

Pan-American Union

Monthly Bulletin

OF THE

Bureau

OF THE

American Republics.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

JANUARY, 1900.

WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A. :
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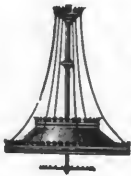
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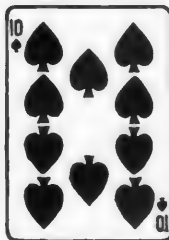
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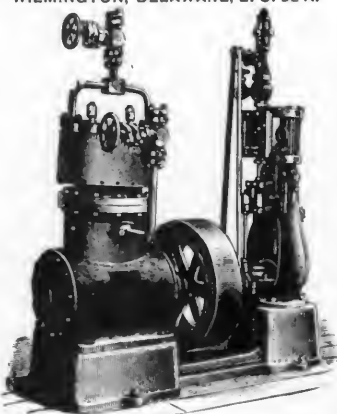
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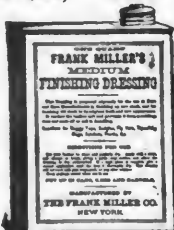
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PAPEL MEDICADO DE GAYETTY.

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B. T. HOOGLAND, Propietario.

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Horquillas, Azadas, Rastrillos, Etc.

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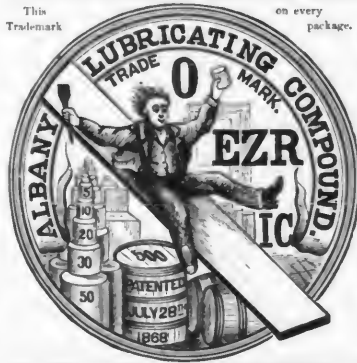
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UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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 must 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.

The following is a list of United States Consulates in the different Republics:

179	ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—	HONDURAS—
184	Buenos Ayres.	Tegucigalpa.
187	Cordoba.	Utiilla.
188	Rosario.	MEXICO—
189	BOLIVIA—	Acapulco.
189	La Paz.	Chihuahua.
191	BRAZIL—	Ciudad Juarez.
190	Bahia.	Ciudad Porfirio Diaz.
191	Para.	Durango.
191	Pernambuco.	Ensenada.
192	Rio de Janeiro.	La Paz.
196	Santos.	Matamoros.
196	CHILE—	Mazatlan.
196	Antofagasta.	Mexico.
196	Arica.	Monterey.
196	Coquimbo.	Nogales.
196	Iquique.	Nuevo Laredo.
196	Valparaiso.	Progreso.
196	COLOMBIA—	Saltillo.
196	Barranquilla.	Tampico.
196	Bogotá.	Tuxpan.
196	Cartagena.	Vera Cruz.
196	Colón (Aspinwall).	NICARAGUA—
196	Medellin.	Managua.
196	Panama.	San Juan del Norte.
196	COSTA RICA—	PARAGUAY—
196	San José.	Asunción.
196	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—	PERU—
196	Puerto Plata.	Callao.
196	Samana.	SALVADOR—
196	Santo Domingo.	San Salvador.
196	ECUADOR—	URUGUAY—
196	Guayaquil.	Colonia.
196	GUATEMALA—	Montevideo.
196	Guatemala.	Paysandu.
196	HAITI—	VENEZUELA—
196	Cape Haitien.	La Guayra.
196	Port au Prince.	Maracaibo.
		Puerto Cabello.



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La Limpiadora, Batidora y Separadora Doble "EUREKA" es la limpiadora de granos más perfecta que se encuentra en el mercado, y economiza espacio, potencia y trabajo al molinero.

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Establecida en 1856,

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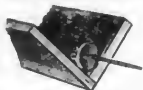
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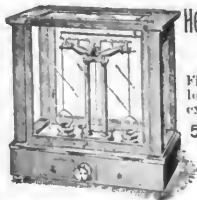
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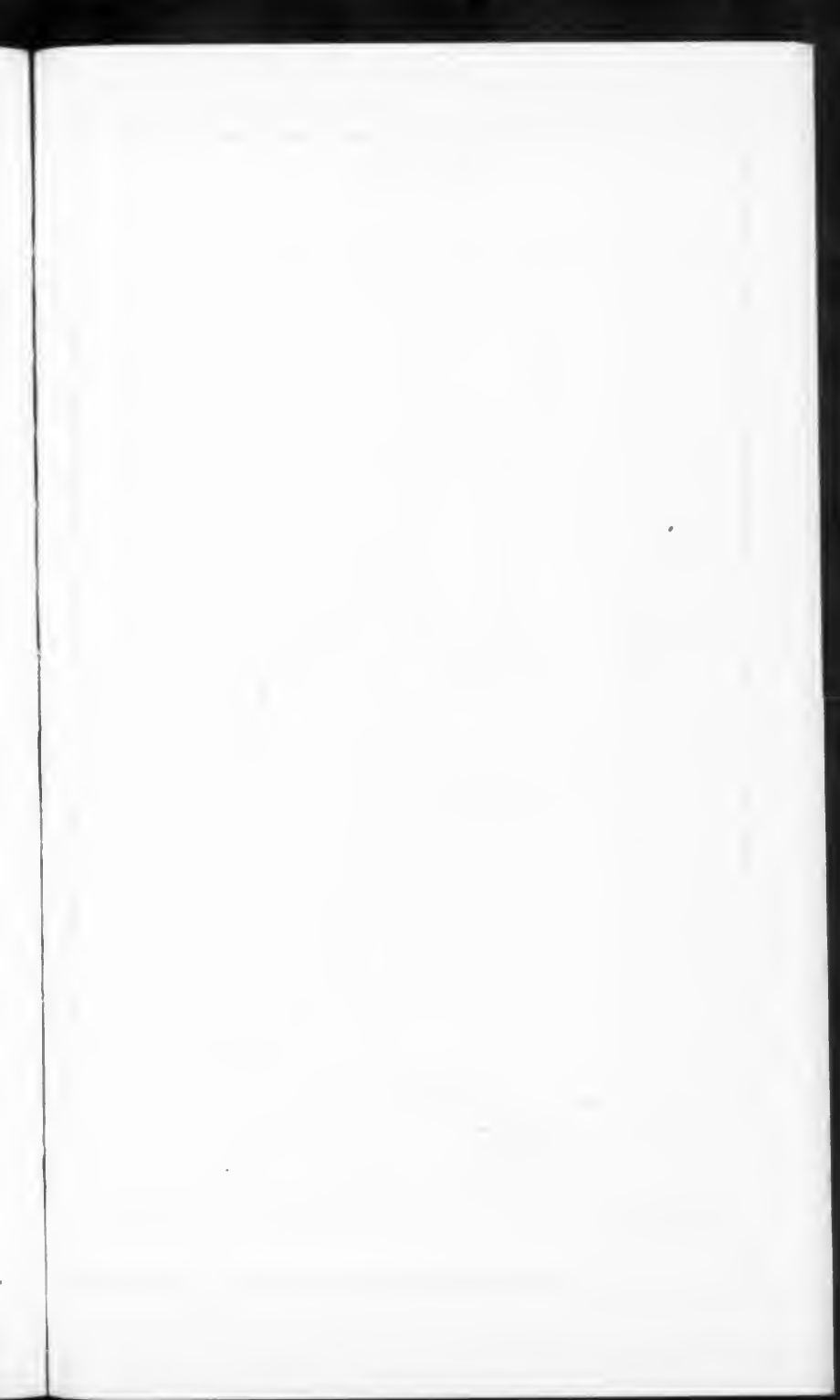
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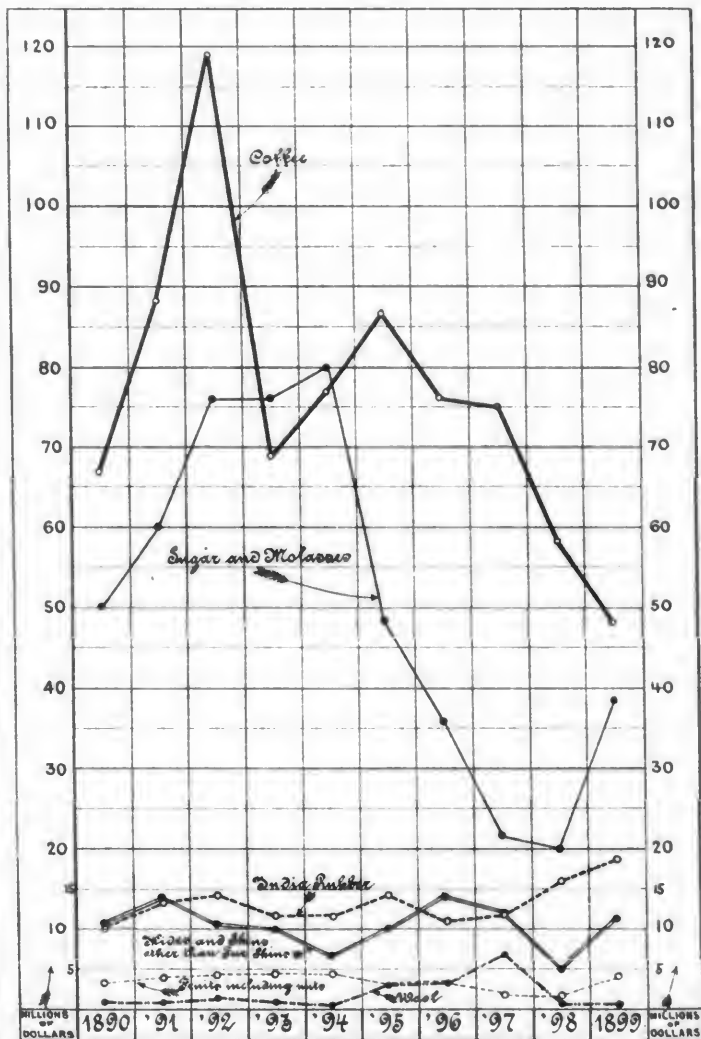
59 Nassau Street,
Corner Maiden Lane,
New York.

Pídase el Catálogo.



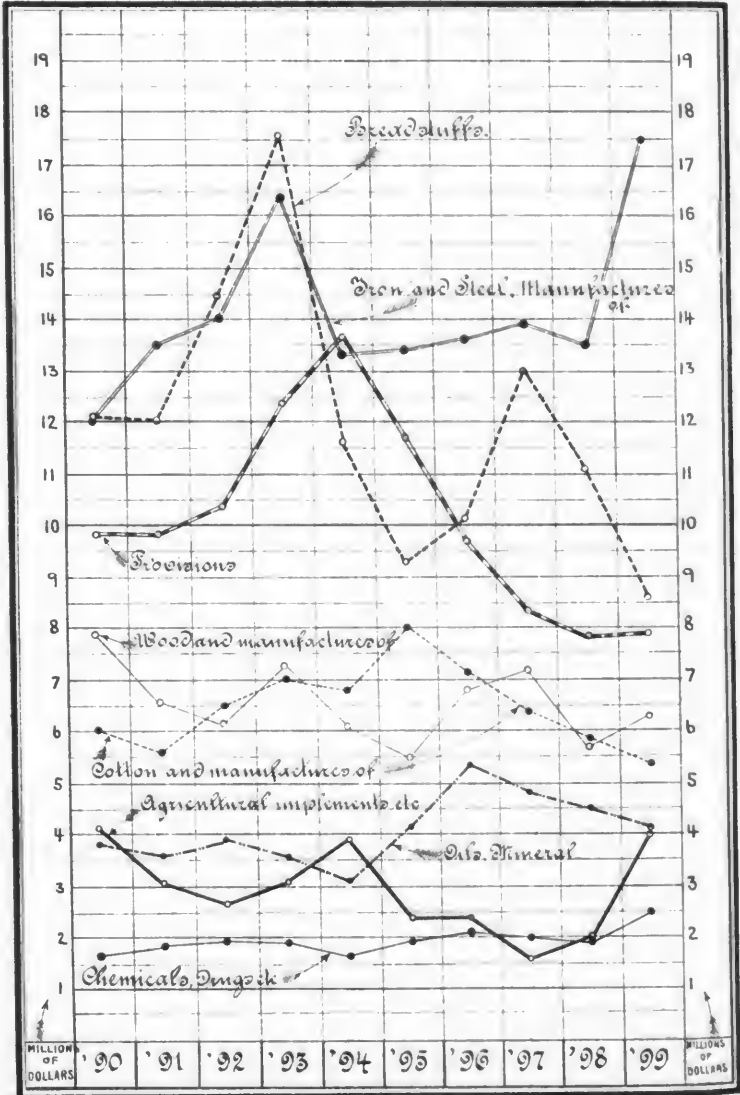
Imports

into the U. S. from Mexico, Central and South America and the West-Indies, Years 1890 to 1899.



Exports,

of Principal Articles from the U. S. to Mexico,
Central and South America and the West Indies
1890 - 1899.



MONTHLY BULLETIN
OF THE
BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VIII.

JANUARY, 1900.

No. 1.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

REGULATIONS FOR APPLICANTS FOR GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Mr. FRANCOIS S. JONES, Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* at the Legation of the United States, has forwarded to the Department of State at Washington, for the use of the Bureau of the American Republics, a copy and translation of a decree recently issued by the Argentine Government regulating the lease and purchase of public lands in that Republic. The translation is as follows:

"Whereas it being necessary to amend the regulations in force concerning the leasing of public lands, authorized by article 101 of the law of October 19, 1876, the President of the Republic decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. Every person who applies for the lease of public lands must deposit in the treasury of the Bureau of Lands and Colonies the first annual quota which he may be required to pay; and said Bureau, upon issuing a receipt to him, shall state therein the locality applied for, as well as the day and exact hour when the deposit was made.

"ART. 2. Priority in the award of lands will be determined by the date and hour of the deposit of the first quota. Present settlers, however, who make application for the rent of land or for the purchase of land which they occupy, shall be preferred in the granting of leases, in conformity with the clauses of this decree, providing they avail themselves of this advantage within a period of 90 days from the date of the decree.

"ART. 3. If the land is vacant and can be granted in lease, the Bureau of Lands and Colonies will draw up, in duplicate, a proper contract with the lessee, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, for approval by the Executive power, by which act it will become effective.

"ART. 4. If the land be not vacant and the location applied for can not be granted, the Bureau of Lands and Colonies must immediately return the quota paid, for which purpose the Bureau will deposit in the Bank of the Argentine Nation, the following day after collection, to its own order and as current account, all sums which it receives in this connection. If the contract should be approved, the said Bureau will transfer the respective quota to the order of the General Treasury of the nation.

"ART. 5. The leasing price per annum will be according to the following scale for 2,500 *hectares* (one *hectare* is equivalent to 2.471 acres), to be paid annually in advance, to wit:

"In the territories of the Pampa Central, Chubut, Neuquén, Río Negro and Santa Cruz, with the exception of the lands fronting the rivers Negro, Colorado, Chubut, Deseado, Chalia, Santa Cruz, Coyle, Gallegos and their respective affluents, \$200, national currency (at the present gold rate, \$2.36 national currency equals \$1 in gold).

"The lots fronting on the rivers mentioned in the above section, \$250 national currency.

"In Tierra del Fuego, \$300 national currency.

"In the Chaco and Formosa, \$150 national currency.

"ART. 6. The leasing period shall be ten years from the date of the approval of the contract by the executive power, but it can be renewed at its expiration up to an equal number of years at the price prevailing at the time of the renewal.

"ART. 7. No person can lease a tract of land larger than 10,000 *hectares* in Tierra del Fuego or when fronting on the rivers cited in article 5, nor of a greater extension than 20,000 *hectares* in the other parts of the national territories likewise mentioned in that article.

"ART. 8. Failure to pay any of the annual payments when they become due works in itself a repeal of the contract without right of reclamation whatever on the part of the lessee, and the improvements made by him remain to the benefit of the State.

"ART. 9. If, during the period of the lease, the State itself should decide to colonize the land conceded, or grant it as a bounty and with the obligation to colonize to any railway or canal enterprise, or other undertaking of general utility, the contract shall be considered as terminated. In this event, the lessee shall have the right to a gratuitous grant of a lot of 100 *hectares* where he has built his house and be given the priority in the purchase of 300 additional *hectares*.

"ART. 10. The use, for commercial purposes, of the woods existing on lands leased is prohibited during the period of the lease, excepting where it is expressly conceded, and such concession can only be made to the lessee.

"ART. 11. At the expiration of contracts for lease the improvements existing on the land remain to the benefit of the Government.

"ART. 12. When the lease is made for surveyed land, the lessee shall

be obliged to pay for the surveying at a rate of 6 cents per *hectare*, which sum shall be paid in ten annual payments of equal amounts.

"ART. 13. When the lease is made on land not surveyed, the lessee shall be required to have the survey made by a surveyor graduated from a national university within the period of eighteen months from the date of the approval of the contract.

"ART. 14. The lessees must take possession, at their own expense and without intervention of the State, of the land granted them, whether it be surveyed or unsurveyed.

"ART. 15. On unsurveyed lands no lots situated on running streams, lakes, lagoons, or the seacoast can be conceded with a frontage greater than one-third of their depth.

"ART. 16. The lease shall be *ipso facto* rescinded, with loss of the quotas paid in, whenever the lessee fails to fulfill the provision in article 13.

"ART. 17. Present lessees of lands can avail themselves of the provisions of this decree, provided they make use of this privilege within twelve months from this date; in this event the leasing price will be that stipulated in their contracts whose terms have not expired.

"ART. 18. All laws regulating the lease of public lands prior to the present decree are herewith abolished, except in the settlement of pending business."

COMMERCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Under the caption "Our trade with the Argentine," the "British Trade Journal," for December 1, 1899, says:

"While in some of the markets of the world there is a marked decline in British commerce, it is gratifying to note that British goods still head the list of the imports in the Argentine Republic. With its wool, cattle, horses, mules, frozen meat, and ostrich feathers, its vast pampas, magnificent waterways, extensive railway system, and splendid climate, that country is in a position to do a large and increasing trade, and is doing it. Its volume amounted to: In imports, £19,657,789 in 1897 and to £21,485,780 in 1898; in exports £20,233,859 in 1897 and to £26,765,892 in 1898. Of its largely increased exports Great Britain purchased to the amount of £7,788,332 in 1898, which shows a great advance over the amounts of preceding years, while the Republic's purchases from us were not augmented in proportion.

"Great Britain exported to the Argentine Republic goods to the value of £4,515,417 in 1894 and £5,586,276 in 1898. Apparently there is an increase, but inasmuch as the increase is not in proportion to the total augmentation of the Argentine imports, there is really a decline in our trade. The causes of this are not far to seek. Among them there is the watchful, active competition of other countries, who are younger in the field, notably the United States and Germany in manufactures, who, by careful study of the peculiar wants of the country,

and by the adaptation of patterns and styles to its tastes, have secured a large and increasing share of the trade. Secondly, there is the conservatism or indifference of many of our manufacturers and merchants, who sometimes seem to act as if they did not care much whether people send them orders or not. Rivals study their wants, tastes and languages, and persistently solicit and obtain orders. By these means, and by furnishing illustrated lists and catalogues in the vernacular, they have succeeded in attracting much of the business which was formerly done by this country.

"The following are some of the chief items of our exports to the Republic:

	1894.	1898.
Cotton goods.....	£807,385	£1,274,409
Hardware and cutlery.....	42,409	48,799
Implements.....	45,774	41,456
Jute yarn.....	12,494	23,474
Jute manufactures.....	438,584	206,716
Machinery of all kinds.....	531,812	355,796
Iron (wrought and unwrought).....	547,754	894,353

"In cotton fabrics, for the manufacture of which this country is still preeminent, there is an increase of 50 per cent for the period named, and about 33 per cent on iron, but on some other items there is a serious decrease to be noted. Machinery shows a heavy decline, which is owing either to diminished requirements or to German competition. The falling off in the demand for jute material (sacking for grain) is partly accounted for by the increased quantity of jute yarn taken to be worked up by local factories. The falling off in the demand for implements is due to the competition of Germany and the United States, while the increase in hardware and cutlery proves that Sheffield still leads the way. This as a whole is not unsatisfactory, but it might have been much better had greater attention been given to cultivating the trade.

"It should be borne in mind that the present boom in our trade, which is largely caused by orders from our wonderful colonies and dependencies, can not be expected to continue. Without colonial orders, and with the loss of business in old markets, the condition of things would be very different from what it is at present. When bad times overtake the colonies, as they have done before, and their orders fall off, then the value and importance of old markets will be manifest. Even if India, China, and the colonies were to continue their orders on the present scale, there is no valid reason why old outlets for trade should be neglected. If the Argentine Republic and other parts are worthy of the attention of our rivals, they are surely deserving of as much care and attention from our manufacturers and merchants who, as a matter of fact, can not afford to neglect any opening for trade. If they do they can not complain if others step in and do the business.

"In addition to the chances and changes and ups and downs of trade with the colonies, there is the possibility of their manufacturing for themselves more extensively than some of them do at present. This is not so remote as might be supposed, for cheap labor can be found in India and China, and there is abundance of coal in New South Wales, China, and Natal, while up-to-date machinery can be purchased here. Therefore it is time that more attention should be paid to every market which is not closed to us, where British manufactures are still preferred when they can be obtained in suitable styles and at reasonable prices. The necessity for price lists and catalogues in the languages of the countries to which they are sent should be recognized and met, and every effort made to ascertain and to supply local wants. Convenience for and economy in transport should also be considered and provided when packing for a market.

"In the Argentine Republic industrial and agricultural machinery, galvanized iron, hoop iron, etc., of British make, are in favor. British-made bicycles are coming into use, but must be quoted lower to command large sales. It is also gratifying to note that the demand for our prize-breeding cattle, horses, and sheep continues and is likely to increase in the Republic.

"One of the chief obstacles to business there is in the unsatisfactory state of the currency, owing to the fluctuations in the value of gold as compared with paper, by means of which most of the internal business is transacted. This must be a source of continual worry and anxiety to the trader, who, if he has sold for gold, will naturally wish for that standard to rise in value, while the merchant, who has sold for paper, will be glad to see the value of paper rise and gold depreciate. The Argentine Republic sadly needs a steady currency."

NEW ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY.

The Department of State, at Washington, has been informed that the Senate of the Argentine Republic has confirmed the nomination of Dr. EDUARDO WILDE to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near the Government of the United States. Since the departure of Dr. GARCIA MÉROU, the Argentine Legation has been in the hands of the *Chargé d'Affaires*.

PRESIDENT ROCA AT THE BUFFALO PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

On December 22, 1899, President JULIO A. ROCA sent a cable message to Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN in response to a communication regarding the participation of the Argentine Republic in the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901. In this the President says: "I have read your letter with great pleasure. The Argentine Republic accepts the invitation to participate in the Exposition, and I may perhaps be your guest at that time."

EXPORT DUTY ON WOOL.

It would appear from the statements of the newspapers received from the Argentine Republic that the National Congress has increased, or is seriously considering the advisability of raising the export duty on wool. The press, however, generally protests against this, claiming that the Government would, by such procedure, counteract any benefits that possibly might have been derived from the reciprocity treaty with the United States. The "Prensa" says the Congressional committee charged with the revision of the "Tariff of Values" had agreed on December 1, 1899, upon an increase of 50 per cent on the valuation of wools destined for export, which from the 1st of January, 1900, is to be calculated at \$3 gold for each 10 kilos (22.046 pounds), instead of \$2 which has been the valuation in former years. This journal adds:

"As the duty on wools is 4 per cent, the exports from the beginning of next year (1900) will have to pay 12 cents gold per 10 kilos instead of 8 cents which they pay to-day. The increase represents therefore 4 cents per 10 kilos or close upon one-half cent per kilo. If we calculate 230,000 tons the total of the season's crop, taking one with another, it will mean for the next year the exportation of wools will produce \$2,760,000 gold, whereas at an actual valuation it would not bring over \$1,840,000 gold."

AN ITALIAN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT.

In a contribution to the "Nuova Antologia," Signor PIETRO BARBEIRA has given the people of Italy his impressions with respect to the Argentine Republic and in reference to the influx of Italian population. Signor BARBEIRA has visited the Argentine Republic as well as other countries, and has reached the conclusion that no other land offers more beneficial possibilities for his countrymen than the first named. The climate and political conditions he considers exceptionally favorable. He says the Italians greatly exceed the people of other nationalities, except the natives, and will soon be in excess of them; but, to strengthen this numerical predominance, Signor BARBEIRA is of the opinion that the Italian community should be fortified by the introduction of capital and culture.

Regarding the conditions existing in the Republic, he says: "The period of intestine agitations has ceased, the fever for foolish and immoral speculations has passed, political and legislative action has been brought into sympathy with public opinion, and men have been placed in power who are resolved to purify the political and judicial administrations. In a word, the Argentine Republic is that South American nation to which is reserved the most brilliant of futures, and the Italian element is destined to be predominant."

MARITIME AND COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT AT LA PLATA.

In a report on the maritime and commercial movement of La Plata in 1898, published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of November 30, 1899, the acting Consul of France says that the two principal ports of the Province of Buenos Ayres are La Plata and Bahia Blanca. The port of La Plata, considered as one of the best in the world, would certainly be the first if the shallow water of the estuary permitted the entrance of vessels exceeding a draft of 24 feet to its wharfs; but its commercial importance is almost eclipsed on account of its proximity to the port of Buenos Ayres (two hours by water and one hour by railway).

Notwithstanding the fact that the tariff duties at La Plata are lower than those at Buenos Ayres, and that a reduction of 25 per cent is made in the anchorage dues, the maritime movement at the former port since 1896 has constantly decreased.

While in 1896, 710 steamers with a capacity of 1,328,863 tons entered the port, in 1898 only 311 entered, with a total capacity of 634,863 tons. This decrease is caused by the proximity of the port of Buenos Ayres, and especially by the collection of a storage duty of 10 *centimes* per ton per day from the moment of the arrival of merchandise in the storehouse, and where it is often obliged to remain from fifteen to thirty days awaiting the arrival of a boat to take it to the port of destination.

This exaction renders this port much inferior to the fiscal or private ports of Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Bahia Blanca, where merchandise destined to be exported is exempt from all storage dues during the first month of its stay in the warehouses. The granting of this privilege enables the exporters to accumulate considerable merchandise in the ports, thus obliging the navigation companies to stop there to take it on board.

The merchandise which was imported by the port of La Plata in 1898, with the exception of a small percentage destined for local consumption, was destined for Buenos Ayres. The export movement is due entirely to the city of Buenos Ayres, where almost all the products of this immense Argentine territory converge by means of a great many railroads and coastwise steamers.

LEGISLATION ON BEHALF OF THE MILLING INDUSTRY.

For some time past the flour manufacturers of Buenos Ayres and the millers of Santa Fe have been endeavoring to urge the Government to come to their relief and prevent a threatened crisis which will ensue, as is alleged, if new markets are not secured for their excess of production. Up to this time the market of Brazil has been the most important consumer of the Argentine flours, which have had to sustain a vigorous rivalry with flours from the United States, and the claim on the part of the Argentine millers is that the Government of the United States is negotiating to secure for its products special advantages which

would make all rivalry impossible and place the Argentine industry in an unbearable situation. What the millers ask is that the Government should expedite the negotiations for the conclusion of the Treaty of Commerce with Brazil, stipulating that flour from the Argentine Republic shall be on an equal footing with that from other countries in the former nation. They also ask that Argentine flours be exempted from all excessive burdens, and that railroad companies be compelled to adopt equitable modifications in their freight rates, and that encouragement be given to direct lines of navigation to Brazil.

TREATY WITH REFERENCE TO CATTLE.

In November, 1899, the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Argentine Republic and the Minister Plenipotentiary of Uruguay at Buenos Ayres concluded a treaty *ad referendum* relating to the trade in cattle on the hoof between the two countries. As the executive power of the Argentine Republic already possessed the necessary authority from the National Congress to make the treaty, it will not have to be ratified by that body, but it will need ratification by the Uruguayan Congress.

Pursuant to this treaty the ports in either country through which cattle on the hoof may be imported are: In the Argentine Republic—Buenos Ayres, La Plata, Rosario, Campana, Concepción del Uruguay, Concordia, Monte Caseros, and Gualeguaychú; in Uruguay—Montevideo, Colonia, Mercedes, Santa Rosa, Salto, Fray Bentos, Paysandú, and Maldonado. The treaty includes the regulations governing the export and import of cattle as well as cases in which diseased animals will be rejected or such as are shipped from infected localities. The treaty, should it be rejected by either of the two countries, will nevertheless continue in force for six months longer, save in the case the rejection is due to a cattle epidemic existing in the other country.

EXPORTS FOR TEN YEARS.

"Handels Zeitung," of Buenos Ayres, in its issue of November 4, 1899, publishes the following table of principal exports from the Argentine Republic during the past ten years:

Years.	Wheat.	Flour	Maize.	Linseed
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1889.....	22,806	3,361	432,591	28,196
1890.....	327,894	12,018	707,282	30,721
1891.....	395,555	7,015	65,909	12,213
1892.....	479,110	18,849	445,935	42,987
1893.....	1,008,137	37,921	84,514	72,199
1894.....	1,608,249	40,758	54,876	104,435
1895.....	1,010,269	53,935	772,318	276,443
1896.....	532,001	51,732	1,570,517	229,675
1897.....	101,845	41,443	374,942	162,477
1898.....	645,161	31,933	717,105	158,904

The export of hay during this period increased steadily from 17,000 in 1890 to 113,534 tons in 1898.

The linseed industry in the Argentine Republic has greatly increased in the last ten years. The exports during 1895 were nearly ten times as much as those of 1889. Since the former year, up to 1898, the exports decreased, but this year the crop is reported as very large.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The silkworm industry has been attracting some attention in the Province of Cordoba, where the climatic conditions are stated to be favorable. Señor VINCENTE BARILLARI, an enthusiast on the subject, believes that a great future is reserved for this industry, and is offering to furnish silkworm eggs gratis and to give instructions to any person willing to begin breeding them.

The Argentine Republic has shipped a large number of horses to the British in South Africa. Eight hundred of these are reported to have come from the national breeding farm and to have been presented to Great Britain.

The grain export from January 1 to October 5, 1899, is given by the "Prensa" as 2,110,000 tons of wheat and 860,000 tons of maize, as against 880,000 tons of wheat and 700,000 tons of maize in the previous year.

Admiral CORDERO, whose service in the Argentine Navy began in the year 1835, died in Buenos Ayres on November 30, 1899, at the age of 81.

The Government recently signed a decree authorizing the management of the viticultural school at Mendoza to make experiments in the cultivation of hemp, devoting to the same 10 *hectares* of land.

The Hamburg-South American Steamship Company has increased its carrying capacity by 13,956 tons. The following steamers are now employed: *Duke*, *Dorothea*, *Helene*, and *Sophia Rickmers*.

The Territory of Altaicama is to be officially surveyed and a reliable map of the country published. The cost of this work is estimated at between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

A telegram from Buenos Ayres states that the total wool product will amount to 225,000 tons. The wool is of better quality than last year's, and 60 per cent of it has already been sold.

The "Siidamerikanische Rundschau" states that a large syndicate is to be formed in Buenos Ayres for the purpose of controlling the entire export business to Paraguay.

On December 26, 1899, the United States Patent Office granted a patent to JACOB G. AESCHBACHER, of Rosario, Argentine Republic, for a firearm.

An arbitration treaty between the Argentine Republic and Paraguay was signed at Asunción in December, 1899.

The Palmero (Buenos Ayres) Brewery has declared a dividend of 13.68 per cent.

The steamship *Hildur*, which sailed on January 12 from the port of New York, took \$1,000,000 gold to Buenos Ayres.

The Entre Rios Railway has declared a dividend of 2 per cent and the Argentine Western Railway one of 5 per cent.

The German Government has appointed a Technical Attaché of its legation in the Argentine Republic.

BOLIVIA.

MINING PROGRESS AND PRODUCTION.

According to the latest accounts the high value now prevailing for tin has greatly stimulated that industry in Bolivia. Especially in the Uyuni district tin mining has been making great progress. The exports of tin ore for the year 1899 are estimated to have been between 6,000 and 7,000 tons and an increase is anticipated during the year 1900. Difficulties of transportation are alone responsible for the fact that the Bolivian tin product is not from 100 to 200 per cent greater.

Although copper veins containing almost pure ore have been traced almost uninterruptedly from the north to the south of the Republic, the cost of conveying the ore to the seashore has hitherto limited production. At present copper is only worked in a very primitive fashion at Corocoro, near Lake Titicaca. Other great drawbacks are lack of fuel and scarcity of capital, thus preventing the opening of the mines in a scientific manner. In 1897 the four companies working in the Corocoro district produced 2,912,500 kilos of copper, and the annual exportations for several years past has averaged 3,000 tons. The shipments were to Europe, passing through the port of Molendo, Peru. If, as is asserted, the Corocoro district is the equal or better than the Lake Superior copper district in the United States, foreign capitalists should interest themselves in its exploitation.

Such minerals as antimony, borax, and bismuth are to be found in large quantities in Bolivia, but in these, as well as in other products, the absence of transportation facilities interfere with their production and exportation except in very limited amounts. They are mined in the primitive methods employed a century ago.

Rich alluvial and quartz deposits of gold are known to exist in a number of localities, some of which are above the line of perpetual snow. The climate and other natural obstacles have interfered hereto-

fore with any practical methods of gold mining. The natives say that, if they could accurately convey to the people of America just what are the possibilities in gold mining in Bolivia, the Klondike regions would be abandoned and the rush of miners would be to their own country instead. No accurate information of the yield of gold can be obtained, but at present there is a considerable quantity of gold recovered by the Indians in river beds. The quartz ledges have not been touched for the want of proper machinery and competent miners to direct such operations.

Laborers for mining work can be obtained at wages ranging from 1½ *bolivianos* (\$0.66 United States currency) to 4 *bolivianos* (\$1.76) per day, according to the class of work to be performed.

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Bolivia at New York reports that the exports of the United States merchandise to Bolivia during the second half of the year 1899 were as follows:

Month.	Packages.	Value.
July.....	476	\$5,527.77
August.....	715	11,010.86
September.....	1,342	18,323.09
October.....	874	15,926.24
November.....	983	18,980.10
December.....	1,392	20,670.42
Total.....	5,782	90,438.48

SURVEYS OF PROJECTED RAILWAYS.

In November last the President of Bolivia sent a special message to Congress regarding extensions of the railroad from Antofogasta to Oruro and transmitting a bill for the consideration of Congress. This bill is to the effect that the Executive be authorized to order the preliminary and final surveys of the following lines: The extension of the Argentine Central to Potosí; the branch line from Challapata to Colquechaca; the branch line from Oruro to Cochabamba; the line from Lake Titicaca to Oruro; for which purpose the President suggests that the sum of 120,000 *bolivianos* be appropriated. Pursuant to the law of October 18, 1890, the bill provides for authority to be given to the Executive to contract for the construction of the lines named, granting a guarantee of 6 per cent on the capital invested. The bill also provides that the Executive shall determine the gauge, tariffs, and everything connected with the construction and operation of the projected lines.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The "Deutsche Nachrichten" refers to an important undertaking in Valparaiso in the formation of the Compañía Minera Mercedes de Oruro, which is to have its headquarters in Lique, for the purpose of work-

ing the mines near the well-known Oruro mines, San José and Virgen. They belong to ex-President ALONSO, of Bolivia, and Mr. MARIANO MACKENSIE DENNY.

The first of a large number of Japanese subjects who have been contracted for to work in the mines of Satabaya recently arrived in Bolivia,

BRAZIL.

COFFEE PROPAGANDA IN ENGLAND.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Senhor DE ASSIS BRASIL, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Brazil to the United States, for the following article, which is translated from the "Jornal do Comercio" (Rio de Janeiro) of October 3, 1899:

"The firm of GAFFRÉE AND GUINLA, which is interested both in our market and in that of Santos, and deeply concerned in preventing the further lowering of prices for our coffee, has tried to find some means by which to advance the interests of our principal product. For this purpose, Mr. GABRIEL PINTO DA MOTTA, who does business in Brazil and in England, was requested to study the condition of our product in that great market. As a result, Mr. MOTTA presented a communication on the consumption of coffee in England, which is included in the article published in the report of the Minister of Finance, Dr. BERNARDINO DE CAMPOS, entitled 'The Coffee.'

"In this inquiry, after a very accurate analysis, which is based upon comparative statistics concerning the consumption of coffee, tea, and cocoa in England since the year 1840, and a statement of the reasons for the depreciation of our coffee as compared with that of other countries, the author arrives at the following conclusions:

"Taking into consideration the various opinions that have been given on this subject up to date, as well as the personal observations which I have made on the coffee trade in this country, be it either green, roasted, or ground coffee with which the consumers are supplied, and strengthened furthermore in my own experience by the statements of people who are well acquainted with the export trade of coffee, I may say to those cultivating coffee in Brazil:

"Evidences demonstrate that good qualities of coffee bring excellent prices in the markets of England, and it is therefore absolutely necessary that all coffees should arrive properly separated and divided or classified in such a manner that they, in the near future, can be known by their respective designations or qualities, as well as by the place from which they come.

"Furthermore, it is absolutely necessary that the coffee be gathered

and prepared with the greatest care, giving it, if possible, the color that is most appreciated.

“The coffee that is exported to this country must be mixed in order to bring a fair price, but the result is unfavorable in any case, since the mixing is done by the large buyers, be they simply coffee roasters or others. The Brazilian coffee, when it arrives in this market, only serves as a basis for all sorts of mixtures and is sold to the consumer under other more or less well-known names. In Liverpool a party visiting a coffee roasting establishment was shown a mixture of ground Brazilian coffee and the most inferior quality of African coffee. In 1897, 1,450 tons of Brazilian coffee were shipped for consumption, but not a single pound of that was sold under its true designation.

“The tea trade is based upon this very same process of mixing, so that any wholesale or retail merchant deals in his own “special blend,” and lowers its standard until it frequently reaches the limits of the most grotesque charlatanism. In this is to be found the whole secret of the coffee, tea, and cocoa trade of the country.

“It is therefore necessary that the Brazilian coffee planters should keep in view this very peculiar system from which they may derive great benefits, especially if they export the article directly from their own plantations. In London the coffee is also improved upon; that is, the beans go there unshelled, and when they have received the baptism of “London cleaned” they find better quotations. For me this is a way of doing business like any other, and it is carried on in London as well as in the producing countries, according to the divisions of labor.

“The colors and different forms of the coffee beans also indicate more or less its quality, and for this reason I will state some particulars concerning the commercial varieties of coffee most in favor in London and Liverpool, availing myself for this purpose of some information taken from the “*Monographia do Café*,” by PAULO PORTO ALEGRE, published in 1879.

“*Jamaica*.—Beans of regular size and sometimes very large, a little oval, of a very uniform light-green color, smooth, clean surface, and without skin.

“*Mysora*.—The bean is rounded, generally short and wide, of a grayish-green, very small, without skin when of the first gathering, larger and not quite as round as the Mocha bean.

“*Costa Rica*.—The bean is pretty similar to that of Java, thick and oblong, of a yellowish and sometimes greenish color.

“*Malabar*.—Characteristics like those of the Mysora brand.

“The different brands of Mocha coffee are in favor here and always bring good prices when they are nicely finished and of a bluish-green color.”

“After studying this work, the firm of GAFFRÉE AND GUINLE decided to intrust Mr. MOTTA with the organization of a coffee com-

pany in London, and this gentleman made a trip through the interior of São Paulo in the interest of this concern, in order to study the cultivation, preparation, and finishing processes of our product, and after completing his investigations he went to Santos to gather some additional information, obtaining from the well-known merchant, Mr. FRANCISCO DE PAULA RIBEIRO, the remittance of a number of coffee samples of the State of São Paulo for the London market.

"In the same place Mr. MOTTA made arrangements with Baron DE QUARTIN, who also kindly consented to send him a complete collection of coffee samples of the States of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Geraes.

"At the end of last year Mr. MOTTA went to England for the purpose of organizing and incorporating a company which had the object to establish the trade in green, roasted, and ground coffees in London and other cities.

"This company, under the name of 'Motta's Brazilian Coffee Company, Limited,' has already been legally registered in London and started its first establishment in the same city. The first is located at 178 Goswell Road, E. C., in a new building of fine appearance, entirely illuminated both inside and out with electric light. On the ground floor are sales rooms for roasted, ground, and green coffees, and a show window containing samples of green coffee; also a coffee mill, worked by electricity, which receives the roasted coffee, right before the public, through a glass tube located on the first floor. In that place are to be found the most practical coffee machines on the market, as well as portable coffee mills for kitchen use. The coffee is sent to the houses of customers by elegant tricycles. On the first floor is the motor room, supplying electric power to all the different machinery, the coffee mill, storerooms of roasted coffee, both in the bean and ground, with an assortment of tins and square bags bearing the trade-mark and name of the company. On the second floor are the roasting, cooling, and ventilating rooms. Daily output, 1,000 kilos in eight working hours—fuel for the roasters, gas. On the third floor are: Stock rooms, for coffee beans, machinery for the finishing and improving processes, separating the beans according to sizes for roasting. All three floors are supplied with freight elevators. This may be considered a 'model establishment' in that country, because, up to date, there does not exist another equal to it.

"The second establishment is located at 116 Bishopsgate Without E. C., in a fine new building lighted by electricity, inside and out with dry, well-aired and well-lighted cellars for storerooms. Ground floor: Store, same as on Goswell Road; first floor, two large rooms and the office of the company; second floor, two large rooms and toilet room, etc. The first two large rooms are intended for a permanent exhibition of Brazilian coffee, and those on the second floor will be fitted up and used as a 'bureau of information' concerning Brazil, for which purpose the Governments of the Brazilian Union and States will be requested

to send maps, reports, custom tariffs and railway schedules, monographs on coffee, books on the social, political, and financial situation in Brazil, geographies, in short, all that may in any way be useful in this respect, as, for instance, papers, reviews, all of which must be entirely free from political bias. In the show window there will be posted every day a bulletin, giving the details of the movement of the coffee received at Santos and Rio, as compared with that of the last crop.

"These establishments were opened October 2, 1899, as stated by the following telegram received from London on October 3:

"We opened yesterday the establishment of the Motta's Brazilian Coffee Company, Limited."

"Together with the trade of green, roasted, and ground coffees in which it is interested, the Motta's Coffee Company, Limited, will also make an active propaganda for our product, for this company, as its name indicates, will not sell any other than Brazilian coffees in its establishments. The extent of this propaganda will depend on the aid given the Motta's Brazilian Coffee Company, Limited, by those who are interested in the coffee trade."

In this connection the "British Trade Journal" of October 1, 1899, says that the proposal is being made in London "that the coffee planters of the world should take a leaf out of the book so successfully studied by the tea planters of Ceylon. The coffee planter is at present suffering from low prices and the proposal referred to seeks to remedy this state of things by increasing the demand for coffee in Great Britain and in other countries where the consumption per head is still small." The MONTHLY BULLETIN for May, 1899, gives the per capita consumption of coffee in different countries as follows: Holland, 23 pounds per annum; Denmark, 15; Belgium, 11; United States, 9.95; Germany, 5.25; France, 3.25; Great Britain, 0.70.

"The new movement has for its object the formation of an association to supply funds for the purpose of pushing the sale of coffee and educating the public in its preparation and use by the well-known means so successfully adopted in connection with Indian and Ceylon tea." It is generally believed that such a propaganda will result in the increased consumption of coffee in England.

"Coffee Statistics, 1899-1900," by the C. J. Luch Company, of London, contains a number of statistical tables relating to the trade of the world, and especially European countries, in coffee. The large European coffee markets are London, Havre, Hamburg, the Dutch ports, Trieste, Antwerp, Bordeaux, and Marseille. Estimates for the current year, ending June 30, 1900, show a production of 15,285,000 bags of 132½ pounds each. Of this total, 10,500,000 bags are credited to Brazil—6,000,000 to Santos, 3,750,000 to Rio, and the remainder to other Brazilian ports. The estimated production of Mexico and the Central American States together is 1,500,000 bags; Venezuela and Colombia, 1,250,000; the West Indies (chiefly Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico),

550,000; Java, 650,000; British India and Manila, which are classed together, 300,000; Africa and Arabia, 250,000; Sumatra, Ceylon, and the Eastern Archipelago furnishing the small remainder.

NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF.

On November 22, 1899, "Law 651" was enacted, which refers particularly to the customs and inland revenue tariffs. The law took effect on January 1, 1900. The amount to be paid in gold on imports was increased 5 per cent. As regards those articles for which the rates have not been altered, there is an all-around increase of duties in consequence of the extra payment in gold. This is equivalent to 11.1 per cent, calculated at 7 pence per milreis. On the other hand, there are a number of articles on which the duties have been reduced, for some of which the duties payable in 1900 are, in spite of the extra 5 per cent in gold, lower than the present tariff. These articles, according to the "Brazilian Review," are included in the appended table, the \$ mark representing milreis, the figures following the mark being so many thousandths of a milreis. A milreis equals 1,000 reis, and at the value of the present rate of exchange is approximately 14.5 cents United States currency. The per cent of reduction is also given.

	Per kilo.	Per cent.
Paper makers' shovels	\$612	46.2
Tramway harness	48528	7.3
Sardines	\$171	16.6
Wheat flour	\$902	5.3
Champagne	\$927	28.8
Hydrochloric acid:		
Pure	\$021	10.9
Impure	\$043	32.8
Sulphuric acid:		
Pure	\$021	10.9
Impure	\$021	32.8
Mineral waters	\$141	22.4
Children's wooden cots	18132	7.3
Sulphur in bars	\$012	46.2
Cotton:		
In pod	\$114	44.4
Raw	\$071	11.1
Wool, combed, etc.	\$142	11.1
Thread	\$484	14.5
Cotton textiles, from 40 to 75 grams per square meter	\$025	.5
Cotton textiles, from 75 to 100 grams per square meter	\$082	1.8
Cotton textiles, from 100 upward	\$064	1.2
Cotton textiles, fancy, with open threads, 800 grams per square meter	18266	4.7
Hessians	\$035	3.6
Binding cloth	\$142	11.0
Hessian bags	\$142	11.0
Cardboard, not specified	\$114	44.4
Clay images or statuettes	\$139	2.7
Rifts and bridles	\$512	16.6
Winding dolls	\$852	11.0
Unspecified dolls	\$427	16.6
Dynamite	\$242	14.5
Asbestos, manufactured	\$099	5.9
Bottled beer	\$249	25.8
Hydromel, cider or ginger ale, etc., in bottles	\$200	25.9
Liquors:		
In barrel	\$355	11.0
Bottled	\$927	28.8
Gin, in barrel	\$457	44.4
Blitters	\$085	16.5
Common wines:		
To 14°, not in cask	\$199	38.7
14° to 24°	\$214	41.6
Over 24°	\$200	26.4
Common unrefined salt	\$002	4.4

On the following articles the rates will be the same owing to the increase created by the collection of 5 per cent additional in gold, otherwise there would have been a reduction:

	Per kilo.	Per cent.
Brooms, with handles.....	\$854	6.0
Cotton:		
Unbleached.....	\$021	3.0
Bleached.....	\$009	1.0
Dyed.....	\$032	.4
Silk gauze.....	\$596	1.9
Silk trimmings.....	2\$622	4.2

The duty on the following imported articles has been raised: Sheep and goats, from 3\$ to 4\$; dried and jerked beef, from 100 to 120 *reis*; beans, from 40 to 60 *reis*; Indian corn, from 20 to 30 *reis*; potatoes, from 20 to 40 *reis*; common tallow, 200 *reis*; earthenware, from 3,700 to 4,000 *reis*; glass bottles, from 100 to 150 *reis*; glassware, from 600 to 700 *reis*; glassware, fine, from 1,000 to 1,200 *reis*; hats, felt, from 2,000 to 6,400 *reis*; hats, other kinds, from 4,800 to 5,600 *reis*; woolen cloth, from 7,200 to 8,000 *reis*.

The new tariff law provides that after March 1, 1900, only goods from Portugal will be admitted to Brazilian ports which have labels printed in the Portuguese language. Goods manufactured for the Brazilian markets in other countries must be labeled in the language of those countries.

From January 1, 1900, the proportion of custom-house duties which must be paid in gold has been fixed at 15 per cent instead of 10, as formerly. Moreover, all goods destined for Brazil will have from the same date, January 1, to be accompanied by consular invoices. From the same day also the minimum tariff is applied. As to the maximum tariff, its application is postponed to March 1 on account of certain diplomatic discussions. It is therefore incorrect to state, as has been done in a cable dispatch from Rio Janeiro dated January 7, that several of the foreign Ministers have "protested" against the differential duties. Nothing has been decided in an absolute manner, and a friendly discussion is going on instead of a protest having been entered against the new duties. The question of a lowering of duties in France on the coffees brought from Brazil is not yet decided by the French Chamber, and that decision will exercise a great influence over the application of the Brazilian maximum tariff in March.

IMPORTATIONS OF FLOUR.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a communication from Mr. THOMAS C. DAWSON, Secretary of the United States Legation at Rio de Janeiro, giving the statistics of the trade in flour in the Brazilian Republic. According to the "Monthly Summary of the Bull. No. 1—2

United States Treasury Department" for 1898 the exports of wheat flour from United States ports to Brazil during that year were 707,025 barrels. The exports to Brazil for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, were 818,816 barrels. No statistics on the subject have been published by the Brazilian Government for 1898, but for 1899 an effort is being made to collect and publish the figures relating to certain importations, of which flour is one.

Mr. DAWSON says that, according to the statistics already gathered, the total imports of flour for the first three months of 1899 were 302,730 barrels, but the quantities coming from the several countries are not specified. With regard to the port of Rio more detailed figures are given. During the first eight months of 1899 there passed through the custom-house at Rio 197,830 barrels, of which the United States supplied 111,870; the Argentine Republic, 66,800; Uruguay, 17,090; Austria, 1,475; Great Britain, 388; Germany, 194, and France 11. If the same proportion continued for the eight months ending August 31 that existed between Rio and the other ports for the three months ending March 31, the total flour imports into Brazil for that period are estimated by Mr. DAWSON to have been 900,000 barrels.

Estimating the imports of 1898 at four times those for the first quarter of 1899, there were received that year 1,212,000 barrels, and of this quantity, as has been stated, 707,025 came from the United States. Mr. DAWSON estimates that of the remainder, 495,000 barrels, came from the River Plate regions, and 10,000 barrels from Austria, Great Britain, Italy, and Germany, in proportions impossible to ascertain, but the probable rank of the countries is in the order named.

Mr. DAWSON further says that substantially the same results as to the relative amounts of flour received from the United States, as compared with the imports from the River Plate countries, were reached by him in taking the reports of the imports at the several Brazilian ports in connection with information furnished by the trade as to which countries supplied the bulk of the flour at each port. In addition to the flour imported, there were 600,000 barrels of flour manufactured in Rio de Janeiro out of wheat imported from abroad during the year 1898.

SCARCITY OF IPECACUANHA.

Ipecacuanha, a description of which was given in the MONTHLY BULLETIN of July, 1899, was first introduced into Europe near the end of the seventeenth century, about 1672, by a French doctor named LEGRAS, but it was only a century later that its use became general in France, Germany, England, and other countries, when LOUIS XIV paid to ADRIEN HELVÉTIUS, a Dutch doctor of Reims, 1,000 gold *louis* for the secret of the preparation of this remedy.

Brazil seems to be the only home for the true ipecacuanha, the western part of the State of Matto Grosso being particularly adapted to its

cultivation. Varieties are found in the forests of upper Paraguay and also in several other South American countries, but they are of inferior quality. The ipecacuanha of Brazil is known under the name of Rio ipecacuanha (reshipment port); the other ipecacuanhas are known commercially as the Cartagena and Mollendo varieties.

The English have vainly attempted to introduce the cultivation of this product into their colonies; the attempts not proving successful, Brazil remains the only producer of this valuable shrub.

The methods of gathering the ipecacuanha are little short of criminal, and unless some legislation is enacted for preserving the plants, as was done in regard to gathering rubber, it will not be long before they will become extinct. The shrub is dug up by the roots and no attempt made at replanting the sprouts; consequently the shipments to commercial markets are decreasing in importance each year and the prices are increasing. Thus, in 1897 the price in Europe was 16.50 *francs* the kilo (2.2046 pounds), but in 1898 it rose successively to 18, 20, 22, and 24 *francs*. In the beginning of 1899 the price was 30 *francs* the kilo, and rapidly rose to 49.50 *francs* at the end of June of that year. The prices will be maintained at the present high figures with the exception of slight and unimportant variations, for no similar product exists to replace the good qualities of ipecacuanha.

The cultivation of this plant presents unlimited possibilities and the lands can be had at extremely low prices, for the State of Matto Grosso greatly favors colonization; the climate is hot, yet in other ways is healthy.

The Belgians and English have formed very important companies for the exploitation of rubber, and it can be safely said that it will not be long before the cultivation of ipecacuanha will attract their capital.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

The message of the President of the State of Rio Grande do Sul shows that the financial situation of that State continues to be good. Without increasing the taxes in any manner the receipts are increasing, which admits of the gradual payment of the public debt, and at the same time leaves a considerable balance. The following table is a statement of receipts for the years mentioned:

	Milreis.		Milreis.
1889.....	2,340,181.177	1894.....	6,524,722.118
1890.....	2,621,716.118	1895.....	8,235,673.437
1891.....	3,154,129.422	1896.....	8,302,219.553
1892.....	4,224,173.794	1897.....	9,635,516.341
1893.....	6,290,881.610	1898.....	10,819,718.535

The estimated receipts for 1898 were 8,540,200 *milreis*, whereas actually they were 2,279,518.535 *milreis* in excess of the estimate.

The export duties alone were 4,398,814.454 *milreis*, an increase of

1,598,814.550 *milreis* over the estimate and 770,098.454 *milreis* more than the receipts for 1897. The following is a statement of exports by years:

	Milreis.		Milreis.
1889.....	18,240,617.037	1894.....	40,873,160.667
1890.....	17,260,724.471	1895.....	41,474,835.326
1891.....	27,469,410.069	1896.....	40,587,868.671
1892.....	38,823,844.659	1897.....	52,936,225.651
1893.....	40,670,120.761	1898.....	62,563,129.712

The expenditures during the fiscal year 1898 amounted to 10,256,696.442 *milreis*, of which 8,325,089.207 were for ordinary and 1,931,607.235 for extraordinary expenses. The State debt, which in 1897 amounted to 4,502,000 *milreis*, was reduced by 336,750 *milreis* in 1898.

In the present period the sum of 350,000 *milreis* has been allotted for payment on account of the debt, so that the total debt on December 31, 1899, will amount to 3,815,250 *milreis*. In the first six months of 1899 the receipts were 4,273,074.014 *milreis* and the expenditures 363,877.367 *milreis* or 634,202.647 less than estimated for.

The receipts and expenditures for 1900 are estimated as follows:

	Milreis
Receipts.....	9,745,700.000
Expenditures.....	9,667,662.591
Balance	78,037.409

FRENCH AGITATION REGARDING DIFFERENTIAL TARIFFS.

The Society of Merchants and Commission Merchants, or *commissionsaires*, in France, has called the attention of the Ministry to the action of the Brazilian Government regarding attempts to modify existing commercial or tariff treaties. They have also appealed to other industrial or commercial associations in France to aid the efforts of the society named, and a circular has been sent out explaining the effect upon the French trade of the new Brazilian tariff. The circular says that "the injury which would result from the suppression of 60,000,000 (and sometimes 90,000,000) *francs*, representing the annual amount of business with Brazil, would be much greater, since it bears mainly upon manufactured articles upon which the labor cost figures for the largest proportion; that is, from 40,000,000 to 45,000,000 *francs*. The workmen, therefore, not only in Paris but also in the Provinces, would have to suffer greatly. The "Society of Industrials and Merchants of France" decides, in consequence, not only to maintain, but also to develop the agitation already existing with regard to the promulgation of a new Brazilian tariff which charges differential duties of from 40 to 50 per cent upon French articles. It appoints, besides, a delegation of five of its members to act with the Government or with the Parliament, in order to establish between the Brazilian and the French Republics, which have always been bound by friendly relations, equitable and profitable relations of a commercial character."

According to the "Gazeta do Noticias" the French Government collected in 1898, by taxation on Brazilian products introduced into that country, a total of 50,753,044 *francs*. Of this sum 45,442,488 *francs* were derived from coffee, 5,298,800 *francs* from cacao, and 18,758 *francs* from tapioca. On the other hand, the Brazilian Government collected from French products 20,000 *contos*, or less than 25,000,000 *francs*, and, although the imports introduced from France are principally articles of luxury, the duties imposed amounted to not more than 47 per cent of their value. France, however, imposes upon coffee, an article of food, as much as 250 per cent of its current selling price.

NEW SPANISH STEAMSHIP LINE.

Foreign advices state that on January 27, 1900, the Spanish Transatlantic Steamship Company of Barcelona will inaugurate a new service of steamers between Liverpool and Pauillac, Brazil, the River Plate ports and the Pacific ports as far as Valparaiso, returning by the same route to Pauillac and Liverpool. The other ports of call will be Corunna, Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, Las Palmas, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Punta Arenas, Coronel, and Valparaiso.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The British Government has advised the Minister of Foreign Affairs that a change in its consular service in Brazil has been resolved upon, and that the Consul at Pernambuco has been raised to the position of Consul-General, with jurisdiction over Alagoas, Parahiba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, and Piauí. The Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro has jurisdiction over the States of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Geraes, Espírito Santo, and Matto Grosso.

A syndicate has been formed under the auspices of the firm of ARTHUR KOPPEL & Co., in Berlin, to secure the means for the preliminary work upon the railroad, Blumenau-Aquidaban. This syndicate has obtained the KOUREAU concession (Saguassu-Joinville-Blumenau), and will undertake the building of both lines of the railway at the same time. It is expected that the work will commence in January, 1900.

During the last four years the Brazilian Government imported from Germany: Four war ships, 30 batteries of KRUPP'S cannon, a large amount of material for the fortifications of the ports, a floating crane (which alone cost 5,000,000 marks), the principal part of the ammunition for its army, and a great deal of material for the rebuilding of the fortresses, all of which was paid for in cash.

On November 21, 1900, a contract was signed by which the "Great Western of Brazil Railway Company" agrees to complete and operate a branch line from Timbanba to Pilar, in the State of Parahiba, which will unite that railway with the Conde d'en line. This section forms

part of the system recommended a number of years ago by a prominent government engineer.

Dr. VAN KROATZ, son of a German gentleman of the same name, has been appointed to take charge of the Geological Department at Pará of the State Government. He proposes to explore the vast Amazon Valley with a view to obtaining reliable data in respect to its characteristic meteorological and climatic conditions.

The Ministry of Industry has advised the Minister of Marine that the Rio de Janeiro Harbor and Dock Company, Limited, will inaugurate work on the port improvements in that port, on December 4, 1899. The work will begin on the south side of Cobras Island, which is a dependency of the Marine Department.

The lowest bid for furnishing 120,000 tons of Cardiff coal to the Brazilian Central Railway for the year 1900 was at the rate of 29s., 6d. per ton, and the highest at the rate of 37s. There was a bid to furnish United States coal at 26s. 6d. per ton, but it does not appear to have been accepted.

The Inspector-General of Public Health has resolved to permit foreign vessels bound for Santos to receive foodstuffs in other Brazilian ports for transportation to Santos. The coastwise traffic is prohibited to foreign vessels by the Constitution.

The Government has issued a decree permitting Engineer CARVALHO E. SOUZA and Contractor J. AUGUSTO VIEIRA to build a railway from Sao Popenba to the Island of Governador, where they will construct a wharf for loading and discharging vessels.

The Japanese Minister in Rio de Janeiro is desirous of encouraging the immigration into Brazil of a number of his countrymen and he recently made a trip to São Paulo in connection with this subject.

The export of Brazilian coffee to Italy has increased in the last decade tenfold and amounts at present to 120,000 sacks per annum, notwithstanding that the duty on coffee in Italy is almost prohibitive.

Large coal deposits are reported to have been discovered in the State of Minas Geraes near Aragnary, the development of which is in the hands of an English concern.

The "Gaceta do Noticias" of Rio de Janeiro brings information that a syndicate with a capital of \$1,000,000 has been formed for the purpose of erecting a paper factory in Parará.

According to the "Diario Popular" of São Paulo, the Santos section of the Viação Paulista (tramways) has been sold to a foreign syndicate for over 2,000,000 *milreis*.

It is stated that a new bank is to be opened in Pará, with a capital of 10,000 *contos*, the greater part of which has been taken by European capitalists.

The President has ordered the transfer to Havre of the Brazilian Consul-General in France. The post at Paris is hereafter to be only a consulate.

During the fiscal year 1897-98, 644,638 grains of gold, valued at \$2,384,759, were obtained from the mines of Passagen, State of Minas Geraes.

The Directors of the Brazilian-German Bank have declared a dividend of 12 per cent, and have turned 200,000 *marks* into the special reserve fund.

The city of Campinas is reported to have ordered engines and other material for its fire department from Germany.

The United States Patent Office on January 9, 1900, issued a patent on a steam turbine to JOHN BURGUM, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The municipality of Braganca has determined to throw open to competition the electric lighting for the city.

According to the "Province do Pará" a bank is to be formed with a European capital of 10,000,000 of *contos*.

A recent telegram states that a German syndicate has purchased the San Cristobal Railway.

CHILE.

PROPOSED NEW LINE OF RAILWAY.

The "Chilean Times" of November 25, 1899, says there has just been promulgated an act of Congress granting to JAVIER ARLEGUI RODRIGUEZ and VALENTIN LAMBERT powers to construct and operate a line of railway from Penno Station to the main southern line at Las Cabras. The plans for the line are to be submitted to the Government within six months from November 18, 1899, and the line is to be completed and ready for traffic within eighteen months after the approval of the plans.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR NOTES.

The treaty of extradition negotiated with the Republic of Ecuador in 1897 was ratified by Chile and went into operation on October 1, 1899. It will terminate in ten years.

The Chilean Council of State has approved the Arbitration Treaty between Chile and Brazil.

It is reported that Señor D. JOAQUIN GODOY is to be appointed Chilean Minister to Brazil.

The resignation of Mr. AQUILES MANHEIM as Chilean Consul in the city of Chicago has been accepted by the Government at Valparaiso.

Mr. REMILJO CRESPO TORAL has been appointed Chilean Consul at Cuenca, Ecuador.

The following Consular Representatives have been recognized by the Chilean Government: Mr. JULIO ISAACS, as Colombian Consul at Valparaiso; Mr. T. MENCHACA, as Belgian Consul in Concepcion; Mr. H. FABRY, as Belgian Consul at Valparaiso; Mr. JOAQUIN A. O. BOTELHO, as Brazilian Consul at Valparaiso, and Mr ADELBERT OSTERLOH, as Consul for Austria-Hungary in Tacna and Arica.

The resignation of Mr. JAMES S. ZACHARIE, as Chilean Consul at New Orleans, has been accepted.

Mr. J. ENRIQUE CONCHA SUBERCASEAUX has been appointed attaché of the Chilean Legation in Paris.

Mr. ISIDRO JIMENEZ FERNANDEZ has been accepted as Vice-Consul for Ecuador at Punta Arenas.

SHIPMENTS OF WHEAT IN NINE MONTHS.

During the first nine months of 1899 the exports of wheat amounted to 65,000,000 kilograms, sent to the following countries: England, 49,900 kilograms; Peru, 15,030,740 kilograms; and Germany, 55,000 kilograms. During the year 1898, 60,936,000 kilograms of wheat were exported as follows: England, 50,386,240 kilograms; Peru, 10,398,400 kilograms; Germany, 31,500 kilograms; and Brazil, 145,000 kilograms.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

It is reported that the Chilean Government has sent several medical experts to Asunción, Paraguay, to make a study of the disease, supposed to be the plague, which is prevailing there. Dr. MALIBRAN, of the Argentine Republic, who was sent to Paraguay by his Government, has reported to the Chilean physicians that the disease is not of a virulent type. Nevertheless, the Chilean Government is reported to have secured from Europe a thousand vials of bubonic serum to be used as a preventive.

In an article on the world's production of wine a statement appears that in America Chile is the leading wine producer, being credited with 2,500,000 hectoliters; the Argentine Republic coming next with 1,600,000; Brazil, 450,000, and Uruguay fourth with 70,000. The same article credits the United States with a production of 1,300,000 hectoliters.

The Chilean press has recently been discussing the question of import duties on live stock from the Argentine Republic. It is urged that any concessions should be reciprocal. That is to say, if Chile reduces the duty on cattle imported from the Argentine Republic, the latter country should reduce the import duty on some Chilean products—preferably on wines.

The "Deutsche Nachrichten" is authority for the statement that work upon the electric railways in the city of Santiago is now proceeding rapidly. The company is under contract to have 15 kilometers completed by the first of February, 1900, but there will be three times that much finished on that date. In seven years 700 kilometers must be in working order.

Mr. DARIO ZAÑARTU has been appointed Director-General of the State railways in place of Señor RAMON GARCIA, deceased. The new Director has held, at different times, the positions of Minister to Bolivia, member of the Tribunal of Accounts, sub-Director and Director *ad interim* of the Auditor's Office, and Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Industry and Public Works has in view the establishment of a national factory for the constructing of the rails and other material for the Government railroads at an expense of 2,500,000 pesos.

The receipts of the custom-house at Iquique for the month of October amounted to \$4,483,996 (national currency), for duties on saltpeter, in which month 79,113,783 kilograms were exported.

A commission has been named by the Government to inquire into the condition of the pier of Talcahuano. This harbor is reported to be in great danger owing to drifting sand.

According to a telegram from Valparaiso, the commission appointed by the Minister of Finance has declined to recommend the increase in the circulation of paper money.

According to the "Siidamerikanische Rundschau," the President of Chile has proposed the reduction of the army to 5,885 men and that of the navy to 4,590 men.

A syndicate has been formed in Santiago with a capital of £80,000 for the purpose of working the recently discovered petroleum wells in Punta Arenas.

It is stated that a sugar factory is to be erected in Valdivia by Messrs. DANERI & Co., and that the necessary machinery is now being imported.

The "Argentinische Wochenblatt" states that the number of German instructors in the Chilean army is to be increased.

COLOMBIA.

GOVERNMENT CATTLE MONOPOLY.

A decree has been promulgated by the Colombian Government making the slaughter of cattle and the sale of the meat a Government monopoly. It prohibits all owners of cattle from selling meat except to employees of the Government, under a penalty of \$100 for each head of cattle sold. The reason of this step is the necessity for an increase in the revenue. The Consul-General of the United States reports that it is believed that the order will go into effect at once.

INCORPORATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY.

The Panama Canal Company of America, with an authorized capital of \$30,000,000, was inaugurated in Trenton, New Jersey, on December 27, 1899. The object of the company, as shown by the articles of incorporation, is to acquire by purchase the ship canal of the "Compagnie Nouvelle du Canal de Panama" and the railway across the Isthmus of Panama, and also to construct, equip, and operate said canal and railway and the various enterprises connected therewith. The articles also empower the company to enter into arrangements with any government that may seem conducive to the company's object. It is said that the capital of the company will be increased to \$120,000,000 at an early date.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Through a decree of the President of the Republic, the establishment of a custom-house has been ordered for the Territory of Caquetá, in the southeast of the Department of Cauca, on the Ecuadorean, Brazilian, and Venezuelan frontiers.

The census of Bogotá, taken during the year 1899, shows the capital to have a population of 80,000 inhabitants.

COSTA RICA.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN 1898 AND 1899.

HON. WILLIAM L. MERRY, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Republics of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Salvador has forwarded to the Department of State, at Washington, a report on the industrial conditions of the first-named country, as follows:

"The population of Costa Rica, by the census of 1864, was 120,500, which increased in 1895 to 248,500, and is now fairly stated as approxi-

mating 275,000. The following figures are applicable to the fiscal year ending March 31, 1899:

Imports, stated in gold valuation	\$4,258,896.04
Exports, stated in gold valuation	5,659,218.50

“The exports were divided as follows:

Coffee	4,209,569.15
Bananas	923,000.26
Timber and dyewoods	345,439.04
Precious metals	48,788.30
Various exports	132,331.81

“The imports of the year 1898 were divided as follows: United States, 44.80 per cent; England, 19.60 per cent; Germany, 15.60 per cent; various, 20 per cent.

“In the first four months of 1899 the ratio of imports from the United States had increased to 67.25 per cent, owing mainly to the facilities of steam transportation, although it is not pleasant to note that almost exclusively foreign tonnage was employed in this increasing movement of merchandise. The most important imports from the United States consist of flour, machinery, oils, wire and wire fencing, iron pipe, and furniture. The importation of American cotton drilling and prints is also increasing rapidly.

“Of the coffee, 56 per cent went to England, 20 per cent to the United States, 16 per cent to Germany, and 8 per cent elsewhere. Of the bananas, about two-thirds were shipped to New Orleans and one-third to Atlantic coast ports of the United States.

“The Costa Rica Railway, from Port Limon to Alajuela, through San José and other principal cities of the Republic, with branches, has a length of 137½ miles. It carried in the year 1898, 601,198 passengers and approximately 160,000 tons of freight. Of this railway, the Government owns about \$400,000 in shares, gold value, and the remainder is English property. It is well constructed with material imported from England. The ties are of iron and practically indestructible. The Pacific Railroad will have a length of 58.8 miles from San José to the proposed port of Tivives, at the mouth of the Gulf of Nicoya. It is being constructed by American contractors for account of the Government with material (except ties) from the United States. There are now completed 9 miles; additional graded, 25 miles; partially graded, 3.8 miles; not commenced, 21 miles. The road is now using one locomotive (wood burner) and numerous flat cars imported from the United States. Both railways are 3 feet 6 inches in gauge. The railway from Limon to the interior, after it leaves about 10 miles of banana lands, ascends rapidly, passing the city of Cartago at 5,000 feet elevation, the capital, San José, being 3,860 feet above sea level and consequently on the Pacific slope. It has been an expensive road to construct and runs through beautiful mountain scenery. From San José to the Pacific the American-built road will run through a mountainous region for about

half its length and thence reaches the Pacific over comparatively easy grades, with a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Both these roads have, unavoidably, many curves.

"It must be remembered that mountainous regions in Central America are not barren, like the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada in the United States. The rainfall is generally heavy throughout Costa Rica. The mountains are covered to the summits with vegetation, and, except at the summits, with a soil generally rich. There are running streams in every direction, from which, owing to heavy grades, abundant electric power can be developed. It is a beautiful country, and in its elevated region has a healthy climate. The interior is specially adapted to the growth of coffee, which commands a much higher price in European markets than the Brazilian product. The Atlantic littoral is equally well adapted to the growth of bananas of an excellent quality. These two articles are, as may be noted herein, its principal products, the latter increasing rapidly, while the present low price of coffee offers little inducement to an increase of production, although, if the landowner is free of mortgage, there is still a fair margin.

"Costa Rica needs a diversification of her products, a point which is now engaging the attention of the Government and the agriculturists. An excellent quality of cacao, india rubber, and all classes of tropical fruits for export can be added to the production, while the northwestern part of the Republic is well adapted to the cattle industry, the Republic not producing at this time the cattle it consumes. Angora goats might be profitably raised in the mountains, above the elevation suitable for coffee growing. There are also valuable gold and copper mines in the interior of the Republic, this development having but recently commenced with English and American capital.

"Costa Rica has excellent harbors on the Pacific, among them Salinas Bay, Port Culebra, and ports on the Gulf of Nicoya. At present the only one on the Pacific littoral frequently used by foreign shipping is Punta Arenas, connected by rail with the town of Esparta, 15 miles inland, whence there is a good cart road to San José. On the Atlantic the only seaport of note is Limon, where the Government is incurring comparatively large expenditures for sanitary and harbor improvement. The sum of \$765,098 gold has been thus far expended, which has been paid, about half in cash and half in noninterest-bearing bonds, the work being under control of an American contractor. When the projected work has been completed, Limon should be one of the healthiest ports in Central America.

"The wharfage facilities being deficient, the English railway corporation is constructing a new steel pier, with depth of water for the largest ships. A moderate supply of fuel for steam purposes is always to be had here, the railway company keeping a reserve stock of English patent fuel (compressed coal blocks) for its own service and for shipping. The town and shipping are supplied with excellent potable water, brought from the hills back of the harbor in iron piping.

"Twenty-six steamships monthly now visit Limon, connecting with ports in the United States, Europe, the Spanish Main, and West India Islands. Eight to ten mail steamships (American, English, and Chilean) now call at Punta Arenas monthly, besides transient steamers and sailing vessels, the latter loading principally hard cabinet and dye woods, ores, hides, etc., for Europe.

"One advantage that Costa Rica has over other Spanish American Republics is the fact that her soil is largely owned by small landowners, who make their homes there and, as small producers, are interested in a peaceable life. These people are the backbone of the country—industrious, good citizens, averse to revolutions and political excitement. Considering the small area of the Republic and the still smaller population, relatively, Costa Rica has reason to congratulate herself upon her advancement. It needs only the commencement of the interoceanic canal to place her and her sister Republic, Nicaragua (also a country of great natural resources), on the highway of the world's commerce. When that time arrives, both Republics will rapidly and securely advance in the path of material welfare and prosperity."

In commenting on this report Señor Don JOAQUIN B. CALVO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Costa Rica to the United States, says he believes that the fact that the commercial sight exchange on New York has gone down from 180 per cent to 130 per cent—with a tendency to go lower—is also worthy of notice. This is chiefly due, he explains, to the amount of the reserve in gold and other resources in Costa Rica preparatory to the adoption of the gold standard, the conversion to be effected at the close of the year 1900.

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Legation of Costa Rica furnishes the Bureau of the American Republics with the appended recapitulation of the exports from New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco to Costa Rica during the second half of the year 1899:

Month.	Number of packages.	Weight.	Net value.	Freight charges.	Total value, United States gold.
NEW YORK.					
		<i>Kilos.</i>			
July.....	17,202	1,282,981			\$142,738.72
August.....	6,572	478,624			76,662.39
September.....	8,675	675,733			79,319.76
October.....	7,665	584,919			73,037.38
November.....	7,278	524,238			355,559.41
December.....	13,948	665,641			121,185.11
Total.....	61,346	4,212,136			848,497.77
NEW ORLEANS.					
July.....	14,970	991,311	\$30,699.23	\$8,522.29	39,221.52
August.....	9,792	811,639	30,293.44	11,029.27	41,322.71
September.....	28,883	676,086	29,532.58	9,700.04	39,232.62
October.....	35,327	783,366	34,898.55	17,817.23	52,715.78
November.....	20,134	701,496	31,654.05	8,988.98	40,643.03
December.....	16,517	601,648	29,507.72	8,779.66	38,287.38
Total.....	125,623	4,565,546	186,605.57	64,837.47	251,443.04

Month.	Number of packages.	Weight.	Net value.	Freight charges.	Total value, United States gold.
SAN FRANCISCO.					
		<i>Kilos.</i>			
July	2,278	103,794	\$6,560.60	\$1,278.25	\$7,838.85
August	4,803	179,067	10,142.75	2,185.67	12,328.42
September	2,315	95,033	5,701.72	1,269.10	6,970.82
October	3,224	110,241	7,657.50	1,682.49	9,339.99
November	2,840	114,041	7,038.25	1,309.80	8,348.05
December	3,724	176,016	16,892.66	2,227.80	19,120.46
Total	19,194	778,135	51,935.48	9,953.11	63,946.59
Total value of exports					
From New York					\$848,497.77
From New Orleans					251,443.94
From San Francisco					63,946.59
Grand total					1,163,887.40

EXPLOITATION OF RUBBER, SARSAPARILLA, AND VANILLA

A decree was published in the Diario Oficial of the Republic of Costa Rica on November 16, 1899, authorizing the free exploitation of rubber, sarsaparilla, vanilla, and all other vegetable products existing in the national forests with the exception of wood.

ECUADOR.

ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY.

The British Foreign Office has received a communication from the representative of Great Britain at Lima, Peru, in which it is stated that from January 1, 1900, additional customs duties of 10 per cent will be imposed on all imports into Ecuador. Goods which are at present stored in Ecuadorian custom-houses, or which left foreign ports before December 1, 1899, are exempted from the operation of this additional duty.

REGULATIONS AFFECTING COASTING AND RIVER TRADE.

The British Vice-Consul at Guayaquil reports to the Foreign Office that by the new custom-house law of Ecuador, which came into force on January 1, 1900, it is enacted that "the coasting and river trade shall be carried on solely by national ships, but the Executive may admit foreign vessels to this trade when this is deemed convenient. Before conceding this permission the Executive will demand that the tariffs of fares and freights shall be submitted for its approbation, and these can not be altered without its consent." The coasting and river traffic was previously open to any foreign flag.

GUATEMALA.

THE PRODUCTION OF RUBBER.

The "Nouveau Monde" (Paris) for December says that Mr. J. HORTA, a distinguished and well-known agriculturist, has just published the results of his studies on rubber in Guatemala, in the course of which he states that rubber is found growing wild and is obtained from a tree known under the name of *Castillea elastica cero*, which grows throughout Central America. The rubber produced is of an excellent quality and has a high commercial value. The cultivation of this product could in a short time, Mr. HORTA believes, become one of the principal resources of the country. He asserts that rubber trees can not develop when exposed to the sun, but this is contrary to the opinion of Mr. ROMERO, a specialist of the country. In support of his theory he presents detailed technical reasons which show lengthy research and practical intelligence.

As regards rubber production, Mr. HORTA estimates that the sap can be extracted twice a year and that a tree cultivated under ordinary conditions should give, after nine or ten years, from 2 to 3 pounds of the crude product annually. More modern methods of culture would greatly increase this output. The author of the pamphlet gives valuable pointers relative to the gathering of the sap. He advises that the *machete*, which has been used up to the present time for the incisions, be replaced by a special knife, thus obtaining clearer cuts and better-directed openings. He recommends especially that these incisions be cut in such a manner as to leave the bark of the tree intact, as, through lack of taking this indispensable precaution, many trees die within a very short period.

Mr. HORTA shows that a plantation of 100,000 trees will cost at the time of the first crop—that is, ten years after planting—\$95,000, and that the first crop alone will yield \$189,500. But, reducing this sum by one-half, a profit of 100 per cent on the capital invested would still be realized, so that 100 plantations would give an annual profit of more than \$9,000,000 and would double the national wealth.

In conclusion, Mr. HORTA cites some figures which show the importance of the rubber industry. He says the world's total production of rubber, June 30, 1898, was 94,000,000 pounds. Since 1895 the price of rubber has constantly increased. Africa and South America are the principal sources of production. During the past year Brazil exported 50,000,000 pounds of rubber. The production of Africa is estimated at 40,000,000 pounds. India is credited with 1,000,000 pounds and all of the countries of Central and South America (Brazil excepted) have furnished about 3,000,000 pounds. Fifty years ago the Brazilian crop amounted to 1,000,000 pounds. This country has consequently increased its exports of rubber at the rate of 1,000,000 pounds a year.

TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

A résumé of an article in the "Moniteur Officiel" for November 30 says that American machinery finds a good market in Guatemala, England being almost its only competitor. The success of these two nations is due to the fact that they keep agents in the country and expend yearly large sums in catalogues and advertisements published in Spanish and presented in a commercial form within the reach of everyone.

The principal machines employed in Guatemala and in all of Central America are motors, water wheels, turbines, machinery for coffee and sugar cane, and apparatus for sugar mills. Regular agricultural machinery is little used in the country on account of the nature of the soil and the class of products. The only tools which are very much in demand and enjoy a large sale are pickaxes, axes, and *machetes*. These are all imported from the United States and England.

The principal houses in Guatemala engaged in the sale of machinery and agricultural implements are:

Furrer, Hastedt & Co.; Thumber & Wiebalk (Germans); Iman Van de Putte & Co. (Belgians); Paul & Co. (Guatemalans); J. E. Van der Henst (Dutch); Zadik & Co. (Americans). These houses furnish the entire Republic.

The import duty is: For large machinery, 2 *centavos* per kilo; for small machinery, 10 *centavos* per kilo; plus an additional 15 per cent. Of the total 70 per cent is payable in silver of the country, and 30 per cent in gold at a variable rate of exchange. In packing, the packages should be restricted to a maximum weight of 200 pounds, a load for one mule in this country. The terms for payment are one-third down and the remainder at six or seven months, according to the security offered by the purchaser.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Messrs. PINETTA & Co., have commenced the manufacture of spirituous liquors which "La República," of Guatemala City, reports as of good quality. Among the samples sent the newspaper were bottles containing domestic maraschino, cacao, absinthe, anisette, cognac, etc.

On January 9, 1900, the United States Patent-Office issued a patent to FRITZ E. R. OKRASSA, of Antigua, Guatemala, for a coffee or malt drier.

HAITI.

PROCEEDINGS WITH REFERENCE TO PUBLIC WORKS.

Hon. W. F. POWELL, Minister of the United States to Haiti, under date of December 5, 1899, sends the following communication to the Department of State in answer to a circular letter of the Department

dated November 17, 1899, in regard to the construction of public works:

"For works of a national nature in this Republic, the Government neither invites proposals nor bids in reference to the same. The manner of conducting such affairs is as follows: A railroad is to be constructed, waterworks to be built, or an electric-light plant established. Some individual, either native or foreign, secures from the Government a concession to do such work, reserving in return all the emoluments from such enterprise, with an added subsidy from the Government for a term of years, after which time it is supposed to revert to the Government.

* * * "Up to this date there is no public work under Government control except the rebuilding of a dock yard for the repair of its vessels of war. Several concessions have been granted for contemplated improvements, but they are all in the hands of private parties, some of whom are in New York, others in Europe, seeking to secure funds to commence such work, or else to part with their interest to others who will pay the highest sum for them. Among the concessions granted within the past few years are the following:

"A railroad from Cape Haitien to Grand Riviere, a distance of about 40 miles, of which 10 miles are completed.

"A railroad from Port-au-Prince to the Salt Lakes, destined to be the connecting link between the capitals of Haiti and Santo Domingo, a distance of 200 miles. This road is not yet commenced, as the concessionaires are in Europe seeking funds or purchasers of the franchise.

"Waterworks at Port-au-Prince, to supplement the water supply of the city. The work is not yet begun, and the concessionaire is endeavoring to capitalize the enterprise in New York.

"Electric-light plant for Port-au-Prince, work on which has not been begun for lack of funds." * * *

TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Though the importation of agricultural machinery in Haiti is at present very much restricted, it is susceptible of development. The machines imported to-day are those used for cleaning coffee, shelling and grinding corn, decorticating rice, and cotton seeders. American plows are beginning to be introduced. If simple agricultural machinery were placed on exhibition at Port au Prince this branch of trade would undoubtedly greatly increase, as a decided tendency toward agriculture is noted. Machinery is admitted free of duty.

TRADE WITH BOSTON IN 1899.

The Consul of Haiti at Boston, Massachusetts, reports the exports to his country from Boston during 1899 as amounting to \$15,452 in value. The imports from Haiti were as follows: Logwood, 4,133 tons; coffee, 33 bags; fustic, 45 tons; cacao, 10 bags; old metal, 5 barrels.

Bull. No. 1—3

MEXICO.

ABOLITION OF COFFEE DUTIES.

Señor LIMANTOUR, Minister of the Treasury, recently submitted a list of very important measures to President DIAZ for his approval, prior to sending them to Congress. In his communication the Minister alludes to the "exceptionally prosperous condition of public finance, allowing certain fiscal reforms of great importance to be effected under propitious circumstances." In alluding to national industries, he says:

"The production of coffee is perhaps the only one of our industries that is not flourishing, but which, on the contrary, is passing through a severe and prolonged crisis, on which account the Government has taken several steps with a view to determining the economic causes which have led to the depreciation of this important branch of our national wealth.

"In other times, not far distant, when the situation was reversed and the producers of coffee realized large profits, while a certain degree of depression was noticeable in most of the other branches of industry and commerce, and when this state of stagnation was reflected in the condition of the Treasury, an export tax was decreed on coffee, which yielded a large income to the Government, and which might at the same time be considered as a fair share which the growers and exporters of that product contributed for the other taxpayers, on whom devolved the sustaining of the public burdens of those depressing times. It, therefore, seems just that now the Government should relinquish this branch of revenue, and it may be observed that the abolition of the tax for the remainder of the present fiscal year can only be attended with a diminution of less than \$200,000 in the revenues of the Republic—nevertheless, it will afford great relief to the producers of coffee."

Congress is reported to have agreed to the Ministers' recommendations.

The Legislature of the State of Veracruz has reduced the tax paid by land devoted to coffee culture from 6 *centavos* an *ara* to 4 *centavos*.

Owing to the falling off in the price of coffee during the early part of last year (which, however, was toward the close of 1899 followed by a rise) some planters in the state of Puebla, especially in the districts of Zacaopaxtla and Tezintlán, determined to give up the cultivation of coffee for that of cotton and tobacco. In Michoacán and Veracruz similar changes were noticed. The recent abolishment by the Mexican Government of the export duty on coffee may cause these planters to return to coffee culture, as they thereby gain a cent per pound.

RESTORATION OF MINES TO UNITED STATES OWNERS.

A dispatch dated December 10, 1899, stated that the Supreme Court of the State of Durango had rendered a decision restoring the Vasas,

San Marcos, and Bismarek mines, located in the State named, to their original owners, one of the largest shareholders being Mrs. MARY D. GRACE, of Syracuse, New York.

The mines are valued at \$20,000,000, and prominent mining experts who have recently examined the properties state there is from \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000 worth of ore in sight. The ore runs high in silver and gold. The mines were acquired several years ago, the stockholders being New York and New England capitalists. Mr. W. J. GRACE, son of Mrs. M. D. GRACE, was elected secretary and placed in charge of the properties. The new owners made important improvements, and had just begun developments on an extensive scale when a detachment of *rurales* took possession of the mines, forcibly ejecting Mr. GRACE. A rival company, which was installed, is now ejected by the court.

NEW TYPEWRITING MACHINE.

According to the "Scientific American," two patents have been granted in the United States to MANUEL S. CARMONA, of the City of Mexico for a novel typewriter. In both machines the same result is obtained with somewhat different methods. With only five keys the inventor obtains all the characters usually employed in writing, so that the machine can be readily operated with one hand. The number of combinations obtained with these five keys is 31. By means of two auxiliary keys, 31 additional characters may be obtained twice over, so that the total number of possible characters is 93. The spacing of the type is automatically measured so as to correspond with each letter to be printed, enabling the form and size of the type to be varied at will. With the same machine, large and small letters, English script, printing letters, German, Greek, and written characters can be used. The writing is always plainly visible.

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Mexico at New York reports the imports of Mexican products into the port of New York during the month of November, 1899, as follows: Henequén, 19,421 bales; coffee, 8,379 bags; hides, 2,665 bales; hides, loose, 5,364; ixtle, 3,190 packages; goat skins, 542 bundles; deer skins, 562 bundles; rubber, 141 packages; leaf tobacco, 32 bales; cigars, 135 boxes; broom root, 761 bales; chicle gum, 159 packages; fustic, 6,706 logs; teeali, 54 logs; hair, 9 bales; lead, 85,635 bars; metals, 91 boxes; ore, 19,757 packages; sarsaparilla, 26 bales; vanilla, 11 boxes; alligator skins, 41; heron plumes, 10 boxes; bones, 2,204 packages; honey, 138 barrels; cedar logs, 3,264; mahogany logs, 3,063; copper, 5,583 bars; oranges, 247 boxes; rope, 516 packages; horns, 10 packages. During the same month the vessels entered at the port of New York were 15 steamers, bringing a total of 168,716 packages. The vessels clearing for Mexican ports during the same month were 13, carrying 161,038 packages.

The Consul-General of Mexico in San Francisco gives the value of the exports of merchandise from the port named to the ports of Mexico during the month of November, 1899, as follows: United States goods, \$146,800; foreign goods, \$5,591; Mexican silver *pesos* to Hongkong, \$211,573. The imports into San Francisco from Mexican ports during the same month were as follows: Metals, ore and coin, \$397,192; merchandise, \$30,073.

The Mexican Consul at Nogales, Arizona, reports that the imports into the State of Sonora during the month of November last through the custom-house at Nogales, Mexico, were valued at \$144,747, distributed, with respect to country of origin, as follows: From the United States, \$122,519; from England, \$8,492; from France, \$7,796; from Germany, \$5,239. The imports into the United States of Mexican products during the month named were valued at \$508,512.

The Consul of Mexico at San Diego, California, has informed this Bureau that during the month of November last the exports from San Diego to ports of the United Mexican States were 4,880 packages, valued at \$8,422.44. The imports for the same month from Mexico into San Diego were valued at \$4,628.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Mobile, Alabama, states that the exports from that port to Mexico during the month of December last were valued at \$66,453.92.

PROGRESS OF COTTON MANUFACTORIES.

The San Martin Cotton Factory, located near the town of that name on the Interoceanic Railway, has been completed and is now in operation. During the month of December it employed 300 operatives, but it was stated that this number would be increased to 500 shortly after January 1, 1900. A large cotton factory which is being erected at Atotonilco, on the same line of railway, will be completed and placed in operation by February 10, and a company of native capitalists is being organized to erect a cotton mill at Torreon, in the Nozas River cotton district. The proposed capital stock of this concern is \$1,200,000 Mexican currency.

DEPOSITS OF NATURAL COKE.

At a meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers held in San Francisco, California, during the last week in September, 1899, Mr. E. T. DIMBLE presented a paper dealing with explorations made by him on the line of the Sonora Railway and the discovery of deposits of natural coke of an excellent quality. This discovery is believed to be of the greatest importance to Mexico, where the cost of fuel is steadily increasing. The following are extracts from the paper referred to

“During explorations made for the Southern Pacific Company, in the early part of this year, deposits of natural coke of such extent and

excellent quality as to be worthy of record were found in the Santa Clara coal field, in the neighborhood of La Barranca, a small town 95 miles northeast of Ortiz, on the Sonora Railway. The coal beds are exposed in the drainage basin of Calera Creek, which empties into the Yaqui River opposite Toniche, and the old mining town of Tarahumari is nearly in the center of the field.

* * * "The entire area is underlain by rocks of Triassic age, much disturbed in places, and cut through and covered by eruptive rocks of various kinds and ages. The coal beds occur in a series of interbedded sands and clays in the upper half of the sedimentary Triassic rocks.

"In our search for coal outcrops on Calera Creek, we came across a fragment of coke, and tracing it up finally found a small bed of impure coke at the mouth of El Tren, one of the principal tributaries of that stream. A few days later, one of the prospect slopes, driven on a supposed outcrop, opened out into a body of 3 feet of good coke, underlain by 2 feet of anthracite.

"Later still, as we were prospecting a creek somewhat over a half mile west of the last, we found a place where the gophers had brought out some coal dust, and put men to work on it. Within 10 feet it opened into a good body of coke, which at 30 feet depth was 8 feet thick, and at 130 feet depth was over 10 feet thick.

"Besides these two principal openings, which we subsequently proved to be in the same bed, we have since located several other deposits, with thickness of from 2 to 4 feet. It is possible that the coke is not entirely due to the effect of igneous rock. One bed of coke has, so far as we have found, no igneous rock near it; and again, at one locality, there are small pockets of coke in a 4-foot seam of anthracite, and, so far, we have not found any intrusive rock in the immediate vicinity. These pockets are about the center of the seam, and are small, but the coke is of good quality. Corresponding in a way to the occurrence of the coke in the anthracite, we find for the first 50 or 60 feet in the gopher slope a little anthracite in pockets at the base of the coke.

"The occurrence of coal and coke in the same bed, but in separate benches, is also noticeable. This is found in three separate localities and in different beds. In two cases the coke forms the upper bench and in the other the coal is on top. In the first opening mentioned above the two branches are separated by a clay parting 3 inches thick. In the other two I did not find any parting.

"Where the coal is crushed a little graphite is found along the lines of fracture. I have not found it elsewhere in the beds. Some of the anthracite of the region also has a little graphite in similar relation, and there are several localities where the entire bed is altered to graphite. The occurrence in the coke seam is interesting, however, as it shows that in the cumulative transformation from vegetable fiber to

graphite the passage may be either through anthracite or through natural coke.

"The coke is dark gray in color, of even texture, with small pores (denser than most oven coke), and very firm. It breaks with very even fracture, but has in places the columnar structure of oven coke well developed. "It is an excellent fuel, burning without sparking or delagration. It is little or no harder to ignite than the anthracite, and burns well in open fire, in the blacksmith forge, and in the assay furnace. The ash is white.

"The value of these coke beds is largely due to the fact that the intrusives are so regularly interbedded, running for long distanees in the same bed of coal slates. This gives promise of a far greater supply of coke than could be hoped for under other conditions, and gives to the deposit in this region, where there is no cooking coal of any kind, a decided commercial importance."

NEW INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

The French Legation at Mexico gives the following items of news relative to recent industrial enterprises:

A large cotton mill is to be established at Linares (Nuevo León) by two capitalists of San Luis Potosi, Messrs. ANTONIO FERNANDEZ and PEDRO FERRER, who are associated with Messrs. JUAN B. SUAREZ and VICENTE FERNÁNDEZ, two specialists in this line. The building of the factory is to begin immediately.

The municipal council has approved a contract proposed by Mr. C. L. SEEGER, for the establishment of a service of 100 electric automobile cabs. The service should be in operation within two years.

An American capitalist, Mr J. BRITTINGHAM, has just petitioned the Ministry of Fomento for permission to establish the first glycerine factory in the Republic. He has also asked the concesson of privileges which the law grants to those who establish a new industry in the Republic. The faactory will be capitalized at \$1,000,000.

According to the "Economista Mexicano," Mexico produces yearly from 60,000 to 90,000 tons of sugar, which are consumed in the country.

The explorations made in the vicinity of Tecomatlan, 70 kilometers from Matamoros de Izncar (State of Puebla) with the object of gaining an idea of the importance of the coal deposits recently discovered in this region, have been, it appears, most satisfactory. Twelve shafts have been sunk, and, in view of the success of the researehes, many machines for the exploitation of the deposits have been ordered.

From other authentic sources the Bureau of the American Republics has learned of the establishment and progress of several other enterprises and concerns, among which are the following:

A number of capitalists are interested in establishing three large faactories on the outskirts of the City of Mexico, one for cloth making, another for footwear, and the third for writing paper.

A joint stock company has just been formed in Tepeaca, State of Puebla, for the purpose of establishing a large wine-making concern, the region in the neighborhood being very largely devoted to vine growing.

Chilpancingo, capital of the State of Guerrero, is soon to have electric lights. The plant to furnish the same is now in the process of erection.

Some Monterey capitalists have formed a company to bore artesian wells in the principal cities of the State of Nuevo León.

The government of the State of Nuevo León has granted a concession for the establishment of a new woolen goods factory.

A United States syndicate is soon to erect at a point near Guadalupe, Jalisco, a dynamite factory.

PROPOSED ELECTRIC RAILWAY SYSTEM—OTHER RAILWAY NOTES.

According to the "Engineering News," an electric railway system is proposed which will connect the States of Tabasco, Yucatan, Chiapas, and Campeche with the Central Mexican railway system. It is to be called the Southern National and International Railway, and will ultimately be 409 miles long. The estimated cost of this system is given as \$14,000,000. Of this sum the Federal Government is to provide \$6,000,000 and the States of Tabasco and Campeche are to be asked for subsidies. Including the Federal grant, \$10,000,000 have been subscribed up to date (January 1, 1900).

From other sources it is learned that the Ministry of Communications is much interested in the plan to build a railroad to run through the States named above, and to connect with railroads already completed and working. The plans show that the road will run through the following points: Campeche, Lerma, Serva-cabecera, Sibochae, Puetnich, Sabcabchen, Chichul, Monte Clara, Palmar, Tenosique, Palenque, Tumbala, Tacotalpa, Teapa, Pichucaleo, Juárez, Hnimanillo, Carmen, Moluacan, Minatitlán, and Juile. At this latter point it will connect with the Isthmus Railroad. The construction is very difficult, but the concessionaries are very enthusiastic and purpose carrying out their plans. All the stockholders in the enterprise will be Mexican citizens.

Among the other items relative to railway improvements, etc., the following are noted:

The "Westminster Gazette" is authority for the statement that Sir WEATMAN PEARSON, M. P., the head of the firm of PEARSON & SON, LIMITED, contractors for public works, have concluded negotiations with the Mexican Government pursuant to which they will assume charge of the Tehmantepec railroad for a period of fifty years, reconstructing the line and making ports at each of its extremities. The ports will cost 10,000,000 *pesos*.

The Mexican International Railroad recently signed a contract with the attorney in fact of a Phoenix, Arizona, firm for the construction of seven bridges to be erected over the Nazas River at the following points: Nazas, Cuencané, Pericán, Pozuelos, Tlahnalilo, Cornal, and Ciudad Porfirio Díaz.

It was reported that a syndicate of United States capitalists, which was organized in December last with a capital of \$7,000,000, has purchased the Mexican Northern Railway, which runs from Escalón Station on the Mexican Central to Sierra Mojada in the State of Chihuahua. The line is to be continued to Monterey.

The drawings of the final survey for the proposed extension of the Mexican International Railroad from the city of Durango to the port of Mazatlán, in Sinaloa, have been filed in the Department of Communications, and have been approved by it. A large force of men is already on the ground and work is under way.

It is expected that the railroad from Guadalajara to the Pacific Ocean, being built by the Mexican Central Railroad, will reach its western terminus during the present year.

MINING AND MINERAL NOTES.

The Cananea Consolidated Copper Company has secured a contract from the Government of Sonora to establish a smelter at the mineral region known as Cananea. The smelter is to have a capacity of at least 200 tons; the company is authorized to build railroads from its mines to the smelter, as well as to construct telegraph and telephone lines; the capital of the company is exempt from all State and municipal taxes for a period of twenty years, and the copper produced by it is exempt from all local imposts. Within the term of eighteen months the company must prove that it has invested at least 300,000 pesos in the construction of the smelter and the development of its mines, etc. The company deposited in cash \$5,000 in the State treasury as a guaranty for the fulfillment of the contract.

The great furnace of the Durango Iron and Steel Company is now nearing completion. It will be used for smelting the iron taken from the historic mountain known as the Cerro del Mereado, which adjoins the city of Durango, and forms part of the iron and steel works the company is establishing there. Machinery is being installed for the manufacture of iron of all kinds and forms, and for producing steel. It is reported that eventually even steel rails will be made there.

Large deposits of iron ore have been discovered in the territory of Tepic and oil discoveries in different parts of the Republic are becoming so frequent as to give reasonable expectation of the addition of a new source of wealth. Tests show the oil to be of excellent quality for lubricating and other purposes.

IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

There are 2,000 sugar-cane plantations in the Republic of Mexico, which, during the past year, produced about 80,000 tons of sugar. Notwithstanding this fact it is reported that there is only one mill in the country that forms the sugar into cubes, and it is located near the city of Tepic, in the Territory of that name.

The farmers on either side of the Rio Grande have received with enthusiasm the news recently circulated that the Government of Mexico is to appropriate 1,000,000 *pesos* for the construction of a great international dam, some 5 miles above Ciudad Porfirio Diaz.

According to the "Boletín de Estadística" there are in the State of Yucatán 46,907 *hectares* 5,100 square meters of land planted in corn this year, which, as compared to that under corn last year, shows a decrease of 7,656 *hectares* 3,454 square meters.

Up to October of last year the shipments of cattle from Mexico to Puerto Principe, Santa Clara, and Habana numbered 35,000 head, and contracts have been made in Chihuahua, to be delivered during this month at El Paso, for 25,000 head more.

Several California capitalists have gone into the fruit culture in the States of Veracruz and Oaxaca under favorable auspices.

The shipments of oranges from Sonora to the United States this season have been the heaviest ever known.

PROPOSED GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS.

Mexico finding herself with a considerable surplus on hand is endeavoring to apply a part of it to public works and other ends looking to the public weal. To this end there is now before the Chamber of Deputies a bill carrying an appropriation of \$4,000,000, to be taken from the Treasury surplus and to be distributed as follows: For the construction of primary schools in the Federal District and for a building for the Board of Education, \$1,000,000; for the completion of the General Hospital, \$500,000; construction of buildings for the Medical Institute and Geological Institute, \$200,000; for the new post-office buildings in the capital, Vera Cruz, and Puebla, \$1,000,000; for the cable to unite Lower California and the coast of Senora, \$300,000; for the purchase of war vessels and construction of the Naval Academy, \$1,000,000. The authority granted the Executive to expend the sums thus appropriated is limited to June 30, 1902.

DEATHS OF DISTINGUISHED OFFICIALS.

The announcement is made of the death of Señor Don ANTONIO de MIER Y CELIS, Minister Plenipotentiary of Mexico to the Government of France and Commissioner-General of Mexico to the Paris Exposition of 1900, on December 12, 1899. Señor DE MIER Y CELIS, who was 65 years of age, had filled many important positions in the service of his

country. He represented his Government at the recent Peace Congress at The Hague and was the representative of Mexico at the "Diamond Jubilee" of Queen Victoria. The deceased was the brother of Don SEBASTIAN DE MIER, Minister of Mexico to the Court of St. James.

A dispatch from the City of Mexico dated January 10, 1900, stated that Gen. FELIPE BERRIOZABAL, Minister of War, and one of Mexico's ablest commanders and patriots, expired during the previous night.

NEW FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

On January 8, 1900, a new American banking concern opened for business in the City of Mexico under the title of the United States Banking Company, with a paid-up capital of \$100,000. The American Bank (formerly known as the American Surety Bank) last year earned 30 per cent, and has been a prosperous institution from the start.

The Banco Yucateco (Bank of Yucatan), which formerly had a capital of 2,000,000 *pesos*, has been authorized to increase it to 3,000,000, in view of the augmented business on the Peninsula.

On December 6, 1899, the Mercantil Bank of Monterey, the second institution of the kind established in the flourishing capital of Nuevo León, opened its doors for business.

On December 1, 1899, the Banco Mercantil de Nuevo León, with a capital of 2,500,000 *pesos*, was opened for business.

ITEMS OF INTEREST REGARDING THE CITY OF MEXICO.

According to the list of business establishments paying a license tax in the City of Mexico, which list is prepared and published every year, there are at present in the capital of Mexico 1,118 tobacconists shops, 35 brick kilns, 706 saloons, 451 chophouses, 35 cafés, 33 confectionery shops, 430 restaurants, 308 butcher shops, 200 shops for the sale of pork products, 44 soap factories, 32 lard refineries, 33 cracker and biscuit factories, 39 bakeries, 27 pastry shops, 21 ice-cream shops, 46 boarding houses, 35 hotels, 10 hostelries, 6 lodging houses, 66 billiard rooms, bowling alleys, shooting galleries, etc. Of these establishments 599 pay an extra tax or license for keeping open during extra hours.

A new alcove with shelves is to be shortly added to the National Library. During the past year more than 2,000 volumes have been added to the library and the new additions which have enriched it have been catalogued. Several improvements are to be made to the building during the year.

On Sunday, December 18, 1899, the election for the city Councilmen of the capital took place, at which time Señor Don FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA, one of the Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union of American Republics, was reelected Assistant City Counsel.

The city is soon to have a Recreation Park on the old Bucareli Promenade, the work on which is now nearing completion. Over 200,000 feet of lumber were ordered in the United States for this improvement.

About the middle of December, 1899, the decree providing for the new political organization of the Federal District was promulgated. It creates two new Prefectures out of the municipalities of Coyoacán and Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The water supply of the city is about 28,000 liters per minute, nearly half of which is furnished by the famous spring at the foot of the historic Chapultepee hill.

It is the intention of the municipal authorities to dredge the famous La Viga Canal, which has been gradually filling up for many years past.

Statistics published by the City Council show that in the eight wards within the city limits there are 10 public artesian wells and 1,017 private artesian wells. Despite this large number, they are almost daily being added to, all the larger houses that are being erected having at least one of these wells attached. The water supply furnished by the wells of this character mentioned has been estimated to be 14,121 liters per minute.

NEW STEAMSHIP LINES.

In December, 1899, a contract was made between the Department of Communications and the representative in Mexico of two steamship companies for the establishment of two lines of navigation to run between the ports of the eastern coast of Yucatán between Progreso and Belize and the principal Gulf ports—Coatzacoaleos, Vera Cruz, Tampico, Port Arthur, and Mobile.

The Minister of Communications and Señor MANUEL THOMAS Y TERÁN have signed a contract, additional to that of August 23, 1898, for the establishment of a line of steamers between Guaymas and Mazatlán.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Señor SARTO, a local engineer, has presented to the Geographical and Statistical Society of Mexico an important scheme for the construction of an interoceanic canal wholly within the territory of the Republic. The proposal is to deepen the river Grijalva and from its upper waters to make a ship canal, about 120 kilometers in length, to the Pacific. This work is estimated by Señor SARTO to cost not more than \$40,000,000.

The new Mexican cent-piece will be of bronze, 20 millimeters in diameter, weighing 3 grams, with smooth edge, bearing in the center of the obverse the national coat of arms with the legend "República Mexicana," and on the reverse the figure 1 and the letter C, surrounded by a crown of laurel. The new coin will be legal tender to the amount of 25 cents to the Government as well as to the people.

The Missouri Coffee and Rubber Company of St. Louis has recently been organized. This company owns a tract of land on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Southern Mexico, and proposes planting coffee and rubber trees and building up a commission trade in the products of Mexico and the United States. The company has published a pamphlet descriptive of the territory where the property is located.

A bill has been presented to the Minister of Communication and Public Works for the restoration of the house occupied by the Curé HIDALGO at the time when he proclaimed the independence of Mexico. This house, one of the oldest historic monuments of Mexico, is in such a state of dilapidation that fears are felt for its safety. The cost of the projected repairs will not exceed \$8,000.

The growth of the internal-revenue stamp income has been one of the notable features of recent years in Mexico. This is due to the great business activity of the country. The remarkable growth in the revenue thus derived has enabled the Government to abolish some of the taxes and reduce others, measures which have given universal satisfaction.

For the purpose of raising the money to furnish the city of San Luis Potosí with electric lights and power the authorities propose levying a tax of 50 cents per month on all houses valued at \$1,000 to \$1,500; \$1 on houses valued at \$1,500 to \$5,000; and on all houses over the latter sum \$2 each.

The boundary conventions concluded between the States of Puebla and Tlaxcala, whereby the divisional line separating these two federal entities is definitively settled, has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Federal Congress.

The Government of the State of Guanajuato recently purchased the building adjoining the present Government House for the purpose of making out of the two the new State Capitol.

A statue has been erected in the Santo Domingo Park at Queretaro of Doña JOSEFA ORTÍZ DE DOMÍNGUEZ, the *corregidora* or mayoress of Queretaro.

NICARAGUA.

FRENCH REPORT OF COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS.

According to the "Nouveau Monde" of December 16, 1899, the foreign commerce of Nicaragua in 1898 amounted to \$6,049,600 against \$5,700,000 in 1897, or an increase for 1898 of \$349,000, and a difference in favor of the exports of \$117,570. This last amount would have been much greater if an attempt at revolution had not during the year somewhat

paralyzed business. The total imports reached \$2,866,180 and the exports \$3,483,550.

The principal articles of importation are cotton tissues, \$1,182,000; wines and liquors, \$177,500; wheat, \$152,250; woolen tissues, \$113,000; porcelain and glassware, \$97,500; drugs and pharmaceutical products, \$77,500; wire fencing, \$64,400; conserves, coffee bags, etc., \$50,000.

The imports from England include cotton and woolen tissues, soaps, zinc, cutlery, alcoholic drinks, coffee bags, coal, drugs, porcelain, nails, saddles, underwear, etc. Those from Germany: beer, sewing machines, industrial machinery, nails, iron, wire, hosiery, glassware, matches, candles, cement, toys, hats, firearms, etc. Those from the United States: petroleum, wire, lamps, machinery, beer, ropes and cords, drugs, crockery. Those from France: gloves, silk, ribbons, shawls, fans, perfumery, umbrellas, fine shoes, paper, wine, liquors, underwear, etc.

The principal exports and their values are given at: coffee, \$1,250,000; rubber, \$500,000; gold, \$600,000; wood, \$300,000; cattle, \$200,000; and hides and skins, \$30,000, etc.

England receives gold, gold ores, wood, and indigo; Germany, principally coffee (three-fourths of the production); the United States, rubber, skins, and mahogany; France, coffee and indigo; Costa Rica, cattle, sugar, etc. Almost all the trade on the Atlantic coast is done with the United States.

The maritime movement of Corinto, the most important port of the country, registered 182 vessels, of a total tonnage 176,747 tons, 71 of which were American, 27 German, 10 English, 10 Danish, 35 Nicaraguan, 20 from Salvador, etc.

Nicaragua, with its wise administration, its freedom from heavy financial burdens (the public debt being only one and a half times the amount of its annual receipts), is developing slowly but surely and its agricultural and mining industries are following in the same line, as can be seen by the constant increase in the exports.

SHIPMENTS FROM DETROIT.

The Consul of Nicaragua at Detroit, Michigan, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that the only shipment made to his country from that port during the month of December was fifty cases of whisky, valued at \$475.

PARAGUAY.

REPORT ON THE COCOA TRADE.

In December, 1899, Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, United States Consul at Asunción, made a report with reference to the cocoa market. He says that very little cocoa has been exported from Paraguay recently. In 1897 the export of the native product was taken up by the Banca

Agricola at Asunción, and 2,000 sacks, with an aggregate weight of 97 tons, were sold in London, England, for a little more than £1,094. Deducting expenses, the bank realized from the operation £938, or about \$4,732 in gold. From this it would seem that Paraguayan cocoa brings the highest quotations. Most of the cocoa arriving in London comes from Africa and is offered at from \$46.23 to \$48.66 per ton, but the Paraguayan product brought from \$54.75 to \$55.96 per ton, and was pronounced much superior. The Consul says that Naples, Italy, desires to obtain annually 10,000 tons of Paraguayan cocoa, at a price of about £11 (\$53.53) per ton. In Paraguay the kernels cost from \$4 to \$5 the *arroba*; that is, from about 48 to 71 cents per 25 pounds.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

In a recent report made by Consul RUFFIN from Asunción it is stated that there exists in that city a fine market for shawls and other wearing apparel. Cotton shawls and large cotton handkerchiefs and socks and stockings of the same material are in demand. At present most of these articles come from Germany and England. Handkerchiefs are often substituted, especially in hot weather, for waists and collars. The variety most in demand are those having a broad border and with either dots or flowers in the designs.

The health authorities at Asunción have declared all vessels which left suspected ports within ten days prior to January 11, 1900, as being plague infected.

PERU.

FOREIGN COMMERCE IN 1898.

The following statistics of the foreign trade of Peru are taken from the "Estadística General de Aduanas" for 1898:

	Imports.	Exports.
	<i>Sols.</i>	<i>Sols.</i>
Cotton goods	4,067,700	2,480,500
Woolens.....	1,376,600	3,091,100
Linen.....	259,100	.....
Silk.....	293,500	.....
Household effects and clothing.....	1,273,200	134,400
Sundries.....	8,456,100	11,483,600
Articles of food and spices.....	2,261,500	11,390,800
Wine and spirits.....	509,800	162,900
Medicines and chemicals.....	799,800	1,531,500
Total	19,207,300	30,274,800
In 1897.....	16,128,600	28,168,500
Increase in 1898.....	3,168,700	2,106,300

The imports were from the following countries:

	Sols.		Sols.
Great Britain.....	8,632,800	Ecuador	102,000
Germany.....	3,401,900	Bolivia	82,500
United States.....	2,078,400	Central America	73,200
France.....	1,554,000	Uruguay	28,400
Chile.....	1,368,500	Mexico.....	19,900
Italy.....	661,700	Colombia	9,200
Belgium.....	600,400	Other countries	1,800
China.....	526,700		
Spain.....	155,900	Total	19,297,300

The exports were to the following countries:

	Sols.		Sols.
Great Britain.....	17,153,900	Mexico.....	31,600
Chile.....	4,588,500	China.....	30,200
United States.....	2,873,500	Italy.....	27,800
Germany.....	2,703,800	Central America.....	20,000
Ecuador.....	892,000	Belgium.....	12,100
France.....	821,000	Argentine Republic.....	8,590
Bolivia.....	628,900	Uruguay and Jamaica.....	1,000
Colombia.....	442,000		
Spain.....	40,000	Total	30,274,800

TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The "Moniteur Officiel," in its issue of December 14, 1899, says that the importation of agricultural machinery in Peru has become of great commercial importance. The United States and England almost hold the monopoly of this trade, while the English manufacturers have been relegated to the last place and the Belgian manufacturers have outdistanced those of Germany. With the exception of some special articles which have a very small sale, such as cream separators, etc., agricultural machinery and instruments are admitted free of duty.

Among the machinery in great demand are plows, the "Collins" type without wheels being in most general use. On the large plantations steam plows of two engines of 16 horsepower each, which move the plows by means of two steel wire cables of 18 millimeters in diameter are employed. Each one of these machines costs \$1,500, and there are two or three on every large plantation. As the implements are to be used in working absolutely new lands, they must be of great solidity. They are generally furnished by the house of FOWLER, in Leeds, England. If the "Brabant" plows were known here, it is added, they would undoubtedly find an easy and advantageous sale. Mowers, liquid-manure pumps, and chaff cutters find no market in Peru.

Thrashing machines are beginning to be used for rice, but only as an experiment, and up to the present time the results have been inferior to those obtained by the old methods. Hand seeders are used on the coast for clover; their sale is, however, small. Pressers and apparatus for vine cultivation are supplied by France. Churners and cream sepa-

rators are beginning to be employed in the large *haciendas* in the interior, which are devoted especially to cattle raising and butter and cheese making. The French separators are in great favor. Self-cleaning rakes, with iron teeth, are much used on the coast. "Fairbanks" scales find a current sale; they should register both in kilograms and in pounds. Such implements as spades, machetes, American pickaxes, shovels, pruning knives for cutting rice, are all constructed on special models and should be exactly reproduced as to weight and shape. Articles even more advantageous would not compete, and possibly would never leave the store.

It would be difficult to indicate all the kinds of machines and implements employed in the raising of sugar cane, rice, etc., any more than to enumerate the prices of these articles, which have no value except when they accompany the article, thus allowing an easy comparison of the dimensions and quality.

Large machinery, such as engines, is generally sent uncovered or else packed in crates. Crates filled with straw are also used for packing smaller machinery.

The following houses are specially engaged in the sale of agricultural machinery at Lima: Messrs. Menhaca & Co. (Spanish), Hérouard (French), Emile F. Wagner (French), Ayulo & Co. (Peruvian), Normand C. M. Schröder & Co. (German), C. M. Morales (Peruvian), J. & T. Bresani.

These last two firms deal in implements and small machinery. Dealers could also address themselves to the owners of the large *haciendas*.

GUANO ON THE MAZORCA ISLANDS.

The "American Fertilizer" for December, 1899, says that Peruvian guano of as superior a quality as the "Chinchas" has quite recently been found on a group of islands known as the Mazorca Islands. These islands are situated to the north of Callao in a rainless region, as is the case with the Chinchas Islands, so that the guano has been able to maintain its high nitrogenous contents. It appears that large quantities of this fertilizer have been found with about 13½ to 14 per cent of nitrogen and 12 to 13 per cent phosphoric acid. The analysis made by Mr. D. CRISPO on the official average samples gives 13.95 per cent of nitrogen and 12.08 per cent phosphoric acid. The guano is found distributed over a considerable area, is 6 feet deep, and presents excellent characteristics. It is dry, light, and of a clear color, giving off a strong odor. The first cargo of the product recently arrived in London in the ship *Lorraine*. If the discovery proves to be as rich and abundant as described it will result in a large revenue to the Republic.

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN THE CITIES.

The French Minister to Lima recently reported to his Government that telephones in Peru are controlled either by private companies or

directly by the State. There are six services, namely: Prura, 455 kilometers; Trujillo, 440 kilometers; Lima (public), 1,658 kilometers; Lima (official), 48 kilometers; Chincha, 15 kilometers; Arequipa, 30 kilometers. The wires are overhead and the apparatus used includes the "Humming," the "Black," the "Bell," the "Ericsson," and the "Western Electric." Arequipa uses the German "Mix" and "Genest" apparatus.

EXHIBIT AT BUFFALO.

In a letter received at the Pan-American Exposition headquarters, Mr. WILLIAM E. CURTIS says that the President of Peru has promised that his country will be well represented at the Buffalo Exposition. A magnificent display of the country's minerals is to be made, and an effort will be put forth to exhibit a good collection of Peruvian antiquities.

RECENT RAILWAY CONCESSION.

One of the noteworthy events near the close of the past year in Peru was the authority granted by the Government to a group of miners to construct and operate a broad-gauge railroad to run between the Tigelio Station on the Central Railway to the rich copper region near Morococha Lagoon. This road is singular in at least one regard—that it is to be built entirely with capital furnished exclusively by the miners and without any pecuniary aid from the Federal or Provincial Governments. The maximum of stock subscriptions has been placed at 5,000 sols, in order that the profits of the business may be participated in by the greatest number of miners. The road is to be built by the Peruvian Corporation and the surveys are far advanced.

The region traversed by the line and the neighborhood are very rich in copper and silver mines, yielding at the present time about 20,000 quintals of ore per month. It is asserted that with the building of the new branch of the Central Railway this yield will be trebled or quadrupled. The owners of the mining region known as "El Carmen" about the same time secured authority from the Government to construct a narrow-gauge railroad to unite its Casapalca mine with the station of the same name. Among other improvements are the concessions to construct a railroad from Cerro de Pasco to the neighboring coal region and the important wagon road being built by the United States corporation owning the famous Santo Domingo mine in the Province of Carabaya.

THE COMMERCIAL CODE.

On February 10, 1898, by Supreme Decree, a commission was named to revise the Peruvian Code of Commerce, which commission finished its labors and reported a revised code, which was submitted in the same year to the Congress, but unfortunately too late to be acted on thereby. The ensuing Congress, which brought its sessions to a close in October

of last year, failed also to take any action in the premises, and since that time the Lima Chamber of Commerce has been urging the President to present the matter again to the Congress at its extra session. It is hoped that the code will be accepted and issued soon.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Mr. ROLAND H. EAST, who served for a number of years as United States Consular Agent at Paita, Peru, and who was one of the best known foreign residents of that country, occupying many positions of responsibility, such as managing railroads and other large enterprises, which have redounded to the credit of the country and to himself, died on November 24, at the age of 59 years, greatly lamented by men high up in Peruvian administrative affairs and connected with the many undertakings he so successfully managed.

On November 17, the National Congress passed a bill appropriating the sum of £9,600 to complete the sum to cover the expenses incident to the representation of Peru at the Paris Exposition of this year. The work on the Peruvian Pavilion on the Exposition grounds is rapidly nearing completion. "La Patrie," a Parisian newspaper, recently published a view of this pavilion, which shows an exceedingly handsome and tasty architectural effort.

In September, 1896, Mr. ROBERT S. FORBES, a citizen of the United States, secured from the city council of Lima a concession for the electric lighting of the city, and on November 29 last the council confirmed and ratified the assignment of the concession made by the said FORBES to the "Sociedad Industrial de Santa Catalina," and recognized in the latter all the rights, privileges, exemptions, and immunities granted by the original concession to FORBES.

The Congress of Peru has ratified the Extradition Treaty with the United States, and it only needs, to become operative, the approval of the Senate of the latter country.

One of the new industries established in the city of Lima is the manufacture of paint from the albumina extracted from the blood which flows from the slaughterhouses of the capital.

SALVADOR.

NEW DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE.

After an absence of fourteen years from the land of his nativity, Dr. RAFAEL ZALDIVAR, ex-President of the Republic, has again entered his country's service. He has been sent to the City of Mexico and to

several European countries as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. It is also surmised that the United States will be included in the countries to whose Governments the new Minister will be accredited. Dr. ZALDIVAR was recently received by President DIAS of Mexico, the ceremonies on that occasion being very felicitous.

PRIVATE ASSUMPTION OF THE EXTERNAL DEBT.

"La Republica," a newspaper of Guatemala, reports the arrival there en route for Salvador, of Señor MARK KELLY, director of the Occidental Railway in Salvador. He had arrived from London, where the Salvadorean company had succeeded in its negotiations, and had secured the transfer to itself of the concessions and privileges possessed by a British company in regard to the management of the external debt of Salvador. That debt is assumed by the new company, which will promptly complete the building of the railroad to the capital of the Republic.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Don FELIPE SOLANO has utilized the fiber of the banana by making burlap and a sample lariat, which are to be sent to the Commercial Museums at Philadelphia. The purpose in view on making these articles was to show that the *aguey* is not the only natural product from which to manufacture cordage and material for bags and sacks.

Work on the railroad line from Santa Ana to San Salvador is being very energetically prosecuted, and the denizens of the latter city expect to greet the locomotive in a very short time. A large consignment of rails and a locomotive were received recently from England.

Samples of white ginger have been sent abroad for the purpose of endeavoring to discover whether it will secure a sufficient market to make its production on a large scale profitable.

The Ministry of Public Works is making an effort to introduce the cultivation of heniquén in the country.

It is the intention of the Government to make stenography an obligatory course in the schools of the Republic.

SANTO DOMINGO.

SHIPMENTS TO NEW YORK.

The Consul of the Dominican Republic at the port of New York sends the following statement of imports of Dominican products through the port named in October and November of 1899:

Articles.	October.		November.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar	610, 120	\$17, 326	352, 554	\$0, 656
Cacao	5, 968	640	8, 600	1, 350
Coffee	15, 324	1, 006	25, 400	1, 607
Wax	8, 604	2, 105	4, 100	983
Tortoiseshell.....	84	298	8	18
Hides	26, 826	2, 666	6, 500	628
Bones, etc		94		
Goatskins		5, 815		3, 794
Feathers.....		300		
Honey.....	5, 524	2, 836	5, 155	2, 308
Cocoanuts				43
Woods:				
Mahogany	4, 200	644	40, 800	1, 224
Cedar.....	2, 010		600	18
Espinillo.....	3, 200			
Guayacan	22, 400		488, 320	4, 360
Bera.....	56, 000	500	168, 000	1, 506
Logwood.....	56, 000	500		
Total		34, 730		27, 495

UNITED STATES.

TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of November, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the eleven months ending November, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for November; for example, are not published until some time in January.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (<i>Palo campeche; Pau campeche; Campeche</i>)—				
Mexico	\$2, 239		\$12, 910	\$11, 995
Coal, bituminous (<i>Carbón bituminoso; Carvão betuminoso; Charbon de terre</i>):				
Mexico	20, 718	\$20, 561	194, 709	188, 698
Cocoa (<i>Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao</i>):				
Central America	511		7, 413	1, 131
Brazil	127, 589	104, 429	420, 260	432, 523
Other South America	157, 397	96, 962	1, 170, 303	1, 441, 657
Coffee (<i>Café; Cafè; Cafê</i>):				
Central America	84, 524	49, 461	4, 165, 180	5, 097, 114
Mexico	73, 962	205, 848	2, 853, 714	2, 892, 212
Brazil	2, 593, 916	2, 287, 382	30, 923, 746	33, 542, 610
Other South America	446, 711	377, 954	7, 007, 301	6, 081, 520
Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):				
South America	4, 948	3, 882	145, 471	123, 207
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (<i>Henequen; Hennequen; Hennequen</i>)—				
Mexico	730, 232	916, 723	7, 135, 011	7, 943, 030
Philippine Islands	86, 693	337, 559	2, 575, 841	3, 929, 030
Fruits:				
Bananas (<i>Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes</i>)—				
Central America	124, 500	132, 349	1, 628, 480	1, 903, 524
South America	32, 739	50, 762	457, 990	930, 519
Oranges (<i>Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges</i>)—				
Mexico	71, 867	91, 412	92, 664	157, 407
Fur skins (<i>Pielés finas; Pelles; Fourrures</i>):				
South America	5, 444	30, 322	91, 308	177, 822
Hides and skins (<i>Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cúirs et peaux</i>):				
Central America	19, 968	19, 447	200, 996	322, 174
Mexico	103, 986	150, 957	1, 528, 025	1, 847, 303
South America	654, 319	1, 174, 113	8, 500, 517	3, 886, 382
India rubber, crude (<i>Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i>):				
Central America	49, 197	58, 373	493, 182	773, 082
Mexico	7, 253	12, 514	59, 078	169, 777
Brazil	1, 173, 795	2, 070, 908	11, 622, 908	16, 863, 996
Other South America	56, 580	144, 865	693, 780	994, 973
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (<i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em lingados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i>):				
Mexico	101, 172	206, 513	1, 490, 771	1, 982, 748
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (<i>Aziúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Açúcar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i>):				
Central America	3, 509	966	217, 020	173, 478
Mexico	676	142	44, 852	75, 047
Cuba	472, 904	7, 077	12, 282, 904	17, 664, 545
Brazil			2, 386, 886	681, 865
Other South America	739, 817	659, 411	4, 669, 483	4, 711, 288
Hawaiian Islands	956, 392	417, 756	16, 079, 464	21, 240, 168
Philippine Islands	93, 316		1, 086, 499	910, 313
Tobacco, leaf (<i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i>):				
Mexico	20, 433	12, 285	274, 414	41, 896
Cuba	306, 322	679, 339	2, 536, 108	6, 096, 726
Wood, mahogany (<i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i>):				
Central America	45, 000	31, 911	217, 658	284, 420
Mexico	20, 789	50, 250	264, 591	397, 452
Cuba	7, 200	2, 080	8, 133	64, 568
South America	2, 300	872	39, 103	19, 137

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Wool (<i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i>):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing).....	\$4,590	\$1,091	\$539,174	\$541,505
Class 2 (combing).....			19,126	101
Class 3 (carpet).....	6,723	47,273	847,556	530,944

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (<i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles</i>):				
Central America.....	\$485	\$118	\$6,095	\$6,022
Mexico.....	11,749	24,232	138,201	286,630
Santo Domingo.....	41		395	1,229
Cuba.....	1,761	11,242	5,789	104,444
Puerto Rico.....	129	666	797	5,581
Argentina.....	162,548	103,766	1,095,562	1,890,829
Brazil.....	4,657	2,754	25,131	31,524
Colombia.....	382	267	4,317	978
Other South America.....	2,612	38,452	250,908	285,894
Animals:				
Cattle (<i>Canado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i>)—				
Central America.....	150	50	2,735	615
Mexico.....	15,905	17,317	91,406	128,028
South America.....	872	490	7,775	2,870
Hogs (<i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i>)—				
Mexico.....	1,289	33,530	6,891	102,504
Horses (<i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i>)—				
Central America.....	600		11,545	1,758
Mexico.....	9,135	11,219	91,910	84,761
South America.....	1,766	70	3,789	3,400
Sheep (<i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i>)—				
Mexico.....	155	2,561	12,077	6,573
South America.....		250	9,293	7,742
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (<i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mapas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de geographic, gravures, etc.</i>):				
Central America.....	1,130	2,163	27,458	43,210
Mexico.....	3,687	13,813	68,069	83,662
Santo Domingo.....	2,505	34	4,363	7,369
Cuba.....	2,578	2,517	9,695	56,543
Puerto Rico.....	1,122	1,265	4,720	16,831
Argentina.....	1,561	3,243	21,974	24,643
Brazil.....	928	12,962	46,013	59,765
Colombia.....	999	15,179	9,154	63,047
Other South America.....	33,034	6,946	97,295	57,765
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (<i>Maiz; Milho; Maïs</i>)—				
Central America.....	2,000	1,797	52,148	33,393
Mexico.....	4,508	29,510	15,210	154,382
Santo Domingo.....			63	315
Cuba.....	11,123	48,335	250,934	434,281
Puerto Rico.....		1,128		1,379
South America.....	1,189	1,170	17,494	72,312
Wheat flour (<i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de trigo; Farine de blé</i>)—				
Central America.....	66,030	68,195	1,066,560	798,998
Mexico.....	7,388	16,760	96,733	144,543
Santo Domingo.....	8,735	325	162,340	121,037
Cuba.....	121,307	210,140	1,181,652	1,874,793
Puerto Rico.....	31,088	123,635	336,956	576,669
Brazil.....	235,556	155,077	2,915,329	2,313,279
Colombia.....	18,089	24,556	330,979	407,529
Other South America.....	76,539	140,197	1,367,855	1,473,913
Wheat (<i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i>)—				
Central America.....		1,700	37,828	17,344
South America.....	77,001	6,468	463,097	75,786

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (<i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i>):				
Central America.....	\$5,847	\$889	\$46,814	\$16,290
Mexico.....	21,059	77,996	250,815	794,042
Santo Domingo.....	1,364	3,128	14,949	15,510
Cuba.....	24,221	26,455	44,588	164,999
Puerto Rico.....	650	12,262	2,152	22,059
Argentina.....	11,932	84,598	508,387	312,420
Brazil.....	1,815	8,404	559,202	198,319
Colombia.....	6,946	6,946	41,076	21,229
Other South America.....	1,529	3,644	75,358	46,873
Cycles and parts of (<i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accesorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i>):				
Central America.....	152	159	6,687	4,642
Mexico.....	1,835	2,221	54,818	39,822
Santo Domingo.....	.....	.....	598	323
Cuba.....	566	13,759	4,496	91,302
Puerto Rico.....	210	170	2,561	2,648
Argentina.....	11,514	5,736	113,026	264,334
Brazil.....	5,037	2,399	93,738	31,313
Colombia.....	.....	114	7,372	7,752
Other South America.....	4,441	4,826	47,188	60,717
Clocks and watches (<i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Reloijos de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i>):				
Central America.....	360	206	4,950	2,321
Mexico.....	2,098	3,838	20,900	28,942
Argentina.....	2,215	1,096	25,688	24,770
Brazil.....	7,532	7,252	45,813	53,709
Other South America.....	8,706	9,464	85,302	70,135
Coal (<i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i>):				
Central America.....	786	1,280	8,877	16,524
Mexico.....	85,992	123,130	1,001,745	1,338,047
Santo Domingo.....	768	626	9,887	8,366
Cuba.....	51,157	35,702	422,219	595,199
Puerto Rico.....	.....	1,598	17,618	43,249
Brazil.....	5,286	.....	135,287	99,785
Colombia.....	.....	104	17,671	49,934
Other South America.....	12,636	20,462	135,323	76,503
Copper (<i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i>):				
Mexico.....	13,652	20,931	280,861	269,667
Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):				
Mexico.....	223,613	230,632	935,030	669,790
Cotton cloths (<i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé</i>):				
Central America.....	37,475	72,141	436,395	595,772
Mexico.....	37,604	43,461	405,094	949,350
Santo Domingo.....	12,281	1,689	136,401	144,191
Cuba.....	12,694	25,658	29,163	683,969
Puerto Rico.....	1,181	8,404	4,837	246,871
Argentina.....	23,841	18,822	171,753	124,740
Brazil.....	79,205	52,558	550,629	422,275
Colombia.....	26,385	22,190	265,018	355,966
Other South America.....	96,003	101,114	1,214,577	965,648
Wearing apparel, cotton (<i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i>):				
Central America.....	13,799	28,484	195,938	266,105
Mexico.....	30,244	28,593	339,393	408,438
Santo Domingo.....	3,100	1,060	21,954	15,217
Cuba.....	2,797	16,756	14,897	179,560
Puerto Rico.....	548	1,417	2,426	42,638
Argentina.....	11,944	501	49,690	38,178
Brazil.....	5,815	5,898	40,690	34,416
Colombia.....	3,177	3,522	36,912	40,306
Other South America.....	3,941	9,561	40,217	67,214
Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noixettes</i>):				
Central America.....	3,205	3,307	25,568	26,819
Mexico.....	9,395	8,541	59,006	67,169

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Fruits and nuts—Continued.				
Santo Domingo.....	\$430	.....	\$931	\$529
Cuba.....	8,478	\$12,174	33,544	68,828
Puerto Rico.....	487	2,146	1,700	8,055
Argentina.....	35	146	8,005	14,810
Brazil.....	936	2,725	13,583	16,887
Colombia.....	690	1,459	6,895	8,802
Other South America.....	3,728	2,628	19,244	18,047
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (<i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i>)—				
Central America.....	5,997	6,544	66,152	57,532
Mexico.....	34,475	22,495	299,498	425,106
Argentina.....	11,715	28,945	161,310	281,583
Brazil.....	7,122	16,006	67,877	143,529
Other South America.....	5,048	17,144	102,565	122,775
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (<i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,378	254	23,271	24,856
Mexico.....	53,028	26,692	609,036	445,336
South America.....	234	44,428	318,707	150,520
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i>)—				
Central America.....	6,250	11,697	67,177	85,555
Mexico.....	21,697	42,503	330,854	417,585
Santo Domingo.....	552	979	10,064	8,342
Cuba.....	11,390	22,077	65,568	371,724
Puerto Rico.....	926	2,758	5,902	28,205
Argentina.....	14,553	29,663	188,486	243,103
Brazil.....	18,700	45,121	167,719	233,355
Colombia.....	8,013	4,331	83,456	116,589
Other South America.....	14,585	32,411	181,235	242,904
Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accesorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,686	1,874	22,115	19,376
Mexico.....	10,545	17,393	182,092	270,362
Santo Domingo.....	108	17	1,636	1,386
Cuba.....	110	4,514	689	43,805
Puerto Rico.....	48	193	1,763	4,409
Argentina.....	16,341	2,460	84,502	143,061
Brazil.....	4,141	9,845	83,305	124,522
Colombia.....	7,482	830	67,366	41,212
Other South America.....	6,839	18,544	100,581	130,490
Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir e accesorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—				
Central America.....	537	281	1,753	2,160
Mexico.....	2,185	1,111	28,229	52,697
Santo Domingo.....	.....	.....	80	187
Cuba.....	1,358	2,488	2,678	25,933
Argentina.....	851	3,089	25,694	37,026
Brazil.....	113	1,973	4,583	9,912
Colombia.....	365	221	3,108	2,721
Other South America.....	978	1,961	13,992	24,492
Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suela. Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):				
Central America.....	482	1,166	8,305	12,828
Mexico.....	1,322	2,792	6,537	21,700
Santo Domingo.....	418	.....	1,047	1,074
Cuba.....	228	1,811	1,970	29,560
Puerto Rico.....	750	264	2,263	7,872
Argentina.....	1,245	2,971	16,465	47,077
Brazil.....	2,749	6,157	47,722	64,280
Colombia.....	.....	43	2,707	3,949
Other South America.....	2,265	2,752	18,790	37,263

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Boots and shoes (Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures):				
Central America	\$9,428	\$15,607	\$68,883	\$121,075
Mexico	15,152	30,128	102,534	287,945
Colombia	2,131	7,316	31,561	41,977
Other South America.....	6,163	3,605	37,326	25,615
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (Resina y alquitran; Resina e				
alcitrão; Resine et goudron)—				
Central America.....	1,154	10,028	15,206	13,118
Mexico	1,008	952	8,582	8,926
Santo Domingo	331	25	4,243	3,451
Cuba.....	354	766	5,117	11,957
Puerto Rico.....	86	465	695	1,335
Argentina.....	18,605	34,159	78,279	120,220
Brazil.....	11,018	15,052	157,876	193,539
Colombia.....	938	1,276	11,524	11,411
Other South America.....	15,140	7,341	89,560	62,195
Turpentine, spirits of (Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Téré-				
benthine)—				
Central America.....	386	493	2,988	4,877
Mexico	227	382	3,905	4,175
Santo Domingo	21	.....	421	531
Cuba.....	1,369	6,160	11,409	50,977
Puerto Rico.....	453	403	1,359	4,789
Argentina.....	224	16,618	106,051	84,576
Brazil.....	1,593	2,876	63,254	56,152
Colombia.....	518	244	4,456	5,920
Other South America.....	978	7,191	54,728	60,239
Oils, mineral, crude (Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos				
mineraes, crús; Huiles minerales, brutes):				
Mexico	32,825	37,882	374,209	393,566
Cuba.....	23,900	46,798	139,923	228,442
Puerto Rico.....	.....	.....	19,477	12,512
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (Aceites				
mineraes refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles				
mineraes, raffinées ou manufacturées):				
Central America.....	9,266	8,943	110,767	124,185
Mexico	10,242	19,686	148,584	196,084
Santo Domingo	1,558	796	36,261	32,785
Cuba.....	17,405	8,626	57,471	102,061
Puerto Rico.....	7,892	4,903	32,184	49,066
Argentina.....	28,678	141,679	822,199	1,010,815
Brazil.....	156,657	139,391	1,403,462	1,478,163
Colombia.....	5,624	6,906	95,885	126,730
Other South America.....	20,105	140,218	849,423	1,089,948
Oils, vegetable (Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetales;				
Huiles végétales):				
Central America.....	712	959	3,696	5,994
Mexico	55,018	95,546	351,565	625,548
Santo Domingo	1,512	199	29,415	27,743
Cuba.....	1,370	3,626	3,925	34,783
Argentina.....	700	1,570	11,349	33,924
Brazil.....	25,134	19,859	231,882	179,891
Other South America.....	3,591	13,301	94,887	114,896
Paraffin and paraffin wax (Parafina y cera de para-				
fina; Parafina e cera de parafina; Paraffine et				
cire de cette substance):				
Central America.....	1,399	1,058	26,325	25,583
Mexico	29,500	41,537	155,394	264,869
Brazil.....	926	3,747	10,219	14,238
Other South America.....	95	3,372	5,848	12,749
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de				
vaca en latas; Bœuf conservé)—				
Central America.....	2,222	1,915	20,318	21,848
Mexico	1,033	2,581	12,817	20,754
Santo Domingo .....	.....	.....	37	98
Cuba.....	54	440	5,327	13,376
Argentina.....	76	.....	581	1,484
Brazil.....	615	4,502	21,394	21,566
Colombia.....	438	1,519	4,794	7,325
Other South America.....	916	2,470	12,056	18,431

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—				
Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca salada</i> ou <i>en salmuera</i> ; <i>Carne de vacca salguda</i> ou <i>em salmoura</i> ; <i>Bœuf, salé</i> ou <i>en saumure</i>)—				
Central America.....	\$3,309	\$1,967	\$33,998	\$34,303
Mexico.....	124	63	190	2,127
Santo Domingo.....	.....	220	3,336	5,306
Cuba.....	1,838	2,110	13,503	23,657
Puerto Rico.....	212	184	490	1,829
Brazil.....	158	2,353	1,833	3,805
Colombia.....	803	2,873	11,750	18,376
Other South America.....	11,969	21,753	172,513	155,276
Tallow (<i>Sebo</i>; <i>Sebo</i>; <i>Stif</i>)—				
Central America.....	6,894	6,096	88,636	81,467
Mexico.....	2,082	1,681	20,748	25,901
Santo Domingo.....	90	.....	18,797	16,167
Cuba.....	6,181	429	24,293	2,558
Puerto Rico.....	37	.....	404	377
Brazil.....	4,435	1,899	23,975	24,368
Colombia.....	558	1,787	8,206	18,296
Other South America.....	204	11,012	24,061	49,189
Bacon (<i>Toeino</i>; <i>Toucinho</i>; <i>Lard fumé</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,265	1,950	14,689	18,991
Mexico.....	1,077	1,565	10,813	20,040
Santo Domingo.....	54	11	2,029	1,990
Cuba.....	25,856	51,685	503,329	842,160
Puerto Rico.....	5,208	10,349	40,591	72,845
Brazil.....	28,745	12,068	441,228	175,330
Colombia.....	92	26	1,251	1,618
Other South America.....	875	181	16,796	12,113
Hams (<i>Jambons</i>; <i>Presunto</i>; <i>Jambons</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,848	2,208	21,838	24,315
Mexico.....	2,448	4,209	25,618	35,468
Santo Domingo.....	264	49	6,180	5,784
Cuba.....	48,332	52,089	307,120	668,124
Puerto Rico.....	911	3,464	16,423	24,768
Brazil.....	97	712	3,657	3,325
Colombia.....	1,009	1,859	12,504	17,445
Other South America.....	9,563	7,285	67,519	76,385
Pork (<i>Carne de puerco</i>; <i>Carne de pereo</i>; <i>Porc</i>)—				
Central America.....	2,957	5,312	67,062	60,025
Santo Domingo.....	198	315	6,195	6,483
Cuba.....	3,031	47,719	15,725	138,390
Puerto Rico.....	12,677	30,559	128,170	190,912
Brazil.....	39	62	4,314	3,063
Colombia.....	397	1,659	7,711	31,196
Other South America.....	16,377	24,310	209,202	184,838
Lard (<i>Mantea</i>; <i>Banha</i>; <i>Saindoux</i>)—				
Central America.....	10,949	13,701	160,928	157,228
Mexico.....	11,610	37,883	130,174	289,178
Santo Domingo.....	1,099	140	30,619	22,959
Cuba.....	90,054	131,752	965,454	1,654,608
Puerto Rico.....	15,190	27,878	197,151	229,552
Argentina.....	662	81	3,655	4,501
Brazil.....	123,034	74,535	1,071,054	919,338
Colombia.....	6,806	14,344	84,431	131,145
Other South America.....	39,302	65,422	593,630	659,809
Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina</i>; <i>Oleo e oleomargarina</i>; <i>Oleo et oleomargarine</i>)—				
Central America.....	277	589	1,627	4,235
Mexico.....	93	115	1,102	857
Puerto Rico.....	2,311	2,765	4,243	29,000
Colombia.....	715	1,197	8,090	11,590
Other South America.....	2,092	841	12,164	23,736
Butter (<i>Mantequilla</i>; <i>Manteiga</i>; <i>Beurre</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,874	4,888	42,458	44,940
Mexico.....	2,817	4,692	40,728	46,552
Santo Domingo.....	431	.....	10,035	7,100
Cuba.....	4,181	3,912	16,572	94,556
Puerto Rico.....	429	226	4,213	4,902
Brazil.....	13,059	24,429	105,966	204,825
Colombia.....	275	1,503	13,306	15,004
Other South America.....	6,978	3,694	97,344	168,356

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—				
Continued.				
Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—				
Central America.....	\$1,296	\$2,391	\$15,973	\$17,759
Mexico.....	1,358	3,439	13,705	23,181
Santo Domingo.....	207	60	4,205	4,129
Cuba.....	5,827	2,520	29,778	59,280
Puerto Rico.....	659	3,962	3,691	34,267
Brazil.....	120	35	490	252
Colombia.....	570	1,056	8,210	7,751
Other South America.....	1,333	1,162	14,225	12,536
Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado;</i> <i>Sucre raffiné</i>):				
Central America.....	826	2,637	30,078	21,935
Mexico.....	296	1,620	13,123	56,175
Santo Domingo.....	70	13	1,040	732
Colombia.....	787	557	15,866	14,825
Other South America.....	243	.....	1,326	2,128
Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco no manufactu-</i> <i>rado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non</i> <i>manufacturé</i>):				
Central America.....	2,582	706	23,763	25,200
Mexico.....	20,233	16,142	122,525	149,852
Argentina.....	675	3,172	15,934	22,425
Colombia.....	191	.....	6,746	6,300
Other South America.....	5,817	8,516	95,824	94,763
Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco;</i> <i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i>):				
Central America.....	4,449	2,878	50,512	48,469
Mexico.....	1,842	300	26,665	15,416
Cuba.....	11,992	8,084	110,289	172,850
Argentina.....	1,063	1,075	2,845	17,829
Brazil.....	.....	.....	5,510	352
Colombia.....	.....	824	5,412	6,655
Other South America.....	12,357	1,742	77,150	52,718
Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado;</i> <i>Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i>):				
Central America.....	892	638	24,662	21,657
Mexico.....	14,160	5,120	368,280	132,553
Cuba.....	13,210	395	24,591	48,045
Argentina.....	2,725	.....	14,404	14,251
Brazil.....	.....	.....	75	240
Colombia.....	891	319	26,037	15,584
Other South America.....	60	15,080	31,028	61,084
Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):				
Central America.....	3,240	3,838	40,884	52,638
Mexico.....	47,836	76,077	672,949	903,075
Santo Domingo.....	1,743	72	28,098	33,881
Cuba.....	32,037	63,637	244,599	855,638
Puerto Rico.....	4,569	15,436	25,725	121,183
Argentina.....	106,551	73,181	880,046	904,056
Brazil.....	35,878	21,874	523,465	406,899
Colombia.....	3,185	8,690	43,108	61,373
Other South America.....	34,727	52,495	491,402	553,641
Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i>):				
Central America.....	2,126	2,396	37,516	34,224
Mexico.....	21,194	39,302	167,826	298,068
Santo Domingo.....	845	.....	8,070	6,609
Cuba.....	813	28,802	14,972	191,030
Puerto Rico.....	1,367	5,725	4,597	38,904
Argentina.....	10,300	4,553	51,787	96,203
Brazil.....	2,296	8,371	25,250	38,167
Colombia.....	1,819	1,241	22,888	25,961
Other South America.....	3,590	9,776	67,797	65,241

FOREIGN COMMERCE IN NOVEMBER.

The detailed tables of the November, 1899, imports and exports were completed on December 27 by the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department. The summary which accompanies them shows the foreign commerce of the month by great classes, compared with that of the corresponding month of last year, as follows:

IMPORTS.

	1898.	1899.
Articles of food and live animals.....	\$15,057,768	\$17,260,329
Articles in a crude condition for domestic industry.....	16,767,452	36,064,684
Articles manufactured for use in the mechanic arts.....	4,910,237	8,067,680
Articles manufactured ready for consumption.....	8,301,376	9,704,402
Articles of voluntary use, luxuries, etc.....	7,059,995	8,924,979
Total imports.....	52,086,560	70,022,074
Percentage of free imports.....	42.48	44.70

EXPORTS.

Products of agriculture.....	\$94,911,831	\$80,069,161
Products of manufactures.....	26,471,131	33,584,546
Products of mining.....	2,264,678	3,491,845
Products of the forests.....	2,827,804	3,710,610
Products of the fisheries.....	951,128	827,618
Miscellaneous.....	47,540	122,036
Total domestic exports.....	127,487,547	121,805,816
Foreign goods reexported.....	2,323,853	1,949,600
Total exports.....	129,797,965	123,755,416

PROPOSED GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.

On January 13, 1899, Senator JOSEPH B. FORAKER introduced a bill in the United States Senate providing a form of government for the island of Puerto Rico. In this bill provision is made for the continuance of the laws and municipal ordinances now in force until the Legislature shall supplant them. The President is empowered to appoint a Governor and a Supreme Court, and also seven heads of Departments, to have charge of the various interests of the Government. Besides these, five native citizens are to be selected by the President, who, together with the Governor and the heads of the Departments, are to constitute the upper chamber of the Legislature. The lower branch is to consist of thirty-five members to be elected by the citizens of the island. The citizens are also to elect a Delegate to Congress who is to have a seat but no vote. One of the important provisions of the bill is one defining citizenship in the island. This provision grants citizenship to all subjects of Spain who were residents of the island on the 11th of April, 1899, and have continued to be such, and who by the 11th of April, 1900, have not signified their desire to preserve their Spanish allegiance.

The island is to be divided into five departments for judicial and legis-

lative purposes, and each department is to have a local court and consist of such a number of judges as the Legislature may make provision for. The Constitution and laws of the United States are extended to the island so far as the latter are really applicable. Export duties are prohibited, and free trade is provided for between the island and United States ports. Articles imported into Puerto Rico from other countries than the United States are to pay the same duties as are imposed in the ports of the United States. The money thus collected is to go to the treasury of the island, but money realized from internal-revenue collections is to be covered into the National Treasury of the United States. A commission of five members is provided for, two of whom are to be natives, to revise the system of laws and of judicial procedure for the time being. No franchises are to be granted except with the approval both of the Governor of the island and of the President of the United States. It is believed that this bill, or a modification of it, will become a law at the present session of Congress.

MACHINERY BUILDING AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

During the last week in November, 1899, there was shipped from East Berlin, Connecticut, a train load (27 cars) of structural machinery from the works of the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, consigned to the United States Commissioner at Paris. This material is for the steel framework of a machine shop to be used exclusively by the United States exhibitors of iron and wood-working machinery at the Paris Exposition of 1900. The building will be 343 feet long and 77 feet wide. It will be constructed of United States products, shipped in United States transports, will be erected by the mechanics of this country, who will go to Paris and put up the building complete, ready for the Exposition. The structure from foundation to spire, including all machinery, equipment, and everything within its walls, will be a United States exhibit manufactured by her citizens, showing United States machinery in practical operation with all modern appliances, including traveling cranes, hangers, shafting, electric motors, etc.

RECENT ISLAND ACQUISITIONS—TUTUILA.

Under the new Samoan treaty between the United States, Great Britain, and Germany, which was signed in Washington, December 2, 1899, and ratified on January 16, 1900, by the Senate, the United States becomes the possessor of some small islands 930 miles south of the equator in the South Pacific Ocean. These are Tutuila, Ofoo, Olosenga, and Manua. The most important of those named is Tutuila, the least known of the three principal islands which are generally spoken of as the Samoan group, lying about 30 miles southeast of the nearest of the other two—Savaii and Upolu—which by the same treaty become the possessions of Germany.

Tutuila is not more than 18 miles long and is about 5 miles wide at its broadest point, according to Mr. H. L. LUSK, who has visited it.

The population is estimated by the missionaries resident there to be a few more than 5,000. Nearly all of the native villages or groups of huts are near the northern shore, facing Upolu. The general appearance of Tutuila, like that of almost all volcanic islands, is very beautiful. The land rises abruptly from the seashore to a height estimated to be between 900 and 1,000 feet. The slopes are densely wooded, though the trees are nowhere of a very large growth, the undergrowth of bright-leaved shrubs, arrowroot, ginger, and pineapple plants forming a complete jungle which it is very difficult to penetrate.

The land slopes from the central ridge on the northern side of the island in a succession of spurs, with deep glens and water courses between; but on the southern side, especially near the eastern end of the island, the slopes end abruptly in cliffs and precipitous banks that descend to the ocean. It is here that Pago Pago Harbor—the finest and safest harbor in the entire Samoan group—lies. This is a large, nearly circular basin of perfectly smooth water, shadowed by the surrounding hills, having only one narrow entrance way, which winds between two lofty wooded bluffs. It is the only harbor in the group in which vessels can remain safely during a hurricane. It is asserted that the entire naval fleet of the United States could anchor at one time in its placid waters. For fifteen years Pago Pago Harbor has been a coaling station acquired by lease from a native chief by the United States Government, though it has only been visited by men-of-war at long intervals.

The products of the island are of a limited character. Coconuts grow along the shore everywhere and from them copra (sun-dried coconut) is made and exported in small quantities. Orange trees grow to large dimensions, and nutmeg trees flourish in the forests. Arrowroot, ginger plants, and pineapples are to be found on all sides. The natives live in primitive huts constructed principally of bark and matting or straw and do little work, for they find that nature provides food in abundance, scarcely any labor being required to prepare it for their use. They manufacture a peculiar paper-like substance from pulp, called *tapa*, which they use for the blinds and mats of their thatched huts. Wonderfully carved clubs and spears are also offered to the passengers of trans-Pacific steamers.

The language of the Samoans is particularly soft, the frequent use of the letters *f*, *s*, and *l*, in such words as *la-lai*, good; *alofa*, compassion, and *ma-alibi* being examples.

CLAIM AGAINST MEXICO DECLARED UNFOUNDED.

On December 11, 1899, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the opinion of the Court of Claims in the case of the La Abra Silver Mining Company against the Republic of Mexico, holding that the claim, which was for about \$4,000,000, was fraudulent and unfounded.

The opinion was handed down by Justice HARLAN, who said in part

that the claim, as first presented to the American-Mexican Commission in 1870, was for \$1,950,000, but that it was afterwards enlarged to \$3,962,000. It was based on the allegation that damage to this amount had been done to the La Abra Company by Mexican authorities while the company was operating in the State of Durango, Mexico. The commission, through its umpire, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, had allowed \$683,041. After a part of the money allowed had been paid to the United States for the La Abra Company, the Mexican Government brought to the attention of the Department of State new evidence, representing the claim to be fraudulent. After various other proceedings Congress, in 1892, passed an act authorizing an investigation of the case by the Court of Claims, the act specifically directing the court to ascertain whether or not the claim was fraudulent and supported by false testimony. The Court of Claims found that the claim was based upon fraud.

This decision was affirmed by Justice HARLAN'S opinion in the Supreme Court. He said that the evidence showed that the whole story of loss on account of the misconduct of the Mexican authorities was improbable and unfounded, and that the company, while bankrupt, was not so because of the official acts of Mexico. The effect of the opinion is to bar any further payment to the La Abra claimants.

In passing on the case the Justice incidentally decided that the signature of the President attached to a bill during a recess of Congress, if attached within the constitutional ten days, renders an act so signed as valid as if Congress were in session. The point was raised for the purpose of attacking the constitutionality of the act of 1892 authorizing the investigation of the claims of the Court of Claims, which was approved during the Christmas holiday recess of 1892-93. Justice HARLAN said the essential requirement was that the President should sign a bill, and it could not be considered important whether the signature was attached during a recess or when Congress was actually sitting, if the act was done within the ten days' time allowed for Executive examination. However, the decision on this point did not cover the legality of Executive approval after the final adjournment of Congress, that point not having been raised.

BUSINESS FAILURES IN 1899.

"Bradstreets" of December 30, 1899, says: "The year's record of failures is an exceptional one, and were it not for a few large failures in the last two months of the year, would be fairly entitled to the appellation phenomenal."

According to the same authority of January 6, "the final summing up of business mortality for 1899 shows total failures numbering 9,634, an amount fewer by 17.2 per cent than those of 1898; 26.4 per cent smaller than those of 1897; 36.2 per cent less than those of 1896; 26 per cent less than 1895; 25 per cent fewer than in 1894; 38 per cent less

than in 1893, and 6 per cent smaller even than in 1892, a year of fragrant memory in the annals of trade and commerce." With the exception of 1892 the liabilities were the smallest recorded since 1866. The aggregate for the year was \$191,730,593, the actual assets being \$60,191,696.

COINAGE AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT.

At the United States Mint, Philadelphia, 122,790,528 coins were made in 1899, representing a value of a little more than \$65,000,000. In addition to the coinage for the United States, work was done for Costa Rica and Santo Domingo. The total number of gold coins executed for the United States was 4,669,768, valued at \$54,632,750. The silver pieces coined numbered 38,075,384, representing a value of \$8,214,565. The coins of the baser metals, nickel and copper, were issued in great numbers. Five-cent pieces to the value of \$1,301,451.55—26,029,031 pieces—and \$536,000.31 worth of cents—53,600,031 pieces—were minted. For Santo Domingo 241,314 silver *pesos* were coined. For Costa Rica the mint coined 25,000 twenty *colon* pieces (\$9,307 United States currency); 50,000 ten *colon* pieces, and 100,000 five *colon* pieces, all gold coins, with a valuation of \$608,023.26.

NEW RULES FOR MONEY ORDERS.

On January 2 there were put in force in the United States three different schedules of fees charged for the issuance of international money orders, as follows: (1) The domestic fees for orders payable in Cuba and Puerto Rico; (2) the intermediate special rate for orders payable in Mexico, and (3) the regular international fees as published in the postal laws and regulations. The second schedule, which is a new one, was framed under a convention held last September, authorizing the direct exchange of international postal money orders with the Republic of Mexico. On the part of the United States the post-office at Laredo, Texas, will hereafter act as an international exchange office, and on the part of Mexico the post-office at Nuevo Laredo will act in like manner as the exchange office. The amount of money orders drawn in the United States must be expressed in the orders in the United States currency and the amount of money orders issued in Mexico will be expressed in Mexican currency.

MUSEUM OF ANCIENT RELICS FROM MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

It is announced that the Museum of Natural History in the city of New York (Central Park, West) has now on exhibition in Mexican Hall the best collection in the world of objects relating to the old civilization of Mexico and Central America. The work of making this collection has been going on for years, and the exhibit has been brought together as the result of two expeditions sent expressly to gather them and of other explorations and collections, including casts of monu-

ments and buildings found in Yucatau, Guatemala, and other countries. Some of these castings are of immense size, and many of them are of extreme interest and great importance. The collection also includes lithographic reproductions of illuminated Mexican and Maya manuscripts carried by the Spaniards to Europe and scattered in various European libraries and other depositories. These were traced and reproduced in facsimile by and at the expense of the Due DE LOUBAT and are now for the first time brought together where they may be studied to advantage.

IMMENSE CONTRACT FOR LUMBER.

"Tenders and Contracts" (London) of December 12, 1899, contains a statement which would seemingly corroborate an item that recently appeared in the "New York Sun" with regard to a contract entered into by the British Government with a firm in Beaumont, Texas, to supply the former with 500,000,000 feet of pine lumber. "The magnitude of the contract," says the journal named, "at first excited incredulity, because that amount of lumber would make it necessary to dispatch a vessel carrying 800,000 feet every day for two years and will require a fleet of 100 vessels in constant employment. But it seems to be true. The contract was kept as secret as possible until arrangements could be made with other firms, and it is now so fixed that twenty mills work on the contract, each cutting 40,000 feet per day. The lumber is for Mr. CECIL RHODES'S "Cape to Cairo Railway." It is understood that most of the shipments are to be made from Sabine, Texas, which is a most convenient place for goods from Louisiana and Texas."

THE SILK INDUSTRY IN NEW JERSEY.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics for the State of New Jersey has compiled special information relative to the silk industry in that State. More than \$20,000,000 capital is invested in the business and the number of separate concerns is larger than heretofore, while the value of the product is nearly double what it was ten years ago in spite of the fact that the tendency during this period has been to locate important branches of the industry in other States. In the number of employees there has been an increase of over 100 per cent, rising from 12,500 in 1889 to over 26,000 in 1899. During the latter year the operatives received in wages \$10,650,789, those earning \$10 a week and more numbering about 9,000. Of the wage-earners employed in 1890, 52 per cent were females and 48 per cent males. Last year 45 per cent were females and 55 per cent males. The value of goods produced in 1899 was \$42,570,690, nearly double the value of the product ten years ago. The higher grades of silk are now made almost entirely in the State of New Jersey.

SALES OF COFFEE ON THE NEW YORK EXCHANGE.

The total sales of coffee on the New York Coffee Exchange during the year 1899 were 4,420,000 bags as compared with 4,213,000 bags in 1898 and 4,028,250 bags in 1897, an increase over 1898 of 207,000 bags. The highest quotation in spot Rio No. 7 was 7 cents in November, the lowest quotation being $5\frac{7}{8}$ cents in September. The highest price in futures was reached in December, when October deliveries for 1900 sold at 6.65 cents. The lowest price for futures was in September, when October deliveries for 1900 sold at 4.10 cents.

AMERICAN EXHIBITORS AT PARIS.

Commissioner-General Peck, of the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition, has issued a list of the principal commercial exhibitors in the United States who have accepted space in the Exposition assigned to them by the Commissioner-General. The list contains the names of 1,095 persons, firms, or corporations, but does not include exhibitors on record in agriculture, mines, literature and periodicals, science, fine arts, religious, charitable and other associations, schools, colleges, etc. Such a list would include the names of about 7,000 exhibitors. A complete list arranged by groups and classes will appear in the official catalogue now in process of preparation.

IMITATION U. S. BRANDS ON FOREIGN GOODS.

A number of New England manufacturers are trying to learn the identity of those persons who have foisted on the South American market a clever imitation of their registered brands of flannels. It is also said that wares in other lines have been put upon the market by European manufacturers, and that the fields where the counterfeits are mostly met with are in South America and in the far east (China, Japan, etc.).

The case in question was called to the attention of the representatives of a United States manufacturer by a correspondent in Valparaiso, Chile. The latter was familiar with the style of the mill's output and was puzzled at the evident deterioration of the goods. Looking closer at the brand he saw that words had been misspelled, and other twistings resorted to which might escape the charge of fraud, but at the same time would deceive the eye inexperienced in the English language.

A quiet but persistent search is being made for the offenders. It has progressed so far that the objectionable flannel has been traced across the water.

Some years ago a number of Consuls at Continental points called the attention of the Washington authorities to procedures similar to the above. The case now under mention may, it is hinted, assume an international aspect.

HAWAII'S SUGAR PRODUCT.

HAROLD SEWALL, late United States Minister to Hawaii, has reported to the Department of State from Honolulu that the total sugar product of the Hawaiian Islands for the season of 1899 was 304,603 tons, or 50,000 tons more than the estimate given by the celebrated German statistician, LICHT, of Magdeburg.

The total imports of commodities in the islands for 1899 amounted to \$15,945,349, an increase of \$5,973,753 compared with the previous year.

CUBA'S EXHIBIT AT PARIS IN 1900.

Señor DEMETRIO ALBERTINI has been appointed secretary of the commission in charge of the Cuban exhibit at the Paris Exposition in 1900. Señor ALBERTINI is to receive a salary of \$250 per month. The Secretary of War of the United States has allotted \$25,000 for the expenses of the exhibit, to be paid out of the revenues of Cuba.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The House of Representatives has recognized the importance of the questions relating to the new possessions of the country by creating a Committee of Insular Affairs. This Committee is composed of seventeen members, and to it will be referred all matters—with the exception of those which affect revenues and appropriations—which appertain to Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and also to Cuba. The Senate has appointed three smaller committees for the consideration of insular affairs.

ALFRED DUTTENHOEFER, who is at the head of a grain firm, with houses at Mannheim and Duesberg, Germany, in November purchased several hundred thousand dollars worth of wheat in Kansas, which will be forwarded to Europe over the pier of Galveston, Tex. Mr. DUTTENHOEFER says that the partial failure of the European wheat crop and the poor quality of the grain there has caused his country to turn to the United States for its supplies.

Experiments are to be made in Hawaii with a new leprosy cure, which is said to have accomplished remarkable results. It is the product of a Venezuelan shrub, the culture of which has been introduced in the islands under the care of Dr. CARMICHAEL, of the United States Marine Hospital, who has been directed by the authorities at Washington to make experiments with it.

The cold-storage warehouse which the Government of the United States will erect at Manila, Philippine Islands, will be 245 feet square and two stories high. It will have a capacity of 5,000 carcasses of beef, 7,000 carcasses of mutton, 100 tons of bacon, 50 tons of butter, 100 tons of vegetables, and an ice-making capacity of 40 tons per day.

A very valuable accession has just been made to the anthropological collections at Yale University. The collection of specimens embraces Mexican and Guatemalan antiquities, numbering about 350. These came from Sempoala, State of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and Tacala, Guatemala. Special importance is attached to the latter antiquities.

The latest use discovered for the automobile is for towing canal boats. The "Exporters and Importers' Journal" of December 9, 1899, says that an automobile is being constructed in Hatton, Connecticut, at a cost of \$4,000, that will tow from six to ten boats at once on the Erie Canal.

The Philadelphia Export Exposition yielded considerably more money from attendance than had been expected. This has enabled the committee of management to repay \$100,000 that had been advanced by a few prominent citizens.

URUGUAY.

THE ANNUAL WOOL CLIP.

From sources regarded as authentic, the following statistics with reference to the wool crop of the Republic are obtained; the average number of kilos (2,2046 pounds each), the average price in Uruguayan currency for 10 kilos, and the average price per pound in cents United States currency are given in the table, the figures for 1899-1900 being estimated:

Year.	Kilos.	Average per 10 kilos.	Average per pound.
			<i>Cents.</i>
1894-95	39,157,550	\$2.17	10
1895-96	50,765,400	1.90	9
1896-97	42,850,650	2.54	12
1897-98	51,878,525	2.27	11
1898-99	46,400,500	2.63	12½
1899-1900	44,000,000	5.37	25

The prices given are for *mestizo* (crossed breed) fleeee wool, and the total production includes the *criolla* (native breed) and low grades, including belly wool. So far as contracted for the prices for the clip of the current year are reported to be double what they were last year, but the total number of kilos may not be so great as is given in the above table. This estimate would give a total of \$24,250,600 as the value of the present clip if it were all *mestizo* wool. At any rate, the income from wool will be about double what it was the previous year.

ESTIMATE OF FOREIGN COMMERCE.

Señor ENRIQUE GRADIN, Director-General of Customs, has made an estimate of the foreign commerce of the Republic for the twelve months beginning with November 15, 1899, and ending on November 14, 1900. This was with reference to the new import and export duties sanctioned for the "port fund," and was based on the actual imports and exports for the previous twelve months, but assigning to the exports their current value.

With this as a basis, Señor GRADIN estimates the value of the exports as follows: Live-stock products, \$41,172,663 (\$19,685,550 attributed to wool, a gain of \$2,400,000); agricultural products, \$2,273,477; all other products, \$431,313, a total of \$43,877,453, against \$30,276,916 in 1898. The imports for the same period are estimated in round figures at \$25,000,000, making a total estimate of \$68,877,453 as the foreign commerce for the period named. The extra duties on this total (which has never been equaled)—1 per cent on the exports from November 15, 1899, and 3 per cent on the imports from January 1, 1900—are estimated at \$420,774 and \$702,000, respectively, or \$1,122,774. This latter amount is in excess of the Congressional estimate of \$1,000,000 per annum. Much depends on the wheat crop and the maintenance or increase in the price of wool as to whether the Director-General's estimate is verified.

TRANSLATION OF THE PORT LAWS.

The Government of Uruguay has intrusted the translation of the Montevideo port laws into the French language to Señor SAENZ DE URROCA; into the German language to Herr S. SCHRÖDER, and into the English language to Mr. A. HORNE LAVALLE. The laws in the Spanish language, accompanied by a geographical map of the Republic and a reduced copy of the general Guérard plan of the port, are to be bound, together with the translations in the other languages named, into one document for circulation by the various Uruguayan Legations in other countries. Besides this it is stated that the Government had applied to the United States, British, French, German, Italian, Belgian, and Dutch Legations in Montevideo for information respecting the principal engineering or construction firms of their countries, with the object of sending them copies of all the literature with reference to the port scheme.

TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Most of the agricultural machinery sold in Uruguay, says the "Moniteur Officiel" of November 30, 1899, is of American manufacture. The machines which are in greatest demand are:

Of the plows the "Collins" make is preferred and almost exclusively employed in Montevideo. The "Brabant" plows are not accepted in Montevideo, being too heavy and of a too complicated mechanism for the

nature of the soil. Almost all of the reapers and binders are of United States manufacture, with the exception of the English "Hornsby," which competes successfully. It is difficult to establish any preference between the "McCormick," "Denin," "Buckeye," "Toronto," or other types imported into Montevideo, as they are all of a practical use. These agricultural implements cost, delivered at Montevideo, from \$130 to \$140, and are sold at \$180 to \$195 each. The thrashers used are mostly of English make and especially constructed with a view to the needs of the country.

The reapers are from the United States, very few of English manufacture being sold. The cost, delivered at Montevideo, is \$45 to \$50, and the selling price \$70 to \$75.

The wine pressers are of Italian or French make, generally costing from \$25 to \$150, and selling at from \$33 to \$210. The winnowers or fanning machines are of different types of American, English, and German make. The cost delivered at Montevideo is from \$22 to \$40, the selling price from \$30 to \$55. The straw cutters are of United States, English, and German manufacture, the price varying from \$18 to \$55. The feed mills are of the same make as the straw cutters and cost from \$4.50 to \$18, selling at \$6.60 to \$25. The cream separators employed in Montevideo come from Denmark and Germany. The cost for one of a capacity of 70 liters is \$32; the selling price is \$45. The pumps are of German, American, and English manufacture, the price varying according to the system and power. "Fairbanks's" scales are most used, a scale of 300 kilograms costing \$18 and selling at \$24.

A duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the machinery plus 1 per cent of the amount of the invoice is imposed at the port of entry.

IMPORTATION OF TABLE SALT.

In one of his recent reports to the Department of State at Washington, Mr. ALBERT W. SWALM, United States Consul at Montevideo, writes concerning the importation of table salt. He says that almost all of the salt for table use is imported from England, the most popular brand being the "Morton," put up in 2-pound glass-stoppered bottles. It is received in cases of two dozen bottles each, which cost, duty paid, \$1.85 United States money. The London price is 65 cents. This salt retails at 20 cents per bottle and has a good market. Another kind comes from Liverpool in bags of 44 pounds and costs, duty paid, 68 cents per bag. This salt has a large retail trade and is sold either in bulk or put up into small 2-pound bags. Owing to the dampness of the climate it is necessary that cloth be used for these inclosures, as paper cartons soon break to pieces. The duty on salt is $38\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on a valuation of 5 cents per pound in cans, jars, or packages, including the weight of the package. Fine loose salt is offered at \$1.35 per 100 pounds and the duty is $38\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

RATIFICATION OF TREATY WITH GERMANY.

During the latter part of December, 1899, the Department of State at Washington received a report from Consul SWALM at Montevideo, calling attention to the ratification of treaty between Uruguay and Germany. The agreement between the two countries is in reality a re-establishment of the treaty of 1892, which was denounced in 1897. According to the terms of the treaty, citizens and products of each country receive the most-favored-nation treatment in the other country, except that Uruguay is permitted to make commercial arrangements with adjoining countries for products that do not compete with those of German origin.

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

As reported by the Consul-General of Uruguay, the exports to that country for the last half of the year 1899 from New York were valued at \$939,082.26; for the first six months of the year they were valued at \$554,091.92, making a total for the year of \$1,493,174.18. These figures show an increase of exports from New York during the second half year over the first six months of 1899 of \$384,990.34. The exports from New York to Uruguay during the year 1898 were valued at \$1,002,155.78, showing an increase for the year 1899 of \$491,018.40. No returns have been received from the other ports of the United States.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

"El Comercio Español," of Montevideo, furnishes some curious statistics regarding Spanish industry in the Republic. It says that there are 9,202 Spanish subjects in the country owning urban and suburban properties representing an investment of 31,373,712 *pesetas*. There are also 4,210 Spaniards established in the country as merchants and manufacturers who, according to their own declarations before the office of the collector of direct taxes, have an aggregate capital of 12,804,380 *pesetas*.

The Cabinet has recently discussed a scheme presented by J. J. CASTRO (ex-Minister of Promotion), of Messrs. ROSELLS & Co., for the erection of eighty new schoolhouses in different parts of the Republic on terms favorable to the State. The project is said to have been received with favor and is to be referred to the Dirección of Public Instruction of the Republic with a view to ultimately submitting it to the Chamber of Representatives.

According to the "South American Journal," a curious proposal has been made to the Government, namely, that it should procure an official phonograph to be kept at the Museum of Montevideo for the purpose of preserving a record of the voices of the Presidents, writers,

poets, and other celebrities of the Republic. The idea, the Journal believes, is not a bad one and might be advantageously employed.

A very interesting fête was established at Liebig's factory at Fray Bentos on November 7, 1899. At that time silver medals were distributed to the employees who had been in the company's service for twenty-five years or more. There were 59 recipients, some of them being the first persons employed at the factory. In addition, \$4,000 was distributed to the operatives.

According to the "Nacion," the customs authorities recently published an elaborate statement comparing the importations and receipts from customs in the years 1889 and 1898. The object of this publication is to show that the diminution in the imports is due solely to the increase in home manufactories and does not indicate a decrease in consumption.

It is reported that after a discussion by the Senate of the bill for the reestablishment of a Legation in the United States, it was sanctioned in the following form: "There shall be reestablished a second-class Legation in the United States, the Minister receiving the same salary as the Minister in Germany, until provided for in the budget."

The Uruguayan Legation in Berlin has notified the Government at Montevideo that the German Government proposes to send to the Republic a special commissioner to study the financial and commercial conditions of the country and to report on the public works in existence and those that are proposed.

The President of the Republic of France has issued a decree authorizing the promulgation of the protocol signed at Montevideo on June 24, 1898, between France and Uruguay, confirming the "Treaty of Commerce and Navigation" concluded between the two countries on July 4, 1892.

"El Siglo," of Montevideo states that a resident of the Department of Trienta y Tres recently discovered several deposits of anthracite coal which burns perfectly and is equal to the best forge coal. He also discovered some deposits of iron, almost pure, in the form of outcroppings.

The Government recently appointed seven "technical commissions" to make surveys for roads in the interior of the Republic. Four of these bodies are now at work in the Departments of Rio Negro, Salto, Florida, and Caneboes.

The City Council of Montevideo has determined to furnish electrical traction to the public, and it is expected that the work of converting the old lines will soon be begun.

A commercial treaty *ad referendum* was concluded in November last between the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain in Montevideo and the Uruguyan Government.

The President has promulgated the law approving the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Germany, and has ordered the exchange of the corresponding ratifications.

The Arbitration Treaty with the Argentine Republic has been approved in general terms by the Chamber of Representatives.

VENEZUELA.

NEW CABINET.

The Cabinet of General CIPRIANO CASTRO, President of the Republic of Venezuela, is constituted as follows:

Minister of the Interior	Dr. J. FRANCISCO CASTILLO.
Minister of Foreign Affairs.....	Dr. R. ANDUEZA PALACIO.
Minister of Finance.....	Gen. R. TELLO MENDOZA.
Minister of War and Marine.....	Gen. JOSÉ IGNACIO PULIDO.
Minister of Fomento	Gen. CELESTINO PERAZA.
Minister of Public Works	Gen. VICTOR RODRÍGUEZ.
Minister of Public Instruction	Dr. MANUEL CLEMENTE UR- BANEJA.
Governor of the Federal District.....	Gen. JULIO F. SARRÍA.
Secretary General to the President of the Republic.....	Dr. JULIO TORRES CÁRDENAS.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT LA GUAYRA.

The collector of the port of La Guayra, Venezuela, has favored the Bureau of the American Republics with the trade statistics of that port for the first half of the fiscal year of 1898-99, which are too voluminous for full reproduction, but which may be epitomized as follows:

Imports.—From the United States, 131,351 packages, valued at 7,181,105.87 *bolivars*; from France, 47,336 packages, valued at 2,751,863.20 *bolivars*; from Germany, 59,100 packages, valued at 4,907,895.50 *bolivars*; England, 25,653 packages, valued at 3,318,972.64 *bolivars*; Italy, 17,443 packages, valued at 802,961 *bolivars*; Spain, 10,939 packages, valued at 1,127,900.32 *bolivars*; Holland, 17,727 packages, valued at 914,692.35 *bolivars*; Colombia, 33 packages, value not given. Total imports: Packages, 309,582; invoice value, 21,005,390.88 *bolivars*, upon which the duties and the surcharge of 12½ per cent amounted to 7,512,096.41 *bolivars*.

Exports.—To the United States, 48,451 packages, valued at 854,518.23 *bolivars*; to France, 64,581 packages, valued at 3,557,468.70 *bolivars*;

to Germany, 35,140 packages, valued at 712,375.74 *bolivars*; to England, 1,938 packages, valued at 50,912.20 *bolivars*; to Italy, 1,225 packages, valued at 89,313.75 *bolivars*; to Holland, 1,358 packages, valued at 20,513.80 *bolivars*; to Spain, 1,618 packages, valued at 120,398.62 *bolivars*; to Hungary, 247 packages, valued at 15,180 *bolivars*. Total exports: Packages, 154,558, valued at 5,420,681.04 *bolivars*, upon which duties were paid to the amount of 257,048.59 *bolivars*.

The coastwise trade for the same period was as follows: Entered, 7,109,624 kilograms, valued at 2,818,081 *bolivars*. Cleared, 3,123,545 kilograms, valued at 7,080,011.72 *bolivars*.

NEW CONSUL-GENERAL.

Señor ELIAS GONZALES ESTEVES, the newly appointed Consul-General, has arrived in New York and taken possession of the Consulate. He is the successor of Señor ANTONIO E. DELFINO, who was extremely popular with United States merchants and manufacturers interested in Venezuelan trade. The Bureau of the American Republics has sustained extremely pleasant relations with Mr. DELFINO, and has received many personal and official courtesies at his hands within the last few years, the continuance of which is of importance to the work of the Bureau. Mr. DELFINO will remain in New York several months before leaving for Venezuela.

RECENT CUSTOMS DECREES.

In confirmation of the dispatch published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, 1899, the Department of State at Washington has received from Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, United States Minister at Caracas, under date of December 6, 1899, copies of recent customs decrees, one abolishing the law increasing the import duties 20 per cent, passed by the last Venezuelan Congress, and also the Executive decrees of June 17 and June 21, 1899, and imposing duties on foreign merchandise according to the tariff which was in force until August 31, 1899; the other imposing a duty of 10 *bolivars* (\$1.93) per head on cattle exported.

A telegram was received by the Department of State on January 9, 1900, from Minister LOOMIS, which reads as follows: "Venezuela to-day imposes extra emergency duty on many articles—flour 1½ cents per pound, butter 6 cents."

AN ACTIVE CORRESPONDENT.

Señor MANUEL LANDAETA ROSALES, the Corresponding Member of the International Union of the American Republics at Caracas, has published a notice to all persons engaged in commerce, agriculture, cattle raising, manufacturing, the arts, and in business in general to furnish him with data regarding their respective businesses, in order that he may forward the same to the Bureau of the American Republics. He

also requests all publishers of books, pamphlets, etc., upon any subject to transmit the same to him, so as to forward them to the Bureau in turn. The BULLETIN expects soon to receive valuable information and statistics, through the efforts of its distinguished correspondent, which it will lay before its readers.

ORINOCO IRON ORE.

On January 6 the British steamer *Tresco* arrived at Baltimore with 700 tons of iron ore from Manoa, where deposits of this mineral are being developed about 70 miles from the mouth of the Orinoco River. This vessel is said to be the first merchantman to load ore there. The shippers were the Orinoco Iron Company. The mouth of the Orinoco River is now being surveyed by the United States steamship *Dolphin*, and it is stated that it will take from three to six months to complete this work.

CHANGE IN MINING LAWS.

Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, United States Consul at Maracaibo, transmitted to the Department of State, at Washington, under date of November 27, 1899, a translation of a decree abolishing the resolution of October 20, 1898, as not in accordance with the mining code which prescribes the exemption of duties on machinery and articles imported for the exploitation of mines.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Minister LOOMIS, under date of November 23, 1899, sent the Department of State at Washington a translation of a recent decree, according to which masters of foreign vessels in Venezuelan ports are at liberty to deposit their papers with the consular officers of their respective countries, instead of with the port officials, as the usage has been.

A dispatch from Caracas, dated January 8, 1900, states that the foreign bankers of that city propose to advance General CASTRO'S Government 16,000,000 *bolivars*, provided the salt mines are turned over to them as a guaranty of the payment of the loan.

A German-Venezuelan Company, with offices in Cologne, Germany, has been formed for the purpose of exploiting the important sulphur mines near Campaño, Venezuela.

LATIN AMERICA IN 1899—A REVIEW.

The year 1899 was an eventful one to all of the countries comprising the International Union of American Republics. Fortunately the commercial and financial trend of all, generally speaking, has been forward, and the ties which unite them have been materially strengthened.

Though dissensions have marred the internal quiet of some of them during the past twelve months and have interfered with their foreign commerce, the close of the year finds order restored throughout the Republics (with one exception) and the outlook bright for internal harmony and commercial prosperity in 1900. The relation between the several Latin-American Republics and the United States have never been more fraternal, and at no previous time have the former been more impressed with the advantages offered by the latter.

It would seem from the course of events that that period was more nearly approaching which was pictured by the original promoter of the International Union, Mr. BLAINE, who said: "It will be a great gain when we shall acquire that common confidence on which all international friendship must rest. It will be a greater gain when we shall be able to draw the people of all American nations in close acquaintanceship with each other, an end to be facilitated by more frequent and more rapid intercommunication. It will be the greatest gain when the personal and commercial relations of the American States, south and north, shall be so developed and so regulated that each shall acquire the highest possible advantage from the enlightened intercourse of all."

During the year the Bureau of the American Republics has endeavored, for the common benefit of all and with fidelity to the wise purpose of its creation, to extend its influence as an agency conducted on practical lines for promoting commerce and friendly intercourse between the Republics of the Western Hemisphere. It will therefore not be out of place to give a retrospect of the happenings in each of the Latin-American countries, as they have been noted by the MONTHLY BULLETIN in the course of the year, though the articles were not originally prepared with this end in view and though the review must necessarily consist of but a brief outline of the principal events.

Argentine Republic.—The year 1899 may be said to have been a prosperous one for the Argentine Republic. Her trade with the United States has been marked by considerable movement in the way of agricultural machinery, more having been shipped from the ports of the former nation than ever before, and the steps made by each country toward a better commercial understanding have been many and fruitful. The financial condition of the country has improved and the outlook for the future is encouraging.

Almost at the outset of the year a large number of cattle breeders and promoters petitioned the Government to include in the matters to be submitted to Congress a bill authorizing a line of steamers to be built especially for the carrying of cattle, frozen meat, and butter, equipped with the latest designs in the way of refrigerators. The bill as framed provided that vessels during hostilities should act as auxiliary cruisers to the Navy, and that at least one-fourth of the crew should be native Argentinians.

Among the more notable events of the past twelvemonth may be

mentioned the introduction into the Argentine Republic, by the Government, of trolley cars built in the United States especially designed to carry beef, etc., from the Federal packing houses in the suburbs of Buenos Ayres and elsewhere to the butchers' shops and markets.

The Argentine Industrial Congress, originally to be held in May, was postponed to October. The opening session took place on the 12th of that month. This body was suggested by the progress noticeable of late years in every branch of human knowledge and activity in this great South American Commonwealth. Its main purpose was to give the manufacturer, farmer, cattle raiser, etc., an opportunity to advance his particular line of industry by meeting others similarly interested and discussing the causes hindering business expansion and endeavoring to discover means to obviate and overcome difficulties. Papers upon the many subjects within the programme of this Congress were presented by Argentinians and foreigners, and the results of the debates and deliberations will be published in convenient form during this year.

The new custom-house law which was promulgated by the President of the Republic one day before the close of the year 1898, and which went into effect with the advent of the year under review, removed a number of restrictions to trade and is reported to have been fairly beneficent in its operations.

Reports from the agricultural districts show that the usually infested regions were fairly exempt from the yearly visitations of that terrible plague of the Argentine farmer, the locust. The crops were good. The total wheat crop for the year was estimated at 2,200,000 tons, and the exports at 1,400,000 tons. The estimated quantity of corn exported or ready for export was 2,000,000 tons.

The settlement of the boundary controversy between Chile and the Argentine Republic by the award of Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, late United States Minister to the former country, on March 24, among other good results, brought about an order from the Government to its military commissioner in Germany to secure from Herr KRUPP 500 kilometers of Decauvel railway instead of the guns and armament previously ordered but not delivered. The railway is intended for Patagonia.

The Argentine Congress met on May 1. The message of President Don JULIO A. ROCA was a glowing picture of faithful efforts to overcome the effects of the crisis through which the country has been passing for some years. Several wise suggestions were made tending to minimize the effects of the financial situation which it is expected will bear fruit in the near future. One of the immediate results of the recommendations of the President was the passage on October 29 by the Chamber of Deputies of the Conversion Bill, the main object of which is to arrest the further appreciation of the currency, to sell the Trans-Andean Railway in the hope of receiving £1,400,000, to issue £1,500,000 national *cedulas* in the London market, and lastly to nego-

tiate over £1,000,000 of "Home Debt Stock" of 1891. Two days previously the Chamber also passed the Government Bill fixing the conversion of paper money at the rate of 44 *centavos* gold per dollar so soon as there shall be enough specie on hand to permit such conversion.

A new Government bureau was created, to be known as the "Demographic Bureau of the Republic," which is a dependency of the Ministry of the Interior, and the functions of which are to collect the demographic statistics of the Territories and Provinces and publish them in the "Boletín Demográfico Nacional," which is now being issued quarterly, but which will issue as occasion demands in the future.

The figures and results of the second national census, taken in 1895, were published early in the year in three large volumes replete with instructive matter, which were reviewed in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for August.

The mining industry has been greatly revived during the year by reason of new discoveries of mineral deposits and by the reawakened interest of the inhabitants in industries other than those nurtured by agriculture. Especial attention was claimed by borax, borate of soda, and borate of lime deposits, in which certain districts near the Chilean frontier abound. Scenes of activity are noticeable at the borax mines in La Rioja Province. Among the discoveries of the year may be mentioned the finding of a rich deposit of mica in the Department of Molinos, of metallic ore rich in manganese, and of a fine marble, with red spots, in the Province of San Luis. Several companies were formed in Europe and the Argentine Republic to work the borax and borate deposits.

Two practical schools for instruction in agriculture and cattle-raising on a scientific basis were founded at Victoria and La Llave Colony, Department of Nogoyá, Province of Entre Ríos. They are under the charge of Benedictine Fathers.

The first consignment of olive trees, 500 in number, was received from Spain. These are intended for experimental cultivation, and were set out at the Agricultural School at Villa Urquiza, Province of Entre Ríos.

The Legislature of the Province of La Rioja passed a bill intended to promote the culture of grapes, oranges, walnuts, and olives. Under its provisions vineyards are exempt from taxation for a period of five years, orange plantations for seven years, and walnut and olive groves for eight years.

The year's wine production in the Province of Mendoza was estimated at 437,200 *bordalesas* (casks containing from 120 to 250 liters).

The estimated value of the wool exported from the Argentine Republic for the year was stated in November last, to be about \$70,000,000 gold.

The Legislature of the Province of Santa Fe passed a law declaring exempt of all taxes for a period of four years the cotton and woolen

mills, starch, paper, cordage, and straw-hat factories that may be established therein.

During the year there were under construction six steamers of about 6,000 tons capacity each to run between New York, Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo.

A telegraphic convention was signed by the Argentine Republic and the United States of Brazil for the establishment of direct communication by wire between Buenos Ayres and Porto Alegre.

A commercial reciprocity treaty between the United States and the Argentine Republic was signed, and it is now before the United States Senate for ratification. A treaty of arbitration was signed on November 22 by the Plenipotentiaries of the Argentine Republic and Paraguay. According to its terms it is to remain in force for ten years, and unless notice of withdrawal be given six months prior to the expiration of this term it will be considered as renewed for another period of ten years. In the Argentine Republic the new treaty has met with almost universal approbation.

The geological expedition under Prof. J. B. HATCHER, sent out by Princeton University, returned to the United States in June with a collection of fossils, vertebrates, and invertebrates gathered in Patagonia. This expedition discovered the first Mesozoic mammals ever found, and more than thirty cases of Mesozoic vertebrates were shipped to the United States. A valuable collection of bird and fish fossils was also secured, and it has been prepared for Princeton's Museum.

In the way of public works the year has been prolific in concessions for their execution. Several grants for railroad construction and for the making of a port in the Bay of Sanborombón have been granted. Concessions were also granted for several underground electric-railway lines, and the shipments of electrical machinery from the United States have been very heavy. The municipal authorities of the city of Buenos Ayres about the middle of the year repealed the ordinance requiring the free lighting of streets traversed by trolley lines, which settled the fate of horse cars in Buenos Ayres. At the end of the year there were two electric lines in operation in the city, and of the ten horse-car lines a majority were looking to changing the motor power to electricity in the near future. The municipal authorities also passed a resolution calling for a network of electric tramways to connect the suburbs of Villa Donato, Catalinas, Crespo, and others with the capital.

The Government determined to deepen the approach to the harbor of Santa Fé and execute necessary harbor improvements. The preliminary steps were taken, and it is expected that early in 1900 bids will be invited for doing the work.

By order of the Minister of Public Works a general map of all the railroad lines owned by the Government was undertaken and is now in process of completion.

Among other matters of interest may be mentioned the meeting in the neutral waters of the Straits of Magellan of the Presidents of the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile, each having gone thither in a national vessel after Minister BUCHANAN had rendered his award in the Puna de Atacama boundary dispute. President ROCA in August last also made a visit to the President of the United States of Brazil for the purpose of discussing South American international policies.

On February 15, the British Government appointed a tribunal to arbitrate the minor Argentine Republic-Chilean boundary controversy which is still pending, no decision having been rendered during the year.

On October 23, Minister BUCHANAN having resigned his position as diplomatic envoy to the Argentine Republic, the President of the United States appointed the Hon. WILLIAM P. LORD, of Oregon, as his successor. The Senate of the United States confirmed the nomination on December 14.

Near the close of the year—the 23d day of November—the Bureau lost one of its staunchest friends and adherents in the person of Señor Dr. Don MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Minister from the Argentine Republic, who had served as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics from the organization of the same in June, 1896, and whose efforts in behalf of the Bureau had been untiring. Upon the date first named Mr. MÉROU bade his colleagues of the committee farewell, announcing his recall to his native country to assume the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture. Upon that occasion the Secretary of State of the United States was pleased to remark that “in the exalted station which he will hereafter occupy he will be able to be of very great assistance to us all in the purpose to which we are devoted, of increasing the commercial relations between all the countries of this continent and in drawing closer the bonds of sympathy and friendship which now so happily exist among us.”

On October 18, there was formed at the Geographical Institute of Buenos Ayres a new society bearing the name of the American Peace Association, to follow out the worthy ideas which its name indicates. The meeting was attended by a large number of the leading citizens of the Argentine Republic and also representatives from six of the South American Republics. The President of the new association is Señor Don ROQUE SAENZ PEÑA, who represented the Argentine Republic as a delegate in the International American Conference of 1889-90 in Washington.

Bolivia.—Like some of her sister Republics, Bolivia's record for the year just ended was marked by the settlement of the long-standing boundary dispute between her and the United States of Brazil, the latter Government magnanimously conceding the demands of the former. Shortly after the settlement mentioned, the Government of

Bolivia established a custom-house in the disputed territory at Puerto Alonzo, on the Acre River. Prior to this peaceful ending of the controversy, the only interior port from which the products of Bolivia could be shipped was Villa Bella, on the Madeira River, which stream offers many obstructions to navigation. In November the Government declared free of duty all merchandise shipped from Brazilian ports to Acre until September, 1900. The land involved in the controversy between these two neighboring States is of considerable extent and contains many thousands of rubber trees.

Although the early part of the year had seen the country in the throes of civil war, and men's minds were turned from peaceful pursuits to fratricidal antagonisms, the results of the strife brought into the Presidential chair an eminent son of Bolivia, who had headed the victorious insurgent forces. General DON JOSÉ MANUEL PANDO was inaugurated as Constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia on October 26 amid the enthusiastic acclamations of Congress and the people, and surrounded himself with a Cabinet composed of prominent and distinguished men. Immediately upon his assumption of the high office to which he had been called through the prowess of his arms and the votes of his countrymen, he set about reviving the onward march of trade and industry, unhappily interrupted by the internecine troubles, and has succeeded in renewing the confidence of business men at home and abroad.

The expenses created by the revolution and the consequent stagnation of trade and industry will be met by the proceeds of the law which established a surtax of 25 per cent on the total amount of imported duties collected in all the custom-houses of the Republic, which tax was later on in the year raised to 40 per cent, and other imposts.

Notwithstanding the civil war in the early part of the year, there was noticeable renewed activity in the mining and rubber industry after its close. The great mineral region worked by the Huauchaca Mining Company, which for two or three years past has suffered seriously through water in the lower levels of the mines, has been largely relieved of this interference with the work, and the great reduction works at Playa Blanca were taken in hand by a wealthy New York firm, and will be operated by it.

What was probably the first cargo of silver ore from the west coast of South America to an Atlantic port of the United States reached Philadelphia on July 18 last. It came from mines high up in the Bolivian Andes and had to be transported on mule back to Autofagasta, the nearest seaport. It was not until 1898 that the first mining machinery was shipped from the United States to Bolivia, and during the past year a powerful United States smelting concern became interested in the great copper resources of the country and has since continued to exploit the same.

A London syndicate, formed for the exploitation of the rubber forests
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in the interior of Bolivia and the marketing of the product in London, during the past year absorbed the extensive possessions and flourishing business of the late Dr. ANTONIO VACA DIEZ in the Beni District of the Republic. Considerable United States capital has been attracted also to this industry in Bolivia, and it is expected that the story which the present year will tell will far outshine that of its predecessor.

In July, the Bolivian Government appointed an engineer commission for the purpose of working out a plan for a railway, the destination of which is to be the Acre River. A French syndicate is bearing the expenses of the undertaking.

Surveys for a new railroad around the falls of the Madeira River, which have proved such an obstruction to navigation, were begun during the year and still continue, the expenses incident to the undertaking being borne by a Belgian syndicate.

Late in December, the Government determined to lay before the world evidences of the great natural resources of the country by sending an exhibit to the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in the year 1901.

Brazil.—The year 1899 was the three hundred and ninety-ninth since the discovery of what, from the year 1889, has been known as the United States of Brazil. During the present year this great nation will celebrate the quadricentennial of its discovery. The past year has been one marked by great commercial and industrial activity in many portions of the country, notably in the States of Pará and Amazonas. The city of Pará, some 70 miles distant from the mouth of the mighty Amazon River, and the key to an enormous stretch of wealthy country, is rapidly justifying the designation given it of the "Chicago of South America." The State, under the wise administration of Dr. JOSÉ PAES DO CARVALHO, who, imbued with a desire to bring into prominent notice the vast productiveness, the immense industrial possibilities, and the great strides made in recent years on the road of progress by the political entity whose destinies he is directing, published during the year an excellent descriptive work under the title of "Album do Pará em 1899," which is referred to elsewhere in this issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN. This State has several prototypes among her twenty-one sisters of the Republic. Commerce with the United States, more especially in the line of electrical appliances, has increased steadily and progressively during the year, the outlook for the present twelve-month being most encouraging.

Among the events of the year worthy of note may be mentioned the following:

Early in March the Brazilian Government accepted the proposition of Great Britain to submit the boundary dispute with British Guiana to arbitration.

The United States gunboat *Wilmaington*, in the first part of the year, visited a large number of ports in the interior of Brazil, going 1,000 miles up the Amazon and following some of its tributaries hundreds

of miles farther. Her officers and men were everywhere received with great hospitality. This was the first occasion that a naval vessel of a foreign power had ever appeared so far in the interior of Brazil.

The United States Minister, Hon. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, also visited the States of Minas Geraes, São Paulo, Bahia, and others, and became impressed with the advancement the country had made under a republican form of government.

The Brazilian Congress convened on May 3, and President CAMPOS-SALLES in his message referred to the absolute tranquillity of the country and the beneficent results of republican institutions.

On May 30, the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro inaugurated in its building in that city a permanent exposition of the agricultural and natural products of Brazil, which met with most gratifying success.

The State Government of Pará appropriated \$50,000, to which the authorities at Rio de Janeiro added \$200,000 as a subsidy for the purpose of establishing a new line of steamships from New York to Pará. The matter of promoting better and swifter direct communication between Brazil and the United States was the moving cause of a large meeting held in Philadelphia on November 15 for the purpose of establishing a line of steamships from that port to Rio de Janeiro. Captain CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, who was the Brazilian representative at the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, was present, and spoke emphatically in favor of the plan. He stated that despite the great coffee trade between the two countries, there was not a single United States steamship line placing them in communication.

A syndicate was formed in New York City to utilize the water power located 20 miles from São Paulo so as to generate electricity and conduct it to the city for lighting, railway, and power service. In this city, as in Pará, Rio de Janeiro, and Manãos, many street-railway franchises were granted and work on their construction was begun and still continues. Several very large contracts were made in the United States for the equipments of these roads. In the city of Pará a United States firm put up an ice-making plant of 10 tons daily capacity.

The Amazon Telegraph Company abandoned the plan of laying a cable in the Amazon River from Pará to Manãos, but commenced erecting a land line. The Government granted the company a concession for twelve years carrying a subsidy of \$85,625 a year.

On July 3, a new line of steamers to ply on the river São Francisco was inaugurated, thus opening up a large portion of the interior of the country to the commerce of the world.

By decree of June 6, the Government authorized the Brazilian Submarine Telegraph and the Western and Brazilian Telegraph companies to consolidate under the name and style of "The Western Telegraph Company, Limited," and operate as one company.

Several new railroad concessions were granted during the year, and

railroad construction progressed finely, especially on the road from Blumenau to Port Union and on that from Rio Grande do Sul to the Uruguay River.

The scheme of putting the Upper and Lower Parana into a navigable condition, now interrupted by the Falls of La Guayra, which has lain dormant for four years, was again revived with a hope of being carried into execution in the near future.

In September, the Board of Directors of the French Merchant Marine at Paris adopted resolutions in favor of the establishment of a monthly postal and commercial service between France and the cities of Pará and Manãos.

On August 10, the Anglo-Brazilian Gold Syndicate was admitted to registry in London; its objects being "to seek for and secure openings for the employment of capital in Brazil and elsewhere, to acquire the lessees' interests in the lease of the estate of Santa Quiteira, Santa Barbara, Brazil, and to carry on the business of miners, smelters, etc." The capital stock of the syndicate is £20,000 in £1 shares.

Very rich deposits of monazite were discovered in the State of Bahia.

Two new banks were established in Rio de Janeiro—an Italian bank with a capital of 5,000,000 *lire* (\$965,000), with agencies in the capitals of the several States, and the Belgian Bank, with a capital of 25,000,000 *francs*.

Bids were opened on December 6 for the improvement works in the port of Manãos, State of Amazonas.

The rubber production greatly increased during the year, the latest figures at hand being those of September 30, which show the yield up to that date to have been 18,500,000 pounds.

The figures of the census of Brazil, taken on December 31, 1890, were first published during the year.

The increase of local production throughout the Republic has made deep inroads during the past ten years, and notably during the last year into the foreign introduction of articles of food and prime necessity.

In closing the record for the year, which has only been very lightly touched upon, the MONTHLY BULLETIN feels constrained to express the regret of the Bureau of the American Republics at the departure from Washington of one of its staunchest friends in the person of Senhor MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation at Washington, who during the holiday season left for London, there to assume a similar position with the Brazilian Legation near the Court of St. James.

Chile.—Like her great trans-Andean neighbor, Chile had a prosperous year in 1891, which she well inaugurated by joining her sister States in the International Union of American Republics and becoming one of the contributors to the Bureau of the American Republics on February 4. Known as one of the least densely populated and most

industrious of the South American commonwealths, Chile has made considerable strides along almost every line of endeavor during the year just closed. The condition of her finances has been steadily improving since the beginning of 1889, and being essentially a mineral-producing country, having large deposits of copper, borates, and sulphur, the rise in the value of copper has called the attention of speculators toward her, and many syndicates have been formed to develop the several deposits, which has led to the projecting of considerable railroad construction to replace animal transportation in many localities. Her customs receipts exceeded by not far from 2,000,000 pesos those of the previous year.

The Congress, which closed its sessions in January, made many appropriations for public works in the way of railway, telegraph, and telephone lines, roads, bridges, waterworks, steamship lines, etc. It also enacted a law providing for the introduction, free of duty for ten years, of raw cotton and cotton-weaving machinery from abroad, and permitting the importation, free of duty, of carded, washed, or uncleaned wool from the Argentine Republic. It also ratified the Parcels-Post Convention with the United States, which has since been in effect and by the terms of which the postage on packages mailed in Chile is 50 *centaros* per pound, or a fractional part thereof, and 20 cents per pound on packages mailed in the United States.

The results of this beneficent legislation have been abundantly shown in the putting on of new lines and the extending of old lines of steamship communication to the ports of Brazil, Central America, Mexico, and the United States, electrical installations at Punta Arenas, the new dry dock at Talcahuano, and other internal improvements of moment, from time to time noticed in the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Among the noteworthy events of the year may be mentioned the award on the boundary dispute, which had existed for so long a time between that country and Chile, made on March 24 by the United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, which award seems to have been satisfactory to the two litigants, and, at any rate, has been productive of a resumption of the cordial relations existing between the two Governments prior to the arising of the boundary controversy, that on several occasions had brought the two countries almost to the verge of war and had led to the investment in arms and armament of large sums that could have been far more profitably appropriated to the development of marvelous natural resources and the promotion of the arts of peace.

On August 8, a tidal wave burst into the Bay of Valparaiso causing damage to the amount of over \$1,000,000, and serious floods visited neighboring portions of the Republic. With characteristic pluck the citizens met the situation, and as the year closes the evidences of the unfortunate occurrence are almost entirely obliterated, save in the instance of docks, etc., the reconstruction of which has, however, been begun.

The Chilean Congress, which convened on July 1, passed a bill to revive the United States and Chilean Claims Commission, which sat in Washington in 1892-93, to which will be submitted the claims of citizens of one country against the Government of the other whenever the Senate of the United States shall ratify the convention creating it.

Large deposits of petroleum were reported to have been discovered near Punta Arenas, in the Magellan Territory.

The Government sent out a commission of engineers to examine and report on new coal fields discovered in the Provinces of Cantin and Malaco, with a view, should the report prove favorable, to opening up the localities to the public.

Another event of the year was the signing of a Treaty of Navigation and Commerce concluded with Denmark.

A convention was concluded between the Republic of Chile and that of Ecuador pursuant to which the lawyers, physicians, surgeons, and pharmacists properly registered in either of the two countries are admitted to the free exercise of their profession in the territory of the other country without any requirement other than proof of identity and registration.

Colombia.—Despite the fact that the latter part of the year just passed was marred in Colombia by the outbreak of a revolution, the record of the year may be said to have been one of progress.

The following is a short résumé of events which have transpired during the course of 1899:

On April 3, the Republic of Colombia, which had been constrained to withdraw from the International Union of American Republics some two years after its formation, reentered it, and Señor Don CLÍMACO CALDERÓN, who on March 1 was received as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Colombia at Washington by the President of the United States, immediately became a member of the Executive Committee of the said Union, and has shown great interest in the Bureau.

A United States company early in the year introduced the first traction engine and train of cars into Colombia, which has been in use between Bogotá and the Magdalena River.

Almost at the beginning of the year the Government made a contract with a foreign company, granting it the right to lay and work a submarine telegraph cable between Rio Hacha, Department of Magdalena, and Colón, Department of Panamá, connecting with the ports of Santa Marta, Colombia, and Cartagena, on the Atlantic side. According to the terms of the contract of concession, the line is to be open to public service within eighteen months from the date of the contract.

The Government also entered into contract for the construction by a foreign company of a railroad to connect the District of Bocas del Torro and Chiriqui, Department of Panamá. The work is to be completed within ten years, the company receiving a subsidy of 5,000 pesos per

kilometer. Work on the Canea Railroad progressed actively during the year.

The first serious steps were taken to promote the silkworm industry in Colombia, and samples of *yerba mate*, an interest in which was aroused through articles in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, were asked of Brazil, with a view to introducing the culture of the plant in Colombia.

The Government granted the exclusive right to work deposits of sea salt in the Department of Panamá to a Colombian citizen, he paying a tax of 37.9 cents for each 12½ kilometers of salt extracted.

On July 20, an exposition was opened at Bogotá comprising six sections: Literature, art, industry, education, agriculture, and floriculture. An appropriation of \$10,000 was made by the Government for expenses. The exposition, so far as agricultural products and cattle were concerned, was a great success. Very good samples of cotton fabrics manufactured at Cartagena and Samacá were also exhibited, as well as domestic furniture, woollens, etc.

The question of furnishing potable water for the city of Bogotá was again revived, an English engineer being engaged to look into the matter, and it was found that the only way to conveniently provide the city with a water supply would be the construction of another reservoir, utilizing for the purpose what is known as the "Río San Cristóbal."

On November 15, the commission of engineers which is to survey the boundary line, on the part of Colombia, between Colombia and Venezuela, pursuant to the award in the boundary dispute between these two Republics, which was rendered by the Queen Regent of Spain on March 21, 1891, left Bogotá, and by the end of the year were engaged in carrying out their instructions.

On September 30, the Government granted the concession for the manufacture of matches in the Republic for a period of twenty-five years to Señor J. M. SIERRA, who was the highest bidder. The concessionary must erect three factories in different Provinces of the Republic, the first of which must be in operation within a year from the signing of the concession.

The Government decided to erect a light-house on Gomez Island, near the mouth of the Magdalena River, to point out dangers to navigation, but the work was not commenced by the end of the year.

Several large steel bridges were imported from the United States for the Magdalena and Bogotá Railroad.

The Colombia Concessions Company, Limited, was incorporated in London on August 1, with a capital of £3,500 in £1 shares, to acquire and work mines in the Republic of Colombia and elsewhere. Gold prospecting by United States citizens was conducted to a considerable extent along the Atrato River.

A stock company, with a capital of \$4,300,000, was formed for the establishment of a large cotton factory at Medellin.

Bids were received at Panamá, on December 30, for the construction of an aqueduct for the water service of that city.

An extraordinary craze for emerald buying broke out in Bogotá in the month of July, and from the 10th to the 21st of that month it is estimated that 4,000,000 *pesos* went into the pockets of the gem owners and peddlers. The craze was due to a Bogotá dealer, who, on his return from Paris, began to buy emeralds at prices higher than the ruling market value. Colombia's famous Muzo mine, 75 miles from Bogotá, has long been producing emeralds of great value.

On August 18, by Executive decree, the Colombian Government announced that in order to change paper currency into silver money it would seek a foreign loan of £3,000,000. As security for this loan the Government offered to pledge the rental of the Muzo and Coscuez emerald mines, the proceeds of the match monopoly, the annual sums due by the Panamá Railroad Company to the Republic, and the interest of the latter in the Panamá Canal. The latest advices, however, are to the effect that the Government subsequently gave up the idea of securing said loan.

During the latter part of the year 3,000 laborers were again at work on the Panamá Canal. The number was soon to be increased to 5,000, and during the period of greatest activity to 16,000. The work was examined by a commission of engineers which reported that the new plans involved the excavating of 24,700,000 cubic meters of earth, of which 12,200,000 are at Culevra mountain. It will take ten years to complete the work.

After six years of being unrepresented in Chile by a Legation, Colombia, in October last, appointed Señor CLÍMACO GÓMEZ VALDES as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Santiago de Chile, where he was received with every mark of esteem and consideration.

This record of events in Colombia for the year 1899 is saddened by the deplorable death by drowning in the Magdalena River of General DON JULIO RENGIFO M., for many years Secretary of Legation and Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia at Washington. The General was drowned while a passenger on a river steamer in the effort to save the lives of those who were seeking the shore to escape the flames. When last seen he was standing by the captain of the boat surrounded by flames. A short time previous, in August, he had been appointed Minister of Finance, which position he held but a few days, as he received the appointment of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Colombia at Quito, Ecuador, whence he was journeying to settle some delicate diplomatic question, when he met his death.

Costa Rica.—The record of Costa Rica during the past year shows, as was said by the Central and South American Commissioners sent by the United States in 1884 to the several countries south of the Rio Grande, that her "face is to the future," and her newly added pages of history are still unsullied by the presentation of any claims on behalf of citizens of other nations for damages or injuries caused by arbitrary

acts on the part of her civil and military authorities. Her record in this regard since her independence is unbroken. The year just past shows a very large increase in investments of United States capital in Costa Rica's mining and agricultural resources, which have claimed the attention of citizens of the former country since 1884, and more especially since 1890, when the United States took the precedence, which it still maintains, over Great Britain, which up to that time had led the United States in a commercial sense as regards Costa Rica. The enlargement of the business done by the United States with her rich Central American sister in the way of manufactures during the past year augurs well for the future. This assertion is portentous when it is considered that the United States export goods to the value of \$7.50 per capita of the population of Costa Rica.

Among the events of the year calling for special mention were the following:

On January 5, Señor Don JOAQUÍN B. CALVO was received by the President of the United States as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Costa Rica. Señor CALVO has resided in the United States in a diplomatic capacity for some ten years and has earned the respect and esteem of all circles, official, business, and social. His indefatigable efforts in behalf of a closer, friendly, and commercial union between his native country and her elder sister of the north have been evidenced by his untiring devotion to the Bureau of the American Republics, which he has most faithfully served as a member of its Executive Committee.

Work on the first electric tramway in Central America was commenced in the city of San José early in the past year. This is a United States undertaking, and gives promise of being the precursor of many more enterprises of a like nature.

The Constitutional Congress at Costa Rica, on June 24, authorized the Executive Power to negotiate a loan to an amount not to exceed £200,000, pledging as security 60,000 ordinary shares of the Costa Rican Railroad, owned by the nation. The total proceeds of the loan were to be converted into national gold coin of the fineness and weight established by law No. 4, of October, 1896.

The year saw a boom in the cattle business, which is one of the most profitable enterprises in the country. It has been stated by those familiar with the industry that no country in Central America can compete with the natural advantages of Costa Rica in the way of climate, soil, and abundance of pure water. The profits in the business were greatly increased by the large shipments of beef cattle to Cuba, which made deep inroads into the domestic supply.

Another event of the year was the extension of the legal existence of the Anglo Costa Rican Bank, of San José, to June 30, 1930.

On July 24, the Constitutional Congress enacted a law providing that hereafter merchandise imported through Puerto Limón, destined

for the Provinces of Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia, may be dispatched either at Limón or at the central custom-house in San José, which enactment was of distinct advantage to trade, before hampered by the extra expense incurred through the transporting of all goods, wheresoever destined, to the capital.

A new mercantile agency, which will doubtless have a great beneficial effect on the commercial relations, was one of the year's best productions in Costa Rica. The agency is formed of Señor Don JUAN RAFAEL MATA, one of the most prominent citizens of the Republic and the delegate of his country to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, and of Señor Don MANUEL ARAGÓN, Costa Rica's delegate to the International American Conference at Washington in 1889-90. The agency is located at San José.

On October 15, the Presidential decree establishing a tax on all railway tickets went into effect. The tax is 5 cents on all passenger tickets valued at \$2 or less, and 10 cents on all exceeding \$2 in value.

On October 19, the President of the United States issued a proclamation bringing Costa Rica into copyright relations with the former country, under which the citizens of either nation enjoy the benefits of copyright in the other.

In December, sight exchange on New York went down from 180 to 130 per cent, with a still further downward tendency. This favorable movement was due to the amount of the gold reserve on hand and other measures preparatory to the adoption of the gold standard in Costa Rica. The term established for the conversion will expire on December 31, 1900.

On November 22, the Executive Board of the National Faculty of Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy determined not to accept as valid the diploma of any physician, pharmacist, or dentist which does not bear the following signatures: Those of the civil authorities of the place where the diploma was issued, authenticating those of the professors of the university or college where issued; the signature of the Minister of Foreign Relations or of the competent authority of the country where the diploma was issued, authenticating the signatures of the local authority; the signature of the Representative of Costa Rica, authenticating that of the Minister of Foreign Relations, and that of the Minister of Foreign Relations of Costa Rica, authenticating the latter.

Ecuador.—The Republic of Ecuador, during the past year, has made considerable progress along commercial and industrial lines. The commerce of the country, which had been for five years past inconvenienced by the depreciation of silver and the arbitrary fluctuations of exchange, felt, in a slight degree, the revivifying influences of the law passed by the Congress in November, 1898, which provided for placing the country on a gold basis within two years; but, unfortunately, when things were assuming a more pleasing aspect the city of Guayaquil, on Novem-

ber 27, was visited by a disastrous fire, which destroyed property to the value of more than 1,500,000 *sucres*.

On January 1, 1899, the Government declared the port of Bolivar a port of entry, and on that date it was opened to foreign commerce. This port, otherwise known as Bóca de Jambeli, is the seaport of the city of Machala, the capital of the Province del Oro, and is situated on the eastern slope of the entrance to the Guayaquil River.

The Government, desirous of improving the educational facilities in the country, during the year instructed the Consul-General of Ecuador at Paris to secure in Europe teachers of both sexes for the public schools.

Desiring to promote the agricultural industry, several capitalists and landowners of Ecuador formed an association with a capital of 1,000,000 *sucres* to carry on an agricultural bank.

Cacao, which is the production par excellence of the Republic of Ecuador, had considerable more land devoted to its culture during the year, and the crops were larger than the year 1898. It was estimated that the total crop for the past twelvemonth was 30,000 tons.

The increased price for crude rubber attracted renewed attention to the product and its cultivation in Ecuador, and forest trees far in the interior were tapped for their elastic yield, the enhanced price overbalancing the increased cost of transportation.

In January, 1899, a committee of the Geographical Society of France decided to recommend to the consideration of the French Government that the measurement of the arc of the meridian on the equator near Quito should be revised, so as to obtain the greatest possible accuracy by the use of modern methods. The Government took the matter up and delegated the execution of the work to experienced officers in the geodetic section of the "Service Géographique."

Two treaties were ratified during the year—one of amity, concluded on February 22, 1895, between Ecuador and the United States of Venezuela, which was proclaimed by the President of the former country on October 12, 1899, and the other a treaty with the Republic of France providing for reciprocal copyright benefits in the two countries, which was concluded at Quito on May 9, 1898, and proclaimed by the President of Ecuador on September 26, 1899.

On December 7, the Guayaquil and Quito Railroad Company executed a mortgage to the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, of New York, in the sum of \$12,282,000 in exchange for an issue of bonds for a like amount. This money is to enable the company to extend the road from its present terminus, 65 miles from Guayaquil, a distance of 230 miles farther, to Quito. The necessity for this railroad may be seen from the fact that all transportation between the two places is conducted with animals, 70,000 mules and asses being engaged in it.

Guatemala.—For several years past the relations existing between

Guatemala and the United States have been growing closer and commercially, at least, during the year just closed the bonds uniting them have been drawn tighter. In 1898 the United States figured in the imports of Guatemala with 39 per cent of the total and during the past year this figure was increased.

The absence of any political disturbances of moment permitted the industrial tendencies of the inhabitants to follow their natural bent, and, although the depression in the coffee market has been keenly felt in Guatemala, this fact has led the Government and people to foster and promote the cultivation of other products of the soil, which can not but result to the permanent benefit of this most thickly populated of the Central American States.

During the year work on the Puerto Barrios and Northern Railway, which was commenced some sixteen years ago by Señor Don RUFINO BARRIOS, then President of the Republic, and which recently passed into the hands of a United States company, progressed actively, and it will not be long before its completion will be announced and the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea will be united by steel ligatures.

The question of constructing a railroad line between San Felipe and Quezaltenango aroused much interest during the year, but nothing definite was decided.

On July 1, the Government, recognizing that the principal source of wealth of the nation is agriculture, and that one of the articles to the cultivation of which the eastern towns have devoted themselves is tobacco, and that restrictive legislation had prevented the development of this industry, promulgated a law that thereafter the sowing, cultivation, and elaboration should be free from all tax, national or municipal. The export of leaf or manufactured tobacco was made free, while imported tobacco in the leaf should pay 1 *peso* per pound, gross weight, and manufactured 2 *pesos* per pound, including weight of package. The Government devoted considerable attention to agriculture by enacting several laws removing restrictions upon it and admitting a large number of the tools and implements of the industry free of duty.

Much attention was also devoted to the cultivation of the rubber plant in the Republic and laws were passed for its encouragement, one being to the effect that a premium, consisting of a gratuitous concession of 112 acres, would be granted to owners of every 20,000 rubber trees from 3 to 4 years old planted subsequent to the promulgation of the law. Rame culture claimed the attention of the Director-General of Agriculture of Guatemala, who, through the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, expressed his desire to have persons interested in the cultivation of this fibrous plant to place themselves in communication with him.

The National Congress which closed its sessions on June 2, 1899, passed the appropriation bill for the ensuing year, carrying amounts aggregating \$11,597,650. The Congress also ratified the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation concluded with Nicaragua.

On July 28, the ratifications of the treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Republic of Guatemala relative to trademarks, signed at Guatemala City on July 20, 1898, were exchanged. The text of this treaty in English was published in full in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October.

Owing to the supply of flour in the Republic having been exhausted the city of Guatemala last fall purchased \$20,000 worth of the article in Valparaiso.

On October 20, a decree was issued by the President imposing an export duty on bananas, cleaned coffee, rubber, hides, and deer and sheep skins, which was mentioned in the December number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Haiti.—The Republic of Haïti during the year 1899 suffered from the effects of the financial situation, which, as the President stated in his message to Congress, “almost paralyzed the different branches of the public service.” The small Republic, however, maintained during the last twelve months the most cordial relations with foreign powers, especially with France, the President of which conferred upon the Chief Magistrate of the Republic and its Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris the high dignity of commander and officer, respectively, of the National Order of the Legion of Honor. Having been at peace with all the world, the year 1899 was more productive of satisfactory results than several of its predecessors as regards the agricultural, industrial, and business interests of the country. Among the noteworthy events of the year may be mentioned the following:

The important question of the boundaries with the Dominican Republic, which has been the source of much diplomatic correspondence and discussion for many years past, was submitted to arbitration. This satisfactory result was brought about by an interview between the Presidents of Haïti and the Dominican Republic, which took place at Môle St. Nicholas on May 28 and happily ended in a convention providing for the determination of the boundaries, which met with the approval of the two countries interested.

During the first quarter of the year loans to the amount of \$490,000, Haitian gold currency, were contracted, which, added to the \$1,114,769 secured from October 17 to December 16, 1898, make a total of \$1,604,769. It was determined during the year 1899 to apply three-fourths of the import duties to the loan of December 16, 1898, and the other loan, the total of which was converted into United States gold, was to be liquidated within the present year or earlier than the middle of next year.

The Government, in its effort to reach a solution of the financial question, sent the Chief of the Treasury to Paris to submit propositions looking to a loan to the French Government.

Efforts were made to promote the more extensive cultivation of cocoa, since the fall in the price of coffee had resulted somewhat disastrously

to the trade of the country. The more general use of aniline in the dyeing industry had a very appreciable effect upon the exports of log-wood, which fell off more than one-fourth within the last five years.

During the year a company with a capital of \$5,000,000 was formed in New York City for the development of an iron and plaster of paris mine in the Republic, and the engineers of the company have been since at work on the spot.

A most seriously felt want—paucity of means of direct communication between the United States and Haïti—seems to have been considerably ameliorated by the establishment of a weekly steamship service between New York and Haïtian ports by the Cameron Steamship Company in November. The vessels of the new line are rated at 14 knots per hour.

Honduras.—The year just closed has been a quiet and peaceful one in the resourceful Republic of Honduras, which, since the establishment of peace and order under President BONILLA'S wise and liberal administration, has been enjoying a satisfactory, economical development, and its inhabitants have been following the path of advancement with steady strides. Unfortunately the year did not see the obtaining of that great desideratum which would so largely facilitate business, particularly agricultural enterprise, and enable the country to settle its foreign debt as was said by President BONILLA in 1898—a commercial bank.

On February 1, amid the acclamations of a multitude composed of all political parties, Gen. TERRENCIO SIERRA and Gen. JOSÉ MARÍA REINA were inaugurated President and Vice-President, respectively, at Tegucigalpa. The President immediately upon his inauguration announced the members of his Cabinet, which represents the best elements of the Republic. President SIERRA has the confidence of his people and he has continued to conduct public affairs as a worthy successor to Dr. BONILLA, ably seconded by his Cabinet members, all of whom have evinced a most friendly attitude toward closer friendly and commercial relations with the United States.

One of the events of the year is the discovery, entirely accidental, by a poor man of a deposit of tin within easy access of a wagon road and with fuel and water at hand. Lack of means to utilize the discovery had prevented the working of the deposit.

The Island of Utila, in the Caribbean Sea, a part of the territory of the Republic of Honduras, has one peculiarity, which is that English and not Spanish is taught in the schools. Early in the year 1899 the United States Consul informed his Government that he had persuaded the school board of the island to adopt American schoolbooks in place of the English text-books formerly used.

On July 1, an important contract between the agent for 165 planters in Honduras and the Bluefields Steamship Company was closed. Under the contract the company receives a supply of 130,000 bunches of the best Honduras bananas. The term of the contract is four years.

The demand for cattle for shipment to Cuba during the past year was very great; so great, in fact, that it taxes beyond the visible supply the markets of Honduras, and dealers were compelled to send to Salvador to make purchases to fill their orders. The outlook for this industry, as for others connected with agriculture, is very flattering for the year 1900.

The exports of bananas from Omoa, in the northern part of Honduras, up to the beginning of November was more than 200,000 bunches, and the outlook for the year 1900 is very encouraging, as new contracts have been made with steamship lines which give promise of more profits to the banana shippers.

Mexico.—The progress of the United Mexican States in the last ten years may well merit the adjective stupendous, to the justifiable use of which the advancements credited to the year 1899 have contributed in a very large measure. The strides of this great Spanish-American nation along the path which leads to financial, commercial, and industrial greatness, during the year just closed, have been longer perhaps than in any year since she threw off the Spanish yoke. To the development of heretofore latent natural resources has been added the establishment of several lines of manufacture to meet the domestic demand and rely less upon foreign lands as purveyors for local consumption. The activity in railroad building, both in the way of new lines and extensions of those already in operation, has been very marked. The introduction of modern equipments and appliances on railroads and in municipal improvements has been the subject of universal remark. The Republic of Mexico enters upon the closing year of the Nineteenth Century with a financial credit, not only actually, but commercially above par. To enumerate in detail the many evidences of the forward movement in the neighboring Republic would carry this year's review far beyond the limits and scope which the MONTHLY BULLETIN can give it. A few of the important happenings of the year are as follows:

On March 30, 1899, the first Ambassador Plenipotentiary ever sent to a foreign land by Mexico was accredited to the Government of the United States in the person of Señor Don MANUEL ASPIROZ, who has been a worthy successor to the late lamented Señor Don MATÍAS ROMERO, who did so much to closely bind the relations of friendship which have so long and so happily existed between the two nations divided only by the shallow waters of the Rio Grande.

Early in the year the Mexican Consul at Corpus Christi, Texas, was given a land grant of 33,000,000 acres, which he has been colonizing with Spanish ex-soldiers from Puerto Rico and Cuba.

The State of Yucatán witnessed a great industrial revival during the past year. There was great activity in railroad building, and the removal of the import duty on the yarn of henequén, ixtle, etc., by the United States caused largely increased exports of that great staple to that country.

The mining industry was invigorated by the investment of many millions of dollars in the reworking of old mines and the opening of new, the statement being enrrtent that over \$50,000,000 of United States capital were invested in such operations. Several coal mining companies have been formed in the United States to operate coal mines and oil and gas wells in Mexico, prominent among which was one incorporated on June 29, in New Jersey, with a capital of \$6,000,000. Large deposits of petroleum were discovered early in the year at Cuetzla, near Puebla, which are being worked by a Mexiean company. Another Mexican company was formed, with a capital of \$10,000,000, to operate the iron mines on the Milmo estate, near the Mexican National Railroad, about 100 miles north of Monterey. An English company, with a capital of £600,000, was formed for the working of coal deposits in the district of Acatlán, State of Puebla. Prior to 1899 all the asphalt used in Mexico was imported, but in May a Texas company shipped from Tampico to the United States 60 barrels of asphalt for test purposes. The applications for mineral locations in the State of Sonora were largely in excess of those for many years past. Important copper mines were discovered near Eijnatla and Niahnatlae, State of Oaxaea. Rich gold discoveries were made in the State of Guerrero. Several of the more important mines of the district of Parral, State of Chihuahua, were provided with electric light and power. A company was formed late in the year to develop the steel industry in Mexico and has secured managers to take charge of an extensive steel plant at Chilmahua. During the year 40 per cent of the tonnage of the freight hauled by the Mexican Central Railway was ore. The high prices obtained during the year by quieksilver and tin resulted in prospecting for deposits of these minerals in Dnraugo, Zaateas, and Sonora. President ROBINSON, of the Mexican Central Railway, estimated the gold product for 1899 of the Republic of Mexico at \$12,000,000. It was estimated that the exports of metals from Mexico during the year were valued at \$125,000,000, silver.

The Federal and State Governments devoted great attention during the year to the subject of irrigation and the utilization of rivers and water courses for furnishing motive power. Several large contracts were let for irrigation works in different parts of the Republic and the canalization of many streams was undertaken. In several places the motive power thus secured was used for electric lighting, traction, etc. At the National Agricultural School, on the outskirts of the City of Mexico, the initial experiments in the raising of flax were made with a view to the future production of linen. Like experiments were also condneted in the State of Tlaxcala. Foreign companies were attracted by the possibilities presented in the tropical portions of Mexico for tobacco, rubber, and sugar-cane culture, and much money was subscribed to promote the subject. A number of snugar plantations installed plants of modern machinery with electric motive power. The demand for Mexiean cattle

for the Cuban market was even larger than in the year 1898 and gives promise of increasing during the present year.

In the industrial and manufacturing field great have been the strides during the year. Much foreign capital has been invested in factories, mills, and shops of all kinds. From July to December, 1899, 130 cotton mills paid into the National Treasury the sum of \$849,911.50, Mexican currency, in the way of a stamp tax.

The demand for United States machinery, especially in the way of electrical appliances, has been greater than during any other year. Many contracts were let to United States parties for improvements in several cities in the different States, such as paving, electric lighting, tramway building, waterworks, sewerage, etc. During the year the Government placed an order for 32,000 light-power military rifles with a New York firm, which was said to be the largest order of the kind placed in the United States by a foreign power in twenty-five years. The first electric railway system in the Republic was also inaugurated during the year. Several new banks were established in the principal cities of the different parts of the Republic. Several cities purpose advertising for bids for public improvements determined on during the course of last year.

Among the more noteworthy acts of the Government of general interest may be mentioned the conversion of the national debt which was effected in full for £22,700,000 at 5 per cent interest per annum; the opening of the new museum of Mexican products in the City of Mexico where are to be found constantly displayed articles of Mexican manufacture, and such as have been manufactured abroad of domestic raw material; the promulgation of the new railroad law of April 29, 1899, which went into effect on January 1, 1900; the concluding of a commercial treaty with China, the first that was ever negotiated between the two countries and which assures great advantages to them; the building of the new pier at Progreso, Yucatán; the ordering of the construction of four new light-houses and a light-house tender for the eastern coast of Yucatán; the awarding of a contract for the laying of a cable from the port of Altata, State of Sinaloa, to La Paz, Lower California; the ordering of a number of small steel gunboats in New Orleans; the opening of a number of new schools throughout the Republic, and the introduction of the latest improved school furniture from abroad; signing of a convention for the mutual exchange of money-order business between the United States and Mexico, which went into effect on January 1 last, and which will be of much benefit to trade between the two countries; the undertaking of negotiations tending to commercial reciprocity between Mexico and the Empire of Japan; the making of several contracts for new lines of steamers on both coasts of the country; the decision to reduce by at least \$4,000,000 the burden of taxes collected through the stamp act; the improvement of harbors and the determination to make good ports and havens on both coasts; the adding of several

hundred miles of telegraph lines, and the increasing to a very considerable extent of the post-offices and post roads throughout the country. Great advances were also made during the year in the methods for collecting, collating, and distributing the statistics properly coming under the Treasury Department.

On May 26, the work of the International Boundary Commission charged with settling the divisional line between Mexico and Guatemala was brought to a close. The Boundary Commission which, for some years past, has been determining the divisional line between Mexico and the United States, expired by conventional limitation in December, 1899.

One of the interesting events of the year was the solving of the problem of the preservation of the great Mexican drink known as *pulque*, two French residents of the City of Mexico having discovered a process by which the liquid may be kept in perfect condition for an indefinite time. A joint stock company with a capital of \$50,000 was formed in the capital of Mexico to place the article upon the market.

Mexico enters upon the new year with a larger unappropriated surplus in her Treasury than ever before in her history.

Nicaragua.—The future development of this Republic is believed to be largely dependent upon the building of the Interoceanic Ship Canal, thus developing the interior of the country as well as connecting the two great oceans and obviating the long route of steamships via Cape Horn; yet it can not be said that during the year 1899 any great degree of progress was made toward the consummation of this most important project, although a new Canal Commission was authorized by the Congress of the United States and appointed by President McKINLEY. This commission began its work of survey in Nicaragua during the month of December, and it is believed that some route will finally be decided upon before the closing days of 1900.

The Republic of Nicaragua lies in such a position that it can be easily developed. The country has many varieties of soil and climate, and is capable of producing almost any kind of a vegetable product. It has a coast line on the Caribbean Sea of about 300 miles and on the Pacific Ocean of 200 miles. The population is approximately 400,000, nearly one-half of whom are Indians. Of the remainder about 150,000 are of mixed blood, while the whites scarcely exceed 25,000.

Managua, the capital city, on the eastern shore of a lake of the same name, has a population of 25,000, while Leon, the largest city, contains 40,000 people. The ports of entry on the Caribbean side are San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, and Cabo de Gracias a Dios and Bluefields. On the Pacific the ports of entry are Corinto and San Juan del Sur.

According to a British report the imports of the Republic in the year 1898 were \$2,789,366, of which amount \$680,753 were credited to the United States. This, however, does not correspond with the statistics furnished by the Treasury Department of the United States, which gives the total valuation of exports to Nicaragua for the year as

\$910,200. The same British report gives the exports from Nicaragua for 1898 as \$3,098,231, the United States receiving of this total \$836,952. According to the Treasury statistics for 1898, furnished by the United States Government, the total amount of merchandise imported from Nicaragua was valued at \$1,095,865, of which \$1,047,504 was free of duty. The statistics for 1899 are not available, but according to an advanced statement issued by the Treasury Department of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, the imports from Nicaragua amounted to \$1,514,630 and the exports to that country to \$1,186,950, which is an increase in the case of imports of nearly 50 per cent, while that of exports was substantial, though not nearly so great.

Coffee has been for years the principal article of export, Germany taking 70 per cent of the crop, but during the year 1899, owing to the low prices obtained for coffee and the increased demand for rubber, there has been a great development in the production of the latter commodity. The coffee plantations remain, however, and with the prospect of increased prices for the berry in 1900 the crop will no doubt be greatly augmented.

There has also been an increase in the production of bananas, which are nearly all exported to the United States. Gold and silver are being exploited to a greater degree than heretofore, and during the year the MONTHLY BULLETIN has contained accounts of shipments of these ores to the United States for smelting. A number of United States citizens have located in Nicaragua during the past few months for the purpose of engaging in the cultivation of rubber. Others are engaged in shipping tropical fruits and are located at Bluefields. When it is an assured fact that the Inter-oceanic Canal will be built through Nicaraguan territory, many other capitalists and settlers will be attracted from the United States. During the year a treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation with Guatemala was negotiated and subsequently ratified by Congress. On July 26, Gen. E. P. ALEXANDER, "Engineer Arbitrator," announced "Award No. 4" to the Boundery Commissions of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This was that "the shore line of Lake Nicaragua, at the level of 106 feet, by the bench marks of the United States Nicaragua Canal Commission shall be taken as the bank of said lake referred to in the Treaty [between the two countries] of 1858."

Unfortunately, internally the Republic of Nicaragua was much disturbed during the early part of the year. On December 3, 1898, the Federation known as the United States of Central America having collapsed, Nicaragua issued a decree resuming her full sovereignty, and, on December 4, President ZELAYA appointed a new Cabinet, and an insurrection arose in January. On February 15, 1899, Nicaragua was declared in a state of siege by President ZELAYA. On February 25, the insurrection was reported suppressed by the Presidential forces. On February 28, General REYES, the insurgent leader, surrendered at Bluefields

to the United States and British naval commanders. On that day marines from the British cruiser *Intrepid* and the United States gunboat *Marietta* landed and took temporary possession of Bluefields, and after restoring order reembarked. On May 6, the United States made a temporary arrangement with Nicaragua regarding the claims of United States merchants in Bluefields who had paid import dues to both the regular and the insurgent Governments.

During the year the diplomatic relations between the United States and Nicaragua were greatly strengthened by the promotion of Señor DON LUIS F. COREA from Chargé d'Affaires to Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nicaragua near the United States. The new Minister, who was publicly received by President McKinley on September 11, is one of the youngest members of the Diplomatic Corps at Washington, but has had a distinguished career, having filled many important positions both in Nicaragua and Guatemala, and is considered one of the foremost lawyers of Central America. He has also been appointed diplomatic representative of his country in Chile. During the recent session of the International Commercial Congress Señor COREA took an important part in the proceedings and his addresses on the resources and progress of Nicaragua and the Inter-oceanic Canal, which showed evidences of great research, were reprinted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for November and December and attracted great attention.

Owing to the restoration of peace in internal affairs, the rise in the price of coffee during the latter part of the year, the development of the rubber industry, and the increased and growing demand for tropical fruits the commercial outlook for Nicaragua for the year 1900 would appear to be extremely favorable.

Paraguay.—The landlocked position of this Republic gives it a unique character. After being for many years undefined, the boundaries of the country were definitely settled in 1870 by an international commission. Lying at the point of confluence of two rivers—the Parana and Paraguay—the territory of the Republic is divided by the latter stream into two distinct sections situated, respectively, east and west. The area is 148,000 square miles and the population is estimated at about 500,000, including 60,000 civilized and 70,000 uncivilized Indians.

The chief industry is the cultivation and exportation of yerba maté. There are, however, vast forests containing valuable timber, some of which is exported to other South American and European countries. From developments in 1899 it would appear that the industry which is destined to bring the most money into the Republic is the raising of live stock; especially is this true of cattle, as there are now within the confines of the country 2,000,000 head, with accommodations for many millions more. At present over 100,000 hides are being exported annually. Tobacco is also being cultivated to a considerable extent, and sugar and cotton are attracting attention.

Paraguay's foreign commerce is chiefly carried on through the ports of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, and Montevideo, Uruguay, consequently there is but little direct trade with the United States and European countries. For this reason the name Paraguay scarcely appears in the statistical tables issued by the Treasury Department of the United States and those promulgated by other countries. However, as has been noted by the United States Minister and various Consuls, a considerable proportion of the value of exports and imports credited to the Argentine Republic and Uruguay in the United States summary in reality was destined for Paraguay. The same is true as to the commercial transactions with other countries, except her immediate neighbors.

Asunción, the capital, is the largest city of the country. It is situated on the left bank of the Paraguay River, in latitude $25^{\circ} 18'$ south (corresponding with latitude north of the Equator with the city of Monterey, Mexico) and in longitude $57^{\circ} 30'$ west from Greenwich (considerably east of the United States), and has about 25,000 inhabitants.

During the year 1899 the affairs of the Republic have been administered by Señor DON EMILIO ACEVAL (and his Cabinet), who was inaugurated November 25, 1898. A sketch of the President, who, though a comparatively young man, is deservedly popular, together with a translation of his inaugural address, appeared in the February number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN. President ACEVAL had previously held a number of important positions in the service of his Government, and had visited a number of foreign countries, including the United States, for which he expressed the greatest admiration.

The United States is represented in Paraguay by a resident Consul and Vice-Consul at Asunción, while Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, who resides in Montevideo, Uruguay, is also credited to Paraguay and visits the country as occasion requires. Hon. JOHN STEWART, who resides in Washington, is the principal consular representative of Paraguay in the United States.

During the year 1899 the MONTHLY BULLETIN has contained a number of articles with reference to the requirements of Paraguayan trade as noted by the United States Minister, Consuls, and others, and has directed attention to the various products of that country.

During the latter part of the year Asunción was visited by the plague, or a disease resembling it. The number of deaths reported was small, but the very presence of such an affliction drove the greater part of the commerce away. The disease was brought from Oporto, Portugal. Latest advices would indicate that the epidemic was almost entirely eliminated under the wise supervision of the governmental authorities. During the earlier part of the year the Republic made steady but quiet progress, but, during the prevalence of the plague, the Government prohibited exports and business was almost entirely suspended. During December business was again reviving and the prospects for 1900 are bright.

Peru.—Undoubtedly the Republic of Peru made substantial progress during 1899, and the conditions at the close of the year foreshadow greater prosperity in 1900.

Since Peru was shorn of its southern Provinces as a result of its war with Chile, it has been progressing steadily, but slowly. At present the country is reasonably prosperous, and its affairs are well managed by the present head of the State.

Under President DE PLEROLA'S administration the gold standard was adopted and a new tariff law was promulgated on January 1. Subsequently there were minor modifications to this law, the most notable being the reduction of one-fourth the export duty on cacao. The tariff specifications were reprinted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN during the course of the year. According to a British report, the customs dues are to be paid in pounds sterling, and the *libra*, equal in value to £1 (\$4.866), is reported by the "Journal of Finance," New York, to have become the unit of value of the country, displacing the *sol*, but this has not been confirmed by the Treasury authorities of the United States.

In order to call the attention of the world to the great value and diversity of the natural products of Peru, early in the year the Government issued quite a comprehensive pamphlet in Spanish, which was subsequently translated into English, French, and possibly other languages, for free distribution. This contains a description of the different sections of the country, together with the agricultural conditions and the products peculiar to each. This publication, though modest in tone and making no attempts to conceal the drawbacks to the settlement and exploitation of certain portions of the country, can not help but redound to the benefit of the Republic. This pamphlet was subsequently enlarged and revised and is having an extensive circulation.

In May, the regular Presidential election was held, resulting in the selection of Don EDUARDO LOPEZ DE ROMAÑA as President and Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA and Don FEDERICO BRESANI as first and second Vice-Presidents, respectively. The new President was inaugurated, and his Cabinet Ministers sworn in on September 8, 1899.

On May 11, the Government invited bids for the construction of the Oroya and Cerro de Pasco Railroad, and the contract was subsequently awarded to ERNEST THORNDIKE, a British subject. When completed (several years hence) this will be one of the greatest feats of engineering skill in South America, and its effect as the outlet for the rich mineral products of the country will be incalculable.

On October 25, the Peruvian Congress passed an act authorizing the President, either directly or through inviting bids, to contract for the reconstruction of the railroad from Ilo to Moquegua. The concessionary is to have the exclusive right to operate the line for thirty years; is to be guaranteed for ten years 6 per cent interest on a capital of £50,000, the approximate value of the work.

Mining is the chief industry of the Republic, the minerals so far obtained in paying quantities being gold, silver, copper, coal, sulphur and petroleum. During the year new deposits of copper, sulphur, and petroleum were discovered and are now being exploited. The petroleum wells are being developed by experienced prospectors from the oil regions in the United States. The principal agricultural products exported are sugar, wool, cacao, rubber, Peruvian bark, cocoa leaves, and crude cocaine, the United States taking the greater part of the latter commodity.

There is a large production of sugar in northern Peru, and as the cane fields are irrigated they are able to continue the grinding of the cane about nine months in the year. This renders the production of sugar possible at a very low cost. Most of the plantations are owned by foreigners, principally Englishmen and citizens of the United States, and from them they derive a large revenue. Another production of northern Peru is cotton of a very peculiar quality and fiber. It is especially adapted for mixing with woolen goods, and the United States imports it more or less for use in its woolen mills.

Within the past few months the agitation for the irrigation of the arid and semiarid lands of the Republic has been revived. It is pointed out that the old irrigation canals of the Lucas can be utilized to a great extent, and that their methods of production should be followed.

On July 28, President DE PIEROLA announced the acceptance by his Government of the Postal Convention with the United States.

Though not known as a manufacturing country, there are, however, a number of factories, mainly in Lima, which supply the local wants to a great extent. These include establishments for the manufacture of cigars, furniture, shoes, articles of wearing apparel, and biscuits. There are also a number of tanneries and a few cotton and woolen mills.

During the year a steamship service was established between Lima and the ports of Chile and Central America, with an occasional extension to San Francisco. Steps have also been taken for the establishment of a line from Spain direct to Peru. The construction of a new railway from Pacasmayo to Hualgayoc and of a new pier at the former place was begun. A new banking institution (Banco Popular) was organized in Lima, and an English commercial college, under the patronage of the Chamber of Commerce of the same city, was inaugurated during the year. A pavilion was constructed under Government supervision for the exhibition of Peruvian products at the Paris Exposition in 1900, many of the proposed exhibits having been already forwarded to France.

One of the graceful acts of the Government during the year was in deference to the wishes and customs of foreigners, who are becoming more numerous in the country. This was the issuance of a decree prescribing the mode of legal proof to be followed by persons desiring to

marry outside of the established church—Roman Catholic—which had not previously been sanctioned by the Government, much to the embarrassment of those of other faiths who desired to reside within the confines of or become citizens of the Republic.

Within the last few months the local press of the country has been appealing to the Government for diplomatic representation in the City of Washington, and the appointment of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, which has been temporarily denied, but which, it is thought, will be carried into effect during the year 1900.

Salvador.—Salvador is the smallest of the Central American Republics and is the only one that has no Atlantic seacoast. On the Pacific it has a coast line of 139 miles. The area of the Republic is 7,255 square miles, with a population, estimated January 1, 1899, at 800,000, nearly one-fourth of whom live in the cities. Salvador, therefore, is more densely populated than any other of the Central American countries.

The Republic is divided into 14 departments, which are subdivided into 31 districts. The capital is San Salvador, situated in the department of the same name, 20 miles from the Pacific coast in the valley of Las Hamacas, at an elevation of about 2,200 feet above sea level. The ports of entry are La Unión, Acajutla, La Libertad, and El Triunfo. The first named has one of the best harbors on the Pacific Ocean in Central America.

The country is fertile and rich in timber, dyewoods, and medicinal plants, and has considerable deposits of gold, silver, lead, and other minerals. Coffee grows in all the departments, and sugar, india rubber, cacao, cotton, and tobacco are produced. Cattle raising has received much attention within the past few years. During 1899 this industry was perhaps the most aggressive. Many cattle from Salvador were purchased by buyers from Honduras, who subsequently exported them to Cuba. A number of mines were also exploited in 1899 and the production of minerals was greatly increased. The "Butlers' Salvador Mining Company" was organized in Great Britain, in August, with a capital of £150,000.

The commerce of Salvador with the United States is conducted at a great disadvantage via the Isthmus of Panama and the Pacific coast ports, and as yet there is no railway connecting the interior of the country with the ports of neighboring Republics on the Atlantic coast. The exports, however, are greater to the United States than to any other country, but the greatest percentage of import trade is credited to Great Britain, with the United States second.

During the year 1899 the country was peaceful, and there was a noticeable improvement over the financial conditions which prevailed in 1898 and for several years previous. The higher prices of coffee, which is the chief product of the country, in the latter months of 1899 and the production and price of india rubber, which is being produced in

greater quantities than ever before, would augur well for the prosperity of the Republic in 1900.

On August 9, the Government issued a decree prohibiting the importation of silver coin of a less fineness than 900, and that are not of legal weight. On October 6, the mint property, which had previously been under the control of a private company, was purchased by the Government for £17,500.

Salvador has not been represented abroad to any great extent by Ministers and Consuls, but a movement was inaugurated in October, 1899, to send a diplomatic representative of the country to the principal nations of the world. As a beginning ex-President ZALDIVAR was sent to Mexico as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Señor ZALDIVAR is also accredited to several other countries, and the United States may be added to the number.

Santo Domingo.—The Republic of Santo Domingo, known otherwise as the Dominican Republic, comprises the eastern and much the larger part of the Island of Haiti, the remainder of the island being the Republic of Haiti. In the latter country the French language prevails, and in the former Spanish is the language of the people, though in the towns both English and French are spoken. The area of Santo Domingo is 18,045 square miles, with an estimated population of about 600,000, composed principally of mixed races. The city of Santo Domingo is the oldest existing settlement by white men in America, and was founded by Bartholomew Columbus in 1496 at the mouth of the River Ozama on the southern coast. The population is 25,000.

In order of value, the principal agricultural products of the Republic are tobacco, coffee, cacao, sugar, mahogany, logwood, hides, and goat-skins. The quality of the coffee grown is excellent and is nearly all exported to Europe. During 1899, large quantities of fine bananas were exported to the United States. There was also increased activity in mining and in the search for valuable minerals. Several prospectors from the United States were reported as having visited the island in 1899 for the purpose of examining its mineral deposits, and some investments were made in such properties.

The foreign commerce of the country is mainly with the United States, Spain, Germany, Great Britain, and France. The European commerce is said to be passing into German hands or into German houses in England almost entirely. In June, 1899, the Government decreed that all import duties must be paid in United States gold. The commercial conditions of the country, while far from satisfactory, show considerable improvement over 1898. Among the improvements for the year have been the exploitation of two railway projects, one by the Government and the other by a German company. A concession for another railway has been granted to United States citizens.

The question of the line of demarcation from Haiti, which has caused some friction between the two countries, was satisfactorily settled at a

meeting at Mole St. Nicholas on May 28, which was attended by the Presidents of both San Domingo and Haiti.

The peace of the country has been greatly disturbed during most of the year. On July 26, 1899, General ULISES HEUREAUX, the President of the Republic, was assassinated while serving his fifth term as President. This act was followed by a revolution, and during the interim between the date of the assassination and the proclamation of peace—a period of about two months—General WENCESLAO FIGUERO acted as President. At the election to fill the vacancy General JUAN ISIDRO JIMENEZ was chosen President and has assumed the office. Since then the country is reported to be at peace.

Uruguay.—The financial and commercial conditions of Uruguay have shown substantial progress during the year 1899. Cordial relations between this country and the United States have been greatly strengthened, and the local press declares that Uruguay should be represented at Washington by an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. The Government, through Congress, is reported to have made provision recently for a Minister Resident near the Government of the United States.

The present President, Señor Don JUAN LINDOLFO CUESTAS, was formerly President of the Senate, becoming acting President of the Republic on the assassination of President BORDA. In 1898 Señor CUESTAS was elected by the people and assumed the Presidency about the close of the year. He was born in 1837, and has held many positions of prominence previous to his election to the Chief Magistracy. He has selected as his Ministers men having the confidence of the people, and his Administration has shown itself devoted to their welfare and the prosperity of the country. The Republic is at peace, and notwithstanding the heavy expenses incurred by the previous civil struggle the present efforts have greatly strengthened Uruguay's credit in the financial centers of the world.

There have been many internal improvements during the year under Government auspices or with its sanction. Much has been said with reference to the harbor improvements at Montevideo, which will cost from \$12,500,000 to \$15,000,000. A wharf at Playa Honda has been constructed especially for the convenience of live-stock shippers. Several projects for the construction of telephone lines at State expense are being entertained by the Government.

The finances of the Government are on a gold basis. Its *peso* or dollar is worth \$1.034 in United States currency, a standard higher than that of any other nation. During the year, Uruguay has renewed its treaties with Great Britain and Germany.

In agricultural production increases are noted in several lines. Special attention has been paid to rice culture, viticulture, and fruit raising, and the production of sugar shows a great activity. More care is being taken in the raising and exporting of live stock, while quanti-

ties of animal products, such as wool, hides, jerked beef, hair, horns, etc., have been shipped to foreign countries. Leibig's extract of beef is made at factories in this country. Gold has been discovered and a French company is reported to be securing good returns from a mine recently exploited.

As a market for manufactured products Uruguay is attracting the increased attention of European exporters, notably those of France, Germany, Spain, and Portugal. Permanent exhibition of the manufactured products of Spain and Portugal have been inaugurated in Montevideo, and the French Minister is asking that exporters of his Government should also establish such an institution.

At various times during the year the United States Minister and Consuls have attracted the attention of American manufacturers to the demands for certain lines of goods consumed in the Republic. At a recent session of the International Commercial Congress, Señor DON PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of Uruguay in the United States, outlined the necessities of Uruguayan trade, concluding by saying that "what is principally needed to increase trade between the United States and Uruguay is the establishment of good lines of steamers."

This Republic, though small, contains perhaps the most desirable portion of South America for agriculture. It has always been prosperous, and has always maintained a gold standard. President CUESTAS has the confidence of the commercial classes, and the country is peaceable and prosperous. The street-railway system of Montevideo is being converted to the use of electricity. The commerce of Uruguay has felt the same benefits that accrue to the Argentine Republic in the steady advance in the value of its principal products.

Venezuela.—The area of the Republic of Venezuela is twice that of France, but fully one-half of it is still virgin forest, while the remainder is about equally divided into agricultural and grazing sections.

The chief exports are coffee, cacao, cattle, hides, rubber, woods, asphalt, copper, and gold in bars. Of an aggregate of exports of about \$20,000,000, coffee represents nearly or quite three-fourths of this amount. The United States is the principal market for the country.

The size and natural wealth of Venezuela are not generally realized. Its greatest length is nearly 1,000 miles and its greatest width about 800 miles. It has about 2,000 miles of coast line, with numerous harbors. The country is capable of producing almost all kinds of vegetable products, and hardly a mineral is known that may not be found in greater or less quantities within its limits. Of these, gold, sulphur, copper, lead, iron, silver, and coal can be and are mined at a profit. It has all varieties of climate and, generally speaking, is healthy.

Unfortunately, commercially, for the countries trading with Venezuela, and for the peace and order of the country itself, during the year 1899 the Republic suffered from revolutions. On February 20, Presi-

dent GUERRA, of the new State of Guarico, started an insurrection against the Government of President ANDRADE, which was, however, suppressed on March 4. In September Gen. CIPRIANO CASTRO organized a revolt, and on the 26th of the same month was joined by Gen. GUZMAN ALVAREZ, Governor of Bermudez. On September 29 General CASTRO established a Provisional Government at Valencia. After a number of encounters between the forces of General CASTRO and those of President ANDRADE, the troops of the latter were disbanded. On October 23, General CASTRO was warmly received by the people of Caracas, and on the following day formed a Government. The battle of Puerto Cabello, at which there was heavy fighting with considerable loss of life and great destruction of property, was the decisive battle of the war. On October 28, a revolution against this new Government was inaugurated by Gen. JOSÉ MANUEL HERNANDEZ, which was quickly suppressed.

The view most generally accepted as the cause of these revolts was the division by President ANDRADE of the 9 States and Federal District into 20 States, or, in other words, the cause was purely political. General CASTRO has been recognized by almost all the nations of the world, and cordial relations have been established between the new Government and that of the United States. Ex-President ANDRADE is now a resident of Puerto Rico. The resignation of Señor Don JOSÉ ANDRADE, Minister to the United States, was due to these revolutions.

One of the most important events of the year was the settlement, by the Arbitration Tribunal of Paris, of the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana, thus putting an end to a controversy which had caused much friction between Great Britain and Venezuela for more than fifty years. A new tariff law was enacted during the year, but on November 15 it was repealed and the tariff law of 1897-98 substituted.

Without entering into extensive details the following are noted as among the events connected with the commercial and other development of the country which occurred in 1899: Inauguration by the Hamburg-American Line of a steamship service from European to Venezuelan ports; the leasing of the Guanta coal mines to an Italian firm for a period of fifteen years; the erection, by United States citizens, of the Government warehouses at La Guaira and Maracay; the organization of a cotton-goods manufactory for the erection of a factory at Caracas; the reopening of the El Callao gold mines; the award of the contract for a railway from Puerto Cabello to Yaritagua; the decision by the Supreme Court in favor of a United States Company as to the ownership of the Orinoco iron mines; the establishment of a United States banking firm at Caracas; the establishment of new harbor regulations at Puerto Cabello; the award of contracts for paving Caracas; the award of the contract for water-works at Cua; the sale of the Carnero Railway (gauge, 3 feet; length,

20½ miles) to Señor A. CRASSUS; the enactment of a Congressional decree relative to the registration of foreign companies, and a contract for the cultivation of henequén between H. PINANGO LARA and the Venezuelan Government.

THE RAILWAY OF THE THREE AMERICAS.

"The Railway of the Three Americas," by FREDERIC EMORY, formerly Director of the Bureau of the American Republics, is a most interesting contribution to the "Conservative Magazine" for November, 1899. Mr. EMORY has long been a close student of international commercial affairs, and as Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce of the Department of State of the United States has earned an enviable reputation among the business men of the country by his careful and intelligent editing of the Consular reports, which have become the most valuable agency for the dissemination of foreign commercial news. For over a year Mr. EMORY, in addition to his other exacting work, directed the affairs of the Bureau of the American Republics and had thus a special opportunity to investigate matters directly affecting the trade interests of this Continent.

The project of a great railway system connecting all the countries on the American hemisphere may be called a bold one, and Mr. EMORY'S statement that when HINTON ROWAN HELPER first brought the idea to public notice in definite form by depositing \$5,000 in a bank in St. Louis, which he offered as prizes for essays on the subject, he was the object of general ridicule. Mr. EMORY traces the early agitation of the subject, and of kindred undertakings of magnitude—some of which are now finished, others in the process of completion—to the action of the International American Conference, and the result of the surveys made by the Intercontinental Railway Commission, and further presents observations deduced from his own careful study.

"There can be," says Mr. EMORY, "hardly any dispute among ourselves as to the sincerity of popular interest in the United States in the future peace and prosperity of the countries to the south of us. This feeling is not merely one of sentiment, due to the fact that all these countries, like ourselves and following our example, revolted from the despotic control of a European power, and, sooner or later, modeled their forms of Government upon ours. It has a practical basis in the fact that the Latin-American Republics offer great possibilities to United States capital," etc. Mr. EMORY points out that the manufacturers of the United States have long been restless over the fact that so large a share of the trade of Latin-America still remains in the hands of the Europeans, and discusses the present situation in its

various phases, as may be seen from the following pertinent extracts from his excellent article:

"The condition of our trade relations with the Latin-American countries would seem to furnish the surest index of popular support which may reasonably be expected from those countries in behalf of any great international enterprise involving the cooperation of all.

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"The great drawback to advancement in most of the Latin-American countries is the lack of adequate means of communication between them.

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"Interchange of products would mean interchange of ideas and the elements of progress which each might possess or acquire.

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"Industrially we need fear no rival in the future struggle for Latin-American trade.

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"Our interest in the 'Three Americas Railway,' if not direct nor so immediate as some of the more enthusiastic advocates of the project contend, is neither so altruistic nor so remote as its opponents are wont to claim. It would seem to rest upon a substantive basis in the practical benefit to us, as well as to the Latin-American countries.

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"If the railway were carried to successful completion through our initiative and help, it would also create an atmosphere throughout Latin-America distinctly favorable to us as against European influences, influences which have sprung from long association in trade intercourse and settled habits in the purchase of goods.

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"If the construction of the railroad was accompanied by the establishment of adequate steamship communication with the chief Latin-American ports, it is more than probable that, with favorable reciprocity agreements, an active trade with the whole of Latin-America would gradually follow.

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"The attitude of Latin-Americans toward us is, of course, a factor of prime importance in the problem.

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"I venture to hazard the opinion that among intelligent Latin-Americans there is but one feeling—that of sincere friendliness.

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"In some quarters, perhaps, there may be apprehension, more or less vague, of the influence we might exert in their political affairs, and it is to be regretted that this feeling finds some justification in the tone of condescension or patronage into which our badly informed orators and newspapers have occasionally been betrayed.

* * * * *

“Political conditions, which are still so unsettled and shifting in some of the Latin-American countries, would undoubtedly be tranquilized, in course of time, by the infusion of economic influences which would better the condition of the people and provide a variety of incentives to a greater degree of order and stability, and it may be assumed that the closer and more general the intercourse with our people the greater would be the progress toward the art of self-government copied from us, and heretofore practiced on theoretical lines with but little of outside aid or example to offset the troublesome legacy of centuries of Spanish misrule. The Latin-Americans, long habituated to the control of Spanish aliens, with scarcely any voice in their own affairs, emancipated themselves by heroic effort and established governments of their own, only to find that generations of despotism had left them a long train of impediments to overcome in their ardent efforts to attain that degree of political freedom and self-control which they envied in us.

“The wonder is not that disorders occur, but that political evolution toward comparative peace and tranquility has made the progress it has in some of those countries where the iron hand of arbitrary power was, for so long a period, the only political force which the people respected or understood. The results of the effort to ingraft free institutions upon a stock so strange to them—however partial and unsatisfactory they may be held to be—are at least sufficient to encourage the hope that, with a strong prepossession in our favor, the Latin-American peoples may move forward at an accelerated pace, in close association with us, when the channels of intercourse shall have been deepened and broadened, and all trade obstacles are cleared away. In these aspects of the question, the proposition to build an intercontinental railroad would seem to take a practical form, and to promise results which make it worthy of serious study.”

DIAGRAMS OF AMERICAN TRADE MOVEMENTS.

The diagrams which indicate the trend of commerce between the United States and Mexico, Central and South America, and the West Indies appearing in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for January, 1900, show the movement year by year, during the decade, of the great articles entering into the commerce between North and South America, and enable the eye to follow at a glance the upward or downward course of this trade. They are prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, and are based upon tables compiled from a volume entitled “American Commerce,” issued for general distribution by that Bureau in June, 1899, which volume covers in great detail the commerce of each country of Central and South America, as well as Mexico and the West Indies, during a term of years, and the commerce between

the United States and those countries since the early years of the century, and thus becomes a useful reference volume to all interested in these subjects.

DR. MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bureau of the American Republics, the proceedings of which were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, Dr. MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Argentine Republic, took leave of his associates and announced that he would start for his home almost immediately. Señor MÉROU had ably represented his country at Washington since June 26, 1896, when he was received by President CLEVELAND, and proved himself a wise diplomat as well as a genial gentleman. He left the United States to accept, only at the earnest solicitation of President ROCA, the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, after having once declined it.

Although still a young man, being only 39 years of age, Dr. GARCIA MÉROU has had a brilliant political career. He entered the diplomatic service of his country in 1880, and in 1881 was appointed Second Secretary to Dr. MIGUEL CANE, who was sent on a special mission to the Congress which met in Panama. Subsequently he was Secretary of the Argentine Legations in the Republics of Colombia and Venezuela. In 1883 he was appointed Secretary of the Legation in Madrid, being transferred in 1885 to the Paris Legation. In 1886 he retired from the latter position and returned to the Argentine Republic, taking up journalism as a profession.

Soon after his return he became Private Secretary to President ROCA. At the close of that Administration, in 1888, Dr. MÉROU reëntered the diplomatic service, being sent to Paraguay as Resident Minister. At that time he was but 26 years of age, and it is a notable fact that he was the youngest man ever appointed by his Government to such a responsible position.

In 1891 he was transferred to Peru as Minister Plenipotentiary. On his arrival at Lima he was enthusiastically received by the University students and was made an honorary member of the Atheneum. The address which he delivered on that occasion attracted attention at every capital in South America. In 1894 he was transferred to Brazil and became quite prominent there. His efforts in behalf of the development of commerce between the Argentine Republic and Brazil were crowned with signal success, and before his departure from Rio de Janeiro he had established an unexcelled reputation for integrity and energy, the press tendering him unanimous encomiums. When his successor was received the President of Brazil, in his welcoming address, accorded Dr. GARCIA MÉROU high praise. The Historical

and Geographical Institute of Brazil, founded in 1838, appointed Dr. MÉROU honorary member. This is one of the highest intellectual associations of South America, and only two other citizens (both ex-Presidents) of the Argentine Republic have been so signally honored.

The portfolio of the Ministry of Agriculture is new to the Argentine Republic and its institution is credited to the suggestion of Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, late United States Minister to the Argentine Republic. Mr. BUCHANAN, from experience in the United States, was aware of the value of such a department, and Dr. FRERE, who was the first to fill the office in the Argentine Republic, did much to justify its creation. The choice of Dr. MÉROU for the position would indicate that President ROCA desires to further extend the influence for good of this Department.

HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Since the December BULLETIN was issued two more gentlemen have been added to the list of Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union of American Republics. They are Señor Don FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, who will represent the Union and the Bureau at Quito, Ecuador, and from time to time furnish interesting matter to the readers of the BULLETIN, and Señor Don JOSÉ D. GÁMEZ, who will act as correspondent at Managua, Nicaragua. Unfortunately the BULLETIN is unable at this time to furnish a biographical sketch of the first-named gentleman, but will remedy the omission in the future.

Señor JOSÉ DOLORES GÁMEZ was born on July 12, 1851, in Granada, on the shores of the great Lake of Nicaragua. He was educated at the University of Granada. At the age of 21 he voluntarily exiled himself for political reasons, and for three years resided in different parts of Central America, returning at the end of that time to his native land and establishing himself at Rivas, devoting himself to agricultural pursuits. In 1878 he began to write for the press, and published a small novel on local customs. A short time afterwards his political career began, and he was elected a deputy to the National Congress.

A rehearsal of his political life would be so prolific of incident and adventure that space forbids it. Having been exiled, he established himself in Quezaltenango, an important city of Guatemala, and assumed charge of "El Bien Público," a leading newspaper, wherein he espoused and supported the principles of the Liberal party. While thus engaged he wrote the history of Nicaragua, the work which has given him the greatest reputation. Subsequently he published other works, and returning in 1892 to Managua, he took part in the revolution of that year until he entered the capital of the Republic at the side of his victorious chief, General ZELAYA, the actual President. Señor GÁMEZ has been Minister of Public Works, of the Interior, of War, and of Foreign Relations

of Nicaragua, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his country in Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, President of the Legislative Power, and latterly Delegate of the Executive Power, in which capacity he defended the city of Rivas against the revolutionists on February 8, 1898. Known as a journalist, as a historian, and as a statesman, Señor GÁMEZ is one of the most prominent men of the Liberal party in Nicaragua.

The Bulletin is enabled to furnish the following brief sketch of the public life of Señor Lic. Don FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA, one of the correspondents in the city of Mexico:

This gentleman was born on June 16, 1863. He has been a professor of mathematics in the National Preparatory School of Mexico since 1885. He was admitted to the bar in 1886, and was a member of the City Council of the capital in 1889-90. He was the delegate of the Mexican Academy of Legislation and Jurisprudence, of which he is an active member, to the Ibero-American Juridical Congress of Madrid in 1892. At about this same time he was elected Secretary of the Spanish-American Literary Congress which met in Madrid. He was also appointed Consul-General of the Argentine Republic *ad honorem*, which position he could not assume, as he was a Deputy of the Congress of the Union. He has been elected a Deputy for three terms. He is a member of the board of directors of the National College of Lawyers, an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Legislation and Jurisprudence of Madrid, and a corresponding member of the Coimbra Institute of Portugal.

As the Plenipotentiary of his country, Señor DE LA BARRA negotiated and concluded a Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation with the Netherlands, and negotiated and signed an *ad referendum* a Treaty of Extradition with the Kingdom of Italy. He is now, as stated in the November BULLETIN, advisory counsel of the Department of Foreign Relation, occupies the chair of philosophy in the National Preparatory School, and is counsel to the city council of Mexico. He has been favored with the decoration of Commander of the First Class of the Order of Charles III by Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, at the request of the Royal Academy of Jurisprudence of Madrid, and with that of Commander of the Crown of Italy by His Majesty King Humbert I.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONGRESS.

In conformity with the resolution passed at the Seventh International Maritime Congress at Brussels in 1898, the Eighth Congress will be held at Paris, commencing July 28 and ending August 3, 1900. The membership will include delegates from the Government of France and from foreign countries, those accredited by Chambers of Commerce, by cities, marine and towing associations, railway and other transport

companies, as well as those who may, prior to the opening of the Congress, express a wish to attend. The invitations have been issued by Messrs. G. MASSON and P. HOLTZ, respectively President of the Chamber of Commerce of Paris and Inspector-General of Bridges and Roads, who are at the head of a large committee of prominent citizens of France having the matter in charge.

BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.

"The Highest Andes" is the title of a book by E. A. FITZ-GERALD, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. It is the record of the first ascent of Aconcagua and Tupungato in the Argentine Republic, and the exploration of the surrounding valleys, with chapters by STUART VINES and contributions by Professor BONNEY, G. C. CRICK, R. I. POCOCK, G. A. BOULENGER, I. H. BURKILL, and PHILIP GOSSE. It contains 2 maps by A. E. LIGHTBODY, 51 illustrations, and a panorama. Sir MARTIN CONWAY speaks in highest praise of this book. (See December, 1899, MONTHLY BULLETIN.)

Aconcagna rises some 23,080 feet above the level of the sea and is a little higher than any of its rivals in the Himalayan ranges thus far measured. The FITZ-GERALD expedition left Buenos Ayres on November 29, 1896, and did not return to England until January, 1898. The undertaking was a great success, the length of time consumed being largely due to the explorations on South American soil and the illness among members of the party after their work was finished. Mr. FITZ-GERALD was overcome by the rarefaction of the air and was unfortunately deterred from making the ascent, which was successfully done, however, by his faithful guide, ZURBRIGGEN, who was the first to reach the top of Aconcagua, followed by Mr. STUART VINES. The former stayed but a little while on the summit and Mr. VINES but eighty minutes. Determination and unceasing perseverance enabled the courageous mountaineers to accomplish the object of their journey to South America. They were obliged to work slowly and cautiously, and little rest was acquired even from sleep.

"One of the points that strike the visitor to these Andean valleys," says Mr. FITZ-GERALD, "is the terrible bleak and desolate aspect that they present, with only blades of grass here and there or perhaps a few stunted shrubs. Trees there are none; nothing but a huge expanse of yellow sand and stone, the peaks rising up on either side in extraordinary and rugged stratification, whose many-colored hues are bewildering."

ing to the eye. Great torrents flow down the middle of these valleys, the water being of a dull, blackish hue. The fording of the rivers is one of the most dangerous tasks of explorers in this country. The torrents are exceedingly rapid, and full of deep, treacherous holes."

The reader may learn many interesting facts from this book—that Aconcagua is not a volcano; that "the mountain is really built up by successive flows of lava, and is composed of varieties of andesites," and that there is no sign of a crater on it. In an appendix are notes on the boundary dispute between Chile and the Argentine Republic, on rock specimens, on fossils, and on the natural history of the Aconcagua Valley. The pictures which illustrate the text were obtained under great difficulty, the wind being so strong that it required the strength of three men to hold in place a 10-pound camera. The results have well repaid the author, and give the reader a vivid idea of the wonderful country and of Aconcagua and Tupungato by bringing their beauty and grandeur into his immediate view.

"Harper's Magazine" for January, 1900, has an article by Sir MARTIN CONWAY on "Mount Sarmiento," being the conclusion of a series written by him, the subjects being the several mountains which he has ascended in the Andes. (See November and December, 1899, MONTHLY BULLETINS.)

Sir MARTIN gives an extremely interesting and graphic description of the country through which he journeyed, delighting the reader with his narration of many varied experiences. He says: "Whatever the future may have in store for this great hilly area, it is clear that at present only the edges and accessible parts of it can have any commercial value. It was naturally to be expected that so difficult and remote a mountain region would have to wait its explorers for many years to come; but political accident has determined otherwise. The difference about their boundary between Chile and the Argentine Republic could only be settled when the country through which the boundary must run was surveyed. Thus both countries sent well-equipped and numerous expeditions into the disputed region to explore and survey it, with the result that when their work is given to the world the southern stretch of the Andes, right down to the Strait of Magellan, will be one of the best mapped mountain regions in the world."

When Sir MARTIN CONWAY formulated his plans to explore South America it was with the firm determination to acquire some information regarding the submerged parts of the Cordillera, as well as the snow-capped peaks of that region. He was particularly fortunate in this in finding a "Kosmos" steamer about to take the same trip and willing to spend some time on and beside the waters of Smyth's Sound. From a climber's point of view, Mount Sarmiento, although only 7,200 feet high, is higher, larger, and more difficult to climb than Mount Blanc. The difficulties to a climber begin at sea level, and the glaciers that cover it are cataracts of broken ice. The peak is seldom free

from cloud and avalanches continually fall down its sides; its rocks are incrustated with icicles, and it is usually in the heart of a raging storm, thus keeping the snow on the upper portion always fresh. Cockburn Channel has the shape of a bent arm, and Mount Sarmiento stands at the elbow. In describing the ascent the writer says: "As we rose we commanded both branches of the sound. Higher and higher we climbed, till, at 5,000 feet or thereabouts, our ridge joined another from the right, and a cliff fell at our feet to a pass a couple of hundred feet down, dividing us from the final mass of Mount Sarmiento. The great glacier was now fully displayed beneath us, and we halted to sketch its outline. In one respect it resembles no other glacier I can remember. The great northern slope of Sarmiento, up which our farther route lay, is the gathering place of its snows. They pour down that face in a huge cataract of *nevé*."

The Government of the State of Pará has recently published a richly illustrated work entitled "Album do Pará em 1899 no Administração do Governo de Sua Excelência o Senhor Dr. JOSÉ PAES DE CARVALHO." (Album of Pará in 1899 Under the Administration of His Excellency Senhor Dr. JOSÉ PAES DE CARVALHO.) The following interesting data is given in regard to the State of Pará: The production of rubber during the fiscal year July 1896-97 was 9,100,000 kilograms, while that of caoutchouc, which does not require such extensive preparation as the rubber tree, amounted in the two years 1895-1897 to 3,812,000 kilograms, exported to the United States and to Europe in about equal proportions. Cacao is a most important product of the State. In former times the harvest of this product along the banks of the Amazon was so great that the ships could not transport it and it had to remain unshipped. The present production of cacao varies between 3,500,000 and 5,500,000 kilograms. In 1897, however, it did not exceed 2,274,000 kilograms. As to nuts, in 1896 66,912 hectoliters were exported to the United States, while the total export amounted to 139,992 hectoliters. The possibilities for further exploitation of this article of commerce are great, since there are still whole forests of nut-bearing trees still untouched, and with proper facilities for transportation will yield large revenue. The fine quality of the tobacco of Pará is well known, and there is no doubt but that this product is one of the best sources of riches in the State. In 1896 there was marketed in the city of Pará 750,512 kilograms of tobacco, produced in the State and valued at 3,800 *contos*. Further products of export are sugar cane, tonka beans, vanilla, sarsaparilla, and wood, of which there are 87 varieties of first, 43 of second, and 73 of third quality.

"Apuntas sobre minería en el Perú" (Notes on mining in Peru), Lima, 1899. This is the title of a very important work by Señor Dr. TEODORICO OLAACHEA, professor of geology, mineralogy, and paleontology in the special engineering school of Lima. The author, after some general

observations on mining and periods through which Peru has passed, gives a scientific description of the present state of the industry, which is destined to enjoy a great development in the country should the authorities lend it the protection it requires and which is accorded it in other cultured countries. Mining is undoubtedly the principal Peruvian industry, not only because of the abundance of gold and silver in every department, but also by reason of the variety and abundance of other minerals, such as copper, iron, lead, cinnabar, coal, petroleum, and many other substances that can be applied to the industries.

This industry, so advanced and so well protected during colonial times, began to decay under the Republic. The want of capital, of hands, of good means of communication, of technical knowledge, and of enterprising spirit, as well as the continuous political convulsions impeded its natural development. Business men saw more money in guano and nitrate, in State enterprises, and in institutions of credit, and made them the object of their speculations, thus disregarding mining. Since 1886, the guano and nitrate deposits having been lost and the National Treasury impoverished through the war with Chile, capitalists have again turned their eyes to mining. With the aid of foreign capital great companies are beginning to work the rich mineral region of Yuali and the oil deposits in Tumbes and Paita. The depreciation of silver in the world stimulated the exploitation of gold mines, and the discovery of the rich Santo Domingo mine in Carabaya opened up a wide field for speculation, which has been on the advance. The high price of copper, due to its application to electricity in industry, has extraordinarily favored mining in Peru, and has saved from ruin several important mining seats.

This Bureau has received the interesting and voluminous work of Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, bearing the title "Estudio de los Ferrocarriles que Ligarán en el Porvenir las Repúblicas Americanas, presentado al Congreso Científico Latino-Americano de Buenos Aires" (Study of the Railroads that will in the Future Connect the American Republics, presented to the Latin-American Scientific Congress of Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, 1898). It is a notable treatment of the subject, and shows that the author has devoted much time and careful attention to it. The work contains eleven chapters, in which are skillfully described the iron bands which are destined to serve as bonds of union between the American Republics. Señor CASTRO shows in his work that he not only possesses great engineering attainments, but also the lofty views of a true statesman. He sets forth in detail all that constitutes the railroad system of South America, and makes especial mention of the systems which might be utilized to connect all the nations of the American continent.

It would be difficult to find a subject of greater interest and transcendence for the peoples of the New World than that which Señor CASTRO has selected for his important work, since in the realization of

the plan which he develops and explains with as much erudition as judgment seventeen Republics are interested. Annexed to the book of Señor CASTRO there are two maps, one of the railroads destined to unite in the future the nations of North, Central, and South America and the other of the great international lines which are to later on connect the South American countries. These maps show the lines in operation, under construction, surveyed, and to be surveyed. The work of Señor CASTRO deserves the attention of all the engineers interested in the construction of the Intercontinental Railroad.

According to the "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" the Argentine Republic will be represented at the Paris Exposition in a very interesting literary production. The "Compañia Süd Amerika de Billetes de Banco" is preparing a most instructive and attractive publication, to be in charge of Mr. CARLOS GALLARDO, formerly Commissioner-General of the Argentine Republic at the World's Fair in Chicago. The undertaking, which has received the heartiest approval of the chambers of commerce and industrial corporations of the Argentine Republic, will comprise a most complete description of the Republic, its sources of wealth, and cultural and economical factors.

The book will be divided into the following sections: (1) General description; (2) Position, boundaries, etc.; (3) The most important mountains and rivers; (4) Climate; (5) Geological data; (6) Mineral, vegetable, and animal products; (7) Political organization, government, etc.; (8) Laws of immigration and colonization; (9) Means of communication by water and land; (10) Demographic statistics, agriculture, cattle raising, commerce, and industry; (11) Army and navy; (12) Public instruction, scientific and art institutions, libraries, and museums; (13) Postal and telegraph connections; (14) Exchanges, banks, and insurance; (15) Journalism and literature; (16) Local government and police regulations of the capital city; (17) Hospitals and charitable institutions; (18) Health and hygiene; (19) Social life, theaters, clubs, etc. The publishers feel assured that the undertaking will be most successful and will give the widest publicity to the Argentine Republic.

An interesting work on the botanical origin of rubber and gutta-percha (*Origine botanique des Caoutchoucs et Gutta-Percha*) has recently been published by Mr. PAUL GRÉLOT, substitute professor at the High School of Pharmacy of Nancy.

The first three chapters are devoted to the study of the properties and composition of rubber, the history of its discovery and exploitation, and the different methods of gathering and coagulation used to-day in all the producing countries. The author, after having examined all the commercial kinds and given an idea of the actual commercial movement and of the experiments at cultivation attempted on every side, presents a scientific study of the lactiferous tubes and the latex, and lastly describes all the rubber plants actually known, as well as those

which are being studied commercially or whose classification is yet undetermined. The second part of the work is an analogous study of gutta-percha, in which the author also treats of some of the rubber substitutes, such as *balata*.

The volume abounds in interesting information, and new data are given to such a degree that even a publication of six months back is incomplete in comparison. A description will be found not only of the plants recognized as of rubber origin, but also of those described as such. Mr. GRÉLOT'S work is of value, containing as it does information enabling one to recognize the different kinds of rubber plants as well as to rectify some of the errors which have heretofore obtained in regard to them.

Señor Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, ex-Minister of Public Works, of the Republic of Uruguay, has published a work with the title, "Puerto de Montevideo: Análisis Comparativos de las Soluciones Técnica y Financiera Proyectadas Respecto de este Asunto" (The Port of Montevideo: Comparative Analyses of the Projected Technical and Financial Solutions of this Subject. Montevideo, 1899. This is a defense of what was done while the portfolio of Public Works was under his charge for the improvement for the port of Montevideo. Señor CASTRO holds that the plan which ought to be adopted is the one presented by the engineer GUÉRARD, and he adduces powerful reasons in support of his opinion. According to Señor CASTRO, the execution of the said plan would entail an expense of \$14,264,500. The author goes exhaustively into the financial features of the project, and it is clear that he has made a special study of the matter. The whole work is written in a very clear style and gives a very accurate idea of the subject treated. Since Montevideo is one of the leading ports of South America, the necessity of making such improvements as shall place it at the height that the progress in navigation in our days demands is at once apparent. It is natural that a question of such vital importance to Uruguay should have awakened great interest in that country, which is evident from this important work of Señor CASTRO. The book contains in the way of illustrations three diagrams representing the plans which have been submitted for the betterment of the port.

"Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, No. 7, 1899," relate entirely to the trial of GABRIEL DE GRANADA by the Inquisition in Mexico, 1642-1645, translated from the original by DAVID FERGUSON, of Seattle, Wash., with notes by Dr. CYRUS ADLER, of Washington, D. C. Colonel FERGUSON, who was an officer of the United States Army during the civil war, and at one time in command of the Department of Arizona, later located in Mexico, where he resided for twenty years. In addition to linguistic qualities of a high order, Colonel FERGUSON has been an indefatigable collector of rare manuscripts in the Spanish language, and it is due to this latter fact

that much highly valuable historical matter in regard to Mexico has been preserved and put into accessible form. He has translated thousands of pages of these manuscripts, some of which are now in the hands of the distinguished historian, Mr. HENRY C. LEA, of Philadelphia, and others with Dr. ADLER.

Mr. LEA in speaking of Colonel FERGUSSON said that "No one knows more than he about the Mexican Inquisition or takes more interest in it." This special volume treats of the trial of a young Jewish boy of 13 years of age, and Dr. ADLER states that while it is not particularly interesting in itself, the record is practically complete, and therefore gives a good idea of the formalities and details of inquisitorial courts. It may be further stated that this is the first time that a full record of a trial by the Inquisition has ever been published in the English language.

"The Birds of Eastern North America: Part I, Water Birds; Part II, Land Birds—Key to the Families and Species" is the title of one of the most interesting additions to the records of ornithology which has appeared for many years in the United States. The work is by CHARLES B. CORY, Curator of the Department of Ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, Illinois. The work was prepared with a special view to meet the desire of many students of nature who are anxious to know the birds about them, but who have not the time nor desire to delve deeply into the subject. The author is to be felicitated upon having fulfilled his purpose in a terse and graphic manner. He has grouped the different species according to size, and thus enabled the novice to identify any of the American birds treated of—and their name may be said to be legion. A glossary precedes the introduction and gives the terms used in describing a bird, which render intelligible to the uninitiated many of the technical terms used in the body of the work. Profusely illustrated, and with directions how to measure a bird, and a full key to the families, Professor CORY has furnished those who love the feathered peoples of the air with a treatise which can not fail to increase their knowledge of the families and species in eastern North America.

In the "Wide World" (London, England) magazine for December, 1899, the editor of the "Cactus Journal," Mr. F. A. WALTON, tells of strange adventures—tragic and comic—which he and his fellow collectors encountered while in search of different varieties of the cactus plant. Their journey was through the State of California and the Territory of Arizona, in the United States, and through the peninsula of Lower California and portions of Mexico contiguous to the State of Texas. Mr. WALTON illustrates his article with many remarkable photographs of quaint cacti—some of them curious freaks of the vegetable world.

The same magazine contains an article entitled "My Pilgrimage to

Caacupé," by Mr. NORMAN O. BROWN, of Asunción, Paraguay. This is a description, by an English resident of the Paraguayan capital, of some remarkable happenings witnessed by him in the picturesque village of Caacupé, Paraguay, which is a sort of South American Lourdes. The date of the festival is December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. For weeks in advance the *promeros*, or those persons who for various reasons have made vows to pay tribute to the Virgin of Caacupé, start from all portions of the Republic to fulfill the good resolutions they have made. The curious ceremonies and the scenes incident thereto are illustrated by reproductions of photographs which the author obtained on his visit.

What is said to be the finest library on textiles, either public or private, in the United States is owned by HENRY G. KITTRIDGE, editor of the "Textile World," of Boston, a leading publication in its field. Mr. KITTRIDGE has been appointed Assistant Director of Textiles at the Paris Exposition of 1900. He has a practical knowledge of every branch of the textile industry, a knowledge that comes from a long service as agent and superintendent of mills and the proprietor of two. During the past few years he has been devoting himself to the literature of the subject, and his writings have commanded wide attention both in America and Europe. His reports on the textile exhibits at the Centennial Exposition were of great value. He was appointed by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers on a committee to represent the domestic woolen manufacturers in their collective exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893, and became the active spirit of that committee. In 1895 he was appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a member of the commission to represent that State at the Atlanta Exposition, and became its executive official.

A copy of the second edition, enlarged and corrected, of the "Geographical and Statistical Synopsis of Peru," published by the Government Printing Office at Lima, has recently been received by the Bureau Library. The first edition of this work appeared a few months ago and was quickly exhausted. The author, "G. R. G.," explains the appearance of this interesting work in the following words:

"In view of the great demand there was for the first edition of this pamphlet, and the numerous inquiries for it now that no more copies are to be had, the writer has been encouraged to offer to the public this second edition enlarged and revised, which he trusts may meet with as hearty a reception as did the former one.

The contents of the pamphlet, like the first edition, come under the following heads: Geography; Ethnography; Political Division; Government and Administration; Bureau of Foreign Affairs; Legal Status of Foreigners in Peru; Bureau of Justice, Worship, and Instruction; Home Office and Police; Post Office, Telegraph and Telephones; Police

System; Bureau of the Army and Navy; Finance and Commerce; Bureau of Public Works, etc.; the Great Central Highway; Public Works; Mines; New Enterprises.

Under the title of "Anuario Pillado" Señor Don RICARDO PILLADO has founded in Buenos Ayres a publication in which, very concisely, are given full data regarding the public debts of the Argentine Republic and the national and foreign joint stock companies which have interests in the country, including their present status, capital, reserve funds, dividends paid, and quotations of all their negotiable securities. This volume, a copy of which has been received by the Bureau, contains, besides what has been stated above, an historical review of paper money in the Argentine Republic from its origin in 1822, when its issue was authorized by legislative provision of June 19 of that year, down to the present day; an exhaustive description of the national territories; a list of the corporations formed during the year and another of those who have gone out of existence; statements showing the average gold quotations for the last fifteen years and the value of the national currency as compared with that of the rest of the world, as well as many other details of positive interest. Señor PILLADO'S work is most commendable and deserves being classed as an important medium of information for persons who desire to undertake business enterprises in the Argentine Republic.

A number of catalogues has been received by the Bureau of the American Republics relating to the different collections in the National Museum of Mexico, which are a most interesting and instructive addition to the library. They are, naturally, in the Spanish language, but most complete in every detail. They are as follows: Catalogue of the Anthropological Collection, published in 1895; Catalogue of the Bird Collection, published in the same year; Catalogue of the Reptile and Batrachian Collection, of the same year; Catalogue of the Fish Collection, published in 1896; Catalogue of the Mineral Collection, published in 1896; Catalogue of Monstrosities, in the same year; Catalogue of Mexican Plants, published in 1897; Catalogue of Imitations in Glass of Several Invertebrate Animals, published in the same year; Catalogue of the Fossil Collection, of the same year; Catalogue of the Department of Archaeology, published in the same year; Catalogue of Mammals, published in 1898, and a Guide to the Historical Department of the Museum, published in 1899. Some of these catalogues are profusely illustrated and show that so far as concerns the completeness of the collections and the wide range they cover in the National Museum, Mexico has no cause to envy nations far older than she.

The Philadelphia Commercial Museum has published two monographs from the pen of Dr. GUSTAVO NIEDERLEIN, Chief of the Scientific Department. These monographs treat of the topography, geology,

mineral wealth, and soils of Costa Rica and Guatemala; describe their climate and present the details of their flora and fauna with reference to their economic value; display the distribution of population according to race, wealth, communities, and social conditions; examine the agricultural development of the Republics, including their live stock and forests, and, finally, recount the most important features of their commerce, industry, finance, and of their economic and political conditions. They are made up of observations and studies pursued in 1897 and 1898, during seven and a half months of economic and scientific explorations in Central America, and of facts garnered with great care from authoritative manuscripts, books, and official documents and publications.

In his annual report for 1898, issued in 1899, Mr. GEORGE A. NEWELL, the Commissioner of Mining for the State of Michigan, says: "In giving a practical illustration of the Michigan minerals which mother earth has yielded in the year, I will present the following homely picture: If all the iron ore produced for the year in the State of Michigan were cast into a steel rail weighing 50 pounds to the foot, the rail would encircle the globe one and one-half times. If the refined copper taken from the mines were drawn into a No. 12 telephone wire, that wire would reach around the world $29\frac{1}{2}$ times. If the barrels of salt manufactured in Michigan for the year 1898 were set upon end, they would make an unbroken line 1,500 miles long. I estimate the marketed value of the minerals produced in the State for the year at \$38,825,000. Of this amount I credit iron ore with \$18,450,847, copper with \$16,834,670, and salt with \$2,686,272."

"Alt mexikanischen Studien II: (1) Zauberei und Zauberer im alten Mexico; (2) Die bildlichen Darstellung der mexikanischen Jahresfeste; (3) Die achzehn Jahresfeste der Mexicaner. By EDWARD SELER. Berlin, 1899. Folio." (Studies of Old Mexico. II: (1) Sorcery and Sorcerers in Ancient Mexico; (2) A Hieroglyphic Representation of Mexican Yearly Festivals; (3) The Eighteen Feasts of the Mexican year.) Dr. SELER in the foregoing work, which appears in the annual publications of the Ethnographical Museum of Berlin, has rendered an important service to Mexican history, which will add greatly to the renown which he justly possesses in the field of letters and of science. To every one interested in archaeological science this latest work of the distinguished author will prove a source of instructive pleasure. The work has met with a very warm reception on the part of Mexican scholars.

Bearing the title "Diccionario de Barbarismos y Provincialismos de Costa Rica" (Dictionary of Costa Rican Barbarisms and Provincialisms), Señor DON CARLOS GAGINI published in 1893 an interesting work which shows exhaustive study of the Castillian tongue and a profound knowledge of the same. Señor GAGINI'S effort was a laudable one,

and it is to be hoped that in all Spanish-American countries similar works will be published in order to preserve the purity of the fine Spanish language. Other notable writers, such as CUERVO, RODRÍGUEZ, PICHARDO, ARONA, and RIVODO have published works of the same character as that of Señor GAGINI, whose dictionary is of great utility not only in Costa Rica, but also in all the Republics of Central America and elsewhere in the world wherever the translator pursues his arduous task. The writers who, like Señor GAGINI, devote themselves to critical studies of language render a true service to Spanish-American letters, and their efforts are most worthy of encomium and imitation.

“Carpenter’s Geographical Reader,” by FRANK G. CARPENTER. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago, 1899. Mr. CARPENTER is one of the most versatile newspaper correspondents in this country, and his contributions are produced simultaneously in more newspapers than perhaps any other writer in this field of work. He has made his mark as an observing traveler in many lands. The Geographical Reader has been prepared especially for children as an entertaining adjunct in their study of geography. He takes his readers with him on the long journey through the most characteristic parts of the South American continent and in a fascinating style calls attention to the points of interest on the way. Among the striking features of the book are the pictures of the life and work among the peoples of the various countries.

The Geographical and Geological Commission of the State of São Paulo, at the head of which is Dr. ORVILLE A. DERBY, has just published the first sheet of a topographical map of that State. The sheet is on the scale of 1:100,000 and embraces the region between the cities of São Paulo and Santos, in south latitude.

Besides being the first map of this commission, it is the first detailed map of the region traversed by the *serra do mar* and shows the topographical relations between the coast, the mountain range, and plateau of São Paulo. In accordance with the system adopted by the best geographers, the map is printed in three colors, the rivers and ocean being blue, the topographical features brown, and the nomenclature black. Dr. DERBY has had the assistance of skilled topographers. Mr. H. E. WILLIAMS, the chief topographer, had acquired a splendid reputation in works of this kind before going to Brazil.

“Patent Laws and Trade-Marks of the Leading Countries of the World,” prepared by the compiling department of the Bureau of Information of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum (Philadelphia, 1899), is a most useful publication for inventors and others interested in foreign patents. It contains the principal features of the patent laws of the following countries: Argentine Republic, Australia, Austria, Bel-

gium, Brazil, Canada, Cape Colony, China, Chile, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Natal, Norway, Orange Free State, Russia, Rhodesia, South African Republic (Transvaal), Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

The volume for 1900 of the "Record of American and Foreign Shipping," which is the thirty-second annual issue of this valuable register and classification of shipping, is now being delivered to subscribers. The "Record" contains full reports and particulars of about 17,000 vessels of all classes and nationalities; rules for the construction and classification of steel, iron, and wooden vessels; rules for the construction and survey of steam machinery and boilers for vessels; provisions for the installation of electric lighting power apparatus on shipboard, and much other valuable information of special importance to underwriters and all firms or persons interested in shipping.

The Kansas State Board of Agriculture has just issued its annual report, which is devoted largely to the interests of those who breed live stock. The volume is profusely illustrated and contains a great deal of information on a subject that should interest the commercial world. In some quarters it is becoming fashionable to deery the horse and yet in this comparatively new Western State, that animal is being bred at a profit. In fact, horses are worth more to-day than for many years past, the foreign demand being really beyond the supply.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a report on the Republic of Nicaragua, written in the French language, by Mr. HENRY JALHAY, the distinguished Consul of the Republic of Honduras at Brussels, to whom it is already indebted for much useful and interesting information which has appeared at different times in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. This report, which treats of the history, geography, and statistics of the Republic, abounds in useful and valuable data concerning Nicaragua, which is presented in a very interesting and readable form.

The following are among the newspapers and periodicals recently making their initial appearance in Latin-America:

On January 1, a new daily newspaper made its appearance in Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, under the name of "El Pais."

"El Comercio" is the name of a new journal which DON I. RIVERA has commenced to publish in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The city of Mazatenango, Mexico, has a new monthly publication called "El Mensajero."

"El Cometa" is the title of a new paper published in Santa Ana, Salvador.

"La Estrella de Panamá" (The Panama Star) states that M. JULES MOREAU has just demonstrated in a clear and evident manner that the

name of America was that applied by the natives to the mountains in Nicaragua. COLUMBUS found the word in use and employed it in the last report he sent the King Don FERNANDO DE ARAGÓN. Later, when the Spanish discoveries were noised throughout Europe, a bookseller, who imagined that the word America came from the baptismal name of AMERICO VESPUCCIO, accredited this origin, which has come down to our days.

The Philadelphia Commercial Museum published on May 26, 1899, a scientific bulletin entitled "Contributions to the Herpetology of New Granada and Argentina with Descriptions of New Forms," by EDWARD D. COPE. It is a posthumous paper edited by J. PERCY MOORE. The collection which furnished the basis of the investigation was made in Colombia near Bogotá for the World's Exposition at Chicago, where it was exhibited in the Department of New Granada.

The Government of Nicaragua has accepted the work of Dr. BELISARIO PORRAS (Geografía de Nicaragua) to which reference was made in the December Bulletin, page 817, as authority concerning the geography of the Republic. A premium of \$500 has been awarded the author and 4,000 copies of his book have been ordered printed in Europe, of which 1,000 copies will be tendered Dr. PORRAS.

The order of the ten leading universities of the United States, according to student population, as registered November 1, 1899, and tabulated in the "Harvard Graduates' Magazine," is: Harvard, 5,250; Michigan, 3,346; Pennsylvania, 3,346; Columbia, 3,083; Yale, 2,688; Cornell, 2,645; Wisconsin, 2,025; Chicago, 1,680; Princeton, 1,194, and Johns Hopkins, 632.

Mr. WALTER WELLMAN contributes an illustrated article on his recent polar journey to the December number of the "National Geographic Magazine." HENRY GANNETT describes the HARRIMAN Alaska expedition. A good map of the seat of war in South Africa accompanies this number.

An article by Mr. N. P. CHAPMAN on "Territorial Expansion" appears in the December number of the "Overland Monthly." Other articles of timely interest are "The Artist in Monterey," by H. L. A. CULMER, and "The Naval Training Station at San Francisco," by Lieutenant ANDREWS, U. S. N.

"The History of Trade between the United Kingdom and the United States," by Mr. SYDNEY J. CHAPMAN, of London, is an instructive and interesting book imported by the SCRIBNERS. It is written with special reference to the effects of tariffs on the trade between the two countries.

The publishing house of BALLESCA & Co. has just placed on sale a new publication entitled, "Mexico and its Social Evolution," the collaboration of several people. In this work, the evolution of Mexico is studied in all its forms and by authors well acquainted with the subject, thus, for instance, the part relating to the development of the army is written by General BERNARDO REYES. The book is profusely illustrated, and is destined to figure prominently among those written about this country.

Messrs. PAGE & Co., of Boston, have published a work by Mr. JAMES RODWAY, entitled "In Guiana Wilds." His adventures in this little-known part of the world afford the author a capital vehicle for the introduction of many interesting facts about the Guianas. He has had an intimate personal knowledge of the weird customs of the native races there. The work is of ethnological value.

The "Board of Trade Journal," of Great Britain, now in its fourteenth year, will hereafter be issued weekly instead of monthly as heretofore. For the present the price will be 1 penny per number, the price of the monthly issue was a sixpence. The first number of the weekly edition appeared on January 4, 1900.

For the purpose of interesting foreign capitalists in the natural resources of Bolivia, the publication of a new periodical, "La Revista Económica y Financiera," was begun in October, 1899. This appears to be a very promising and useful newspaper, published in the Spanish language.

Mr. W. ANDERSON SMITH, formerly a special commissioner of Great Britain to the Chilean Government to report on the rivers of that country, has written a work entitled, "Temperate Chile; a Progressive Spain." Messrs. A. C. BLACK & Co. are the publishers.

"Harper's Weekly" for December 9, 1899, contains a page illustration showing the model warships of the United States Navy which will be exhibited at the Paris Exposition. There are twenty-five of these models, including the best of every type of vessel now in active use in the Navy.

An illustrated work by Mr. MATIAS ZURBRIGGEN appeared in London, England, during the closing days of 1899. The book bears the title of "From the Alps to the Andes," and is a comparison as well as a contrast between the two great mountain ranges.

Senhor VALENTIN MAGALHAES is preparing for a publishing house in Paris a collection of poems. This book is to be the first volume of a series of Portuguese works specially prepared for circulation in Brazil.

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Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the official and periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics:

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- Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
- Argentinisches Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
- Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Boletín de Agricultura, Minería é Industrias. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín Postal de la Administración General de Correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima. Lima, Peru.
- Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
- Boletín Demográfico Argentino. Buenos Ayres. Monthly.
- Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín Telegráfico. City of Mexico, Mexico.
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BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VIII.

ENERO, 1900.

No. 1.

EXPORTACIONES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS Á EUROPA.

Después de los prósperos años de 1897 y 1898, el progreso de los Estados Unidos continuó desarrollándose en mayores proporciones en 1899.

Tres clases de industrias son las que quizá dan mejor idea de la prosperidad nacional, á saber: la de hierro y acero, la de lencería y la de joyas. Á juzgar por lo que ellas fueron en 1899, jamás había este país alcanzado como en ese año progresos tan notables.

Hace pocos años los Estados Unidos no podían proveer á sus mismas necesidades en cuanto á artículos manufacturados, y las exportaciones de éstos eran insignificantes, comparativamente hablando. El notable aumento que se ha verificado en la exportación de manufacturas americanas á otros países, especialmente los de Europa, es motivo suficiente para que el BOLETÍN MENSUAL llame la atención de las repúblicas que forman parte de la Unión Internacional á los recursos de los Estados Unidos y al hecho de que los productos de sus fábricas han invadido los mercados europeos. Las exportaciones totales de los Estados Unidos durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, tuvieron un valor de \$1,204,123,134, de cuya cantidad los artículos manufacturados representaron \$338,667,794. Lo que se exportó á Europa fué valorado en \$936,781,169. El valor total de las manufacturas exportadas desde el principio de 1889 hasta fines de 1898 aumentó durante la década 110 por ciento, y es éste el único país donde se ha visto un desarrollo semejante.

La exportación de manufacturas en 1899 fué como tres veces mayor que en 1879. Los metales, principalmente el hierro y el acero, han

ocupado el primer lugar en la exportación. En 1880 la exportación de estos artículos representó un valor de \$14,716,524, y en 1899 de \$93,715,951. Por otra parte las importaciones de efectos de hierro y acero fueron en 1880 por valor de \$71,266,699, mientras que en 1899 solamente ascendieron á \$12,098,239. El valor de los rieles exportados en 1889 fué de \$235,387, y en 1899 se elevó á \$5,298,125. La exportación de instrumentos agrícolas en 1899 fué por valor de \$12,432,197, de cuya cantidad Europa tomó \$7,442,654. La exportación de ferretería para constructores, sierras y herramientas fué en 1889 por valor de \$1,700,390, y en 1899 subió á \$7,842,372. De esta cantidad los países europeos tomaron \$3,747,974. El valor total de las máquinas de coser exportadas en 1889 fué de \$2,247,875, y de esta cantidad los países europeos tomaron por valor de \$1,179,705. La exportación de este mismo artículo en 1899 ascendió á \$3,264,344, de cuya suma Europa pagó \$1,908,732.

El valor de las máquinas de escribir enviadas al extranjero en 1899 fué de \$2,449,205, y el de las bicicletas de \$5,753,880. Estas dos industrias se han desarrollado de una manera fenomenal durante los últimos diez años. La exportación de bicicletas en 1899 excedió en valor á la de carros de ferrocarril y carruajes. El aumento en la exportación de instrumentos y aparatos científicos en 1899 fué considerable, pues representó un valor de \$4,399,180, mientras que hasta el año de 1899 dicha exportación jamás había ascendido á \$1,000,000. De la cantidad exportada en el año pasado Europa tomó \$2,090,620.

La exportación de artículos de cobre aumentó mucho en 1899, pues subió á \$34,476,343, habiendo tomado de esta cantidad los países europeos \$34,269,822.

La exportación de relojes de pared, de mesa y de bolsillo también ha venido aumentado gradualmente, y fué en 1899 por valor de \$1,863,431.

Es muy satisfactorio el aumento en la exportación de géneros de algodón. En 1889 se exportaron 118,453,191 yardas; en 1898 la cantidad fué de 270,507,811 yardas, y en 1899 subió á 412,004,055 yardas, con un valor estas últimas de \$18,969,897. De esta suma la Gran Bretaña tomó por valor de \$628,445 y los otros países europeos por valor de \$931,448, ó sea un total de \$1,559,893. La China tomó más de la mitad de los géneros de algodón que se exportaron en 1899.

La exportación de suela en 1899 ascendió á 37,120,912 libras, valoradas en \$6,280,904. El valor de todos los otros artículos de cuero exportados fué de \$13,444,569, y de esta cantidad Europa tomó \$12,195,045.

El calzado de los Estados Unidos goza de buena reputación en todas partes del mundo. La exportación de este artículo en 1889 tuvo un valor de \$585,902, y en 1899 de \$2,711,385. La cantidad que fué á Europa el año pasado representó un valor de \$703,965.

La exportación de muebles en 1899 fué por valor de \$3,571,375, de cuya cantidad la Europa tomó \$1,563,526.

La exportación de pertrechos navales en 1899 fué por valor de \$9,982,955, y de esta suma los países europeos tomaron \$8,597,253.

La exportación de productos químicos de los Estados Unidos ascendió en 1899 á \$10,995,289.

Casi las dos terceras partes del aceite para alumbrado que se exportó en 1899 fueron á Europa. La cantidad total exportada fué de 805,956,345 galones. El valor de este aceite por galón fué mucho menor que lo era hace diez años, pero el valor total de la exportación, que en 1889 fué de \$39,286,333, ascendió en 1899 á \$50,200,518. La exportación de parafina ha aumentado notablemente durante los últimos diez años. La cantidad exportada en 1899, que casi toda fué á Europa, representó un valor de \$6,804,684. En 1889 fué solamente por valor de \$2,029,602.

LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS—REVISTA DEL AÑO DE 1899.

Fenomenal ha sido el progreso de los Estados Unidos durante 1899. Su comercio exterior se desarrolló de una manera prodigiosa, é increíble parece que las exportaciones en dicho año excedieron en más de un billón de *dollars* á las importaciones y exportaciones combinadas en 1870. La importación por cabeza fué 20 por ciento menos que en 1870, mientras que la exportación fué 58 por ciento más que en aquel año. La exportación de productos agrícolas ascendió á la enorme suma de \$784,776,142, y la de artículos manufacturados se elevó á \$339,592,146.

La condición del erario es altamente satisfactoria, pues, según los datos suministrados en su informe por el Secretario de Hacienda, habrá en el presente año económico un superávit de \$40,000,600. En su último mensaje al Congreso de los Estados Unidos, el Señor Presidente MCKINLEY, al referirse á la situación económica de la nación, se expresa así:

“El estado satisfactorio de la Tesorería se demuestra con el hecho de que el 1° de diciembre de 1899 el balance en caja disponible era de \$278,004,837.72, de los cuales \$239,744,905.36 estaban en oro acuñado y en barras. La confianza que reina por todo el país ha hecho más general el uso del oro, y los derechos de aduana se pagan ahora casi exclusivamente en ese metal.”

Rara vez se han realizado como en 1899 las predicciones y esperanzas relativas á la prosperidad y engrandecimiento de la nación. Ésta es la conclusión á que necesariamente se llega cuando se examina la inmensidad del tráfico y de los negocios en general durante los doce meses que acaban de pasar. La elevación en el precio de los principales productos, así como en toda clase de valores, ha sido tan enorme que difícilmente se pudo haber previsto. Otro hecho notabilísimo es el aumento en los salarios que se pagan á los trabajadores en las fábricas, al mismo

tiempo que, al terminarse el año anterior, los manufactureros de todo el país se encontraban con pedidos que alcanzan hasta seis meses en lo futuro. Si se toman como muestra del inmenso tráfico de los Estados Unidos durante 1899 las liquidaciones de los bancos, se verá que arrojan la portentosa suma de \$93,300,000,000, ó sea un aumento de 36 por ciento sobre el año de 1898.

En vista de la prosperidad general durante el año de 1899, se comprende que las quiebras hayan sido mucho menores que en otros años, y, según la acreditada revista económica y mercantil "Bradstreet," alcanzaron á cosa de 9,550 solamente, que es un total 17 por ciento menor que el del año de 1898.

El tráfico entre los Estados Unidos y las repúblicas latino-americanas aumento notablemente en 1899, y aunque todavía no ha alcanzado el grado de desarrollo á que está destinado, es evidente que su tendencia es á aumentar más y más cada día. Numerosos artefactos de fabricación americana que antes eran casi desconocidos en los mercados de la América Central y del Sur, rivalizan ahora ventajosamente con los productos europeos de la misma clase. Dignos de mencionarse, entre otros, son los efectos de cuero, que antes se importaban en aquellos países casi exclusivamente de Europa, y que hoy van en gran parte de los Estados Unidos. El calzado americano goza de gran reputación en la América latina, y en varias partes ha desalojado por completo al francés, que por muchos años ocupó el primer lugar.

El desarrollo á que ha llegado esta industria en los Estados Unidos se debe á que este artículo se fabrica aquí con más perfección que en otros países y á los mismos precios. Hoy por hoy los Estados Unidos no importan calzado de ninguna parte, y en cambio lo exportan á la Gran Bretaña, Francia, Alemania, el Canadá, la América Central y del Sur, Australia y otros lugares. Según los datos suministrados por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda, la exportación de calzado en los diez meses que terminaron en abril del año próximo pasado subió á \$2,049,047. En el mismo período del año anterior había sido solamente por valor de \$1,439,512.

La exportación de toda clase de maquinaria de los Estados Unidos á los países que quedan al sur hizo grandes progresos en el año pasado, y ya se reconoce por doquiera el hecho de que las máquinas que se fabrican en los Estados Unidos para toda clase de industrias son, bajo todos conceptos, las mejores del mundo.

Los géneros de algodón americanos han sido conocidos por muchos años en todos los mercados de este continente, y la exportación de esos artículos tuvo considerable incremento en 1899. No existe razon alguna para que no tomen el lugar de los europeos, siendo, como son, superiores á éstos en todo sentido. La industria de seda se desarrolló considerablemente durante el año anterior. En enero de 1899 había fábricas de telas de seda en 28 de los Estados de la Unión, y el número total de aquellas era de 861.

En 1899 los Estados Unidos celebraron tratados de reciprocidad comercial con la Gran Bretaña, en representación de varias de sus colonias en el mar Caribe, con la República Argentina, con Francia y con Nicaragua.

Uno de los mayores obstáculos que hasta últimamente se han presentado al crecimiento del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y los países latino-americanos, ha sido la falta de comunicaciones marítimas, y al referirse á este punto, el Señor Presidente MCKINLEY dice, en su ya citado mensaje, lo que sigue:

“La importancia de nuestra marina mercante, como un medio de dar incremento á nuestro tráfico y de fortalecer nuestra condición de potencia marítima, debe llamar la inmediata atención del Congreso. Nuestro desarrollo nacional no será enteramente satisfactorio mientras nuestras industrias no se vean acompañadas de un progreso equivalente en nuestra tráfico marítimo.”

Todo el mundo comprende ya la necesidad de establecer mejores comunicaciones por vapor entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina. Como un ejemplo, puede mencionarse la reunión del Club de Manufactureros de Filadelfia, que se verificó el 15 de noviembre próximo pasado, con el fin de tratar del establecimiento de una línea de vapores entre aquel puerto y Río Janeiro. El Capitán CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, Representante del Brasil en el Congreso Comercial Internacional, pronunció un discurso en favor del proyecto, y, entre otras cosas, dijo lo siguiente: “vuestra exportación no es menos importante que vuestra importación, y no habéis fomentado aquella en vuestros negocios con el Brasil, aunque sólo se necesita echar una ojeada para comprender que grandes cantidades de vuestros productos podrían ser enviadas al Brasil si hubiera embarcaciones para conducir las y existiera un sistema mejor de cambio internacional. El Brasil puede consumir grandes cantidades de vuestros productos, y entre ellos mencionaré la harina, los aceites minerales, el hierro, el acero, el carbón, los artículos de lencería, maquinaria y artefactos en general.”

El desarrollo en las construcciones navales en el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, según se ve por el informe del Comisionado de la Navegación, fué verdaderamente extraordinario. En la fecha mencionada se estaban construyendo en los astilleros de los Estados Unidos, tanto para este país como para naciones extranjeras, más de 50 buques de guerra valorados en algo más de \$40,000,000, sin contar blindaje y armamento. En cuanto á los barcos mercantes había en construcción más de 200, cuyo valor en conjunto pasa de \$30,000,000. Entre los buques mercantes cuya construcción fué resuelta en 1899, figuran tres de los mayores del mundo, y son los siguientes: el vapor *California* para la compañía de navegación conocida con el nombre de “American-Hawaiian,” que medirá 450 pies de eslora, 51 pies de manga y 12,000 toneladas de desplazamiento. Los otros dos van á formar parte de la flota de la “Pacific Mail Steamship Company,” y tendrán 18,500 toneladas de desplazamiento.

Los intereses ferrocarrileros de los Estados Unidos se mantuvieron en 1899 á la altura del progreso general de la naci3n. Desde 1890 no se haba visto una actividad igual en materia de vfas férreas, pues la construcci3n de éstas fué 50 por ciento mayor que en 1898, en cuyo año los ferrocarriles enbrian 186,396.32 millas, ó sea una extensi3n mucho mayor que la que tienen todas las vfas férreas combiuadas de Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania y Rusia. Ninguna naci3n del mundo ha adelantado tauto como los Estados Unidos en lo relativo á la construcci3n de locomotoras, rieles y material de ferrocarril en general. En el año pasado se exportaron artículos de esta clase en cantidades considerables á muchos países, incluyendo Inglaterra y sus colonias. Nada puede haber de más significativo que el hecho de haberse pedido 60 locomotoras americanas para dos de los primeros ferrocarriles ingleses, el "Midland" y el "Great Western."

En manufacturas de hierro y acero los Estados Unidos marchan al frente de las otras naciones, y hoy se exportan á todos los países del mundo los productos de las fundiciones americanas.

En todo lo concerniente á la electricidad este país avanzó muchísimo en 1899, y su exportaci3n de efectos eléctricos aumentó de una manera sorprendente.

En ningún país se desarrolló en el año pasado la producci3n de carb3n de piedra como en los Estados Unidos, y no es de dudar que antes de mucho tiempo dejarán atrás á Inglaterra, que ha sido y continúa siendo la primera naci3n productora de este importante artículo de comercio. Se ha calculado que la producci3n de dicho combustible en la Gran Bretaña ascendió en 1899 á cosa de 220,000,000 de toneladas, y en los Estados Unidos como á 208,000,000.

La producci3n de oro y plata en los Estados Unidos el año pasado fué notable. El primero de los dos metales representó un valor de \$70,694,170, y el segundo de \$74,424,784. En cuanto al cobre, la cantidad producida durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, ascendió, según datos obtenidos por el periódico "New York Metal Exchange," á 278,850,880 libras.

La exposici3n de productos y manufacturas adaptables á la exportaci3n, que se verificó en la ciudad de Filadelfia del 14 de setiembre al 1º de diciembre de 1899, fué sumamente interesante, y con raz3n se cree que contribuirá á desarrollar el tráfico entre los Estados Unidos y las repúblicas hermanas del continente. Al mismo tiempo que la exposici3n se celebró la reuni3n de un Congreso Comercial Internacional, cuyo objeto fué promover el comercio internacional. Gran interés manifestaron todas las naciones de América en dicho Congreso, y no es de dudar que dará los resultados más satisfactorios y que corresponderá á las esperanzas de sus promotores.

El desarrollo industrial de la naci3n durante el año pasado ha corrido parejas con el progreso agrícola. El Departamento de Agricultura ha venido extendiendo su esfera de acci3n más y más cada día, y en 1899

se introdujeron innovaciones en que antes no se había pensado. Se espera que pronto se podrán cultivar en las nuevas posesiones insulares de la república numerosas plantas tropicales, entre otras las que producen la goma elástica. Con la adquisición de las Filipinas y Puerto Rico es evidente que los Estados Unidos verán de hoy en adelante producirse dentro de sus límites jurisdiccionales muchos de los artículos que hasta hoy han tenido que importar de los países situados en la zona tórrida.

La inmigración en los Estados Unidos durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fué mayor que en cualquiera de los años anteriores, contando desde 1896, pues llegaron al país, según datos oficiales, 311,715 inmigrantes.

El primer año de la dominación de los Estados Unidos en las islas de Hawái fué muy próspero, según se ve por la comparación de los ingresos y egresos del Gobierno, así como por lo que produjeron las aduanas durante los últimos seis meses del año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899.

Un acontecimiento tristísimo vino á conmover á la nación al terminar el año de 1899, la muerte del Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos, Mr. GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART. Hombre de espíritu levantado, de verdadero patriotismo y de gran experiencia en los negocios públicos, desempeñó el alto cargo á que fué llamado por sus conciudadanos con dignidad, inteligencia y tacto. Como Presidente del Senado supo ganarse el respeto y aprecio de todos los miembros de aquel alto cuerpo, sin distinción de colores políticos. La muerte de este eminente hombre de estado causó profunda impresión de un extremo á otro del país, como lo expresa el Presidente MCKINLEY en la proclama que con ese motivo dirigió al pueblo de los Estados Unidos.

El año de 1899 ha presenciado la gran expansión territorial de la república, en cuyos dominios, como en el imperio español del siglo XVI, nunca se pone el sol. Al amparo de su bandera se dan los productos de todas las zonas, y cerca de cien millones de seres humanos viven bajo la protección de sus leyes. Nada ofrece la antigua ó la moderna historia que pueda compararse al maravilloso desarrollo de los Estados Unidos, que hace cien años eran apenas una potencia de tercer orden y que son hoy una de las más ricas, prósperas y poderosas naciones del globo. Lo que serán al terminar el siglo que comienza no alcanza la imaginación á concebirlo. Bien se comprende que el primer Magistrado de la república haya puesto fin á su mensaje con estas palabras:

“Nunca, como en el último año, había tenido esta nación tantos motivos de gratitud hacia la Providencia por las numerosas mercedes y favores que le ha acordado, y ante los cuales nos inclinamos reverentes.”

EL DR. DON MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU.

En la última reunión de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, el acta de la cual fué publicada en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL de diciembre, el Dr. Don MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de la República Argentina, se despidió de sus colegas y manifestó que partiría para su patria casi inmediatamente. El Señor MÉROU había representado á su país en Washington desde el 26 de junio de 1896, fecha en que fué recibido por el Presidente CLEVELAND, y mostró ser tan hábil diplomático como cumplido caballero. Su regreso á la República Argentina es con el objeto de aceptar, á solicitud del Presidente ROCA, el puesto de Ministro de Agricultura, que ya una vez había rehusado.

Aunque es todavía joven, pues tiene apenas 39 años de edad, el Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU ha hecho una brillante carrera política. Entró al servicio diplomático de su país en 1880, y en 1881 fué nombrado segundo secretario del Dr. MIGUEL CANE, que fue enviado con una misión especial ante el congreso que se reunió en Panamá. Á continuación fué secretario de las legaciones argentinas en Colombia y en Venezuela. En 1883 fué nombrado secretario de la legación en Madrid, y en 1885 fué trasladado á la de París. En 1886 dejó este último puesto y regresó á la República Argentina, donde se dedicó al periodismo como profesión. Poco después de su regreso fué nombrado secretario privado del Presidente ROCA, y al terminar la administración de este último en 1888, el Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU volvió á entrar al servicio diplomático y fué enviado al Paraguay con el carácter de ministro residente. En aquella época tenía solo 26 años de edad, y es de notar el hecho de que era la persona más joven nombrada por su Gobierno para desempeñar un cargo de tanta responsabilidad.

En 1891 fué trasladado al Perú como ministro plenipotenciario. Á su llegada á Lima fué recibido con entusiasmo por los estudiantes de la Universidad y nombrado Miembro Honorario del Ateneo. El discurso que pronunció en aquella ocasión llamó la atención en todas las capitales de la América del Sur. En 1894 fué trasladado al Brasil, donde se distinguió mucho. Sus esfuerzos para desarrollar el comercio entre este último país y la República Argentina fueron coronados de gran éxito, y antes de su partida de Río Janeiro gozaba de gran reputación como hombre íntegro y enérgico, habiendo sido objeto de muchos elogios por parte de la prensa. Cuando su sucesor fué recibido, el Presidente del Brasil habló en altos términos del Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU. El Instituto Histórico y Geográfico del Brasil, fundado en 1832, nombró miembro honorario al Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU. Este Instituto es uno de los más notables centros intelectuales de la América del Sur, y solamente otros dos ciudadanos, ambos ex-Presidentes de la República Argentina, han recibido tan señalada distinción.

El Ministerio de Agricultura ha sido creado últimamente en la República Argentina, y se dice que esto se debe á indicaciones del Honorable WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, ex-Ministro de los Estados Unidos en aquel país. Mr. BUCHANAN conocía por experiencia la importancia de un departamento de esta clase. El Dr. FREIRE, que fué el primero que desempeñó el cargo de Ministro de Agricultura en la República Argentina, hizo mucho para justificar la creación de dicho ministerio. La elección del Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU para ese puesto parece indicar que el Presidente ROCA desea extender la esfera de acción de ese departamento.

EL FERROCARRIL DE LAS TRES AMÉRICAS.

Uno de los artículos más interesantes publicados en la revista titulada "Conservative Magazine," en el número correspondiente al mes de noviembre de 1899, es el que lleva este lema: "El Ferrocarril de las Tres Américas," obra de Mr. FREDERIC EMORY, ex-Director de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas. Mr. EMORY ha dedicado mucha atención al estudio de asuntos comerciales de carácter internacional, en su calidad de Jefe de la Oficina de Comercio Exterior del Departamento de Estado. Mr. EMORY trata el asunto desde su origen y, entre otras cosas, dice lo siguiente:

"Nadie puede poner en duda el sincero interés que los Estados Unidos tienen en el mantenimiento de la paz y en la prosperidad de los países del Sur. Ésta no es solamente una cuestión de sentimiento, debida al hecho de que aquellos países, como el nuestro y siguiendo nuestro ejemplo, se revelaron contra el dominio despótico de un poder europeo y adoptaron una forma de gobierno parecida á la nuestra, sino que tiene un fundamento práctico en la circunstancia de que las repúblicas latino-americanas presentan vasto campo á la inversión de capitales de los Estados Unidos.

"La condición de nuestras relaciones comerciales con los países de la América latina es el medio más adecuado para apreciar hasta dónde dichos países darían su apoyo á una gran empresa internacional que necesitase la cooperación de todos.

* * * * *

"El gran obstáculo al progreso de casi todos los países latino-americanos es la falta de buenas comunicaciones entre ellos.

* * * * *

"Desde el punto de vista industrial no debemos temer la rivalidad de ningún país en la lucha para dominar en lo futuro los mercados de la América latina.

* * * * *

"Nuestro interés en el ferrocarril de las tres Américas, si no es tan directo é inmediato como sostiene algunos de los entusiastas amigos del proyecto, tampoco es tan remoto como pretenden sus opositores.

* * * * *

“Si la construcción del ferrocarril fuera acompañada del establecimiento de buenas líneas de navegación á vapor entre los Estados Unidos y los países latino-americanos, es muy probable que, mediante tratados favorables de reciprocidad, se establecería un tráfico activo con toda la América latina.

* * * * *

“La actitud de los pueblos latino americanos hacia nosotros es naturalmente un factor de primera importancia en la solución del problema.

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“Me atrevo á expresar la opinión de que entre los hombres inteligentes de la América latina no existe más que un sentimiento hacia nosotros, el de amistad sincera.

* * * * *

“Algunos quizá abrigan temores más ó menos vagos relativos á la influencia que podríamos ejercer en sus negocios políticos, y es de sentir que dichos temores encuentren alguna justificación en cierto aire de protección que asumen á veces nuestros mal informados periodistas y oradores.”

Notable es el trabajo de Mr. EMORY, y merece ser considerado como uno de los más importantes que sobre asuntos internacionales se han publicado últimamente en los Estados Unidos.

DIAGRAMAS EN QUE SE MUESTRA EL MOVIMIENTO COMERCIAL DE LA AMÉRICA.

Los diagramas que se publican en este número del BOLETÍN MENSUAL muestran el desarrollo del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y México, la América Central y del Sur y las Antillas, y en ellos se expone año por año, durante la década, el movimiento de los principales artículos introducidos en el tráfico entre la América del Norte y la del Sur, permitiendo al mismo tiempo que se observe de un golpe de vista la marcha ascendente y descendente de dicho comercio. Estos diagramas fueron preparados por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda, y reconocen por base las tablas compiladas con datos tomados de una obra que lleva por título “El Comercio Americano,” y que fué publicada en junio de 1899 por la misma Oficina, con el objeto de distribuirla entre el público. El referido volumen contiene detalles minuciosos sobre el comercio de cada uno de los países de la América del Sur y Central, de México y de las Antillas, durante un número de años, así como sobre el tráfico entre los referidos países y los Estados Unidos desde los primeros años del siglo, siendo, por tanto, una colección de informes útiles para las personas interesadas en esta clase de asuntos.

EL CULTIVO DEL ARROZ EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado un interesante é instructivo opúsculo con este título: "The Present Status of Rice Culture in the United States" (Estado Actual del Cultivo del Arroz en los Estados Unidos). El trabajo fué preparado por el Dr. S. A. KNAPP, á quien el Secretario de Agricultura comisionó en 1898 para que visitara el Japón, examinara las clases de dicho grano que en aquel país se producen y comprara una cantidad de la que se adaptase mejor á las condiciones y necesidades de los Estados Unidos.

En la introducción de su informe el Dr. KNAPP dice que el arroz es el principal artículo de alimentación para la mitad de los habitantes de la tierra. Los países que lo consumen en mayor escala son la China, las colonias inglesas en Asia y el Japón. El cultivo del arroz es de la más remota antigüedad y su historia se pierde en la noche de los tiempos. Las diferentes clases de arroz que se conocen son muy numerosas y se distinguen unas de otras no solamente en cuanto al tamaño, la figura y el color del grano, sino también en cuanto á la proporción de substancias nutritivas que contienen.

Según el Dr. KNAPP, ya en 1647 se cultivaba el arroz en el Estado de Virginia. La producción está limitada actualmente á los Estados del Sur hacia el Atlántico y á los del Golfo. En 1896 Louisiana produjo 127,600,000 libras de arroz; la Carolina del Norte y la Carolina del Sur 27,901,440, y Georgia 10,464,000. La producción de arroz en los Estados Unidos es menor que el consumo. Desde 1892 hasta 1896, inclusive, se produjeron 398,563,900 libras, y durante ese período se importaron 794,563,900. Asegura el Dr. KNAPP que el arroz ha menester de un clima húmedo para su perfecto desarrollo y que las mejores tierras son aquéllas que se pueden desaguar durante la cosecha á fin de emplear, al recoger ésta, la maquinaria más moderna. Se calcula que en los cinco Estados que quedan sobre el Golfo hay una extensión de 10,000,000 de acres muy adaptables al cultivo del arroz. La que se podría regar, valiéndose de los métodos actualmente en uso, cubre unos 3,000,000 de acres.

Opina el Dr. KNAPP que el consumo de arroz y sus productos va en aumento en los Estados Unidos, y que este país podría producir una cantidad casi seis veces mayor que la que consume. Á su juicio, el cultivo del arroz en los Estados Unidos promete mucho para lo futuro, y no encuentra razón para que este país no llegue un día á exportar cantidades de dicho grano. Dedicó una parte considerable de su opúsculo á los métodos de cultivo que se emplean, á las variedades de arroz que se producen, á los terrenos que mejor se adaptan á ese cultivo, á los obstáculos que éste suele presentar, al sistema de riego y de drenaje y á otros puntos importantes relacionados con esta industria.

Al hablar de la cosecha, dice el Dr. KNAPP que tan luego está lista se debe proceder a su recolección sin pérdida de tiempo, y da una descripción minuciosa de la manera de descascarar y preparar el grano. Al tratar del arroz como artículo de alimentación, el Dr. KNAPP dice que es nutritivo y digerible, y que en los países que lo producen se usa en vez de patatas y de pan. El Dr. KNAPP habla también de los productos del arroz, y recomienda la caña para forraje. Termina su interesante informe con una relación algo extensa acerca del cultivo del arroz en las islas de Hawái, las Filipinas, el Japón, la India, la China y otros países. Su trabajo prueba que ha hecho un estudio profundo de la cuestión, y debería ser leído por cuantos se interesan en el cultivo de este valioso grano.

FABRICACIÓN DE GUANTES EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Francia, que siempre había sido considerada como el centro de la industria de guantes, ha descubierto, según se dice en un artículo publicado en el "Bulletin Mensuel de la Chambre de Commerce Française de New York," que cuenta con un rival formidable en los Estados Unidos.

La fabricación de guantes continúa haciendo grandes progresos en este país, y en la actualidad las fábricas no pueden llenar los pedidos que reciben. Solamente han podido satisfacer el 80 por ciento de los que debían haber sido entregados en julio, agosto y septiembre, y todavía están trabajando para llenarlos. Parece que hacen falta mujeres en las fábricas, principalmente ribeteadoras con máquina.

Entre las varias clases de guantes que se hacen en los Estados Unidos, la que tiene más demanda por ahora es la conocida con el nombre de "mocha." Los americanos tienen un secreto para la preparación de estas pieles que hasta hoy los europeos no han podido descubrir. Estos últimos no poseen un artículo tan delgado, suave y flexible. Muchos fabricantes ingleses y franceses compran dichas pieles, ya preparadas y coloradas, en los mercados de América, y éstas vuelven transformadas en guantes elegantemente acabados. En cuanto á esto último, dice el artículo en referencia, los franceses tienen todavía la superioridad sobre los americanos.

El precio de la piel de "mocha" sin curtir es más elevado en este momento que jamás lo había sido. Estas pieles se venden inmediatamente al precio de 74 y 75 centavos cada una, lo cual es un aumento de 100 por ciento sobre los precios de 1898, que variaron de 34 á 40 centavos. Ya se han hecho numerosos pedidos de guantes de "mocha" para el otoño de 1900. Es probable que la alza en el precio continúe, y no nos sorprendería que pronto estas pieles se estuviesen vendiendo á 90 centavos y hasta 1 *dollar* cada una, cosa que jamás se había visto.

Es preciso decir que la producción de "mocha" se limita á un millon de pieles aproximadamente, y que, á pesar de la creciente demanda, es casi imposible aumentar aquélla. Por otra parte, los franceses, ingleses y alemanes, que desde hace dos años están haciendo ensayos con este artículo, toman una cuarta parte de la producción que antes era destinada exclusivamente a los Estados Unidos.

Se observa que desde hace algún tiempo se están usando otra vez los guantes de piel de Suecia, y los informes obtenidos de todos los principales importadores confirman el hecho de que la demanda se hace general, demanda que era muy insignificante hace tres ó cuatro años. Esto puede explicarse por la escasez de la piel de "mocha," pues la de Suecia es la que se le parece más.

LA CONQUISTA DEL MUNDO POR LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

ESPLÉNDIDOS TRIUNFOS COMERCIALES DE UN PUEBLO LIBRE Y PROGRESIVO.

[Del "St. Louis Globe-Democrat."]

La "conquista del mundo por los Estados Unidos," sobre la cual un publicista francés bien conocido ha escrito últimamente en un periódico de París, parece ser un asunto del más vivo interés en Europa á la hora presente. Hace poco más de un año que el Conde GOLUCHOWSKI, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Austria, dió en Europa la voz de alarma contra la introducción en aquellos mercados de productos americanos. En opinión de aquel estadista, las naciones del Viejo Mundo deben formar una alianza comercial contra los Estados Unidos, si quieren conservar algunos mercados extranjeros para su exceso de producción. Los Estados Unidos, dijo en substancia, están invadiendo todos los países que hasta hoy se habían considerado, comercialmente hablando, tributarios de Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania, Austria y el resto de Europa, y la situación exige activa é inmediata atención por parte de los estadistas del Viejo Mundo. Las palabras del Conde GOLUCHOWSKI fueron reproducidas por la prensa de Francia, Alemania, Rusia y otros países europeos, lo cual prueba que aquel hombre de estado tocó uno de los asuntos palpitantes del día.

Al escritor francés, sin embargo, le parece aun más grande é inminente el peligro de la competencia americana que al estadista austriaco. No solamente están los Estados Unidos tomando posesión de los mejores mercados de Asia y la América del Sur, que hasta ahora habían sido dominados por Europa, sino que están invadiendo á las naciones europeas mismas. El enemigo se encuentra ya á sus puertas. He aquí como se expresa el publicista francés: "en menos de diez y ocho

años las exportaciones de los Estados Unidos se han triplicado. Ya no se trata de una conquista napoleónica del mundo por medio de las armas, sino de una conquista de los Yankees por medio del trabajo. Los Estados Unidos pueden arrumar á la Europa comercialmente de una manera tan eficaz como podrían hacerlo por medio de las armas. Á continuación agrega: "Los Estados Unidos están ocasionando una revolución en el equilibrio económico del mundo, revolución que comenzó en el oriente á vista y paciencia de la Gran Bretaña, con la introducción á los mercados de China y del Japón de géneros de algodón americanos, de efectos de cuero, herramientas y motores eléctricos de los Estados Unidos." Largo sería enumerar todos los artículos americanos que están tomando el lugar de los europeos en Asia y aun en los países de Europa. Si tal cosa se hiciera, equivaldría á mencionar los principales productos de los Estados Unidos.

Pero lo que naturalmente uno se pregunta es esto: ¿cómo puede impedir Europa la conquista comercial del mundo por los Estados Unidos? Este país no solamente posee más capital que cualquiera de los europeos, sino también más inteligencia para los negocios y mayores recursos. Si continúan existiendo las condiciones mediante las cuales los Estados Unidos han obtenido uno de los puestos más prominentes en los mercados neutrales del Viejo Mundo y se han sobrepujado á los obstáculos que les ofrecían aranceles de aduanas hostiles á sus intereses, introduciendo sus productos en las principales plazas europeas, esta ventajosa posición no solamente se conservará, sino que irá tomando mayor desarrollo. El pensamiento del estadista austriaco relativo á que la Europa podría unirse contra los Estados Unidos no pasa de ser un sueño fantástico.

Hay en aquel continente tantos aranceles aduaneros y leyes fiscales como naciones, y tan imposible sería una unión comercial entre ellas como una unión política. "No existe una Europa, pero existe una América. El concierto europeo es una broma siniestra." Estas palabras de CRISPI, el ex-Primer Ministro de Italia, inmediatamente después de la destrucción de la flota española en Manila, cuando muchas personas tímidas en Europa creían que España podía ser invadida y de esta manera el resto del continente amenazado, demuestran que el astuto hombre de estado comprendía que era una locura tratar de formar una coalición europea contra nación alguna. Las conquistas comerciales de los Estados Unidos son los triunfos de un pueblo libre y progresivo, así como un espléndido tributo á la benéfica influencia de la democracia.

SISTEMA DE ADMINISTRACIÓN PROPUESTO PARA PUERTO RICO.

El 3 de enero de este año el Senador JOSEPH B. FORAKER presentó al Senado de los Estados Unidos un proyecto de ley relativo á la forma do gobierno para la isla de Puerto Rico. En dicho proyecto se propone que continúen en vigencia las leyes y reglamentos municipales que actualmente existen, mientras la Legislatura de la isla no haya dispuesto otra cosa. Según el mismo *bill*, el Presidente tendrá facultad para nombrar un gobernador, un tribunal supremo y siete jefes de departamentos. Además, el Presidente escogerá cinco ciudadanos de la isla, quienes, asociados al gobernador y á los jefes de los departamentos, formarán la cámara alta de la Legislatura insular. La cámara baja constará de 35 miembros electos por los ciudadanos de la isla, que, según este proyecto de ley, pasan á ser ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. También tendrán dichos ciudadanos la facultad de elegir un delegado al Congreso de los Estados Unidos, que tomará asiento en él, pero que no tendrá voto.

Para los efectos judiciales y legislativos se dividirá la isla en cinco departamentos, y cada uno tendrá su tribunal, con el número de magistrados que la legislatura señale. La Constitución de los Estados Unidos regirá en la isla y también las leyes, en cuanto su aplicación sea posible. Quedan abolidos los derechos de exportación y se establece el libre cambio entre la isla y los Estados Unidos. Las mercancías introducidas á Puerto Rico de otros países pagarán los mismos derechos que pagan cuando se introducen á los Estados Unidos. El dinero que produzcan las aduanas de Puerto Rico ingresará en el tesoro de la isla, pero lo que se recande en calidad de renta interna irá á la Tesorería de los Estados Unidos. Se nombrará una comisión compuesta de cinco miembros, dos de los cuales serán ciudadanos de la isla, para revisar las leyes y el sistema de procedimientos judiciales. No se otorgarán franquicias de ninguna clase sin la aprobación del Gobernador de la isla y del Presidente de los Estados Unidos.

CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL MARÍTIMO.

De conformidad con la resolución adoptada en el séptimo Congreso Internacional Marítimo, que se reunió en Bruselas en 1898, el octavo Congreso se reunirá en París el 28 de julio, y sus sesiones durarán hasta el 3 de agosto de este año. Habrá en él delegados de Francia y de los países extranjeros, de las cámaras de comercio, de las ciudades, de las sociedades marítimas y de remolque, y de las compañías de

ferrocarril y de transportes. También serán admitidos aquellos individuos que antes de la inauguración del Congreso manifiesten su deseo de asistir á él. Las invitaciones han sido enviadas por los Señores G. MASSON y P. HOLTZ, Presidente el primero de la Cámara de Comercio de París, é Inspector General de Puentes y Caminos el segundo. Estos caballeros se hallan al frente de una gran comisión de distinguidos ciudadanos franceses, á cuyo cargo está el asunto.

COSTA RICA.

PROGRESO INDUSTRIAL EN 1898 Y 1899.

El Honorable WILLIAM L. MERRY, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos ante los Gobiernos de Costa Rica, Nicaragua y el Salvador, ha enviado al Departamento de Estado en Washington, un informe sobre la condicion industrial del primero de estos tres países, en el cual se expresa así:

“La población de Costa Rica, según el censo de 1864, era de 120,500 habitantes. En 1895 habia aumentado á 248,500, y en la actualidad es aproximadamente de 275,000. Las importaciones y exportaciones de la república durante el año económico que terminó el 31 de marzo de 1899, fueron como sigue:

Importaciones, valor en oro	\$1,258,896.01
Exportaciones, valor en oro	5,659,218.50

“Las exportaciones se dividieron de esta manera:

Café.....	\$4,209,569.15
Bananos	923,090.26
Maderas y palos de tinte.....	345,439.04
Metales preciosos	48,788.30
Exportaciones diversas	132,331.81

“Las importaciones en el año de 1898 se dividieron como sigue: de los Estados Unidos 44.80 por ciento; de Inglaterra 19.61 por ciento; de Alemania 15.61 por ciento; de otros países 20.09 por ciento.

“En los primeros cuatro meses de 1899 la proporción de las importaciones de los Estados Unidos habia alcanzado á 67.25 por ciento, debido principalmente á las facilidades de transportación por vapor, aunque es poco satisfactorio el observar que casi todas las embarcaciones empleadas en este creciente trafico fueron extranjeras. Los artículos más importantes introducidos de los Estados Unidos fueron harina, maquinaria, aceites, alambre, alambre para cercas, tubos de hierro y muebles. La importacion de indianas y driles de algodón americanos también aumenta rápidamente. Del café que se exportó, 56 por ciento fué á Inglaterra, 20 por ciento á los Estados Unidos, 16 por ciento á Alemania, y 4 por ciento á otras partes. Como las dos terceras

partes de los bananos exportados fueron á Nueva Orleans, y una tercera parte á los puertos de la costa Atlántica de los Estados Unidos.

“El Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, de Puerto Limón á Alajuela, que pasa por San José y otras ciudades de la república y que tiene varios ramales, mide 137½ millas. En el año de 1898 transportó 601,198 pasajeros y como 160,000 toneladas de carga. De las acciones de este ferrocarril el Gobierno posee por valor de unos \$400,000, oro, y el resto es propiedad inglesa. Está muy bien construido con material importado de Inglaterra. Los durmientes son de hierro y prácticamente indestructibles. El Ferrocarril del Pacífico cubrirá una distancia de 58.8 millas, de San José al proyectado puerto de Tivives, en la boca del Golfo de Nicoya. Lo están construyendo contratistas americanos por cuenta del Gobierno, con material traído de los Estados Unidos, excepto los durmientes. Nueve millas están ya terminadas; 25 niveladas; 3.8 parcialmente niveladas, y 21 aun no han sido comenzadas. Hay en uso ahora en el ferrocarril una locomotora, con madera por combustible, y muchos carros de plataforma importados de los Estados Unidos. En ambos ferrocarriles la entrevía es de tres pieses y seis pulgadas.

“El ferrocarril de Limón al interior, después de atravesar una extensión como de 10 millas en un terreno sembrado de bananos, asciende rápidamente y pasa por la ciudad de Cartago á 5,000 pies de elevación. San José, la capital, está á 3,860 pies sobre el nivel del mar, y, en consecuencia, queda en el declive del Pacífico. Este ferrocarril ha costado mucho y pasa por un terreno montañoso, lleno de bellezas naturales. De San José al Pacífico el ferrocarril construido por los americanos atravesará una región montañosa en la mitad de su extensión, llegando después al Pacífico por una pendiente comparativamente fácil, pues el máximo es de 2½ por ciento. Ambos ferrocarriles tienen necesariamente muchas curvas.

“Debe tenerse presente que las regiones montañosas de la América Central no son áridas como las Montañas Roqueñas (Rocky Mountains) y Sierra Nevada en los Estados Unidos. La caída de agua es generalmente considerable en Costa Rica. Las montañas están cubiertas de vegetación y de rica tierra vegetal, excepto en la cima. Hay numerosos ríos que corren en todas direcciones, los cuales podrían usarse para la producción de fuerza motriz eléctrica por la rapidez de su corriente. Es éste un hermoso país, cuyas regiones elevadas gozan de un clima saludable. El interior se adapta especialmente para el cultivo de café, que se vende en los mercados de Europa á un precio más alto que el del Brasil. El litoral del Atlántico es muy aparente para la producción de bananos de excelente calidad. Estos dos artículos son los dos principales productos del país. La producción del último aumenta rápidamente, pero con motivo del bajo precio del café, no ofrece aliciente su cultivo, aunque si el hacendado se encuentra libre de hipotecas, todavía puede obtener una ganancia considerable.

“Costa Rica necesita aumentar la variedad de sus productos, y éste

es un punto que ahora ocupa la atención del Gobierno y de los agricultores. El país puede producir excelente cacao, goma elástica y toda clase de frutas tropicales para la exportación. En la parte noroeste de la república hay magníficos terrenos para la cría de ganado vacuno. La república no produce actualmente todo el que consume. En las montañas, más allá de la altura donde crece el café, se podrían criar cabras de Angora. En el interior de la república existen valiosas minas de oro y cobre, á cuya explotación se ha dado principio últimamente con capital inglés y americano.

Costa Rica tiene excelentes bahías en el Pacífico, siendo de notar, entre otras, la de Salinas, Puerto Culebra y los puertos en el Golfo de Nicoya. En la actualidad el único puerto en el litoral del Pacífico adonde arriban con frecuencia buques extranjeros, es Puntarenas, ciudad que está unida por ferrocarril con el pueblo de Esparta, que queda 15 millas al interior, y de donde parte una buena carretera que conduce á San José. Al lado del Atlántico el único puerto digno de ser mencionado es Limón, donde el Gobierno está haciendo considerables gastos para mejorar la bahía y establecer un buen sistema sanitario. Hasta hoy se ha gastado la suma de \$765,098, oro, la cual ha sido pagado de esta manera: la mitad en dinero efectivo y la otra mitad en bonos que no devengan intereses. Los trabajos están bajo la dirección de un contratista americano. Cuando la obra esté terminada, Limón será uno de los puertos más sanos de la América Central.

Como no hay suficientes muelles, la compañía de ferrocarril está construyendo uno de acero, al que podrán atracar las embarcaciones de mayor calado. Siempre se encuentra en este puerto una pequeña cantidad de combustible. La compañía de ferrocarril mantiene una provisión de carbón inglés en bloques comprimidos para el servicio de su línea y para vapores. La población tiene excelente agua potable que se trae de las colinas inmediatas por medio de una cañería de hierro.

Cada mes llegan al puerto de Limón 26 vapores que lo ponen en comunicación con los Estados Unidos, Europa, el litoral americano sobre el mar Caribe y las Antillas. De ocho á diez vapores correos, americanos, ingleses y chilenos, tocan mensualmente en Puntarenas, además de otras embarcaciones de vapor y de vela. Estas últimas se emplean principalmente para la exportación á Europa de maderas de ebanistería, palos de tinte, minerales, cenizas, etc.

Una de las ventajas de que Costa Rica goza sobre las otras repúblicas hispanoamericanas es el hecho de que su suelo está en gran parte dividido entre pequeños hacendados que residen en sus propias fincas, y que, en su calidad de productores, están interesados en la conservación de la paz. La fuerza vital del país está en el pueblo, que es industrioso, honrado y enemigo de revoluciones y disturbios políticos. Si se considera que el área de la república es muy pequeña y que la población es más pequeña todavía, Costa Rica tiene razón de congratularse

por su progreso. Lo único que se necesita es que se dé principio á la construcción del canal interoceánico para que ella y su hermana, la república de Nicaragua, país también de grandes riquezas naturales, se encuentren situadas en el camino real del comercio del mundo. Cuando esto suceda ambas repúblicas avanzarán rápidamente y con seguridad por la senda del bienestar y de la prosperidad."

Al referirse á este informe, el Señor Don JOAQUÍN B. CALVO, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Costa Rica en los Estados Unidos, dice que, á su juicio, el hecho de que los giros á la vista sobre Nueva York han bajado del 180 por ciento al 130 por ciento, con tendencia á bajar más, es digno de ser notado. Según él, esto se debe principalmente á la cantidad de oro que hay en reserva y á las otras medidas preparatorias que se han adoptado para el establecimiento del patrón de oro, debiendo efectuarse la conversión á fines del año de 1900.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES.

En la página 52 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomado de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de noviembre de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los once meses que terminaron en noviembre de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera, no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitando algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de noviembre, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en enero.

COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN NOVIEMBRE.

La Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda terminó el 27 de diciembre los cuadros demostrativos de las exportaciones é importaciones durante el mes de noviembre. Por el resumen anexo á dichos cuadros se ve que el comercio exterior durante dicho mes, comparado con el de noviembre del año anterior, fué, dividido en grandes clases, como sigue:

IMPORTACIONES.

	1898.	1899.
Artículos de alimentación y animales vivos	\$15,057,768	\$17,260,529
Artículos en estado crudo para industrias nacionales	16,797,452	26,064,681
Artículos manufacturados para uso en las artes mecánicas	4,910,237	8,067,680
Artículos manufacturados y listos para el consumo	8,301,376	9,704,402
Artículos de lujo	7,059,995	8,924,979
Importaciones totales	52,096,500	70,922,074
Tanto por ciento de importaciones libres de derecho	42.48	41.70

EXPORTACIONES.

	1898.	1899.
Productos agrícolas	\$94,911,851	\$80,069,161
Productos de las manufacturas	26,471,131	33,584,546
Productos de las minas	2,264,678	3,491,845
Productos de los bosques	2,827,804	3,710,610
Productos de las pesquerías	951,128	827,618
Productos varios	47,549	122,036
Total de los productos nacionales exportados	127,487,547	121,805,816
Efectos extranjeros reexportados	2,323,853	1,949,690
Exportaciones totales	129,797,965	123,755,416

ADQUISICIÓN RECIENTE DE UNA ISLA—TUTUILA.

De conformidad con el nuevo tratado relativo á Samoa, que fué firmado en Washington el 2 de diciembre del año próximo pasado entre los Estados Unidos, la Gran Bretaña y Alemania, el primero de estos países entra en posesión de algunas pequeñas islas que quedan 930 millas al sur del Ecuador, en el océano Pacífico. Estas islas son Tutuila, Ofu, Olosenga y Manna. La más importante de ellas es Tutuila, que es la menos conocida de las tres islas principales que forman el grupo generalmente designado con el nombre de Samoa, y la cual queda como 30 millas al sureste de las otras dos—Savaii y Upolu—que, en virtud del mismo tratado, pasan á ser colonias de Alemania.

La isla de Tutuila tiene como 18 millas de largo y como 5 de ancho, según Mr. H. L. Lusk, que la ha visitado. Los misioneros que residen allí calculan que su población es de poco más de 5,000 habitantes. Casi todas las aldeas en que viven los naturales están cerca de la costa septentrional, enfrente de Upolu. El aspecto general de Tutuila, como el de casi todas las tierras volcánicas, es muy hermoso. Á partir de la costa el terreno se levanta á una altura de 900 á 1,000 pies. En los declives hay bosques muy espesos, aunque los árboles no son de gran tamaño.

En la parte septentrional de la isla el terreno desciende en una pendiente más ó menos rápida, en la cual se encuentran grandes valles y arroyos; pero en la parte meridional, especialmente cerca de la extremidad oriental de la isla, la costa es muy escarpada. Aquí es donde se encuentra la Bahía de Pago Pago, que es la mejor y más segura en todo el grupo de Samoa. Es esta bahía casi circular y de gran extensión. Está rodeada de colinas y su entrada es muy angosta. Es el

único puerto en el grupo de Samoa donde las embarcaciones pueden permanecer ancladas durante un huracán. Se asegura que todos los buques de guerra de los Estados Unidos podrían anclar á un mismo tiempo en aquellas aguas. Durante quince años Pago Pago ha sido una estación carbonera que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos arrendó de uno de los jefes del país, pero solamente á largos intervalos fué visitada esa bahía por barcos de guerra.

Los productos de la isla son limitados. En toda la costa se encuentran cocos, cuyo fruto se exporta en pequeñas cantidades. Los naranjos adquieren grandes dimensiones. La nuez moscada, la *maranta arundinaca*, que produce el sagú de Jamaica, el jengibre y la piña se encuentran por todas partes. Los naturales viven en chozas hechas de cáscaras de árboles y de paja y trabajan muy poco, porque la prodiga naturaleza les da en abundancia todo lo que necesitan.

EDIFICIO DE MAQUINARIA EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS.

En el mes de noviembre próximo pasado se remitió de los talleres de la Berlin Iron Bridge Company, que se hallan en East Berlin, Connecticut, una gran cantidad de piezas de construcción consignada al Comisionado de los Estados Unidos en la Exposición de París. Estas piezas de acero van á servir para la armazón del edificio de maquinaria que se va á construir en París para uso exclusivo, durante la Exposición, de los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos que exhiban máquinas para trabajos en hierro y en madera. El edificio tendrá 343 pies de largo y 77 de ancho. Será hecho de productos de los Estados Unidos, llevados en transportes americanos, y será construido por mecánicos de este país que con tal objeto irán á París. Todo el edificio, incluyendo la maquinaria y cuanto más se encuentre dentro de él, será una exhibición de los Estados Unidos, y allí se exhibirá maquinaria americana funcionando, con todos los aparatos modernos, incluyendo grúas locomóviles, soportes colgantes, motores eléctricos, aparatos de transmisión de fuerza, etc.

MUSEO DE ANTIGÜEDADES DE MÉXICO Y LA AMÉRICA CENTRAL.

Se anuncia que el Museo de Historia Natural de la ciudad de Nueva York tiene ahora en exhibición, en el salón denominado Mexican Hall, la colección más perfecta de objetos relacionados con la antigua civilización de México y la América Central. Se han necesitado años para formar esta colección, y dos expediciones fueron enviadas con el objeto especial de recoger dichos objetos, entre los cuales hay copias de los monumentos y edificios de Yucatán, Guatemala y otros lugares. Algunas de estas copias son de gran tamaño y muy interesantes. La colección contiene también imitaciones litográficas de manuscritos en lengua mexicana y maya, que fueron llevados á Europa por los españoles. Estos manuscritos fueron descubiertos y copiados por el Duque de Loubat, á sus expensas, y por primera vez se encuentran reunidos en un lugar donde pueden ser estudiados.

ESTADO DE LAS COSECHAS.

Según el boletín publicada por el Departamento de Agricultura el 3 del corriente, la condición de la cosecha de trigo en el mes de diciembre era como sigue: "el tiempo fué generalmente favorable durante el mes para el trigo de invierno, según se deja ver por los informes recibidos de la mayor parte de los estados. Las sementeras se han desarrollado muy bien y prometen mucho, excepto en el estado de Michigan y en algunas partes del estado de Ohio. En el primero de estos dos estados el trigo no se desarrolló satisfactoriamente, y en el segundo tampoco está en buenas condiciones para el invierno." Se teme que lo crudo de la estación á fines de diciembre y á principios de enero, haya causado algún daño á las sementeras que no estaban protegidas por la nieve, principalmente en algunas partes de Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana é Illinois, al mismo tiempo que las heladas, alternando con el deshielo, daban resultados desfavorables para las cosechas en West Virginia y Missoiri. En los estados de la costa del Pacífico las sementeras se encuentran en excelentes condiciones. Se recibieron informes de que la mosca conocida con el nombre de *Hessian fly*, había causado algún daño, pero este fué insignificante fuera de Michigan, Pennsylvania y Tennessee.

LA INDUSTRIA DE SEDA EN NEW JERSEY.

El Jefe de la Oficina de Estadística del estado de New Jersey ha compilado informes especiales relativos á la industria de seda. Hay más de \$20,000,000 invertidos en ella y el número de fábricas es mayor que en lo pasado. El valor de lo que estas últimas producen es doble mayor que lo era hace diez años, á pesar del hecho de haberse fundado durante dicho período, fábricas de ese artículo en otros estados. El número de empleados ha aumentado ciento por ciento, pues en 1880 era de 12,500 y en 1899 pasaba de 26,000. Durante el último año los operarios recibieron salarios por valor de \$10,650,789, y como 9,000 recibieron \$10 á la semana ó más. De las personas empleadas en dichas fábricas en 1890, 52 por ciento eran mujeres y 48 por ciento hombres. El año pasado 45 por ciento fueron mujeres y 55 por ciento hombres. El valor de los géneros producidos en 1899 fué de \$42,570,690. En la actualidad las mejores clases de géneros de seda se fabrican en el estado de New Jersey.

VENTAS DE CAFÉ EN EL MERCADO DE NUEVA YORK.

Las ventas totales de café en el mercado de Nueva York durante el año de 1899, fueron de 4,420,000 sacos, contra 4,213,000 sacos en 1898 y 4,028,250 sacos en 1897. El aumento en este año sobre el pasado ha sido de 207,000 sacos. El precio más alto que se pagó por café de Río No. 7, entregado de presente, fué de 7 centavos por libra en el mes de noviembre, y el más bajo fué de $5\frac{7}{8}$ centavos en septiembre. El pre-

cio más alto por entregas futuras ocurrió en diciembre, cuando se pagó por cantidades que deben ser entregadas en octubre de 1900, á razón de 6.65 centavos por libra. El precio más bajo por entregas futuras ocurrió en septiembre, habiéndose pagado 4.10 centavos la libra por café que ha de entregarse en octubre de este año.

EXPOSITORES AMERICANOS EN PARÍS.

El Comisionado General de los Estados Unidos á la Exposición de París, Mr. PECK, ha publicado una lista de los principales expositores americanos que han aceptado el espacio que les ha sido asignado. La lista contiene 1,095 nombres de personas, casas de comercio y corporaciones, pero no figuran en ella los de expositores de productos agrícolas y minerales ó de obras literarias y científicas, bellas artes, etc. Una lista de esta clase debería contener como 7,000 nombres. En el catálogo oficial que se está preparando aparecerá una lista completa dividida en grupos y clases.

FALSIFICACIÓN DE MARCAS DE FÁBRICA.

Varios fabricantes de Nueva Inglaterra están tratando de averiguar quienes son las personas que han introducido en los mercados sudamericanos una imitación de sus franelas. Se dice también que artículos de otra clase han sido imitados por manufactureros europeos que los envían principalmente á los mercados de la América del Sur y del Oriente.

El asunto en cuestión fué puesto en conocimiento de los representantes de un fabricante de los Estados Unidos por un corresponsal en Valparaiso. Este último conocía los productos de la fábrica y le causó sorpresa la deterioración de los efectos que llevaban su nombre. Al examinarlos, observó que se habían hecho ligeras alteraciones en la manera de escribir algunas de las palabras en el marbete, á fin de evitar una acusación por fraude, alteración que no podían percibir las personas que no conocían el idioma inglés.

Se está tratando con diligencia de averiguar quienes son los falsificadores y ya se ha descubierto que las franelas falsificadas fueron hechas en Europa.

Hace algunos años varios de los consules americanos en Europa llamaron la atención del Gobierno de Wáshington á procedimientos de esta misma clase. El asunto de que ahora se trata puede asumir un carácter internacional.

PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR EN HAWAII.

En un informe que Mr. HAROLD SEWALL, ex-Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Hawaii, dirigió de Honolulu al Departamento de Estado, dice que la producción total de azúcar en aquellas islas durante la estación de 1899, fué de 304,603 toneladas, ó sea 50,000 toneladas en exceso de la cantidad calculada por el célebre estadista alemán LICHT.

Las importaciones en la isla durante el año de 1899, representaron un valor de \$15,945,349, ó sea un aumento de \$5,973,753 sobre las del año precedente.

RECLAMACIÓN CONTRA MÉXICO DECLARADA SIN FUNDAMENTO

El 11 de diciembre de 1899 el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos confirmó la sentencia del Tribunal de Reclamaciones en el asunto de La Abra Silver Mining Company contra la república de Mexico. En dicha sentencia se declara que la reclamación, que asciende como á \$4,000,000, es fraudulenta ó infundada.

La sentencia del Tribunal Supremo fué leída por el Magistrado HARLAN. En ella se dice, entre otras cosas, que la reclamación, tal como fué presentada al principio en 1870 á la Comisión de Reclamaciones entre los Estados Unidos y México, era por valor de \$1,950,000, pero que más tarde fué elevada á la suma de \$3,962,000. Se basaba esta reclamación en los daños que se alegaba habia sufrido La Abra Company á manos de autoridades mexicanas, mientras llevaba adelante sus trabajos en el estado de Durango, daños que se estimaban en la cantidad referida.

La Comisión, de acuerdo con lo resuelto por el tercero en discordia, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, concedió á los reclamantes la suma de \$683,041. Cuando ya se habia pagado una parte de esta cantidad al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos para La Abra Company, el Gobierno mexicano llamó la atención del Departamento de Estado al hecho de que existían nuevas pruebas para demostrar que la reclamación era fraudulenta. Después de varios procedimientos, el Congreso dictó una ley en 1892 autorizando al Tribunal de Reclamaciones para que hiciese una investigación del caso, que tendiese especialmente á averiguar si la reclamación era fraudulenta ó no y si estaba apoyada por declaraciones falsas. Este Tribunal descubrió que la reclamación era fraudulenta.

La sentencia del Tribunal de Reclamaciones fué ratificada por el Tribunal Supremo. Este último dice en su sentencia, que las pruebas obtenidas demuestran que toda la historia de las pérdidas sufridas á consecuencia de abusos cometidos por las autoridades mexicanas, es improbable ó infundada, y que, aunque la compañía estaba quebrada, esto no se debía á acción alguna de los empleados del Gobierno de México. Como resultado de esta sentencia se suspenderán los pagos á los reclamantes.

Al emitir su resolución sobre el caso, el Tribunal Supremo agregó incidentalmente que la firma del Presidente de la república puesta al pie de un *bill* durante el receso del Congreso, con tal que eso se hubiese hecho dentro de los diez días constitucionales, bastaba para dar fuerza de ley á dicho *bill*, como si aquel alto Cuerpo estuviera en sesión.

Esta última resolución fué emitida porque se habia tratado de atacar la constitucionalidad de la ley de 1892, autorizando al Tribunal de Reclamaciones á hacer la antedicha investigación, ley que fué ratificada

durante el receso de Navidad de 1892-93. El Tribunal declaró que el requisito esencial era que el Presidente firmara un *bill*, y que no tenía importancia el hecho de que la firma fuese puesta durante el receso del Congreso o cuando éste estaba en sesión, con tal que ello se hiciese dentro de los diez días concedidos al Ejecutivo. Sin embargo, la resolución sobre el punto no abrazó la cuestión de la legalidad de la ratificación ejecutiva después de que el Congreso hubiese cerrado definitivamente sus sesiones, porque acerca de esto último no se presentó objeción alguna.

NUEVO REGLAMENTO DE GIROS POSTALES.

El 2 de enero comenzaron á regir en los Estados Unidos tres diferentes tarifas de giros postales internacionales. La primera se refiere á los giros pagaderos en Cuba y en Puerto Rico. La segunda es de precios especiales para giros pagaderos en México. La tercera contiene los precios internacionales ordinarios, tales como han sido publicados en las leyes y reglamentos postales. La segunda tarifa, que es nueva, fué hecha mediante una convención celebrada en setiembre próximo pasado, en la que se autoriza el cambio directo de giros postales con la república de México. La oficina de correos de Laredo, Texas, funcionará en adelante como oficina de cambio internacional por parte de los Estados Unidos, y la oficina de Nuevo Laredo desempeñará la misma función en lo que se relaciona á México. La cantidad por que se gire en los Estados Unidos debe expresarse en moneda americana, y aquélla por que se gire en México en moneda mexicana.

CUBA EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS DE 1900.

El Señor DEMETRIO ALBERTINI ha sido nombrado Secretario de la Comisión que tendrá á su cargo la exhibición de Cuba en la Exposición de París de 1900. Se ha asignado á dicho caballero un sueldo de \$250 pesos al mes. El Secretario de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha señalado \$25,000 para los gastos de la exhibición, cantidad que debe tomarse de las rentas de Cuba.

IMPORTANTE CONTRATO DE MADERAS.

El periódico de Londres "Tenders and Contracts," correspondiente al 12 de diciembre de 1899, corrobora lo que últimamente dijo el "New York Sun" relativamente á un contrato que se celebró entre el Gobierno británico y una casa de Beaumont, Texas, con objeto de proveer al primero de 500,000,000 pies de madera de pino. Al hablar de este asunto, el mencionado periódico se expresa así:

"Al principio la magnitud del contrato impidió que se diera crédito á la noticia, porque para transportar semejante cantidad habría necesidad de despachar todos los días durante dos años un buque que pudiera llevar 800,000 pies de madera, y para esto sería menester emplear constantemente durante ese periodo una flota de cien barcos. Sin embargo,

la noticia parece ser cierta. El contrato se mantuvo secreto mientras se efectuaban arreglos con otras casas, y hoy que está terminado hay veinte aserraderos funcionando á fin de darle cumplimiento. Cada uno de ellos asierra 40,000 pies de madera al día. Dicha madera está destinada al ferrocarril que Mr. CECIL RHODES tiene en proyecto y que irá del Cairo al Cabo de Buena Esperanza. La mayor parte de los embarques se hará en el puerto de Sabine, Texas."

PRODUCTOS MINERALES DEL ESTADO DE MICHIGAN.

Mr. GEORGE A. NEWELL, Comisionado de Minas del estado de Michigan, dice, en su informe anual correspondiente á 1898 y publicado en 1899, lo siguiente: "Á fin de dar una idea clara de la cantidad de minerales que el estado de Michigan ha producido durante el año, me permito manifestar que si todo el mineral de hierro producido fuera convertido en rieles de un peso de 50 libras el pie, se podría con ellos darle una vez y media la vuelta al mundo, y que si el cobre extraído de las minas fuera transformado en alambre de teléfono No. 12, se podría con él darle la vuelta al mundo 29½ veces. Además, si los barriles de sal fabricados en Michigan en 1898 fueron puestas en fila, eubrirían una extensión no interrumpida de 1,500 millas. Considero que el precio de mercado de los minerales producidos en el estado durante el año es de \$38,825,000. De esta cantidad el mineral de hierro representa \$18,450,817, el cobre \$16,834,670, y la sal \$2,686,272."

RESERVA DE TERRENOS EN HAWAI.

El Presidente ha dictado una orden relativa á que siete acres de terreno, poco más ó menos, pertenecientes á la reserva del Gobierno que queda al este de "Punch Bowl," en la isla de Oahu, sean destinados como sitio para un hospital marítimo de los Estados Unidos, que se va á construir para el puerto de Honolulu.

CENSO DE LAS ANTILLAS.

El Cuartel Maestre General LUDINGTON recibió aviso de que el transporte *McPherson* zarpó el lunes de Cienfuegos y que en él vienen todos los datos referentes al censo de Cuba y al de Puerto Rico.

COMISIÓN DE NEGOCIOS INSULARES.

La Cámara de Diputados de los Estados Unidos ha creado una Comisión de Negocios Insulares, lo cual prueba que reconoce la importancia de la cuestiones que se relacionan con las nuevas posesiones del país. Esta comisión se compondrá de 17 miembros, y se ocupará en todos los asuntos que se refieren á Puerto Rico, las Filipinas y Cuba, con excepción de los que versan sobre rentas y presupuestos. El Senado ha nombrado tres comisiones más pequeñas para la consideración de asuntos insulares.

NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

Mr. ALFRED DUTTENHOEFER, que está al frente de una casa que comercia en granos, con sucursales en algunos puntos de Alemania, compró en noviembre en Kausas trigo por valor de varios centenares de miles de pesos. Este trigo será embarcado para Europa en el puerto de Galveston, Texas. Mr. DUTTENHOEFER dice que lo insuficiente de la cosecha en Europa y la mala calidad del grano han sido causa de que su país compre trigo de los Estados Unidos.

El almacén de refrigeración que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos va á construir en Manila tendrá 245 pies por cada uno de sus lados y 2 pisos de alto. Podrá contener 12,000 reses muertas entre ganado vacuno y carneros, esto es, 5,000 de las primeras y 7,000 de las segundas; 100 toneladas de tocino, 50 toneladas de mantequilla, 100 toneladas de legumbres y una máquina de hacer hielo que podrá fabricar 40 toneladas al día.

Se trata de hacer experimentos en las Islas de Hawai con una nueva medicina para la curación de la lepra. Se dice que se han obtenido notables resultados con dicha medicamento. Es el producto de un arbusto de Venezuela, introducido en la isla por el Dr. CARMICHAEL, facultativo al servicio de los Estados Unidos, que ha recibido instrucciones del Gobierno de Washington para hacer los referidos experimentos.

La Oficina de Navegación del Departamento de Marina de los Estados Unidos ha publicado una lista de los buques que forman la flota del país. Su número asciende á 312. En dicha lista están incluídos varios barcos pequeños capturados en Cuba y en las Islas Filipinas, pero, aun excluyendo éstos, el aumento en los navios de guerra durante los últimos dos años es muy notable.

El uso á que últimamente se han dedicado los automóviles es á remolcar barcos en los canales. El periódico "Exporters and Importers' Journal" correspondiente al 9 de diciembre de 1899, dice que se está construyendo en Hatton, Connecticut, á un costo de \$4,000, un automóvil que podrá remolcar de 6 á 10 barcos á la vez en el canal del Eric.

La Exposición Nacional de Artículos para la Exportación produjo más dinero del que se esperaba, y esto ha permitido á la Comisión Administrativa pagar la cantidad de cien mil pesos que había sido adelantada por algunos ciudadanos prominentes.

Bull. No. 1—11

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Washington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

San Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

Se ha recibido en esta Oficina la interesante y voluminosa obra de Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, que lleva este título: "Estudio de los Ferrocarriles que Ligarán en el Porvenir las Repúblicas Americanas, Presentado al Congreso Científico Latino Americano de Buenos Aires." Es un estudio notable de la cuestión sobre que versa, y revela que su autor le ha dedicado mucho tiempo y cuidadosa atención. Contiene la obra once capítulos, en los cuales se describen con maestría las vías férreas que están destinadas á servir de lazo de unión entre las repúblicas americanas. Deja ver en su obra el Señor CASTRO que no solamente posee profundos conocimientos como ingeniero, sino también las elevadas miras de un verdadero estadista. Detalladamente expone cuanto constituye los sistemas ferrocarrileros de la América del Sur, y hace mención especial de aquéllos que podrían ser utilizados para ligar á todas las naciones del continente americano.

Difícil sería encontrar un tema de mayor interés y trascendencia para los pueblos del Nuevo Mundo que el que el Señor CASTRO eligió para su importante trabajo, pues en la realización del proyecto que él desa-

rolla y explica con tanta erudición como buen criterio, están interesadas diez y siete repúblicas.

Anexos al libro del Señor CASTRO hay dos mapas, uno de los ferrocarriles destinados á unir en lo futuro las naciones de la América del Norte, del Centro y del Sur, y el otro de las grandes líneas férreas internacionales que han de ligar más tarde á los países sudamericanos. En ellos se muestran las líneas en explotación, en construcción, estudiadas y por estudiar. La obra de Señor CASTRO merece llamar la atención de todos los ingenieros que se interesan en la construcción del ferrocarril intercontinental.

El Señor Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, ex-Ministro de Fomento de la república del Uruguay, ha publicado un opúsculo con este título: "Puerto de Montevideo. Análisis Comparativos de las Soluciones Técnica y Financiera Proyectadas respecto de este Asunto." Es una defensa de lo que se hizo mientras la cartera de fomento estuvo á su cargo, para la mejora del puerto de Montevideo. Sostiene el Señor CASTRO que el proyecto que se debe adoptar es el que fué presentado por el ingeniero GUÉBARD, y aduce poderosas razones en favor de su opinión. Según dice el Señor CASTRO, la ejecución de dicho proyecto costaría la suma de \$14,264,500.

El autor entra detenidamente en consideraciones de carácter económico, y bien se ve que ha hecho especial estudio del asunto. Todo el opúsculo está escrito en lenguaje muy claro y da una idea exacta de la materia sobre que versa. Siendo Montevideo uno de los primeros puertos de la América del Sur, salta á vista la necesidad de hacerle aquellas mejoras que lo coloquen á la altura de lo que exigen en nuestros días los adelantos de la navegación. Natural es que una cuestión de tan vital importancia para el Uruguay haya despertado gran interés en aquel país, cosa que se deja ver por el notable trabajo del Señor CASTRO. Como ilustraciones la obra contiene tres diseños que representan los proyectos que han sido sometidos para la composición del puerto.

Con el título de "Anuario Pillado," ha fundado en Buenos Aires el Señor Don RICARDO PILLADO una publicación en la que, de una manera concisa, se dan minuciosos informes sobre las deudas públicas argentinas y las sociedades por acciones, nacionales y extranjeras, que tienen intereses en el país, incluyendo su situación actual, capitales, reservas, dividendos repartidos y cotización de todos los valores negociables. El volumen que se ha recibido en esta Oficina contiene, además de lo expuesto atrás, una reseña histórica del papel moneda en la República Argentina, desde su origen en 1822, época en que su emisión fué autorizada por una disposición legislativa de 19 de junio de aquel año, hasta nuestros días; una descripción prolija de los territorios nacionales; una nómina de las sociedades legalmente constituidas durante el año, y otra de las que han perdido su personalidad jurídica; cuadros del promedio de cotización del oro durante los últimos quince años y del valor de la moneda nacional legal comparada con las demás del mundo, así como muchas otras noticias de positivo interés.

Muy recomendable es el trabajo del Señor PILLADO, y merece que se le mire como una obra importante de información para aquellas personas que deseen emprender negocios en la República Argentina.

El Museo Comercial de Filadelfia ha publicado dos monografías escritas por el Dr. GUSTAVO NIEDERLEIN, Jefe del Departamento Científico. Estos trabajos tratan de la topografía, geología, riqueza mineral y suelo de Costa Rica y Guatemala; describen su clima, dan detalles sobre la flora y la fauna, en cuanto se relacionan con su valor económico, y muestran la distribución de la población, de acuerdo con la raza, riqueza y condiciones sociales. Hacen también un estudio del desarrollo agrícola de las repúblicas, incluyendo la riqueza forestal y la cantidad de ganado que ambas poseen. Finalmente dan cuenta de los puntos principales relativos al comercio, industria y condiciones políticas y económicas.

El trabajo es el resultado de observaciones y estudios hechos en 1897 y 1898, durante siete meses y medio de exploraciones en la América Central y de informes sacados con gran cuidado de manuscritos fidedignos, de libros y de documentos y publicaciones oficiales.

Con el título de "Diccionario de Barbarismos y Provincialismos de Costa Rica," publicó en 1893 el Señor Don CARLOS GAGINI un interesante trabajo, que revela estudio dilatado de la lengua castellana y profundo conocimiento de la misma. Laudable fué el propósito del Señor GAGINI, y sería de desear que en todos los países hispano-americanos se publicaran obras como la citada á fin de conservar la pureza del hermoso idioma castellano. Ya otros escritores notables, tales como CUERVO, RODRÍGUEZ, PICHARDO, ARONA y RIVODÓ, habían dado á luz libros parecidos al del Señor GAGINI, cuyo diccionario es de gran utilidad no solamente en Costa Rica, sino también en todas las otras repúblicas de la América Central. Verdadero servicio prestan á las letras hispano-americanas los escritores que, á semejanza del Señor GAGINI, se dedican á estudios críticos sobre el lenguaje, y sus esfuerzos son muy dignos de encomio y de imitación.

El 26 de mayo de 1899 el Museo Comercial de Filadelfia publicó un boletín científico intitulado "Contribuciones a la Herpetología de Nueva Granada y la Argentina, con descripciones de nuevas formas," por EDUARDO D. COPE. Es una obra póstuma editada por J. PERCY MOORE. La colección que sirvió de base para la investigación fué hecha en Colombia, cerca de Bogotá, para la Exposición Universal de Chicago, donde fué exhibida en la sección de Nueva Granada.

El periódico "Harpers' Weekly" contiene en su número de 9 de diciembre de 1899, ilustraciones que representan modelos de los barcos de guerra de los Estados Unidos, los cuales serán exhibidos en la Exposición de París. Hay en todo 25 de estos modelos y abrazan los mejores tipos de buques de guerra que se encuentran hoy en servicio activo.

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VIII.

JANEIRO DE 1900.

No. 1.

EXPORTAÇÕES DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS PARA A EUROPA.

Depois dos prosperos annos de 1897 e 1898, o progresso dos Estados Unidos continuou desenvolvendo-se em maiores proporções em 1899.

Tres classes de industrias são as que talvez dão melhor idea da prosperidade nacional, a saber: A de ferro e aço, a de lencaria e a de joias. A julgar pelo que elles foram em 1899, nunca tem este paiz alcançado como nesse anno progressos tão notaveis.

Ha poucos annos os Estados Unidos não podiam supprir suas mesmas necessidades em quanto a artigos manufacturados, e suas exportações eram insignificantes, comparativamente fallando. O notavel augmento que se tem verificado na exportação de manufacturas americanas para ontros paizes, especialmente para os da Europa, é motivo sufficiente para que o BOLETIM MENSAL chame a attenção das outras republicas que formam parte da União Internacional para os recursos dos Estados Unidos e ao facto de que os productos de suas fabricas tem invadido os mercados européos. As exportações totaes dos Estados Unidos durante o anno economico que terminou o dia 30 de Junho de 1899 tiveram um valor de \$1,204,123,134, de cuja quantia os artigos manufacturados representaram \$338,667,794. O valor da exportação para a Europa foi de \$936,781,169. O valor total das manufacturas exportadas desde o principio de 1889 até fins de 1898 augmentou durante a decada 110 por cento, e é este o unico paiz onde se tem visto um desenvolvimento semelhante.

A exportação de manufacturas em 1899 foi como tres vezes maior que em 1879. Os metaes, principalmente o ferro e o aço, teem occupado o primeiro lugar na exportção. Em 1880 a exportação destes artigos

representou um valor de \$14,716,524, e em 1899 de \$93,715,951. Por outra parte as importações de effectos de ferro e aço foram em 1880 por valor de \$71,266,699, enquanto que em 1899 sómente ascenderam a \$12,098,239. O valor dos trilhos exportados em 1889 foi de \$235,387, e em 1899 se elevou a \$5,298,125. A exportação de instrumentos agrícolas em 1899 foi por valor de \$12,432,197, de cuja quantia Europa tomou \$7,442,654. A exportação de artigos para construcções, serras e ferramentas foi em 1889 por valor de \$1,700,390, e em 1899 subiu a \$7,842,372. Desta quantia os paizes europeos tomaram \$3,747,974. O valor total das machinas de coser exportadas em 1889 foi de \$2,247,875, e desta quantia os paizes europeos tomaram por valor de \$1,179,705. A exportação deste mesmo artigo em 1899 ascendeu a \$3,264,344, de cuja somma Europa pagou \$1,908,732.

O valor das machinas de escrever enviadas para o estrangeiro em 1899 foi de \$2,449,205, e o das bicyclettas de \$5,753,880. Estas duas industrias tem-se desenvolvido de uma maneira phenomenal durante os ultimos dez annos. A exportação de bicyclettas em 1899 excedeu em valor á de carros de estrada de ferro e carruagens. O augmento na exportação de instrumentos e apparatus scientificos em 1899 foi consideravel, pois representou um valor de \$4,399,180, enquanto que até o anno de 1889 a dita exportação nunca tinha ascendido a \$1,000,000. Da quantia exportada no anno passado Europa tomou \$2,090,620.

A exportação de artigos de cobre augmentou muito em 1899, pois subiu a \$34,476,343, havendo tomado desta quantia os paizes europeos \$34,269,822.

A exportação de relógios de parede, de mesa e de bolso tem augmentado gradualmente, e foi em 1899 por valor de \$1,863,431.

É muito satisfactorio o augmento na exportação de generos de algodão. Em 1889 exportaram-se 118,453,191 jardas; em 1898 a quantidade foi de 270,507,811 jardas e em 1899 subiu a 412,004,055 jardas, no valor de \$18,969,897. Desta somma a Grã Bretanha tomou por valor de \$628,445 e os outros paizes europeos por valor de \$931,448, ou seja um total de \$1,559,893. A China tomou mais da metade dos generos de algodão que se exportaram em 1899.

A exportação de sola em 1899 ascendeu a 37,120,912 libras, avaliadas em \$6,280,904. O valor de todos os outros artigos de couro exportados foi de \$13,444,569, e desta quantia Europa tomou \$12,195,045.

O calçado dos Estados Unidos goza de boa reputação em todas as partes do mundo. A exportação deste artigo em 1889 teve um valor de \$585,902, e em 1899 de \$2,711,385. A quantidade que foi enviada para a Europa no anno passado representou um valor de \$703,965.

A exportação de moveis em 1899 foi por valor de \$3,571,375, de cuja quantia a Europa tomou \$1,563,526. O valor dos petrechos navaes exportados em 1899 foi de \$9,982,955, e desta somma os paizes europeos tomaram \$8,597,253.

A exportação de productos chimicos dos Estados Unidos ascendeu em 1899 a \$10,995,289.

Quasi as duas terças partes do oleo para iluminação que se exportou em 1899 foram á Europa. A quantidade total exportada foi de 805,956,315 gallões. O valor deste oleo por gallão foi muito menor que o era ha dez annos, mas o valor total da exportação, que em 1889 foi de \$ 39,286,333, ascendeu em 1899 a \$50,200,518. A exportação de paraffina tem augmentado notavelmente durante os ultimos dez annos. O valor da exportação em 1899, que quasi toda foi para a Europa, ascendeu a \$6,804,684. Em 1889 foi sómente por valor de \$2,029,602.

RESUMO DA SITUAÇÃO COMMERCIAL DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EM 1899.

O progresso dos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1899 tem sido extraordinario. Sen commercio exterior desenvolvem-se de uma maneira prodigiosa. Parece incrível que as exportações no dito anno excederam em mais de um billião de dollares ás importações e exportações combinadas em 1870. A importação por cabeça foi 20 por cento menos que em 1870, enquanto que a exportação foi 58 por cento mais que naquelle anno. A exportação de productos agricolas ascenden á enorme somma de \$784,776,142, e a de artigos manufacturados elevou-se a \$339,592,146.

A condição do Thesouro é altamente satisfactoria, pois, segundo os dados subministrados em sen relatorio pelo Secretario da Fazenda, haverá no presente anno economico um saldo de \$40,000,000. Em sua ultima mensagem ao Congresso dos Estados Unidos, o Senhor Presidente MCKINLEY, ao referir-se á situação economica da nação, exprime-se assim:

“O estado satisfactorio do Thesouro se demonstra com o facto de que no dia 1º de Dezembro de 1899 o balanço em caixa disponivel era de \$278,004,837.72, dos quaes \$239,744,905.36 estavam em ouro acunhado e em barras. A confiança que reina por todo o paiz tem feito mais geral o uso do ouro, e os direitos adnaneiros se pagam agora quasi exclusivamente nesse metal.”

Rara vez se tem realizado como em 1899 as predições e esperanças relativas á prosperidade e engrandecimento da nação. Esta é a conclusão a que necessariamente se chega quando se examina a immensidade do trafico e dos negocios em geral durante os doze mezes que acabam de passar. A elevação no preço dos principaes productos, assim como em toda classe de valores, tem sido tão enorme que difficilmente se pode haver previsto. Outro facto notabilissimo é o augmento nos salarios que se pagam aos trabalhadores nas fabricas, ao mesmo tempo que, ao terminar-se o anno anterior, os manufactureiros de todo o paiz encontravam-se com pedidos que alcançam até seis mezes no futuro. Si se tomam, como mostra do immenso commercio dos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1899, as liquidações dos bancos, ver-se-ha

que montam a portentosa somma de \$93,300,000,000, ou seja um augmento de 36 por cento sobre o anno de 1898.

Em vista da prosperidade geral durante o anno de 1899, se comprehende que as quebras tenham sido muito menores do que em outros annos, e segundo a acreditada revista economica mercantil, "Bradstreet," alcançaram á cousa de 9,550 sómente, que é um total 17 por cento menor que o do anno de 1898.

O commercio entre os Estados Unidos e as republicas latino-americanas augmentou notavelmente em 1899, e ainda que todavia não tem alcançado o gráo de desenvolvimento a que está destinado, é evidente que sua tendencia é para augmentar mais e mais cada dia. Numerosos artigos de fabricação americana que antes eram quasi desconhecidos nos mercados da America Central e do Sul rivalisam agora vantajosamente com os productos europeos da mesma classe.

Dignos de ser mencionados, entre outros, são os objectos de couro que antes se importavam naquelles paizes quasi exclusivamente da Europa, e que hoje vão em grande parte dos Estados Unidos. O calçado americano goza de grande reputação na America latina, e em varias partes tem substituído por completo o francez, que por muitos annos occupou o primeiro lugar. O desenvolvimento a que tem chegado esta industria nos Estados Unidos se deve a que este artigo é fabricado aqui com mais perfeição que em outros paizes e aos mesmos preços. Hoje os Estados Unidos não importam calçado de nenhuma parte, mas o exportam para a Grã Bretanha, França, Alemanha, o Canadá, a America Central e do Sul, Australia e outros lugares. Segundo os dados subministrados pela Repartição de Estatística da Secretaria da Fazenda, a exportação de calçado nos dez mezes que terminaram em Abril do anno proximo passado foi no valor de \$2,049,047, contra \$1,439,512 no mesmo periodo do anno anterior.

A exportação de toda a classe de machinas dos Estados Unidos para os paizes sul-americanos, fez grandes progressos no anno passado, e já se reconhece por toda a parte o facto de que as machinas que se fabricam nos Estados Unidos para toda a classe de industrias são, sob todos os conceitos, as melhores do mundo.

Os generos de algodão americanos tem sido conhecidos por muitos annos em todos os mercados deste continente, e a exportação desses artigos teve consideravel incremento em 1899. Não ha razão alguma para que não tomem o lugar dos europeos, sendo, como são, superiores a estes em todo sentido. A industria de seda se desenvolveu consideravelmente durante o anno anterior. Em Janeiro de 1899 havia fabricas de fazendas de seda em vinte e oito dos Estados da União, e o numero total daquellas era de 861.

Em 1899 os Estados Unidos celebraram tratados de reciprocidade commercial com a Grã Bretanha, em representação de varias de suas colonias no mar das Antilhas, com a Republica Argentina, com a França e com Nicaragua.

Um dos maiores obstaculos que até ultimamente se tem apresentado ao crescimento do commercio entre os Estados Unidos e os paizes latino-americanos tem sido a falta de communições maritimas, e ao referir-se a este ponto, o Senhor Presidente MCKINLEY diz em sua já citada mensagem, o que segue:

“A importancia de nossa marinha mercante, como um meio de dar augmento ao nosso commercio e de fortalecer nossa condição de potencia maritima, deve chamar a attenção immediata do Congresso. Nosso desenvolvimento nacional não será inteiramente satisfactorio, enquanto nossas industrias não sejam acompanhadas de um progresso equivalente em nosso trafico maritimo.”

Todo o mundo reconhece a necessidade de estabelecer melhores communições por vapor entre os Estados Unidos e a America latina. Como um exemplo, pode mencionar-se a reunião do Club de Manufacturers de Philadelphia, que se verificou no dia 15 de Novembro proximo passado, com o fim de tratar do estabelecimento de uma linha de vapores entre aquelle porto e Rio de Janeiro.

O Capitão CORDEIRO DA GRAÇA, representante do Brazil no Congresso Commercial Internacional, pronuncion um discurso em favor do projecto, e, entre outras cousas, disse o que segue: “Vossa exportação não é menos importante que vossa importação, e não tendes fomentado aquella em vossos negocios com o Brazil, ainda que só se necessita dar uma vista de olhos para comprehender que grandes quantidades de vossos productos poderiam ser enviadas para o Brazil, si houvesse embarcações para condnzilas e existisse um systema melhor de cambio internacional. O Brazil pode consumir grandes quantidades de vossos productos, e entre elles mencionarei a farinha, os oleos miueraes, o ferro, o aço, o carvão, os artigos de lençaria, machinas e artefactos em geral.”

O desenvolvimento nas construcções navaes no anno economico que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899, seguudo se vê pelo relatorio do Commissario da Navegação, foi verdadeiramente extraordinario. Na data mencionada estavam-se construindo nos estaleiros dos Estados Unidos, tanto para este paiz como para nações estrangeiras, mais de 50 navios de guerra, avaliados em mais de \$40,000,000. Em quanto ás embarcações mercantis havia em construcção mais de 200, cujo valor em conjuneto excede de \$30,000,000. Entre os navios mercantis cuja construcção foi resolvida em 1899 figuram tres dos maiores do mundo, que são os seguintes: O vapor *California* para a companhia de navegação conhecida com o nome de “American-Hawaiian,” que terá 12,000 toneladas de deslocação. Os outros dous vão a formar parte da frota da “Pacifie Mail Steamship Company,” e terá 18,500 toneladas de deslocação.

Os interesses das estradas de ferro dos Estados Unidos mantiveram-se em 1899 á altura do progresso geral da nação. Desde 1890 não se tem visto uma actividade igual em materia de vias ferreas, pois a construc-

ção destas foi 50 por cento maior que em 1898, em cujo anno as estradas de ferro cobriam 186,396.32 milhas, ou seja uma extensão muita maior que a que têm todas as vias ferreas combinadas da Inglaterra, França, Allemanha e Russia. Nenhuma nação do mundo tem feito tanto progresso como os Estados Unidos no que toca á construcção de locomotivas, trilhos e material de estradas de ferro em geral. No anno passado exportaram-se artigos desta classe em quantidades consideraveis para muitos paizes, incluindo Inglaterra e suas colonias. Nada pode haver de mais significativo que o facto de terem-se pedido 60 locomotivas americanas para duas das primeiras estradas de ferro inglezas, a "Midland" e a "Great Western."

Em manufacturas de ferro e aço os Estados Unidos marcham á frente das outras nações, e hoje se exportam a todos os paizes do mundo os productos das fundições americanas.

Quanto á electricidade este paiz tem feito grande progresso em 1899, e sua exportação de effectos electricos augmentou de uma maneira surprehendente.

Em nenhum paiz desenvolveu-se no anno passado a produção de carvão de pedra como nos Estados Unidos, e não é de duvidar que antes de muito tempo deixarão atraz a Inglaterra, que tem sido e continúa sendo a primeira nação productora deste importante artigo de commercio. Tem-se calculado que a produção do dito combustivel na Grã Bretanha ascendeu, em 1899, a 220,000,000 toneladas, e nos Estados Unidos a 208,000,000 toneladas.

A produção de ouro e prata nos Estados Unidos no anno passado foi notavel. O primeiro dos dous metaes representou um valor de \$70,694,170, e o segundo de \$74,424,784. Quanto ao cobre, a quantidade produzida durante os seis mezes que terminaram o 30 de Junho de 1899 ascendeu, segundo dados obtidos pelo periodico "New York Metal Exchange," a 278,850,880 libras.

A exposição de productos e manufacturas appropriados á exportação, que se verificou na cidade de Philadelphia desde 14 de Setembro até 1º de Dezembro de 1899, foi summamente interessante, e com razão se crê que contribuirá a desenvolver o commercio entre os Estados Unidos e as republicas irmãs do continente. Ao mesmo tempo que a exposição, se celebrou a reunião de um Congresso Commercial Internacional, cujo objecto foi promover o commercio internacional. Grande interesse manifestaram todas as nações de America no dito Congresso, e não é de duvidar que dará os resultados mais satisfactorios e que corresponderá ás esperanças de seus promotores.

O desenvolvimento industrial da nação durante o anno passado tem sido a par do progresso agricola. A Secretaria da Agricultura tem ido estendendo sua esphera de acção mais e mais cada dia, e em 1899 se introduziram innovações em que antes não se tinha pensado. Espera-se que prompto se poderão cultivar nas novas possessões insulares da republica numerosas plantas tropicaes, entre outras as que

produzem a borracha. Com a aquisição das Philippinas e Porto Rico é evidente que os Estados Unidos verão d'aqui em diante produzir-se dentro de seus limites jurisdiccionaes muitos dos artigos que até hoje tem tido que importar dos paizes situados na zona torrida.

A immigração nos Estados Unidos durante o anno economico que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899 foi maior que em qualquer dos annos anteriores, contando desde 1896, pois entraram no paiz, segundo dados officiaes, 311,715 immigrantes.

O primeiro anno do dominio dos Estados Unidos nas illas de Hawaii foi muito prospero, segundo se vê pela comparação da renda e despeza do Governo, assim como pelo que produziram as alfandegas durante os ultimos seis mezes do anno economico que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899.

Um acontecimento tristissimo veio a perturbar a nação ao terminar o anno de 1899, a morte do Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos, Mr. GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART. Homem de espirito levantado, de verdadeiro patriotismo e de grande experiencia nos negocios publicos, desempenhou o alto cargo a que foi chamado por seus concidadãos com dignidade, intelligencia e tacto. Como Presidente do Senado ganhou o respeito e apreço de todos os membros daquelle alto corpo, sem distincção de partidos politicos. A morte deste eminente homem de estado causou profunda impressão de um extremo a outro do paiz, como o exprime o Presidente MCKINLEY na proclamação que com esse motivo dirigio ao povo dos Estados Unidos.

O anno de 1899 tem presenciado a grande expansão territorial da Republica, em cujos dominios, como no imperio hespanhol do seculo XVI, nunca se põe o sol. Ao amparo de sua bandeira dão-se os productos de todas as zonas, e cerca de cem milhões de seres humanos vivem sob a protecção de suas leis. Nada offerece a antiga ou a moderna historia que possa comparar-se ao maravilhoso desenvolvimento dos Estados Unidos, que ha cem annos eram apenas uma potencia de terceira ordem e que são hoje uma das mais ricas, prosperas e poderosas nações do globo. O que serão ao terminar o seculo que começa, não alcança a imaginação a concebello. Bem se comprehende que o primeiro Magistrado da Republica tenha posto fim a sua mensagem com estas palavras:

“Nunca, como no ultimo anno, havia tido esta nação tantos motivos de gratitude para com a Providencia pelos numerosos favores que lhe tem concedido, e perante os quaes nós inclinamos reverentes.”

CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL MARITIMO.

De conformidade com a resolução adoptada no setimo Congresso Internacional Maritimo que se reuniu em Bruxellas em 1898, o oitavo Congresso se reunirá em Pariz no dia 28 de Julho e suas sessões

durarão até o dia 3 de Agosto deste anno. Haverá nelle delegados da França e dos paizes estrangeiros das camaras de commercio, das cidades, das sociedades maritimas e de reboque, das companhias de estradas de ferro e de transportes.

Tambem serão admittidos aquelles individuos que antes da inauguração do Congresso manifestem seu desejo de assistir a elle. Os convites tem sido enviados pelos Srs. G. MASSON e P. HOLTZ, o primeiro Presidente da Camara de Commercio de Pariz, e o segundo Inspeetor Geral de Pontes e Caminhos. Estes cavalheiros acham-se á frente de uma grande commissão de distinctos cidadãos francezes a cujo cargo está o assumpto.

DIAGRAMMAS DO MOVIMENTO DO COMMERCIO AMERICANO.

Os diagrammas publicados no BOLETIM MENSAL de Janeiro deste anno indicam o movimento commercial entre os Estados Unidos e o Mexico, America Central e do Sul e as Antilhas e mostram o movimento, anno por anno, durante a decada, dos principaes artigos de commercio entre a America do Norte e do Sul, permittindo que se observe de um golpe de vista a marcha ascendente e descendente deste commercio.

Estes diagrammas foram preparados pela Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Fazenda e baseiam-se sob as tabellas compiladas de dados tomados de uma obra intitulada "O Commercio Americano," que foi publicada em Junho de 1899 pela mesma Repartição, com o objecto de distribuil-a entre o publico. O referido volume contem detalhes minuciosos sobre o commercio de cada um dos paizes da America do Sul e Central, do Mexico e das Antilhas durante um numero de annos, assim como sobre o commercio entre os referidos paizes e os Estados Unidos desde os primeiros annos do seculo, sendo portanto uma colleção de informações uteis para as pessoas interessadas nesta classe de assumptos.

BRAZIL.

IMPORTAÇÕES DE FARINHA DE TRIGO.

A Secretaria das Republicas Americanas recebem do Sr. THOMAS C. DAWSON, Secretario da Legação dos Estados Unidos no Rio de Janeiro, uma communicação, na qual se dão dados estatisticos sobre o commercio de farinha no Brazil. Segundo o "Monthly Summary" da Repartição de Estatisticas dos Estados Unidos, este paiz exportou para o Brazil durante o anno de 1898, 707,025 barricas de farinha de trigo. A estatistica da importação deste artigo para 1898 não foi publicada pelo Governo do Brazil, mas a para o anno de 1899 está sendo organizada.

Segundo os dados estatísticos já organisados, o total das importações de farinha de trigo durante os primeiros tres mezes de 1899 attingiu a 302,730 barricas, mas não se especificam as quantidades provenientes dos diversos paizes.

Quanto ao porto do Rio, os dados são mais detallados. Durante os primeiros oito mezes de 1899 passaram pela alfandega do Rio 197,830 barricas de farinha, das quaes 111,870 vieram dos Estados Unidos, 66,800 da Republica Argentina, 17,090 do Uruguay, 1,475 da Austria, 388 da Grã Bretanha, 194 da Allemanha 11 da França. Si a proporção que existia entre as importações pelo porto do Rio e as pelos outros portos do Brazil durante os tres mezes findos em 31 de Março, se mantivesse a mesma durante os oito mezes findos em 31 de Agosto, o total das importações de farinha de trigo no Brazil deveria subir a 900,000 barricas.

Calenlando as importações para 1898 no quadruplo das para o primeiro trimestre de 1899, se vê que foram importadas naquelle anno 1,212,000 barricas, e desta quantidade, 707,025 barricas, como já se tem dito, vieram dos Estados Unidos. Do resto, 495,000 barricas vieram dos paizes do Rio Prata e 10,000 barricas da Austria, Grã Bretanha, Italia e Allemanha, não sendo especificadas as quantidades provenientes de cada paiz.

O Sr. DAWSON diz que a investigação das importações de farinha nos varios portos do Brazil respeito á quantidade recebida dos Estados Unidos comparada com a proveniente dos paizes do Rio Prata, tem dado substancialmente os mesmos resultados. Além da farinha de trigo importada, no anno de 1898 foram fabricadas no Rio, de trigo importado do estrangeiro, 600,000 barricas de farinha.

CUBA.

EXPOSIÇÃO DE PARIZ EM 1900.

O Sr. DEMETRIO ALBERTINI tem sido nomeado Secretario da Comissão, que terá a sen cargo a exhibição de Cuba na Exposição de Pariz de 1900. O Sr. ALBERTINI receberá o ordenado de \$250 por mez. O Secretario da Guerra tem applicado a quantia de \$25,000 para as despesas da exhibição, a qual deve ser paga das rendas de Cuba.

MEXICO.

ABOLIÇÃO DOS DIREITOS DE EXPORTAÇÃO SOBRE O CAFÉ.

Sr. LIMANTOUR, Ministro da Fazenda do Mexico, submetten ultimamente á consideração do Congresso varias medidas de importancia que

foram approvadas pelo Presidente DIAZ. Referindo-se ás industrias nacionaes, o Ministro disse o que segue:

“A industria do café é talvez a unica de nossas industrias que não está em condição florescente e o Governo tem tomado passos com o objecto de determinar as causas da depreciação deste producto que constitue fonte importante de nossa riqueza nacional. Em outros tempos, não muito remotos, quando o caso era o contrario e os productores do café estavam realisando grandes lucros, ao passo que se dava certa depressão em algumas das outras industrias, a qual recalia sobre a condição do Thesouro, decretou-se um direito de exportação sobre o café que tem sido fonte de grande renda para o Governo.

“Este direito foi considerado como a justa contribuição que deviam fazer dos seus lucros os productores e exportadores deste producto em auxilio dos productores menos favorecidos, a quem cabia sustentar os encargos publicos nestas criticas circunstancias. Por isso parece justo agora que o Governo annulle este direito e deve-se observar que a abolição do direito durante o resto do exercicio corrente dará em resultado uma diminuição da renda federal na importancia de só \$200,000 e todavia alliviará muito os productores do café.”

Diz-se ter o Congresso Nacional já annullado os direitos de exportação sobre o café e d'aqui em diante não se cobrarão direitos de exportação sobre o café mexicano.

PERU.

GUANO NAS ILHAS DE MAZORCA.

O “American Fertilizer” correspondente ao mez de Dezembro de 1899 diz que foram descobertos recentemente nas Ilhas de Mazorca depositos de guano peruano de uma qualidade superior. Essas ilhas estão situadas ao norte de Calláo, n'uma região secca e é por isso que o guano tem podido conservar uma grande porcentagem de nitrogenio. Grandes quantidades deste adubo foram encontradas com 13½ e 14 por cento de nitrogenio e de 12 a 13 por cento de acido phosphorico.

A analyse de varias amostras deste adubo feita pelo Sr. D. CRISPO, dá pela media 13,95 por cento de nitrogenio e 12,08 por cento de acido phosphorico. Os depositos de guano cobrem uma area consideravel e têm seis pés de profundidade. O guano apresenta caracteristicos excellentes. É secco, pouco pesado e de uma cor clara, exhalando um cheiro forte. A primeira remessa deste producto chegou ultimamente a Londres no vapor *Lorraine*. Si os depositos de guano realisarem a expectativa, produzirão grande renda para a republica.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

CONDIÇÃO DAS COLHEITAS

Segundo o boletim publicado pela Secretaria da Agricultura correspondente a 3 de Janeiro, a condição da colheita de trigo no mez de Dezembro era como segue: "O tempo foi geralmente favoravel durante o mez para o trigo de inverno, segundo as informações recebidas da maior parte dos Estados. As sementeas teem-se desenvolvido muito bem e promettem muito, excepto no Estado de Michigan e em algumas partes do Estado de Ohio. No primeiro destes Estados o trigo não se desenvolveu satisfactoriamente, e no segundo tambem não está em boas condições para o inverno."

Tem-se que o máo tempo em fins de Dezembro e em principios de Janeiro tem causado algum damno ás sementeas que não estavam protegidas pela neve, especialmente em algumas partes de Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana e Illinois, ao mesmo tempo que as geadas alternando com o degelo davam resultados desfavoraveis para as colheitas em West Virginia e Missouri. Nos Estados da costa do Pacifico o trigo acha-se em condições excellentes. Receberam-se informações de que a mosca conhecida com o nome de *Hessian fly* tinha causado algum damno, mas este foi insignificante fora de Michigan, Pennsylvania e Tennessee.

FABRICAÇÃO DE LUVAS.

França, que sempre tem sido considerada como o centro da industria de lvas, tem descoberto, segundo se diz em um artigo publicado no "Bulletin Mensuel de la Chambre de Commerce française de New York," que conta com um rival formidavel nos Estados Unidos.

A fabricação de lvas continúa fazendo grandes progressos neste paiz e na actualidade as fabricas não podem satisfazer os pedidos que recebem. Sómente tem podido satisfazer o 80 por cento dos que deviam haver sido entregues em Julho, Agosto e Setembro, e todavia estão trabalhando para suppril-os.

Entre as varias classes de lvas que se fabricam nos Estados Unidos, a que tem mais procura por agora é a conhecida com o nome de "mocha." Os americanos teem um secreto para a preparação destas pelles que até hoje os europeós não teem podido descobrir. Estes ultimos não possuem um artigo tão delgado, suave e flexivel. Muitos fabricantes inglezes e francezes compram as ditas pelles, já preparadas e coloridas, nos mercados da America, e estas volvem transformadas em lvas elegantemente acabadas. Em quanto a este ultimo, diz o artigo em referencia, os francezes teem todavia a superioridade sobre os americanos.

O preço da pelle de "mocha" sem curtir é muito mais elevado agora

que tem sido no passado. Estas pelles se vendem presentemente ao preço de 74 e 75 centavos cada uma, o qual é um augmento de 100 por cento sobre os preços de 1898, que variaram de 34 a 40 centavos. Já se tem feito numerosos pedidos de luvas de "mocha" para o outono de 1900. É provavel que a alta no preço continue, e não nos surprehenderia ver que prompto estas pelles se estivessem vendendo a 90 centavos e até 1 dollar cada uma. É preciso dizer que a produção de "mocha" se limita a um milhão de pelles approximadamente e que apesar da crescente procura, é quasi impossivel augmentar a produção. Por outra parte os francezes, inglezes e allemães, que desde ha dons annos estão fazendo ensaios com este artigo, tomam uma quarta parte da produção que antes era destinada exclusivamente aos Estados Unidos.

Nota-se que desde ha algum tempo se estão usando outra vez as luvas de pelle de Suecia, e as informações obtidas de todos os principaes importadores confirmam o facto de que a demanda se faz geral, demanda que era muito insignificante ha tres ou quatro annos. Isto pode explicar-se pela escassez da pelle de "mocha," pois a de Suecia é a que se lhe parece mais.

EXPOSITORES AMERICANOS EM PARIZ.

O Commissario General dos Estados Unidos á Exposição de Pariz, Mr. PECK, tem publicado uma lista dos principaes expositores americanos que tem accedido o espaço que lhes tem sido assignado. A lista contem 1,095 nomes de pessoas, casas de commercio e corporações, mas não figuram n'ella os de expositores de productos agricolas e mineiros ou de obras litterarias e seientificas, bellas artes, etc. Uma lista desta classe deveria conter como 7,000 nomes. No catalogo official que se está preparando apparecerá uma lista completa dividida em grupos e classes.

FALSIFICAÇÃO DE MARCAS DE FABRICA.

Varios fabricantes de Nova Inglaterra estão fazendo esforços no sentido de averiguar quem são as pessoas que tem introduzido nos mercados sul-americanos uma imitação de suas flanelas. Diz-se tambem que artigos de outra classe tem sido imitados por fabricantes enropéos que os enviam principalmente aos mercados da America do Sul e do Oriente.

O assumpto em questão foi posto em conhecimento dos representantes de um fabricante dos Estados Unidos por um correspondente em Valparaíso. Este ultimo conhecia os productos da fabrica e lhe causou surpresa a deterioração dos effectos que levavam seu nome. Ao examinal-os observou que se haviam feito ligeiras alterações na maneira de eserever algumas das palavras no rotulo afim de evitar uma acensação por fraude, alteração que não podiam perceber as pessoas que não conheciam o idioma inglez.

Está-se tratando com diligencia de averiguar quem são os falsificadores e já se tem descoberto que as flanellas falsificadas foram feitas na Europa.

Ha alguns annos varios dos consules americanos na Europa chamaram a attenção do Governo de Washington a procedimentos desta mesma classe. O assumpto de que agora se trata pode assumir um caracter internacional.

PRÓDUCÇÃO DE ASSUCAR EM HAWAII.

Em um relatorio que Mr. HAROLD SEWALL, ex-Ministro dos Estados Unidos em Hawaii, dirigio de Honolulu á Secretaria de Estado, diz que a produção total de assucar naquellas ilhas durante a estação de 1899 foi de 304,603 toneladas, ou 50,000 toneladas em excesso da quantidade calculada pelo celebre estatístico allemão, LICHT.

As importações na ilha no anno de 1899 representaram um valor de \$15,945,349, ou um augmento de \$5,973,753 sobre as do anno preeedente.

NOVO REGULAMENTO DE VALES POSTAES.

No dia 2 de Janeiro começaram a vigorar nos Estados Unidos tres diferentes tarifas de vales internacionaes. A primeira refere-se aos vales pagaveis em Cuba e em Porto Rico. A segunda é de preços especiaes para vales pagaveis em Mexico. A terceira contem os preços internacionaes ordinarios, taes como teem sido publicados nas leis e regulamentos postaes.

A segunda tarifa, que é nova, foi feita mediante uma convenção celebrada em Setembro proximo passado, na qual se auctorisa a permuta directa de vales postaes com a Republica do Mexico. A agencia de correios de Laredo, Texas, funcionará d'aqui em diante como agencia de permutas internacionaes por parte dos Estados Unidos, e a agencia de Nuevo Laredo desempenhará a mesma funeção no que se relaciona ao Mexico. A importancia dos vales emittidos nos Estados Unidos deve ser exprimida em moeda americana, e a dos vales emittidos no Mexico em moeda mexicana.

NOTAS MISCELLANEAS.

A Repartição de Navegação do Departamento de Marinha dos Estados Unidos tem publicado uma lista dos navios que formam a frota do paiz, cujo numero ascende a 312. Na dita lista estão incluídos varios barcos capturados em Cuba e nas Ilhas Philippinas, mas ainda excluindo estes, é muito notavel o augmento nos navios de guerra durante os ultimos dous annos.

O armazem de refrigeração que o Governo dos Estados Unidos vai construir em Manila terá 245 pés por cada um de seus lados, com 2 andares. Poderá conter 12,000 rezes mortas entre gado vaecum e carneiros, 100 toneladas de toucinho, 50 toneladas de manteiga, 100 tone-

ladas de legumes e uma machina de fazer gelo que poderá fabricar 40 toneladas por dia.

A collecção anthropologica da Universidade de Yale foi augmentada ultimamente por outra collecção muito valiosa, que incluye antiquidades do Mexico e de Guatemala. A collecção comprehende 350 amostras provenientes de Sempoala, no Estado de Vera Cruz, Mexico, e de Tacala, em Guatemala. Liga-se importancia especial ás antiguidades de Guatemala.

Trata-se de fazer experiencias nas Ilhas de Hawaii com um novo remedio para o tratamento da lepra, que, segundo se diz, tem obtido notaveis resultados. É o producto de um arbusto de Venezuela, introduzido na ilha pelo Dr. CARMICHAEL, facultativo ao serviço dos Estados Unidos, que tem recebido instrucções do Governo de Washington para fazer as referidas experiencias.

O uso a que ultimamente se tem dedicado os automoveis é rebocar barcos nos canaes. O numero do "Exporters and Importers' Journal" correspondente a 9 de Dezembro de 1899 diz que se está construindo em Hatton, Connecticut, a um custo de \$4,000, um automovel que poderá rebocar de 6 a 10 barcos á vez no canal do Erie.

BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

Mr. GEORGE A. NEWELL, Commissario de Mineração do Estado de Michigan, no seu relatorio annual correspondente ao anno de 1898, diz o que segue respeito á producção de mineraes no Estado durante aquelle anno: "Si fosse fundido em trilhos de aço, pesando 50 libras o pé, todo o ferro produzido no Estado de Michigan neste anno (1898), se poderia com elles dar uma vez e meia a volta ao mundo. Si o cobre refinado extrahido das minas fosse estendido em arame de telephono, No. 12, se poderia com elle dar a volta ao mundo 29½ vezes. Si as barricas de sal que se produziu no Estado em 1898 fossem juntas umas ás outras, fariam uma linha ininterrupta de 1,500 milhas de extensão. Calculo o valor total dos mineraes produzidos no Estado durante o anno em \$38,825,000. Desta quantia, \$18,450,847 correspondem ao valor do ferro, \$16,834,670 ao do cobre e \$2,686,272 ao do sal."

O periodico "Harpers' Weekly" contem, em seu numero de 9 de Dezembro de 1899, illustrações que representam modelos dos barcos de guerra dos Estados Unidos, os quaes serão exhibidos na Exposição de Pariz. Ha em todo 25 destes modelos e abrangem os melhores typos de navios de guerra que se encontram hoje em serviço activo.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VIII.

JANVIER 1900.

No. 1.

PROGRÈS DES ETATS-UNIS PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1899.

Le progrès des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 a été phénoménal. Son commerce à l'étranger s'est développé d'une manière prodigieuse, et il paraît incroyable que les exportations pendant la dite année aient dépassé de plus de un billion de dollars les importations et les exportations réunies de 1870. L'importation per capita fut 20 pour cent moindre, et l'exportation 58 pour cent de plus que celles de 1870. L'exportation des produits agricoles s'est élevée à la somme énorme de \$784,776,142, et celle des articles manufacturés à \$339,592,146.

La condition dans laquelle se trouvent les finances du Trésor est on ne peut plus satisfaisante, car, d'après les données qui se trouvent dans le rapport du Ministre des Finances, il y aura pendant la présente année fiscale une balance disponible de 40,000,000 de dollars. Dans son dernier message au Congrès des Etats-Unis, le Président MCKINLEY, en faisant allusion à la situation fiscale de la nation, s'exprimait ainsi:

"L'excellente condition dans laquelle se trouvent les finances du Trésor est montrée par le fait qu'il existait en caisse, le 1^{er} décembre 1899, une balance comptante disponible de \$278,004,837.72, dont \$239,744,905.56 en monnaie d'or et en lingots. La confiance qui règne dans le pays a porté le peuple à faire davantage usage de la monnaie d'or, et les droits de douane sont maintenant presque entièrement payés avec ce métal."

Les prédictions et les espérances pour la prospérité et l'agrandissement de la nation ont été réalisées en 1899 d'une façon remarquable. On arrive facilement à cette conclusion en examinant l'immensité du trafic et des affaires en général pendant les douze mois qui viennent de

s'écouler. La hausse du prix des principaux produits, ainsi que l'augmentation des valeurs de toutes espèces, ont été si énormes qu'on n'aurait jamais pu les prévoir. L'augmentation des salaires payés aux travailleurs dans les usines, ainsi que les commandes pour six mois d'avance faites, vers la fin de l'année antérieure, aux fabricants des Etats-Unis, sont des faits dignes d'être notés. Si on prend comme exemple l'immense trafic des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899, les liquidations des banques, on trouvera que ces dernières ont une balance énorme de \$93,300,000,000, soit 36 pour cent de plus que pendant l'année 1898.

En présence de la prospérité générale pendant l'année 1899, on peut facilement comprendre que les faillites ont été en moins grande quantité que pendant les années précédentes, et d'après l'excellente revue commerciale et économique, "Bradstreet," il n'y a eu seulement 9,550 faillites, soit 17 pour cent de moins que pendant l'année 1898.

Le commerce entre les Etats-Unis et les Républiques Latines Américaines a augmenté d'une façon remarquable en 1899, et quoiqu'il n'ait pas encore atteint le degré de développement auquel on s'attend, il est évident qu'il a une tendance de s'accroître chaque jour davantage. Un grand nombre de produits provenant des manufactures américaines, qui jadis étaient presque inconnus sur les marchés de l'Amérique Centrale et du Sud, soutiennent la concurrence avantageusement avec les produits européens du même genre. Parmi ces produits, on peut remarquer que les articles en cuir manufacturés, qui jadis provenaient presque exclusivement d'Europe, sont aujourd'hui importés en grande quantité des Etats-Unis.

La chaussure américaine est très demandée dans l'Amérique Latine, étant préférée dans plusieurs pays à l'article français qui, pendant un grand nombre d'années, occupait la première place. Le développement atteint par cette industrie aux Etats-Unis est dû à ce que cet article est fabriqué ici, pour le même prix, beaucoup mieux que dans d'autres pays. Actuellement, les Etats-Unis n'importent la chaussure d'aucun pays, tandis qu'ils exportent cet article en Angleterre, en France, en Allemagne, au Canada, dans l'Amérique Centrale, dans l'Amérique du Sud, en Australie et dans d'autres pays. D'après les données publiées par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Finances, les exportations de chaussures pendant les 10 mois terminés au mois d'avril de l'année passée se sont élevées à \$2,049,047, et pendant la même période de l'année antérieure elles ne se sont montées qu'à \$1,439,512.

Les exportations des machines américaines de toutes espèces aux pays du Sud firent grand progrès pendant l'année passée, et c'est un fait avéré partout que les machines fabriquées aux Etats-Unis sont les meilleures du monde.

L'exportation des cotonnades américaines qui sont avantageusement connues depuis longtemps sur les marchés du continent américain a augmenté considérablement pendant l'année 1899, et on ne voit pas pour-

quoi elles ne prendraient pas la place occupée par les produits européens, car elles sont indubitablement supérieures. La sériculture s'est considérablement développée pendant l'année dernière. Il existait, au mois de janvier 1899, 861 soieries établies dans 28 des Etats de l'Union.

En 1899 des traités de réciprocité ont été conclus entre la Grande-Bretagne et les Etats-Unis, concernant le commerce entre les Etats-Unis et les Colonies Britanniques dans la Mer des Antilles; des traités ont aussi été conclus avec la République Argentine, la France et la République de Nicaragua.

Un des plus grands obstacles qui ait empêché jusqu'ici le développement commercial entre les Etats-Unis et les pays de l'Amérique Latine a été le manque de communications maritimes. Le Président MCKINLEY en traitant cette question dans son message déjà mentionné s'exprime ainsi:

"L'importance d'une marine marchande américaine afin d'étendre notre commerce et d'affermir notre pouvoir sur mer invite l'action immédiate du Congrès. Notre développement national restera imparfait et insuffisant aussi longtemps que l'accroissement remarquable de notre commerce intérieur ne sera pas accompagné par les progrès maritimes."

Tout le monde comprend la nécessité d'établir un service de bateaux à vapeur entre les Etats-Unis et l'Amérique Latine afin de faciliter les communications. Dans une réunion du cercle des fabricants de Philadelphie qui eut lieu le 15 novembre dernier, dans le but d'étudier la question de l'établissement d'une ligne de bateaux à vapeur entre ce port et Rio-Janeiro, le Capitaine CORDEIRA de GEACA, représentant du Brésil au Congrès Commercial International, prononça un discours en faveur du projet, dans le cours duquel il s'exprima ainsi: "Votre commerce d'exportation est aussi important que celui d'importation, et cependant vous n'avez pas développé le premier dans vos transactions avec le Brésil. Un seul coup d'œil pourrait cependant vous faire comprendre que vous pourriez expédier au Brésil une plus grande quantité de vos produits, s'il y avait des vaisseaux pour les transporter et s'il existait un meilleur système d'échange international. Le Brésil peut consommer une grande quantité de vos produits, et parmi eux je dois mentionner la farine, les huiles minérales, le fer, l'acier, le charbon, les cotonnades, les machines et autres produits manufacturés en général."

D'après le rapport du Commissaire Général de la Marine, les progrès qui ont été faits dans les constructions navales pendant l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 ont été vraiment remarquables, attendu que, à cette époque, on était en train de construire, dans les chantiers de constructions navales des Etats-Unis, pour ce pays et l'étranger, plus de 50 vaisseaux de guerre ayant ensemble une valeur de plus de \$40,000,000, sans compter le blindage et l'armement. À la même époque on a construit aussi plus de deux cents navires marchands dont la valeur totale s'est montée à plus de \$30,000,000. Parmi les navires de la marine marchande dont la construction a été commandée en 1899 sont

compris trois des plus grands vaisseaux du monde: Le *California*, pour la Compagnie de Navigation "American-Hawaiian," dont les dimensions sont 450 pieds de long, 50 pieds de largeur et 12,000 tonnes de déplacement; et les deux autres ont été commandés pour la "Pacific Mail S. S. Co." et ont un déplacement de 18,500 tonnes.

En 1899 le progrès fait dans la construction des chemins de fer des Etats-Unis a été à la hauteur du progrès général de la nation. Depuis 1890 on n'avait jamais vu une activité pareille à celle qui s'est déployée pendant l'année 1899; l'augmentation des voies ferrées ayant été 50 pour cent plus grande qu'en 1898, quand les chemins de fer couvraient une étendue de 186,396.32 milles ou une étendue plus grande que celle de toutes les voies ferrées réunies de la France, l'Allemagne, l'Angleterre et la Russie. Aucune nation du monde n'a fait autant de progrès que les Etats-Unis en ce qui concerne la construction des locomotives, rails et le matériel des chemins de fer en général. L'exportation du matériel des chemins de fer pendant l'année passée a été considérable et s'est étendue dans divers pays, y compris l'Angleterre et ses colonies. Rien ne peut être plus significatif que le fait des deux principaux chemins de fer anglais, le *Midland* et le *Great Western*, qui ont fait une commande pour 60 locomotives américaines.

Quant à la fabrication des articles en fer et en acier, les Etats-Unis sont à la tête des autres nations et exportent actuellement dans tous les pays du monde les produits de ses fonderies.

En ce qui concerne l'électricité, le pays a fait des progrès prodigieux pendant l'année 1899, l'exportation du matériel électrique ayant augmenté d'une façon surprenante.

Dans aucun pays on n'a extrait autant de charbon qu'aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année qui vient de s'écouler, et on ne doute pas que dans peu de temps ils surpasseront l'Angleterre qui a été et continue à être la nation qui produit la plus grande quantité de cet important et utile article de commerce. On a calculé que la production de ce combustible en Angleterre s'est élevée, en 1899, à 220,000,000 tonnes, tandis qu'aux Etats-Unis elle ne s'est montée qu'à 208,000,000 tonnes.

La production de l'or et de l'argent aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année dernière a été aussi très remarquable, le premier de ces deux métaux représentant une valeur de \$70,694,170 et le deuxième \$74,424,784. La quantité de cuivre produite pendant les six mois terminés le 30 juin 1899 s'est élevée, d'après les chiffres donnés par le journal "New York Metal Exchange," à 278,850,880 livres.

L'exposition des produits de toutes espèces adaptés à l'exportation eut lieu dans la ville de Philadelphie du 14 septembre au 1^{er} décembre 1899. Cette exposition fut des plus intéressantes, et on croit qu'elle contribuera au développement du trafic entre les Etats-Unis et les Républiques du continent. Dans le but d'encourager le commerce international, le Congrès Commercial International fut convoqué en connexion avec le Musée Commercial de Philadelphie. Toutes les nations de l'Amérique manifestèrent le plus grand intérêt dans ce Con-

grès, et on ne doute pas que le résultat qui en dérivera sera des plus satisfaisants et réalisera les espérances des promoteurs.

Le développement industriel de la nation pendant l'année 1899 a été à la hauteur de son progrès agricole. Le Département de l'Agriculture a étendu sa sphère d'activité de plus en plus, et en 1899 a introduit des innovations auxquelles on n'avait jamais songé auparavant. On espère qu'on pourra cultiver bientôt dans les nouvelles possessions insulaires de la République un grand nombre de plantes tropicales, parmi lesquelles sont les arbres à caoutchouc. Il est évident qu'avec l'acquisition des Philippines et de Puerto Rico, les Etats-Unis verront se produire dans l'étendue de sa juridiction une grande quantité d'articles qui, jusqu'ici, ils avaient été obligés d'importer des pays tropicaux.

L'immigration aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 a été plus grande que celles des années antérieures depuis 1896, le nombre d'immigrants s'étant élevé, d'après les données officielles, à 311,715.

La première année de la domination des Etats-Unis sur les Iles Sandwich fut très prospère, comme on peut le voir en comparant les recettes et les dépenses du Gouvernement et les produits des droits de douane pendant les derniers six mois de l'année fiscale terminée le juin 1899.

Vers la fin de l'année 1899 une perte douloureuse est venue affliger le pays; c'est la mort de Mr. GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vice-Président des Etats-Unis. C'était un homme d'un esprit élevé, un vrai patriote, de grande expérience dans les affaires publiques, et qui remplit avec dignité, intelligence et tact les hautes fonctions auxquelles il avait été élevé par la volonté nationale. Comme Président du Sénat, il sut s'attirer le respect et l'estime de tous les membres du Corps Législatif, sans distinction de partis.

La mort de cet éminent homme d'Etat fit une profonde impression dans tout le pays, comme le dit si bien le Président MCKINLEY dans sa proclamation au peuple des Etats-Unis.

Pendant l'année 1899, la nation a vu l'expansion de son territoire et elle peut dire, comme l'Espagne du 16^{ème} siècle, "le soleil ne se couche jamais sur nos domaines." Sous la protection de son drapeau on peut recueillir les fruits de toutes les zones, et près de 100,000,000 d'âmes vivent sous l'égide de ses lois. Il n'y a rien dans l'histoire ancienne ni moderne qui puisse être comparé au merveilleux développement des Etats-Unis qui, il y a cent ans, étaient à peine une nation de 3^{ème} ordre et qui, aujourd'hui, sont une nation des plus riches, des plus prospères, et des plus puissantes du globe; ce qu'elle sera à la fin du siècle qui commence, l'imagination ne peut le concevoir. Aussi peut-on comprendre pourquoi le Président de la République ait terminé son message par ces mots:

"Jamais cette nation n'a eu d'aussi abondantes raisons que pendant l'année passée pour remercier Dieu pour les nombreuses bénédictions et bienfaits qu'il a versés sur nous et pour lesquels nous lui adressons notre reconnaissance révérencieuse."

EXPORTATIONS DES MANUFACTURES DES ETATS-UNIS EN EUROPE.

Après les années prospères de 1897 et de 1898, le progrès des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 a continué, en augmentant dans des proportions phénoménales. L'expansion de la nation, commercialement parlant, a été sans précédent et presque inattendue. La prospérité actuelle de la nation est due à son intégrité commerciale et aux conditions excellentes dans lesquelles se trouvent les industries et les finances du pays. Les industries licites n'ont jamais été la cause de paniques monétaires aux Etats-Unis, mais jadis ont souffert à cause des "booms" illicites des spéculateurs.

Trois industries servent mieux que toutes les autres, peut-être, à démontrer la prospérité de la nation, ce sont : l'industrie du fer et de l'acier, le commerce des tissus et la joaillerie. En prenant pour base de comparaison chacune de ces industries en particulier ou ensemble, on trouve que la prospérité des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 a été plus grande qu'elle ne l'avait jamais été. Il semblerait que la première industrie citée fut la fondation de toute l'activité industrielle, et ce qui s'est accompli dans cette branche est presque merveilleux. Le commerce des tissus sert de base pour démontrer les conditions industrielles du pays, indiquant les demandes pour les nécessités. Les demandes des tissus ont commencé à augmenter et continuent à croître en rapport avec le développement des manufactures de fer et d'acier. Le commerce de la bijouterie représente les demandes pour les articles de luxe dont très peu peuvent être classés comme articles de nécessité, et beaucoup de personnes peuvent s'en passer.

Il n'y a pas très longtemps, les Etats-Unis pouvaient à peine suppléer à leurs propres besoins, en ce qui concerne les articles manufacturés, et les exportations étaient comparativement peu importantes. L'augmentation remarquable qui s'est produite dans les exportations des articles manufacturés de ce pays aux pays du vieux monde, spécialement aux nations européennes, justifie le BULLETIN MENSUEL d'appeler l'attention des autres Républiques de l'Union internationale sur les ressources des Etats-Unis et sur l'extension de ses produits manufacturés en Europe. Le total des exportations du pays pendant l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899 s'est élevé à \$1,204,123,134; les articles manufacturés étant évalués à \$338,667,794. Du total des exportations, une valeur de \$936,781,169 fut expédiée en Europe.

A ce sujet, il est peut-être bon de constater que la valeur totale des articles manufacturés exportés des Etats-Unis pendant la décade commençant en 1889 et finissant en 1898, a augmenté de 110 pour cent, tandis qu'en examinant les exportations des manufactures des autres pays on n'a constaté aucun pour cent d'augmentation pendant la même période. La Grande-Bretagne ne montre aucune augmentation appréciable dans les exportations de ses produits manufacturés depuis

l'année 1890. L'augmentation des exportations de la France, pendant cette période, était d'environ 10 pour cent; de l'Allemagne, 13 pour cent; de la Suisse, 6 pour cent; de la Hollande, 3 pour cent, pendant que l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie montrent une perte.

Les exportations des manufactures des États-Unis en 1899 se sont montées à environ trois fois les exportations des mêmes articles pendant l'année 1879. C'est un fait aussi intéressant que digne de remarque, qu'un examen des statistiques fiscales des États-Unis montre que les pays d'Europe, où les manufactures ont été établies depuis longtemps, fournissent un marché aussi bon pour les marchandises manufacturées des États-Unis que les pays où les manufactures n'ont pas atteint un très grand développement.

Le plus grand progrès qui ait été fait dans l'exportation des manufactures aux États-Unis, a été en métaux, principalement les articles en fer et en acier. En 1880 les exportations de ce genre se montaient à \$14,716,524, et en 1899 elles s'élevaient à \$93,715,951, ou plus de six fois autant. D'un autre côté les importations des articles en fer et en acier manufacturés se montaient, en 1880, à \$71,266,699, pendant qu'en 1899 la valeur de ces importations s'élevait seulement à \$12,098,239, ou environ un sixième de celle de 1880. Cette classe d'exportations comprend les rails d'acier, les matériaux de construction en fer et en acier, les machines de 1^{re} classe, les machines à condre, les bicyclettes, les machines à écrire, les instruments scientifiques, les locomotives, les clous en fil de fer, les machines agricoles. La valeur des rails d'acier exportés en 1889 était \$235,387; cette valeur s'est élevée en 1898 à \$4,613,376, et en 1899 à \$5,298,125. De ce dernier chiffre, l'Europe en a pris un dixième, soit une valeur de \$531,753. En ce qui concerne les machines agricoles, principalement les faux, les moissonneuses, les charries et les cultivateurs dont les exportations en 1899 se sont élevées à \$12,432,197, une valeur de \$7,442,654 fut expédiée dans les pays européens comme suit: au Royaume Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande, \$1,372,393; en France, \$1,781,659; en Allemagne, \$1,646,700; dans les autres pays, \$261,891.

Les exportations des matériaux de construction en fer et en acier, scies et outils, se sont élevées en 1889 à \$1,700,390 et en 1899 ont atteint le chiffre de \$7,842,372. Dans ce dernier total, les pays européens sont compris pour une valeur de \$3,747,974, la part de la Grande-Bretagne étant \$1,833,369; la France, \$269,157, et l'Allemagne, \$866,872. Le total des machines à condre exportées en 1889 s'élevait à une valeur de \$2,247,875, dans ce chiffre les pays européens sont compris pour \$1,179,705. En 1899 les exportations de ces articles se sont montées à \$3,264,344, dont \$1,908,732 pour les pays européens; la part de la Grande-Bretagne étant \$956,424; celle de la France, \$95,953, et celle de l'Allemagne, \$688,980.

En 1899 la valeur des machines à écrire vendues aux marchands étrangers s'est montée à \$2,449,205, la Grande-Bretagne en prenant pour une valeur de \$1,054,060; la France pour \$167,350; l'Allemagne

pour \$507,000, et les autres pays pour une valeur de \$369,608. La valeur des bicyclettes et leurs parties expédiées à l'étranger en 1899 s'est montée à \$5,753,880; les chiffres suivants donnant la valeur des exportations de cet article dans les pays européens: la Grande-Bretagne, \$868,190; la France, \$469,381; l'Allemagne, \$1,117,352; les autres pays, \$1,365,860, soit un total de \$3,830,783 pour les marchés européens seulement. Le développement de cette industrie et du commerce des machines à écrire, pendant les dix années qui viennent de s'écouler, a été phénoménal. Les exportations des bicyclettes seules, ont surpassé, en 1899, celles des wagons de chemins de fer et des autres véhicules exportés pendant la même année. Les instruments et les appareils scientifiques, y compris les instruments et appareils télégraphiques, les téléphones et autres appareils électriques, ont pris un très grand développement.

Avant 1889, les exportations de cette classe de manufactures n'avaient jamais atteint le chiffre de \$1,000,000, tandis que pendant l'année 1899 elles se sont élevées à \$4,399,180. Dans ce chiffre est comprise la somme de \$2,090,620 le total des chargements pour l'Europe étant divisé comme suit: \$950,426 pour la Grande-Bretagne; \$454,818 pour la France; \$412,995 pour l'Allemagne, et \$272,381 pour les autres pays.

Quant aux exportations de cuivre (autre que le métal brut), elles ont augmenté considérablement. On en a expédié à l'étranger, en 1899, pour une valeur de \$34,476,343, dont une valeur de \$34,269,822 a été expédiée dans les pays européens suivants: Grande-Bretagne, \$9,668,604; la France, \$6,673,345; l'Allemagne, \$6,208,095; les autres pays, \$11,719,778. Les montres et les pendules prises ensemble ont augmenté graduellement; les montres surpassant en popularité les pendules. Les exportations de ces articles se sont montées en 1899 à \$1,863,431, la Grande-Bretagne étant comprise dans ce chiffre pour la somme de \$652,177.

Les exportations des fabriques de coton, particulièrement les cotonnades, ont augmenté d'une façon satisfaisante; le nombre de mètres exportés était pour 1889, 118,453,191; pour 1898, 270,507,811 mètres, et pour 1899, 412,004,055 mètres. La valeur des mètres exportés en 1899 a été évaluée à \$18,969,897, et les exportations à la Grande-Bretagne se sont élevées à \$628,445 et celles dans les autres pays à \$931,448, soit un total de \$1,559,893 pour l'Europe. En 1899 la Chine a pris plus d'une moitié des exportations du coton manufacturé, soit \$9,823,253 pendant que l'Asie et l'Océanie en ont reçu pour une valeur de \$1,873,331. Pendant l'année fiscale 1899, les exportations des vêtements en coton, et de tous les cotons manufacturés, se sont élevées à une valeur de \$4,598,017; les achats de la Grande-Bretagne se montant à \$430,978, pendant que ceux des autres pays européens se sont élevés à \$312,738 et ceux d'Asie et d'Océanie à \$543,494.

En 1899, on a exporté 37,120,912 livres de cuir pour semelles, évaluées à \$6,280,904; de ces totaux, la Grande-Bretagne a pris 31,381,148 livres pour \$5,168,588, et les autres pays européens 3,452,197 livres pour une valeur de \$639,685. Tous les autres cuirs exportés se sont montés à

une valeur de \$13,444,569; de ce montant, l'Europe en a pris pour une valeur de \$12,195,045, particulièrement l'Angleterre pour une valeur de \$9,595,306; la France, pour \$385,087; l'Allemagne, pour \$954,347; le reste de l'Europe, pour \$1,260,305.

La chaussure fabriquée aux Etats-Unis est très appréciée dans toutes les parties du monde, les exportations en 1889 montant à \$585,902 et en 1899 à \$2,711,385. Les exportations en Europe, pendant l'année dernière, ont été évaluées à \$703,695, divisées comme suit: la Grande-Bretagne, \$525,242; la France, \$39,664; l'Allemagne, \$79,578; les autres pays, \$59,841. La valeur des exportations des meubles en 1899 s'est montée à \$3,571,375, l'Europe étant comprise dans ce chiffre pour une somme de \$1,563,526. Dans ce dernier total, la Grande-Bretagne est comprise pour \$1,083,625; la France, pour \$74,952; l'Allemagne, pour \$173,741, et les autres pays européens, pour \$231,208. Le total des exportations des munitions navales s'est élevé en 1899 à \$9,982,955; l'Europe étant comprise dans ce chiffre pour une valeur de \$8,597,253. Presque une moitié du total européen a été prise par la Grande-Bretagne qui en a acheté pour une valeur de \$4,173,130, tandis que l'autre moitié, montant à \$1,735,647, a été prise par l'Allemagne. Les manufactures des produits chimiques des Etats-Unis font beaucoup de progrès, mais peut-être sont-ils moins rapides que ceux faits par les autres industries. Les exportations en 1899 se sont montées à \$10,995,289. Presque deux tiers des chargements des huiles raffinées ou manufacturées dont 502,257,455 gallons furent exportés en 1889, et 805,956,345 gallons en 1899 étaient pour les pays européens. Pendant l'année 1899, la Grande-Bretagne a acheté 212,734,107 gallons évalués à \$12,023,768; la France, 12,012,873 gallons évalués à \$1,103,258; l'Allemagne, 128,084,787 gallons évalués à \$6,542,815, et les autres pays européens, 253,544,389 gallons évalués à \$13,554,069. Le prix de cette huile, par gallon, en 1899 était beaucoup moins élevé que pendant l'année 1889, néanmoins le montant des exportations en 1899 a été estimé à \$50,200,518 contre \$39,286,333 en 1889. Les exportations de la paraffine ont augmenté considérablement en 10 ans, l'évaluation des exportations en 1889 étant \$2,029,602, et en 1899 \$6,804,684: presque toute la paraffine (6,220,137 gallons) ayant été expédiée en Europe. En 1899, la paraffine expédiée à la Grande-Bretagne, s'est élevée à une valeur de \$4,050,114; à la France, à \$101,281; à l'Allemagne, à \$867,287, et au reste de l'Europe, à \$1,201,445.

LE MUSÉE COMMERCIAL DE PHILADELPHIE.

Dans son récent message annuel au Congrès des Etats-Unis, le Président MCKINLEY s'est étendu particulièrement sur le Musée Commercial de Philadelphie et sur le Congrès commercial international convoqué en connexion avec le Musée. Voici la teneur des paragraphes qui traitent ces sujets:

Pour se conformer à un acte du Congrès approuvé le 21 décembre

1898 et sous les auspices du Musée Commercial de Philadelphie, une intéressante exposition de la plus grande valeur des produits manufacturés adaptés spécialement au commerce d'exportation eut lieu à Philadelphie du 14 septembre au 1^{er} décembre 1899. Le caractère représentatif des produits exposés et le grand intérêt témoigné dans les articles spéciaux de l'entreprise donnent un nouvel encouragement à ceux qui attendent avec confiance l'augmentation continue de notre exportation croissante des articles manufacturés, qui a été le fait le plus remarquable dans le développement économique des États-Unis pendant les années récentes. Un des traits caractéristiques de cette Exposition qui est destinée sans doute à devenir d'une utilité durable et croissante pour nos industries, est la collection des échantillons des marchandises produites dans les divers pays avec des références spéciales aux marchés particuliers, donnant des leçons pratiques d'objet aux manufacturiers des États-Unis, quant aux qualités, aux genres et aux prix des marchandises, pour satisfaire aux demandes spéciales des consommateurs et qui peuvent être exportées avec avantage.

En connexion avec l'Exposition, un Congrès Commercial International s'assembla sur l'invitation du Musée Commercial International de Philadelphie, transmise par le Département des Affaires Étrangères aux différents Gouvernements étrangers, dans le but d'échanger des renseignements et des opinions destinés à étendre le commerce international. Cette invitation reçut un accueil général et cordial, et le Congrès, qui commença ses sessions à l'Exposition le 13 octobre 1899, prouva être d'une grande importance pratique, en ce qu'il développa une reconnaissance générale de l'interdépendance des nations en affaires commerciales et un esprit le plus satisfaisant d'accommodement en ce qui concerne la disparition graduelle des difficultés existantes avec les relations réciproques, sans nuire aux intérêts industriels de chaque parti.

L'EXPOSITION "PAN-AMERICAN" À BUFFALO.

Le Président MCKINLEY dans son message annuel au Congrès pendant le mois de décembre 1899, faisant allusion aux progrès faits par ceux qui sont chargés de l'Exposition "Pan-American" à Buffalo, s'exprima en ces termes :

La loi qui encourage l'ouverture de l'Exposition "Pan-American" sur la frontière du Niagara, dans le Département de l'Erie ou du Niagara, dans l'Etat de New York, pendant l'année 1901, fut approuvée le 3 mars 1899. Cette exposition qui aura lieu dans la ville de Buffalo, à une très courte distance de la grande chute du Niagara et à un jour de voyage de la résidence de 40,000,000 d'habitants, sera entièrement confinée à l'Hémisphère Occidental. Les Représentants Diplomatiques de la Grande-Bretagne, du Mexique, les Républiques de l'Amérique Centrale et de l'Amérique du Sud et la plupart des Etats des États-Unis, ont déjà donné les assurances satisfaisantes que ces pays et

Etats feront une exposition unique, intéressante et instructive, montrant particulièrement les progrès matériels faits pendant le siècle qui va finir.

La loi a alloué une somme de \$500,000 pour que les Départements Exécutifs, la Smithsonian Institution et le Musée National, la Commission du Poisson et des Pêcheries des Etats-Unis, le Département du Travail et le Bureau des Républiques Américaines du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis, puissent prendre part à cette Exposition. Afin que les préparatifs de l'Exposition de ce Gouvernement soient complets et harmonieux, une commission a été désignée et chargée de choisir, d'acheter, de préparer, de transporter, d'arranger et de garder les articles et les matériaux qui doivent être exposés. Cette commission a été organisée, et, pour se conformer à la loi, est déjà entrée en fonction.

J'ai toutes les raisons pour espérer et croire que cette Exposition tendra à cimenter plus fortement les relations cordiales entre les nations de ce continent.

DIAGRAMMES DÉMONTRANT LE MOUVEMENT COMMERCIAL DE L'AMÉRIQUE.

Les diagrammes publiés dans le présent BULLETIN MENSUEL (janvier 1900), indiquant le mouvement commercial entre les Etats-Unis et le Mexique, l'Amérique du Sud, l'Amérique Centrale et les Indes Occidentales, montrent, année par année, pendant la décade, le mouvement des principaux articles introduits dans le trafic entre l'Amérique du Nord et l'Amérique du Sud et permettent de suivre, d'un seul coup d'œil, la marche ascendante et descendante de ce commerce. Ces diagrammes sont préparés par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Finances et sont basés sur des tables compilées provenant d'un ouvrage intitulé: "Commerce américain," publié en juin 1899 par ledit bureau pour être distribué au public. Ce volume contient des détails minutieux sur le commerce de chacun des pays de l'Amérique du Sud, de l'Amérique Centrale, du Mexique et des Indes Occidentales pendant de nombreuses années aussi bien que sur le commerce entre ces pays et les Etats-Unis depuis les premières années du siècle, et est en conséquence un recueil de renseignements utiles pour les personnes intéressées dans ces questions.

CUBA.

EXPOSITION À PARIS EN 1900.

Señor DEMETRIO ALBERTINI a été nommé Secrétaire de la Commission chargée de l'Exposition Cubaine à l'Exposition de Paris en 1900. Les appointements de Señor ALBERTINI seront de 250 dollars par mois. Le Ministre de la Guerre des Etats-Unis a affecté une somme de \$25,000 pour les dépenses de l'exposition, qui devra être prise sur les revenus de Cuba.

MEXIQUE.

DÉPÔTS DE COKE NATUREL.

Dans une réunion de l'Institut américain des ingénieurs des mines (American Institute of Mining Engineers) qui a eu lieu à San Francisco, Californie, pendant la dernière semaine du mois de septembre 1899, M. E. T. DIMBLE lut le récit de ses explorations sur la ligne du chemin de fer de Sonora et fit part de sa découverte de dépôts de coke naturel d'une qualité excellente. On croit que cette découverte sera d'une très grande importance pour le Mexique où le combustible enehérît tous les jours. Ci-après sont quelques extraits du rapport ci-dessus mentionné :

“ Pendant les explorations tentées pour la “ Southern Pacific Company ” au commencement de cette année, des dépôts de coke naturel d'une telle étendue et d'une qualité si excellente qu'ils méritent d'être mentionnés furent découverts dans le terrain houiller de Santa Clara, dans le voisinage de La Barranea, petite ville située à 95 milles au nord-est de Ortiz, sur la ligne de chemin de fer Sonora. Les couches de charbon sont exposées dans le bassin de drainage de la rivière Calera qui se jette dans le fleuve Yaqui, en face de Toniehe, et la vieille ville minière est située presque au milieu de terrain houiller. * * *

“ Toute l'étendue du terrain repose sur une couche de rocs appartenant à l'âge triasique, soulevée, affaissée et crevassée par plaees et couverte de roches éruptives de toutes sortes et de différents âges. Dans la moitié de la partie supérieure des dépôts de rocs triasiques, se trouvent des couches superposées de sable et d'argile. En cherchant les affleurements de charbon sur la rivière Calera, nous rencontrâmes un fragment de coke, et en en suivant les traces nous trouvâmes finalement une petite couche de coke impur à l'embouchure de l'El Tren, un des principaux affluents de ce cours d'eau. Quelques jours plus tard, en creusant obliquement une galerie pour découvrir les filons de charbon supposés, nous trouvâmes une couche d'excellent coke de 3 pieds d'épaisseur reposant sur 2 pieds d'anthracite.

“ Plus tard encore, en explorant les bords d'une rivière située à un demi-mille à l'ouest du gisement cité, nous découvrîmes une place où les ‘ gophers ’ avaient apporté des petits fragments de charbon et nous nous mîmes immédiatement à l'œuvre. A une profondeur de 10 pieds, nous découvrîmes une excellente couche de coke qui, à 30 pieds de profondeur avait une épaisseur de 8 pieds et à 130 pieds de profondeur en avait une de plus de 10 pieds.

“ En dehors de ces deux puits que nous avons ensuite trouvé aboutir à la même couche, nous avons depuis découvert plusieurs autres gisements ayant une épaisseur variant entre 2 et 4 pieds. Il est probable que le coke n'est pas entièrement dû à l'effet produit par les matières ignées. Nous avons trouvé une couche de coke qui n'avait pas de roches ignées près d'elle, et dans une localité on a découvert, dans un

filon d'anthracite de 4 pieds, de petites cavités contenant du coke et après nous n'avons plus trouvé aucune roche d'intrusion dans le voisinage immédiat. Ces cavités sont autour du centre du filon et sont petites, mais le coke est de bonne qualité. De même que nous avons rencontré du coke dans l'anthracite, nous avons aussi découvert dans les premiers 50 ou 60 pieds, dans la pente 'gopher,' un peu d'anthracite dans les cavités qui sont au bas du coke.

"On a aussi remarqué la présence de charbon et de coke dans la même couche mais dans des banes séparés. Le même fait a été constaté dans trois localités et dans trois couches différentes. Dans deux cas le coke forme la couche supérieure, et dans l'autre le charbon est au dessus. Dans la première galerie mentionnée plus haut, les deux couches sont séparées par un banc d'argile ayant 3 pouces d'épaisseur. Dans les deux autres je n'ai trouvé aucune séparation. On le charbon est brisé on trouve un peu de graphite le long des parties fissurées. Je n'en ai pas rencontré dans les autres couches. Une partie de l'anthracite de la région contient aussi un peu de graphite dans les mêmes proportions, et il y a plusieurs localités où la couche toute entière est changée en graphite. La présence du graphite dans les filons du coke est intéressante, car elle montre que dans la transformation cumulative de la fibre végétale en graphite, le passage peut se faire, soit à travers l'anthracite, soit à travers le coke naturel.

"Le coke a la couleur du gris foncé, est de consistance égale avec de petits pores (plus dense que la plupart des houilles carbonisées) et est très dur. Il se casse avec une fracture très uniforme, mais a, dans certaines places, la structure d'une colonne de houille carbonisée. C'est un combustible excellent qui brûle sans pétiller et sans déflagration. On peut le faire prendre aussi facilement que l'anthracite et il brûle parfaitement dans une grille de fer dans une cheminée, dans la forge d'un forgeron et dans les hauts fourneaux. Les cendres en sont blanches.

"La valeur de ces gisements de coke est due en grande partie à la régularité avec laquelle sont superposées les roches d'intrusion qui s'étendent sur de longues distances dans la même couche de charbon ardoisé; ce qui promet une bien plus grande provision de coke que celle que l'on pourrait espérer si les couches se trouvaient dans d'autres conditions, tout en donnant une grande valeur commerciale aux gisements de cette région où le charbon de cuisine est très rare."

PARAGUAY.

RAPPORT SUR LE COMMERCE DU CACAO.

Pendant le mois de décembre 1899, Mr. JOHN H. RUFFIN, Consul des Etats Unis à Assomption, a adressé un rapport au sujet du marché au cacao, dans lequel il dit que très peu de cacao a été récemment exporté du Paraguay. En 1897 l'exportation du produit de ce pays fut achetée par la Banque Agricole à Assomption et 2,000 sacs pesant

ensemble 97 tonnes furent vendus à Londres, Angleterre, pour un petit peu plus de 1,094 livres sterling. Par suite de cette opération, la banque réalisa, déduction faite des dépenses, 938 livres sterling, soit environ \$4,732 en or. D'après cela, il semblerait que le prix du cacao Paraguayen est coté plus haut que celui des autres cacao. La plupart du cacao qui arrive à Londres vient d'Afrique et est offert à un prix variant entre \$46.23 et \$48.66 la tonne, mais le produit Paraguayen a rapporté de \$54.75 à \$55.96 la tonne et est considéré beaucoup plus supérieur. Le Consul dit que Naples, Italie, désire obtenir annuellement 10,000 tonnes de cacao Paraguayen à un prix montant environ à 11 livres sterling (\$53.53) la tonne. Dans le Paraguay, les amandes coûtent de \$4 à \$5 l'arobe, soit environ 48 à 71 cents chaque 25 livres.

ETATS-UNIS.

RÉCLAMATION CONTRE LE MEXIQUE DÉCLARÉE SANS FONDEMENT.

Le 11 décembre 1899, la Cour Suprême des Etats-Unis a confirmé le jugement de la Cour des Réclamations dans le procès intenté par la Compagnie des Mines d'Argent La Abra (La Abra Silver Mining Company) à la République du Mexique, déclarant que la réclamation qui se montait à environ \$4,000,000 était frauduleuse et sans fondement.

Le jugement fut prononcé par le Juge HARLAN qui dit, en substance, que la première réclamation à la Commission Américaine-Mexicaine en 1870 se montait à \$1,950,000, mais qu'après cela elle s'était élevée à \$3,962,000. Cette réclamation était basée sur l'allégation que les préjudices causés à la Compagnie La Abra par les autorités Mexicaines pendant que la Compagnie opérait dans l'Etat de Durango (Mexique) se montaient à cette somme. La Commission, par l'intermédiaire de son arbitre, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, a accordé 683,041 dollars. Après qu'une partie de cette somme fut payée aux Etats-Unis pour la Compagnie La Abra, le Gouvernement Mexicain fournit de nouvelles preuves au Département d'Etat démontrant que la réclamation était frauduleuse.

Après plusieurs autres procès, le Congrès, en 1892, vota une loi autorisant la Cour des Réclamations à faire des investigations sur l'affaire, cette loi ordonnant spécifiquement que la Cour s'assurât si oui ou non la réclamation était frauduleuse et appuyée sur de faux témoignages. La Cour des Réclamations trouva que la réclamation était entachée de fraude et cette décision fut confirmée par le jugement de Mr le Juge HARLAN à la Cour de Cassation. Il dit que l'évidence prouvait que l'histoire entière de la perte due à l'inconduite des autorités Mexicaines était invraisemblable et sans fondement, et que si la compagnie avait fait faillite, les actes officiels n'y étaient pour rien. L'effet du jugement est d'empêcher que des sommes soient payées ultérieurement aux réclamateurs de La Abra.

En prononçant l'arrêt, le juge décida incidemment que si la signature du Président était apposée sur un bill pendant les vacances du Congrès et avant que les dix jours accordés par la Constitution fussent expirés, l'acte ainsi signé serait aussi valide que si le Congrès était en session. Cette question fut soulevée dans le but d'attaquer la constitutionnalité de la loi de 1892 autorisant l'investigation des réclamations de la Cour des Réclamations, laquelle loi fut approuvée pendant les vacances de Noël de 1892-1893. M. le Juge HARLAN dit que le point essentiel était que le bill fut signé et qu'il n'était pas important que la signature fut apposée pendant les vacances ou pendant la session du Congrès du moment qu'elle l'était dans les dix jours accordés pour l'examen du Chef de l'Etat. Cependant la décision qui a été prise sur ce point n'a pas inclu la légalité de l'approbation du Chef de l'Etat après l'ajournement final du Congrès, cette question n'ayant pas été soulevée.

NOUVEAUX RÈGLEMENTS POUR LES MANDATS POSTAUX.

A partir du 2 janvier, le tarif des frais imposés pour l'émission des mandats de poste internationaux ont été divisés comme suit: 1^o Les droits intérieurs seront imposés pour les mandats de poste payables à Cuba et Puerto-Rico; 2^o les taxes intermédiaires spéciales pour les mandats payables au Mexique; 3^o Les droits internationaux réguliers comme ils sont prescrits dans les lois et règlements de la poste. Le deuxième tarif qui est nouveau fut adopté par la convention qui eut lieu au mois de septembre dernier, autorisant l'échange direct des mandats de poste internationaux avec la République du Mexique.

Le Bureau des postes à Laredo, Texas, agira désormais comme Bureau de l'échange international pour le compte des Etats-Unis, tandis que le Bureau des postes de Nuevo Laredo agira, de la même manière, comme Bureau des échanges pour le compte du Mexique. Le montant des mandats de poste émis aux Etats-Unis devront être libellés en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis et les mandats de poste émis au Mexique seront libellés en monnaie courante du Mexique.

CONDITION DES RÉCOLTES.

D'après le rapport publié par le Département de l'agriculture le 3 janvier 1900, la condition de la récolte du blé pendant le mois de décembre 1899 a été comme suit: Les influences climatiques pendant le mois ont été généralement favorables au blé d'hiver, les rapports de la majorité des Etats indiquant que la plante est bien enracinée, a poussé vigoureusement et promet beaucoup excepté dans l'Etat de Michigan et quelques parties de l'Etat de Ohio. Dans le premier Etat ci-dessus mentionné, la dernière semence n'a pas donné de rejetons satisfaisants, tandis que dans l'Etat de Ohio la plante est petite, faible et dans de mauvaises conditions pour l'hiver.

On a craint que le froid rigoureux qui a sévi pendant la dernière partie de décembre et les premiers jours de janvier, ne causât quelques

dommages aux champs qui ne sont pas protégés par la neige, plus particulièrement dans quelques parties de Pensylvanie, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana et Illinois, pendant que la gelée et le dégel, tour à tour, ont été défavorables aux récoltes dans l'ouest de la Virginie et le Missouri. Dans les Etats situés sur la côte du Pacifique, la plainte se trouve dans des conditions excellentes. Tous les rapports disent que partout la première semence a été ravagée par la mouche "Hessian" quoique cependant à l'exception du Michigan, Pensylvanie et Tennessee, les dommages paraissent être très peu considérables.

EXPOSANTS AMÉRICAINS À PARIS.

Mr. PECK, Commissaire Général de la Commission des Etats-Unis à l'Exposition de Paris, a publié une liste des principaux exposants commerciaux des Etats-Unis qui ont accepté l'emplacement qui leur a été assigné à l'Exposition par le Commissaire Général. La liste comprend 1,095 noms de personnes, sociétés ou corporations, mais ne comprend pas l'agriculture, les mines, la littérature, les publications périodiques, les sciences, les beaux arts, les associations religieuses, les sociétés de charité et autres, les écoles, les collèges, etc. Une telle liste comprendrait les noms de 7,000 exposants, environ. Une liste officielle arrangée par groupes et classes sera publiée dans le catalogue officiel actuellement en voie de préparation.

IMITATION À L'ÉTRANGER DES MARQUES DE FABRIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

Un nombre de manufacturiers de la Nouvelle Angleterre sont occupés à rechercher l'identité des personnes qui ont introduit sur les marchés de l'Amérique du Sud une imitation habile de leurs marques patentées de flanelles. On dit aussi que d'autres marchandises manufacturées ont été introduites sur le marché par des fabricants européens et que l'on trouve ces contre-façons en plus grande abondance dans l'Amérique du Sud et en Orient (la Chine, le Japon, etc.).

Le cas particulier en question fut soumis à l'attention des représentants d'un manufacturier des Etats-Unis par un correspondant à Valparaiso, Chili. Ce dernier étant familier avec le genre des produits de la fabrique fut frappé de la qualité inférieure des marchandises. En examinant plus attentivement l'étiquette, il s'aperçut que des mots avaient été mal épelés et que l'on avait fait d'autres changements si adroits qu'ils pouvaient, tout en échappant à l'accusation de fraude, tromper les personnes qui ignoraient la langue anglaise. On recherche constamment et énergiquement les coupables et on est arrivé à trouver que la flanelle dont il s'agit avait été contrefaite en Europe.

Il y a quelques années, quelques Consuls Américains du continent de l'Europe attirèrent l'attention des autorités à Washington sur des faits semblables. On donne à entendre que le cas ci-dessus peut prendre les proportions d'un conflit international.

FABRICATION DE LA MONNAIE A L'HÔTEL DE LA MONNAIE A PHILADELPHIE.

L'Hôtel de la Monnaie à Philadelphie frappa en 1899 122,790,528 pièces de monnaie, représentant une valeur d'un petit peu plus de \$65,000,000. En plus du monnayage pour les Etats-Unis, de la monnaie fut frappée pour la République de Costa-Rica et Saint-Domingue (République Dominicaine). Le total de la monnaie d'or frappée pour les Etats-Unis se montait à 4,669,768 pièces ayant une valeur de \$54,632,750. On a monnayé 38,075,384 pièces d'argent représentant une valeur de \$8,214,565. On a frappé un grand nombre de monnaies de cuivre et de nickel. On a frappé 26,029,031 pièces de 5 cents ayant une valeur de \$1,301,451.55 et 53,600,031 pièces de 1 cent ayant une valeur de \$536,000.31. Pour Saint-Domingue, 241,314 pesos d'argent furent frappés. Pour Costa-Rica l'Hôtel de la Monnaie frappa 25,000 pièces de 20 "colon" chaque ayant une valeur de \$9,307 en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis; 50,000 pièces de 10 "colon" chaque et 100,000 pièces de cinq "colon" chaque, toutes en monnaie d'or ayant une valeur de \$698,023.26.

FAITS DIVERS.

Le magasin d'entrepôt réfrigérant que le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis construira à Manille, Archipel des Philippines, aura une dimension de 245 pieds carrés et deux étages. Ce bâtiment pourra contenir 5,000 carcasses de bœuf, 7,000 carcasses de mouton, 100 tonnes de lard, 50 tonnes de bœuf, 100 tonnes de légumes et possédera une machine pouvant fabriquer 40 tonnes de glace par jour.

On va expérimenter dans les Iles Sandwich un nouveau remède pour guérir la lèpre avec lequel on a déjà obtenu, dit-on, des résultats remarquables. Ce remède est le produit d'un arbrisseau vénézuélien dont la culture a été introduite dans les Iles sous la direction du Dr. Carmichael de l'Hôpital maritime des Etats-Unis, qui a été chargé par les autorités à Washington d'expérimenter ce produit.

Le Bureau de la navigation du Ministère de la marine des Etats-Unis a publié une liste des vaisseaux qui composent la force navale de la nation, qui se monte à 312 bateaux. Dans cette liste sont inclus un grand nombre de petits vaisseaux capturés à Cuba et aux Iles Philippines, mais en excluant ces derniers l'augmentation dans la liste navale pendant deux années est des plus remarquables.

Le journal hebdomadaire "Harper's Weekly" du mois de décembre 1899, contient une page où sont illustrés les différents modèles des vaisseaux de guerre de la marine des Etats-Unis qui seront exposés à l'Exposition de Paris de 1900. Il y a en tout 25 de ces modèles, y compris les meilleurs de chaque type de vaisseaux actuellement en service actif dans la marine.

La dernière découverte que l'on ait faite de l'emploi de l'automobile est de lui faire remorquer les bateaux. Le journal "Les Exportateurs

et Importateurs" (The Exporters and Importers) du mois de décembre 1899 dit que l'on est en train de construire à Hatton, Conn., une automobile qui coûtera \$4,000 et sera capable de remorquer à la fois 6 à 10 bateaux sur le canal Eric.

L'Association des marchands de New York est en train de faire parvenir par la poste à 150,000 marchands américains, un rapport sur la nécessité urgente pour le Congrès de prendre des mesures immédiates pour l'amélioration de la condition de Puerto-Rico.

URUGUAY.

RATIFICATION DU TRAITÉ AVEC L'ALLEMAGNE.

Pendant la dernière partie du mois de décembre 1899, le Ministère des affaires étrangères à Washington a reçu un rapport de M. SWALM, Consul à Montévideo, appelant l'attention du Gouvernement sur la ratification du traité entre l'Uruguay et l'Allemagne. La convention conclue entre les deux pays est en réalité le rétablissement du traité de 1892 qui fut dénoncé en 1897. D'après les termes de ce traité, les citoyens et les produits de chaque pays auront droit dans l'autre pays aux mêmes privilèges accordés à la nation la plus favorisée, excepté que l'Uruguay est autorisé à faire des arrangements commerciaux avec les pays voisins pour les produits qui ne soutiennent pas la concurrence avec ceux d'origine allemande.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

Dans son rapport annuel de 1898 publié en 1899, M. George A. NEWELL, Directeur de l'Exploitation des Mines de l'Etat de Michigan, en donnant une illustration pratique des minerais que le Michigan a produit pendant l'année, fournit les exemples suivants: Si tout le fer que l'Etat de Michigan a produit pendant l'année était converti en rail d'acier pesant 50 livres chaque pied, la rail ferait une fois et demie le tour du monde. Si le cuivre purgé, extrait des mines, était étendu le long d'un fil téléphonique No. 12, ce fil contournerait 29 fois et $\frac{1}{2}$ le globe. Si les barils de sel raffiné dans le Michigan étaient ajoutés les uns après les autres, ils formeraient une ligne droite ayant une longueur de 1,500 milles. J'estime que la valeur des minerais qui ont été extraits dans l'Etat pendant l'année et qui ont été vendus sur les marchés, s'est élevée à \$38,825,000. Dans ce chiffre, le minerai de fer est compris pour \$18,450,847, le cuivre pour \$16,834,670 et le sel pour \$2,686,272.

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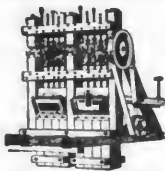
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VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

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:

ESTIMATE JANUARY 1, 1900.

Countries.	Standard.	Unit.	Value in U. S. gold or silver.	Coins.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.	Gold and silver.	Peso.....	\$0.965	{ Gold—Argentine (\$4.824) and ½ Argentine. Silver—Peso and divisions.
BOLIVIA.....	Silver.....	Boliviano.	.427	Silver—Boliviano and divisions.
BRAZIL.....	Gold.....	Milreis...	.546	{ Gold—5, 10, and 20 milreis. Silver—½, 1, and 2 milreis.
CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES—				
Costa Rica.....	Gold.....	Colon.....	.465	{ Gold—2, 5, 10, and 20 colons (\$9.307). Silver—5, 10, 25, and 50 cen- timos.
British Honduras.	Gold.....	Dollar.....	1.000	
Guatemala.....	} Silver.....	Peso.....	.427	Silver—Peso and divisions.
Honduras.....				
Nicaragua.....				
Salvador.....				
CHILE.....	Gold.....	Peso.....	.365	{ Gold—Escudo (\$1.825), doub- loon (\$3.650), and condor (\$7.300). Silver—Peso and divisions.
COLOMBIA.....	Silver.....	Peso.....	.427	{ Gold—Condor (\$9.647) and double condor. Silver—Peso and divisions.
CUBA.....	Gold and silver.	Peso.....	.926	{ Gold—Centen (\$5.017). Silver—Peso.
ECUADOR.....	Silver.....	Sucre.....	.427	{ Gold—Condor (\$9.647) and divisions. Silver—Sucre and divisions.
HAITI.....	Gold and silver.	Gourde.....	.965	Silver—Gourde.
MEXICO.....	Silver.....	Dollar.....	.464	{ Gold Dollar (\$0.983), 2½, 5, 10, and 20 dollars. Silver—Dollar (or peso) and divisions.
PERU.....	Silver.....	Sol.....	.427	Silver—Sol and divisions.
URUGUAY.....	Gold.....	Peso.....	1.034	{ Gold—Peso. Silver—Peso and divisions.
VENEZUELA.....	Gold and silver.	Bolivar.....	.193	{ Gold—5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 bolivars. Silver—5 bolivars.

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 it.

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.
Arabe	Paraguay	25 pounds.
Arroba (dry)	Argentine Republic	25.3175 pounds.
Do	Brazil	32.38 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	2.5096 quarts.
Do	Mexico	2.5 quarts.
Gram	Metric	15.432 grains.
Hectare	do.	2.471 acres.
Hectoliter (dry)	do.	2.838 bushels.
Hectoliter (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.
Pie	Argentine Republic	0.9478 foot.
Quintal	do.	101.42 pounds.
Do	Brazil	130.06 pounds.
Do	Chile, Mexico, and Peru	101.61 pounds.
Do	Paraguay	100 pounds.
Do. (metric)	Metric	220.46 pounds.
Suerte	Uruguay	2,700 cuadras (see Cuadra).
Vara	Argentine Republic	34.1208 inches.
Do	Central America	38.874 inches.
Do	Chile and Peru	33.367 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 ($1/1000$ gram) equals 0.0154 grain.
 Centigram ($1/100$ gram) equals 0.1543 grain.
 Decigram ($1/10$ 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 tonneau—ton (1,000,000 grams) equals 2,204.6 pounds.

METRIC DRY MEASURE.

Milliliter ($1/1000$ liter) equals 0.061 cubic inch.
 Centiliter ($1/100$ liter) equals 0.6102 cubic inch.
 Deciliter ($1/10$ 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.

Milliliter ($1/1000$ liter) equals 0.0388 fluid ounce.
 Centiliter ($1/100$ liter) equals 0.388 fluid ounce.
 Deciliter ($1/10$ liter) equals 0.845 gill.
 Liter equals 1.0567 quarts.
 Decaliter (10 liters) equals 2.6418 gallons.
 Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 26.418 gallons.
 Kiloliter (1,000 liters) equals 264.18 gallons.

METRIC MEASURES OF LENGTH.

Millimeter ($1/1000$ meter) equals 0.0394 inch.
 Centimeter ($1/100$ meter) equals 0.3937 inch.
 Decimeter ($1/10$ 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, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, United States of America, and Venezuela.

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