

THE
 MONTHLY BULLETIN
 OF THE
 Bureau
 OF THE
 American Republics

WASHINGTON, U. S. A.

NOVEMBER, 1895.

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SINGLE NUMBERS, 10 CENTS.

PER ANNUM, \$1.00.

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
NO. 2 LAFAYETTE SQUARE, WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

Director—CLINTON FURBISH.

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ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The scheme for the settlement of the National Debt, as proposed by Sr. Dr. Romero, is briefly as follows.

The present national indebtedness is as below :

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| National Foreign Debt..... | \$222,531,022 |
| Provincial Foreign Debt..... | 137,261,859 |
| Railway Guarantees..... | 35,000,000 |
| Total..... | <u>\$394,792,881</u> |

It is proposed to issue 4 per cent. bonds to the amount of \$350,000,000, to meet the above indebtedness, to be applied in the following manner :

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| To the National Debt..... | \$230,000,000 |
| To the Provincial Debt..... | 85,000,000 |
| To Railway Guarantees.... | 35,000,000 |

It will be seen that this will add nearly \$8,000,000 to the present National Debt, while it reduces the Provincial Debt by \$52,261,859. As a guarantee for the stability of the paper currency it is proposed to issue, in addition to the above, bonds to the amount of \$30,000,000, making a grand total of \$380,000,000.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The importations for the first six months of the current year were \$46,203,528, and the exportations, \$67,136,528. For the corresponding six months of 1894 the importations were \$52,699,115, and the exportations, \$61,519,468. There was, therefore, for the first half of the present year a falling off of \$6,500,000 in the importation, and an increase of \$5,600,000 in the exportation.

There is a strong movement on foot in the Argentine Republic to establish grain elevators of the American type, and to grade grain according to American standards. At present all grain handled in that country is sacked.

BOLIVIA.

CONSULAR INVOICES.

Under a protocol signed at Lima, Peru, on the 29th of October, 1894, approved May 28, 1895, and officially published on the 5th of October ultimo, an agreement has been reached by the Governments of Peru and Bolivia, as stated below.

ARTICLE 1. Merchandise imported through Mollendo, destined for Bolivia, may be landed and forwarded to its destination in the said Republic if it comes accompanied by invoices certified by the Bolivian Consul at the port of embarkation. The Peruvian Custom House authorities at Mollendo shall accept these invoices for the making of the itemized declaration required previous to the delivery of the said merchandise in the Government warehouses.

ART. 2. The Bolivian Government shall give such orders and make such regulations as may be necessary to cause the said invoices to conform to the requirements of the said itemized declaration.

ART. 3. Captains or pursers of vessels carrying merchandise to Mollendo shall present to the Peruvian Consul, if there be one at the port of embarkation, a signed manifest in quadruplicate, with the invoices certified by the Bolivian Consuls, as aforesaid, attached thereto. The Bolivian Consuls shall send to the Bolivian Custom House Agent at Mollendo, in order to avoid fraud, a copy of the invoices which they may have certified and whatever information in regard to the subject which they may deem necessary. The Bolivian Custom House Agent at Mollendo shall, in his turn, transmit the copies and information sent to him to the presiding officer of the Peruvian Custom House at that port.

ART. 4. It is understood that if subsequently to the declaration made at Mollendo, under Bolivian invoices, of the merchandise destined for Bolivia, the importers thereof should change their minds and wish the said merchandise to be sold in Peru, the Custom House authorities shall have then the right to consider it as introduced without invoices.

ART. 5. Importers who may wish to be permitted to introduce their merchandise into Bolivia or leave it in Peruvian territory without incurring, through the lack of invoices as herein provided, the penalty of the foregoing article, they may secure that permission by application to the Consuls of the two nations separately, and in the form and manner which has been established for that purpose.

ART. 6. The foregoing agreement shall begin to be in force as soon as approved by the two governments.

BRAZIL.

From the incomplete returns received by the treasurer for the first quarter of 1895, the receipts for that period have reached 52,082 contos, being 5,928 contos more than that received during the corresponding quarter of the last year. From these first results the Minister of Finance estimates that the total revenue of 1895 will reach 294,587 contos, this estimate amounting to 24,389 contos more than the previous budgetary estimate.

BUDGET FOR 1896.

The proposed budget for 1896, as offered by the Minister of Finance, is as follows :

| RECEIPTS. | | Contos.* |
|------------------------------------|--|----------|
| Import duties..... | | 151,400 |
| Sur-tax..... | | 73,700 |
| Light and port dues..... | | 600 |
| Expedition due..... | | 150 |
| Receipts from Central Railway..... | | 35,000 |
| " " other railroads..... | | 3,000 |
| " " postal service..... | | 3,500 |
| " " telegraphs..... | | 3,600 |
| " " stamp dues..... | | 7,500 |
| Railway dues..... | | 750 |
| Water tax of the city of Rio..... | | 1,200 |
| Lottery tax..... | | 1,000 |
| Miscellaneous..... | | 5,079 |
| Tobacco tax..... | | 1,200 |
| Extraordinary receipts..... | | 8,205 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Balance brought forward..... | | 295,884 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Total..... | | 300,884 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | Contos. |
|--|---------|
| Department of Justice and Interior | 16,326 |
| " " Foreign Affairs..... | 1,866 |
| " " Marine | 25,177 |
| " " War..... | 48,122 |
| " " Agriculture and Public Works. | 97,617 |
| " " Finance..... | 106,920 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total..... | 296,028 |

The total debt appears in the budget as follows :

| | Contos. |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| The foreign debt. | 13,388 |
| Loans of 1868, 1879 and 1889.... | 9,039 |
| The consolidated interior debt..... | 23,361 |
| Exchange | 29,550 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total..... | 75,338 |

EXPORTATIONS FROM RIO DE JANEIRO.

The Custom-House returns recently made public show the following statement as the exportation from Rio de Janeiro for the year 1894. The total was 108,808 contos.

| | Contos. |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| To the United States..... | 75,346 |
| " Germany..... | 8,917 |
| " Austria..... | 6,723 |
| " Great Britain.. | 5,006 |
| " France | 4,303 |
| " Cape of Good Hope..... | 2,338 |
| " Argentina . . | 1,826 |
| " Belgium..... | 1,667 |
| " Uruguay | 1,298 |
| " Canada..... | 1,043 |
| " Italy..... | 266 |
| " Denmark..... | 50 |
| " Portugal..... | 17 |
| " Chile..... | 5 |
| " Paraguay..... | 3 |

NOTE.—The conto is in value equal to \$100 in American currency, at the present rate of exchange.

EXPORTATIONS FROM PARÁ.

During the first six months the following exportations from Pará have been officially announced :

| | Quantity. | Value Contos. |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| India rubber..... | 3,038,912 kilos. | 14,032 |
| Beef hides..... | 316,683 " | 55 |
| Lard..... | 7,450 " | 3 |
| Brazil nuts..... | 39,243 hectoliters. | 481 |
| Goatskins..... | 36,264 kilos. | 60 |
| Cacao..... | 1,780,256 " | 1,671 |
| Tonka beans..... | 4,048 " | 3 |
| Fish glue..... | 17,905 " | 42 |

RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

The "Land Company of Rio Grande" has been organized with a capital of 1,000 contos, for the purpose of acquiring lands, introducing colonists, and constructing roads. This enterprise, supported by the principal capitalists of Rio Grande, will aid in relieving the existing condition of affairs and in bringing about the material activity that existed during the peaceful condition of the State.

REFUNDING OF EXPEDIENTE TAX.

The Department of State has been officially informed by Mr. Thomas L. Thompson, United States Minister to Brazil, that the President of that Republic has sanctioned a decree of the National Congress authorizing the restitution of \$340,000, on account of the Expediente Duties collected by the Brazilian Custom houses upon American merchandise which should have been admitted free of import duty under the commercial arrangement in existence between the two countries from April 1, 1891, until its formal abrogation.

EXPORTS FROM THE DIFFERENT STATES.

According to official statistics recently published, the values, in United States currency, of exports from the different States of Brazil in 1894 were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| São Paulo..... | \$ 43,619,645 |
| Rio de Janeiro..... | 18,240,648 |
| Minas Geraes..... | 11,543,648 |
| Rio Grande do Sul..... | 10,195,102 |
| Amazonas..... | 8,967,165 |
| Pará..... | 8,325,695 |
| Espirito Santo..... | 5,730,231 |
| Bahia..... | 5,404,468 |
| Pernambuco..... | 2,209,586 |
| Alagoas..... | 1,824,225 |
| Sergipe..... | 1,170,214 |
| Paraná..... | 642,086 |
| Maranhão..... | 578,580 |
| Ceará..... | 511,201 |
| Federal District..... | 293,385 |
| Parahyba..... | 292,826 |
| Piahy..... | 222,750 |
| Matto Grosso..... | 186,669 |
| Rio Grande do Norte..... | 136,157 |
| Santa Catarina..... | 114,987 |
| Total..... | \$120,209,268 |

NOTES.

A contract has been signed by the Department of Lands, Public Works and Colonization, of the State of Pará, for the introduction of 3,000 Japanese laborers.

A German firm has made a contract with the authorities of the city of Pará for the installation of an electric plant, which is estimated to cost \$650,000. The city will be illuminated with 1,800 incandescent lights of from 16 to 25 candle power, and 86 arc lights of 2,000-candle power. The power will be furnished

by eight steam engines, and will be sufficient for not only lighting the streets, but also for 10,000 private lights of 16 candle power.

A correspondent of the South American Journal, writing from Rio de Janeiro September 15, speaking of the possibilities of trade with Brazil, says :

“In this connection I may say that the present is a favorable time for foreign merchants and manufacturers to push their wares in Brazil, as trade is good, the sanitary condition excellent, and the country free from political disturbance. Brazil is a rich country, not merely rich in natural resources (for the same can be said of every other country in South America), but a land in which the wealthy non-producer is proportionally much more numerous than in England—a fact that has attracted the notice of many travellers, and is to be accounted for by the great wealth of the soil and the large profits of the coffee industry, the main staple of the country, which is able to support in idleness such a large population.”

At the close of the last year there were 7,540 miles of railway in operation in Brazil, and 4,344 miles in course of construction. The total 7,540 miles representing the miles of railway in operation was made up as follows : Lines belonging to the Nation, 1,764 miles ; guaranteed private lines, 2,005 miles ; unguaranteed private lines, 927 miles, and lines belonging to States, 2,844 miles.

CHILE.

EXPORTATIONS FOR 1894.

The Chilean exportations for the year 1894 amounted to £9,650,000, of which about £8,000,000 were products of the mines. Below is given a statement of this exportation :

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Nitrates and iodine | £6,150,000 |
| Manganese..... | 58,000 |
| Silver..... | 1,000,000 |
| Copper..... | 900,000 |
| Lead..... | 100,000 |
| Gold..... | 20,000 |
| Corn..... | 1,057,000 |
| Barley..... | 80,000 |
| Wool..... | 125,000 |
| Miscellaneous..... | 160,000 |

TELEGRAPHIC EXTENSION TO STRAITS OF
MAGELLAN.

It is stated that the Chilean Government has decided to place their possessions in the Straits of Magellan in telegraphic communication with the rest of the country by laying a sub-marine cable from the present terminus of the land lines to Punta Arenas. Owing to the influx of immigrants from the Falkland Islands and elsewhere the population of this colony has assumed very considerable proportions, and the raising of sheep and horned cattle has grown into great importance.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

In consequence of a divergence of opinion on the action of the Minister of Finance in connection with the Peruvian Corporation question, the Premier, Minister Recabarren, and his colleagues, Messrs. Valdez, and Dávilla Baeza presented their resignations on the 17th of October last ; this precipitated the resignations of the remaining three Ministers Messrs. MacIver, Matte and Sanchez Fontecilla.

Below is given the Ministry, as now constituted, to succeed that which has recently resigned :

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Minister of the Interior, | Señor DON OSVALDO RENJIFO. |
| Minister of Foreign Affairs, | Señor DON ADOLPHO GUERRERO. |
| Minister of Finance, | Señor DON PEREZ DE ARCE. |
| Minister of Justice, | Señor DON GASPAR TORO. |
| Minister of War, | Señor DON BARROS BORGONO. |
| Minister of Public Works, | Señor DON FERNANDEZ ALBANO. |

Of the members composing the new Ministry, the following have previously held cabinet portfolios under President Montt : Señor Renjifo, Señor Borgoño and Señor Albano. Señor Guerrero has recently retired from the position as minister resident in the Argentine Republic.

COLOMBIA.

MODIFICATION OF TARIFF.

(First Supplement to No. 90, October, 1895.)

1. Law No. 72 of 1894, dated November 16, 1894, repealing Law No. 85 of 1892 (1) and establishing duties on tobacco.

ARTICLE 1. Tobacco imported into the country shall be subject to the following duties:

| | Pes. | c. |
|---|------|----|
| Cigars | 4 | " |
| Cigarettes..... | 3 | " |
| Tobacco, cut, and other tobacco of all kinds..... | 2 | " |

Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, the Government is authorized to reserve the right, if it sees fit, for a period of six years, dating from the sanction of the present law, to import and manufacture cigarettes, and may therefore alienate the revenue derived from such monopoly.

The contract for such revenue shall be made by public auction, conformably to the formalities prescribed on the leasing of revenues by the Fiscal Code, the sale having previously been advertised at least 180 days in advance.

The right to rescind a sale or any other contract by paying the price, in consideration whereof it was made, shall not be applicable to the contracts spoken of in this article, nor to any others by which public revenues may be farmed out.

At the expiration of the lease any stock of cigarettes, or of raw materials for manufacturing the same, shall be subject to the payment of an impost equal to the above-mentioned import duty.

ART. 2. The cultivation and exportation from the country of tobacco is entirely free; it shall only be subject to a consumption tax not exceeding 1.50 peso per 12½ kilogrammes for cigars and leaf tobacco of first quality, and in proportion for inferior qualities.

The tax shall be established by each Assembly in the manner thought most convenient in view of the existing circumstances in each Department, and by taking for a basis the state of local industries. Consequently the tax may be applied either on tobacco destined for sale, on

(1) See No. 90, page 14.

tobacco intended to be manufactured or prepared in any manner, or on the manufactories, stores, shops or places of sale for this product.

ART. 3. Of the net proceeds of the consumption tax on national tobacco, 60% shall be attributed to the Department and 40% to the Municipalities.

The customs duties established by the present law on cigarettes imported from abroad shall be collected for the benefit of the Treasury.

ART. 4. The collection of the consumption tax on national tobacco, established in virtue of the present law, shall be leased by public auction, and these auctions shall be held in every district.

In the event of inability to hold such auction the Department shall collect this revenue, conformably to the ordinances on the matter.

ART. 5. Law 85, of December 10, 1892, relative to the consumption tax on tobacco, is hereby repealed.

II. Circular No. 24810, of January 25, 1895.

In virtue of the present circular the total increase of duties applicable to certain goods stipulated by the Decree No. 453, of February 10, 1893 (1) shall be decreased monthly by one-tenth from February 20, proximo.

The same successive decrease shall be applied from February 21, proximo, to the duties on tobacco increased by the Ordinance of March 9, 1893, until the rate of duty established by article 1 of Law No. 72 of 1894, shall be reached; cigarettes and cut tobacco, the importation of which is prohibited to private persons, the State having reserved the monopoly for their manufacture and importation, are excepted.

III. Extract from the Decree No. 75, of March 22, 1895, establishing a surtax on the duties leviable on the importation of goods and an export duty on coffee.

ART. 1. On and after the promulgation of the present decree the import duties levied in the custom-houses of the Republic shall be paid with a surtax of 15% collected for the benefit of the Treasury to meet the expenses incurred by the war.

ART. 2. A duty of 1.60 peso per quintal shall likewise be collected on hulled or cleaned coffee exported from the ports of the Republic.

Sole §. This duty shall only be of 1.20 peso for coffee not being in the aforesaid condition.

ART. 3. As a compensation for the duty established in the preceding article 2, the owners or managers of coffee plantations shall be provided with safe conducts, issued by the competent authorities, in order that they may enjoy all desirable guaranties to facilitate the harvesting of this product. The authorities entrusted with the granting or issuing of safe conducts must take the necessary precautionary measures to prevent this concession from possibly endangering the maintenance of public order.

* * * * *

(1) See No. 90, page 13.

COLOMBIA.

MODIFICACIONES EN EL ARANCEL.

I. Ley n° 72 de 16 de Noviembre de 1894 por la cual se deroga la n° 15 de 1892 y se grava el consumo del tabaco.

ARTICLE 1°. El tabaco que se importe al país quedará gravado así:

Cada kilogramo de cigarros, con cuatro pesos;

Cada kilogramo de cigarrillos, con tres pesos;

Cada kilogramo de picadura ó de tabaco en cualquier otra forma, con dos pesos.

No obstante lo dispuesto en este artículo, el Gobierno queda autorizado para reservarse, si lo creyere conveniente, por el término de seis años, contados desde la sanción de la presente ley, el derecho de importar y fabricar cigarrillos, y puede, en consecuencia, enajenar la renta que de tal derecho se derive. El contrato de arrendamiento debe celebrarse en licitación pública, con las formalidades del Código Fiscal sobre arrendamiento de rentas, anunciando aquella con ciento ochenta días de anticipación, por lo menos.

En los contratos de que habla este artículo no se hará uso del derecho de tanto, como tampoco en ningún remate de rentas.

Al vencimiento del contrato de arrendamiento, toda existencia de cigarrillos y de materias primas para la fabricación de estas quedará sujeta al pago de un impuesto equivalente á los derechos de importación de que habla este artículo.

ART. 2°. Es completamente libre la producción y exportación de tabaco del país, sin otra condición que la de pagar un impuesto sobre el consumo, que será hasta de un peso cincuenta centavos (\$1.50) por cada doce y medio kilogramos para los cigarros y el tabaco en rama de primera calidad, y en proporción para las calidades inferiores. El gravamen deberá establecerlo cada Asamblea del modo que juzgue más conveniente, atendida las circunstancias de cada Departamento, y la manera como la industria está allí establecida, pudiendo, en consecuencia, hacer la imposición ya sobre el tabaco que se dé á la venta, ya sobre el que se elabore ó prepare en alguna forma, ya sobre las fábricas, almacenes, tiendas ó sitios de expendio.

ART. 3°. El producto líquido del impuesto sobre el consumo de tabaco del país se distribuirá así: el 60 % para el Departamento y el 40 % para los Municipios.

El producto de los derechos de Aduana que esta ley señala para los cigarrillos que se introduzcan del exterior ingresará á las arcas nacionales.

ART. 4.º. La renta de consumo de tabaco del país que por esta ley se establece, se administrará por medio de remates; y estos se harán por distritos. Sólo en caso de no poder efectuarse los remates, administrarán los Departamentos directamente dicha renta, según lo determinaren las Ordenanzas respectivas.

ART. 5.º. Derógase la Ley n.º 85 de 10 Diciembre de 1882, que grava el consumo del tabaco.

II. Circular n.º 24810, de 25 de Enero de 1895. (*Diario oficial*, n.º 9695, de 10 de Febrero de 1895.)

En virtud de la presente circular, el total aumento de los derechos de algunas mercancías, que se ordenó por el decreto n.º 453 de 10 de Febrero de 1883 (1), debe irse disminuyendo mensualmente por décimas partes desde el 20 de Febrero próximo en adelante; y de igual modo debe procederse para disminuir, desde el 21 del mismo Febrero, la diferencia entre la totalidad del aumento de los derechos sobre el tabaco de que trata la resolución de 9 de Marzo de 1893 y los que asigna el artículo 1.º de la ley 72 de 1894; exceptuando los cigarrillos y la picadura, que son de prohibida importación por los particulares, por haberse reservado el Gobierno la fabricación é introducción de aquéllos.

III. Extracto del decreto n.º 75, de 22 de Marzo de 1895, por el cual se allegan fondos para atender al restablecimiento del orden público. (*Diario oficial*, n.º 9718, de 22 de Marzo de 1895.)

ARTÍCULO 1.º. Desde la promulgación del presente decreto, los derechos de importación que se causen en las Aduanas de la República se cobrarán con un recargo de 15 % destinado á la Nación, para atender á los gastos ocasionados por la guerra.

ART. 2.º. Impónese un gravamen de un peso sesenta centavos (\$1.60) por cada quintal de café pelado ó sin película que se exporte por los puertos de la República.

§. único. El gravamen para el café que no reuna la condición apuntada será de un peso veinte centavos (\$1.20.)

ART. 3.º. Como compensación del gravamen que se impone por el precedente artículo, los dueños ó teedores de plantaciones de café serán provistos de salvoconductos por las autoridades correspondientes, á fin de que disfruten de todas las garantías apetecibles en la recolección y beneficio de este fruto; pero las autoridades encargadas del otorgamiento de los salvoconductos deberán tomar las precauciones necesarias para impedir que esta concesión pueda comprometer el sostenimiento del orden público.

COLOMBIA.

REFORMA DA TARIFA.

(Supplemento ao u. 90.—Outubro de 1895.)

Lei n. 72 de 16 de Novembro de 1894, abrogando a n. 15 de 1892 e gravando o consumo do tabaco.

ART 1. O tabaco que se importar ao paiz pagará os impostos seguintes:

Cada kilogramma de charutos,—quatro pesos.

Cada kilogramma de cigarros,—tres pesos.

Cada kilogramma do picado ou de tabaco em qualquer outra forma, dous pesos.

Não obstante as disposições de este artigo, o Governo fica autorizado para exercer, si o achar conveniente, pelo prazo de seis annos contados da saucção da presente lei, o direito exclusivo de importar e fabricar cigarros; e pode, por consequente, arrendar o uso e gozo de tal direito. O contrato de arrendamento deve-se celebrar em arrematação publica, e de conformidade com as formalidades do Codigo Fiscal relativas ao arrendamento de rendas, com noticia previa de cento e oitenta dias, pelo menos.

Nos contratos de que se trata neste artigo não se deve usar do direito de tanto, como tambem em todas as arrematações de rendas.

Findo a prazo do arrendamento, toda a existencia de cigarros e de materias primas para a fabricação dos mesmos deve pagar um imposto equivalente aos direitos de importação de que trata este artigo.

ART. 2. Fica inteiramente livre a produção e exportação do tabaco do paiz, sob a condição unica de pagar um imposto sobre o consumo; o qual no maximo será de um peso e cincoenta centavos por cada doze e meio kilogrammas para os charutos e tabaco em rama da primeira qualidade, e proporcionalmente para as qualidades inferiores. Esta taxa será estabelecida por cada Assembleia do modo que julgar mais conveniente, em attenção ás circumstancias de cada Departamento e á maneira de estar estabelecida alli a industria; podendo a mesma Assembleia, gravar, quer o tabaco que se offerecer á venda, quer o que se elaborar ou preparar de alguma forma, quer as fabricas, armazens, vendas ou lugares de expedição.

ART. 3. O producto liquido do imposto sobre o consumo do tabaco do paiz proporcionará-se da maneira seguinte : 60 por cento para o Departamento e 40 por cento para os Municipios. O producto dos direitos de Alfandega estabelecidos por esta lei para os cigarros que se importarem do estrangeiro, deve entrar no Thesouro nacional.

ART. 4. A renda proveniente do consumo do tabaco do paiz estabelecida por esta lei, se administrará por arrematação, realizada por districtos. Só no caso da não poder-se effectuar o arrendamento por este meio, a dita renda deve ser administrada directamente pelos Departamentos, de conformidade com as Ordenanças respectivas.

ART. 5. Fica abrogada a lei n. 85 de 10 de Dezembro de 1892, que grava o consumo da tabaco.

III.

CIRCULAR N. 24810 DE 25 DE FEVEREIRO DE 1895.

Em virtude da presente circular, o augmento total dos direitos de algumas mercadorias, o qual foi ordenado pelo decreto n. 453 de 10 de Fevereiro de 1893, deve ir-se diminuindo mensalmente por decimas partes, desde o dia vinte de Fevereiro proximo vindo em diante; e do mesmo modo deve-se effectuar, desde o dia vinte um do mesmo mez, a diminuição da differença entre a totalidade do augmento dos direitos sobre o tabaco, de que se trata na resolução de nove de Março de 1893, e os determinados pelo primeiro artigo da lei n. 75 de 1894; á excepção dos cigarros e o tabaco picado, cuja importação é prohibida aos particulares, por ter-se reservado ao Governo a fabricação e introdução desses.

IIIc.

Extracto do decreto n. 75 de 22 de Março de 1895, pelo qual se levantam fundos para attender ao restabelecimento da ordem publica.

ART. 1. Desde a promulgação do presente decreto, os direitos de importação que se arrecadarem nas Alfandegas da Republica, serão sujeitos a um accrescimento de 15 por cento, para attender aos gastos feitos pela Nação com a guerra.

ART. 2. O café pilado que se exportar pelos portos da Republica pagará um imposto de um peso sessenta centavos por cada quintal. Paragrapho

unico.—O imposto para o café em outras condições será de um peso vinte centavos por quintal.

ART. 3. Em compensação do imposto estabelecido pelo artigo anterior, os donos ou arrendatarios de fazendas de café receberão das autoridades competentes salvoconductos, para que possam gozar de todas as garantias necessarias na colheita e beneficio deste fruto; porem as autoridades encarregadas do outorgamento dos salvoconductos deverão tomar as providencias precisas para impedir que esta concessão possa comprometter a conservação da ordem publica.

COFFEE PRODUCTION.

Consul John Bidlake advises the State Department as follows regarding the coffee crop in the districts contiguous and contributory to the port of Barranquilla :

"Colombia has this year an immense crop of coffee, and of a good quality. In the Department of Tolima the crop is the largest ever grown, and of a superior grade. Santander has also a fine crop, but not of as good a quality. In the warehouses of Girardot there are 40,000 sacks of coffee, and at Yeguas 14,000 are awaiting shipment to the coast. It is estimated that there are yet 200,000 sacks of coffee for exportation. Exchange is falling rapidly, and bills are being sold at 150 per cent. for dollars."

COSTA RICA.

It is stated on good authority that a contract has been entered into between the Secretary of Fomento of the Republic of Costa Rica and Señor Francisco M. Boza for the establishment of telegraphic communication by sub-marine cable, either on the Atlantic or Pacific coast, with a cable already in existence, by which means the Republic will be put in telegraphic communication with the most important nations of the world. This connection must be established within eighteen months from and after the 22d of July, 1895. The terms of the contract forbid its being transferred to a foreign government; materials used in its construction are made free of all taxation. The franchise is exclusive and lasts for twenty years, and in the event of the construction of the Nicaragua Canal the contractor may establish a station near that work. The Government of Costa Rica guarantees to the undertaking, during twenty years, annual receipts amounting to \$25,000 in American gold.

CUBA.

BILLS OF LADING.

Consul-General Williams writes from Havana, October 23, 1895: "I inclose for the information of American exporters, shipmasters and shipowners the translation of an order issued on the 18th instant by the Intendente-General against the usage of vague terms in the bills of lading and manifests of vessels clearing at foreign ports for the island of Cuba, fixing the 1st of December next as the date after which fines ranging from \$10 to \$100 will be imposed on all masters of vessels who present the manifests of their cargoes expressed in vague instead of specific terms."

[TRANSLATION.]

INTENDANCY-GENERAL OF FINANCE,

HABANA, October 18, 1895.

In view of the remonstrances presented by several consignees against the fines imposed by the Custom-House of this port on the masters of vessels for using vague terms in the manifestation of their cargoes, as also of the royal order No. 1,345, of May 31st last, declaring that the words "hardware," "hewed timber," and others of equal vagueness, are not admissible in the manifests of vessels entering Cuban ports; and it being inferable that shipmasters and the consuls of Spain in foreign ports upon whom it is respectively incumbent to make out and to certify the manifests of vessels bound to the ports of Cuba have neglected to correct such deficiencies, as required by the provisions of paragraph 3 of article 40 of the customs regulations of this island, which impose fines in such cases under paragraph 2 of article 149 of the same regulations; and considering the execution of the aforementioned prohibition as important for the protection of the customs revenues of this island, because preventive of the perpetration of frauds abroad on the said revenues, and this measure being in no way injurious to honest commerce; and taking into account, with the view of favoring it, the circumstance that up to the present time the customs authorities have not considered themselves empowered to consider such omissions as subject to penalty; and

this fact having led the masters of vessels to admit bills of lading vaguely worded, and the consuls of Spain to certify the manifests made in accordance with them, consequently on now declaring the true meaning of this part of the customs regulations, equity counsels, the fixing a prudential term for its execution, therefore, I hereby order, saving the decision of the Minister of the Colonies, that masters of vessels must not admit bills of lading nor consuls certify to manifests expressing the class and kind of merchandise with the words "hardware," "hewed timber," "fancy goods," "flour" (without expressing place of manufacture) and "dry goods" (without expressing if of cotton, lineu, etc.), and other notoriously vague terms, and that these faults will be punished by fines from the 1st of December next ranging from \$10 to \$100.

The above is ordered to be published in the Official Gazette for the information of the public.

M. CABEZAS,

Intendant-General.

ECUADOR.

PROPOSED RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

The great need in the development and progress of Ecuador is the extension of the railway system uniting the coast cities with the fertile and rich provinces of the interior. It is stated that President Alfaro proposes to put on foot, as soon as the machinery of the new government is thoroughly established, a general scheme for internal improvements. The railroad which extends from the city of Yaguachi, near Guayaquil, is now in operation for a distance of about seventy miles in the direction of the national capital. It is proposed to rapidly extend this line towards Quito. At present, owing to the rudimentary condition of the roads, it is impossible to bring the products of the interior to the markets of the coast cities or the world.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

General Alfaro, the new President, has formed his Ministry, which is constituted as follows :

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Minister of the Interior, | Señor Don APARICIO RIBADENEIRA. |
| Minister of Foreign Affairs, | Señor Don Señor IGNACIO ROBLES. |
| Minister of Treasury, | Señor Don CARLOS PEREZ QUINONES. |
| Minister of War, | General MORALES. |
| Minister of Public Works, | Señor Don DARÍO MORLA. |
| Minister of Public Instruction, | Señor Don VICTOR GORGOTENA. |
| Minister of Worship, | Señor Don RAFAEL BARBA JIJÓN. |

MARTINIQUE.

The following information relating to the French West India Island of Martinique, is taken from a recent report to the Department of State by Julius G. Tucker, United States Consul, and published in the December number of the Consular Reports :

UNITED STATES FLOUR IN MARTINIQUE.

Having learned that the Norwegian steamer *Gyller* had sailed on April 6, 1895, from Galveston, Tex., with 1,000 barrels of flour shipped here as a venture by the Star Flour Mills of Galveston, and that the flour had duly arrived, given great satisfaction and found ready sale, but that no further shipments were expected to arrive, I called upon the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. De Maynard, for information upon the subject. He courteously permitted me to take a copy from the minutes of the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, where this matter had been fully discussed in French, of which I inclose a translation which speaks for itself.

[TRANSLATION.]

MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ST. PIERRE.

MARTINIQUE, April 29, 1895.

Present—Messrs. Lasserre, L. Girard, Plissonneau, Delmond, Bebet, I. Cottrell, Paul Bordc, A. Fortier. The following documents were presented :

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF THE COLONIES.

PARIS, January 31, 1895.

To the Governor :

SIR : The consul of France at Galveston, Tex., has sent over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs a report concerning the shipment to St. Pierre, by the Star Flour Mills, of a quantity of flour destined at first to Santiago de Cuba. In transmitting this document Mr. Hannotaux deems it would be advisable to take into consideration at once the forming of a current of exchanges between Galveston and Martinique. This island, in return for the shipment of flour sent to her, could ship fruits, sweet

preserves and liquors. I have the honor to ask you to study this question, and ask the advice of the several consulting chambers of the colony upon the formation of this new current of exchange for the products of this island.

(Signed)

HANNMAN,

For the Minister, etc.

LETTER FROM THE CONSUL AT GALVESTON, TEXAS.

GALVESTON, November 10, 1894.

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

SIR: I have the honor to inform Your Excellency of a shipment of flour from Galveston direct to one of our West India islands. On the 6th instant the Norwegian steamer *Cyller*, Captain Rasmussen, chartered by the Texas Star Flour Mills, sailed from Galveston with a general cargo for Santiago de Cuba, St. John's, Antigua and St. Pierre, Martinique. The portion of the cargo destined for this latter port consisted of 1,000 barrels of flour of the "Sea Fairy" brand. The "Sea Fairy" barrel of flour weighs 196 pounds (English), and gross, about 214 pounds; it is worth in Galveston, \$3.08, which, at the rate of exchange—5.20 francs to the dollar—equals 15.86 francs.

This shipment of flour from Galveston to Martinique is a new departure, which has been brought about by the recent modifications in the customs tariffs between the United States and Spain. The new tariff of the United States, inaugurated on August 20 last, shows against the commerce of the Spanish islands in the West Indies. Spain retaliated by putting a custom surtax, which has had the effect of preventing the importation into her colonies of all flour coming from the United States. The Texas Star Flour Mills Company, which had an active business between Galveston on the one hand and Cuba and Porto Rico on the other, consisting in shipments of flour to those ports, and receiving fruits on the return voyage, finds itself at this present time obliged to look for new outlets for its goods. Hence this first shipment to Martinique, which, according to all probabilities, will be followed by many others to the same colony and Guadeloupe. Our colonies could ship in return fruits, sweet preserves, and liquors; these last in small proportion.

[Signature illegible.]

From information received by the President of the Chamber of Commerce, it follows that the Norwegian steamer, as stated by the French Consul at Galveston, has indeed arrived at St. Pierre with the 1,000 barrels of flour from the Texas company, consigned to Mr. M. Coipel. This flour landed in perfect condition, and the packages were also found to be perfect. The flour was sold on an average of 25.95 francs per barrel of 196 pounds (English), equal to \$5 (American), which leads us to suppose

that this flour could be easily disposed of in the market of St. Pierre if further shipments were to follow that of the steamer *Gyller*.

It is in this connection that the firm of M. Coipel has written to the Texas Flour Mill Company while rendering an account of the consignment made of 1,000 barrels of flour. "But," adds the president, "that company proposes that the colony should ship in return for her cargoes of flour, fruits, bananas, sweet preserves and liquors; and it is upon this new departure in exchange in products that the Chamber of Commerce is called upon by the Director of the Interior, according to the instructions given by the Minister of the Colonies, to give its views. I announce, therefore, that discussion is in order upon this subject."

M. PLISSONNEAU: It is evident that both the Texas Star Flour Mills Company and the French Consul at Galveston, at the time at which they proposed the exchange of products between the last-named city and this island, were under the impression that, like other West Indian, British, and Spanish islands, Martinique could do a large business in bananas and fruits, such as cocoanuts, pineapples, oranges, etc.; but, unfortunately, such is not the case. The proposition for the time being cannot be accepted, as the production of bananas and other fruits is not sufficient for exporting on a large scale. We are, it seems, called upon unexpectedly, we may add, and this is the more to be regretted, as our fruits are looked upon as the best in the Antilles. Pineapples from Gros Morne are much sought after in France for preserve making, and the oranges from several sections of the island are known to be superior to those of the neighboring islands. Somewhat over two years ago a trial was made by a certain number of landowners to plant banana groves similar to those of the adjacent British islands. These landowners imported from Jamaica, at a very high cost, plants of the very best varieties—those which are most in demand in the United States markets. These plants were put into nurseries; all the attention that was required was given them, but up to this time it seems as if their efforts were not crowned with success. The trial has for some unknown cause failed. It will be taken up again, we are assured, but when and how? We are passing through a critical period at this moment, which allows no one to venture on such trials, which always entail very heavy expenses.

M. LEON GERARD: It is necessary, it seems to me, to establish this starting point. It is not "local initiative," if I may thus express myself, that created the large banana plantations and the planting of other fruits as now existing for several years in our neighboring British and Spanish islands. These plantations have been created with capital from the United States. The largest portion of the vast banana groves of Jamaica, which are the great purveyors of fruit for the American markets, belong to the Boston Fruit Company, to the Jamaica Fruit Company of Philadelphia, and to a great number of merchants, combined together to work up this particular branch of business. All have agents residing in the

principal towns of Jamaica and Cuba to make contracts with the growers of bananas and other fruits, and who, besides, centralize at every port the products thus obtained, and ship the goods to the United States by steamers specially adapted for that trade. It is evident that, had we had the secret or the good luck to call to us American capital, or if our colony had been able to interest the speculators from the United States like Jamaica, Trinidad, and Cuba, to the working up of our soil, so fertile, so rich in water supply, in propitious valleys, and in so many other natural advantages which produce good fruits, we would to-day be in a measure able to accept the proposition offered to us by Galveston. We, too, would have a precious resource that would alleviate largely the burden of our present difficulties and embarrassments. But, reduced to our own means, what can we do? What can we undertake when we have already so much trouble to fight against the dangers that menace us all around? Later on, enlightened by experience and aided by foreign capital, we will be able to realize and maintain to the satisfaction of all parties concerned the exchange of products proposed by the Texas Star Flour Mills Company of Galveston.

After a short discussion, which throws no further light upon the subject than already stated by Messrs. Plissonneau and Gerard, the members of the Chamber of Commerce were solicited by the president to express their views in regard to the establishment of an exchange of products which Galveston would like to open at once with our colony.

"*Resolved*, That the said project is for the present impossible, owing to the very limited quantity of fruits and bananas raised upon the island, and also to the limited manufacture of liquors and sweet preserves."

After which the meeting adjourned.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES FOR UNITED STATES PRODUCTS.

I have the honor to report that the newly-installed governor of Martinique, Mr. Noel Pardon, paid this city the first official visit yesterday, June 25th. The city was handsomely decorated with flags, flowers and shrubs. The governor arrived here from Fort de France, the official seat of the government, at 8 o'clock A. M., upon the French cruiser *Roland*, and was received by the civil and military organizations of the city, followed by an immense procession of citizens. As it was known that his excellency would return to Fort de France in the evening of the same day, I did not expect a visit from him; but, contrary to my expectations, he called at the consulate in the afternoon, accompanied by the Secretary of the Interior and the mayor of the city of St. Pierre, and paid me an extended visit.

With reference to the import duties levied upon American products I pointed out to his excellency the great benefits which would accrue to the merchants and citizens of the island if the duties were modified, thereby enhancing and stimulating business, and especially the carrying trade. His excellency assured me of his great desire to see the duties reduced, and also assured me of his good will toward the United States.

Should the excessive import duty now levied be modified, I have no doubt but that a largely increased trade with the United States will follow. Even as it is there is a heavy importation of flour, corn, lard, pork, beef, butter, kerosene, etc. All the merchants with whom I have thus far come in contact (and I have made it my special business to see the most prominent), agree upon the point that protective duties as now levied upon all imports have proven a failure, and they have assured me that they are using every effort to have the duties modified, as the present system has virtually driven the trade from Martinique to the adjacent English islands, such as Barbados, Trinidad, St. Kitts, and others, where all kinds of merchandise and outfittings for vessels can be procured at greatly reduced costs.

DIVERSION OF SUGAR EXPORTS—EAST INDIAN RICE.

I have the honor to report that I met here a gentleman from St. Croix (Santa Cruz), Danish West Indies, named D. Dessau, who is a prominent merchant and exporter from that island. Mr. Dessau informed me that there was but little sugar exported to the United States from the Danish West Indies, and that during the coming season none would go to the United States, owing to the customs difficulties at New York, in consequence of which all their sugar would be shipped to Halifax.

As a curious circumstance I would also state that the above-named gentleman came here to meet a vessel belonging to him, which had just arrived at Martinique with a cargo of rice. This rice, he informed me, was shipped from the East Indies to Copenhagen, Denmark, from whence, after being cleared, it was shipped to this point and Santa Cruz. He assured me that, even after the long voyage, the rice was cheaper than it could have been purchased in the United States.

MEXICO.

INTERSTATE TARIFFS.

[From United States Consular Reports for December.]

The amendments to the Mexican constitution proposed by Finance Minister Limantour, having for their object the abolition of the interstate tariff duties known as the *alcabala*, are before the Mexican Congress, now in session, and have been strongly urged by President Diaz. In view of the general interest and importance of the subject, I have deemed it advisable to incorporate the main features of the amendments in the form of a report. The text of the amendments is as follows :

First. Section 3 of article 3 of the Federal Constitution is hereby amended and enlarged in the following form :

The State shall not—

- (3) Coin money, issue paper money, stamps, or stamped paper.
- (4) Tax passage of persons or effects through their territory.
- (5) Prohibit or tax, directly or indirectly, the introduction or exit from their territory of domestic or foreign merchandise.
- (6) Impose on the circulation or consumption of domestic or foreign merchandise duties or taxes of a nature to be collected by internal custom-houses, or to require the opening or examination of packages or to necessitate the transportation of goods under fiscal documents.
- (7) Issue or maintain laws or fiscal enactments implying distinction as to taxation or requirements, based on the places of origin of domestic or foreign merchandise, and whether the distinction be enforced by way of protection to local production or by way of favor to products coming from a given locality.

Second. Article 124 of the constitution is amended in the following form :

"It is the exclusive privilege of the powers of the Union to tax merchandise on its importation or exportation, or passage in transit through the national territory, as also to regulate at all times, and even to prohibit, for reasons of public safety or police, the circulation in the interior

of the Republic of any kind of merchandise, whatever may be the place of its origin."

These reforms shall come into force on the 1st day of July, 1896.

IMPORTANCE OF THE MEASURE.

These proposed amendments deserve more than passing mention. They seek the overthrow of an evil centuries old, fixed in popular habit and prejudice, and backed by powerful official interests.

If pushed (and there is reason to believe they will be), they may provoke a struggle which will determine Mexico's place in modern progress and be decisive of the national supremacy. If passed and enforced, our trade with Mexico will be greatly increased.

They are now before Congress and strongly advocated by President Diaz, who, in his message of September 16, 1895, urges their adoption as "a reform demanded by agriculture and industries of the nation, which need a wider field for their products, and by business men, who justly insist on greater freedom of action."

TARIFF TAXATION IN MEXICO.

Mexico is a tariff-taxed country. Indeed, the extent to which the tariff system prevails and the time it has endured ought to be complete and convincing test of its merits. Introduced in 1578, it is about the only political institution which has survived in all its crudity the country's innumerable crises.

Far more than with us, the tariff is favored as a means of nourishing the body politic. The American Constitution forbids other than the external application of it: here it is taken internally as well. Besides a national tariff, every one of the twenty-seven States, the Federal District, and Territories, and almost every municipality has each its separate tariff, on the principle, I suppose, that what is good for the whole ought to be good for each of its parts. These different tariffs are of all kinds and conditions. There are the high, the low, the tariff for revenue only, for revenue with incidental protection, the out-and-out tariff for protection of home industries, and others whose character is unclassified.

The foreign merchant learns them all by hard experience. At every national port of entry he must stand and deliver to the nation, at every state boundary he must pause to pay tribute to the state, and each municipality he enters levies new exactions. In this latter respect, however, he is no worse off than the native Mexican. He, too, encounters the tariff if he seeks a market beyond the narrowest local limits.

Yet it is the boast of the tariff system here (as with us) that the "foreigner pays the tax." The logic of this claim is simple: following the natural disposition to shift their own tax burdens on some one else, each State of Mexico is foreign to every other.

LOCAL TARIFFS.

In fact, lesser Mexican communities have frequently sought this ready relief from self-taxation by setting themselves up, for tariff purposes, as distinct territories (*distintos sueltos*), and there were at one time thus established 276 tariff districts. Each of those districts reasoned that it could make the other 275 pay its taxes, and so set its *alcabala*, or tariff tax, accordingly.

HOW IT WORKED.

But it is impossible in any game for every one to get the best of it. No people can profit by mutual imposition. The 276 tariff districts preyed on each other with obvious results. Traffic and revenue shrank, industry was dwarfed, enterprise crushed. The evil grew so manifest that there was a general outcry against it, and leading statesmen urged its abolition. Then began the movement which is now culminating in the proposed constitutional amendments.

EFFORTS FOR TARIFF REFORM.

A history of Mexico's efforts to rid herself of the *alcabala* is instructive reading to all who are impatient with the seeming dilatoriness of tariff reform in the United States. It teaches how a custom once tolerated becomes rooted in the very nature of a people.

As early as 1824 there was adopted a national constitution which guaranteed liberty of commerce. This, it was thought, would put an end to the *alcabala*. It didn't; the system was defiantly maintained. On October 14, 1846, Congress, by formal enactment, declared the *alcabala* abolished, but threats of revolution forced its re-establishment. On June 14, 1848, it was suppressed in the Federal District and territories, but in a few short months Santa Anna restored it. On November 24, 1855, another general law was passed prohibiting it, but the law was repealed before the date set for its enforcement. The new constitution of 1857 reasserted the exclusive right of the Federal Government to regulate foreign and domestic commerce. With the empowering sanction of this fundamental law, an act was passed providing that from and after January 1, 1862, the *alcabala* should forever cease. But on April 14, 1862, the act was repealed, the *alcabala* re-established, and the duties under it doubled. In 1869 and 1877 other measures were promulgated, only to prove equally abortive. The *alcabala* continued.

In the belief that the error of all previous legislation had been the insufficient time given to the several States to adjust their fiscal systems, it was enacted in 1881 that from and after December 1, 1884, there should be no *alcabala*. This was subsequently extended to December 1, 1886, by which date both the law and the spirit of reform which created it seemed to have died of inanition. In 1890 a national convention was held to

consider the question. It consisted of delegates from all the States, duly empowered. Their deliberations lasted until April 1, 1891, when it was solemnly agreed that the *alcabala* was an evil and that the whole system of interior custom-houses should be done away with. But nothing came of it; the State and local tariffs were levied and collected as usual.

It is claimed that in a few of the States the *alcabala* has been practically abandoned. But the first State to which that credit is given is the State of Tamaulipas, wherein this consulate-general is situated. So far from giving up the system or even advancing in the line of reform, Tamaulipas has retrograded, for, while nominally renouncing the *alcabala* duties for the State itself, the tax, with all its objectionable features, has been transferred to the several municipalities.

The following is the schedule of the *alcabala* duties of the municipality of Nuevo Laredo, in the State of Tamaulipas, which is fairly illustrative of the system elsewhere:

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES.

| | |
|---|--|
| Alcohol, foreign, will pay five per cent. of the import duties collected by the custom-house. | |
| Liquors and spirits of grape or cane | per 100 kilograms, gross..\$4 50 |
| Leather, manufactures of, all classes not otherwise specified. .do. . . | 3 00 |
| Boots, gaiters, and shoes | per dozen.. 50 |
| Wax, manufactures of. | per 100 kilograms, gross weight.. 2 00 |
| Lime, common. | do. 03 |
| Cassimeres, woolen, domestic. | per lineal yard.. 06 |
| Coffee | per 100 kilograms.. 50 |
| Cigarettes. | per 1,000 packs.. 3 00 |
| Chocolate. | per 100 kilograms.. 50 |
| Cocoa | do. 50 |
| Chile, pepper. | do. 50 |
| Sweetmeats, jellies, paste, etc. | do. 2 00 |
| Bridles : | |
| Common | per dozen . . . 25 |
| Fine | do. 50 |
| Saddletrees : | |
| Common. | each.. 15 |
| Fine. | do. 25 |
| Frijoles (beans). | per 100 kilograms.. 10 |
| Blankets | per dozen.. 1 50 |
| Fruits : | |
| Fresh | per 100 kilograms.. 25 |
| Dried | do 50 |
| Garbanzos (pease). | do. 10 |
| Cornshueks | do 25 |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------|
| Rope, ixtle, etc., not otherwise specified..... | per 100 kilograms.. | \$ 25 |
| Earthenware | do | 25 |
| Vegetables..... | do..... | 15 |
| Metates and manufactures of stone..... | per 10 kilograms.. | 25 |
| Pilloneillo or panocha sugar..... | per cargo of 300 pounds.. | 25 |
| Cigars : | | |
| Common, loosc..... | per 1,000.. | 1 00 |
| In boxes..... | do .. | 5 00 |
| Pulque, of all classes..... | | 50 |
| Skins, tanned, al' kinds..... | per dozeu.. | 25 |
| Reatas, lazo ropes, fine..... | do | 25 |
| Rebozos (shawls), fine..... | do | 50 |
| Saddles : | | |
| Fine | each.. | 1 00 |
| Common..... | do..... | 50 |
| Hats : | | |
| Felt | per dozen.. | 2 00 |
| Wool..... | do..... | 1 00 |
| Jipijapa, fine straw..... | do..... | 2 50 |
| Commou palm..... | do..... | 50 |
| Tobaeoo, leaf..... | per 100 kilograms.. | 1 00 |
| Toquillas (hatbands) | per dozen.. | 25 |
| Bulls, not destined for slaughter..... | each.. | 1 00 |
| Sole leather | per dozen sides.. | 1 50 |
| Mescal (liquor)..... | per 100 kilograms.. | 4 50 |
| Wines, claret and others..... | do..... | 2 50 |
| All other goods or products not specified in this tariff will pay for each 100 kilograms gross weight | | 25 |

In this schedule there are fifty-one separate classes of articles subject to a tariff duty ranging from 6 cents per yard on cassimeres to \$5 per thousand on cigars; and at the end of the classified list (so that nothing may escape), there is an omnibus clause to the effect that all articles not specified shall pay 25 cents per 100 kilograms.

Nuevo Leon, which is another State named as free from the *alcabala*, has a system as oppressive as Tamaulipas.

Despite the concensus of opinion of the best men of all parties, despite the determined efforts of seventy years, the *alcabala* continues to be the main source of State and municipal revenue.

EVILS OF THE SYSTEM.

With so many different tariff schedules, utterly devoid of uniformity, each shaped by special local circumstances, each changing from time to time with the whim of local lawmakers, the trials of the merchant who attempts any extended business in Mexico may be imagined. "Tariff

tinkering," ever a menace to trade, increases, with the number of the tinkers. Thus it is that every State legislature, in annual session, is prone to revise the *alcabala* of the State. Every municipal council (bodies corresponding in functions and character to a compound of our county boards and boards of aldermen) at its weekly session, may propose changes in the *alcabala* of the district.

Tariff fanatics abound here, as elsewhere, who are always urgent for increased tax, always on the alert for new victims of taxation. It can be readily conceived that trade generally is handicapped by this uncertainty, and particular branches of trade subjected to gross injustice.

AMERICAN INTERESTS AFFECTED.

To Americans the system is particularly harassing. The native who has grown up under it naturally conforms to it, and the European has had experience with similar customs in Europe; but the American, unused to arbitrary restraints, and enactments by states and municipalities, finds them intolerable. Many an American, after a brief experience with the *alcabala*, has left the country; many who remain are in constant conflict with the authorities.

I said at the outset that the passage and enforcement of the proposed amendments would greatly increase our Mexican trade. This is no exaggeration. By reason of the *alcabala*, we have not a tithe of the trade that naturally belongs to us. Frenchmen, Germans and other Europeans who readily conform to such customs take the place that is properly ours. The system has restricted American enterprise, repelled American capital and checked American emigration. It is the worst obstacle to-day in the way of developing American interests in Mexico. America, therefore, next to Mexico herself, is concerned in the movement for its abolition.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS FOR REFORM.

Whatever the results of the present Congress, I have faith not only in the ultimate passage of the proposed amendments, but also in their subsequent enforcement. The fate of similar movements in the past is no criterion now. The Mexico of to-day is a new creation. The *alcabala* belongs to the period of the ox-cart and the pronunciamiento; it is out of place with steam, electricity and a virile national authority.

States habituated to this devious form of revenue, people not yet educated to its oppressiveness and officials profiting by its abuses will fight the reform to the death. But there is in its favor a public opinion more enlightened than ever before and a resolute national administration that can make its influence felt in every part of the Republic. Hence the significance of the language of President Diaz in his message:

"This proposal affects the vital interests of the country and is certain to meet with cordial reception at your hands, especially in view of the unusually propitious circumstances of the Republic at the present for effecting so important a reform."

JOSEPH G. DONNELLY, *Consul-General*.

NUEVO LAREDO, *September 19, 1895.*

YUCATAN.

Under date of October 1, 1895, Mr. R. L. Oliver, Consul at Merida, transmits to the Department of State the following interesting report on the subject of the resources, commerce, etc., of the Mexican State of Yucatan :

RESOURCES, COMMERCE, ETC.

The State Government of Yucatan is now engaged in taking a census of the population, which approaches completion. The officers experience great difficulty in the prosecution of the work on account of the prevalent opinion among the illiterate of the isolated districts that names are wanted for enrollment in the Government military service, and in this belief the people evade the census takers. However, from data already received and official estimates, the total population approximates 500,000, including the capital (Merida), which has about 60,000.

The mortuary reports for the three months ending June 30 of the present year show the principal fatal affections to have been fevers, pneumonia, dysentery, whooping cough, and diseases peculiar to children. As yellow fever is supposed to be endemic here, it will be learned with some surprise that only two cases appear in the above report, notwithstanding the months of April, May and June are the most favorable for the propagation of this terrible malady. This can be attributed to the absence of foreigners, who are almost exclusively the prey of yellow fever, the natives being practically exempt from it. During the winter months it is dormant, and then, even the foreign resident incurs no risk.

LABOR CONDITIONS.

On the plantations, where it is necessary to be exposed to the excessive tropical heat under the direct rays of the sun, no laborers have withstood it as have the native Indians. In past times many colonies were formed from European countries. Among the first experiments were Italians and Slavs, but they soon disappeared from the face of the earth. Later on (in the sixties) some forty odd families of German peasants were brought here, and they too, with the exception of a very few, succumbed to these fatal fevers. They originally numbered about three hundred. Before the slave trade with Africa was entirely abolished, several shiploads of negroes found their way to the shores of Yucatan. In the absence of statistical data relative to them, my information is that they were less subject to the climatic fevers and diseases that attack other foreigners, and in proof of this there still remain a great number of

negroes in this country. It is said on good authority that the majority of those brought at that time, after serving many years on the plantations, sought opportunities to emigrate into the interior and along the coast points of Mexico. Later still, a batch of Chinese were contracted for to work on the hemp plantations, and although they are not so susceptible to disease, they were not altogether satisfactory, inasmuch as they are physically unable to complete the daily task allotted to the native laborer—that is, to cut a certain number of leaves of hemp (sisal) for a stipulated price. The daily task is two or three thousand leaves, at the rate of 16 cents (gold) per thousand. On this, largely depends the pecuniary success of the planter. Not that his margin of profit is so limited in what it actually costs to produce this fibre, but the enormous outlay for the preparation of the lands and the planting; the necessary delay of four to five years before the plant is large enough to cut; the instability of the market, which is ever fluctuating; the onerous export duties, State and Federal; the large personnel of the plantations—mechanics, overseers and servants—who, independent of their wages, are advanced provisions, clothing, and furnished medicines and medical attention by the proprietor. There is now a great scarcity of laborers, and with the new applications of the sisal fibre and its increasing demand, it is becoming a serious question with Yucatan how to meet prospective emergencies.

MAYA INDIANS AND THEIR COUNTRY.

A project is on foot by the State, in co-operation with the Federal Government, to subdue and domesticate the Maya Indians, who have from time immemorial held invincible sway over the southeastern part of Yucatan. It is hoped thereby to draw from them to augment the number of farm hands, but even in the event of accomplishing the subjugation of this semibarbaric race it is exceedingly doubtful if the present generation can be utilized, as they are refractory to civilized pursuits and are indolent and thriftless. The tribe is variously estimated at from 10,000 to 20,000. Their trading posts are on the boundary line of British Honduras. At times their chiefs visit Belize, the capital of that colony, to make purchases of cloth and to replenish their ammunition, as also to renew their contracts with the timber merchants, who pay them so much per ton for the privilege of cutting wood in their territory. They are friendly with the British, and never interfere with the negro cutters who are sent from Belize, but a Mexican or a native of Yucatan dare not encroach upon their lands. As this part of Yucatan is more healthful, and its soil better adapted to the cultivation of fruits, cane and grains, it is not improbable that, after the pacification of the Mayas the Government will offer inducements to the foreigner who would seek a home in the tropics. The geographical and topographical situation of this part of the peninsula would indicate that it is essentially a horticultural district. Hard down by the Carribeau Sea, it is easily accessible to shipping

and its products would find a market. It lies in the path of vessels that now ply between the southern ports of the United States and the ports of British and Spanish Honduras. This would also be the route for vessels to and from Nicaragua in the event of the building of the canal. Another advantage of transcendent importance is that Ascension Bay, which lies in this territory, is one of the largest and deepest in all Mexico, and, with the exception of Acapulco, on the Pacific, it affords a safer harbor than any. This is a desideratum of no little magnitude, when it is known that most of the Mexican Gulf ports are open roads, and in the winter months, when northers are frequent, shipping is hazardous and uncertain.

WAGES OF LABORERS.

Laborers in the cities are paid by piecework in the industrial pursuits, and average about 50 cents (gold) per day; drivers and conductors on the tramways about the same; locomotive engineers and stevedores 75 cents to \$1 (gold), and railway brakemen, 50 cents. The average work day is eight hours.

The genial spring temperature, which is almost uniform throughout the year, is providential for the laborer. The same texture of fabrics for clothing serve throughout the different seasons. These consist chiefly of cotton and linen. Sandals of the ancient Egyptian pattern are worn instead of shoes.

Among none of the laboring classes do trades unions exist. Compacts are unknown among them. They are very indifferent sympathizers with each other, except on the interference of anything or anybody foreign, in which case they are exceedingly sensitive and will band together for resentment.

The people are very industrious. Necessity would impel them were they otherwise; for, although Yucatan is not an overpopulated country, the industries here are so concentrated, so lacking in diversity, and so monopolized, that the less fortunate are continuously at a disadvantage, and must necessarily be on the alert to share in the inadequate distribution. This applies also to the professions.

EDUCATION.

Yucatan has always been considered among the most advanced States of Mexico in education. She has been in constant intercourse with the outside world since the days of the conquest. Schools have attained to a high order since the advent of independence. While under the control and supervision of the local governments, the system of matriculation and education is mapped out by the Federal and State authorities through their respective boards of education. The law is compulsory, and, though not strictly enforced in Yucatan, reports show a good attendance, which augurs well for the State.

Sectarian schools controlled by the church party, are in decadence. In fact, they are only primary schools for the young. Their revenue for support is derivèd from donations by patrons. The nonsectarian, or public schools are maintained at the expense of the State. The governor appoints directors, who in turn select professors and teachers.

Statistics show the total expenses for public instruction for the scholastic year, 1894-'95, to have been \$100,000 (gold) approximately. This amount sustained 275 primary schools, 155 preparatory schools, 1 normal school, 1 medical and surgery school, 2 jurisprudence schools, and 1 pharmacy school.

MANUFACTURES.

We have several small manufactories that supply local wants, such as soap, matches, candles, shoes, rope, and bags (hand made), carpenter shops, ice factories, and others of less import.

RAILROADS.

There are four railways, one broad gauge and the others narrow gauge. The first named has a total of 75 miles in operation; the others average each about 60 miles, completed, and are in active course of construction. They are owned and operated exclusively by natives. Tariffs for passengers and freights are about half the rates charged for local business by the railways of the United States.

AGRICULTURE.

Except wheat, rye, and small grain, almost any plant thrives here when the seasons are favorable; but the principal products are corn, beans, sugar, and hemp. The latter is a phenomenally hardy plant, and flourishes almost equally as well with or without rain, while corn, beans, and sugar require irrigation, and even when seasons are good the yield is barely sufficient for supplying home requirements. If there is a partial failure (as is at present the condition respecting corn), the deficiency is supplied from the interior of Mexico or from the United States. The interior being unable to make up the deficiency in corn, the legislative authorities of Yucatan petitioned the Federal Government to reduce the import duties on foreign corn, that this necessary article should be within the limit of moderate prices. The Government scaled the tariff 50 per cent. pending the next harvest. Since this decision several cargoes have been imported from the United States. Had this action not been taken the greater consumers of this article—the poorer classes—would have undergone much suffering.

The ostensible object of the high tariff here on imports is to insure the sale of what is produced in the country; but granting that there is abundance of the article so protected, the benefit accrues not to the

populace but to the producer or owner of the commodity; for the selling price, no matter how exorbitant, is scheduled to correspond to the cost price of the foreign article, with the major part of the protected tariff added. For example, less than five years ago Yucatan imported from the United States on an average 2,000 barrels of flour monthly; to-day, much less than 1,000 barrels. Flour has become a luxury, and only those in better circumstances can afford it.

The tariff was increased to allow the establishment of flour mills in the Republic—not that sufficient grain was grown to supply actual demands of consumption, but to stimulate agriculture to that end. Some mills near the border, in the northern districts of Mexico, have imported wheat from the United States, having ample margin in the high tariff to leave them a good profit. It appears at first sight that a cheaper grade of flour milled in the United States could be imported to force an equilibrium through competition, as the best flour milled in Mexico is of inferior quality, but this is impracticable from the fact that the tariff imposes one tax only, which applies to all grades without discrimination, so that those who can afford the better grades of flour milled in the United States are compelled to pay exaggerated prices for it, and those who cannot and purchase the home-milled flour, not only pay abnormal prices for an inferior article, but thereby contribute to the support of an industry that almost, literally speaking, "takes the bread out of their mouths."

COMMERCE.

Up to 1891-92, the credit of Yucatan in Europe was unlimited, and her merchants enjoyed an enviable reputation for honesty and integrity and for the promptness with which they met their financial obligations, but at that time they were overtaken by the crisis that prevailed everywhere and found them overstocked and deeply indebted. Collateral securities began to shrink, debts contracted in gold had to be met with its equivalent in silver, which had coincidentally depreciated, in its paying value, 50 per cent; money became stringent, and finally the collapse came when twenty odd large dealers in dry goods and miscellaneous articles were crushed under the avalanche. These, together with others who have since been forced to suspend, represent millions to European creditors, which, unless something phenomenal transpires, is hopelessly lost. This unfortunate state of affairs is largely due to the long-credit system for which European merchants are proverbial. However, this salutary lesson has had the effect of restricting them to more sagacious and business-like methods—limited sales and short credits. This being the case, the tide of trade will eventually turn to the United States, this market affording quicker transportation facilities by reason of its proximity. Inasmuch as the greater portion of the products of Yucatan are marketed there, it stands to reason, from a reciprocal point of view, that it is only a question of time for the United States to succeed to this business.

SUGGESTIONS FOR UNITED STATES EXPORTERS.

But there are other things to be considered by our merchants to successfully compete with Europe for the custom of the Latin-American countries. The standard weights and thickness of goods suitable for the United States and the colder climates are absolutely unserviceable in the tropical countries. Machinery, engines, boilers, etc., must be constructed to fulfill certain functions of work peculiar to the industries and usages to which they are applied, and to be the least complicated, strong and safe, to better endure rough treatment at the hands of the un-instructed mechanic who is to have charge of them.

Another item of incalculable importance is the proper boxing and packing of the goods for long voyages, so that they will reach their destination intact. In this it is claimed that the European merchants excel us by far. I should especially advise that our merchants have the wants of the people intelligently investigated, with the object of supplying them according to their customs and caprices.

IMPORTS.

The chief articles of foreign import embrace all kinds of groceries, canned goods, etc., that would be found in a first-class and well-managed grocery store in the United States; dry goods, notions, cashmeres for men's clothing, men's furnishings, and millinery, and hardware of all descriptions (except plows, hoes, etc., for agricultural purposes—common in the United States—are not used.)

EXPORTS.

Hennequen (sisal) is the chief product. The annual output reaches in the neighborhood of 400,000 bales, of 400 pounds each. The following extract from official sources for the first quarter of the present year, is a fair average: Bales shipped, 81,030, of a total value of \$1,082,123.28 (\$582,932.50, United States currency,) on which State duties amounting to \$35,171.79 (\$19,012.76, United States currency,) and Federal duties amounting to \$97,308.77 (\$52,599.38, United States currency,) were paid. Thus it will be seen that, combined with the cost, and the many difficulties to the planter already cited, he must pay for the privilege of marketing his product over 12 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Of the 81,030 bales shipped, 66,269 were destined to the United States. With the exception of a small fraction, they were transported in other than American vessels. This is not the exception, but the rule. The records show for the month of August imports amounting to 6,568 tons, of which 2,133 tons were imported in vessels flying the American flag, and 4,435 tons in English, Norwegian and German vessels. The exports amounted to 6,600 tons, of which 560 tons were exported in vessels flying

the American flag, and 6,040 tons in English, Norwegian and German vessels. These figures show an irreconcilable disparity against the merchant marine of the United States.

For six months ending June 30, destined to interior points of Mexico, there were shipped 3,070 tons of coarse, unrefined salt. The high tariff on foreign salt makes this article an expensive necessity. The home mines are difficult to work, and, as in most cases they are only surface deposits of the sea, the yield depends greatly upon the condition of the weather.

The exports of logwood for the first three months of the present year show 2,634 tons cleared for European countries, valued at \$148,000 or \$80,000 in United States currency. Other articles of export in small quantities are hides, hammocks, sarsaparilla, etc. The total declared exports to the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, were: From Progreso, \$2,062,909, in United States currency; from Merida, \$97,702; total, \$2,960,611.

CUSTOM HOUSE FIGURES.

To omit no item in my report, I addressed a communication to Señor Romero, collector of customs at Progreso, asking him to give me the exact figures of the movement of trade for the fiscal year 1894-95, and the following abstract was kindly furnished: Value of imports during the fiscal year 1894-95, \$1,092,981; value of exports, \$8,376,680. The total amount of Federal duties paid thereon was \$1,155,932. Without deducting the duties, it will be seen that the balance of trade is in favor of Yucatan to the amount of \$7,230,784, or \$3,900,850 in United States currency.

MEXICAN FINANCE.

The Minister of Hacienda has submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a bill for the reduction of the tax now imposed on official salaries. In presenting the measure Minister Limantour says:

The reduction to which I refer is not as large as was to be desired. But it is equivalent to 40 per cent. on the aggregate amount of the tax. In other words, salaries now paying a tax of 5 per cent. will in future only pay 3 per cent.; those paying 7½ per cent. will pay only 4½ per cent.; those paying 10 per cent. will only pay 6 per cent., and those paying 12½ per cent. will in future only pay 7½ per cent. These reductions represent exactly 40 per cent. of the aggregate of the tax.

In the period that has elapsed of the present fiscal year the revenue has increased beyond expectations. The most important source of revenue, the Custom-House collections, have increased approximately at the rate of \$350,000 monthly in the months of July, August, September and October. This gives at once an excess of \$1,400,000 of revenue this year over last, and \$1,000,000 revenue over the estimates. There has also been an increase in the stamp tax, but that increase only amounts to \$300,000, so that the total excess over estimates is \$1,300,000.

THE CONVERSION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The Department of State has received through Minister Ransom a translation of the text of the decree of President Diaz relative to the conversion of the National Debt of the Republic, of date of October 31, 1895.

By this decree the time for the consideration of certain claims against the National Treasury, the right of consideration of which expired on the 31st of October last, is extended. The following is a summary of the decree :

Claims which under the decree of June 29 last ought to be considered as deferred until July 1, 1899, on account of not having been presented during the term closing to-day, may nevertheless be converted before July 1, 1899, provided such claims possess the conditions set forth in Art. 16 of decree of September 6, 1894, and that their holders submit to the conditions stated below.

From November 1, 1895, until July 1, 1899, the Government may go on admitting to conversion claims of the first class mentioned in section II of said article 16. But such claims shall undergo a discount of 10 per cent. both on principal and interest, and no interest shall be allowed after November 1, 1895. Said claims shall be converted into 5 per cent. Interior Redeemable Debt bonds.

Claims of the second class originating previously to July 1, 1894, which have not lapsed and shall not lapse in future, including certificates of arrears, without distinction of dates, and certificates issued by the extinguished Public Debt Bureau, comprised in section III of said article 16, shall be converted into 3 per cent. Interior Debt bonds, provided the holders make application to the Treasury before June 30, 1896. The conversion shall be effected at a discount of 20 per cent. on the nominal value of the claims and without allowance of interest.

After June 30, 1896, the claims mentioned in the foregoing article shall not be convertible into 3 per cent. bonds; but they may be paid off in cash if the situation of the Treasury permits of it. The highest rates of cash payment shall be as follows: 27 per cent. on nominal value in the fiscal year 1896-'97; 28 per cent. in the fiscal year 1897-'98; 29 per cent. in the following fiscal year, and at 30 per cent. from and after July 1, 1899.

The certificate of arrears belonging to the fiscal year 1894-'95 shall be subject to the conditions set forth in the two preceding articles, with the single difference that they shall be converted at par into 3 per cent. bonds if application be made to the Treasury before June 30, 1896.

Certificates issued by the extinguished Public Debt Bureau under decree of June 22, 1885, and referred to in section IV of article 16 of the decree of September 6, 1894, may be converted into 3 per cent. bonds up to June 30, 1896, at the rate fixed by fraction F of article 3 of the law of May 27, 1889. After July 1, 1896, said certificates may be paid off in cash at a rate which shall in no case exceed 5 per cent. of their face value.

Claims of the special class comprised under article 6 of law of September 6, 1894, may continue to be converted into 5 per cent. Interior Redeemable Debt bonds, but at a discount of 5 per cent.

The balance referred to in article 9 of the decree of June 29th last may go on being converted subsequently to the date of the present decree and until June 30, 1896, under the terms set forth in said article 9, a reduction of 10 per cent. being made in the net convertible sum. After said June 30 the holders shall only receive cash at the rate mentioned in article 4 of the present decree, the nominal amount of 3 per cent. bonds being fixed on the basis of calculation set forth in said article 9.

The issue of 3 per cent. bonds is to cease on June 30, 1896, and in August, 1896, the *Diario Oficial* shall publish a complete list of all such bonds issued from the year 1886 until June 30, 1896, of those called in for redemption, etc. All 3 per cent. bonds not issued at that date shall be destroyed.

THE PORT OF VERA CRUZ.

From a report to the British Foreign Office by Mr. Arthur Chapman, Her Majesty's consul at Vera Cruz, the following information regarding that port is obtained:

"The shipping returns for 1894-'95, as compared with the preceding year, show an increase in entries and a decrease in clearances. There is a marked increase in British shipping, but the bulk of the increase in freight entering arrived in American vessels, the increase amounting to 12,873 tons. Of the freight exported from Vera Cruz, American vessels

show an increase of 2,096 tons, while British vessels show a decrease of 1,183 tons and Spanish vessels a decrease of 1,704 tons. The amount of goods brought by mail to Vera Cruz in 1894-'95 was 92,084 tons, and that dispatched by rail 171,935 tons.

"The new customs warehouse is finished and in use. Extra dues of 20 cents per ton are now levied on all imports to defray expenses incurred, except on such articles as coal, railroad material, lumber, etc. The port works of Vera Cruz are progressing under the new contract, though the work at present is principally confined to preliminary steps. It is expected work will be in full swing by next January.

NICARAGUA.

COMMERCIAL LICENSES.

The Department of State has received from Mr. Thomas O'Hara, Consul at San Juan del Norte, a translation of an ordinance relating to the granting of commercial licenses. The ordinance is as follows :

Whereas, it is expedient that the commercial licenses levied by the municipality for the general uses thereof be properly fixed, regulated and defined.

Be it enacted by the municipal council of Bluefields, by virtue of the authority therein vested—

(1) From and after the promulgation of this ordinance no business of any kind whatsoever shall be carried on within the limits of the town of Bluefields without a license having been previously obtained from the municipal authorities.

(2) All applications for licenses shall be directed to the municipal secretary, to be submitted to the municipal council, said application to be accompanied by an affidavit signed by two or more responsible residents of the locality or ward where the applicant intends to open a place of business, stating that said applicant is a fit and proper person to carry on business.

(3) All licenses shall be available for twelve calendar months and shall be taken on the first day of the months of October and April of each year.

(4) The rates of licenses are hereby fixed as per schedule appended to this ordinance, and shall be payable to the municipal treasurer during the first week after which they shall have become due.

(5) Foreigners now engaged in business (Chinamen included) and now residing in this town shall be granted any of the licenses mentioned in this ordinance, provided they comply with the laws of the Republic and the local regulations having special reference to commercial establishments of any kind.

(6) Any person or persons who shall open any store or shop, café or restaurant, etc., without first obtaining the necessary license from the municipal authorities, shall be fined \$25 without prejudice of being compelled to pay the corresponding license.

(7) The owner or proprietor of any store, shop, club, café or restaurant or his agent, is bound to prevent the commission of any breach of the peace on such premises, or any attempt that may so be made; and they are bound to comply with the regulations of the service having reference thereto.

(8) The prescriptions contained in the code of police respecting gambling are applicable to all the establishments mentioned in this ordinance.

(9) Any person or persons who shall willfully, feloniously and with malice aforethought adulterate any article of diet or any wines, spirits or other liquors or beverages, and shall offer the same for sale, shall, over and above the penalty imposed by the general laws, be fined \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for the second offense, said license to be at the same time canceled.

(10) The police regulations of this Republic shall in all cases be applied whenever they are not contrary to the disposition of this ordinance.

SCHEDULE OF COMMERCIAL LICENSES.

| | |
|---|-------|
| First Class.—For the sale of merchandise, tobacco, spirits (other than spirituous liquors), provisions, the value of the stock exceeding \$5,000 per annum. | \$300 |
| Second Class.—For the sale of merchandise and provisions, stock not to exceed \$5,000 per annum. | 150 |
| Third Class.—For the sale of merchandise as above, stock not to exceed \$3,000. | 100 |
| Fourth Class.—For the sale of merchandise, stock not to exceed \$1,000 per annum. | 50 |
| Hotels and restaurants. | 120 |
| Billiard saloons. | 100 |
| Boarding houses. | 60 |
| Tobacco, wholesale or retail, cigars and snuff. | 25 |
| Commercial agents, not to exceed \$5,000. | 100 |
| Peddlers. | 36 |

(Peddlers' licenses are to be paid monthly.)

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF THE FOREIGN RAILWAY DEBT.

Minister Lewis Baker transmits to the Department of State, the *ad referendum* arrangement for the settlement of the foreign railway debt of Nicaragua due to English bondholders. The points of the proposed settlement are as follows:

The total principal of the debt is £285,000, with an accumulated interest amounting to £34,200. By the proposed arrangement the English bondholders agree to a reduction of the interest by one-half up to July 1,

1896; after that date the bonds shall bear 4 per cent. per annum instead of 6 per cent. as in the past. The debt, both principal and interest, is to be extinguished by the creation of an accumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum. As security for the payment of the debt, the Government assigns a special tax of \$1.00 in gold on each quintal of coffee exported. The agreement was signed in London on September 12, 1895, by Sr. Don Luciano Gomez, for the Government of Nicaragua, and by Mr. J. Arthur Vaughn, on the part of the bondholders.

PARAGUAY.

AMERICAN TRADE.

[From United States Consular Report for November, 1895.]

On assuming my official duties, an examination of the consular records demonstrated that during the establishment of a consulate at this post from 1888 to 1894, no business of a commercial nature had passed through the office, nor could the writer discover that any attempt had been made to encourage such business. It is true that some few products of Paraguay had found their way to the United States, but through the medium of Buenos Aires or Montevideo, and they must have appeared finally as Argentine or Uruguayan products. As this state of affairs was not only unsatisfactory, but appeared to be somewhat in contravention of the Consular Regulations, the writer informed such persons as might be likely to export to the United States that the consulate here was prepared to dispatch invoices, and was also desirous of convincing merchants and others that the United States might become to them as good a field for trade as Europe.

Under a condition of freer commercial relations, the writer believes that a prosperous trade might soon have been worked up. Even now, in spite of commercial restrictions, something has been done, as may be seen by the annual return of exports just forwarded to the Department, which amounted to \$9,000 (United States gold) within the space of a year; and insignificant as this sum may appear, it still means a demand upon the United States for an equal or greater value in United States products, either directly or indirectly, and demonstrates the principle that distant people, of widely varying importance in the world, can nevertheless aid in supplying the wants of the other to the injury of neither and the benefit of both. The goods exported to the United States consisted of ostrich feathers, aigrette plumes, ox hides, stag hides, carpincho hides, orange oil and tobacco, all of which products have turned out profitably to the dealers, with the exception of tobacco.

The tobacco trade has resulted disastrously on account of the Paraguayans being ignorant of the want of the United States market and sending a tobacco to our people such as their old customers—the Argentines—demanded, but which is altogether too strong for the tastes of the citizens of the United States.

There would be a good opening here for an energetic United States citizen having a small capital and versed in the tobaccoists' business; for the writer feels bound to say that nowhere in the world can finer tobacco be found for certain purposes, and though it could not enter the field now occupied by our United States tobaccos, it could replace much of the tobacco now brought in from foreign countries to the increase of the demand for those products of United States manufacture of which Paraguay stands so much in need for the development of her natural resources, and which the peculiar genius of our people render the United States so admirably adapted to supply.

United States manufacturers are now in correspondence with this consulate with a desire to send here United States goods, and, of course, the success of their efforts must be measured somewhat by the willingness of the United States to receive Paraguay's products in return.

EBEN M. FLAGG,

ASUNCION, *June 30, 1895.*

Vice-Consul.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the year 1894 has just been made public. The imports for the year were \$2,222,202 in gold, against \$2,533,298 in 1893—an increase of \$331,096.

The exports in 1894 were \$11,100,597 paper currency, against \$7,994,845 in the same currency for 1893—an increase of \$3,105,751.

The Foreign Debt is estimated at \$4,653,147 in gold.

PERU.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Since his elevation to the office of First Vice-President of the Republic of Peru, under the administration of President Pierola, Señor Billinghamurst has declared his intention to devote his time and purpose to the development of the immense agricultural and mineral resources of his country, especially to the means of communication between the centers of production and the ports of export, by the construction of roadways and bridges which may serve as feeders to the lines of railway.

Señor Billinghamurst has recently availed himself of the arrival in Peru of Sir Henry Tyler, representative of the Peruvian Corporation, to make an investigation and examination into the feasibility and practical advisability of extending the Peruvian Central Railway from its present terminus at Oroya to the rich provinces lying eastward. Accordingly a special train left Lima on October 7th, conveying a party consisting of the Vice-President, Sir Henry Tyler and others, for Oroya, some 136 miles from Lima, having an altitude of 12,178 feet above the sea level. From this point the party took horses and completed the journey of 100 miles leading into the valley of the Perené.

The route from Oroya to Perené is picturesque; the bold outline of the neighboring mountain ranges, the exuberant vegetation, and the silvery brightness of the numerous mountain streams rushing through the different valleys make an enchanting view. The construction of the road from Oroya to Perené would not involve any engineering of difficult importance; eight bridges would have to be constructed, but none would be of great length, nor require anything special in its construction.

The cost of a narrow-gauge railway over the one hundred miles, which is the distance, more or less, from Oroya to Perené, would probably not exceed 150,000 pounds sterling, and its immediate construction is a necessity, as in three years time the existing roads will be absolutely inadequate to the traffic, such is the rapidity with which the production of these districts is increasing. Formerly tobacco was largely cultivated in all this district and with splendid results; but an injudicious tax levied upon this product has put a stop to its production for the moment. As one of the results of Señor Billingham's visit will be the removal of this tax, there can be no doubt that the cultivation of the plant will be shortly resumed on a larger scale than ever.

The climate in these districts is warm in the day time and cool at night. Fever, agues and verrugas are unknown. All the colonists enjoy the best of health. The maximum temperature in the shade is about 90° fahrenheit, and the minimum about 64°. All the settlers are prospering.

NEW MINISTRY.

The ministry, as now constituted, is as follows :

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| President of the Cabinet and Secretary of the Interior, Police and Public Works, Señor DON ANTONIO BENTÍN. | |
| Minister of Foreign Relations, Señor DON MELITÓN F. PORRAS. | |
| Minister of Justice, Instruc- tion and Beneficence, | Doctor D. AUGUSTO S. ALBARRACÍN. |
| Minister of War and Navy, | Coronel DON DOMINGO J. PARRA. |
| Minister of Treasury and Com- merce, | Señor DON FREDERICO BRESANI. |

SANTO DOMINGO.

EXPORT TAX ON LOGWOOD FROM SABANETA.

On petition of the Council of Sabaneta the National Congress has passed a resolution authorizing the collection of an export tax of fifty cents upon each ton of logwood taken from that commune for exportation. The revenue is to be used exclusively in aid of public instruction in that commune.

IMPROVEMENT OF TOBACCO, COFFEE AND CACAO CULTURE.

After much discussion Congress passed, on May 23, 1894, the decree for the improvement of tobacco, coffee and cacao culture, and it was approved June 7, 1894. Briefly the decree provides:

1. In each tobacco-growing district the Common Council shall each year sow enough to gather a sufficient quantity of tobacco seed for distribution among the cultivators of the leaf. Only one kind shall be sown, that which the council judges most suitable.
2. The planter who will not use the distributed seed shall not sell his product for export, under penalty of confiscation. The product confiscated shall be burned in the presence of an official.
3. In order to sell his tobacco the planter must see that it is in good condition—properly sweated, not damp and properly sorted. Tobacco sold for export not fulfilling these requirements shall be confiscated, whether in the hands of the planter or in warehouse of a merchant.
4. The purchaser shall accept 100 French pounds net for a quintal. The merchant violating this shall pay a fine of \$10 to \$100 into the Communal Treasury.
5. The exportation of new tobacco is positively prohibited before June 1st of the year in which it is gathered. Coffee and cacao shall be picked at full maturity, properly sweated, clean and dry, or otherwise not disposed of.
6. The merchant or dealer who buys tobacco that does not comply with the above requirements shall pay a fine of \$100 to \$500 for the first

offense, and if he offends again a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 into the Communal Treasury. Annually, after the crop is gathered, the authorities will convoke the planters and award premiums in public for the cultivation and preparation of tobacco, either medals or pecuniary awards, to stimulate improvements.

7. Each council shall appoint an inspector, duly sworn, who shall act gratuitously to the public; scales shall be provided at central localities, and methods of regulating weights and scales.

8. Violations may be complained of before the Alcalde by the inspector, the police or other persons, and the complainant shall receive 25 per cent. of the fines. The 75 per cent. remainder of the fines shall be devoted to the general encouragement of agriculture.

9. The councils will aid as far as they can the cultivation and improvement of tobacco, coffee and cacao.

10. Each council will appoint a committee of three to investigate doubtful cases and examine the products intended for export, so that they may fully comply with the requirements.

SUGAR ESTATE CONCESSION.

On June 17, 1895, the President approved a concession granted to Señor Francisco Villeta, to build in the Commune of San José de los Llanos a central mill for the manufacture of sugar and other cane products.

The grant authorizes the concessionaire to build a railroad and branches to be operated either by steam or animal power, from the mill to the port of Macoris, or to the banks of the river Iguano.

Freedom from all port dues, with the exception of pilot, guard and health officer, is granted to all vessels which come to the port loaded exclusively with machinery, apparatus and articles destined for the mill; but if these vessels take return cargo in said port they shall pay their duties in full. All machinery, rails and other articles required in the construction of the railway, wharf and warehouses are exempted from the payment of import duties. During the period of eight consecutive harvests the sugar and other products of the mill shall be exonerated from all fiscal dues.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR.

It is estimated that the total production of sugar for the year 1893-4, amounted to 280,000 bags, about 40,000 tons. The cane was grown on sixteen estates.

UNITED STATES CAPITAL IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Consul Grimke writes from Santo Domingo, September 22, 1895 :

Information has been received in this city from Paris of the transfer, on the 9th instant, of the title to the Banco Nacional de Santo Domingo, capital 4,000,000 francs, from the French company which organized and has heretofore operated it, to the San Domingo Improvement Company.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

It is proposed to construct a telegraph line from Santo Domingo City to Azua. A Dominican paper speaking of this says :

The need of this means of communication is daily felt more and more by the business community and especially by the commerce of Azua and that region which is making such rapid progress in the part which it is taking in what may be termed our "agricultural development." This project is one of the most important that has recently been broached, and its necessity will soon compel its construction. Only a few days since the Clyde steamer was delayed at Azua and much expense and trouble was caused to people and commerce of the capital by the uncertainty of the delay, which would have been avoided if telegraphic communication had existed.

The location of the poles for the electric light has been completed, and it is expected the city will be illuminated during the month of December.

URUGUAY.

AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES.

From a communication addressed to the Department of State by Consul Edgar Schramm, dated Montevideo, May 3, 1895, and published in the United States Consular Reports for November, the following extracts are taken :

"Judging from the numerous inquiries received at this consulate from merchants and manufacturers in the United States, as well as from persons expressing a desire to come to this country with the idea of settling here, there is no room for doubt that entirely erroneous views prevail among our people as to the way business is to be done here, and, furthermore, as to the advantages Uruguay offers for settlers from other countries.

"All explanations given in consular reports covering the very questions above mentioned, and the great many direct replies this consulate has taken pains to send to inquirers, seem to have been insufficient for some people to understand that in order to do business here entirely different ways and means have to be adopted from those by which trade in the United States is governed; and also that in settling or colonizing here they will meet with an entirely different, and I may say rather unfavorable condition of affairs in comparison to what people brought up under the laws and habits in the United States are accustomed to.

"Unquestionably this country, and, in fact, the entire South American continent, offers a great and inexhaustible field for trade to the United States. It is, however, a waste of time and money to assume that trade can be gained by sending circulars and catalogues from the United States in a language not of the land to which made to consuls for lists of names of reliable firms, or other information they are sent, or by requests which may be very often not within their reach or sphere.

"It is also a mistaken idea to expect to facilitate trade relations with these countries by asking them to come to the United States and make exhibits there at fairs or general exhibitions, considering the fact that the trade exchanges furnished by these countries consist of raw products, the qualities of which are too well known all over the world to need calling special attention thereto, and which for many years have been finding their way to the United States without extra advertising. What

is wanted is just the contrary. Exhibits of American manufactures in any or all parts of South America would not only help, but are rather a necessity, if our merchants and manufacturers desire to establish or to increase their trade in these regions.

"The fact that the balance of trade has been for years in favor of this country and against the United States, goes to prove the truth of this assertion. These countries do not need to advertise their hides, wool, etc., either in the United States or anywhere else, being well known in the world's marts. It is the people of the United States who ought to make strenuous efforts to exhibit in these countries, so as to show to the trade and the public in general what we have to sell and what we are able to do for them, in manufactured goods especially, in competition with the rest of the world.

"At the same time it has to be remarked that agricultural implements and machinery are to-day nearly the only American manufactures introduced here; petroleum, lumber and resin—products which the people here, as all over the world, cannot help but take from us—forming the bulk of our shipments to this country. And with all that, the United States contributes only 5.63 per cent. to the total imports of Uruguay. From this may be judged what we can do here when once we begin to push our trade in the right manner. What is wanted in the first place, I repeat, is to bring our goods before the public by direct exhibits at all opportunities offered.

"Such opportunity, and, in my judgment, a very excellent one, has suggested itself to me now. There is the probability that the present large building of the Rural Exhibition will be left standing for some time to come. I have been given to understand that permission would eventually be granted by the Government to use this building for an exclusively American industrial exposition as soon as it is seen that American manufacturers show a disposition to avail themselves of this favor. Here is the occasion for the National Association of American Manufacturers to begin to put one of the principal points of their platform—the establishment of permanent exhibitions of American manufactures in the capitals of South American countries—into practical execution.

"By demonstrating to the public whatever advantages our goods possess over European articles of the same class, the battle will be nearly won. To-day business is controlled here chiefly by firms whose natural affiliations are with Europe, and this tendency can be overcome only by the public demand for American goods, thus forcing the merchants to keep them in stock.

"That American manufacturers, on their part, will have to learn to be more accommodating to the just requirements of this trade, goes without saying. Once the road is well opened, the true American progressive spirit will soon do away with all difficulties there may be of this kind. The establishment of better banking facilities, so sadly needed, will, I have no doubt, promptly follow."

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

From a pamphlet of agricultural statistics for the year 1894, recently issued by the Department of Foment, the following information is obtained:

In the entire Republic there are 11,053 proprietors, 10,192 tenants, of whom 10,780 are Uruguayan, and 10,265 are foreigners. Hectares under cultivation: Wheat, 203,796; maize, 125,731; barley, 2,782; linseed, 887; birdseed, 2,317; oats, 18; peanuts, 449; potatoes, 2,844; beans, 10,224; batatas, 1,310. Hectolitres of seed sown: Wheat, 203,843; maize, 59,237; barley, 4,036; linseed, 987; birdseed, 835; oats, 54; peanuts, 481; potatoes, 13,958; beans, 9,393; batatas, 3,114. Hectolitres reaped: Wheat, 3,142,011; maize, 1,851,582; barley, 40,928; linseed, 8,062; birdseed, 21,209; oats, 509; peanuts, 5,079; potatoes, 63,629; beans, 56,135; batatas, 31,001. Persons engaged in agriculture, 40,751; ploughs, 36,497; Hectares under vine cultivation, 2,826; vines, 15,695,319.

(NOTE.—A hectare of land is equal to 2.47 acres English measure, and a hectolitre to 22 gallons.)

SANITARY CONVENTION.

There will be held shortly in the city of Montevideo a Sanitary Convention consisting of representatives of Uruguay, the Argentine Republic and Brazil. It is hoped that this convention will lead to a satisfactory solution of the troublesome question of quarantine, which has existed for some time past between those countries, much to the detriment of commerce and the convenience of ocean travel.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

From official statistics recently issued by the Department of Commerce, the foreign commerce of Uruguay, for the six months commencing January 1, 1895, compared with the statistics of 1893 and 1894, covered by the same period, is as follows:

| | IMPORTATION. | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1893. | 1894. | 1895. |
| Beverages. | \$1,360,593 | \$1,505,344 | \$1,603,817 |
| Cereals and spices. | 2,164,983 | 1,994,209 | 2,059,959 |
| Tobacco and cigars. | 145,725 | 139,462 | 121,932 |
| Textiles, rough. | 1,996,382 | 2,637,165 | 2,530,813 |
| Textile fabrics. | 643,665 | 905,536 | 746,527 |
| Materials in the rough for manu- facture. | 2,201,619 | 3,007,365 | 2,982,490 |
| Miscellaneous. | 1,090,371 | 1,377,381 | 1,541,117 |
| Live stock. | 365,553 | 576,014 | 444,405 |
| Total. | \$9,968,796 | \$12,192,485 | \$12,031,060 |

EXPORTATION.

| | 1893. | 1894. | 1895. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Live stock..... | \$601,795 | \$594,087 | \$544,286 |
| Slaughterhouse products | 15,141,089 | 18,772,494 | 17,546,386 |
| Agricultural products. | 278,713 | 2,259,618 | 2,627,633 |
| Other products. | 146,142 | 123,552 | 79,948 |
| Miscellaneous. | | | 261 |
| Naval stores..... | 52,555 | 79,280 | 46,801 |
| Total..... | \$16,190,294 | \$21,829,031 | \$20,636,315 |

PORT STUDIES.

In addition to the work now going on looking to the improvement of the port of Montevideo, a decree has recently been issued by the Minister of Foment directing that studies shall be made of the port of Colonia, with the idea of establishing a depth of water of twenty-one feet in that harbor. Hydrographic studies will also be made in the zone of the river Negro, near the city Mercedes, and at the confluence of that river with the river Uruguay. Plans will be submitted also for the removal of the shallows in the Arroyo de las Vacas between its bar in the river Uruguay and the pass of Curtiembre, and also in the Arroyo of Rosario from its bar to the port of La Paz. The definite plans of the hydrographical works to be carried out in the places above named include the construction of wharves, warehouses, etc. This work is placed in the immediate charge of Engineer V. Benavidez.

VENEZUELA.

TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.

1. Ordinances of June 18, 1895, relative to the Customs treatment of tobacco in carrots and all other twisted chewing tobacco.

On and after the date of the present Ordinance, *tobacco in carrots* ("hucva") and all other twisted chewing tobacco, imported through the Custom-houses of the Republic, shall be ranged in Class VI of the tariff instead of Class VII, as prescribed by the Ordinance of November 27, 1894, which authorized its importation.

2. Ordinance of June 28, 1895, relative to the Customs classifications of absinthe.

Absinthe, imported through the Custom-houses of the Republic, shall be ranged in Class VI of the tariff, and shall be assimilated, for payment of duty, to brandy and all spirits other than of cane.

3. Ordinance of July 4, 1895, concerning the Customs treatment of books of lithographed drafts.

Books of Lithographed drafts, which are not specially mentioned in the import tariff, shall be ranged in Class V of the tariff on their importation through the Custom-houses of the Republic.

4. Ordinance of July 12, 1895, relative to the Customs classification of a new product called "Disinfectant liquid and powder."

The new product known as "*Disinfectant liquid and powder*," which is not enumerated in the import tariff, shall be ranged in Class III of the tariff and shall be assimilated, for payment of duty, to *creoline* which is employed for the same purpose.

5. Ordinance of July 18, 1895, relating to the Customs treatment of an alloy of lead and aluminum and of a special paper called "paste for manufacturing stereotype plate."

The *alloy of lead and aluminum*, as well as the *special paper called "paste for manufacturing stereotype plates"*, employed, according to a new process, for stereotype printing and which have no other application, shall be ranged in Class I of the tariff, as well as all other accessories for printing mentioned in No. 20 of § 1 of the law establishing the import tariff.

VENEZUELA.

MODIFICACIONES DEL ARANCEL.

1. Resolución de 18 de Junio de 1895, relativa á la importación del tabaco.

El tabaco nueva y cualquier otro tabaco torcido para mascar que se importe por las Aduanas de la República se aforará, desde esta fecha, en la 6a clase arancelaria, en lugar de la 7a clase en que lo había comprendido la resolución de 27 de Noviembre de 1894 que permite la importación de dicho artículo.

2. Resolución de 28 de Junio de 1895, fijando la clase arancelaria en que debe aforarse el licor llamado "ajenojo."

El licor llamado "ajenojo," que se importe por las Aduanas de la República, se aforará en la 6a clase arancelaria, en la que se hallan comprendidos la ginebra y todos los aguardientes que no son de caña.

3. Resolución de fecha 4 de Julio de 1895, fijando la clase arancelaria en que deben aforarse los libros "de esqueletos litografiados para libranzas."

Los libros "de esqueletos litografiados para libranzas," no especificados en el Arancel de importación, se aforarán en la 5a clase arancelaria, cuando se importen por las Aduanas de la República.

4. Resolución de 12 de Julio de 1895, determinando la clase arancelaria en que debe aforarse el nuevo producto denominado "Desinfectante líquido y en polvo."

El nuevo producto denominado "desinfectante líquido y en polvo," no comprendido en el Arancel de importación, se aforará en la 3a clase arancelaria, en la que se halla comprendida la *Creolina*, que tiene la misma aplicación.

5. Resolución de 18 de Julio de 1895, determinando la clase arancelaria en que deben aforarse el metal compuesto de *plomo y aluminio* y el papel especial llamado "pasta para hacer matrices."

El metal compuesto de *plomo y aluminio* y el papel especial llamado "pasta para hacer matrices," que se emplean en las máquinas de imprimir por el moderno sistema de la estereotipia, y que no tienen otra aplicación, se aforarán en la 1a clase arancelaria, como los otros útiles para dar forma á la impresión, que se encuentran comprendidos en el n° 20 del artículo 1° de la ley del Arancel de importación.

VENEZUELA.

MODIFICAÇÕES NA TARIFA.

I. Resolução de 18 de Junho de 1895, relativa á importação do tabaco.

O tabaco prensado ou qualquer outro tabaco torcido para mascar, que se importar pelas Alfandegas da Republica, será avaliado, desde esta data, na 6a classe da tarifa. em vez da 7a, em que foi comprehendido pela Resolução de 27 de Novembro de 1894, que permite a importação do dito artigo.

II. Resolução de 28 de Junho de 1895, marcando a classe da tarifa em que se deve avaliar o licor denominado "ajenjo" (absinthio.)

O licor chamado "ajenjo" (absinthio) que se importar pelas Alfandegas da Republica, se avaliará na 6a classe da tarifa, na qual se acham comprehendidos a ginebra e todos os aguardentes que não sejam de canna de assucar.

III. Resolução de 4 de Julho de 1895, indicando a classe da tarifa em que se deve avaliar os livros "de esqueletos litografiados para libranzas" (livros de saques lithographados em branco.)

Os livros de saques lithographados em branco, não especificados na tarifa de importação, se avaliarão na 5a classe da tarifa, quando se importarem pelas Alfandegas da Republica.

IV. Resolução de 12 de Julho de 1895, determinando a classe aduaneira em que se deve avaliar o novo producto denominado "desinfectante liquido e em pó."

O novo producto denominado "desinfectante liquido e em pó," não comprehendido na tarifa de importação, se avaliará na 3a classe, na qual se achá comprehendida a creolina, que se emprega para o mesmo fim.

V. Resolução de 18 de Julho de 1895, determinando a classe aduaneira em que se deve avaliar o metal composto de chumbo e aluminio e o papel especial chamado "pasta para fazer matrizes."

O metal composto de chumbo e aluminio e o papel chamado "pasta para fazer matrizes," que se empregam nos prelos pelo systema moderno da estereotypia, e que não se usam para outro fim, serão avaliados na primeira classe da tarifa, como os outros objectos' empregados na impressão, que se acham comprehendidos no n. 20 do 1º artigo da lei aduaneira de importação.

THE UNDEVELOPED FORESTS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

The Invention, a journal published in London, speaking of the undeveloped resources of the forests of South America and the opportunities for enterprise in that direction, says :

In the yet untouched forests of South America, accessible by water, are many woods as yet entirely unknown to civilization. They range from pure white to jet black in color, many of them exquisitely veined and marked; many of them are of such exceeding hardness as to refuse to yield to the ax or chisel, almost, indeed, to saw. They exist in countless varieties in trees of enormous size and different degrees of commercial utility. Some of them which have been brought over, particularly those at the Columbian Exposition, from the Argentine Republic, were so hard that when they finally yielded to the continued action of the band saw, the resultant sawdust was an impalpable powder; others possess qualities which keep them free from insects; some of them are almost impervious to fire; many of them are practically indestructible by air or water. They vary from wood fitted for ship building to the finest cabinet and furniture work. It is a very treasure house of exquisite woods, and it is by no means improbable that before long they will yield up their treasures to the enterprising commercial world.

Of the woods peculiar to the Argentine Republic, the following may be mentioned: the algarrobo is described as white, red, gray, black and violet; the quebracho is deep red and pure white; the cedar is bright red; the cibil is white, red and black; the gayaibi is white, gray and black; the laurel is white, black and yellow; the tipa is white, red and yellow; the palo amarilla is bright yellow, as is also the palo moro; the viraro is dark brown; the calden is bright red; the tatane is golden yellow; the pacara is dark red; the molle is black-brown; the lapacho is green, gray and black; the guayabo is deep red, veined with black and yellow; the palo ribera is dark cinnamon with red veins; the guayacan is black and almost indestructible.

A short time ago our attention was directed to the hidden value of these woods by one of the largest dealers in mahogany. He said :

Were I a young man with a moderate capital, I know of no field in the world so productive of money, so open to enterprise, so available in every particular as the Amazon and its tributaries. Were an expedition fitted out with a steamer properly equipped with portable sawmills, two or three steam launches and a few flat-bottom boats, the enormous stores of mahogany and other precious woods as yet unknown to the world could be brought to market at a profit which would amaze the investors.

LIST OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN
REPUBLICS.

| | | Executive Residence. |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Argentine Republic | Señor Don José Evaristo Uriburu..... | Buenos Aires. |
| Bolivia..... | Señor Don Mariano Baptista..... | Sucre |
| Brazil..... | Señor Doctor Don Prudente de Morães | Rio de Janeiro. |
| Chile..... | Señor Don Jorge Montt | Santiago. |
| Colombia..... | Señor Don Miguel Antonio Caro..... | Bogota. |
| Costa Rica..... | Señor Don Rafael Iglesias..... | San José. |
| Ecuador..... | Señor General Don Eloy Alfaro | Quito. |
| Guatemala | General Don José María Reina Barrios | Guatemala City. |
| Haiti | L. M. F. Hyppolite. | Port au Prince. |
| Honduras..... | Señor Don Policarpo Bonilla. | Tegucigalpa. |
| Mexico | General Don Porfirio Diaz | City of Mexico. |
| Nicaragua..... | Señor General Don José Santos Zelaya | Managua. |
| Paraguay..... | General Don Juan B. Eguisquiza..... | Asunción. |
| Peru..... | Señor Don Nicolás de Piérola..... | Lima. |
| Salvador | Don Rafael Antonio Gutiérrez | San Salvador. |
| Santo Domingo | Señor Don Ulises Heureaux | Santo Domingo. |
| United States.. | Grover Cleveland. | Washington, D.C. |
| Uruguay..... | Señor Don Idiarte Borda..... | Montevideo. |
| Venezuela..... | General Don Joaquín Crespo..... | Caracas. |

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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

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

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—

Buenos Aires.
Cordoba.
Rosario.

BOLIVIA—

La Paz.

BRAZIL—

Bahia.
Para.
Pernambuco.
Rio Grande do Sul.
Rio de Janerio.
Santos.

CHILE—

Antofagasta.
Arica.
Coquimbo.
Iquique.
Talcahuano.
Valparaiso.

COLOMBIA—

Barranquilla.
Bogota.
Cartagena.
Colon(Aspinwall).
Medillin.
Panama.

COSTA RICA—

San José.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—

Puerto Plata.
Samana.
Santo Domingo.

ECUADOR—

Guayaquil.

GUATEMALA—

Guatemala.

HAITI—

Cape Haitien.
Port au Prince.

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

HONDURAS—

Ruatan.
Tegucigalpa.

MEXICO—

Acapulco.
Chihuahua.
Durango.
Ensenada.
Guaymas.
La Paz.
Matamoras.
Mazatlan.
Merida.
Mexico.
Nogales.
Nuevo Laredo.
Paso del Norte.
Piedras Negras.
Saltillo.
Tampico.

MEXICO—*Continued.*

Tuxpan.
Vera Cruz.

NICARAGUA—

Managua.
San Juan del Norte.

PARAGUAY—

Asunción.

PERU—

Callao.

SALVADOR—

San Salvador.

URUGUAY—

Colonia.
Montevideo.
Paysandu.

VENEZUELA—

La Guayra.
Maracaibo.
Puerto Cabello.

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POSTAGE STAMPS WILL NOT BE RECEIVED.

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March ('95).—Tariff Changes, Argentine Republic; Tariff Changes, Guatemala.

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CLINTON FURBISH,
Director.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 1, 1895.

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VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

The following table shows the value in United States gold, of coins representing the monetary units of the Central and South American republics, and Mexico, estimated quarterly by the Director of the United States mint, in pursuance of act of Congress :

ESTIMATE OCTOBER 1, 1895.

| COUNTRIES. | STANDARD. | UNIT. | VALUE OF U. S. GOLD AND SILVER. | COINS. |
|---------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. | Gold and Silver. | Peso. | 0.965 (fixed). | { Gold—Argentine (\$4.82,4) and $\frac{1}{2}$ Argentine Silver—Peso and divisions. |
| BOLIVIA. | Silver. | Boliviano. | 0.48,6. | Silver—Boliviano and divisions. |
| BRAZIL. | Gold. | Milreis. | 0.54,6 (fixed). | { Gold—5, 10 and 20 milreis. { Silver— $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 milreis. |
| CENTRAL AMERICA. | Silver. | Peso. | 0.48,6. | { Gold—Onza and divisions. { Silver—Peso and divisions. |
| CHILE. | Gold and Silver. | Peso. | 0.91,2 (fixed). | { Gold—Escudo (\$1.82,4), doubloon (\$4.56), conдор (\$9.12,3). { Silver—Peso and divisions. |
| COLOMBIA. | Silver. | Peso. | 0.48,6. | { Gold—Conдор (\$9.64,7), double conдор. { Silver—Peso and divisions. |
| CUBA. | Gold and Silver. | Peso. | 0.92,6 (fixed). | { Gold—Doubloon (\$5.01,7). { Silver—Peso. |
| ECCADOR. | Silver. | Suere. | 0.48,6. | { Gold—Conдор (\$9.64,7) and divisions. { Silver—Suere and divisions. |
| MEXICO. | Silver. | Dollar. | 0.52,8. | { Gold—Dollar (\$0.98,3), $2\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 10 and 20 dols. { Silver—Dollar (or peso) and divisions. |
| HAITI. | Gold and Silver. | Gourde. | 0.96,5. | Silver—Gourde. |
| PERU. | Silver. | Sol. | 0.48,6. | Silver—Sol and divisions. |
| VENEZUELA. | Gold and Silver. | Bolivar. | 0.19,3 (fixed). | { Gold—5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 bolivars. { Silver—5 bolivars. |

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

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

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

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

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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

| DENOMINATION. | WHERE USED. | U. S. EQUIVALENTS. |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Are | Metric | 0.02471 acre. |
| Arabe | Paraguay | 25 pounds. |
| Arroba (dry) | Argentine Republic | 25.3175 pounds. |
| do | Brazil | 32.38 pounds. |
| do | Cuba | 25.5064 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 | 1.590 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. |
| do (liquid) | do | 26.417 gallons. |
| Kilogram (kilo) | do | 2.2046 pounds. |
| Kilometer | do | 0.621376 mile. |
| League (land) | Paraguay | 4.633 acres. |
| Libra | Argentine Republic | 1.0127 pounds. |
| do | Central America | 1.043 pounds. |
| do | Chile | 1.014 pounds. |
| do | Cuba | 1.0161 pounds. |
| do | Mexico | 1.01465 pounds. |
| do | Peru | 1.0143 pounds. |
| do | Uruguay | 1.0143 pounds. |
| do | Venezuela | 1.0161 pounds. |
| Liter | Metric | 1.0567 quarts. |
| Livre | Guiana | 1.0791 pounds. |
| Manzana | Costa Rica | 1.5-6 acres. |

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

| DENOMINATION. | WHERE USED. | U. S. EQUIVALENTS. |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Marc | Bolivia..... | 0.507 pounds. |
| Meter | Metric..... | 39.37 inches. |
| Pic..... | Argentine Republic..... | 0.9478 foot. |
| Quintal..... | do do..... | 101.42 pounds. |
| do..... | Brazil..... | 130.06 pounds. |
| do..... | Chile, Mexico and Peru..... | 101.61 pounds. |
| do..... | Paraguay..... | 100 pounds. |
| do..... | Metric..... | 220.46 pounds. |
| Suerte..... | Uruguay..... | 2.700 Cuadras (see cuadro). |
| Vara..... | Argentine Republic..... | 34.1298 inches. |
| do..... | Central America..... | 38.874 inches. |
| do..... | Chile and Peru..... | 33.967 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 tonnea—ton (1,000,000 grams) equals 2,204.6 pounds.

METRIC DRY MEASURE.

- Millimeter (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 2.538 bushels.
- Kiloliter (1,000 liters) equals 1.308 cubic yards.

METRIC LIQUID MEASURE.

- Millimeter (1/1000 liter) equals 0.27 fluid ounce.
- Centiliter (1/100 liter) equals 0.338 fluid ounce.
- Deciliter (1/10 liter) equals 0.845 gill.
- Liter equals 1.0567 quarts.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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

METRIC MEASURES OF LENGTH.

Millimeter (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) 119.6 square yards.
Hectare (10,000 square meters) equals 2.471 acres.

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

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