Libra	Argentine Republic	1.0127 pounds.
do.	Central America	1.043 pounds.
do.	Chile	1.014 pounds.
do.	Cuba	1.0161 pounds.
do.	Mexico.....	1.01465 pounds.
do.	Peru.....	1.0143 pounds.
do.	Uruguay.....	1.0143 pounds.
do.	Venezuela.....	1.0161 pounds.
Liter	Metric.....	1.0567 quarts.
Livre	Guiana	1.0791 pounds.
Manzana	Costa Rica	1 5-6 acres.
Marc	Bolivia	0.507 pound.
Meter	Metric.....	39.37 inches.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—(Continued.)

Denomination.	Where used.	United States equivalents.
Pie.....	Argentine Republic.....	0.9478 foot.
Quinal.....	do.	101.42 pounds.
do.	Brazil.....	130.06 pounds.
do.	Chile, Mexico and Peru.....	101.61 pounds.
do.	Paraguay	100 pounds.
do.	Meiric.....	220.46 pounds.
Suerie.....	Uruguay.....	2,700 cuadras (see cuadro).
Vara.....	Argentine Republic.....	34.1208 inches.
do.	Central America.....	35.874 inches.
do.	Chile and Peru.....	33.597 inches.
do.	Cuba	33.384 inches.
do.	Mexico.....	33 inches.
do.	Paraguay	34 inches.
do.	Venezuela.....	33.384 inches.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

METRIC WEIGHTS.

Milligram ($\frac{1}{1000}$ gram) equals 0.0154 grain.
 Centigram ($\frac{1}{100}$ gram) equals 0.1543 grain.
 Decigram ($\frac{1}{10}$ gram) equals 1.5432 grains.
 Gram equals 15.432 grains.
 Decagram (10 grams) equals 0.3527 ounce.
 Hectogram (100 grams) equals 3.5274 ounces.
 Kilogram (1,000 grams) equals 2,2046 pounds.
 Myriagram (10,000 grams) equals 22.046 pounds.
 Quintal (100,000 grams) equals 220.46 pounds.
 Millier or tonnea—ton (1,000,000 grams) equals 2,204.6 pounds.

METRIC DRY MEASURE.

Millimeter ($\frac{1}{1000}$ liter) equals 0.061 cubic inch.
 Centiliter ($\frac{1}{100}$ liter) equals 0.6102 cubic inch.
 Deciliter ($\frac{1}{10}$ liter) equals 6.1022 cubic inches.
 Liter equals 0.908 quart.
 Decaliter (10 liters) equals 9.08 quarts.
 Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 2.838 bushels.
 Kiloliter (1,000 liters) equals 1.308 cubic yards.

METRIC LIQUID MEASURE.

Millimeter ($\frac{1}{1000}$ liter) equals 0.27 fluid ounce.
 Centiliter ($\frac{1}{100}$ liter) equals 0.338 fluid ounce.
 Deciliter ($\frac{1}{10}$ liter) equals 0.845 gill.
 Liter equals 1.0567 quarts.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—(Continued.)

Decaliter (10 liters) equals 2.6417 gallons.
Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 26.417 gallons.
Kiloliter (1000 liters) equals 264.17 gallons.

METRIC MEASURES OF LENGTH

Millimeter ($\frac{1}{1000}$ meter) equals 0.0394 inch.
Centimeter ($\frac{1}{100}$ meter) equals 0.3937 inch.
Decimeter ($\frac{1}{10}$ meter) equals 3.937 inches.
Meter equals 39.37 inches.
Decameter (10 meters) equals 393.7 inches.
Hectometer (100 meters) equals 328 feet 1 inch.
Kilometer (1,000 meters) equals 0.62137 mile (3,280 feet 10 inches).
Myriameter (10,000 meters) equals 6.2137 miles.

METRIC SURFACE MEASURE.

Centare (1 square meter) equals 1,550 square inches.
Are (100 square meters) equals 119.6 square yards.
Hectare (10,000 square meters) equals 2,471 acres.

The metric system has been adopted by the following named countries: Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, United States of America, and United States of Colombia.

