

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

WASHINGTON, U. S. A.

- I. MEXICO—TREASURY RECEIPTS—TOTAL SOURCES OF INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 1894-95.
- II. MEXICAN TARIFF MODIFICATION—DECREE APRIL 30, 1894.
- III. MEXICAN NATIONAL LIBRARY—MEXICAN FRUIT INDUSTRY.
- IV. MEXICO—MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.
- V. JAMAICA.
- VI. COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION.

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

Director—CLINTON FURBISH.

While the utmost care is taken to insure accuracy in the publications of the Bureau of the American Republics, no pecuniary responsibility is assumed on account of errors or inaccuracies which may occur therein.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE BUREAU.

Seven monthly bulletins, in addition to the current issue, have been published by the Bureau of the American Republics, viz., "Coffee in America," October, 1893; "Coal and Petroleum in Colombia," etc., November, 1893, "Minerals and Resources of Northeastern Nicaragua," etc., December, 1893, "Finances of Chile," etc., January, 1894; "Costa Rica at the World's Fair," etc., February, 1894; "Reciprocity Treaties and Trade," March, 1894, and "The Republic of Costa Rica," etc., April, 1894.

With the July number will be commenced the second volume of these bulletins, and subscriptions for the year ending June 30, 1895, will be received at the rate of \$1 per annum: single copies, 10 cents each. Of the publications of the Bureau the following will be furnished to applicants upon receipt of the prices named in the list. Money may be sent by postoffice money order, payable to the Director of the Bureau of American Republics. All other remittances are at the risk of the sender. *Postage stamps will not be received.*

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Third Annual Report of the Bureau, 1893.....	15
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The "Code of Commercial Nomenclature," named in the above list, is the first volume of the first edition of the work suggested by the International American Conference. It contains 852 pages, and includes something over 28,000 commercial terms in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. This volume is bound in cloth, and will be ready for distribution on the 10th of June.

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.
Penambuco.
Rio Grande do Sul.
Rio de Janeiro.
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.

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—

Asuncion.

PERU—

Callao.

SALVADOR—

San Salvador.

URUGUAY—

Colonia.
Montevideo.
Paysandu.

VENEZUELA—

La Guayra.
Maracaibo.
Puerto Cabello.

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I.

MEXICO.

THE TREASURY RECEIPTS.

TOTAL SOURCES OF INCOME.—THE FISCAL YEAR 1894-95.

The Chamber of Deputies, at its meeting of May 11, 1894, approved of the following as the sources of the income of the Republic for the fiscal year beginning 1st July, 1894, and ending 30th June, 1895:

DUTIES ON EXTERIOR COMMERCE.

1. Duties on importation payable in accordance with the general ordinances of the maritime and frontier custom-houses, issued the 12th June, 1891, and their subsequent alterations, explanations and additions.

2. Duties on the exportation of national and cabinet woods of construction, also of dyewoods and mulberry trees in transit from foreign countries in conformity with the law of the 12th December, 1893.

3. Duties of exportation on the following products:

(a) Orchil, at the rate of \$5 per ton of 1,000 kilograms, net weight.

(b) Heniquen, in the rough or worked, at the rate of 70 cents for each 100 kilograms, net weight.

(c) Coffee, at the rate of \$3.50 for every 100 kilograms, net weight.

(d) Hides and pelts, as follows: Those of deer and goats, at the rate of \$2.50 per 100 kilograms, gross weight; those of cattle and others, at the rate of 75 cents per 100 kilograms, gross weight.

(e) Zacaton, or broom root, at the rate of 75 cents per 100 kilograms, gross weight.

(f) Chicle, at the rate of 2 cents per kilogram, net weight.

(g) Ixtle fiber, raw material, at the rate of 2 cents per 100 kilograms, net weight.

(h) Vanilla, at the rate of 40 cents per kilogram, net weight.

4. Duties in transit, in conformity with the existing ordinances of

custom-houses, the law of the 12th December, 1893, and the concessions made to the railway undertakings.

5. Two per cent additional on all the duties of importation in all the maritime and frontier custom-houses, for harbor works, in conformity with the decrees of 25th May, 1881, and 30th November, 1888.

6. Duties imposed by fractions *b* and *c* of Article 3 of the decree of the 28th May, 1881, by way of increase of port dues.

7. Tonnage, lighthouse and warehouse duties in accordance with the general ordinance of custom-houses.

8. Duties on the license to navigate, conformably to the laws of the 8th January and 9th July, 1857.

9. Dues for pilots and port dues, in conformity with the law of 30th January, 1860, and the regulation of 22d April, 1851.

10. Sanitation duties according to the existing laws.

11. Five per cent on the consumption duties which the collectors of taxes may recover in the Federal district and territories on the goods of foreigners, in conformity with the decree of the 11th August, 1875.

12. Duties which may be collected by the consuls, vice-consuls and commercial and consular agents of the Republic, in accordance with the said ordinance of custom-houses, the decree of the 11th November, 1893, and other existing provisions.

13. A charge of \$5 for each certificate issued by the ministers or consuls of Mexico in foreign countries, in conformity with Article 24 of the existing Code of Commerce; in the sense that when the diplomatic and consular agents find themselves under the necessity to obtain the assistance of a lawyer in order to issue such certificates, the lawyer shall be paid by the interested company or firm.

INTERIOR DUTIES PAYABLE IN THE ENTIRE FEDERATION.

14. Proceeds of the stamp taxes :

(*a*) The general stamp tax on the deeds, documents and contracts which require ordinary stamps, in conformity with the law of the 25th April, 1893, and subsequent enactments or regulations.

(*b*) Federal contributions on the entire business of the tax collectors' offices in the states and municipalities, which shall be imposed

and collected in the manner presented by the said general law of stamps and subsequent enactments.

(c) The impost on the importation of foreign merchandise which is payable in the stamps with a special counter-signature, as provided by the said stamp law of the 25th April, 1893.

(d) Taxes on the title-deeds and ownership of mines in conformity with the laws of the 8th November, 1893, and the other provisions applicable.

(e) Proceeds of the stamps for the release of fiscal obligations which real estate proprietors ought to pay in accordance with the laws of the 8th November, 1893, and the other provisions applicable.

(f) Taxes on manufactured tobaccos, in conformity with the law of the 10th December, 1892, and the other provisions applicable.

(g) Taxes on alcoholic drinks, in accordance with the law of the 19th May, 1893, the decree of the 15th June of the same year, and subsequent provisions.

(h) Taxes on cotton goods in conformity with the law of the 17th December, 1893.

(i) Charges on the certificates as to signatures, in conformity with Article 1 of the law of the 12th October, 1830.

The payment of this contribution within the national territory shall be made in stamps, and in cash so far as foreign countries are concerned, until the Executive determines that it shall be paid in another form.

15. A contribution on all the wages or emoluments which are authorized in the estimate of expenses or previous laws, which shall be paid in the following proportions: The wages which do not exceed \$602.25, 5 per cent. Those exceeding \$602.25 up to \$1,000.10, 7 per cent. Those exceeding \$1,000.10 up to \$3,000.30, 10 per cent. Those amounting to \$3,000.30 or upward, 10 per cent. Sergeants of the lower grades and civil servants are exempted from this contribution. The Executive shall fix the bases for payment of the contribution on the remuneration of those functionaries, employes, and agents, Federal or otherwise, with or without a fixed salary, who have no definite place in the estimates, by daily installments, and by unchanging annual regulations.

This contribution shall be collected by discounting from the salaries the portion proportionate to the average received.

16. Taxes on smelting, assays and coinage, in conformity with the existing laws; and the taxes which shall be collected in Lower California, in conformity with the resolutions of the Secretary of Finance, of the 8th September, 1893, not including those which are imposed in fraction 22.

17. Taxes on trade-marks at the rate of \$10 for each mark which shall be received by the General Treasury of the Federation.

18. Taxes on patents of invention, in conformity with the law of the 7th June, 1890, and \$10 additional, which shall be paid to the General Treasury of the Federation.

INTERIOR TAXES PAYABLE ONLY IN THE DISTRICT AND TERRITORIES.

19. Direct contributions, land taxes, those on licenses and on professions in the district and territories, in accordance with the laws of the 8th April, 1885, 4th April, 1894, and other subsequent laws and provisions.

20. City tolls in the said district and territories, in accordance with the law of the 10th December, 1892.

21. Duties on successions and donations in said district and territories, in conformity with the law of the 10th December, 1892.

22. Duties of 1 per cent on the value of the metal or mineral substances worked without deducting the cost; and a tax of six per thousand on the value of the metallurgical properties and establishments in the Federal district and territories, in conformity with Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the law of the 6th June, 1887.

23. Notaries' licenses, in accordance with Article 10 of the law of the 29th November, 1867.

24. Licenses for the business agents, in conformity with Article 10 of the law of the 29th November, 1867.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

25. Proceeds of the postoffice.

26. Proceeds of the telegraph lines of the Federal Government.

27. Net profits of the stamps printing establishment and of the printing offices of the Federal Government, conformably to the law

of the 14th December, 1888: subscriptions and sales of the *Diario Oficial*: the *Semanario Judicial* of the Federation, *Diario de los Debates*, and the other printed papers or books acquired or subventioned by the same Government.

28. The net proceeds of the School of Agriculture and of the Industrial School, in accordance with the law of the 14th December, 1888.

VARIOUS PROCEEDS AND PROFITS.

29. Proceeds of the National Lottery.

30. Fines which may be imposed in conformity with the Federal laws, or by the provisions of any decree or authority depending on the Federal Government, with the exception of those which may be directly imposed by the political, judicial or municipal authorities of the Federal district or territories.

31. Premiums for the placing of funds for the national service.

32. Proceeds of national properties.

33. Proceeds of the renting, sale, or recovery of waste (government) lands.

34. Proceeds of the duties on pearl, whale, sea otter, sea wolf, etc., fisheries, in conformity with the existing laws.

35. Products of the leasing, sales or the operating of woods, salt, "guaneras" and other real properties of the Federation, according to the laws, dispositions and contracts, respectively.

36. Proceeds of the capital, vacant properties, furniture, values, shares and rights which, under whatsoever title, belong to the Federation.

37. Gifts and donations in favor of the revenue.

38. Balances of Federal credits, taxes and proceeds not collected in previous years.

39. Profits which may arise from the amortization of the public debt.

40. Return of funds, or liquidation of accounts, or of any other obligations which in conformity with the law belong to the Federal Revenue.

II.

MEXICAN TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.

(Decree from "Diario Oficial," April 30, 1894.)

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT.

The President has been pleased to direct me to issue the following decree, to wit:

Porfirio Diaz, Constitutional President of the United Mexican States, to the inhabitants thereof:

Know Ye: That, in the exercise of the authorization conferred on the Executive of the Union by Section 1 of Article I of the Law of Estimates of Receipts, in force May 19, 1893, I have seen fit to decree the following, to wit:

ARTICLE I.

The tariff schedule in force in the service under the General Ordinance of Maritime and Frontier Custom-Houses is hereby modified and enlarged, as hereinafter specified, to read:

Fraction 233. Common bags made of jute, pita grass, hemp, tow and hemquen, gross kilogram, 3 cents.

Fraction 296*a*. Goods not specified of copper, bronze or any other base metal, gilded or plated with silver, whose weight exceeds ten (10) kilograms, legal kilogram, 40 cents.

Fraction 283. Jewelry or trinkets of any metal, save gold, silver or platinum, not gilded or plated with silver, legal kilogram, 50 cents.

Fraction 283*a*. Jewelry or trinkets of any metal save gold or platinum, gilded or plated with silver, legal kilogram, \$1.50.

Fraction 322. Iron in pigs of first smelting, or in filings or scraps, gross kilogram, 2 cents.

Fraction 367. Marble or alabaster, in rough or in powder, gross kilogram, 1 cent.

Fraction 367*a*. Marble and alabaster in sawed slabs, unpolished, gross kilogram, 5 cents.

Fraction 378. Oil, mineral, impure, net kilogram, 3 cents.

Fraction 389. Manufactured goods of alabaster or marble, not specified, when the weight of each does not exceed fifty (50) kilograms, gross kilogram, 25 cents.

Fraction 389*a*. Manufactured goods, not specified, of alabaster or marble, when the weight of each does exceed fifty (50) kilograms, for the first fifty (50) kilograms the preceding rate of 25 cents, and for each kilogram in excess thereof, 15 cents.

Fraction 404. Slabs of marble for floors, dressed only on one side, the other sides being in the rough, of any shape or size, gross kilogram, 1½ cents.

Fraction 406. Slabs of marble for furniture, and slabs with edges polished or carved, gross kilogram, 12 cents.

Fraction 419. Bottles of ordinary glass, without glass stoppers, to hold wines, spirituous liquors and beer, gross kilogram, 1 cent.

Fraction 419*a*. Bottles or flasks of ordinary glass, without glass stoppers, especially designed for holding liquors, provided the name of the liquor or liquid or other substance, or the name of the dealer therein, is indelibly wrought into the glass, gross kilogram, 5 cents.

ARTICLE II.

Hereby are declared null and void the following fractions, to wit:

405. Slabs of marble for floors, in size more than forty (40) centimeters square;

704. Patent pharmaceutical products; and

887. Flower vases, works of art, etc.; also

Note 223 explanatory of fraction 704* (modified by the decree of February 22, 1893).

ARTICLE III.

Explanatory notes, Nos. 107, 125 and 143, of the Tariff Schedule are hereby modified to read as follows:

NOTE 107.—The ingots or pigs referred to in fraction 322 are to be

*Sticking plasters, mustard plasters, etc.

products of the first fusion or smelting of the metal. The filings can be of any thickness; and filings may include chips or shavings. Scraps may include irregular pieces of metal and the refuse designed for smelting.

Iron of first fusion is distinguishable from the coarse forged article by its brittleness. A piece of cast iron, three to four inches square, or of same thickness, placed on the ground, can be broken by five or six blows of a fifteen-pound hammer of the kind called "macho" (sledge) by blacksmiths or iron-mongers, while it is impossible to break the "tocho" or forged iron in the same way.

NOTE 125.—Impure mineral oil is understood to be the product of the first distillation of the shale and crude petroleum. Its color is brown-red, or red in body and green in reflection; it is greasy and of pungent odor. It is unsuitable for lighting purposes, even though it contains a certain proportion of volatile properties.

NOTE 143.—Fraction 419 covers only ordinary bottles of common, clear or opaque glass, and whose form adapts them only for common uses, such as the bottling for sale of wine, spirituous liquors, beers, vinegar, etc.; but fraction 419 does not include bottles having worked indelibly thereon names, marks, figures, or other designs.

ARTICLE IV.

To the notes explanatory of the tariff now in force is added Note 309, referring to fractions 614, 615, and 615*a*, and others of same category of said tariff:

NOTE 309.—The quota of \$3.50 (net kilogram) of fraction 614 shall be levied on goods made of velvet or plush, with silk nap in part or throughout the surface, the warp and woof being solely of cotton, linen or wool, and only the nap being silk.

The quota of \$5 (net kilogram) of fraction 615 shall be levied on goods made of plush or velvet, with nap of silk in part or throughout the surface, the warp being of silk with mixture of cotton, linen or wool. It shall likewise be levied on such goods of plush or velvet whose warp is all silk and whose woof is silk mixed with cotton, linen or wool, or vice versa.

ARTICLE V.

The Treasury Department shall amend the vocabulary annexed to the general customs ordinance in force, in all parts necessary to adapt the same to the modifications and additions to the tariff and to the explanatory notes, subject to the present decree.

ARTICLE VI.

Clause III of Article 293 of the ordinance (see Appendix), is hereby changed to read as follows :

"When it is desirable to convey only coined money, fruits, garden products, fresh vegetables, native beer in casks, fresh meats and live animals."

ARTICLE VII.

The following regulation for the application of the Tariff is likewise hereby amended to read as follows :

XII. 3d paragraph. "White handkerchiefs, with trimmings, fringes, embroidery or other workings in color shall be considered as colored goods."*

ARTICLE VIII.

In all fractions of the Tariff wherein one and the same article come under different rates, according to their greater or less weight (save in the case of cloths) duties shall be levied, applying the highest rate up to the limit given as basis therefor and the lesser rate or rates on the number of kilograms in excess of such basal limit.

ARTICLE IX.

This Decree shall take effect on the first day of July next. It shall cover all merchandise imported in vessels making Mexican ports after twelve o'clock (midnight) of June 30 ensuing, and all merchandise entering at the frontier after said hour of said day, the respective Custom-House having received the same.

Ordered published, etc.

(Signed) PORFIRIO DIAZ.

Palace of the Federal Executive, Mexico, April 30, 1894.

To the Secretary of Treasury, etc.

Communicated April 30, 1894.

(Signed) LIMANTONO.

* See regulations for application of Tariff.

[Enclosure No. 3 in 283.]

**EXPLANATORY MEXICAN TARIFF MODIFICATIONS--
EXPLANATION OF KILOGRAM WEIGHTS.**

NOTES.

Net kilogram is the intrinsic weight of merchandise, without inclosures, wrappings or packings.

Legal kilogram is the weight of merchandise including wrappings, bottles, pasteboard, tin or wooden boxes, inside the outside case.

Gross kilogram is the weight of merchandise inclusive of all wrappings, inside and outside.

III.

MEXICAN NATIONAL LIBRARY.

In his work on "The Riches of Mexico and its Institutions," Adolfo Duclos Salina gives the following facts regarding the libraries of that country:

The establishment of libraries in Mexico dates from a period long before the conquest by the Spaniards in 1521. It is a well-known fact in history that King Itscoalt caused the disappearance of all the written records of his time in which were set down all the old precedents and customs. This he did in order that the people might not know what they were and might despise them on that account. History tells us, too, that the allied Tlaxcaltecas destroyed the library of the city of Texcoco on this being occupied by the conquerors.

The remainder of the traditional records which survived these disastrous fates were almost entirely done away with by the spirit of fanaticism displayed by the first bishop, Zumarraga, and other religious, who saw in all symbolical writings evidences of superstitious idolatry. Later on, some of the historical documents which the initiated Indians had been able to hide were gradually brought to light according as the Crown of Castile gave more stability and a better government organization to its new possessions.

On the establishment of schools, colleges, and universities, and especially convents, throughout the country, libraries were founded, and many of the latter became famous in time for the variety of books which they contained, books treating of all the sciences, arts and languages which were then known, and yet withal there was a great lack of books relating to the languages of the natives.

When independence was won the Government set about the establishment of a national library, and for that purpose issued the decrees of the 26th of October, 1833, the 30th of November, 1846, and the 12th of September, 1875: but these praiseworthy efforts produced no tangible results at that time, for internal revolutions and the foreign interference of which the country was the victim, had previous calls upon the attention and resources of the administration. In later times, on the re-establishment of the Republic, a new decree, sent forth on the 21st of November, 1867, ordered the formation of the library, and for that object the old church of San Agustín was set apart because by its extent and size it fulfilled all the necessary conditions. For the making of the library there were assigned to it all the books of the University and of the College of Santos, which had been already suppressed, as well as those of the Cathedral library, books and documents the greater part of which contain matters of supreme interest for the historian and composer. After the necessary changes had been made so as to suit the building for its new purpose, changes which cost the Government very heavy sums, the solemn opening of the establishment took place on the 2d of April, 1884. The chief hall in the national library is an extensive corridor of some fifty meters long by thirteen wide and thirty-five high. There are on each side of it closing up the arches of the side chapels and the cross-vaults fifteen cedar shelves seven and a half meters high, each of them subdivided into three, which are distinguished from one another by letters. Placed in the middle of the arch, which is above the entrance to the building, is a colossal statue of Time in the act of flying, with the feet upon a black globe which tells the hours of a clock. There are two large medallions, one on each side of the door, with busts in bas relief of President Juárez and the Minister D. Antonio Martínez de Castro, who were the men who issued and authorized, respectively, the decree for the establishment of the library. Facing the doorway at the far end of the hall stands out

upon a large bracket the Mexican eagle, wrought in stucco, and in the middle of a large window covered with frosted glass. Sixteen statues of 2.60 meters high, placed upon tall pedestals complete the adornment of the hall. These represent Walmiky, Confucius, Isais, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Virgil, St. Paul, Origen, Dante, Alarcon, Copernicus, Descartes, Cuvier, and Humboldt.

The two side naves are formed into galleries divided into eight departments. The antechamber through which the hall is entered is paved with colored marble, while the vaulted roof is supported on each side by ten columns of cut stone. The building has on its north and south sides a garden which contains a railing supported by columns, on the tops of which are the busts of the following famous men of Mexico: Netzahualcopotl, poet; D. Manuel Carpio, poet; D. Francisco Sanchez Tagle, poet; Fr. Manuel Navarrete, poet; D. Jose Joaquin Pesado, poet; D. Manuel Eduardo Gorostiza, dramatic author; D. Francisco Javier Clavijero, historian; D. Fernando A. Tazozomoc, historian; D. Fernando A. Ixtlilxochitl, historian; D. Lucas Alaman, historian; D. Manuel Veytia, historian.; D. Fernando Ramirez, antiquarian; Fr. Manuel Nájera, philologer; D. José Bernardo Couto, publisher; D. Manuel de la Peña y Peña, juriconsult; D. Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora, humanity; D. José A. Alzate, naturalist; Don Leopoldo Rio de la Loza, chemist; Don Joaquin Cordero, man of letters; Don José M. Lafragua, man of letters.

The National Library, which began existence with 100,000 volumes, has now on its shelves more than 159,000. In addition to the National there are also the following libraries in the capital: The Lawyers' School Library, with 14,000 volumes; the Preparatory School Library, which has 10,000; that of the general record, containing 8,000; the Engineers' School Library, having 7,000; that of the School of Agriculture, with 4,000; the Geographical and Statistical Society's Library, having also 4,000, and those of the Schools of Commerce, Fine Arts, Medicine, the Training School for Men, and the Training School for Women, the School of Arts and Professions for Men, that of the National Conservatory of Music, the Museum Library on the History of Mexico and that of the Judicial Record, which contain 14,538 volumes, making altogether 220,538 volumes contained in the libraries of the City of Mexico which are supported by the Federal Government.

MEXICAN FRUIT INDUSTRY.

A correspondent of the *Two Republics*, published in the City of Mexico, gives the following interesting statement of fruit growing in that Republic:

Very singular ideas for the most part prevail in foreign countries with reference to Mexico. It is thought to be a country of mines and revolutions, of the beautiful and the bizarre. True it is that the thousand hills of this splendidly endowed country contain minerals of some kind or other, and that, with one insignificant exception, every kind of mineral known to science has already been found here. True it is that Mexico years and years ago had revolutions as thick as blackberries, but for something like a score of years Mexico has been as peaceful as a country could possibly be. The old idea that a man could best exhibit his patriotism by slaughtering his fellow-countrymen may be still in vogue in other Spanish-American countries, but it has long been abandoned here. The white wings of peace are over the land.

That Mexico has much of the beautiful and of the bizarre there is no denying. To an American, even, the sights and scenes of Mexico are stranger, more interesting, than those of Europe. Visitors from all countries should come here in shoals, and I believe the day is not far distant when they will come. Year after year the accommodations for travelers have improved and they will continue to improve. The only drawback so far as this city is concerned is the fact that there is no good hotel on the English or American plan here. But that, too, will come. Mexico is moving.

The above is a rather lengthy preface to what my present main object is to accomplish. I wish to forcibly call attention to the fruit-growing capacity of Mexico. How is it that with every possible kind of climate and with soil capable of yielding every known agricultural product to the greatest advantage Mexico exports practically nothing in, say, the way of fruit? The fruit growers of California and Florida have made fortunes by fruit. Mexico could produce, and to greater advantage, all that those States yield and yet only a few thousand dollars' worth of fruit is exported! Mexico's oranges

could be taken into United States markets several weeks ahead of even the Florida. This is an immense advantage in itself—but only some few fruit growers avail themselves of it.

Lemons by the thousands of tons are allowed yearly to fall from the trees and rot on the ground, and yet the United States would be a ready market for all that Mexico could produce. Bananas grow in most of the Mexican States in the greatest profusion. Indeed in some places the difficulty is to prevent their growing. The United States imports yearly some \$5,000,000 worth of bananas, but none of them come from Mexico. Foreigners who visit the country and see tons of fine fruit of almost every description lying rotting on the ground wonder why something is not done to utilize such valuable products.

Then take this very valley of Mexico. It is probable that not one-tenth part of it is under decent cultivation—and yet the City of Mexico has a population of at least 329,000, some say 400,000. Many spots in the valley are admirably adapted for growing certain kinds of fruit and especially for market gardening. In spite of all these facts there is not a fruit grower or market gardener worthy of the name in the whole valley. It follows that fruit, and often vegetables, has largely to be brought here from distant places. Of course, some fruit, such as oranges, bananas, etc., will not readily grow here, if at all, but I am speaking now of such fruit and vegetables as will grow here readily enough. Apples, for instance, although perhaps not of the very best quality, might be produced in the valley to a much greater extent and of a much higher grade than those found here now. In proof of this, I may say that I have myself picked very fair apples off trees in Mixcoac and San Angel, and at the same time gathered delicious figs from adjoining trees.

The reasons why fruit has not hitherto been grown in this country to anything like a satisfactory extent seem simple enough. Mexicans have never given any attention to the matter, and they have seldom introduced good fruit trees from those foreign countries in which the best kinds may be found. Even when they have introduced some—grapes, for instance—not unfrequently the trees are not even pruned afterward. They are allowed to grow wild. Then, when good fruit happens to grow in a particular spot, there is often a lack of means of transportation. For instance, a farmer may have a considerable

quantity of good bananas on his plantation near Tuxpan or some other port. He has not enough fruit, however, nor anything like enough to warrant him in chartering a fruit vessel for the purpose of conveying the product to New Orleans, Galveston, or some other good market. He never thinks of associating with his neighbor in the matter, who, with himself, might furnish enough fruit to make a good cargo. In fact, the farmers of the country possess no power of association whatever.

This state of things will not last long. Already some fruit growers are making shipments of first-class oranges. A scheme for raising bananas on a grand scale near Tuxpan is now being vigorously taken in hand. A few object lessons are needed to show how the thing can be done. These are being supplied, and Mexican fruit growing must gradually come to the front

ROGER ROUNDABOUT.

IV.

MEXICO.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS—RESTRICTION OF FOREIGNERS AS TO LAND PURCHASES.

On the 11th of March, 1842, Santa Aña, President of the Republic, acting upon the authority of the Government then existing, issued a decree prohibiting foreigners from acquiring lands within five leagues of the coast. This decree was, in April, 1853, reaffirmed by the Government.

On the 1st of February, 1856, Comonfort, Provisional President, made the following decree:

“No foreigner can, without the permission of the Supreme Government, acquire real estate in the frontier States or Territories except it be twenty leagues distant from the line of the frontier.”

Since the promulgation of the two decrees above mentioned some

of the most prominent lawyers of the Republic have contended that the respective Presidents issuing said decrees were not sufficiently empowered for the purpose ; but admitting their authority to do so, that the decrees were annulled by the constitution of February 5, 1857, on the broad ground and principle of the "rights of man." Therefore it is argued that foreigners have the same right to purchase and hold lands within the proscribed territory as elsewhere.

These contentions have, however, never been formally raised in the courts of the country and the legality of the decrees is tacitly accepted.

The new law, "Terrenos Baldios" (national lands), seems to have given increased force to the action of Presidents Santa Aña and Comonfort.

Article 6 of the law says: "Every inhabitant of the Republic, of full age and with capacity to contract, has the right to denounce Government lands," but adds "the privilege conferred by the present Article shall not annul the limitations established or which may be established by the laws in force in connection with the acquisition by foreigners of real estate in this Republic."

There being in the Constitution no other limitations than those referred to in the decrees of 1842 and 1856 it would seem that the new law is a direct confirmation of the old ones, bearing upon this subject.

Foreigners are therefore reminded that it is important, indeed necessary, that before undertaking to acquire lands within the limits defined, they must in the case of frontier lands obtain permission of the proper government officials, and in the case of coast lands procure the necessary concessions from Congress. It may be remarked, however, that these concessions are readily obtained when the application is properly presented.

It may be well to add in conclusion that Article 30, Section 3, of the Constitution says: "Strangers who acquire real estate in the Republic, or who have children born in Mexico, provided they do not manifest the resolution to conserve their nationality," are considered Mexicans.

In other words, the mere purchase of real estate renders the purchaser a citizen of Mexico unless the reservation of his citizenship is made in the act of purchase.

The Mexican Government has decided to stop the subsidy to Mr. Manuel Romano's line of steamers plying between Tuxpan, Vera Cruz, Coatzacoalcos, Minatitlan, and Frontera, as soon as the term of the present concession expires. The concession was promulgated December 12, 1889, and was to remain in force for five years counted from the date of the inauguration of the service which took place May 26, 1890. The subsidy drawn by Mr. Romano is \$1,000 per round trip, such trip having to be made every twenty or twenty-five days.

From a recent message of President Diaz to the Mexican Congress it appears that the foreign postal business is steadily increasing, the number of packages having increased over 5,000 in the last six months.

The national telegraph lines have been extended 40 kilometers (24.856 miles), and now reach a total of 41,000 kilometers (25,477.40 miles). During the past four months 146 kilometers (90.72 miles) of railroads have been completed. The President says that the completion of the important Tehuantepec road was contracted for. Under this 16 kilometers (9.94 miles) have been constructed and the former work repaired. The completed line now measures 255 kilometers (158.46 miles), and only 40 are lacking for the "termination of this the first interoceanic line in the Republic."

Operations have been begun under the Orozco scheme, for flushing the sewers of the City of Mexico, and the work, it is thought, will be completed by the end of April. Mr. Orozco purposes diverting a continuous supply of water from two lakes, and carrying it along the southern outskirts of the city, and sending it into the sewers from the western end and through the Ramon Guzman Canal, which extends from the Chapultepec road to Nonoalco, the northwestern point of the city. It is believed that the work will be of great benefit to the city from a sanitary point of view.

Mr. Scougall, the engineer who has been engaged in surveying the route for a canal to irrigate 100,000 acres of land in the neighborhood of Camargo, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, estimates that a capital of \$750,000 will be required for this purpose. The soil and crops of the region are said to be similar to those of the Nile Delta in Egypt, and the company represented by Mr. Scougall, holds a concession for the development of the agricultural resources. The

works comprise a dam some fifteen miles above the San Juan River, which rises in the mountains near Monterey and falls into the Rio Grande nearly opposite Fort Ringold or Rio Grande City, and a canal 90 kilometers (55.93 miles) long, which will reach the city of Reynosa on the Matamoras division of the National Railroad: also a 1,500 feet tunnel, and a short open cut some 25 feet at its deepest part, together with 5,000 feet of fluming along the steep bank of the river San Juan. Provision is also made for lateral or distributing canals, with regulating gates to measure out water from the main canal.

The Scandinavian steamship line to Mexico will probably be established by the beginning of September, 1893. The vessels starting from Copenhagen, Denmark, will call at Gothenburg and either Bremen or Antwerp. West Indian, Central American and Mexican ports will be visited, the terminus being Vera Cruz, Mexico.

According to the Mexican financier, Mr. W. H. Clarke, who has a State concession for the erection of smelting furnaces at Culican, in the States of Sinaloa, Mexico, has purchased the plants of a smelting and mining company, heretofore operating at Crittenden, Ariz., with the intention of putting it up on Mexican soil.

"The Secretary of the Treasury of Mexico," says the Mexican *Financier*, "has recently cleared up a doubt as to the application of the mintage tax on the exportation of silver when associated with baser metals. He reminds custom-house collectors that smelting companies operating under special government concessions enjoy exemption from export duties on argentiferous lead not running higher than seven-thousandths in silver, the regular duties being payable with respect to any silver contained in the lead in excess of the proportion named. Argentiferous lead not exported by the smelting companies is subject to the export duty on its silver contents in excess of three-thousandths. Copper in mattes or bars is exempt from the export tax on silver, when the amount of the latter metal contained in the copper does not exceed fifty-thousandths.

The *Official Gazette* of the State of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, is urging local agriculturists to engage in the cultivation of coffee, for which there is abundance of suitable land in the eastern section of the State. Advices from Mazatlan, Sinaloa, state that preparations are being made for growing coffee in that district. From all parts of the Republic an active inquiry for coffee lands continues to be reported.

Mr. J. H. Hampson, President of the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railroad Company, has just returned to Mexico after an absence of several months in the United States. He says that they have just closed a contract with Messrs. Cannell & Co., of Sheffield, England, for 2,300 tons of steel rails and fastenings, which should reach Tampico early in April, and will be sufficient to complete the road to kilometer 75, near Huitzilac, on the south side of the mountains, and overlooking the Cuernavaca Valley.

The grading and masonry work is being finished rapidly. Five large construction camps are located on the line, employing about 1,000 men and 150 teams; and he hopes to have the road built and in operation to Huitzilac by not later than August 1.

In addition to their present equipment, they expect to place an order shortly for fifty wood cars and two more large ten-wheel freight locomotives. The four new passenger coaches now being built at Wilmington, Del., will reach Mexico about May 1.

The line near the city has been changed recently, shortening the distance about two kilometers, besides securing a better alignment, throwing out two railroad and street crossings and avoiding the low land along the Consulado River, which is subject to overflow in the rainy season. This is a great improvement. Trains began running into the city over the new line recently. Two parties of engineers are in the field—one making the final location from Huitzilac to Cuernavaca, and the other running reconnoissance and preliminary surveys from Cuernavaca through to Acapulco. The country through which this road will pass is one of the richest and largest sugar and rice producing districts in Mexico; a large traffic is thought to be assured, and the people interested in these industries expect to double their output as soon as they can secure railroad transportation. In addition to this, the road passes through heavy forests of pine and oak timber near the summit, on the line between Mexico and Cuernavaca, from which a large freight traffic may be secured.

One of the industries that is likely to prosper and become one of the principal ones of the State of Tobasco, is the manufacture of furniture.

Tobasco is very rich in valuable timbers. For centuries, they have been allowed to decay in the forests. Mahogany is seen everywhere, but like the other kinds, it is wasted.

A fortune awaits the manufacturer who would engage in such an industry in that State of our neighboring sister Republic, for there is an abundance of valuable timber at a low price, and labor is cheap.

Mr. William Henry Butler, of the city of New York, through a representative in Mexico, has applied to that Government for a patent of a machine to make cigarettes. He has requested that the patent be extended in the name of the "Bansac Machine Company," a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Virginia, and whose principal office is at Salem, Va.

Recent advices show that there are in the entire Republic of Mexico about 84,000 hectares (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres each) dedicated to cotton growing, producing 30,000,000 kilograms (66,138,000 pounds), in value about \$18,000,000. The quantity of cotton raised is far from being sufficient to supply the demands of the country. For this reason there are imported annually from the United States about 4,500,000 kilograms (9,920,700 pounds), worth about \$3,000,000. The cotton zone of to-day includes all the Gulf and Pacific States with the exception of Yucatan, but the region best adapted for cotton growing is La Laguna, situated northwest of the State of Durango and southwest of that of Coahuila.

Abundant rains have fallen along the line of the International Railroad and in the district of Laguna, Mexico. This fact insures a good cotton crop this year. The district named is the most important, so far as cotton growing is concerned, in the Republic, and its output is rapidly increasing.

Messrs. W. Broderick Clote and Roberto W. Symon have concluded a contract with the government of Mexico for the purchase of 50,000 acres of land in the State of Sonora, district of Guaymas, lying along the right bank of the river Yaqui, on the condition that the concessionaires settle 100 colonists on the land within three years. The price to be paid is 75 cents per hectare (about two and one-half acres), payable in the bonds of the Government. The privileges and exemptions from taxation usual in such concessions are granted.

A copper smelter is being erected at the Imagen and Begonia copper mines at San José, in the State of Nueva Leon, on the line of the Monterey and Mexican Gulf Railway. The ore is a rich copper, bearing from \$10 to \$16 per ton near the surface. It is thought that at a greater depth the product will be still richer. The enterprise is

in control of parties residing in Monterey, Mr. J. W. Sharpe, of that city, being the manager. Several other strong companies are operating in the San José districts, and excellent results may be looked for.

Mr. Monnom, representing a Belgian syndicate of Brussels, has recently spent in Monterey several weeks making a thorough and exhaustive examination into the business and operations of the Monterey and Mexican Gulf Railway. The Belgian syndicate is the principal owner of the stock of the company, and it is stated that if Mr. Monnom's report is satisfactory the syndicate will assume all the outstanding obligations of the company contracted prior to the appointment of a receiver. In this event, the road will be taken out of the hands of the court and placed solely under the management of the above-mentioned syndicate.

RAMIE.

From the *Two Republics* of May 19, we get the following information as to the introduction of ramie into Mexico:

Ramie was first introduced in Mexico by a Swiss botanist, Benito Boezl, in 1867, who imported a few specimens from the Island of Java. For many years afterward it abounded in the States of Vera Cruz and Puebla in a wild state. Thanks to the indefatigable exertions of General Pacheco (then Minister of Public Works) in 1887 a large number of these plants were planted on the Motzorongo estate, State of Vera Cruz, which served as an incentive to farmers throughout the country.

In the State of San Luis Potosi a company was some time ago organized to raise the ramie plant and extract its fiber. On the Guadalupe farm, in the State of Michoacan, several successful attempts have been made to raise it, and in the State of Morelia, from the districts of Uruapan, Apatzingan, Ario and Tacambaro, samples were sent to the Paris Exposition of 1889, that were declared to be as good as the best specimens of China or India.

In Mexico the ramie plant is known by the names of "Ortiga," "Chinchicastle," etc. In China it is called "Tchon-nia," in Japan "Osjo Karao," and in England "China grass."

The actual production is not great here at present, but the probabilities are that it will largely increase in the near future. As is well known, the plant yields a valuable fiber, but as yet no very successful machine has been invented for extracting it. As a consequence, hand labor has hitherto been mainly used for the purpose.

V.

JAMAICA.

The address of the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Henry Blake, to the Legislative Council, at its meeting on the 7th of March, reviewing the finances and trade of that island, says:

I am glad to be in a position to state that the condition of the island is prosperous. The outlook of trade is promising and the commercial business of the colony is on a sound and satisfactory basis. I observe with satisfaction that the question of improvement in agriculture has begun to engage the attention of the people. Local agricultural societies have been formed, and during the past year the first application has been received in response to the offer of assistance from the Botanic Department made by the Government in 1891. In compliance with an application from the parish of Portland, one of the superintendents of the department visited the locality, where he gave valuable instruction in the planting, pruning and preparation of cacao. The meetings were well attended, and his instructions were received with great interest. I hope that this kind of assistance will be freely applied for in the future. It will be readily given and can not fail to be of material assistance to cultivators.

The current year began with a surplus of £62,159 and the revenue to March 31 is estimated to yield approximately £575,482, making a total of £637,641.

The expenditure of the current year to the 31st of March is estimated at £618,419, which will leave us at the commencement of the coming financial year with an approximate surplus of £19,222.

The estimated revenue for the coming year is £576,475, which, added to the estimated surplus of £19,222, makes a total of £595,497; the estimated expenditure is £613,281. These estimates have been prepared with rigid economy and are £10,227 below the average expenditure of the past four years. The result will be an estimated deficit on the 31st of March, 1895, of £17,584. The large surpluses of the past three years having been absorbed, the time has now arrived when it becomes necessary to restore to the revenue at least a portion of the income abandoned under the provisions of the customs tariff amendment law of 1892, the abolition of poll tax on certain animals Law of 1892, the export duties abolition law of 1891, and the Jamaica Railway Company's law of 1889. These sums amount in the aggregate to about £70,000 a year.

The following revenue laws have been passed by the Legislative Council of Jamaica and approved by the Governor :

1. The duty to be raised under the provisions of Law 10 of 1878, shall, on and after the 8th day of March, 1894, be a duty at the rate of six shillings upon every imperial gallon of rum of the strength of proof as ascertained by the instrument known as Sykes' (or Sikes) hydrometer and the tables of calculations to be used in connection therewith, and so in proportion for any greater or less degree of strength, or any greater or less quantity, in lieu of the duty imposed by section 5 of the Rum Duty Law of 1878 (Law 10 of 1878) as amended by section 1 of Law 8 of 1890.
2. The strength of the rum required to be stated in the bill of parcels, in accordance with section 43 of Law 10 of 1878, shall be the strength ascertained by the hydrometer and tables aforesaid.
3. The fifth paragraph of section 43 of Law 10 of 1878 is hereby amended by the substitution of the words "forty liquid gallons" for "forty gallons."
4. The first paragraph of section 58 of Law 10 of 1879 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "strength" in the seventh line, the words "according to Sykes' hydrometer and the number of gallons at proof."
5. The words "larger quantity" in subsection 13 of section 25 of

Law 35 of 1881 shall be taken to mean and include rum at a higher strength.

6. This law and laws 10 of 1878, 35 of 1881, 11 of 1889, and 8 of 1890 shall be taken and read together as one law and may be quoted as the Rum Duty Laws, 1878-1894.

7. This law shall remain in force until the 1st day of April, 1893, and no longer, unless otherwise provided by any law to be passed in the present session of the Legislative Council.

THE CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT LAW, 1894.

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Jamaica as follows:

1. On and after the passage of this law and so long as the same remains in force, there shall be levied, collected, and paid unto Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, for the use of the government of this Island, upon the several articles imported into this Island and enumerated in the schedule to this law, the several duties therein set forth in lieu of the duties now payable on the said articles, respectively.

2. The provisions of section 24 of Law 18 of 1877, for ascertaining the value of goods on which the duties are charged according to the value of such goods, are hereby extended and applied to the determining of the value of wines for the purpose of charging the additional duty thereon imposed by this law.

3. This law shall remain in force until the 1st day of April, 1894, and no longer, unless otherwise provided by any other law of this session.

SCHEDULE.

	<i>l. s. d.</i>
Ale, beer and porter, per gallon.....	0 0 9
Spirits—	
Brandy, per gallon.....	0 12 6
Gin, per gallon.....	0 12 6
Rum, the products of and imported from British possessions, per gallon.....	0 12 6
Whisky, per gallon.....	0 12 6
Spirits of wine, alcohol and all other spirits, cordials or spirituous compounds, per gallon.....	0 12 6

Tobacco—	£	s.	d.
Cigarettes, per pound.....	0	2	6
Manufactured (not being cigarettes or cigars), including cavendish, per pound.....	0	1	6
Wines—			
In bulk and in bottle, per gallon.....	0	3	6
And an additional duty on all wines of a value of 16 shillings per gallon and upward, per gallon.....	1	1	6

A recent number of the *Kingston Gleaner* states that a well-known New York business man who is sojourning in Jamaica expresses the opinion that the fruit trade of that island may be largely developed. The export of mangoes in particular, he thinks, can be greatly increased by more careful picking and packing. At present there is great waste in transportation of mangoes to New York city.

The same number of the *Gleaner* stated that the report of the committee appointed at the public meeting to consider the question of ramie cultivation in Jamaica, is decided as to the suitability of the ramie fiber plant for cultivation in that island. It grows well and freely, producing four or five cuttings a year. The general conclusion is that the enterprise would be one of great industrial and commercial promise.

The *Gleaner* also advocates the establishment of a manufactory of perfumes in Jamaica. It says: "Jamaica could produce perfumes both of ordinary and special character in abundance. The conditions of cultivation are exceptionally favorable and the establishment of a flower farm, would, we believe, be a-profitable undertaking."

VI.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION.

GIFTS FOR AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS.

At the conclusion of the Fair most of the Costa Rican exhibits—those of archæology excepted—were presented to various American institutions. The Commission not being able to comply with the numerous applications received from many places of the United

States and from abroad, and not wishing to break the collections, decided to make a distribution of them as follows:

To the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., a large collection of stuffed animals, native to Costa Rica.

To the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., a collection of fifty-four varieties of fibers.

To the University of Pennsylvania, a valuable collection embracing eighty-seven specimens of ancient pottery, Indian arrows, bow, staff, and pellet blow-gun. Besides, two large showcases and four smaller ones.

To the city of Philadelphia, for its museums, all natural products, agricultural, forestal, mineral, as above described, seventy-eight skins, fishing implements, wines, liquors, oils, etc. A collection of national books, the entire educational exhibit, text-books, practical works, etc. A collection of silk and cotton fabrics, a collection of Panama hats, a collection of utensils made of wood, carved, castings from foundries, two models of pieces of statuary, a large collection of photographs, a shield and flags, and eight large showcases.

To the Northwestern University of Chicago, a collection of plants, roots, barks and seeds.

To the Columbian Museum of Chicago, twenty large showcases and twelve fine stone urns with a relief inscription: "Costa Rica en Chicago," as a souvenir of its participation at the World's Columbian Exposition.

BANANA TRADE WITH WEST INDIES AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

It appears that the banana trade of this country with Central America continues to show a steady development. According to the report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, the imports of bananas during eight months ending February 28, 1894, amounted to \$2,685,590, as against \$2,603,339 for the same period of 1893. These figures are the more significant in view of the fact that the business depression, and the large fruit crop of last summer in this country had an appreciable effect upon foreign fruit trade, the price of bananas last fall having been nearly 50 per cent lower than during the previous spring. It is stated that for the twelve months ending July 1, 1893, not less than 133 steamers were engaged in carrying bananas between the West Indies, Central America, Colon, and the United States. In 1892 the receipts of bananas in the port of New York aggregated 3,715,625 bunches; in July, 1893, 567,067 bunches arrived in New York. The largest New York supplies were drawn from Jamaica, 1,058,876 bunches being received

from that island during the year 1893. Cuban ports sent about 600,000 bunches, the remainder of supply coming from Colon, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. In addition to the importations of New York, nearly 2,000,000 bunches, it is stated, went to Philadelphia, and almost as many more to Boston, while Baltimore, Savannah, and Mobile were also large consumers. But New Orleans is the most important market in this country, that city receiving 3,483,351 bunches from Central America during the past year. This is due to the fact that New Orleans is advantageously situated for water transportation from Central American ports, and also for the distribution of the fruit throughout the Mississippi Valley. The total importations into the United States during 1893 are given as having been 12,695,386 bunches.—*Mexican Trader, March 15, 1894.*

SILVER INDUSTRY OF CHILE.

A report prepared by direction of the Sociedad Nacional de Minería (the National Mining Society) on the silver industry of Chile, was recently presented to the Government of that country. At the date of the report, the production is estimated thus:

The silver exported from Iquique, Taltal, Caldera, Coquimbo, and Carrizal, reaches and exceeds.....	300,000 marks.
The silver extracted in the Bella Vista Works, Antofagasta, from ore from Chilean mines exceeds.....	180,000 marks.
The Las Condes, San José de Maipó and other fields yield upward of.....	100,000 marks.
	<u>580,000 marks.</u>
To this quantity the compilers of the report add:	
From Huanchaca.....	350,000 marks.
From Oruro.....	222,000 marks.
	<u>1,152,000 marks.</u>

Although neither Huanchaca nor Oruro are Chilean fields, the latter belong exclusively to Chileans, while of the 320,000 shares of the former, 101,000 are held by Chileans, and of the "acciones al portador" (share of stock payable to bearer) 3 per cent are held by Chileans. Therefore, the compilers of the report consider that 35 per cent of the production of Huanchaca, calculated in round numbers at 1,000,000 marks, belong to Chileans. The grand total of 1,152,000 marks is equal to 264,960 kilograms of silver. Taking the

production at 1,100,000 marks, and the price at £1 13s per mark, we have a total of £1,243,000, which at 15 pence, the rate of exchange at the date of the report, is equal to \$19,888,000.

From the facts given in the report, it would appear that the prospect for remunerative working of the Chilean silver mines is not encouraging, with the exception of a few exceptionally rich mines. Commenting upon this feature of the report the *Chilean Times* says: "The consequence of such a state of affairs as that depicted by the report is not very agreeable to contemplate. The paralyzation of the silver industry would mean the withdrawal of \$20,000,000 of 15 pence from the annual exports. It would mean the cessation of trade with Bolivia, the loss of a chief source of revenue to the steamship companies, and the partial ruin of agriculture. In order to prevent a catastrophe of this nature, the compilers of the report propose a double standard without any legal ratio between the two metals." And they go on to say: "The solution would be obtained in an agreement to coin in all America a money to be current in all the States, of a fixed weight and standard, to be coined by the Government only. The proportion to be coined by each government might be fixed by agreement, but silver-producing countries would probably prefer not to be bound by a stipulation of this kind. It will be seen from these extracts that the compilers of the report favor bimetallism, and in another part they advocate free coinage of both metals."

URUGUAY.

From official statistics of the agricultural industry of the Republic of Uruguay for the year 1893, which have been published in book form by the Government of that Republic, it appears that 492,296 cuadras of the Uruguayan soil are now under cultivation. The cuadra is a unit of superficial measure equivalent to 1.77 acres, and so the whole area cultivated in Uruguay in 1893 represents 871,363.92 acres. In 1892, only 380,601 cuadras were cultivated, there being therefore, a difference of 111,695 in favor of 1893.

The crops raised on that area, following the order of their respective importance, as marked by the extent of ground devoted to their cultivation, have been wheat, maize, *porotos*, or kidney beans, barley, potatoes, grapes, sweet potatoes, bird seed, peanuts, flax or linen, and oats.

Not less than 3,908 cuadras (6,917,16 acres) were devoted in 1893 to the cultivation of the vine.

Out of the whole population of the Republic (728,447 inhabitants) only 45,064, representing a little over 6 1-7 per cent of the total, were engaged in 1893 in purely agricultural pursuits. This number exceeds by 7,000 the figures of the preceding year.

Out of the said agriculturists, 11,606 owned the farms or estates which they cultivated, and 10,532 rented them under leases. The balance consisted of farm hands and laborers.

The wheat crop in 1891 amounted to 988,540 hectolitres (2,705,377.666 bushels). In 1892, it grew to 1,160,034 hectolitres (3,292,060.4886 bushels). In 1893 it was 2,009,711 hectolitres (5,703,358.8469 bushels).

From information received, it appears that the new wheat crop in Uruguay is very large. The Review of the River Plate says: "The quantity coming in daily by rail for shipment reminds one of the brisk movement of the Australian grain ports more than anything Uruguay has thus far experienced. The saladeros (meat packing houses) are preparing for heavy business for the next four months."

The National Telegraph Line from Montevideo to Durazne, Uruguay, has been opened to public service, and places the whole national system in communication with Montevideo.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Director-General of the National Department of Mines and Geology of the Argentine Republic has submitted to the Minister of Finance an important scheme for an exhaustive exploratory survey of the whole Republic. Hitherto, he says, the want of funds has forbidden any active search after the minerals of the country, but the money recently voted by Congress for explorations in 1894 comes in opportunely for carrying out a project long entertained. The Republic should be divided into sections, each section in charge of a mining engineer of the department under the direction of the chief. The scheme embraces the drawing up of plans of the mineral districts, their geological formation, statistics of mines at work and those unworked, plans of the workings, a description of the mineral produced, the exportation of minerals, mode of communication, etc.,

the whole to be afterward published in the form of an elaborate report. It is anticipated that the project will take a year to carry through. Another object is to complete the collections in the Mineralogical Museum.

The following figures of Argentine commerce for 1893, as compared with 1892, is given in *La Prensa*, a newspaper of Buenos Aires :

	Imports.	
	1892.	1893.
Subject to duty.....	\$77,089,633	\$83,509,102
Duty free.....	14,391,530	12,596,257
Specie.....	6,520,348	4,688,638
Totals.....	\$98,001,511	\$100,793,997

	Exports.	
	1892.	1893.
Subject to duty.....	\$73,916,994	\$49,071,250
Duty free.....	33,892,238	43,632,534
Specie.....	1,979,711	815,585
Totals.....	\$109,788,943	\$93,519,369

The Minister of Finance of the Argentine Republic has issued a decree regulating the ports-and-wharves law. The Riachuelo and Madero ports are included in the denomination, "ports of the capital." Vessels of over 100 tons are to pay 13 cents daily for each ten of the first 100 tons, and 7 cents daily for each twelve tons over 100. Tugs, small steamers, lighters, boats, etc., pay no entrance dues, but must pay "permanencia" dues. Dues must be paid in gold or equivalent in paper. The entrance dues to be paid the day the vessel enters and the rest before she leaves.

IMMIGRATION TO PARAGUAY.

The second batch of immigrants for the new Australia colony in Paraguay, arrived at Montevideo in February last. It was composed of 165 men, 25 women, and 40 children. This colony is being established under a coöperative plan with socialistic ideas as the basis.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At a recent meeting of the shareholders, at New Orleans, of the British Honduras Mutual Fruit Steamship Company, Limited, it was stated that the directors hope soon to be able to report that all the shares have been taken. The steamers "Gambetta," "Coila," and "Aalesund" have been chartered to run a weekly service between the colony and New Orleans, buying all fruit offered to them at current rates, and carrying all freight between ports, that they can secure at Belize or New Orleans. The first steamer of the line, the "Gambetta," left Belize on the 3d of March, with the purpose of calling at all fruit shipping ports on the route, both going and returning, and leaving Belize for New Orleans on the 8th. During a visit to the "Gambetta," while lying in the harbor of Belize, the Governor of the colony made an address in which he strongly indorsed the effort "to establish a new and additional road to the natural market of the colony, the United States of North America, for the cultivated products of British Honduras."

The Brazilian Government has decided that the proportion of the export duty on coffee now being levied by the Government, shall in future be wholly collected in gold, which will increase the benefit to the Government about three times. This will doubtless be done by act of Congress, and it is believed no difficulty in carrying the measure will be experienced. Coffee represents fully one-half the exports from Brazil, and in the new year, it is estimated that the exportable surplus of that article alone will amount in sterling value to between 25,000,000 and 30,000,000 pounds.

A review of information received of the railway interests in the various South American States shows their general condition to be exceptionally favorable. With hardly an exception, the companies announce large dividends for the stockholders, besides plans and purposes for extending the various lines. The results obtained by

the Great Western of Brazil for the past year, despite the drawbacks created by the unfavorable conditions incident to the existence of civil war, are more satisfactory than any hitherto secured by this enterprise. The report of the Board of Directors of the corporation shows a large increase of traffic. This result is attributable to the large crop of sugar and cotton grown in the territory tributary to the line.

Advices received from San Salvador give information that, with the approbation of the National Congress, the Executive Power has effected a contract with Mr. M. J. Kelly, of London, acting on behalf of an English company, for the completion of the railway to Santa Aña, and its extension to the capital of the Republic. The concession includes the exploitation by the company of the railways—those now built and to be built under the contract—during a period of ninety-nine years.

It is also understood that the English company has contracted with Mr. A. J. Schuzer, a most competent engineer and contractor, to build the lines. A considerable portion of the South American line (nearly one-half) has been already built under a previous contract made with Mr. Schuzer.

Information received indicates an increase in the exports of Chile to Australia. In February last, a vessel was being loaded with 52,000 quintals of nitrate at Iquique, and the Chilean Times says: "If colonial farmers take kindly to this splendid fertilizer, Chile may yet be able to pay for her importations of New South Wales coal with nitrate, and perhaps—who knows—there may eventually be a balance in her favor.

