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Bureau

OF THE

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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

DECEMBER, 1899.

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1899.

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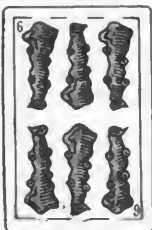
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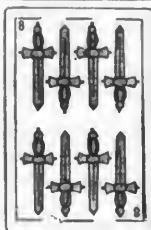
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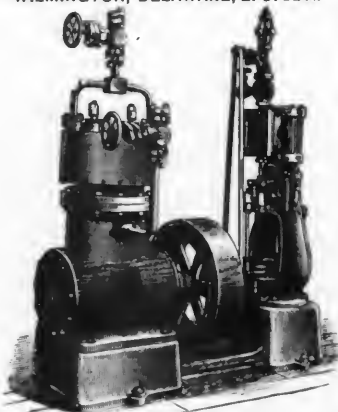
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UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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

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

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—

Buenos Ayres.
Cordoba.
Rosario.

BOLIVIA—

La Paz.

BRAZIL—

Bahia.
Para.
Pernambuco.
Rio de Janeiro.
Santos.

CHILE—

Antofagasta.
Arica.
Coquimbo.
Iquique.
Valparaiso.

COLOMBIA—

Barranquilla.
Bogotá.
Cartagena.
Colón (Aspinwall).
Medellin.
Panama.

COSTA RICA—

San José.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—

Puerto Plata.
Samana.
Santo Domingo.

ECUADOR—

Guayaquil.

GUATEMALA—

Guatemala.

HAITI—

Cape Haitien.
Port au Prince.

HONDURAS—

Tegucigalpa.
Utilla.

MEXICO—

Acapulco.
Chihuahua.
Ciudad Juarez.
Ciudad Porfirio Diaz.
Durango.
Ensenada.
La Paz.
Matamoros.
Mazatlan.
Mexico.
Monterey.
Nogales.
Nuevo Laredo.
Progreso.
Saltillo.
Tampico.
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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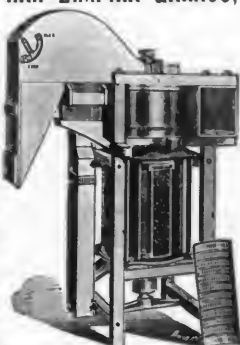
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comprendiendo Separadoras, Clasificadoras, Molinos, Tostadoras y Descascaradoras. También Clasificadoras y Descascaradoras de Arroz, que son las más perfectas y económicas que hasta ahora se han ofrecido á la venta.

Separadoras Magnéticas Automáticas "EUREKA." El mérito y el valor de estas máquinas son tan universalmente reconocidos, que en los grandes molinos de semilla de algodón para hacer aceite que hay en el país, han hallado empleo y demostrado su utilidad. Estas máquinas son, sin duda alguna, las mejores de su clase que hay en el mercado.

Para obtener informes más detallados dirigirse á



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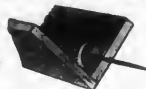
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REPORTS OF MR. T. WORTHINGTON.

In the effort to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the nature of its functions the Bureau of the American Republics has just issued "Bulletin No. 94," which is a reprint of the reports of Mr. T. WORTHINGTON, the Special Commissioner appointed by the British Board of Trade to inquire into and report upon the conditions and prospects of British trade in certain South American countries. Mr. WORTHINGTON, in the pursuit of his investigations, in 1898-99, visited Chile, the Argentine Republic, Brazil, and Uruguay. The importance and comprehensive nature of these reports, as well as their varied and instructive commercial features, much of which will be an object lesson to the manufacturers and shippers of the United States and other countries in the three Americas, will commend them to all interested in these subjects.

The price of the publication is 35 cents per copy. Remit in cash or post-office money order to

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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

VOL. VII.

DECEMBER, 1899.

No. 6.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics was held in the diplomatic reception room of the Department of State on Thursday, November 23, 1899.

The meeting was called to order by Hon. JOHN HAY, Secretary of State, as chairman.

The other members present were:

Señor Dr. DON MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Minister from the Argentine Republic.

Señor DON JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Minister from Costa Rica.

Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Director of the Bureau of the American Republics, was also present.

The object of the meeting having been stated by the Secretary of State to be the hearing of the annual report of the Director, the same was read by this gentleman. It was dated November 23, 1899, and is hereto appended.

The report having been found to be entirely satisfactory and acceptable by the members of the committee, on motion of Mr. MÉROU the thanks of the committee were tendered to Mr. ROCKHILL for the faithful work he had done for the Bureau.

It was the unanimous opinion of the members present that with respect to the recommendations in the report the Director might exercise his own judgment, and at his request it was also resolved that the metric system be employed in estimating money, weights, and measures.

Mr. MÉROU next spoke as follows:

"Unfortunately for me this will be the last meeting which I will have the honor to attend as a member of the Executive Committee, because, as you are aware, I am going to leave for my country. I take this occasion to thank you for all your courtesies and to take leave of my colleagues of the Executive Committee, and I can assure you that in the new position I am about to occupy in my country I will take continued interest in this Bureau, of the Executive Committee of which I have had the honor to form a part. And I can assure Mr. ROCKHILL that he will find me always ready to give him my support, and I will speak to my Government of the usefulness and importance of this International Union of American Republics. I feel that the Bureau can not be in better hands, and I look forward with the certainty that he will in the future continue to make improvements which will tend to bring still closer the commercial relations between our countries."

The Secretary of State replied in these words:

"I am sure we are all very sorry indeed to part with Mr. MÉROU, who has been so intelligent and so devoted a member of the body. Yet, while we regret his departure, we can not but congratulate him upon the enlarged honors and responsibilities which his country has devolved upon him, and we are particularly pleased to learn that he is not to cease taking an interest in the work of this Bureau, but that in the exalted station which he will hereafter occupy in the public life of his own country he will be able to be of very great assistance to us all in the purpose to which we are devoted, of increasing the commercial relations between all the countries of this continent and in drawing closer the bonds of sympathy and friendship which now so happily exist among us."

On motion of Mr. CALVO, the Director of the Bureau was instructed to communicate to Minister MÉROU the expressions of the chairman of the committee on the occasion of his departure.

The committee then adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 23, 1899.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR.

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

Washington, November 23, 1899.

The Secretary of State, Chairman, and Members of the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. FREDERIC EMORY, my predecessor in this office, submitted to you on March 29 his final report of the operations of this Bureau, supplementing his annual report dated December 17, 1898, and showing its condition down to within about a month of his transferring the office to me.

The accounts of the Bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, are as follows:

Receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899.

RECEIPTS.	
Annual appropriation, 1899.....	\$36,000.00
Balance from receipts from sales, rents, etc., July 1, 1898.....	\$649.82
Contributions from Latin-American Republics.....	\$5,762.78
From advertisements.....	\$27,005.98
From sale of publications.....	2,622.45
	29,628.43
	35,391.21
	36,041.03
Total receipts.....	72,041.03
EXPENDITURES.	
From annual appropriation, 1899.....	36,000.00
From receipts from sales, rents, etc.....	34,409.73
	70,409.73
Balance July 1, 1899.....	1,631.30

Detailed statement of expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899.

	From annual appropriation, 1899.	From receipts from sales, rents, etc.	Total.
Compensation.....	\$30,783.08	\$9,069.55	\$39,852.63
Stationery.....	100.25	877.55	977.80
Rent.....	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Library.....	37.28	116.75	154.03
Postage.....	46.11	915.65	961.76
Furniture.....	22.65	149.75	172.40
Printing.....	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Commissions on advertising contracts made prior to March 1, 1899.....		3,057.46	3,057.46
Miscellaneous.....	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total.....	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

From the foregoing statement it would appear that there was a credit balance of \$1,631.30 on July 1, 1899, the beginning of the present fiscal year. This account does not, however, include the amount due the Public Printer for work done for this Bureau during the fiscal year then ending.

The following statement shows that at the commencement of the present fiscal year there remained an unpaid balance due for bills rendered by the Public Printer during the fiscal year 1897-98 of \$6,388.09:

Account of Public Printer for fiscal year 1899.

Total amount of bills rendered for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899..	\$34,870.61
Deduct for amount charged for composition and presswork, which, by an arrangement with the Public Printer, is credited to the Bureau....	2,982.48
Total amount to be paid.....	31,888.13
Paid from annual appropriation 1899.....	\$3,279.25
Paid from receipts from sales, rents, etc., during the fiscal year 1899.....	\$14,707.28
Paid during the current fiscal year.....	7,513.51
	22,220.79
Total amount paid.....	25,500.04
Balance unpaid.....	6,388.09

On assuming charge of this Bureau reductions in the expenses seemed urgently needed, especially as the revenue derivable from advertisements was constantly falling off and there was little prospect of an increase from this source.

By various changes made in the printing of the BULLETIN, without detracting from the quality of the work done in the printing office or the size of the edition, which has been kept at 11,000 copies, it is estimated that this publication can be brought out during the present year for a sum not in excess of \$14,000.

The pay roll of the Bureau, though reduced by me so as to realize a net profit of \$2,300 a year, on the present basis amounts to about \$34,500 a year. This it is thought possible to further reduce, with the approval of your committee, so as to realize an appreciable economy without in any way affecting the working power of the office.

The printing of the handbooks does not occasion any considerable expense to the Bureau, and it is hoped that the work on them may be steadily and rapidly carried on.

In the past statements of the expenditures of the Bureau it will be noted that hardly anything was spent on account of the library. A considerable sum should be set aside for the purchase of publications and maps relating to South and Central America, but it is a source of deep regret that at the present rate of ordinary expenses of the Bureau this is not possible.

I submit herewith the following estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900:

Estimated receipts:	
Appropriation	\$36,000.00
Contributions from Latin American Republics.....	15,813.53
Advertisements	3,600.00
Sale of publications.....	1,500.00
Total	56,313.53
Estimated expenditures at present ratio:	
Pay roll.....	\$34,540.00
Rent	2,000.00
Printing.....	14,000.00
Stationery and furniture.....	1,000.00
Postage.....	900.00
Miscellaneous.....	2,000.00
	54,440.00
Balance.....	1,873.53

In the above the full amount due from the Latin American Republics has been estimated, though in past years it has fallen very considerably short (some \$3,500) of that amount. Deducting this amount will leave a deficiency of about \$1,700 for the year at the present rate of expenses, without any account being taken of the amount due the Public Printer on last year's account and some old outstanding claims against the Bureau. This it is hoped to cover by the reductions above suggested and by the collection of some of the outstanding debts on account of ad-

vertisements, for there is still due and unpaid on advertising contracts \$3,858.74, some part of which may be possibly collected by the employment of agents who have recently been engaged for this purpose.

My predecessors have frequently expressed the belief that the cost of the BULLETIN could be met by the possible receipts from advertising. I can not think that this hope can be realized. Under the policy now pursued by the Bureau, upon instructions from your committee, and which meet with my hearty approval, the receipts from this source can not be counted on for more than \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year, for it is, I am credibly informed, a well established fact that advertisements are only given when solicited, a method of obtaining them properly prohibited by this office. In course of time the amounts derivable therefrom may become larger, but for the time being no considerable increase can be expected. Neither can the sales of the BULLETIN be counted on as a source of revenue, as the following statement will show:

Subscriptions for the Monthly Bulletin.

Year.	Annual.	Semi-annual.
1897.....	190	6
1898.....	160	12
1899.....	92	15

MONTHLY BULLETIN.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN, as previously stated, is published in an edition of 11,000 copies, of which about 9,000 copies are sent to the various countries of Central and South America, and some 1,300 distributed in the United States and other parts of the world. The following tabulated statement shows the number of copies of the BULLETIN sent to the various countries for the month of November of this year:

Distribution of Bulletin during month of November.

Argentine Republic	444	Haiti	196
Austria	2	Holland	1
Azores	1	Honduras	207
Belgium	3	Jamaica	60
Bolivia	56	Japan	1
Brazil	375	Mexico	5,101
Canada	171	New Zealand	1
Cape Verde Islands	5	Nicaragua	97
Chile	162	Paraguay	27
Colombia	184	Peru	133
Costa Rica	98	Porto Rico	200
Cuba	287	Salvador	25
Dominican Republic	140	United States	1,307
Ecuador	113	Uruguay	143
Egypt	1	Venezuela	546
England	5	West Indies (small islands).....	38
France	7		
Germany	4	Total	10,636
Guatemala	495		

The diplomatic representatives in Washington of the States of the International Union have been, from time to time, supplied with the mailing lists of their respective countries and requested to make such alterations and additions as to them seemed desirable, and indicate means of extending the distribution of the Bureau's publications in their countries. By this means the circulation of the BULLETIN in South and Central America is steadily increasing, that for the current month being 865 larger than for October. It is suggested that if the postal franchise for the publications of the Bureau was extended by some of the Latin-American Republics which have not yet granted it, their distribution might be considerably increased.

It is to be regretted that such a small number of copies of the BULLETIN should be distributed in the United States. Though our people have other publications from which they may obtain information on the Latin-American Republics, it is confidently believed that in no other publication in this country can the same amount of recent and reliable information be obtained as in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. To extend the distribution of this publication I heartily concur in the suggestion of my predecessor, Mr. EMORY, that the Congress of the United States be requested to provide for an edition of 5,000 copies per month for the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1901, *for distribution in the United States*, as a means of promoting a better knowledge of the resources and commercial possibilities of the Latin-American Republics.

To render the BULLETIN more useful, the Bureau has endeavored to put to contribution all the periodical publications, as well those of Europe as of North and South America. At the present time 1,725 periodicals, including daily papers, are received, and all important information contained in them translated, compiled, or classed for reference. Translations are now made from the Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, and Italian languages. Steps have been taken to further increase the exchanges of the Bureau, and in carrying out this the Bureau has to express its sincere thanks to the Bureau of International Exchanges of the Smithsonian Institution, which has authorized its agents abroad to act for this office. It is confidently hoped that within a short time nearly all the periodical literature of interest to this Bureau will be regularly received. Lists of the periodicals received at the Bureau are now published in the BULLETIN, and the more valuable ones put on its permanent files. Others, not of particular value to the Bureau, are sent to the Library of Congress for its reading room.

As a further means of extending the sources of information of the Bureau and of making the BULLETIN a true reflex of the conditions prevailing in all the countries comprising the International Union, the cooperation has been sought of prominent and trustworthy persons in the various capitals of the Latin-American Republics, or their leading seaports, in the capacity of honorary corresponding members of the International Union, and they have been requested to supply the

Bureau from time to time with information which may extend and complete our knowledge of the economic conditions and resources of their respective countries.

The diplomatic representatives of the Latin-American Republics at Washington have all most courteously lent their assistance to the Bureau in securing the services of these corresponding members, and it is confidently believed that their contributions will very materially assist and improve its work.

The work of putting the BULLETIN through the press has, thanks to the interest shown in the Bureau's work by the Government Printer, been greatly expedited, so that it can now be distributed in about ten days after going to press, the usefulness of the BULLETIN being thereby considerably increased.

HANDBOOKS.

At the date of Mr. EMORY'S last report (December, 1898) the "Handbook of Venezuela" was in the hands of the Printer, and has since been published in two parts, viz: Part I in English, and Part II in Spanish. Owing to the inability to secure the latest map showing the new division of the States of the Republic this feature was omitted, as stated in the explanatory note prefacing the book.

Upon completion of this work, the translation from English into Spanish of the "Handbook of Mexico," already in page proof, was undertaken at the same time that the rendering into English of the Portuguese manuscript of the "Handbook of Brazil," written by the learned Secretary of the Brazilian Legation in Washington, Mr. MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, was in progress.

A communication was then sent to all the representatives of the countries of the International Union at Washington, requesting their official cooperation to secure the latest official data from their respective countries for new editions of the various handbooks, as well as their personal advice and aid in the work. The replies received have all been most favorable, and a number of books and other printed documents have already been supplied by them.

The Handbook of Mexico might have been finished by this time had it not been deemed advisable to prepare a more complete work, embracing certain features until now either lightly treated or totally disregarded, bringing the statistical data up to the latest available figures. Delay has also been occasioned in the preparation of this handbook through the necessity of compiling from the charts, maps, and other data available a new map of the Republic, on which will be indicated all data of an economic nature, areas of culture, forests, mines, railroads, telegraphic lines, etc., which may prove of use to readers. It is proposed to bring out from time to time, as soon as the data for the preparation is sufficiently abundant, similar maps of the various Republics, the want of which is much felt. The services of an experienced draftsman have been secured, the work on the map of Mexico begun,

and skeleton maps of the other Republics are in course of preparation (all on a uniform and large scale), on which information of the above character is being entered.

In order to make these handbooks thoroughly reliable, and if possible standard works in keeping with the importance of the Republics and of the Bureau's position as their representative, the services of prominent authorities in the United States and in the various Republics have been sought, and in some instances already secured, to prepare such portions of these books as require the attention of experts.

On the completion of the Handbooks of Mexico and Brazil the work on those of the other countries will follow, according to the greatest amount of data available at the time. Small editions will be published, and new ones issued as soon as more recent statistical and other matter is forthcoming.

LIBRARY.

Too much stress can not be laid on the importance for the Bureau in keeping its library up in every branch, so that it can discharge to the complete satisfaction of the International Union the duties assigned it. Every work, whether official or private, every map, every document relating to any of the Latin-American Republics should be found in it, for it is the one and only place in the United States where such publications will be naturally sought. Every effort of the Bureau will be given to reach this end, and with the kindly collaboration of the Diplomatic Representatives of the Latin-American Republics in Washington and their Governments, the learned societies of their various countries and individuals interested in its success, it is confidently hoped that it may be ultimately reached.

The total number of volumes now in the library is, approximately, 5,000. Of these many are miscellaneous literature not strictly appropriate to the character of a library for this Bureau, and few additions have been made to it in the last six years. It is desired to dispose of these useless works and of all duplicates by sale and exchange, and to allow room on the shelves for books pertinent to the American Republics and their interests. The books retained as a nucleus for future growth in the library are those which treat of—

- (1) Agriculture and agricultural resources.
- (2) Colonization and public lands.
- (3) Commerce.
- (4) Geographical works.
- (5) History.
- (6) Laws, Government reports, bills, and documents.
- (7) Mines, mining, and mineral resources.
- (8) Railroads.
- (9) Statistics.
- (10) Travel and description.
- (11) Miscellaneous books of reference, dictionaries, etc.

The books now composing the library and all new accessions are being listed, classified, and arranged in a card catalogue under the different countries of which they treat. It is proposed to include in this catalogue an index of all important books concerning Latin America and its interests which may be found in the Congressional and Departmental libraries, including, as far as possible, the more important articles which have appeared in recent periodicals.

It is desired to perfect the collection of the laws, treaties with foreign powers, and official statistics of each of the countries represented in the library, which has fallen very much behindhand.

Letters have been sent to the Diplomatic Representatives of the various Republics in the United States, inclosing lists of the official publications of their countries now in the library, indicating the volumes wanting to complete sets, and asking them to secure for the library of the Bureau the current publications of their Governments. A considerable number of valuable publications has by this means been already secured, and all have most kindly assured the Bureau that they have taken steps to supply the needed works.

The atlases and loose sheet maps, only about 85 in number, have been collected and recorded on cards, and will be arranged so as to be easily accessible. Other libraries in Washington have been visited and lists made of all maps relating to Central and South America to be found there. These are being recorded on cards and will be placed for reference in the card catalogue kept in the library.

The number of periodicals received prior to September 1, 1899, was 1,034, of which 19 were subscriptions and 54 sent in exchange for the MONTHLY BULLETIN. There are now received regularly at the Bureau, by subscription, gift and exchange, 1,725 periodicals, including daily newspapers.

Hereafter accession lists will be published semiyearly and sent to the various libraries, public offices, and persons who may desire them.

The interest shown in and the cordial assistance given to this Bureau not only by the Executive Departments of the United States, but by all the Governments of the Latin American Republics and their Diplomatic and Consular Officers in this country, is more marked and valuable every day, and thereby not only lightens the work assigned this Bureau, making it more valuable and far-reaching, but emphasizes its purely international character and the closeness of the Union.

Looking back at the services the Bureau has already been able to render during the ten years of its existence, and then forward at what it may be expected to do with every Republic of North and South America now taking an active part in promoting its usefulness, we may feel sure that it will more than realize the hopes of those who conceived it, and be a powerful agent in still further promoting, through a more extended, clearer, and better knowledge of the various countries of this continent, their peoples, their labors, and their modes of thought, not

only reciprocal commercial relations beneficial to all, and in opening more extensive markets for the products of each, but in making stronger the bonds of confidence and friendship between each and every country of the Union.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
W. W. ROCKHILL, *Director*.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

DESTINATION OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

From a very interesting table prepared by the "Review of the River Plate," of Buenos Ayres, some idea of the natural wealth of the Argentine Republic can be formed. The figures given are the exports for nine months of 1899, ending with September 30, 1899. The total exports for this period were as follows: Wheat, 1,454,448 tons; maize, 664,137 tons; bran, 45,313 tons; quebracho, 121,409 tons; sugar, 18,298 tons; tallow, 112,356 casks; pollards, 145,131 bags; oilseed, 59,770 bags; birdseed, 541 bags; hay, 452,429 bales; tobacco, 9,782 bales; butter, 24,000 cases; frozen wethers, 1,597,132; wool, 305,533 bales; dry oxhides, 1,306,943; salt oxhides, 981,277; dry horsehides, 55,080; salt horsehides, 75,990; sheepskins, 44,141 bales; goatskins, 2,415 bales; hair, 2,883 bales.

The destinations of the principal part of these exports were as follows:

Great Britain.—Wheat, 172,412 tons; maize, 86,356 tons; linseed, 38,342 tons; sugar, 18,298 tons; quebracho, 7,663 tons; frozen wethers, 1,597,132; sheepskins, 5,190 bales; wool, 3,553 bales; dry oxhides, 21,691; salt oxhides, 12,788; tallow, 32,488 casks; oilseed, 16,935 bags; butter, 21,422 cases.

United States.—Dry oxhides, 791,738; salt oxhides, 10,359; sheepskins, 101 bales; hair, 1,057 bales; goatskins, 1,394 bales; wool, 9,885 bales; linseed, 1,160 tons; hay, 2,721 bales; quebracho, 5,272 tons.

France.—Wool, 155,135 bales; maize, 102,143 tons; wheat, 14,775 tons; linseed, 29,057 tons; dry oxhides, 34,738; salt oxhides, 73,018; sheepskins, 31,874 bales; pollards, 103,799 bags; quebracho, 3,377 tons; tallow, 6,665 casks.

Germany.—Wheat, 72,412 tons; maize, 53,280 tons; bran, 27,835 tons; linseed, 29,057 tons; quebracho, 49,528 tons; tobacco, 9,206 bales; oilseed, 36,939 bags; wool, 87,148 bales; dry oxhides, 117,122; salt oxhides, 515,330; dry horsehides, 55,080; salt horsehides, 75,990.

Belgium.—Wheat, 382,112 tons; maize, 78,122 tons; linseed, 46,631 tons; quebracho, 17,564 tons; wool, 44,723 bales; dry oxhides, 52,448; salt oxhides, 301,846.

Italy.—Wheat, 31,231 tons; maize, 30,371 tons; quebracho, 7,575 tons; dry oxhides, 151,746; salt oxhides, 35,354; sheepskins, 4,679 bales; wool, 5,098 bales; tallow, 32,090 casks.

Brazil.—Wheat, 67,966 tons; maize, 34,871 tons; wheat flour, 37,912 tons; tallow, 26,374 casks; butter, 2,577 cases.

Other countries, including orders.—Wheat, 713,540 tons; maize, 278,994 tons; linseed, 70,850 tons; quebracho, 30,430 tons; dry oxhides, 136,960; salt oxhides, 32,582; tallow, 13,935 casks; hay, 57,088 bales.

In the Argentine Republic a bale of wool, or sheepskins, or hair is 450 kilos (992.07 pounds); a bale of goatskins is 370 kilos (815.702 pounds); a bale of hay is 50 kilos (110.23 pounds); a cask of tallow is 100 kilos (220.46 pounds); a case of butter is 25 kilos (55.12 pounds).

MINERAL RESOURCES AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

The September number of the "Boletín de la Union Industrial Argentina" contains a paper upon the Argentine mineral wealth, and refers more especially to the Salta borate of lime deposits. The paper states that the Argentine mining industry is undoubtedly entering upon a new era; that this source of national wealth, so great and so varied, may be said to be as yet unexploited. The lack of capital and the absence of cheap and easy means of transportation have been the causes of the failure of many attempts to take advantage of this source of wealth, although the fineness and quality of the raw material augur undoubted benefits and advantages. Undertakings in this line have had anemic existence, and despite the advances in industrial mechanics and modern processes of extraction, smelting, etc., the present output of the mines of the Republic is far inferior to that obtained during the colonial period, one hundred years ago, by primitive means. The several Administrations up to the present have given little or no attention to the immense mineral wealth of the country. No complete investigation or survey has been made to discover the deposits which could be easily worked in each Province and Territory. No geological map of the Republic or of each of the provinces has been made, as should have been done, in order to attract foreign capital and encourage the exploitation of the varied mineral elements, which will be a new and great source of public and private wealth.

The Bureau of Mines and Geology is lacking in the necessary personnel and elements to properly carry out the purposes of this organization. Statistics show that during the past year only a very small amount of ore was exported. This, in view of the enormous undeveloped wealth existing, contrasts with the figures of the Chilean exportation. Last year Chile exported minerals to the amount of £7,000,000, and has taken out of her coal mines 750,000 tons. But there the Administrations have for fifty years been studying and working the deposits. "No one doubts, given the immense area of the Argentine territory and its geological formation, identical with that of Chile, that we can

dispose of as much, if not more, mineral wealth as our neighbors on the Pacific." The working of coal and iron mines alone would produce an economic and industrial evolution in the Republic of indisputable importance and transcendence. A new and rich territory, the Puna de Atacama, has lately been incorporated into the Republic. There the borates, nitrates, and other minerals are found in enormous quantities. It becomes necessary, then, to obtain a complete knowledge of the existing wealth through scientific investigation and to open to industrial development this new, valuable, and inexhaustible source of production.

It is pleasant to note that several Members of Congress, representing the interior Provinces, are working assiduously along these lines. The commercial and industrial interests, which have been awakened of late by the rich and important deposits of borate of lime at Salta, Jujuy, Catamarca, and other Provinces, and those of the Puna de Atacama, are noteworthy. Several German, English, and Belgian syndicates have recently sent to Salta representatives to study its rich mines. Modern industry daily increases the applications and use of this mineral, whose quantity and quality are exceptional in the Provinces named. The samples in the possession of the Government in the Bureau of Mines and Geology and the analyses thereof leave no room for doubt. One company has petitioned the Legislature of Salta to grant it the monopoly of working the borates and the manufacture of boric acid and borax. There is already in the city of Buenos Ayres a manufactory which has been turning out these articles for five years, as well as a variety of other chemical products, furnishing nearly all the pharmacies and industries of the Republic with domestic products whose purity and conditions are not below similar products from abroad. This manufactory utilizes some 30,000 kilos per month of the Salta borate of lime, and turns out about 5,000 kilos of boric acid, which is, more or less, what the whole Republic consumes. Although it manufactures a product of superior quality, its price is much lower than that asked for the like product from abroad, and it has driven it out of the market, to the double benefit of the country and the consumer.

The paper next discusses the advisability of granting the company referred to the monopoly to work the borate deposits, and expresses an opinion adverse to the granting of the petition addressed to the Legislature. The author next urges the several Provincial Governments to study the mineral wealth abounding in their mountains and valleys, and to make annual appropriations to this end, thus awakening Argentine mining from its prostration and lethargy, and inviting foreign capital to develop latent resources. He cites the example of Chile, and the extent to which mineral products figure in her export statistics. He states that Chile has spent, in persistent scientific explorations, some hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last fifty years, and to-day receives ample compensation in the sum of £7,000,000, which represents

the value of mineral exports, besides nearly 800,000 tons of coal which were extracted from her mines. The paper closes as follows: "We to-day only export a ridiculous amount; we import iron, other minerals, and their manufactures to the extent of more than \$30,000,000, gold, annually, and in ten years we have paid the foreigner for coal more than \$60,000,000, gold. After these figures comment is unnecessary."

MANUFACTURE OF PAPER AND PAPER BOXES.

The "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" (Buenos Ayres) publishes a carefully prepared prospectus, showing that the manufacture of paper and paper boxes would prove a most profitable undertaking in the Argentine Republic. The author of this paper, Mr. EGIDIO A. ZANIBONI, has evidently studied the situation very carefully, and says in conclusion that there is hardly any other industry offering such chances of success in that country. The one factory now in existence there, notwithstanding its many defects, he thinks, is proof enough of the correctness of this statement. The author appeals to German capitalists and urges promptness, since others are in the field, and gives assurances that the paper industry will be the one which will not suffer in a crisis in the Republic.

The following estimate is given for a small and absolutely economical paper factory, using as raw material old paper, paper waste, etc.:

Small motor	\$2,500.00
Entire cost of machinery, etc	17,908.50
Installing belting water	8,317.50
20,000 kilograms of straw, at \$25 per thousand kilograms	500.00
100,000 kilograms waste paper, at \$3.50 per hundred	3,500.00
Total	<u>32,726.00</u>

Calculation for 140 working days:

Raw material for 140 days, 800 kilograms per day, producing 112,000 kilograms of paper	4,000.00
Coal, labor, rent, interest, etc., \$71.40 per day	9,996.00
Total cost	<u>13,996.00</u>

Production, 112,000 kilograms paper, at \$32 per 100 kilograms, \$35,840, showing a profit of \$21,844 in 140 days on an investment of \$32,726, or a profit for 280 working days of 140 per cent.

In regard to paper boxes it is stated that millions are imported every year from Europe and the United States, and as there is no factory for making these goods in the Argentine Republic there would appear to be absolutely no risk in starting one.

PROSPECTS FOR TRADE IN 1900.

The New York "Commercial Bulletin" says the number of inquiries from the Argentine Republic would indicate that the prospects for trade during the next year are favorable. According to information received

by United States merchants from their agents in Buenos Ayres, considerable electrical material will be required during the year 1900. The use of agricultural implements of United States manufacture in the Argentine Republic is almost general throughout the country, and the demand for new machinery is augmented by the fact that the farmers do not take that care of their implements that is done in European countries and in the United States. If the proper efforts are made business in machinery and other manufactured iron, as well as in railroad supplies and equipments, can be so increased as to surpass the present European trade. The "Commercial Bulletin" remarks that the only drawback is that the manufacturers do not cater to the Argentine demand, and that the present growing trade is in the hands of but few merchants.

Manufacturers transacting business direct with Buenos Ayres and Rosario are comparatively few. One of the secrets why the agricultural implement trade and the business in electric machinery and apparatus are gaining such headway in the cities named is because United States manufacturers have established agencies there, while in almost all other branches of trade the exporters intrust their Argentine business to their European agents. "It is true that a great deal of British and German capital is employed in the Argentine Republic, but, as local merchants thoroughly familiar with the situation there say, those very undertakings in which European capital is employed buy their requirements where it best suits them. Frequently Belgian material is bought in Buenos Ayres for a railroad which is operated altogether by a British company. There is said to be no patriotism in business in the Argentine Republic. A difference of a half of one per cent will capture a substantial contract, provided other things are equal." * * *

"There is hardly an item in the manufactured line in which some business could not be done with the Argentine Republic. All that is needed is proper push and an understanding as to how to obtain the trade which is recognized as the best of any of the South American countries."

TRADE WITH OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

The "La Plata Post" (the weekly edition of the Deutschen "La Plata Zeitung") gives considerable space to the discussion of the trade of the Argentine Republic with the neighboring States of Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil, from which it appears that the total imports from Chile to the Argentine Republic in 1898 amounted to \$82,772, and for the five years 1894-1898 to \$409,849. The total exports of the Argentine Republic to Chile amounted in 1898 to \$1,354,494, and for the period 1894-1898 to \$10,335,017, of which \$9,958,266 represent the value of live cattle. The total value of the imports from Bolivia in 1898 was \$57,208. The exports to Bolivia in the same year amounted to \$408,813, entirely

live stock. From Brazil the Argentine Republic in 1898 imported \$5,012,115, and in the five years between 1894-1898, \$21,002,374. The exports to Brazil in 1898 amounted to \$7,916,301, and in the five years 1894-1898 to \$48,408,459.

IMPORTS OF HARVESTING MACHINERY.

A recent issue of the "Commercial Bulletin" contains an item to the effect that one of the largest shipments of harvesting machines sent this season to Buenos Ayres from the port of New York was taken by the steamship *Hermes*, it being valued at \$114,233. The steamship *Manica*, which sailed a few days previous, also had on board harvesting machinery to the value of \$100,000. The journal adds that the present season is making an extraordinary showing in the demand for all sorts of agricultural machinery from the Argentine Republic, and that further important shipments will occur. Next to agricultural implements, manufactured iron appears to be the commodity in demand, and if deliveries could have been possible, a very active season would be in progress. It is stated that in lines of manufactured articles, other than agricultural machinery and electrical supplies, England and Germany are still leading the United States in supplying the Argentine demand even in certain lines of goods made in the United States. With the shipping facilities now existing, a strong effort is being made by merchants to secure the business direct from New York. What is needed principally is the cooperation of the manufacturers, that they may strictly follow instructions and be willing to comply with requisites.

During the last week of November the shipments from the port of New York to the Argentine Republic were exceedingly satisfactory. They included \$14,000 worth of carriages; \$10,000 worth of hardware, \$10,000 worth of rope, \$108,000 worth of binder twine, \$50,000 worth of agricultural implements, \$17,000 worth of electrical material, and \$11,000 worth of iron pipe.

EXPORTS OF SHEEP AND MUTTON.

On September 26, 1899, Hon. THOMAS R. FINCH, United States Minister to Montevideo, forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a statement from a local newspaper, giving the number of live sheep and frozen mutton carcasses shipped from the Argentine Republic to Brazil, England, Continental Europe, and South Africa from January 1 to August 31, 1899. This shows a grand total of 412,996 living animals and 1,330,966 "frozen wethers." Notwithstanding these immense shipments, there was a decrease in number from the same period in 1898, both in the exports of live animals and mutton. Then the aggregate of the former was 420,472 and of the latter 1,581,412. They illustrate, however, the immense resources of the country.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT AND EARNINGS.

The Argentine Republic has at present not less than 15,884 kilometers of railways. She now occupies the seventh position in this regard among the countries of the earth, as follows:

	Kilometers.		Kilometers.
United States	291,633	Argentine Republic	15,884
Germany	49,903	Brazil	14,035
Russia	41,233	Mexico	13,369
France	40,436	Chile	3,957
England	34,076	Uruguay	1,624
Austria-Hungary	31,794	Peru	1,587

The earnings of the most important of the Argentine railways in the past two years have been as follows:

	1898-99.	1897-98.	Increase 1898-99.
Argentine, Western	£414,089	£328,151	£85,938
Buenos Ayres, Southern	1,812,832	1,515,408	297,424
San-a Fe and Córdoba	134,606	90,996	43,610
Entre Ríos	99,820	82,291	17,529
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	483,470	360,540	122,930
Buenos Ayres, Western	780,000	608,443	171,557
Córdoba and Rosario	154,900	108,000	46,900
Buenos Ayres and Rosario (six months)	482,962	420,131	62,831
Argentine, Central (six months)	685,720	532,828	152,892

Six of the above-named roads show a deficit calculated in the paper currency of the country as against the previous year, which, however, in view of the decrease in the gold premium has developed into considerable profit.

RECENT RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

"Transport," of London, for November 17, 1899, notes that a number of concessions have recently been granted in the Argentine Republic. Among these are a concession to Messrs. AGOSTINI & SCARSELLA for the construction of a port in the bay of Sanborombon, and also a railway concession for a line from the bay of Trenque-Languen, passing through Dolores, Las Flores, to Junin, another from Dolores to Azul, passing through Berrati, and another joining up the main line with Chascomús; a concession to Messrs. CORRALES & Co. for a railway starting from the River Paraná, in front of the city of Corrientes, and terminating on the frontier of the Republic of Bolivia, passing through Oran, with a branch to link the branches of the Central Northern road between Güemes and Jujuy. The Government is reported to have agreed to give the concessionaires 5,000 hectares of land in Chaco and Formosa for each kilometer of line constructed in those territories, said land concession not to exceed 180 leagues. A port is to be constructed on the Paraná.

TRADE WITH BELGIUM.

The exchanges between Belgium and the Argentine Republic, says the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" of November 9, 1899, increased last year. The imports show a total of 100,000,000 francs against 68,000,000 francs for 1897. This increase is noted especially in grains (38,000,000 against 13,000,000 francs) and in oleaginous seeds (10,700,000 against 4,800,000 francs). As to Belgian exports, an increase in value of nearly 4,000,000 over the year 1897 is noted, the principal increase being in cotton goods (2,180,000 against 1,638,000 francs).

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A recent report from Buenos Ayres is to the effect that the return visit of Dr. CAMPOS SALLES, President of Brazil, to General ROCA, President of the Argentine Republic, will take place in March or April, 1900, and that great preparations are being made for his reception. Dr. MARCELO T. DE ALVEAR has placed his magnificent house at the disposal of the Government, and it will be used by President SALLES while in Buenos Ayres. Mr. ANGEL T. DE ALVEAR, a brother of the first-named gentleman, who is the owner of a large ranch ("San Jacinto") in the Province of Buenos Ayres, will also entertain the President, on which occasion it is intended to have a round-up of 50,000 head of cattle, 100,000 sheep, 4,000 blooded horses, and 5,000 steers. The employees of the ranch will be dressed in their gala attire, and the affair promises to be a most interesting and unique exhibit of the sources of wealth of the Argentine Republic.

The death is announced of a distinguished engineer, Mr. G. E. STEVENSON, as the result of a gas explosion in Manchester, England, on October 30. Mr. STEVENSON was a citizen of the United States, having been born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his practical training at the London and Brighton (England) Railway Works, and, like many other bright engineers, was attracted to South America by the inducements offered. For six years (1885 to 1891) he resided in Buenos Ayres, and while an inhabitant of that city he constructed the works of the River Plate Gas Company and also the gas works at La Plata and Paraná.

The "London Times" of November 18, 1899, contains a dispatch from Buenos Ayres, under date of November 17, which says that "official data published to-day rectify the total of the home and foreign debt, putting it at £97,000,000. This is equivalent to £20 per inhabitant. The service of the debt amounts to £6,000,000, or half the total revenue, representing 30 shillings per head. The real position, however, is that the total debt is £105,000,000, or £26 per head; while the service amounts to 30 shillings per head."

The steamship *Riverton*, which sailed from New York on November 24, 1899, carried a large cargo of electrical equipments for the port of Buenos Ayres. The shipments included ten trolley cars, manufactured in Dayton, Ohio; motor trucks from a Kingston, New York, factory; several double-motor equipments, with electric brakes, from Schenectady, New York, and a number of car-fenders from Providence, Rhode Island. The value of these equipments, which were for Buenos Ayres electric tramways, was about \$50,000.

The Governor of the Territory of Misiones has sent to the Minister of Agriculture a petition filed by Señores A. TRASBACH and C. MAS-CEREÑO requesting authority to establish a colony to devote itself to the planting of grapevines and wine making, the petitioners agreeing to collect a number of families to engage in the industry. In exchange the petitioners ask the Government to grant them an area of 40 hectares for each family, their passages to the colony, and means necessary for housing themselves.

The "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" states that the value of the wool to be exported this year from the Argentine Republic will amount to upward of \$70,000,000 gold. While the number of bales will probably not exceed the previous year's production, the better results of the washing of the wool will increase its value.

German papers state that an association has been formed in Hanover, Germany, entitled the "Deutsch-Argentinische Bergbau Gesellschaft Maria." The object of the association is to acquire mining properties in South America, especially in the Argentine Republic and Peru.

The Legislature of the Province of Santa Fe has enacted a law declaring exempt of all taxes for the period of four years the cotton and woolen mills that may be established therein. Starch, paper, cordage, and straw-hat factories enjoy a like exemption.

The nomination of Hon. William P. Lord, of Oregon, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic, was confirmed by the United States Senate on December 14, 1899.

It is reported that a German mortgage bank is to be established in Buenos Ayres, under the name of "Banco Hipotecario Alemán del Rio de la Plata." The capital is to be 15,000,000 pesos gold.

The concessionaries of the railroad from Chumbicha to Tinogasta have discovered in the Province of La Rioja important borax mines, the working of which will be very valuable.

BOLIVIA.

IMPORT TRADE AT POTOSÍ.

Potosí is a very important import center, taking into consideration the scarcity of its population. Its trade will still increase in proportion with the building of railroads to run through the mining regions. The lack of means of communication, the broken character of the land, the inundations of the rivers during the rainy season, and the great distances between the different zones of production all tend to make the products of the country more expensive than those from abroad. With the exception of lumber and dry fodder, which can not be imported with profit, except in the cities near the railroads, the foreign manufactured products penetrate in the most remote places of Bolivia.

Sugar formerly came from Santa Cruz, and sold for 32 bolivianos per quintal of 46 kilograms. To-day it comes from Germany and Belgium, and costs 20 bolivianos. Brandies have been replaced by alcohol of 40 degrees. The Indians mix it with water for drinking. Formerly Peru held the monopoly of this trade, but to-day Chile and Germany have absorbed the greater part.

The principal articles imported are cotton and linen goods, silks, and furniture of all kinds. About ten years ago furniture was imported from France, England, and the United States. As this branch of commerce extended, competition was established, and Germany and Belgium at present furnish cheap furniture of good appearance, but of inferior quality, in which manufacturers of other countries do not compete. England is the principal importer in Bolivia, Germany comes next, and France third.

RECENT TARIFF CONCESSION.

A dispatch dated Rio de Janeiro, November 15, 1899, states that the Bolivian Government has declared free of duty all merchandise shipped from Brazilian ports to Acre, until September, 1900. American and European goods enjoy the benefits of this decree. It is also stated that the Government is going to reopen the custom-house at Puerto Alonzo.

THE HUANCHACA SILVER MINES.

"The Engineering and Mining Journal" reports that the Huanchaca Mining Company has undertaken the work of placing their great silver mines on the footing they ought to have held long ago. The management of the mines is to be thoroughly re-formed, with a view to hereafter conducting the work in a systematic way and of relieving the mines of the water which, for the past two or three years, has seriously interfered with portions of the lower level.

The French financial papers report that Guggenheim Brothers, of New York City, have advanced this company \$300,000, which is to be repaid in half-yearly installments of \$75,000 each. These papers further state that the Guggenheim Brothers have taken in hand the extensive reduction works at Playa Blanca and will operate them. Under the agreement the Huanchaca Company will furnish the ores to the reduction works and the profits will be divided between the miner and the smelter. The Guggenheim house also takes an option running six years of the products of the works at a valuation of \$300,000, with a rental or royalty of \$6 per "cajon" (a special car or receptacle for ore) of ore delivered at the works by the Huanchaca Company. This royalty or premium is to run for fifteen years, the company binding itself to deliver a minimum of 10,000 "cajons" per year.

NEW RAILWAY PROJECT.

The "Jornal do Commercio" states that the Bolivian Government in July last appointed a technical commission for the purpose of working out a project for a railway whose destination shall be the River Acre. A French syndicate will, it is said, bear the expenses of this commission.

BRAZIL.

COMMERCIAL HOUSES IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

The Cónsul-General of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, Mr. EUGENE SEEGER, has recently returned from an extended trip through southern Brazil and has forwarded the result of his investigations to the Department of State at Washington. In his opinion, there is nowhere a more lucrative field for legitimate enterprise, and he expresses surprise that the people of the United States should refrain from entering into competition with Europeans in a sphere of such exceptional promise. To quote Mr. SEEGER's words: "Of course we can not send colonists, but we can send ships with merchandise and improved machinery; we can send capital, with engineers and electricians; we can build railroads, bridges, and factories; we can organize new industries and improve the old ones; and we can show an industrious, hard-working, and sympathetic people how to fight the battle of life with improved weapons."

With the object of promoting such commercial intercourse, the Consul has prepared a list of the more important import houses in the States of Parana, Santa Catharina, and Rio Grande do Sul, which is here reproduced for the benefit of merchants in the United States seeking additional markets. It should be added that by publishing the list referred to no financial responsibility for resulting transactions is assumed by the Bureau of the American Republics.

IMPORT HOUSES IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL.

STATE OF PARANA.

Curityba (capital and commercial center of the State of Parana).—Burmester, Thon & Co., general importers; J. Haer & Sons, general importers; Charles Withers & Co., hardware, china, etc.; Carl Meisner; A. von Mein & Co.

STATE OF SANTA CATHARINA.

Joinville.—A. & Oscar Baptista; Oscar Anton Schneider, large import and export house, doing business in lard, kerosene, and machinery; Hermann Lepper & Co., importers and exporters; Companhia Industrial, importers and exporters.

Blumenau.—Gustav Salinger & Co. (Gust. Salinger and Peter Ch. Feddersen); Alteuburg, Filho & Co.; Heinrich Probst; Hermann Sachtleben; Friedrich Blohm; H. Brandes, drugs; Henry Clasen; Alwin Schrader; Leopold F. Hoeschl; August Kennecke, druggist.

Destero. (*Florianópolis*).—Carl Hoepcke & Co.; Ernest Vahl & Co.; Wenthausen & Co.

Itajaky.—Asseburg & Willerding; A. Konder; Nicolau Malburg; Rndolf Krause, steam sawmill, cedar box factory, dealer in hard woods, and lumber.

STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

City of Rio Grande do Sul.—Thomsen & Co.; E. H. Muëller; Viuva Claassen, successor to Aretz & Co. (also at Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, and Hamburg, Germany); Fraebe, Nickele & Co. (also at Porto Alegre); George Vareeke, commission merchant and ship chandler; Englebrecht & Co.

Porto Alegre.—Importers of hardware: Bromberg & Co., machines; Marcínio Mattos; Jung, Jacobi & Co.; H. Brnuckhorst & Co.; V. Deistel & Co.; União de Ferros, Bins Bromberg Daudt & Co., iron in bars; Antonio dos Santos Rocha; Carlos Daudt & Co.; Edwards, Cooper & Co., machines; Luiz Rothfuchs, iron in bars; Dörken & Co.; H. Theodor Möller & Co.; B. Wahrlich; Felipe Becker; Augusto Goebel; F. Schneiders; Moraes & Co.; Reinbott & Sattler.

Foundries: F. Bertschinger & Co.; F. Sanders & Co.; E. Berta & Co.

Musical instrument dealers: José Gertum & Co.; Honorio Mariante; A. Fehlauer.

Wholesale dry goods: Jacobi & Co.; Englebrecht & Co.; Fraeb Niecke & Co.; Ernesto Haessler & Co.; A. Leao & Co.; H. Lüderitz & Co.; Ernesto Fontoura & Co.; A. C. da Fontoura Filho; A. Schütt & Co.; Archer Luce & Co.; J. A. da Fontoura Freitas; H. D. Meyer; Bastian & Co.; Chaves & Almeida; José Biua & Co.; Ely & Co.; A. C. F. Peixotó, successors; Carneiro & Martins; Chaves & Filhos; Teltcher & Co.; Nunes & Carvalho; A. Freytag & Co.; F. G. Bier & Co.; Fernando Rech & Co.; Barcellos & Soares; Mostardeiro Irmaos & Co.; Sebastião de Barros; Aut. Carueiro da Fontoura; G. Livonius;

Otto Hasche & Co.; Levy & Issler; Dias & Co.; Frank Weimann & Co.; J. G. Magnus; Nicolas Köhler & Co.

Wholesale grocers: Azevedo Irmaos & Co.; José Dias & Co.; Santos Netto & Co.; João Soerner & Co.; Carlos Marino; Costa Leite & Filhos; Franco Ramos & Co.; Otero Gomes & Co.; C. H. Menke; Miranda & Co.; Julio Issler & Co.; A. Cademartori & Co.; Horacio Carvalho & Co.; Lopez Irmaos; Santos Zacharias & Co.; C. Torres & Co.; E. Arnt & Co.; Jung Dreher; Correa Leite & Co.; João Aydos; Albino J. da Cunha; Dias & Co.; A. Zerboni; F. Dexheimer & Co.; Adolpho Silva & Co.; Felix H. Kessler; Fraeb N. Kele & Co.; Viuva Claussen & Co.

China and earthenware: Chris. Renter; Germ. Güttler; P. C. Porto & Co.; Virgilio Boeira & Co.; L. H. Rozet; Rosa Irmaos & Co.; Brutschke & Harbich.

Notions, etc.: Goncalves H. de Carvalho & Co.; Felizardo & Co.; Manoel Poeta; João Lartigau; Esteves Barboza & Co.; Fructuoso, Fontoura & Ilha; Ant. Araujo Vianna.

Commission merchants: Hugo Gertum & Co.; Felix H. Kessler; Gamellas & Bento; Nic. Köhler & Filhos.

Wholesale druggists: N. Dapelo & Co.; Pasquier, Fischer & Guimarães; Schröder & Co.; Companhia Pharmaceutica e Industrial; Geyer & Co.; Tancredo A. de Leão; Drogaria Inglesa.

Arms, weapons, sportsmen's goods: João Bergmann; Rist & Garcia.

Machines, implements, etc.: Bromberg & Co.; José Becker & Irmão.

Booksellers: Gundlach & Krahe; H. Echenique & Co.; Livraria Americana; Rodolpho J. Machado; Carlos F. Pinto & Co.; João Mayer & Co.; Franco Irmãos; L. P. Barcellos & Co.

Manufacturing and wholesale jewelers: Dyonisio G. Magalhaes; E. Jeanneret; A. Fehlauer; Leopoldo Masson & Co.

Export houses: Vva. Claussen & Co.; Fraeb Niekke & Co.

Sewing machines: João Steenhagen.

Building materials: Bins & Friederichs.

Breweries: F. Christoffel, successor; Henr. Ritter Fo.

Umbrellas and parasols: J. Dapelo.

Shipbrokers: C. Booth; Nicolao Maehlmann.

Importing tailors: Augusto Reichardt & Co.; Germano Peterson, jr.

Manufacturers of hats and caps: A. Roever; João Birnfeld.

Tobacconists: Domingos Martins de Longa; Martins de Lima.

Furniture: Adam Hoffmann.

Soaps: Adolfo Voigt; Carlos L. Dubois; Jacob Kappel.

PROJECTED CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The "Moniteur Officiel," of November 2, publishes a communication, dated September 26, from M. DE LAVAUR, French Minister at Rio de Janeiro, on the projected new Brazilian customs tariff, which reads in substance as follows:

"The Commission on Customs Tariffs presented to the Brazilian

House of Representatives a report, published in the 'Diario Oficial' of the 18th of September, on the proposed adoption of a system of maximum and minimum tariffs.

"According to the terms of this report the Commission has judged it expedient to impose two schedules in the tariff—one applicable to the countries which have made or will make concessions to Brazil on their import duties of coffee and other Brazilian products, the other, a general one, applicable to the countries which maintain high tariffs. The Brazilian Government will reserve the right of indicating to the custom-houses of the Union the taxes which shall be levied on the products of the different countries. 'What diplomacy can not obtain the commercial and economic interest can often have granted.'"

"France, continues the report, levies 1.56 francs on the coffee bean and 1.66 francs on roasted or ground coffee when it is imported directly from abroad, and 2.08 francs and 2.11 francs, respectively, when it comes from European warehouses. France ought to make a concession to Brazil to compensate for what Brazil receives from her. The actual consumption of coffee in France is insignificant in view of its population. It may be said that in that country coffee is reserved to the well-to-do classes because of its retail price, which is excessive on account of the import duty, which is almost three times as much as the coffee is valued at in Brazilian ports.

"It is only necessary for France to make a reduction of 50 per cent in the import duty to considerably increase its consumption. This, it is added, is precisely the tariff applied to coffee of French and other colonies, and also to the countries of Indo-China.

"The so-called French products do not to-day, as formerly, constitute an exclusive specialty of France, as similar products are to be found in other countries. Thus Brazil can demand this reduction, and if the French Government does not choose to grant it we will be forced to give our trade to other countries which agree with us that this is but equity and justice.

"Care has been taken in the schedule not to make the tariff too high on the products of the country, however rare they are, of exclusively French origin; that is to say, products which Brazil can only obtain in France.

"Regarding Italy, the report of the Commission speaks as follows:

"Italy maintains on the importation of Brazilian coffee—the consumption of which is almost nil—a tariff identical to that of France. If a reasonable tariff were adopted by the country the results can be imagined, in view of the fact that thousands of Italians, in consequence of their stay in Brazil, have become coffee drinkers; the consumption would increase greatly, and this increase could not fail to exercise a happy influence on the revenues of Italy.

"The double tariff has, in the opinion of the Commission, another advantage, that of serving as 'correctives' to the measures eventually

taken by the countries who would adopt a policy of commercial retaliation. This applies to the United States, where import duties are not collected on coffee, but where it is said there is talk of establishing one of 3 cents per pound.

"The report of the Commission next points out that the necessary interest of the case should force the Federal Government to establish an import duty on wheat; but it is expected that the conclusions of the Commission on this point will raise the strong opposition of the English companies which have built flouring mills in Brazil, which a tax on wheat would injure.

"The Commission next calls the attention to the necessity of exacting a certificate of origin on all merchandise imported into Brazil, so that the countries which have no right to a minimum tariff can not profit by it.

"The bill under discussion grants to the Government the authority or privilege of modifying entirely or partially the general tariff laws, limiting reduction, however, to the rates provided in the minimum tariff. This stipulation is directed, perhaps, to the countries which, like Austria-Hungary, levy a duty on coffee, which, though not so high as in France and Italy, still seems excessive to the Brazilian seller. Between the general tariff and the minimum a medium term would be applied to the productions of this country; but this is only a conjecture, for the exact meaning of this stipulation, so largely discretionary, can only be determined by the discussion which it will raise or else by the manner in which it will be applied."

The Italian Minister to Brazil, Count ANTONELLI, is quoted by the Brazilian newspapers as favoring a reduction of not less than 50 per cent of the duties now imposed on the coffees of Brazil entering Italian ports, in order to prevent the application of the maximum tariff to importations into Brazil from Italy. However, the Italian Minister of Finance does not altogether regard the proposition in a favorable light, for the reason that the revenue received by his Government from duties on coffee amount to 6,500,000 lire annually. Besides this, other nations might regard such action as being contrary to "the most favored nation" clause in existing treaties. The "Gazetta das Noticias," of Rio de Janeiro, says that Count ANTONELLI has answered these objections so successfully as to raise earnest hopes of bringing about an agreement. Another factor which is believed to have had considerable influence with the Minister of Finance was the initiation of a movement for the establishment of a great market for Brazilian coffees at Genoa, the effect of which might be the stimulation of the importation of coffee into Italy to such proportions as to more than compensate the Italian Government for any loss caused by the proposed reduction in the rate.

With regard to the negotiations on the behalf of the Brazilian coffee growers with the French Government (see MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, pp. 290, 291), not a great deal has as yet been accomplished. An exchange of ideas on the subject has taken place between Dr.

OLYNTIO MAGALHAES, Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Vicomte DE LAFAUR the French Minister at Rio de Janeiro. The latter is reported to have asked for instructions from his Government. He also is said to be favorable to a considerable reduction by his Government of the duties on Brazilian-grown coffees for the same reason that the Italian Minister is quoted as giving—a maximum tariff on French importations “would be of only too great advantage to the redoubtable commercial rivals of France in Brazil.”

A dispatch dated Rio de Janeiro, November 25, 1899, states that “the Brazilian Government has notified the French, Italian, and Spanish Governments that Brazil henceforth will adopt differential tariffs against excessive taxes on coffee. Negotiations have also been opened with the view of obtaining treaties favoring Brazilian products.”

A dispatch dated Paris, France, December 1, 1899, says “negotiations are about to be opened with the view of allowing Brazil a reduction of about 10 francs on the tax on coffee, on conditions that French products are given the most-favored-nation treatment. Should the negotiations fail, the maximum tariff will be applied to Brazilian coffee.”

WARNING TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The “Deutsche Export Zeitung,” of Berlin, says that according to the postal regulations of Brazil it is prohibited to mail in an ordinary letter or a registered letter treasury or bank notes, certified checks, coupons for dividends of interest, lottery tickets, postage stamps, postage certificates, revenue stamps of the Treasury of the Republic or of any of the several States, or any other papers of value payable either at sight or to the bearer, no matter whether they be due or not. Infringements of this regulation will result in the confiscation of a fourth part of the inclosed values. It would appear from the statement of the journal named that the Brazilian postal authorities are applying this regulation also to foreign mail. The “Board of Trade Journal,” of Great Britain, in noting this fact in its issue for November, says in order to avoid trouble and damages it will, therefore, commend itself to foreign correspondents to refrain, for the present, from forwarding papers of the aforesaid description to Brazil by means of ordinary or registered letters.

CHANGES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

The First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation in London, Dr. JOÃO CORDEIRO DO REGO BARROS, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Peru. Senhor BARROS was very popular in diplomatic circles in the British metropolis.

The “Jornal do Commercio” announces that the following diplomatic changes have been made or are in contemplation: To London, Senhor OLIVEIRA LIMA; to Montevideo, Senhor RODRIGUES TORRES; to

Brussels, Senhor ARTHUR STOCKLER; to Lima, Senhor CARDOSA DE OLIVEIRA; to Santiago, Chile, Senhor SAN VALLE.

Senhor ALFREDO DE MORAES GOMES FERREIRA has been appointed First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation in Paris, and has assumed the duties of his post. In the absence of Senhor GABRIEL DE PISA the new appointee is also discharging the functions of Chargé d'Affaires. Senhor FERREIRA has successively been Attaché and Secretary of the Legation of his country in Chile, England, the United States, and Uruguay.

The Brazilian Minister at Asunción, Senhor BRASÍLIO ITIBIRÉ, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted, according to a correspondent of the "South American Journal."

Mr. MORITZ HERRMANN has been appointed Brazilian Consul in Berlin, Germany.

ADMISSION OF MINING MATERIAL.

The Tariff Commission of the Brazilian House of Representatives, with a view of encouraging the development of the mining industry, has introduced a resolution for the free entry of machinery, metals, metalloids, and explosives employed in mining. An *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent only will be maintained for their storage in the custom-house.

The State of Minas Geraes, the principal mining region of Brazil, adopted September 18, 1899, a very liberal mining law, granting the owners the right of investigating and exploiting the subsoil.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the new contract concluded between the State Government and Messrs. FIORITA & Co., of Italy, the steamers of these ship-owners will make two monthly trips to Manaus, touching at Marseilles, Barcelona, Tangiers, Lisbon, Leixoes, Ponta Delgada, Belém, Parintins, and Stacoatiara. Moreover, the company will establish at Rome, Milan, Turin, and Genoa four bureaus of propaganda and information concerning the State of Amazonas, where the principal natural products of the Amazonian industry will be exhibited.

A crusade is being made against rats in the city of Santos, the great coffee-shipping port in the State of São Paulo. Not only is a price put upon the unpopular rodent's head by the authorities, but the carcass of each is officially cremated. The rat is thought to convey infectious diseases, such as the plague, carrying them from the shore to a ship and then to the shore of a distant port; hence the precautions of the Brazilian authorities where a disease resembling the plague has broken out.

The session of Congress for 1899 closed on November 22 last without improving the financial and commercial situation of the country. The

revenue and appropriation bills were passed near the end of the session. The general revenues, including new taxes, are estimated at 289,000 contos in paper and nearly 45,000 contos in gold. The appropriations aggregate 263,162,276 milreis in paper, 36,973,643 milreis in gold.

The preliminary work on the railway in Rio Grande do Sul has been completed as far as Rio Santo Christo. A distance of 450 kilometers has already been completed.

On December 5, 1899, the United States Patent Office issued to ANTONIO I. GONSALVES, of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, letters patent on his invention of a window stop.

CHILE.

UNDEVELOPED WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCES.

In a report addressed to the President of the Chilean Republic the ex-Intendant of the Chilean province of Coquimbo makes some interesting statements regarding the conditions and the resources of the northern Chilean provinces. He calls attention to the fact that for several years he has made a fight for the development of means of communication, which he has always considered as indispensable to the prosperity of the country. Between Higuera and Vallemar, he says, there are a large number of rich deposits of manganese, copper, silver, and gold ore, which, if opened up for development, would immediately improve the financial situation of the country. There is, it is asserted, enough manganese to supply the whole world; copper veins of such numbers and dimensions (and such abundance) and of such a high grade that their development would enable Chile to recover its former rank as furnishing 75 per cent of the supply of the world. The report does not dwell on the subject of the silver mines of Coquimbo and of Atacama, their importance being universally recognized; but what is not so generally known, adds the writer, is the existence of gold in such large quantities that if the means of communication were established in conditions favorable for development the production of gold would equal in weight the actual production of the silver.

According to an expert engineer who has heard reports in Europe and Chile on the subject of the wealth of the copper deposits between Vallemar and Higuera, all the data is much underestimated. A personal exploration has shown him that the veins extend for several kilometers in length and that their width varies between 6 and 20 meters, with depths of 50, 100, and 150 meters, and sometimes even more. The quality of the ore is good, and the average yield is 10 to 15 per cent of copper. The same expert explored a number of hills and became convinced that at some time, perhaps soon, they will yield immense

quantities of gold. The average yield is estimated at 70 piasters in gold to each ton of ore.

In consequence of the geological configuration of the hills and the lack of vegetation the mining of these deposits is comparatively easy and sure; but, the report continues, nothing can be attempted before the establishment of sufficient means of communication. In consequence of the lack of these means mines are seen which could furnish work to more than 500 miners and daily yield 100 tons of copper of from 8 to 9 per cent, but which now only employ 12 or 14 miners, extracting monthly only a few tons of mineral of the highest quality, that being the only kind of ore which can stand the exorbitant expense of transportation. These expenses can be estimated, says the writer, at 20 piasters per ton for a distance of 60 kilometers—a price which could easily be reduced to a tenth of that amount, or 2 piasters.

It is really deplorable, he adds, that this region, so richly endowed by nature, is called a desert, when a railroad, which could be easily built, would transform the country into one of the most prosperous regions of the globe. In proof of the existence of such wealth the case of a mine is cited which could be taken as a type of several others, the veins of which extend for 2 kilometers, with a width of 6 meters, a depth of 200 meters, the average yield being 5 per cent. These figures represent 7,000,000 tons of ore, which, on a basis of 5 per cent, would give 350,000 tons of copper, of a total value of 300,000,000 piasters. The report concludes with the statement that the country situated between Vallemar and Higuera can be considered the richest of the metalliferous regions of the world and that all that is necessary for its development is the construction of means of communication.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

At the time of the ministerial crisis which came about in the middle of November the only Minister who went out was Señor RAFAEL SOTOMAYOR, Minister of the Interior and Premier, who has been succeeded by Señor ELIAS FERNÁNDEZ ALBANO, who has heretofore filled the Ministries of Industry and Public Works, of War and the Navy, and of the Treasury. Another new addition to the Ministry is Señor Don RICARDO MATTE, who succeeded Señor Don CÁRLOS CONCHA SUBERCASEAUX as Minister of War and the Navy. Señor SUBERCASEAUX did not go out at the time of the crisis, but had been appointed Minister of Chile to the Argentine Republic prior to the crisis. Señor MATTE had previously been the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Ministry as it now stands is as follows:

Minister of the Interior, Señor ELIAS FERNÁNDEZ ALBANO.

Minister of Foreign Relations, Worship and Colonization, Señor RAFAEL ERRÁZURIZ URMENETA.

Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Señor FRANCISCO HERBOZO.

Minister of Finance, Señor MANUEL SALINAS.

Minister of War and the Navy, Señor RICARDO MATTE.

Minister of Industry and Public Works, Señor JOSÉ FLORENCIO VÁLDEZ CUEVAS.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES IN 1900.

At the first session of the Senate of Chile the joint committee of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, to which was referred the appropriation bill for 1900, presented its report. The estimates for the coming year, as submitted by the administration, were as follows: Receipts, \$109,749,949.44;¹ expenditures, \$104,263,578.67. The committee suggested some amendments and made several reductions. The Minister of Finance in his report to the Senate stated that, according to the estimates of the committee, the receipts collected and to be collected during the current year (1899) would amount to the sum of \$117,604,790.11. The committee deducts from this amount the sum of \$2,916,000, which represents the sum invested in bonds of the Caja Hipotecaria, pursuant to Article V of the law of July 31, 1898. This deduction will leave an available balance for the current year of \$114,688,790.11. The Minister agreed with the estimate of expenses already incurred or to be incurred, in the sum of \$104,576,193.15. Deducting this sum from the preceding amount, there remains a balance of \$10,112,597.00.

This, then, is the available balance, but the Minister also agreed with the Committee in that a great part of this surplus would be absorbed by the expenditures required for the repair of the damages caused by the late floods to railway lines, bridges and roads, and the Valparaíso breakwater. According to the information, still very sparse, which the Government was able to obtain in the premises, the repair of the damages suffered by the State railways will require the expenditure of \$2,500,000, and this only including the reconstruction of temporary bridges. For the repair of roads and bridges on highways, Congress has been asked to appropriate the sum of \$450,000, which will probably have to be increased to \$500,000. From the reports just received from the Commission charged with making the estimates of the cost to repair the Valparaíso breakwater, the work will require the expenditure of from \$300,000 to \$400,000. In the aggregate the several works referred to will involve a minimum expenditure of \$3,300,000. There are, besides, now before Congress several projects calling for special disbursements, which may involve the extraordinary expenditure of from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000.

The Minister, for the reasons cited, deemed it imprudent to fix the available surplus for the present year at a figure greater than \$4,000,000. This amount added to the \$109,749,949, at which the receipts for the

¹ All the amounts mentioned are in Chilean currency. Some items in the appropriation bill are in gold, which is reduced to the domestic currency by adding 10 per cent.

coming year are estimated by the Committee, there would be an available total of \$113,749,949. The estimate for expenditures for 1900, with the modifications introduced by the Committee, amount to the sum of \$104,169,611, being \$93,967 less than the executive estimates. "Although the difference between the receipts and expenditures, according to these figures, gives a surplus of \$9,586,338, I concur with the Committee in the advisability of exercising every possible economy in the public expenses. The experience of the present year is sufficient to show us that in the extraordinary demands of the public service, or in expenditures authorized by special laws, there may be consumed, outside the estimates, amounts equal to that represented by the estimated surplus for the coming year. Nor would it be prudent, moreover, to rely upon a considerable increase in the revenues growing out of the export duty on nitrates, since the producers continue bent on reorganizing the nitrate trust, in order to limit the production and prevent the persistent falling off in the price of this article noticeable for several years, to the serious injury of the industry."

COMMERCIAL HOUSES HANDLING TEXTILE FABRICS.

A French consular report contains the following list of houses engaged in the trade of textile fabrics in Chile, with the observations of the writer on the methods of conducting business in that country:

Name.	Location.	Name.	Location.
Aguir & Lohrinos	Valparaiso, Santiago, and Concepcion.	John Melrose & Co ...	Santiago.
Bettely & Co.	Valparaiso and Santiago.	Gleisner & Co.	Concepcion.
Miguel Carilon & Co. .	Valparaiso.	Francisco Garcia & Co.	Iquique.
Commenz & Metz.	Do.	Prudencia Ochoa & Co.	Do.
Pra & Co.	Valparaiso and Santiago.	A. Brenner & Co. 2. . . .	Do.
James Goode.	Valparaiso.	Alejandro Visacher & Co.	Antofagasta, Arica, and Mollendo.
Ciriaco Sauz.	Do.	Dauelsberg, Schubering & Co.	Do.
E. Curphey.	Do.	Aramayo Francke & Co.	Do.
Simon & Co.	Valparaiso and Santiago.	Virgilio, Barron y Hadjia.	Coquimbo.
Gunther, Vehrens & Co.	Do.	Ernesto Muzac.	Do.
Felimer & Co.	Do.	Palassié & Lesté y Devès & Co.	Valparaiso.
Jouve & Gorlier.	Do.		
Ernesto Muzac.	Do.		
Biant Hermanos.	Santiago.		

The large importing houses are in general foreign firms having associates or correspondents in Europe who do the buying. Consequently business with these houses is done through the medium of agents in Paris or in other European places. Thus the manufacturer is not obliged to deal directly with the importing house in Chile.

When business is transacted on the spot through the medium of an agent or representative it is with houses of lesser importance. The manufacturer can make out drafts on these houses and have them accepted; but it must be remarked that the retail houses in Chile are obliged to grant excessively long terms of credit, and consequently are in their turn obliged to ask the manufacturers for correspondingly long delays in payment. For business concluded on the spot it is not

always practicable to make drafts; the buyer usually simply signs renewable "pajarès" (bills payable at sight).

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION OF NITRATES.

According to the latest reports furnished the Bureau by the Chilean Legation in Washington, the statistics of production and exports of nitrates up to the end of October, 1899, are as follows:

Total production from January to June, 656,116 tons; from July to September, 353,738 tons; October, 128,772 tons; total, 1,138,626 tons.

Exports to Europe.—January to June, 482,314 tons; July to September, 268,644 tons; October, 166,545 tons; total, 917,503 tons.

Exports to the United States.—January to June, 62,293 tons; July to September, 52,918 tons; October, 10,454 tons; total, 125,665 tons.

Exports to other countries.—January to June, 13,863 tons; July to September, 5,922 tons; October, 1,091 tons; total, 20,876 tons.

Total exports amounted to 1,064,044 tons. In November there were loaded for Europe 109,091 tons; for the United States, 6,682 tons, and for other destinations, 2,136 tons, making a total of 117,909 tons. The deliveries in Europe from January to June were, in tons, 854,830; from July to September, 164,010, and in October, 32,160, making a total of 1,051,000 tons. The visible supply in Europe on November 1, stocks and afloat, was 568,340 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the "Südamerikanische Rundschau," an attempt is to be made to popularize Chilean wine in Europe. A committee of wine growers has been formed to work in cooperation with English and Scotch firms with the object of first making a market for the product in Great Britain. The Chilean wine is said to resemble in taste and character the Bordeaux and Burgundy grades. The price of the medium grades of table wines is low enough, viz, 18 to 19 shillings per dozen bottles, and the parties who have undertaken the business are possessed of sufficient capital to push it to the utmost. It is stated that the competition will have less effect upon the German than upon the French wines.

A French syndicate has purchased copper mines in the Province of Aconcagua, the price being 1,200,000 francs. Further purchases of copper mines have been made by EUGENE CHOUTEAU and the Sociedad de Minas de Cobre de Catemu has secured the copper works at Melon, in the Department of Quillota, that of Los Arados in Salado, Department of Putaendo, as well as the estate of Nilhue and the mines belonging thereto. A Belgian syndicate, with a capital of 5,000,000 francs, is reported to intend to work the mines in the Maipo territory. New copper mines have been discovered in the Province of Santiago.

Señor Don ERNESTO THOMAS, of Santiago, has been appointed Chilean delegate to the Pan-American Exposition to be held in Buffalo, New York, in 1901.

The customs receipts from January to October, 1899, exceeded by 1,587,083 pesos those for the same period of last year.

The Republic of Ecuador sent \$15,000 to assist the sufferers by the inundations in Chile.

COLOMBIA.

REPORT ON THE PANAMA CANAL.

The new Panama Canal Company, according to "Las Novedades," of New York, for December 7, last, has received the report of a commission of engineers who had been charged with the inspection of the works on the canal. The report states that the works and material furnished by the former company are in a good state of preservation. The new plans adopted involve the excavating of about 24,700,000 cubic meters of earth, of which 12,200,000 are at the Culebra Mountain. There are at present 3,000 laborers employed, which number it will be necessary to increase during the first year to 5,000, and during the period of greatest activity it will increase to 16,000. During the ten years which the work will take, there will be an average of 16,000 laborers employed. The estimates are as follows: For excavating work, \$68,400,000; for constructing locks, \$27,400,000; total expenses of all kinds, \$102,400,000. The commission considers the Panama route as preferable to that in Nicaragua, as the latter is in a volcanic center subject to earthquakes like those which have several times destroyed the cities of León and Granada.

THE NEW MINISTER TO CHILE.

The principal newspaper at Valparaiso, "El Mercurio," recently published a complimentary editorial with reference to the appointment of Señor CLÍMACO GÓMEZ VALDES as Minister of the Colombian Government at Santiago, Chile. The article was due not only to the fact that since 1893 the Colombian legation had been left without an incumbent, for some unexplained motive, but also to the reputation acquired in countries along the South Pacific coast by the newly appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Señor VALDES has already occupied some secondary diplomatic posts, and resided for some years at Santiago as Secretary of the Legation of his country. Since retiring from that position he has been more prominently known as the partner of a great commercial concern at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and as the founder of the "Banco del Ecuador."

COSTA RICA.

NEW PROBATE TAX.

From San José, under date of September 27, 1899, the British Consul sent his Government a translation of Decree No. 4, of September 18, which placed a probate tax for beneficiary purposes on the estates both of foreigners and natives of the Republic.

Article 1 of this decree provides that all estates of persons dying testate or intestate, whether Costa Ricans or foreigners, will be required to pay a probate tax when the net capital exceeds \$500, Costa Rican currency. By net capital is understood the value of the estate as per inventory after the funeral expenses and proved debts have been deducted.

By article 2 the tax will be 1 per cent on capitals not exceeding \$50,000 and one-half of 1 per cent upon any sum in excess of that amount.

The tax will be double when the heirs are not in the direct line of ascent or descent, nor husband or wife of the testator. The tax will be paid at the capital of the Province or county where the testator last resided, without regard to the situation of the estate.

Article 5 enacts that the tax must be paid within six months, counting from the date of the testator's death. Those who do not pay the tax within that time will be subject to a fine of 2 per cent a month on the amount of the tax for the time overdue.

This law repeals and abrogates all former laws establishing forced legacies for beneficiary purposes, and comes into force on the date of its publication—September 18, 1899.

The decree also provided that the estates which up to the date of the new decree had not paid the tax established by previous laws should have three months in which to pay in accordance with the tariffs and subject to the penalties fixed by such laws. Nevertheless, should this time pass without payment being made, they will become subject to the fine of 2 per cent a month upon the amount of the tax established by the present law.

CLEARANCES OF MERCHANDISE IN TRANSIT AT PORT LIMON.

In the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1899, reference was made to the enactment of a law for the clearance from the custom-house in Limon of merchandise in transit for the Provinces of Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia. The Presidential decree containing regulations for such clearances is as follows:

"ARTICLE 1. The petitions presented to the administrator of the Custom-House in Limon for the clearance of merchandise referred to

Bull. No. 6—3

by said law must state the destination of such merchandise, in addition to other details required by the law.

"ART. 2. The consignee or owner of said merchandise must, within three days after the clearance of merchandise, present to the administrator of said Custom-House the original bill of lading issued by the railway company, specifying that the merchandise has been received by it for transportation to destination mentioned on the application for clearance. The bill of lading must specify marks, numbers, gross weight, and general contents of the packages.

"ART. 3. If the bill of lading issued by the railway company is not delivered in the specified time, the custom-house officers will charge tariff duties at the same rate as if the merchandise were for consumption in the Province of Limon, in accordance with decree of June 16, 1899.

"ART. 4. If the contents marked on the bill of lading do not exactly agree with those of the petition, the penalty as per previous article will be applied on all items in the petition not mentioned on the bill of lading, and on those differently specified.

"ART. 5. To permit the clearance of merchandise referred to in this decree, it is necessary that the amount deposited with the Treasury as per ordinance of January 14, 1899, should not only be enough to cover the amount of duties on said merchandise, but the 5 per cent extra, established by the law of July 16, 1899.

"ART. 6. A register book will be kept in the custom-house, in which will be recorded all details of petitions. On the margin of each entry will be noted the number of the bill of lading, the date, and the name of railway company's employee who signed it."

TAX ON RAILWAY TICKETS.

According to the report of the British Consul at San José, a Presidential decree has been issued establishing a tax on all tickets issued by any railway company.

This tax of 5 cents each on all passenger tickets up to the value of \$2, and 10 cents each on all such tickets above \$2 in value, was to have come into force on October 15, 1899.

MACHINERY WANTED.

The import firm of SANTIAGO FERNÁNDEZ, at San José de Costa Rica, Central America, is desirous of prices on machinery for a complete plant to manufacture starch from yucca, corn, and rice.

ECUADOR.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT GUAYAQUIL.

According to a news cablegram, on November 27, 1899, the city of Guayaquil was visited by a great conflagration, which destroyed property to the value of more than 1,500,000 sucres. Among the buildings destroyed were the theater block, San José Church, the Customs-House with all its contents, the College of San Vicente, together with the Astronomical Observatory, Museum of Natural History, Bureau of Physics and Chemistry, a valuable library, a printing establishment, and some private houses. The fire was also attended by loss of life and injury to firemen.

GUATEMALA.

INCREASED CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Writing from Guatemala on November 29, 1899, Vice-Consul JOHN JAMES states that on October 20 a decree was issued by the President of the Republic imposing an export duty on the following articles: Bananas, 10 cents; cleaned coffee, per 100 pounds, \$1; rubber, gross weight, per 100 pounds, \$10; hides, each, 50 cents; deer and sheep skins, per 100 pounds, gross weight, \$3. From other sources it is reported that as a consequence of the banana tax the planters have, to a considerable extent, stopped cutting and shipping the fruit. Several United States steamers have been compelled, therefore, to return to their home ports with only partial cargoes. It is thought that the imposition of this duty will be only temporary.

FOREIGN LOAN.

According to the statement of the Guatemalan Consul at Hamburg, Germany, the Republic has been successful in contracting a foreign loan of \$15,000,000.

HAITI.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received the general report of the different Cabinet Officers of Haiti on the situation of the Republic for 1899. The report is prefaced by a message from the President to Congress in which he deplors the financial situation, which has almost paralyzed the different branches of the public service, however,

he is hopeful that the different financial propositions now under consideration will soon bring an end to the present grave condition of affairs. He expresses his gratification on the fact that the political situation at home and abroad is all that could be desired, and that the country is only awaiting the solution of the financial crisis to take the place which nature designed it to occupy among the civilized nations of the world.

The Secretary of State, Mr. B. ST. CROIX, in his report on Foreign Relations, dwells upon the cordial relations existing between the Republic and the different foreign powers, especially with France, which recently, with great solemnity, conferred upon the President of the Republic and its Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris, respectively, the high dignity of commander and officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

The Secretary reviews at length the case of the United States citizen, Mr. JOHN D. METZGER, who is reported to have refused to submit to the regulations governing the employment of foreign workmen. This case, which has been under discussion for a considerable time, has at last been submitted to arbitration, and the Government hopes to be able to soon close the incident, thus enabling the two countries to cultivate sentiments of sincere friendship, in which they are so ably seconded by the American Minister, Mr. W. F. POWELL, and the Haitian Minister, Mr. J. N. LÉGER, at Washington.

The important question of the frontier limits with the Dominican Republic promises soon to be settled satisfactorily, as the interview between the Presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which took place at Môle Saint Nicholas the 28th of May, happily ended in a convention tending to regulate the question of the delimitation of the frontiers to the general satisfaction of the parties interested.

The report of the Minister of the Treasury shows the grave state of the finances of Haiti.

The revenues from the imports for the first quarter of 1897-98 only reached 1,104,452.48 gourdes. The duties collected during the corresponding quarter of the fiscal year 1898-99 amounted to 759,489.92 gourdes, a decrease of 344,962.56 gourdes.

Regarding the receipts from exports, a comparison of the amounts collected in gold during the first two quarters for the years 1897-99 shows an increase of 67,337.87 gourdes American gold.

During the first quarter this year the following loans (Haitian gold currency) were contracted:

October 17, 1898, \$200,000; October 31, 1898, \$314,769; December 16, 1898, \$600,000; February 3, 1899, \$125,000; February 21, 1899, \$300,000, and March 8, 1899, \$65,000.

Three-fourths of the import duties are to be applied to the payment of the loan of December 16. The other loans, the total of which has been converted into American gold, are covered by the gold receipts and will, in all probability, be liquidated within a year or eighteen months.

The Government is bending every effort toward a solution of the financial question, and to this end the President has delegated the Chief of the Treasury to go to Paris to discuss different financial propositions which have been submitted to the French Government.

One great cause of the distressed commercial situation is found in the defective monetary system.

In view of the constant decrease in the price of coffee, due, not as was first generally supposed, to speculation, but to overproduction, the advisability of calling a meeting of the coffee-producing countries to consider the question of decreasing the production is under consideration. Whatever may be the result of this conference, the remedy proposed can only take effect at some distant time.

Cocoa, which still obtains very remunerative prices, might have compensated in a certain measure for the fall in the price of coffee had the cultivation of this product been more advanced. Last year the crop yielded 4,032,736 pounds, almost double the crop for 1897.

The product which has suffered the most from competition is log-wood. It depreciates from day to day, and aniline, whose use in the dyeing industry is becoming more general, threatens to force it entirely out of the market. In less than five years the quantity exported has fallen from 142,015,972 pounds to 64,473,588 pounds.

The imports are distributed as follows, in paper gourdes:

United States.....	2, 633, 191. 91
France.....	490, 509. 39
England.....	325, 441. 73
Germany.....	272, 906. 84
Other countries.....	221, 735. 87

The exports to the United States alone show a decrease of 755,871 gourdes (paper), and of 856,796.95 gourdes in the imports compared with the figures for the year 1897. This meant a loss in shipping of 35,704 tons.

In spite of the gravity of the situation, for which no immediate relief is promised, the Minister urges the people not to become discouraged but to bend their efforts toward agriculture, thus increasing the number of products of the country and bring about a revival in trade.

The most important of the public works is the building of the first railroad from Cape Haitian to the Grande Rivier du Nord. For over twenty years this important question has occupied the minds of the people, and now its realization is promised. Many local works of importance and utility are being undertaken or agitated, such as the development of the mines, building and repairing of docks, bridges, breakwaters, etc.

COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT IN 1898.

According to an English Consular Report, the financial situation of the country has been extremely bad on account of the decrease in the

price of coffee in the European and American markets. The export duty on coffee of \$3.87 per 100 pounds is considered almost prohibitive. This duty can not be modified, forming, as it does, the guarantee for several interior debts. The owners of small coffee plantations are thinking of abandoning the cultivation of coffee and replacing the same by other plants—bananas, yams, etc. The Government has tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a loan abroad. It has increased the import duties 25 per cent in order to take up, with the revenue derived from this source, the paper money now in circulation. A French establishment, La Banque Nationale d'Haiti, has offered to regulate the financial situation brought about by the very high rate of exchange.

The exports have consisted of coffee, logwood, cocoa, cotton, mahogany, honey, wax, etc. The low price of coffee in Europe and America has caused a company to attempt the cultivation of tobacco. The machinery for the preparation of coffee and for the sugar-cane factories come from England, and is exempt from all duty. The empty bags for the export of the products of the country come from France and Holland. The natives are now cultivating rice, which was formerly imported from Rangoon and Patna via Hamburg and Antwerp.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

Writing from Port au Prince, under date of November 17, 1899, Hon. W. F. POWELL, United States Minister to Haiti, informs the Department of State at Washington that the Cameron Steamship Company has instituted a weekly service between New York and Haitian ports. The new vessels are rated at 14 knots per hour.

HONDURAS.

PRODUCTION OF BANANAS.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted to Señor DON SERVIO TULIO ROMERO, of Omoa, Honduras, for a circular issued by the Agrarian Guild of that district, on November 25, 1899. This district, lying between the banks of the Tulián River and the Motagna Bar, is, par excellence, the home of the banana. Its fruit trade with New Orleans is daily increasing, the circular stating that vessels find good anchorage in calm waters at the bar, and that the fruit may be sent on the very day it is ordered and loaded without delay. The Guild contends that the position of this part of the northern coast of Honduras is so advantageous that its banana plantations, despite the strong winds which at times blow, do not suffer as much as those in other parts, such as Ceibeá, Choloma, San Pedro Sula, etc. The price paid per bunch for bananas during the past season has been 5½ reals (about 24 cents), under a contract with Mr. W. E. ALGER, of Puerto Cortéz, which contract will ex-

pire on the last of this month. Upon the expiration of this contract, the circular states, other gentlemen will enter into competition, which, it is expected, will raise the price of the fruit for the harvesters. From January of this year up to November a little more than 200,000 bunches of bananas have been exported from Omoa. The Guild congratulates itself upon the fact that a telegraph line will soon unite Motagua to their port, and thence with all the world.

MEXICO.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH CHINA.

For some time past the Ambassador of the United Mexican States at Washington and the Minister of the Chinese Empire, Mr. WU TING-FANG, have been engaged in the negotiation of a treaty of amity and commerce, which will be concluded and signed in a few days. This convention has the double importance of being the first that was ever negotiated between the two countries and that its articles assure great advantages to the two contracting parties. By the terms of the treaty Mexico will enjoy the benefits of the "most-favored-nation" clause, and her products will hereafter have access to the Chinese market with duties no higher than those charged any other nation. She also obtains extraterritorial rights in the Empire. Another by no means slight advantage is the entry of Mexican trade into Chinese ports open to universal commerce through treaty, into which ports Mexico has heretofore entered only by sufferance, in the absence of direct relations between the two Governments. China, on the other hand, secures rights in Mexican territory. There are quite a number of Chinese subjects in Mexico who heretofore have lacked the protection vouchsafed by treaty and guaranteed to Consuls and diplomatic representatives. It also reciprocally enjoys the privilege of the "most favored nation." The treaty once signed, each nation will name Ministers and Consuls in the other. The treaty is in the English language, which has caused considerable surprise on the part of several prominent Mexican newspapers, who forget that the diplomatic language of China is the English, and not the French.

HISTORY OF THE VERA CRUZ RAILWAY.

"El Economista Mexicana" for November 4, 1899, contains a history of the Mexican Railroad, commonly known as the Vera Cruz Railway. This was the first railway line built in Mexico, and connects the principal seaport of Vera Cruz with the capital of the country. The first concession for this road was granted on August 22, 1837, to Don FRANCISCO ARRILLAGA, who, having failed to construct the line within the stipulated time, forfeited his concession. On March 31, 1842,

President SANTA ANA issued a decree ordering the construction of a railroad from the port of Vera Cruz to the San Juan River, and established an additional duty of 2 per cent upon imports through the said port, in order to meet the expenses of construction. This was intrusted to Don JOSÉ FAURE, under the supervision of Don ANTONIO DE GARAY, then Minister of the Treasury. Señor FAURE having died while engaged in an inspection of the work, the latter was continued by others as far as Molino, a little more than 8 miles from Vera Cruz, and in 1851 it reached San Juan, the total length of line being about 16½ miles. This section of the line was opened to the public service on September 16, 1850, with animal traction. It was, in fact, only a tramway, but it was later absorbed by the Vera Cruz and Mexican Railway.

This was the first occasion upon which the independence of Mexico was celebrated by the inauguration of a railroad. The second concession for a railroad direct from Vera Cruz to Puebla and Mexico was granted on October 13, 1853, by President SANTA ANA to Mr. JOHN LAURIE RICHARDS, an Englishman, who had resided in the country for a long time. Mr. RICHARDS having failed to organize a company in London within the stipulated time, the forfeiture of the concession was declared by decree of August 2, 1855. On this same date the brothers MOSSO obtained the exclusive right to build a railroad from San Juan, in Vera Cruz, to Acapulco, touching en route at Puebla and Mexico, which was in reality the continuation of the line from Vera Cruz to San Juan, and at the same time the second concession was granted for an interoceanic railroad uniting the Atlantic and the Pacific, the first having been made to Señor DE GARAY on March 1, 1842, for a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to connect the said oceans.

On October 29, 1856, the brothers MOSSO assigned their concessions to Don ANTONIO ESCANDÓN, a prominent capitalist of the City of Mexico, associated with leading English capitalists, who at once began the work of organization. On August 2, 1857, President COMONFORT created a fund of 8,000,000 pesos to be represented by a special issue of bonds, payable within fifty years, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. On August 31, 1857, President COMONFORT issued a decree granting a direct concession to Don ANTONIO ESCANDÓN for the construction and operation of a road from Vera Cruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, to Acapulco or any other port he might select on the Pacific, and consolidating this concession with that granted the MOSSO brothers in 1855 and assigned to Señor ESCANDÓN in 1856. The line was to be that which the surveys of the engineers should prove to be the most advisable, touching all the great cities, such as Puebla, Querétaro, and Guadalajara, and traversing the most important agricultural and mining lands. The greatest obligation assumed by Señor ESCANDÓN was to have ready within the term of six years at least

some 82 miles for operation, of which 69 miles were to run from Vera Cruz toward the capital and the other 13 miles from the latter city toward the port. A failure to carry out this obligation incurred a fine of \$150,000, which Señor ESCANDÓN had to guarantee within fifteen days, reckoned from the date of the concession.

The construction works from Mexico to Guadalupe were under the direction of Maj. ROBERT B. GORSUCH, as chief engineer on the part of Señor ESCANDÓN, who bought from the Government the line from Vera Cruz to San Juan (about 16½ miles) for the sum of \$750,000. The survey of the line from Vera Cruz toward the capital also began in the year 1857, under the direction of Colonel TALCOTT, assisted by the American engineers, Messrs. WIMMER, EVERY, and LYONS. In 1861 BENITO JUÁREZ granted Señor ESCANDÓN a ratification of his contract with some modifications. The new concession was published in a decree of April 5, 1861. One of the modifications was that the concessionary must terminate the line between the cities of Puebla and Mexico without regard to the section constructed from Vera Cruz, and a fund of 8,000,000 pesos was apportioned. The Imperial Government next ensued, and in place of Presidential decrees we have those of an Emperor. Señor ESCANDÓN succeeded in organizing in London a company to take charge of the construction of the road and accept the concession, which company was called the Imperial Mexican Company, and the contract of cession was signed in London on August 19, 1864. The road was then to be called "The Imperial Railway of Mexico." On January 26, 1865, Emperor MAXIMILIAN issued a decree recognizing the ESCANDÓN contracts of 1857 and 1861 and the assignment to the Imperial Mexican Company. On the same date another imperial decree ordered the payment to the company of 15 per cent of the import duties collected.

In 1867 the empire died and the Republic was restored. The latter declared that all concessions made by the empire were null and void. Pursuant to said declaration, the Imperial Mexican Company lost its contract, there being then constructed the line from Vera Cruz to Paso de Macho, a length of 47 miles, and from Mexico to Apizico, 87 miles. On November 27, 1867, President JUAREZ issued a decree absolving the company from the fine it had incurred and returning its concessions of 1857 and 1861, with certain modifications. Certain articles of this decree were modified by the enactment of the Federal Congress of November 11, 1868, and both decrees were then recognized and constituted the new concession to the Mexico and Vera Cruz Railroad, under which it to-day exists with very slight changes. By the act of Congress the Government was to pay the company the sum of \$560,000 per annum for twenty years as a subvention.

On April 10, 1869, Mr. WILLIAM BARRON, the then representative of the London company, delivered to the Department of Promotion the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the new organization, which

had adopted the name of the Mexican Railway Company, Limited, which is still preserved. SMITH, KNIGHT & Co., of London, were given the contract for the construction of the whole line and the repair of those sections already built which needed it, for the sum of £5,239,120. About September, 1869, the work began actively and was prosecuted with vigor, despite the many obstacles which beset it due to the disturbed condition of the country: and on September 16, 1869, the line from Mexico to Puebla, a distance of 116 miles, was formally inaugurated. In 1870 the principal section from Vera Cruz to Atoyac, 53 miles in length, was open to public service. December, 1871, saw the 18 miles between this point and Córdoba finished. On September 16, 1872, 11 more miles had been completed, bringing the line to Orizaba, making a total distance from Vera Cruz of 82 miles. In December, 1872, the line reached Apizaco and connected there with the line from Mexico, making a total of 263 miles. Including the branch from Apizaco to Puebla, approximately, 29 miles long, the total length of the line was 292 miles. The formal and official inauguration of these 292 miles took place on January 1, 1873, when President LERDO DE TEJADA made the first trip on a railroad.

The first concession having been granted in 1837, and the line having been concluded and inaugurated in 1873, shows that thirty-seven years was the time necessary to place the capital of the Republic in communication with its principal seaport. During this period of time the country was successively governed by forty Presidents, four Regents, and one Emperor. The cost of the road is stated to have been \$42,000,000, including the amount paid by the Government as a subsidy. On May 1, 1899, the company secured a concession without subvention to run a branch line from Ometusco Station to Pachuca, 28 miles distant. The total length of the main line and branches now operated by the company is 320 miles. The last financial statistics relating to the Mexican Railway Company, published by the Government, make the following showing:

Floating debt	\$27, 830, 300
Stock issued	29, 103, 900
Bonds issued	10, 000, 000
Total capital in stocks and bonds	39, 103, 900
Subvention paid by the Government to the company in cash.....	11, 000, 000

COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Vice-Consul of Mexico at Pascagoula, Mississippi, reports that during the month of November the only exports to his country were 384,168 superficial feet of pitch-pine lumber, valued at \$3,841.68. There were no imports.

The Consul of Mexico at Nogales, Arizona, reports that the exports to the State of Sonora during the month of October through the custom-house of Nogales, Mexico, amounted in value to \$132,336, of which \$102,658 were from the United States. The amount of duties

collected was \$58,311.17. The imports from Mexico to the United States amounted to \$336,077.

The Consul-General of Mexico at San Francisco, California, writes that the imports from Mexico to the United States through the San Francisco custom-house for the month of October were as follows: Merchandise, \$25,596; metals, \$216,301; total, \$241,897. During the same period there were exported United States articles to the value of \$198,013 and foreign merchandise to the value of \$2,896; also Mexican pesos sent to Hongkong to the value of \$19,816, making a total of \$220,725.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, California, says that the exports to Mexico through his district during the month of October last were 4,528 packages, valued at \$8,466.50. The imports into the United States were valued at \$10,328.

The Consulate-General of Mexico in New York reports that in the month of October last the imports from Mexico were as follows: Henequén, 2,615 bales; coffee, 8,062 bags; hides, 1,688 bundles; hides, loose, 3,018; ixtle fiber, 2,646 packages; goatskins, 575 bundles; deerskins, 274 bundles; rubber, 153 bales; tobacco, leaf, 151 bales; cigars, 176 boxes; broom root, 1,145 bales; chicle gum, 1,324 bales; fastete dye-wood, 4,126 logs; hair, 25 bales; lead, 84,631 bars; metals, 163 boxes; ore, 21,612 packages; sarsaparilla, 298 bales; vanilla, 19 boxes; alligator skins, 142; hevon plumes, 1 box; bones, 815 packages; honey, 266 barrels; cedar, 1,589 logs; mahogany, 1,838 logs; jalap, 4 sacks; copper, 19,859 bars.

The entrances of vessels from Mexican ports into the port of New York during the same month were as follows: Twenty-six steamships, with a total cargo of 159,319 packages. The clearances from New York to Mexican ports were 32 steamships, carrying 112,392 packages.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILROAD IN SONORA.

The Government of Mexico has entered into a contract with Mr. EDWARD VAN BUREN HOES for the construction of a railroad in Sonora. The contract is drawn on the lines of the new railroad law of April 29, 1899, and under its terms the concessionary of the company or companies he may organize may construct and operate the road for a period of ninety-nine years, from the port of Guaymas to the Villa de San Marcial. Work is to be commenced on the line within twelve months. The gauge is to be 1 meter and 44 centimeters between rails. Steam or electrical traction is to be used. The principal office of the company is to be in the city of Guaymas. The passenger fares per kilometer are to be as follows: First class, 3 cents; second class, 2 cents; third class, 1½ cents. The freight tariffs per kilometer per ton are to be: First class, 15 cents; second class, 12 cents; third class, 10 cents; fourth class, 8 cents; fifth class, 7 cents; sixth class, 6 cents. The company is to deposit 12,000 pesos in the general treasury of the Federa-

tion, in bonds of the consolidated national debt, as a guaranty for the faithful performance of the obligations assumed by the contract.

NEW FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION.

A new corporation has recently been formed in the City of Mexico under the style and title of the "Compañía Banquera Anglo-Mexicana, S. A.," with a capital of \$1,000,000, to engage in financial operations. The purpose of the new corporation is to look over the Mexican business field from an agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial standpoint, and report the results to a London syndicate, which is to work in unison with the company; to secure contracts, concessions, and franchises of all kinds, either from the General Government, State, or municipal governments, for itself or for its clients; to organize new businesses or reorganize existing concerns; to purchase and sell all kinds of Mexican shares, bonds, or securities; to enter into contracts for the sale or purchase of agricultural, industrial, and mineral properties; to make loans and discounts for itself or for others; to act as experts in all commercial and legal matters affecting property; to manage the business of companies, commercial associations, or private individuals; to act as executors or as administrators and trustees; to act as agents of foreign companies or individuals in securing the registration of trade-marks, patents, or mortgages; in a word, to undertake all the business of a commission banking house.

THE MEXICO, CUERNAVACA AND PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The concession to the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway, dated December 31, 1895, and modified on March 18, 1897, has been recently again modified in two or three of its articles. According to the first article of the original concession, the principal route was to run from the city of Mexico to Cuernavaca, and then, following the Las Balsas River, to touch at Organal, or some other convenient point, to meet the line of the Inguarán Railway Company, and follow this line to the port of Zihuantanjo, and thence, should it suit the company, to go to Acapulco, with the further obligation to construct a branch line from the most convenient point on the main artery to Chilpancingo. The modification which has been made is to the effect that if within the term of five years the railroad from Organal to Zihuantanjo, to which the concession granted the Inguarán Railroad, of September 14, 1898, refers, should not be constructed, the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway is bound to construct the said line. In case the former company should build the railroad mentioned, the latter company shall have the right to construct a line between the points mentioned, should it suit their interests. In view of the greater length that the new line will have along the Balsas River to Organal, with the branch to Chilpancingo, the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway, instead of 60

kilometers, will have to deliver to the Government 100 kilometers every two years. The construction of the Chilpancingo branch is to commence six months after the initiation of the work on the main line, the company being bound to construct 1 kilometer on the branch for every section of 4 kilometers in length built on the line from the Balsas River to Organal, in the understanding that by June 30, 1906, the main and branch lines shall be completed.

FUTURE OF THE STATE OF SONORA.

A recent number of "El Tráfico," of Guaymas, Sonora, contains an article relating to the future of that State when the United States shall have definitely annexed the Philippine Archipelago. The article is to the effect that for Sonora, especially for Guaymas, the annexation of the Philippines to the United States will work an inestimable benefit; for it is logical to deduct that as the commercial development achieved by the State of California enhances that obtained by the Pacific coast of Mexico will be proportionately greater; for while the Mexican Central States maintain an active trade with Kansas City and St. Louis, that of Sonora and Sinaloa is exclusively with San Francisco, and the commercial expansion of this metropolis will increase the volume of their transactions. The article adds: "Neither ought we to fear the competition of the Philippines, for the products of the Orient differ in nature from our own. From Manila there will be imported to San Francisco textile fibers, tobacco, and sugar, articles which our State does not produce in sufficient quantity for export. Hence the products of Sonora will continue firm in the markets of California, and the probabilities are that they will be more in demand. In the far-off Archipelago there are no beef cattle, and at present the beef consumed in Manila is sent from Australia in refrigerators. A San Francisco newspaper, commenting upon this food problem, said the other day that it would be more feasible and economical to ship cattle at Guaymas or Acapulco for the Philippines, since the transports now crossing the Pacific to the Orient can easily and comfortably carry a thousand head of cattle. The military authorities in San Francisco have sent a suggestion to Washington to this effect, requesting that the experiment be made.

"The scene of great commercial activity is passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and Sonora, advantageously situated in a zone bathed by the latter ocean, should redouble her energies so as to become an eminently productive State—the first of the Mexican States on the Pacific coast. Horned cattle and sheep are destined to figure as a most essential factor in this movement, for beef and mutton, with the increase of the population and the requirements of modern life will become articles most in demand. The prices of wool have gone up so much that some factories in the United States have been closed for want of the raw material. So that no State offers greater advantages than ours for the development of the live-stock industry, for we have

more than enough territory to establish enormous breeding farms and to supply the Pacific coast of the United States with beef and wool. When Spain possessed the Philippines the trade of the Archipelago was wholly in the hands of Spaniards, for the Madrid Government imposed prohibitive tariffs on all products that were not Iberian, closing the doors of the islands to foreign trade. But now it is different as the customs duties are equal and impartial, a reform which will permit us to expand our sphere of commercial action."

MEXICAN EXPLOITATION COMPANY

One of the new enterprises started by United States capital in Mexico is that of the Monterey Mexican Exploitation Company. This company originated after a close study of the situation in regard to investments in that Republic. Briefly, the question was this: Mexico, by its firmly established government, is now demanding development; development offers good chances for investment; if only for geographical reasons, this investment is coming largely from the United States; investigation of investment propositions in Mexico, be they commercial, engineering, or legal, made by northern experts is precarious, on account of the difference in language, customs, economic conditions, and laws, and has led and will lead to serious blunders. The idea evolved from this situation was that there is a field, and an increasing field, for responsible and competent investigation of such question by men on the ground, thoroughly conversant with the language, the laws, and the situation.

This company was therefore incorporated last February, under the laws of the State of New Jersey, to do a general investment and brokerage business in municipal improvements, mines, irrigation, waterworks, and industrial propositions throughout the Republic. It is prepared to make technical, business, and financial reports. It has as its attorney Mr. WILLIAM A. McLAREN, of Monterey (author of an article for the MONTHLY BULLETIN for January, 1899, pp. 1180-82, on the "Commercial Possibilities of Northern Mexico"), whose speciality of Mexican law enables the company to satisfy itself in passing upon the all-essential question in Mexico of titles connected with the various enterprises under examination, either for itself or for its clientele. The officers of the company are: Mr. F. W. BLEES, of Macon, Missouri, President; Mr. R. O. BABBITT, of Jersey City, New Jersey, Vice-President, and Mr. H. E. TUTTLE, of Monterey, Secretary and Treasurer.

THE CHICLE TREE AND ITS FRUIT.

The base of most of the chewing gums manufactured in the United States is the "gum chicle" produced in Mexico. This tree (*Achras sapota*) is esteemed in some countries for the fruit it bears. The Royal Botanical Gardens of Ceylon, in a circular issued in June, 1899, describes it as follows: "A small symmetrical tree with shining dark-green leaves,

and a native of tropical America. The fruit is globular, with tender dark-brown rind. When at its maturity it is considered one of the most luscious of tropical fruits, the pulp being sweet and refreshing and somewhat of the consistency of a pear. In India (where it has been transplanted) it is often sold under the name of 'mangoesteem.' The season of fruit bearing is from November to February. It thrives in the low country and up to the height of 1,000 feet, in deep and well-drained soil. It is propagated from the seed and by layering. This fruit is also known as the 'sapodilla plum' and 'naseberry.'"

TARIFF CHANGES.

According to the report of the British Foreign Office, the following are new classifications of goods for duty under the Mexican customs tariff:

Waste pieces or scraps of cork, free; curtains formed of strings of beads made out of paste of rice (even when formed partly of bamboo and wood), per legal kilo, 40 centavos; waste pieces or scraps of copper, brass, bronze, or white metal, per gross kilo, 10 centavos; vitrified wool or cotton, per gross kilo, 3 centavos; seed of india-rubber plant, free.

PAVING OF MEXICO CITY.—AWARDING OF IMPORTANT CONTRACT.

The Municipal Council of the City of Mexico has just published a notice announcing that the paving of all the streets of the city is to be awarded by contract. After the completion of this work the contractor must pledge himself to maintain the paving in good condition during a period of ten years. The tenders, which must be presented under seal, are to be addressed to the Secretary of the Municipality within the four months following the publication of the notice dated October 14, 1899.

The contractor to whom the award is made must deposit a guaranty under one of the following forms:

- (1) One hundred thousand dollars, in money, at the National Bank;
- (2) Or 100,000 dollars, in bonds on the consolidated debt at the National Bank;
- (3) Or 100,000 dollars payable to the order of the Municipal Council;
- (4) Or give a mortgage on any piece of property representing a value of \$100,000.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The port of Tampico, on the Gulf of Mexico, is steadily growing in importance, its custom-house receipts up to the end of November having been larger by a considerable sum than those of the great port of Vera Cruz. The Panuco River, which flows by it, waters one of the most valuable sections of the territory of the Republic, where agriculture and stock raising offer inducements not equaled elsewhere in the country.

The business of the navigation companies on this river is constantly increasing, and it is stated that a French company is investing \$1,000,000 in the sugar industry on the river. Recently a company organized, about a year ago, in Chicago, Illinois, bought a tract of 8,000 acres of land within 9 miles of Tampico, where it will be engaged in the culture of tropical products of various climes.

The new gold bonds to the amount of \$235,000 issued by the city of Saltillo, State of Coahuila, and bearing 6 per cent interest per annum, payable in that city or in New York, have been taken by a St. Louis, Missouri, company. The bonds are now being engraved and will be issued about the time that this number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN is ready for distribution. The purpose of this issue is to provide sewerage and waterworks systems for Saltillo, and for the construction there of a modern and capacious market building and slaughterhouse. It is expected that these new improvements will yield a net revenue of \$60,000 per annum, which will more than meet the interest on the bonds and will create a sinking fund for the payment of the principal.

The Southeastern Railroad Company of Yucatán has notified the Department of Communications and Public Works that early in January next the construction works on the railroad from Bahía de la Ascención inland, touching at San Antonio Mnyil, Tiosucho, and Ichmul, to unite with the line from Mérida to Peto, will commence. From San Antonio Mnyil a branch will run to the city of Valladolid, and from an intermediate point, not yet determined on, another branch will run to Chan Santa Cruz and the banks of Rio Hondo. A representative of the company has already arrived in New York to enter into contract with construction companies, who will take charge of the work, to begin in January next.

At a recent meeting of the Geographical and Statistical Society of the City of Mexico, a member, the engineer, Señor ARMADOR CHIMALPOPOCA, read the report of the commission charged with investigating and reporting on the gigantic project of Señor SARTO, an industrial engineer, relative to the construction of an interoceanic canal by utilizing in part the navigation of the river Grijalva. The commission in its report thought fit to eulogize Señor SARTO for his devotion to great geographical problems and grand conceptions. It did not hesitate to declare that the project of Señor SARTO, in case it could be realized, would constitute one of the most notable works of the kind in the world.

At the New York office of the Chihuahua and Pacific Railway it was stated that another stretch of that line was opened early in December, and that there is now in operation over 80 miles of road. For the last five months the building of this line has been delayed on account of

some engineering difficulties encountered near Lake Castillo. Five viaducts have been constructed there by the Pencoyd Iron Works, and the rest of the route is clear and straight. An order was recently placed in the United States for \$40,000 worth of material, and the managers expect that in a few weeks larger orders will be given for equipments for this road.

In the State of Guerrero, according to the latest educational statistics, there are schools of primary instruction as follows: For boys, 14 first-class, 50 second-class, and 200 third-class, with a daily average attendance of 18,000 pupils; for girls, 14 first-class, 50 second-class, and a like number of third-class, with a daily attendance of 7,000 pupils. The school population being 24,000, more or less, and the State having a population of about 400,000, the average attendance at the schools is 6 pupils for each 100 inhabitants. This is a gratifying showing in a very short time, since six years ago the proportion was barely 4 per cent.

During the last week of November the first consignment of an order for 10,000 Mexican cattle for Cuba left the port of New Orleans for Havana. The entire number must reach Cuba prior to January 1, 1900. Messrs. COX & KAYSER, of El Paso, Texas, are reported to have recently closed a deal with ex-Governor TERRAZAS, of Chihuahua, Mexico, for 25,000 head of stock cattle for various Cuban plantations. A large number of cattle are said to be needed in the provinces of Puerto Principe, Santa Clara, and Havana, Cuba.

The Mexican Industrial Company has been formed in Mexico City for the purpose of developing the steel industry in the Republic of Mexico. A dispatch from the city of Pittsburg states that the company referred to has secured from the National Steel Company of that city several of its managers to take charge of the operation of an extensive plant at Chihuahua. It is said the progress of this plant has been marked, and that it will soon be turning out steel billets and rails of the best quality.

"Modern Mexico" is authority for the statement that the colony of United States citizens in the City of Mexico now numbers between 3,000 and 4,000 people. Most of the members of the colony are connected with the railroads in all manner of positions; many are merchants, importers, commission men, lawyers, doctors, miners, etc. From a business and social standpoint this colony will rank in importance with that of a city of 30,000 inhabitants in the United States.

The new railroad law of April 29, 1899, in so far as the provisions relating to the tariffs is concerned, will go into effect on January 1, 1900. The workings of this new railroad legislation, which is to a considerable extent founded upon similar legislation in the United

States, is awaited with much interest by railroad men throughout Mexico. A synopsis of the railroad law was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for August, page 151.

The Grijalva Land and Coffee Company, of San Antonio, Texas, now has 3,000 acres under cultivation in its ranch near San Juan Bautista. There are 150,000 rubber trees growing and 120,000 more will be planted this year. The management of the Grijalva Company is highly elated over the prospects, and believes that the greatest profits for this venture which they dared hope for at the outset will be realized.

The Ohio Coffee Growing and Trading Company, which was organized in Toledo, Ohio, with a capital of \$75,000, three years ago, has now nearly 600 acres under cultivation in the Toledo hacienda, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The improvements include 300,000 coffee trees and 40,000 rubber trees, besides a large acreage in pineapple, vanilla, banana, and other plants.

The tobacco growers of the State of Vera Cruz are complaining because the merchants and speculators trading in this article have formed a syndicate in order to lower its price. This explains why important sales of tobacco are now being made, abroad and in the interior, at prices greatly below any ever before chronicled.

The importance of the mining industry in Mexico may be judged from the fact that 40 per cent of the tonnage of the freight hauled by the Mexican Central Railway is ore. The Aguascalientes smelter now employs 1,500 men, and it is stated that plans are under consideration for increasing this number by the addition of 1,000 more.

"El Nacional," of the City of Mexico, is authority for the statement that the International Railroad Company will extend its line to Mazatlán and the City of Mexico. The latter line will start from the Labor Station toward Nombre de Dios and crossing the boundaries of the States of Zacatecas and Jalisco.

Señor HILARIO CUEVAS, a coffee planter of the State of Oaxaca, is to found a free practical school of agriculture in the neighborhood of Lake Chapala, in the town of San Luis Soyatlán. Señor CUEVAS proposes teaching, gratuitously, the cultivation of coffee and rubber.

Officials of the Mexican Central Railway are at present engaged in looking over the territory which the line from Guadalajara to Manzanillo is to cross, arranging for the purchase of lands and the condemnation of those belonging to parties unwilling to sell.

On January 1, 1900, the Chilean Steamship Company, which has been referred to in recent numbers of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, will inaugurate direct service between the several ports of Chile and San Francisco, touching at the principal Pacific ports of Mexico.

The Bulletin of Statistics of the State of Yucatan gives the number of bales of henequén exported from the Port of Progreso in the month of September last as 44,973, weighing 7,456,101 kilos, and valued at \$2,430,017.88, Mexican currency.

The municipality of Tampico will award a contract for the construction of complete waterworks, including aqueducts, setting up of pumps, sewers, and paving or macadamizing. Bids will be opened February 15, 1900, by the Mayor.

The Commission to regulate the boundary between Mexico and Guatemala has completed its work. The Minister of Promotion has now named a new commission to perfect the plans for the new boundary line as established.

The indications are that before very long Mexico will find within her own borders all the petroleum necessary to meet the requirements of her industry. Quite a number of petroleum springs have recently been discovered.

The high prices now obtained for quicksilver and tin are stimulating prospectors in their search for and examination of deposits of these minerals in the States of Durango, Zacatecas, and Sonora.

Quite a number of the owners of coffee plantations in the State of Vera Cruz, owing to the low price of coffee, have commenced to put in cotton and tobacco with considerable success.

The new pier at Progreso, Yucatan, 400 meters long, has been approved by the Government and is now receiving cargo. It is proposed to extend it 200 meters in the near future.

It is very probable that the Christmas holidays will be celebrated in the city of Zelaya by the inauguration of the new electric tramway system.

The United States Patent Office, on November 28 last, issued two patents to Señor MANUEL S. CARMONA on two typewriting machines.

NICARAGUA.

THE INTEROCEANIC CANAL.

The remarks of Señor LUIS F. COREA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua, at the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, which were received too late for insertion in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for November, bore the title "Central America will be a Most Important World Market with the

Interoceanic Canal through Nicaraguan Territory," and were as follows:

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: This is the day selected by this Congress for a discussion of the important subject of an interoceanic canal.

"The history of the projected canal through Nicaraguan territory is well known. Much of importance has been written concerning it and reproduced by the daily newspapers of all classes, and therefore I do not wish to weary you by repeating that, in 1550, it was asserted by Galvao and confirmed since and at this present time by eminent engineers, the Nicaragua route is the only feasible one, giving better guarantees and offering more advantages to navigation and commerce than any other. Neither will I dwell upon the interest aroused by this undertaking among the European powers, such as France and Holland, and much more so in the United States of North America on account of its peculiar position on this continent; nor adduce all the arguments and facilities offered by Central America first, and Nicaragua second, in order to attract the foreign capital necessary to carry out this monumental enterprise.

"Every one is more or less acquainted with the numerous liberal concessions which Nicaragua, as a section of Central America and as an independent Republic, has granted since 1826; also with the fact that the companies holding the concessions have failed to complete the work on account of insufficient capital. This convinces us that only a Government, and an interested Government, such as the United States, is capable of completing the work. Before this International Commercial Congress I shall refer only to the direct result of the construction of the canal through Nicaraguan territory—namely, the transformation of Central America into a very important market.

"One of the reasons constantly quoted in favor of the canal through Nicaragua, as far as the United States is concerned, is to cut short the distance to the markets of the Orient and Europe. In all the publications consulted, there has been no mention of the Central American market, and a very brief consideration is given to the markets of South America. The interested parties have ascertained how much the distance will be reduced from New York and New Orleans to San Francisco, Yokohama, Melbourne, Hongkong, Singapore, etc., and how much shorter the route will be from California and the Western States to the countries in Europe. Mention is frequently made of the markets of the Orient, which consume a great portion of what the world's industry produces, and endeavors are made to gain those far-off markets which may later on become good consumers, but the South American countries are almost in every instance overlooked, and yet to-day they are of the first importance. And as to Central America it is entirely neglected and no consideration is taken of what it may become in the future. Nor can this be attributed to the difference of

languages, to which is ascribed the fact that of Canada and Mexico, bordering on the United States, the first imports 59 per cent of what she consumes, while the latter imports only 49 per cent, for Europe and the United States are very eager to send the products of their industries to far-off places where European languages are even less understood. If the topography and other exceptional conditions of Central America in general, and Nicaragua in particular, are analyzed, the conclusion is inevitable that that part of the world will become one of the most important commercial centers.

"The beginning of the canal will be from the east, cutting through the Nicaragua country in the part richest in gold, silver, precious metals, and stones; as, for example, opals. To the north side of the eastern end of this route there are to-day resident Americans and Englishmen who are proprietors of very rich gold mines. Various companies have been formed for exploitation, and are receiving good profits, taking into consideration the difficulties met in securing the necessary machinery.

"If we follow the line of the canal, which keeps the course of the River San Juan to the great lake of Nicaragua, we find forests of valuable wood, suitable for construction, and not yet touched by anyone. Colossal trees and vegetation of all kinds in great abundance reveal also the fertility of the soil.

"Coming to the lake, we find that this immense body of water contains an abundance of fish of all kinds, and that, besides having more than sufficient depth for ships of the greatest draught, it possesses natural harbors along the greater part of its coast in which merchant vessels could safely anchor and discharge their cargoes, as well as load products from the regions of the interior. In all the country about the lake, and principally in the north and east, is to be found soil suitable for the cultivation of coffee, cacao, vanilla, sugar cane, all kinds of cereals, and an immense variety of tropical fruits. There are also very good sections for cattle raising, as may be seen from the vast ranches with their hundreds of thousands of heads of cattle.

"A large proportion of this land belong to the national domain, and the Government has enacted liberal laws which facilitate its acquisition by honest laboring people who are disposed to emigrate there and become good citizens. There are also fertile sections, easy of access, on the other side of the lake in the country which will be cut through to unite the lake with the Pacific.

"Nicaragua has to-day about 650,000 inhabitants on a territory of from 45,000 to 46,000 square miles; enough to accommodate easily as many millions of people as the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Delaware put together now contain. Undoubtedly, as soon as cheap transportation is offered to assist emigration, Nicaragua will obtain such a population.

"If Nicaragua alone is capable of providing for so many millions,

Honduras and Guatemala on the north with more or less the same area and fertility. Salvador and Costa Rica on the south, although smaller in extent, but naturally rich and containing an industrious people, would also be able to support a large population and receive the benefits to be derived from the new maritime route. This would be especially true of Costa Rica, which lies adjacent to the Canal for several miles.

"The railways, already constructed for a considerable number of miles in the section referred to, will unite them as soon as the facilities are obtained to ship their products from the various ports of the great lake and convey them rapidly to the most distant countries.

"Mail, telegraph, and telephone communications, which are good even now, will be still further improved when they are employed in the service of a more active and productive trade.

"The United States of North America, as well as Chile and the Argentine Republic in the south, after the manner of the industrial countries of Europe—England, Germany, and France—are not only trying to hold the markets which they have succeeded in obtaining, but are also trying to gain the sympathies of those which may be possessed in the future. To-day Europe has more than enough to export, but industries are increasing everywhere, and in a few years there will not be sent to the United States many of those articles now imported, as they will be manufactured within the country. The United States now has a large home market, and does not feel so greatly the need of exportation, but at the rate it is advancing the time will arrive when there will be an enormous surplus, and then the country will be forced to find other markets. The nearest will be best.

"Central America, prepared as she is, and with the degree of culture which she enjoys, will at the first sign of work upon the Nicaragua Canal receive an immensely increased immigration from all parts of the world, which immigration will form a powerful element of consumption, making all that section one of the markets most sought after in the world; a market in which the products of the most advanced industries of the United States and Europe could be sold, and from which could be received in exchange gold, silver, and other precious metals in large quantities: woods of a superior quality, of which the world to-day derives no benefit, on account of the difficulties and great cost of transportation: as well as of the various products of the rich soil, and of even those native industries which are so much appreciated by foreigners, and which, besides revealing the advancement of the aborigines, offer articles of great utility, which could not be manufactured elsewhere at such low prices.

"Gentlemen, the Nicaragua Canal, besides being in itself a great business enterprise, and saving to the world many millions of dollars, will bind the existing centers of commerce closer and immensely develop the Central American markets. With these new elements and

vast accumulations of wealth there will be inaugurated another golden era of astonishing enterprises and marvelous commercial developments."

A GEOGRAPHY OF NICARAGUA

The Minister of Public Instruction recently submitted for examination to Señor M. C. MATUS, a distinguished Nicaraguan litterateur and jurist, the manuscript of a new work by Dr. BELISARIO PORRAS, entitled "Geografía de Nicaragua." Señor MATUS, in reporting upon the results of his examination, states that he has been much gratified at having found the work so interesting and instructive. He says that, after a general description of the Republic, covering the physical, political, and administrative features, the book contains an exhaustive description of each of the departments into which the country is divided, based upon the most accurate and recent data. The author has not contented himself with a conscientious study of everything that has been written upon Nicaragua up to the present time, but has taken particular interest in personally acquiring a knowledge of all the elements which go to make up the Commonwealth. The only fault, if such it be, that the reviewer can discover in the effort of Dr. PORRAS is its length, and he ingenuously adds that this is one of its best recommendations, the length not being due to diffuseness in descriptions and prolixity in language, but to the great accumulation of statistical treasure. The work is intended for use in the institutions of secondary instruction, and, according to Señor MATUS, meets every conceivable requirement. This gentleman cites the fact that three years ago the Ministry of Public Instruction ordered a large map of the Republic to be printed in the United States, and that it has been distributed therein within the last year. He adds that the want of just such a book as that of Dr. PORRAS has long been felt, and urges that it be given to the press at once.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS.

A dispatch from Managua states that President ZELAYA has appointed Señor JOAQUIN SANSON, Consul-General at New Orleans; also that Gen. FRANCISCO GUERRERO, of Managua, is to assume the office at Bluefields of Inspector-General and Governor of the Atlantic coast district of Nicaragua, vice Señor BONI, resigned.

PARAGUAY.

CATTLE RAISING ON THE RIVER PLATE.

An article in "La Prensa de Asuncion," written by Dr. ALONZO CRIADO, Consul-General of Paraguay at Montevideo, points out the probable profit which will accrue to the meat-packing companies in Paraguay, established by Mr. PEDRO RISSO in Colonia-Risso on the

Alto-Paraguay River. It is calculated that 600 steers will be slaughtered daily. Dr. CRIADO states that the commercial prosperity of the States of the River Plate sprang from their animal industry, the products being exported in the form of live stock and preserved meat products to Brazil and Europe. The following statement prepared by the Consul-General shows the number of steers slaughtered for packing purposes in Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, and Rio Grande:

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Uruguay	723,400	683,300	665,300	821,600
Argentina	449,400	476,200	337,500	310,700
Rio Grande	215,000	329,000	340,000	270,000
Total	1,387,800	1,479,500	1,342,800	1,402,300

Uruguay slaughtered 290,000 head of cattle more than the Argentine Republic and Rio Grande together. Notwithstanding the large immigration into Brazil and the Argentine Republic, the increase in the population and consequently enhanced demand for meat products, the number of cattle has not grown proportionately, and last season the price for animals was higher and the price for the meat products advanced from 15 to 20 per cent. Both conditions demonstrate that in the cultural development of those countries which have passed from the stage of being simply producers of animals to that of agriculture on a large scale, and where meadows and grain fields have their place, that the animal industry can not keep pace with the exports of agricultural products.

Paraguay, on the contrary, where cattle raising still maintains the position of the greatest importance, is peculiarly adapted thereto, the grazing lands in the Misiones, Aquidaban, and Chaco being equal to the best in the territory of the Plate; indeed, there are advantages beyond those of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic in that certain periodical epidemics appearing there among live stock are not known in Paraguay. Notwithstanding that after the Paraguayan war of 1865-1869 hardly a head of cattle was left in the country and new stock had to be obtained from the neighboring Province of Corrientes, and also a small number from the State of Matto-Grosso in Brazil, the census of 1887 showed a total number of 912,245 head. According to the statistics of the "Oficina General de Estadística del Paraguay," there were, in 1896, 2,102,680 head of cattle, with the number steadily increasing. The ratio of the cattle in Paraguay was, however, in 1896, only 6.63 head per square kilometer, while, for instance, in Germany, with 17,555,694 head, the ratio is 32.47.

Cattle raising in Paraguay has a bright future, and it is probable that the packing establishments of Mr. HECTOR BADO, in Caugó and Alto Parana, and of Mr. PEDRO RISSO, in Colonia RISSO, will not only stimulate the industry, but will induce other capitalists to follow them.

A commercial treaty between Brazil and Paraguay will be consummated shortly.

PERU.

PRACTICABLE IRRIGATION WORKS.*

Ancient irrigation of the Incas.—The many remains of ancient cities, immense tumuli or catacombs, aqueducts, mounds, and other relics still existing in Peru, are other evidences of the ancient grandeur of the dynasty of the Incas, and prove, moreover, in a conclusive way the existence at that time of a numerous and active population which, under the wise paternal government of those monarchs, carried the science of agriculture to a high degree of perfection, constructing for the public weal magnificent engineering works in connection with irrigation and roads. The great sandy plains, which make up the littoral of the country, were converted into cultivated land through their prodigious system of irrigation, which during the period of drought they supplied with rain-water brought from the Cordilleras, where they accumulated it in immense depositories constructed there for the purpose. When the Spaniards arrived they found the country admirably cultivated and with a numerous population, but to-day the littoral, which in that epoch was teeming with inhabitants, is almost deserted.

The historians who relate the voyage of PIZARRO to Piura in search of Atahualpa paint that Province as a beautiful garden covered with surprising vegetation. Both banks of the Chira River were canalized with admirable ability, and in the dry season furnished water to the neighboring Piura River. The present population of the Province of Tumbes is 5,000 souls, in sad contrast with its former prosperity, when 100 miles of canal on either bank of that river furnished occupation to 80,000 agriculturists alone. Vestiges of roads and aqueducts are found throughout the country. As regards those of the mountains, they were laid on works constructed on the slopes of the hills where the water was distributed through small canals, some of which were constructed of auriferous rocks, and which the conquerors, in their insatiable thirst for gold, destroyed in greater part. Many of the principal aqueducts were subterranean, and near Cajamarca there still exist the remains of one constructed through the hills to serve as a drain for a great lake during the rainy season. These aqueducts, of which many yet remain intact, are from 4 to 6 feet in depth by 3 in width; they are built in greater part of smoothed stone. Many of these aqueducts are closed up; however, many are still utilizable, serving to fertilize the Nasea Valley, where the vine, which is extensively cultivated, frequently reaches the circumference of a poplar tree thirty years old.

In the pampas of Chimbote, Ancón, Cañete, and other places of the littoral the remains of ancient aqueducts are still to be seen. In the

* By H. Guillaume, Consul of Peru at Southampton. From "El Tiempo," Lima, August 4, 1899.

Department of Arequipa there is a large one which crosses the province of Condesuyos, following a route of from 100 to 500 miles in length, the course of which, although destroyed and stopped up in part, is still noticeable at various points by the fertility which is here and there produced by the water which comes to the surface through the arch of the conduit holding it. This system of irrigation traversed the coast region in every direction, with ramifications of other canals coming down from the summits of the Andes by a system of terraces and conduits arranged in such a way and with such ability and engineering skill that even now they are the admiration of experts, owing to their magnitude and remarkable workmanship.

The thirst for gold of the Spaniards, their conquerors, so far outstripped every other consideration that they disregarded and destroyed, or at least allowed to go to ruin, the splendid works of the Incas, and in lieu of favoring agriculture they devoted all of their care to mining. The conquerors compelled the natives to work as slaves in the mines, which brought about the decrease of the population, to which their slaughter, which was then perpetrated, contributed. The ravages consequent upon the conquest are evidenced by the immense territories converted into deserts, where the ruins and remains of populous Inca cities are still to be seen. The valley of Santa, for example, which at the time of the Incas contained 700,000 souls, now has not more than 5,000 people; the valley of Acari has at the present day not more than 6,000 inhabitants, whereas in the former happy period there were 60,000.

The high price of silver during the period subsequent to the colonial and the existence of the *mita* (compulsory labor law) were the prime causes for the abandonment of agriculture, which was sacrificed by the covetousness of the conquerors for the precious metals. Later on, when Peru reconquered her independence, she began to experience the pernicious effects of the colonial system: the great decrease in the population made necessary the repeal of the *mita*, and since then the increase, though slow, is noticeable. The wise methods of the Incas have become more evident and appreciated, and as a consequence, preference has been given to agriculture, the products of which have already surpassed those of mining.

In the year 1851, when for the first time loans were raised for the construction of railroads, some of the party chiefs of the country endeavored to have £2,000,000 appropriated for irrigation works; but this proposition had to give way before the then deep-seated belief that the construction of railways was of the most urgent necessity for the prosperity of the country. Mr. G. R. FITZROY COLE, a well-known traveler in Peru, speaking of irrigation, says: "It is deplorable to think that when the needed gold arrived, in the shape of Peruvian loans, no portion of it was laid out in such purposes (irrigation), the whole amount being spent on railways. In that country irrigation works promise a certain return. Means for properly irrigating the

naturally rich valleys, which only ask moisture to spring into gardens, should naturally have been the first care of a provident ruler."

Many recent important irrigation works have been successfully carried out, but they are due solely to the efforts of private parties. Worthy of mention are those executed by Don DIONISIO DERTEANO, in the valley of Nasca, who, through the restoration of an ancient canal of the Incas, 50 kilometers in length, succeeded in fertilizing 10,000 hectares of land. The same thing happened with Don LUIS ALBRECHT in 1868, since, through an expenditure of £1,000, he repaired an Incan aqueduct in the Chira Valley, thus converting an extensive area of waste lands into a productive sugar-cane plantation. The valley of Chicama, previously a desert, and which this gentleman succeeded in thus fertilizing, is one of the most prosperous valleys of Peru. Don FRANCISCO MENDIZAL has likewise reclaimed from barrenness some 14,000 hectares of land in the valley of Lomas. Lately Mr. THOMAS GAIGE, an American, has made surveys for the irrigation of the valleys of Ica and Acari.

Department of Piura.—This valley offers inestimable advantages for irrigation undertakings, and perhaps there is no other part of the world which merits the attention of capitalists more than this extremely fertile region, whose climate has no equal and where the most valuable products of the soil are obtained at the expense of little labor. One of the remarkable phenomena of the climate of these valleys is that it only rains copiously every seven or ten years. The cotton crop depends upon that periodical rain, being greater in the first years of the rain.

Valley of La Chira.—This valley contains 2,160 square miles, of which 40,000 acres are cultivable. There are, moreover, 77,000 acres of tillable land between Barranco and the hills on the right bank of the river. On the left bank 16,000 acres more are under cultivation, and an area ten times greater extends toward the hills, the irrigation of which is effected in some places by pools called *jaguais*, formed by the accumulation of rain-water. There is a canal constructed by the Incas which starts from the Puzi hills toward the sea, and it is so well preserved at certain points that it can be easily utilized at a slight expense.

Canals that should be constructed for irrigation in Piura.—According to the surveys made by several engineers at different times, there is no doubt that the lands on either side of the river can be made fertile through irrigation to the extent of being converted into marvelous centers of production. The engineers recommend the construction of two canals—one on the right bank of the river, to water the lands which extend to Amotape, and the other to have its source on the left bank, to fertilize the territory as far as Paita and La Silla, including a great part of the Sablazo, which is now nothing more than an immense sterile plain, which begins at the Somate hills and reaches to the sea. In order to divert the waters of the river which the said canals should receive, the place best calculated to construct a dam is at Corral de

Vaca (Somate plantation), on the right bank. By damming up the river at that point and making a basin of some 2,000 hectares, an immense reservoir 25 miles in circumference will be secured, from which the ditch will take the water to irrigate 60,000 hectares of land. According to Mr. STERLING the ditch would be 53 miles long and would cost £85,000.

The left-hand canal is an enterprise of greater magnitude, and includes the Sablazo in its radius, of which it will fertilize 500 hectares barren in greater part. This work, according to the engineer named, would cost £107,000. The canal in this case ought to be carried to Sullana, where it would be divided into two branches, one going toward the port of Paíta and the other toward La Silla, the total length of the canal being some 96 miles. At present there are on the banks of this river 46 plantations, comprising 400,000 acres, which, as in Egypt, India, and California, depend upon uncertain rains and periodical floods. If only the half of those La Chira lands could be perennially watered, the value of the plantations would be doubled, as is natural.

The Piura River and its valleys.—It is calculated that there are on both banks of the river 1,760,000 acres of land which could be cultivated if the water from different sources which is lost should be stored to be utilized during the dry season. During the rainy season the river is 350 feet wide and from 15 to 20 feet deep. Unfortunately, this quantity of water does not last more than three months in the year; but were it permanent there would be no necessity of irrigation works for the barren though naturally fruitful lands on its banks.

Here follows the quantity of water which is discharged into the sea from the mouth of February up to September, the abundance of which would suffice for any irrigation undertaking of the greatest possible magnitude:

	Cubic meters.		Cubic meters.
February	97,500,000	July	60,500,000
March	607,500,000	August	28,600,000
April	593,800,000	September	10,000,000
May	329,000,000		
June	98,800,000	Total	1,827,700,000

It is surprising beyond measure that no advantage is taken of this great mass of water which loses itself in the sea, and that, in view of the marvelous fertility of the valley, there has only been constructed one canal 12 miles in length.

Mr. ALFRED T. SEARS, an American engineer, has obtained a valuable concession from the Government for the irrigation of the waste lands in this valley. The opinion of Mr. SEARS, and that of the other Government engineers who assisted him in the surveys, is that at an expense of 1,000,000 *soles* there can be obtained an amount of water sufficient to irrigate the lands of Piura, Castilla, Catacaes, and Sechura, and the plantations of Puente Arenas, Chapayra, San Vicente, Papayo, Coromayo, La Peñita, Ferela, and Miraflores, and on the left bank

Parales and Huan, which are to-day fertilized only in the lower part, where the river passes. This project will further serve to fertilize some 100,000 hectares of waste lands on this bank. All the territory that would be benefited would make some 880,000 acres, at an insignificant cost compared with what the lands would gain in value.

Rio Tumbes.—Among the irrigation projects leading to the advancement of Peru the third in importance is that of the Valley of Tumbes, whose river, bearing the same name, has its source in the auriferous mountains of Zaruma, in Ecuador. The Province of Tumbes has an area of 4,500 square miles in valleys, hills, and woods, of which 450,000 acres could be fertilized and dedicated to agriculture through irrigation. Only the lands on the left bank of the river, in Noria, are irrigable by means of centrifugal pumps, like in Egypt, which draw directly from the river 1,200 gallons of water per minute. In this portion of the irrigated lands are obtained good crops of coffee, cacao, cotton, tobacco, and an abundance of fruits of different kinds. The other lands on both sides for 18 miles could also receive the benefits of irrigation; but those which it is proposed to water are such as are comprised between the Tumbes and Zarumilla rivers. These lands have a width of 25 miles, are level in their greater part, and covered with forests which produce several kinds of valuable woods.

The canals constructed by the Incas on both sides of the Tumbes River have a length of nearly 100 miles. The thickness of their walls, built of granite rock, is 20 feet and their height 12. These canals offer a magnificent opportunity to capitalists who would utilize them profitably.

The approximate cost of the several irrigation projects is as follows:

	Soles.
For a canal on the right bank of the La Chira River to irrigate 45,000 hectares	600,000
For a canal on the left bank of the same river to irrigate 500,000 hectares	750,000
For 2 canals, one on each bank of the Piura River, to irrigate 400,000 hectares	1,000,000
For 2 canals, one on each bank of the Tumbes River, to irrigate 150,000 hectares	1,000,000

The area irrigated, which would be 1,110,000 hectares, would cost consequently 3,350,000 soles, or £478,571.

It can be seen, then, that the above-mentioned area, equivalent to 2,442,000 acres, can be utilized at an insignificant expense of 1.37 soles per acre.

The approximate production which would be obtained:

Supposing that of all the lands comprised in the three valleys named only 300,000 hectares, or 750,000 acres, should be put under cotton, devoting the rest to the sowing of sugar cane, coffee, cacao, rice, etc., and estimating a modest yield of 5 quintals of cleaned cotton per hectare, there would result, in lieu of the 80,000 to 100,000 quintals which are at present produced, an annual production of 1,500,000 quintals, which, at

the rate of £3 per quintal, would give the sum of £4,500,000, which shows a greater production than is obtained in Egypt, where the cotton yield is less per acre than that now obtained in Pinra.

The present value of the lands in this Department is 500 *soles* per hectare; but, estimating the said 1,100,000 hectares at 70 *soles* only, the real value would ascend to £10,850,000, which means an enormous profit for the company that shall assume the undertaking.

Department of Lambayeque.—The area of this Department is 17,694 square miles, level in greater part and very fertile. It produces in abundance rice, sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco, cacao, corn, etc. In this Department, as along the whole coast, the lack of water is the only obstacle preventing the realization of an immense production. For the purpose of increasing the cultivable land, the Government appointed a commission which, after making the proper investigations, confirmed three of the measures that had been suggested, declaring furthermore that the irrigation of several other portions of the Department was feasible. The valleys of Olmos, which border on the desert of Sechura, naturally claim preferred attention, and consequently the construction of 20 miles of canal which shall bring into the Suenchingana River the waters of the other small streams which feed it, and from which they would descend to fertilize the said valleys, has received the choice. The construction of an aqueduct at an expense of £100,000 to bring down the waters of the lakes and the tributaries of the Chota River in order to irrigate the valleys of Mórrope and Motupe has also been declared practicable.

La Libertad.—At the present time the waters of the Chicama River only serve to irrigate one-third of the fertile valley of that name. This deficiency may be easily remedied by bringing the waters from the lakes in the Cordilleras. The Valley of Santa Catalina could also provide itself with all the water it needs from the lakes of San Lorenzo and Cayaján, situated in the Huanachaco Cordilleras, 25 leagues distant. The water was formerly brought through the Valley of San Lorenzo to the San Felipe River, irrigating in its course the barren lands of that valley until it reached the Huanachaco pampas; but now the water of the Moche River is lost in the sea. Through the construction of a basin at Chungus Blanco a deposit of water 160,000,000 cubic meters in dimension may be secured. The cost of constructing the basin and restoring the ancient aqueduct is estimated at £15,000, and should there be need of more water another basin can be constructed at Porea at a like cost.

Department of Arecahs.—The proposed plans for irrigation are, in the first place, to furnish permanent water to the Nepeña River. This can be accomplished by restoring the old canals of the Ineas which formerly brought water from the lakes of the Negra Cordillera, in the Province of Huaylas, with which 50,000 hectares could be irrigated. In the second place, by repairing the ancient irrigation works on both banks of the Santa River, whereby the fertilizing of some 150,000 hectares, or

330,000 acres, of productive lands would be accomplished. The cost of this is estimated at £28,000.

Department of Lima.—Even in the Department of the capital irrigation would be greatly beneficial to many lands anciently cultivated by the Incas, but subsequently abandoned by the conquerors. The engineering experts in the matter assert that all the sterile lands of the pampas of Las Animas can be irrigated without much difficulty, and through an expenditure of £8,500 the fertilization and prodigious productiveness of some 2,000 hectares of land in Aucón which the ancients irrigated with the waters of the Ventauillas lakes would be accomplished. Should the waters of the Rimac be augmented by those of Lake Huaro-chiri, its volume would be sufficient to fertilize the pampas of Nieve-riá, Canto Grande, and other valleys. The restoration of the ancient hydraulic works in the Cañete Valley also present a favorable opportunity to invest capital profitably.

Department of Ica.—There are vast territories in Chincha-Alta which may be irrigated with the waters of the lakes of Tambo de Turpo, and several other lands in the Valley of Ica, on the banks of the rivers Viscas and Palpa, which may also be watered by increasing the volume of these rivers with the waters of Lake Chocollococha, or by bringing the water of Ica Grande through a small canal to the Valley of Palpa at an expense of about £8,000. There is also the purpose of restoring the aqueducts of the Nasca District: and the plan has likewise been formed to take the water from various lakes situated in the Parinacochas highlands to irrigate 40,000 hectares of land, which could be done at an expense of £80,000.

Department of Arequipa.—Arequipa has in its littoral Provinces of Camaná, Islay, and Arequipa a very extensive area of arid and unproductive land, the irrigation of which would be an undertaking of positive profit. The lands of the Province of Camaná, known as the Valle de Lomas and Pampas de Bella Unión, may be irrigated by the Acari River, after increasing its volume with the streams and lakes of the Cordilleras between Lucanas and Parinacochas. The cultivatable lands of the Ocoña Valley would also improve this circumstance to increase the production of its vineyards and olive orchards, and the 20,000 hectares of the Valley of Camaná would be increased to 30,000. This operation would cost £12,000.

Another of the plans which has been mooted for a long time past is the irrigation of the lands surrounding Arequipa. For the irrigation of these lands known as the Pampas de Mirallores, two projects are suggested. One is to bring the water from the Arcococha and Chincococha lakes, and the other is to unite the small Chiguata and Yumina rivers with the Sabandia and deviate the latter through the aqueduct of Paucarpata to bring it down to the plains.

Although canals would be of great benefit at many places, the engineers judge that at La Pascana, Cocotes, Yaque, Havre, and in the

Pampas de Mújica, La Joya, and Cruz de Tambo it would be more advisable to bore artesian wells. The cultivated area in the Department of Arequipa is 16,361 acres, and that which might be acquired in Vineoneaya, Oncococha, Chiguata would be of equal extent, through irrigation works that would cost £80,000.

Crops.—The favorite plant of the agriculturist and that which yields him the greatest profit, owing to the good price it brings, by reason of its fiber being long and silky thus lending itself to admixture with wool in the manufacture of goods of this latter material (in which it can not be discovered) is cotton. There exist here 18 seeding machines and presses for cotton which is produced on 300 plantations. There have been instances of this native plant, which can almost be called perennial, bearing for thirty years and yielding two crops annually. The sowing is done after flooding of the lands by the overflow of the rivers. For three years the plant takes advantage of the inundations to develop, and the yield of the second year is the best, it being reproduced every third year. During this time each hectare produces 5,400 pounds of cotton, which, at the rate of 18 cents per pound, yields 620 soles per hectare. The cost of clearing, sowing, and picking is 150 soles, leaving consequently a handsome profit of 470 soles per hectare for the planter. The Department has yielded in four good seasons 10,000,000 soles in cotton.

Other agricultural products of that region are coffee and cacao, which also yield two crops a year, and their cultivation is now the object of greater care on the part of the agriculturists. Sugar cane yields in from ten to eleven months after planting. Tobacco of good quality, which is principally raised in Tumbes, gives from five to eight crops per annum. As regards cereals, including Indian corn, the crops are abundant. Large numbers of cattle, horses, mules, and goats are raised, and great quantities of hides are also exported. The Department has the third most important port (Paita) in all Peru, through which one-fourth of the commerce of the country passes. The inhabitants devote themselves assiduously to commerce, which is in consequence quite active. The roads are good, the coast is level, and telegraph lines are already in operation. A great petroleum interest has been established along the coast, and the Department of Piura promises to be, if it is not already, the most prosperous of the country.

DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The German Consul at Cuzco reports that there exists in Peru a good demand for agricultural machinery suitable for small *haciendas* (farms or plantations) in the interior of the country. These implements or machines, the Consul says, have to be put up in small sections or divisions, so that they can be made up into packages weighing not more than 75 kilograms (165.35 pounds) for transportation over the mountains on the backs of mules or other animals. In sending their catalogues manufacturers should say whether or not their respective

machines are suitable for such transportation, and give exact weights in kilograms of the different sections. This is a point of the greatest importance in Peru, as much or more so than in any other country.

SCARCITY OF COCAINE.

Peru produces practically all the raw cocaine that the world consumes. It is manufactured from the leaves of the coca plant, and to supply the demand in the United States the dry leaves are either shipped direct and the drug manufactured from them, or a coarse native product made from the leaves in Peru is imported and refined by improved processes. For several months disturbances in the interior of Peru have prevented the gatherers of coca leaves from shipping their supplies to Lima, the principal market; consequently the price of the drug in the United States has risen from \$2.50 to \$6.25 per ounce during the last few months.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A dispatch dated Lima, December 12, 1899, states that during the closing hours of the extraordinary session of the National Congress, on the 11th instant, the Extradition Treaty with the United States was approved by that body. This treaty will now have to be ratified by the Senate of the United States.

SALVADOR.

RECENT TARIFF CHANGES.

On October 28 last the Government of Salvador issued a decree placing a surtax of three silver pesos on each 100 kilograms, gross weight, of merchandise imported into the Republic. The articles exempted from this impost are: Steam, hydraulic, or hand power machinery for agriculture, plows, etc.; fertilizers; iron vessels for balsam; filters of all kinds; hare hair and other hair for hat making; looms of all kinds; printing and lithographic ink; prepared chalk for use in schools. The decree went into effect on November 1, last.

SANTO DOMINGO (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC).

SUBSTITUTION OF COIN

A dispatch from Santo Domingo, dated December 11, 1899, says that the country is quiet and business is improving. The same message states that the National Congress has authorized the Government to withdraw national coin in exchange for gold and silver of the United States, commencing in March, 1900.

COMMERCIAL SITUATION IN 1898-99.

The English Consul in Santo Domingo reports that the situation has been far from prosperous, the country having been deluged with depreciated silver money and bank notes having no other guarantee than that of being accepted by the Dominican Government in payment of the import duties at the official rate of exchange of two dollars of national money for one dollar in gold. As a result, the merchants have not been able to meet their foreign obligations with the money in which their merchandise is sold, and, having a limited credit, have not been able to import, thereby causing a stagnation in business. The prices of all merchandise and provisions have so increased that the poorer people are scarcely able to obtain the necessities of life, and there is, in consequence, a great deal of dissatisfaction and misery among this class. Practically trade has been reduced to the mere exchange of products. Consequently a little more wood has been exported. The sugar industry is, and has always been, the principal one of the country. Coffee and tobacco are exported, the quality of this last comparing favorably with that of Cuba.

Two railroads are in exploitation. One is a national enterprise, the other a private one in German hands. A concession has been granted to a United States company for the construction of another railroad, ending at the port of Barahona, in a district from which different kinds of wood for cabinet making are taken.

The European commerce of the country is gradually passing to Germany or German houses established in England, which send agents to Santo Domingo speaking Spanish and provided with samples.

UNITED STATES.**TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.****STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

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

consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for October, for example, are not published until some time in December:

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (<i>Palo campeche</i> ; <i>Pau campeche</i> ; <i>Campeche</i>)—				
Mexico	\$1,030		\$10,671	\$11,995
Coal, bituminous (<i>Carbón bituminoso</i>; <i>Carvão bituminoso</i>; <i>Charbon de terre</i>):				
Mexico	18,909	\$15,745	178,267	168,137
Cocoa (<i>Cacao</i>; <i>Coco ou Cacao cri</i>; <i>Cucac</i>):				
Central America		322	6,902	1,131
Brazil	154,804	66,280	292,671	328,094
Other South America	87,806	70,462	1,012,906	1,344,695
Coffee (<i>Café</i>; <i>Cafe</i>; <i>Café</i>):				
Central America	83,827	46,961	4,080,656	5,047,653
Mexico	56,497	155,029	2,779,752	2,686,364
Brazil	2,127,210	3,576,879	28,329,830	31,255,228
Other South America	675,919	388,538	6,560,590	5,703,566
Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón en rama</i>; <i>Algodão em rama</i>; <i>Coton, non manufacturé</i>):				
South America	9,365	2,401	140,523	119,325
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (<i>Hennequen</i> ; <i>Hennequen</i> ; <i>Hennequen</i>)—				
Mexico	781,704	748,411	6,404,779	7,031,307
Philippine Islands	355,711	250,152	2,489,148	3,591,471
Fruits:				
Bananas (<i>Plátanos</i> ; <i>Bananas</i> ; <i>Bananes</i>)—				
Central America	160,506	194,692	1,503,980	1,771,175
South America	16,442	70,281	425,251	879,757
Oranges (<i>Naranjas</i> ; <i>Laranjas</i> ; <i>Oranges</i>)—				
Mexico	16,727	49,803	20,797	65,995
Fur skins (<i>Pielas finas</i>; <i>Pelles</i>; <i>Fourrures</i>):				
South America	12,735	4,761	85,872	147,488
Hides and skins (<i>Cueros y pieles</i>; <i>Couros e pelles</i>; <i>Cuir et peaux</i>):				
Central America	21,625	39,377	181,028	302,727
Mexico	117,300	149,404	1,424,039	1,696,406
South America	538,631	782,341	7,846,198	8,712,269
India rubber, crude (<i>Goma elástica</i>; <i>Borracha crua</i>; <i>Caoutchouc brut</i>):				
Central America	67,369	61,163	443,985	714,709
Mexico	11,162	20,353	51,825	157,263
Brazil	609,913	1,409,387	10,449,113	14,798,088
Other South America	76,945	80,512	643,200	850,108
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (<i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.</i>; <i>Chumbo em linguadas, barras, etc.</i>; <i>Ploomb in saumons, en barras, etc.</i>):				
Mexico	152,513	152,227	1,389,599	1,776,235
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (<i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa</i>; <i>Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês</i>; <i>Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i>):				
Central America	7,192	3,927	213,511	172,512
Mexico	257	9,201	44,176	74,905
Cuba	788,219	196,595	11,810,000	17,657,468
Brazil			2,386,886	681,805
Other South America	326,670	376,552	3,929,666	4,051,877
Hawaiian Islands	794,661	1,676,638	15,123,065	20,822,412
Philippine Islands	169,950	93,750	993,183	910,318
Tobacco, leaf (<i>Tabaco en rama</i>; <i>Tabaco em folha</i>; <i>Tabac en feuilles</i>):				
Mexico	52,698	2,169	253,976	29,661
Cuba	335,982	691,617	2,246,223	5,417,387

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899
Wood, mahogany (<i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i>):				
Central America.....	\$26,280		\$172,658	\$252,509
Mexico.....	28,915	\$24,009	243,802	347,202
Cuba.....		12,992	933	62,488
South America.....	1,562	7,344	36,803	18,265
Wool (<i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i>):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing).....	224	60,935	534,584	540,414
Class 2 (combing).....	97		19,126	101
Class 3 (carpet).....	81,192	40,505	840,833	483,671

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (<i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles</i>):				
Central America.....	\$320	\$107	\$5,610	\$5,904
Mexico.....	10,321	27,729	126,452	262,398
Santo Domingo.....		495	354	1,239
Cuba.....	1,478	13,976	4,028	93,292
Porto Rico.....	251	533	677	4,915
Argentina.....	127,503	121,840	933,014	1,787,054
Brazil.....	1,636	3,525	20,474	28,770
Colombia.....	40	134	3,935	711
Other South America.....	24,329	4,956	248,356	247,442
Animals:				
Cattle (<i>Carado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i>)—				
Central America.....	420		2,585	563
Mexico.....	9,374	13,635	75,501	110,721
South America.....			6,903	2,390
Hogs (<i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i>)—				
Mexico.....	899	1,219	5,632	68,974
Horses (<i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i>)—				
Central America.....	30		10,945	1,758
Mexico.....	13,609	15,288	82,775	73,548
South America.....		600	2,023	3,330
Sheep (<i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i>)—				
Mexico.....	3,120	802	11,922	4,012
South America.....	1,040	705	9,293	7,492
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (<i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mapas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i>):				
Central America.....	3,178	430	26,326	41,047
Mexico.....	3,136	12,080	64,373	69,849
Santo Domingo.....	1,000	12	1,858	7,326
Cuba.....	1,583	3,021	7,117	54,026
Porto Rico.....	2,276	1,124	3,598	15,566
Argentina.....	2,380	2,144	20,413	21,400
Brazil.....	8,434	11,512	45,085	46,803
Colombia.....	591	10,428	8,155	47,868
Other South America.....	27,006	1,928	64,261	50,819
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (<i>Matz; Milho; Maiz</i>)—				
Central America.....	4,323	2,872	50,143	31,596
Mexico.....	3,718	19,394	10,702	124,872
Santo Domingo.....			63	315
Cuba.....	2,659	47,988	239,811	385,946
Porto Rico.....				251
South America.....	1,966	28,664	16,305	71,142
Wheat (<i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i>)—				
Central America.....	4,973	1,700	37,828	15,644
South America.....	319		386,096	69,318
Wheat flour (<i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de trigo; Farine de blé</i>)—				
Central America.....	77,840	75,599	1,020,530	730,868
Mexico.....	17,765	8,246	89,395	127,789
Santo Domingo.....	5,795	17,208	153,665	120,712
Cuba.....	114,344	144,582	1,060,345	1,064,653
Porto Rico.....	49,025	45,461	305,868	453,664

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Breadstuffs—Continued.				
Wheat flour—Continued.				
Brazil.....	\$439,994	\$198,575	\$2,679,773	\$2,158,202
Colombia.....	22,824	40,268	312,890	382,973
Other South America.....	143,676	118,883	1,291,316	1,333,716
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties):				
Central America.....	4,329	656	40,967	15,468
Mexico.....	22,797	58,731	229,756	715,979
Santo Domingo.....	2,914	627	13,585	12,382
Cuba.....	806	25,805	20,367	138,544
Porto Rico.....	57	1,126	1,502	9,797
Argentina.....	41,950	29,648	496,455	227,822
Brazil.....	8,987	3,587	557,387	189,915
Colombia.....	1,827	840	41,076	14,283
Other South America.....	6,864	2,853	73,829	43,229
Cycles and parts of (Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accesorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties):				
Central America.....	981	340	6,535	4,483
Mexico.....	2,032	2,064	52,982	37,601
Santo Domingo.....		25	598	323
Cuba.....	524	13,039	3,930	77,543
Porto Rico.....	997	167	2,351	2,478
Argentina.....	22,481	26,080	101,512	258,598
Brazil.....	6,681	2,521	88,701	28,914
Colombia.....	479	848	7,372	7,838
Other South America.....	8,229	5,943	42,747	55,881
Clocks and watches (Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres):				
Central America.....	442	33	4,590	2,115
Mexico.....	3,619	1,655	18,802	25,104
Argentina.....	507	2,514	23,473	23,674
Brazil.....	5,107	4,818	38,281	46,457
Other South America.....	11,419	6,827	76,596	60,671
Coal (Carbón; Carvão; Charbon):				
Central America.....	337	1,850	8,091	15,244
Mexico.....	87,626	117,922	915,753	1,214,917
Santo Domingo.....	1,300	866	9,121	7,740
Cuba.....	45,711	35,536	371,062	559,497
Porto Rico.....	2,550	550	17,648	41,651
Brazil.....	4,596	1,200	130,001	99,745
Colombia.....	340	224	17,671	49,850
Other South America.....	22,068	2,812	122,687	56,041
Copper (Cobre; Cobre; Cúture):				
Mexico.....	7,857	38,429	267,209	248,736
Cotton, unmanufactured (Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé):				
Mexico.....	87,878	11,042	711,417	439,158
Cotton cloths (Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacture):				
Central America.....	49,491	58,887	398,960	523,631
Mexico.....	33,727	45,691	367,439	455,889
Santo Domingo.....	12,597	4,226	124,129	142,502
Cuba.....	10,277	40,474	16,409	658,311
Porto Rico.....	2,490	11,467	3,656	238,467
Argentina.....	28,376	9,494	147,912	105,918
Brazil.....	47,569	54,205	471,424	369,717
Colombia.....	23,305	27,806	228,833	333,776
Other South America.....	200,278	40,872	1,118,574	894,534
Wearing apparel cotton (Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton):				
Central America.....	17,662	27,741	182,139	237,621
Mexico.....	30,564	49,845	309,149	379,845
Santo Domingo.....	2,975	299	18,654	14,148
Cuba.....	2,076	10,623	14,100	162,804
Porto Rico.....	1,047	1,789	1,878	41,191
Argentina.....	5,075	1,420	37,746	37,677
Brazil.....	2,606	5,096	34,875	28,518
Colombia.....	4,669	4,561	33,735	36,784
Other South America.....	4,960	2,066	36,276	57,653

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noixettes</i>):				
Central America.....	\$2,013	\$3,913	\$22,363	\$23,512
Mexico.....	6,628	7,817	50,511	58,628
Santo Domingo.....	17	147	492	529
Cuba.....	7,619	11,955	25,066	56,654
Porto Rico.....	682	1,451	1,213	5,909
Argentina.....	1,386	98	7,970	14,664
Brazil.....	6,231	7,113	12,647	14,102
Colombia.....	808	599	6,205	7,343
Other South America.....	3,382	1,825	15,516	15,419
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (<i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i>)—				
Central America.....	5,617	1,884	60,155	50,988
Mexico.....	40,614	32,950	265,023	402,613
Argentina.....	20,409	34,425	149,595	252,638
Brazil.....	7,490	12,988	60,755	127,523
Other South America.....	16,684	6,813	97,517	105,631
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel rails (<i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,418	6,868	21,893	24,602
Mexico.....	16,088	77,892	555,108	418,644
South America.....	25,860	3,801	318,473	106,092
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i>)—				
Central America.....	4,884	8,845	60,927	73,858
Mexico.....	19,939	41,444	309,157	375,065
Santo Domingo.....	665	1,050	9,512	8,063
Cuba.....	19,381	35,825	54,178	349,647
Porto Rico.....	589	1,976	4,976	25,447
Argentina.....	35,489	21,626	173,933	213,440
Brazil.....	13,523	6,571	149,019	188,234
Colombia.....	9,082	33,264	75,443	112,258
Other South America.....	26,287	18,384	166,650	210,493
Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machines de coudre e accesorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,013	1,529	18,419	17,502
Mexico.....	13,601	30,028	171,547	252,969
Santo Domingo.....	181	.....	1,528	1,308
Cuba.....	300	6,698	579	39,291
Porto Rico.....	665	491	1,715	4,276
Argentina.....	5,600	4,663	68,161	140,601
Brazil.....	7,053	14,510	79,164	114,677
Colombia.....	5,136	1,383	59,878	40,382
Other South America.....	13,873	11,525	93,742	111,946
Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machines de escribir e accesorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—				
Central America.....	95	526	1,216	1,879
Mexico.....	1,067	7,050	26,044	51,586
Santo Domingo.....	80	.....	80	187
Cuba.....	410	2,124	1,320	23,875
Argentina.....	4,191	1,587	24,843	34,837
Brazil.....	846	1,294	4,470	7,939
Colombia.....	839	129	2,743	2,500
Other South America.....	1,942	858	13,014	22,531
Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):				
Central America.....	3,109	1,843	7,823	11,662
Mexico.....	.....	1,841	5,215	18,908
Santo Domingo.....	271	17	629	1,074
Cuba.....	.....	3,444	1,742	27,749
Porto Rico.....	315	80	1,533	7,668
Argentina.....	1,600	3,429	15,220	44,106
Brazil.....	3,686	3,965	44,073	58,122
Colombia.....	262	713	2,707	3,906
Other South America.....	4,721	2,806	16,525	34,511

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Boots and shoes (Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures):				
Central America.....	\$4,894	\$12,041	\$59,455	\$165,468
Mexico.....	13,428	22,196	87,382	257,817
Colombia.....	2,171	3,728	29,430	34,661
Other South America.....	3,512	3,842	31,163	22,010
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (Resina y alquitran; Resina e alcatrán; Résine et goudron)—				
Central America.....	635	677	14,052	12,092
Mexico.....	179	276	7,574	7,974
Santo Domingo.....	618	334	3,912	3,426
Cuba.....	582	940	4,763	11,191
Porto Rico.....	288	92	609	870
Argentina.....		14,179	59,674	86,061
Brazil.....	17,211	10,047	146,858	178,487
Colombia.....	1,074	663	10,586	10,135
Other South America.....	16,167	3,392	74,420	54,854
Turpentine, spirits of (Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine)—				
Central America.....	196	529	2,602	4,384
Mexico.....	385	328	3,678	3,793
Santo Domingo.....	40	91	400	531
Cuba.....	1,948	2,970	10,400	44,817
Porto Rico.....	157	159	906	4,386
Argentina.....	820	7,529	105,827	67,958
Brazil.....	5,801	1,932	61,661	55,276
Colombia.....	337	531	3,938	5,676
Other South America.....	2,900	742	53,750	53,048
Oils, mineral, crude (Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleas minerales, crus; Huiles minerales, brutes):				
Mexico.....	30,626		241,384	355,684
Cuba.....	17,418		116,023	181,644
Porto Rico.....			19,477	12,512
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleas minerales, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minerales, raffinées ou manufacturées):				
Central America.....	11,550	8,666	101,501	115,242
Mexico.....	16,535	18,385	138,342	170,398
Santo Domingo.....	1,607	2,163	34,703	31,989
Cuba.....	7,098	3,397	40,066	93,435
Porto Rico.....	8,118	2,384	24,322	44,163
Argentina.....	61,465	85,015	794,523	869,136
Brazil.....	134,818	168,094	1,246,805	1,314,772
Colombia.....	6,926	16,122	90,261	119,834
Other South America.....	78,861	54,839	829,318	949,730
Oils, vegetable (Aceites vegetales; Oleas vegetales; Huiles végétales):				
Central America.....	582	962	2,984	5,035
Mexico.....	49,943	98,525	296,547	530,002
Santo Domingo.....	2,075	4,821	27,903	27,544
Cuba.....	1,365	3,143	2,555	31,157
Argentina.....	1,300	1,693	10,649	32,354
Brazil.....	32,061	3,893	206,748	160,032
Other South America.....	9,892	6,072	91,296	101,595
Paraffin and paraffin wax (Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffine e cera de parafina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance):				
Central America.....	3,287	2,071	24,926	24,525
Mexico.....	15,044	31,541	125,894	223,332
Brazil.....	451	1,318	9,293	10,491
Other South America.....	638	1,225	5,753	9,377
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé)—				
Central America.....	1,180	3,975	18,096	19,933
Mexico.....	624	2,272	11,784	18,173
Santo Domingo.....	11		37	98
Cuba.....	170	1,923	5,273	12,936
Argentina.....			505	1,484
Brazil.....	1,101	4,177	20,779	17,004
Colombia.....	259	577	4,356	5,806
Other South America.....	1,209	2,217	11,140	15,961

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—				
Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure</i>)—				
Central America.....	\$2,642	\$3,231	\$30,599	\$32,336
Mexico.....		270	190	2,064
Santo Domingo.....	213	406	3,212	5,086
Cuba.....	2,300	672	11,667	21,547
Porto Rico.....	77	231	248	1,645
Brazil.....	270	187	1,675	1,452
Colombia.....	1,094	2,131	10,947	15,503
Other South America.....	26,531	8,593	160,544	133,523
Tallow (<i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i>)—				
Central America.....	8,295	6,563	81,742	75,371
Mexico.....	915	1,548	18,666	24,220
Santo Domingo.....	2,689	1,650	18,707	16,167
Cuba.....	6,471		18,112	2,129
Porto Rico.....	191	58	367	377
Brazil.....	13,184	50	19,540	22,460
Colombia.....	307	529	7,648	16,589
Other South America.....	7,574	1,784	24,757	38,177
Bacon (<i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,281	2,126	13,424	17,041
Mexico.....	976	2,018	9,736	18,475
Santo Domingo.....	53	254	1,975	1,979
Cuba.....	28,852	78,610	477,473	790,475
Porto Rico.....	7,319	6,617	35,383	62,496
Brazil.....	79,454	5,871	412,483	163,292
Colombia.....	386	75	1,159	1,592
Other South America.....	207	316	15,921	11,932
Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,703	3,406	19,990	22,107
Mexico.....	2,417	5,785	23,170	31,259
Santo Domingo.....	468	796	5,916	5,735
Cuba.....	38,681	55,836	258,788	616,035
Porto Rico.....	833	2,907	15,512	21,304
Brazil.....	243	13	3,560	2,723
Colombia.....	1,225	2,322	11,495	15,588
Other South America.....	7,650	5,412	57,956	69,100
Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,647	5,276	64,105	54,713
Santo Domingo.....	447	1,997	5,997	6,168
Cuba.....	1,025	31,102	12,694	90,671
Porto Rico.....	14,452	19,382	115,493	160,853
Brazil.....	64		4,275	3,001
Colombia.....	575	932	7,314	29,537
Other South America.....	32,618	14,400	192,825	160,528
Lard (<i>Mantea; Banha; Saïndour</i>)—				
Central America.....	13,218	10,770	149,979	143,527
Mexico.....	12,082	42,219	118,564	251,295
Santo Domingo.....	1,544	3,211	29,520	22,819
Cuba.....	63,366	172,160	875,400	1,522,856
Porto Rico.....	39,395	21,547	181,961	201,674
Argentina.....	22	1,035	2,993	4,417
Brazil.....	183,739	56,514	948,020	814,803
Colombia.....	5,617	12,469	77,625	116,801
Other South America.....	67,093	26,933	554,328	594,387
Oil and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oleo et oléomargarine</i>)—				
Central America.....	40	634	1,350	3,646
Mexico.....		15	1,009	742
Colombia.....	427	378	7,375	10,383
Other South America.....	582	753	10,072	22,895
Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,033	4,305	38,584	40,652
Mexico.....	2,832	4,057	37,911	41,660
Santo Domingo.....	837	1,110	9,604	7,100
Cuba.....	4,380	4,679	12,391	90,644
Porto Rico.....	2,588	74	3,784	4,678
Brazil.....	15,533	11,537	87,307	160,396
Colombia.....	1,429	1,212	13,031	13,591
Other South America.....	9,439	3,052	60,366	164,662

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	October—		Ten months ending October—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—				
Continued.				
Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—				
Central America.....	\$1,371	\$2,228	\$14,677	\$15,368
Mexico.....	974	2,398	12,347	19,742
Santo Domingo.....	382	603	3,998	4,069
Cuba.....	6,220	2,281	23,951	56,760
Porto Rico.....	1,405	2,259	3,032	30,305
Brazil.....	295	.....	370	217
Colombia.....	715	821	7,640	6,095
Other South America.....	1,295	633	12,892	11,374
Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Asúcar refinado;</i> <i>Sucre raffiné</i>):				
Central America.....	1,758	1,757	29,252	19,298
Mexico.....	3,589	21	12,887	54,555
Santo Domingo.....	.....	91	970	719
Colombia.....	1,001	1,291	15,079	14,263
Other South America.....	.....	12	1,083	2,128
Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco no manufactu-</i> <i>rado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non</i> <i>manufacturé</i>):				
Central America.....	2,873	1,595	21,181	24,494
Mexico.....	5,524	13,060	102,292	133,710
Argentina.....	2,020	1,261	15,259	19,253
Colombia.....	303	1,371	6,555	6,300
Other South America.....	16,270	6,510	90,007	86,247
Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco;</i> <i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabrique</i>):				
Central America.....	3,062	4,294	46,063	45,591
Mexico.....	210	290	24,823	15,116
Cuba.....	13,426	9,696	98,297	164,771
Argentina.....	.....	8,625	1,782	16,754
Brazil.....	.....	.....	550	352
Colombia.....	68	572	5,412	5,831
Other South America.....	7,842	432	64,793	50,976
Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado;</i> <i>Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i>):				
Central America.....	1,513	747	23,770	21,019
Mexico.....	26,611	20,350	354,120	127,433
Cuba.....	2,678	5,412	15,361	47,740
Argentina.....	4,593	.....	11,679	14,251
Brazil.....	.....	.....	75	240
Colombia.....	.....	77	25,142	15,268
Other South America.....	10,065	305	30,968	46,004
Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):				
Central America.....	6,913	7,599	37,644	48,800
Mexico.....	49,482	80,045	625,113	826,996
Santo Domingo.....	2,435	5,167	26,355	33,809
Cuba.....	62,580	91,123	212,562	767,001
Porto Rico.....	1,912	25,269	21,156	105,747
Argentina.....	89,759	84,867	773,495	828,875
Brazil.....	33,717	47,084	487,587	385,031
Colombia.....	4,304	12,884	39,923	52,683
Other South America.....	51,585	28,804	456,075	501,146
Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i>):				
Central America.....	2,996	5,219	35,390	31,828
Mexico.....	19,030	32,676	146,632	258,786
Santo Domingo.....	230	337	7,227	6,609
Cuba.....	2,899	28,855	14,159	165,228
Porto Rico.....	230	3,717	3,200	33,179
Argentina.....	.....	7,444	41,487	91,648
Brazil.....	4,079	2,606	22,954	29,796
Colombia.....	1,576	1,274	21,069	24,740
Other South America.....	9,797	2,189	64,207	55,465

FOREIGN TRADE IN OCTOBER.

The summary of the imports and exports of merchandise for the month of October, 1899, was completed by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department on November 24. This shows that the imports for the month of October, 1899, were valued at almost \$20,000,000 more than in the corresponding month of 1898, and that the value of the exports was—including foreign goods reexported—\$7,300,000 more than in October, 1899; also that the amount of duties collected in October, 1899, was \$3,252,576 in excess of the amount received the previous October.

The imports for the corresponding months were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTS, FREE AND DUTIABLE.		
Articles of food and animals.....	\$18,382,038	\$16,446,283
Articles in a crude condition which enter into the various processes of domestic industry.....	23,343,683	15,176,977
Articles wholly or partially manufactured for use as materials in the manufactures and mechanic arts.....	8,293,604	4,742,829
Articles manufactured ready for consumption.....	11,301,195	8,632,583
Articles for voluntary use, luxuries, etc.....	10,821,829	7,350,854
Total.....	72,142,349	52,349,526
EXPORTS.		
Products of agriculture.....	82,719,437	83,689,905
Manufactured products.....	33,864,376	25,416,046
Products of the mine.....	2,823,266	2,539,116
Products of the forest.....	3,856,850	2,838,855
Products of the fisheries.....	737,780	1,439,818
Miscellaneous products.....	378,594	493,081
Total, domestic.....	124,380,303	116,416,821
Foreign, free of duty.....	556,052	656,213
Foreign, dutiable.....	982,772	1,546,529
Total.....	125,919,127	118,619,563

The imports of gold in October, 1899, amounted to \$8,542,132, against \$16,738,353 in the same month in 1898. The exports of gold during the month of October were \$379,752 in 1899, against \$1,279,926 in 1898. The imports and exports of silver in the two periods under comparison were: Imports in 1899, \$2,319,652; in 1898, \$2,553,444; exports in 1899, \$4,683,226; in 1898, \$4,512,827.

The amount of duties collected at the custom-houses in October, 1899, was \$18,807,810; in October, 1898, \$15,555,234. The amount of duties collected in the ten months of the calendar year ending with October was \$185,751,830, against \$150,711,033 collected during the same period in 1898.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Senate, in executive session, December 11, 1899, removed the injunction of secrecy from the commercial treaties negotiated between the United States and other countries last summer. All have previously been referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN except those with France and the Argentine Republic. The latter treaty provides for a

reduction of 20 per cent on articles of Argentine origin which may be imported into the United States, as follows:

"On sugar, the reduction to be on the rates fixed by article 209 of the tariff act of 1897. Such sugars are also to be exempt from the requirements of article 5 of that act, provided they are shown to have not paid any internal tax nor received any bounty.

"On hides, on the rates prescribed by article 437 of the tariff of 1897, but the concession is not to be construed as impairing the regulations to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases.

"On wool, on the rates prescribed by articles 357, 358, and 359 of the act of 1897."

In return, the Argentine Republic agrees to the following tariff reductions upon articles from the United States:

"Fifty per cent on canned salmon, canned lobsters, canned shrimps, canned corn, succotash, canned tomatoes, canned apples and other fruits (excepting peaches, pears, quinces, apricots, and cherries), windmills, dried or evaporated fruits, and paraffine wax.

"Twenty per cent on bacon, oatmeal, cracked wheat, hominy, corn grits, cornstarch (*maizena*), and other cereal foods, sail twine, and cotton rope.

"Fifteen per cent on white pine, spruce pine, Oregon pine, yellow pine, oak, and ash lumber, undressed.

"Six and one-quarter per cent on cottonseed oil."

It is provided that no lower duties shall be granted by either country on the articles in question than those granted by the United States to the Argentine Republic and by the Argentine Republic to the United States. Ratifications are to be exchanged seven months from date.

The treaty was conducted by Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, at Buenos Ayres, and has yet to be ratified by the United States Senate.

PROPOSED STEAMSHIP LINE TO RIO DE JANEIRO.

On November 15 a movement was inaugurated in the city of Philadelphia for the establishment of a regular line of steamers between that port and Rio de Janeiro. At a meeting of the Manufacturers' Club on the date named Capt. CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, Brazilian representative to the International Commercial Congress, made an address favoring the project. He devoted considerable time to showing that the President, Congress, and people generally of Brazil were desirous of establishing closer relations with the United States, believing that much benefit would accrue to both countries thereby. Speaking of the great importation of Brazilian coffee by the United States, he said:

"It seems almost impossible to believe that with these enormous imports there is not a single vessel of the United States plying between the two countries. It is certainly essential, if they wish to continue this trade and have it increase in proper proportion, that something must be done immediately to place the United States on a proper footing. This something should be transportation lines, banking facilities, and increased alertness on the part of the United States merchants.

"Not less in importance to imports are your exports. You have not at all encouraged this part of your business with Brazil, though it needs but a glance to show that large amounts of your goods could be sent to Brazil if there were proper vessels for carrying them and improved systems of international exchange. Brazil can use great quantities of your products, and among them, as a mere suggestion, I might mention wheat flour, mineral oils, iron, steel, coal, dry goods, machinery, and manufactured articles in general."

Others speaking in the same line were JOHN J. GORDON, ALBERT LUCAS, and WILLIAM C. BULLITT. As citizens of Philadelphia, they favored the early establishment of a line of steamers from that city, the corporation to have its headquarters there, and be operated by United States capital. Committees have been appointed to canvass the field and take the matter actively in hand.

RECENT DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

Hon. A. M. BEAUPRE, Secretary of the Legation and United States Consul-General at Guatemala City, has been transferred to Bogotá, Republic of Colombia, where he will hold the same official positions. Judge J. C. McNALLY, who was formerly Consul-General and Secretary of the Legation of the United States at Bogotá, takes the same offices in Guatemala. Mr. BEAUPRE, in an interview, declared it as his judgment that there should be a resident Minister and Consul-General of the United States in each of the Latin-American Republics, instead of accrediting one to two countries, as is now the case in some instances. He added that he was of the opinion that Congress would take this view and make provision accordingly.

INVOICES OF GOODS FROM MEXICO.

On November 18, 1899, the Secretary of the Treasury sent the following communication to the Secretary of State with reference to goods imported from Mexico for shipment to Europe:

* * * "I have to state that no merchandise can be shipped as in transit through the United States from Mexico. Free goods on arrival at the frontier port from Mexico must be entered for consumption. Dutiable goods arriving from Mexico for exportation may be entered for warehouse and transportation to the port of exit, and there entered for rewarehouse and exportation, but the production of a consular invoice is required in either case." * * *

INVALID INVOICES.

Under date of November 16, 1899, Hon. LYMAN J. GAGE, Secretary of the Treasury, in a communication addressed to the Secretary of State, says:

"Referring to your communication of the 13th instant, inclosing for my information copy of letter from Mr. L. T. ALVES DA HOBREYA, clerk in the Consulate-General of the United States at Rio de Janeiro,

stating that, in the absence on account of illness of the Vice-Consul-General and also of the Deputy Consul-General, he signed several invoices, Nos. 1012-1023, in order that the same might be sent on the steamer leaving before the signature of the Deputy Consul-General could be secured, I have the honor to invite your attention to an opinion of the Attorney-General (20 Atty. Gen. Op., 92), from which it appears that 'no person shall be permitted to exercise the office of Consul of the United States in any way who has not been authorized by Congress to do so.'

"The invoices referred to can only be treated as pro forma, with bond for the production of duly certified invoices."

EXPORTS OF CLOCKS, WATCHES, AND JEWELRY.

The "Jewelers' Circular" of November 22, 1899, calls attention to the growing popularity in foreign markets of the clocks, watches, and jewelry manufactured in the United States. This is well illustrated by the tables recently compiled showing the exports of these commodities during the last two fiscal years.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, the total exports of clocks amounted to \$1,043,621, as against a total of \$953,557 for the preceding fiscal year. Watches to the value of \$819,810 were exported during the fiscal year of 1899, which was a gain of \$47,898 over the previous year. Exports of jewelry amounted to \$729,194 in 1899, as against \$555,719 in 1898. With regard to other manufactures of gold and silver, there was an increase from \$192,061 in 1898 to \$233,962 in 1899. But a few years ago the United States imported a great proportion of the clocks, watches, and jewelry in use.

INSPECTION SYSTEM INDORSED.

A report received by the German Government acknowledges the excellent system of the United States official trichinæ inspection as carried out in Chicago and elsewhere. The report also declares that the agrarian charges (in Germany) as to the unreliability of the inspection are not borne out by facts.

A dispatch from Berlin, dated December 4, 1899, states that the "Meat Inspection Bill," which was regarded as hostile to United States products, and which was to have been taken up by the Reichstag on that day, was postponed indefinitely at the instigation of the Foreign Office.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A dispatch dated Philadelphia, November 30, 1899, says the total coinage at the United States mint in that city in November was \$3,046,070, which represents 19,415,240 separate coins. Of the gold coins to the value of \$1,608,700, there were 107,420 eagles, 99,300 half eagles, and 1,520 quarter eagles. In silver there was a total of \$1,182,000 coined, 1,142,000 being half-dollar pieces, 1,508,000 quarters, and

2,340,000 dimes. The month's coinage of nickels (5-cent pieces) was valued at \$141,500, while 11,387,000 pennies (1-cent pieces) were made.

The Central American Steamship Company has been incorporated at Mobile, Alabama, with a capital stock of \$40,000. The directors are E. E. WOGAR and J. D. VICTOR, of Mobile, and SALVADORE D. and JOHN B. CEFALU, of New Orleans. This company will operate steamship lines from the fruit districts in the Central American countries and the South American Republics which border on the Caribbean Sea.

The President has recognized the following consular officers from Latin America: MANUEL FERNÁNDEZ NATER, Consul for Chile at San Juan, Porto Rico; W. P. WILSON, Consul for Chile at Philadelphia; EDUARDO KATENGALL, Consul for Nicaragua at New York; GUSTAVO V. BRECHT, Consul for the Argentine Republic at St. Louis; CLIFFORD S. WALTON, Consul for Peru at Washington, D.C.

The Mexican and Northern Steamship Company was incorporated in November under the laws of the State of West Virginia with a capital stock of \$500,000. The intention of this company is to establish a fleet of steamers to carry coal from Baltimore, Maryland, to Tampico, Mexico.

A convention for the purpose of forming a national association of the growers and shippers of farm produce and fruits of the United States has been called to meet in Kansas City, Missouri, January 16, 1900. It will remain in session so long as may be necessary to transact the business calling it together.

URUGUAY.

FOREIGN TRADE TO JULY 1, 1899.

The "Montevideo Times" publishes the following table of the foreign trade of the Republic for the first six months of 1899, as compared with similar periods of 1898 and 1897, amounts being presumably in Uruguayan currency, a dollar (*peso*) being equal to \$1.034 in United States currency:

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.
IMPORTS.			
Beverages.....	\$1,263,627	\$1,475,971	\$1,240,867
Comestibles, cereals, and spices.....	1,836,918	2,237,593	2,401,965
Tobaccos and cigars.....	92,612	111,521	123,300
Stuffs and woven goods.....	1,633,815	2,587,406	2,533,098
Ready-made clothing.....	439,182	743,541	730,747
Raw and industrial material and machinery.....	2,445,036	3,136,235	3,046,789
Live stock.....	477,332	1,658,009	1,663,781
Miscellaneous.....	1,082,683	1,314,096	1,283,216
Total.....	9,271,205	13,246,372	12,963,763

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.
EXPORTS.			
Live stock	\$626,649	\$224,704	\$233,699
Slaughter house products	16,017,486	14,922,467	19,586,571
Agricultural products	684,963	2,958,412	1,622,781
Other products	155,189	102,414	116,239
Provisions for vessels	46,727	42,029	45,842
Total	17,527,944	18,250,026	21,605,123

DIRECT EXPORTATION OF CATTLE.

Under date of October 14, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a translation of an article from the "Montevideo Tribune," of October 13, showing that it was proposed to make Montevideo a port of shipment of live stock, and that as soon as solicited concessions are granted by the Government a new line of steamers for transporting live stock will be put in operation between Montevideo and ports of Uruguay and Montevideo and European ports. The translation referred to reads as follows:

"Up to the present time the exportation of cattle in the River Plate was done only at ports of the Argentine Republic, principally through that of Buenos Ayres, the live stock from Uruguay nearly always going there, thence to Europe and elsewhere. But the "Company of Navigation for Exporting Cattle and Cattle Products," established in Buenos Ayres, proposes to extend its service to the port of Montevideo, and with this motive will present to the Executive Power the basis of a contract to establish a line of special steamers for the transportation of cattle. These steamers will run between Montevideo and the ports of Brazil and Europe. The company named will build, within the period of five years, five steamers and two steam lighters. The steamers will be of steel with double bottom, of a gross capacity of 4,000 tons each, and will carry 300 steers and 1,000 sheep. Each steamer will be provided with refrigerators of the best kind. The plans will be presented before six months for approval, and twelve months after they are approved the first steamer will be ready to launch."

CULTIVATION OF THE VINE.

From a report to the Director of the Bureau of Live Stock and Agriculture of Uruguay in September last, published in the "Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura," which report gives the results of an investigation of the vineyards in the departments of Montevideo and Canelones in the months of July and August, 1899, undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the progress that has been made in the last two years in restoring the vineyards attacked before that time by the dreaded phylloxera, it appears that in the department of Canelones in the years 1896-97 there were 230,200 American vines in nurseries and 617,800 at the end of August, 1899. The number of vines

transplanted and growing were for the two first-named years 149,000 and for the latter period 196,334. The amount of grapes produced in this department increased in 1899 to the large figure of 383,530 kilograms, and the wine produced was 299,000 liters, which quantities show that the phylloxera pest in place of reducing the annual production has, on the contrary, increased it, owing to the restoration of vineyards and augmented acreage devoted to viticulture.

In the department of Montevideo the plants in nurseries in 1896-97 were 1,288,800 of the American variety, and 2,826,100 in 1899. The American vines transplanted in 1896-97 were 262,900, and in 1899 104,300; the smallness for this latter year as compared with the former is due to grafting, there having been 12,700 vines grafted in the nurseries and 379,784 in the vineyards. The grape production in 1896 and 1897 was 938,400 kilos, and the wine production 364,850 liters. For the present year there were 1,481,740 kilos of grapes produced and 569,600 liters of wine. From the figures it may be seen that the vineyards in both Departments have improved in production notwithstanding the phylloxera, which improvement is due to the restoration of the vines and the increase in the number of vineyards.

SUPERVISION OF CONSULS IN CUBA.

Señor PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of the Republic of Uruguay in the United States, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that all Consuls and Vice-Consuls representing Uruguay in Cuba have been placed under his supervision. Señor MURGUIONDO has accordingly asked the Government of the United States for proper exequaturs.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Chamber of Deputies has, according to a recent German consular report, accepted the plan of M. GUERRARD for the new harbor at Montevideo. An additional export duty of 1 per cent has been imposed, and the additional import duty has been raised to 3 per cent, the latter to be enforced January 1. This creates a fund of about \$1,000,000 yearly to be employed in payment of cost of construction, which is estimated at \$12,500,000.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders have been advised that the sum of £36,850 17s. 4d. (45 per cent of customs receipts for October) have been set aside for the payment of the 3½ per cent debt.

A new theater, with a seating capacity of 3,000 persons, is to be built in Montevideo, and a Coliseum, with a seating capacity of 4,000, is also to be erected.

VENEZUELA.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTER ANDRADE.

A dispatch dated Caracas, November 29, 1899, stated that Señor Don JOSÉ ANDRADE, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, had cabled his resignation from Paris, France, where he has been also accredited for some time. It was added that the resignation had been accepted.

Señor JOSÉ ANDRADE is a brother of the ex-President of Venezuela, Gen. IGNACIO ANDRADE, and is descended from one of the oldest and most celebrated families of that country, which has in the past distinguished itself in the priesthood, in law, in military affairs, and in politics. His father was a patriot in the civil war, and his grandfather was a friend and companion in arms of the great "Liberator," SIMÓN BOLÍVAR.

Señor JOSÉ ANDRADE has traveled extensively and is an accomplished linguist. While still a young man he began his political career, and has held nearly every office in the gift of his Government. His life has been full of interesting experiences and adventures. He has represented Venezuela in the United States since 1893. He was always a firm friend of the Bureau of the American Republics, and as a member of the Executive Committee rendered it valuable service.

RESTORATION OF THE TARIFF OF 1898.

A dispatch from Caracas, dated November 15, 1899, stated that a decree appeared in the "Official Gazette" of November 14, announcing that the customs tariff which came into effect September 1, 1899, was repealed, and that the tariff of 1898 should alone be applied. It was added that United States exporters should be guided accordingly.

The tariff which went into effect on September 1, 1899, imposed a general increase of duty of 20 per cent on all goods with the exception of kerosene oil, the duty of which was reduced one-half (see MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899, p. 2200). The full text of the Tariff Decree of 1897-98 was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for February, March, and April, 1898.

HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

As may be seen by reference to the report of the Director of the Bureau, published elsewhere in this issue, as a further means of extending the sources of information of the Bureau of the American Republics and of making its MONTHLY BULLETIN a true reflex of the conditions prevailing in all the countries comprising the International Union, the

cooperation of prominent and trustworthy persons in the various capitals of the Latin American Republics, in the capacity of "Honorary Corresponding Members of the Union," has been sought. The diplomatic representatives of these Republics at Washington have courteously extended their assistance in suggesting the names and securing the services of these corresponding members, and the BULLETIN takes pleasure in announcing that up to the time of this issue seven gentlemen have kindly consented to give their valuable aid to the promotion of the ends for which the Union and the Bureau were formed. The nature of the information which will be furnished by the corresponding members, and from time to time published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, will cover a wide range of subjects, such as commerce, industry, resources, laws, budgets, geographical data, discoveries, explorations, publications of a scientific or literary character appearing periodically, and any other subject that may extend a knowledge of economic conditions and resources, as well as show the progress in every field of endeavor in the countries maintaining the Union. This is a departure which can not but be hailed with pleasure by the readers of the BULLETIN, and which will, when each of the countries of Latin America shall have a correspondent at its capital, make of it something unique among publications.

The high character and prominent position occupied by the gentlemen who have consented to act as corresponding members may be judged from the short biographical notes appended. Guatemala will be represented by Señor Don ANTONIO BATRES JAUREGUI and Señor Don RAFAEL MONTÚFAR. The former of these gentlemen is a lawyer, litterateur, and diplomat, and was born in the city of Guatemala on September 11, 1847. He has followed the diplomatic career from Attaché to the Guatemalan Legation in Washington to Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of four of the Central American Republics near the Government of the United States. At home he has been Minister of Foreign Relations, of Public Instruction, and of the Interior, President of the Council of State, a Deputy in several Legislatures, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As a litterateur he has written much, having eight or ten works to his credit, among them being "La Historia de los Indios," "Biografías de Literatos Nacionales," "Memorias de Antaño," and "Los Vicios del Lenguaje y Provincialismos de Guatemala." He is a notable orator, and has occupied in the School of Law of Guatemala the chairs of Spanish and American Literature, of Mercantile Law, of Political Economy, and of Roman Law. He is a corresponding member of the Spanish Royal Academy, of the Madrid Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation, of the Society of Comparative Legislation of France, and belongs to other scientific and literary bodies.

Don RAFAEL MONTÚFAR is a lawyer and statesman, the son of the great Guatemalan diplomatist and historian, LORENZO MONTÚFAR Y RIVERA MAESTRE. He was born in Costa Rica on August 14, 1857,

where he studied philosophy and began his legal course. His family returning to Guatemala, he was appointed Second Secretary of the Guatemalan Legation in Mexico, which position he resigned to continue his law studies. He was admitted to the bar, and at once appointed Assistant Secretary of Foreign Relations, which position he held until 1882, when he resigned and returned to Costa Rica, practicing his profession and writing for the press, which he also did in Salvador. In 1887 he was elected Deputy to the Constitutional Legislature of Guatemala, and was elected secretary of that body. He next discharged the duties of Assistant Secretary of Public Works, of the Treasury, and was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice. In 1892 he was named by the Government of Guatemala to go to Mexico as its representative on the commission established to adjust the claims between the two countries. Having honorably discharged this duty, he returned to Guatemala and entered upon the practice of his profession, which he still pursues in the city of Guatemala, occupying a prominent place in politics, literature, and law.

Mexico will be represented by Señor Don FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA, Don ANTONIO GARCÍA CUBAS, and Don F. FERRARI PÉREZ. The BULLETIN is able, unfortunately, to furnish a biographical sketch of but one of these gentlemen at this time, but hopes to remedy the omission in the January issue. Don ANTONIO GARCÍA CUBAS is a prominent Mexican engineer and geographer. He was born on July 24, 1832. Before receiving his degree of engineer he devoted himself to geographical studies and to contributing to the periodical press, as well as to the societies of which he was a member, the fruits of his scientific investigations, which have given him a deservedly prominent place among intellectual Mexicans. Since 1853 he has been publishing geographical charts of the Republic, his most important work in this line being the "Atlas Geográfico, Estadístico, Histórico y Pintoresco de la República Mexicana," with fourteen beautifully printed maps. He has also published several text-books, such as "Elementos de Geografía," "Geometría," and a large number of scientific works for the general public, which have always deserved well of the learned. Señor GARCÍA CUBAS has been the director of the National School of Commerce, a professor in institutions of learning of the Government, and is now also Engineer to the Department of Foreign Relations. This distinguished engineer is a member of several scientific societies of his own country and of foreign countries.

All that the BULLETIN can say at this time of the other two gentlemen from Mexico is that Señor FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA is the legal adviser to the Department of Foreign Relations and that Señor FERNANDO FERRARI PÉREZ, a naturalist, is the Director of the Museum of Natural History located at Tacubaya, in the Federal District, on the outskirts of the City of Mexico.

Monsieur GEORGES SYLVAIN, who represents Haiti as correspondent,

is at present one of the justices of the Court of Cassation and Secretary-General of the Société de Législation of Port au Prince. He was educated in Paris and received his B. A. degree there. He then took the law course of the Faculté de Droit of Paris, and after a brilliant examination received his diploma as a licentiate in law. Returning to Haiti, he became a member of the bar of Port au Prince. The Government was not long in appointing him Professor of Roman Law at the National School of Law of Port au Prince. M. SYLVAIN resigned the chair of Roman Law to become a Chief of Division in the Ministry of Public Instruction. He is a distinguished publicist and litterateur.

General Don MANUEL LANDAETA ROSÁLES, is the correspondent from Caracas, Venezuela. A short sketch of his career will appear in a future number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

It is a matter of gratulation to the MONTHLY BULLETIN that it has so many friends among the press of the United States and the younger Republics beyond the Rio Grande. These friends, mostly serious and sedate commercial journals, have so assisted and are so assisting the BULLETIN in its efforts to disseminate a knowledge of each of the countries forming the International Union in all the others by copying articles on every subject and in every language within the scope of its programme that it were ill-timed and captious to dwell upon the fact that in nearly every instance, through oversight, or overzeal perhaps, no mention is made of the source of information. Every month's issue of the BULLETIN contains articles upon special subjects relating to the independent Republics of the Western World, and with rare good taste and better furtherance of its plans its contemporaries from the Great Lakes to the bleak shores of Sandy Point publish them without change of dot or comma or disguising quotation marks. These articles come back under the ken of the BULLETIN, absolutely unchanged and unaltered, in the form of leading editorials, special matter, news items, and even "Consular Reports" to Old World Governments—a high compliment to the Bureau of the American Republics, which is so efficiently performing its allotted task.

The BULLETIN thanks its contemporaries for these signal evidences of their confidence, and would only add that, as it publishes nothing but a few miscellaneous notes without citing the authority, it might be better for the contemporaries of the BULLETIN in the various countries forming the International Union, of which it is the organ, to furnish their readers with the source of their information, with the twofold object of assisting in the great work for which the Bureau was founded and of imprinting a trustworthy and official character upon their reproductions.

THE COSTA RICA-NICARAGUA BOUNDARY LINE.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received from Señor J. B. CALVO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Costa Rica, the annexed English text of "Award No. 4," made by the "Engineer Arbitrator," Gen. E. P. ALEXANDER, who was appointed, with the approval of the two Governments concerned, by President CLEVELAND.

The terms of the convention for the demarcation of the boundary lines were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for April, 1897.

The present report bears date of July 26, 1899, and, in addressing the boundary commissions of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, General ALEXANDER says:

"As the arbitrator of whatever points of difference may arise between your two bodies in tracing and marking the boundary lines between the Republics you represent, I am called upon to decide the following question:

"What level of its waters shall be taken to determine the shore line of Lake Nicaragua, parallel to which and 2 miles distant therefrom the boundary line must be traced, from near the San Juan River to the Sapoá?

"It will facilitate discussion to define in advance the principal levels which must be frequently referred to. Under the influence of rainy seasons of about seven months and dry seasons of about five the level of Lake Nicaragua is in constant fluctuation. We shall have to discuss five different stages.

"First. Extreme high-water; the level reached only in years of maximum rainfall or some extraordinary conditions.

"Second. Mean high water; the average high level of average years.

"Third. Mean low water; the average low level of average years.

"Fourth. Extreme low water; the lowest level reached in years of minimum rainfall or other extraordinary conditions.

"Fifth. Mean water; the average between mean high water and mean low water.

"The argument presented to me in behalf of Nicaragua claims that the level to be adopted in this case should be the first level named, to wit, extreme high water. It argues that this line, and this line alone, is the true limit of what the argument calls the bed of the lake. Costa Rica claims the adoption of the third level, to wit, mean low water. This is argued principally upon two grounds: First, it is shown by a great number of legal decisions that in most States all water boundaries are invariably held to run at either extreme or mean low water. Second, it is claimed that in case of any doubt Costa Rica is entitled to its benefit, as she is conceding territory geographically hers.

"I will begin with Costa Rica's first argument. The equity of adopt-

ing a low-water line in the case of all water boundaries is readily admitted, even though instances of contrary practice exist.

"Between all permanent lands and permanent waters usually runs a strip of land, sometimes dry and sometimes submerged. We may call it, for short, semisubmerged. Its value for ordinary purposes is much diminished by its liability to overflow, but, as an adjunct to the permanent land, it possesses often very great value. If the owner of the permanent land can fence across the semisubmerged he may save fencing his entire water front. He also can utilize whatever agricultural value may be in the semisubmerged land in dry seasons. Both of these values would be destroyed and wasted if the ownership were conferred upon the owner of the water. Therefore equity always, and law generally, confers it upon the owner of the permanent land.

"I recognized and followed this principle in my award, No. 3, where I held that the boundary line following the right bank of the San Juan River, below Castillo, follows the lowest water mark of a navigable stage of river. And, if now the lake shore were itself to be the boundary of Costa Rica, I would not hesitate to declare that the semisubmerged land went with the permanent land and carried her limits at least to the mean low-water line.

"But this case is not one of a water boundary; nor is it at all similar, or on all fours with one, for none of the equities above set forth have any application. It is a case of rare and singular occurrence and without precedent within my knowledge. A water line is in question, but not as a boundary. It is only to furnish starting points whence to measure off a certain strip of territory. Clearly the case stands alone, and must be governed strictly by the instrument under which it has arisen. That is the treaty of 1858, and its language is as follows:

"Thence the line shall continue toward the river Sapoa, which discharges into the Lake of Nicaragua, following a course which is distant always 2 miles from the right bank of the river San Juan, with its sinuosities, up to its origin at the lake, and from the right bank of the lake itself up to the said river Sapoa, where this line parallel to the said banks will terminate."

"The principles upon which the language and intent of treaties are to be interpreted are well set forth in the Costa Rican argument by many quotations from eminent authors. All concur that words are to be taken as far as possible in their first and simplest meanings—'in their natural and obvious sense, according to the general use of the same words;' 'in the natural and reasonable sense of the terms;' 'in the usual sense, and not in any extraordinary or unusual acceptation.'

"We must suppose that the language of the treaty above quoted suggested to its framers some very definite picture of the lake with its banks and of the 2-mile strip of territory. It evidently seemed to them all so simple and obvious that no further words were necessary. Let us first call up pictures of the lake at different levels and see which seems the most natural, obvious, and reasonable.

"The very effort to call up a picture of the lake at either extreme high water or at extreme low water seems to me immediately to rule both of these levels out of further consideration. Both seem unnatural conditions, and I must believe that had either been intended additional details would have been given.

"Next, is the mean low-water mark the first, most obvious, and natural picture called up by the expression 'the bank of the lake?' It seems to me decidedly not. During about eleven months of the year this line is submerged, invisible, and inaccessible. It seems rather a technical line than a natural one. The idea of a bank is of water limited by dry land with some elements of permanency about it. Even during the brief period when the line is uncovered the idea of it is suggestive far more of mud and aquatic growths than of dry land and forest growths.

"To my mind, the natural, simple, and obvious idea of the bank of a lake in this climate is presented only by the line of mean high water. Here we would first find permanent dry ground every day of an average year. Here an observer, during every annual round of ordinary seasons, would see the water advance to his very feet and then recede, as if some power had drawn the line and said to the waters, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.' Here the struggle between forest growths and aquatic vegetation begins to change the landscape. Here lines of drift, the flotsam and jetsam of the waves, naturally suggest the limits of the 'bed of the lake.'

"One level of the lake remains for discussion, the mean level, or average of all waters. In a different climate, where the rainfall is more uniformly distributed throughout the year, the mean high-water and mean low-water lines, with all their respective features, would approach each other, tending to finally merge in the line of mean water. But, where wet and dry seasons prevail, as in the present case, the line of mean water is destitute of all obvious features, and is submerged for many months of the year. It is purely a technical and not a natural line, and is not to be understood where not expressly called for.

"In argument against Nicaragua's claim of the extreme high-water line, Costa Rica appeals to the general custom of geographers and scientific men in making ordinary topographical maps, who never adopt the extreme lines of overflows for the outlines of lakes. This argument of general custom has great weight, but it is equally against Costa Rica's claim for the mean low-water line. Wherever wet and dry seasons prevail, general custom treats mean high water as the normal state, always to be understood where no other level is expressed, and its line is assumed as the lake boundary in all ordinary topographical maps. Two quotations from Commander LULL'S report of his Nicaraguan Canal survey will illustrate (Report Secretary of the Navy, 1873, p. 187):

"In a survey made by Mr. JOHN BAILY, many years since, that

gentleman professed to have found a pass with but 56 feet above the lake level, but the most of his statements are found to be entirely unreliable. * * * For example, he finds Lake Nicaragua to be 121 feet above mean tide in the Pacific, while the true difference of level is but 107 feet.' (Ibid., p. 199.)

"The surface of Lake Nicaragua is 107 feet above mean tide in either sea."

"From comparison of this level with the levels found by other surveys, there is no question that this figure was LULL's estimate of mean high water, as shown by his line of levels.

"From every consideration of the lake, therefore, I am driven to conclude that the shore line of the lake contemplated in the treaty is the mean high-water line.

"I am led to the same conclusion also from the standpoint of the 2-mile-wide strip of territory.

"The treaty gives no intimation as to the purpose of this concession, and we have no right to assume one, either political or commercial. We have only to observe the two conditions put upon the strip in the treaty. Under all ordinary conditions it must be land, and 2 miles wide. This would not be the case if we adopted the line of either mean low water or mean water. In the former case the strip would be too narrow for about eleven months of an ordinary year; in the latter case for about five months.

"Without doubt, then, I conclude that mean high-water mark determines the shore of the lake; and it now remains to designate that level and how it shall be found.

"Several surveys of the proposed Nicaraguan Canal route, besides that of Commander LULL above quoted, have been made within the last fifty years. Each found a certain mean high level of the lake, and it might seem a simple solution to take an average of them all; but, as each adopted its own bench mark on the ocean and ran its own line of levels to the lake, I have no means of bringing their figures to a common standard. It seems best, therefore, to adopt the figures of that one which is at once the latest and most thorough, which has enjoyed the benefit of all of the investigations of all of its predecessors, and whose bench marks on the lake are known and can be referred to. That is the survey, still in progress, under the direction of the United States Canal Commission. Its results have not yet been made public, but, by the courtesy of Rear-Admiral J. G. WALKER, President of the Commission, I am informed of them in a letter dated July 10, 1899, from which I quote:

"In reply I am cabling you to-day as follows: "Alexander, Greytown, six;" the six meaning, as per your letter, 106 as mean high level of lake. This elevation of 106 is, to the best of our knowledge (Mr. DAVIS, our hydrographer), the mean high water for a number of years. * * *

“The highest level of the lake in 1898 was 106.7, last of November. The elevation of our bench mark on inshore end of boiler at San Carlos is 109.37. * * *

“A complete copy of this letter will be handed you, and also blue prints of the maps made by the Commission of the lower end of the lake, which may facilitate your work.

“As this Commission is the highest existing authority, I adopt its finding, and announce my award as follows:

“The shore line of Lake Nicaragua, at the level of 106 feet, by the bench marks of the United States Nicaragua Canal Commission, shall be taken as the bank of said lake referred to in the treaty of 1858.”

THE WORLD'S OUTPUT OF COAL.

Under the caption “Another Look at the Coal Question,” the “Iron and Coal Trades Review,” of London, for November 3, 1899, contains an article on the production of coal throughout the world. In this it is said that “some time ago certain writers called attention to the subject of the threatened proximate scarcity of coal in some of our principal coal fields, and especially in those that appeared to be incapable of greatly extended development. That scarcity is to-day almost an accomplished fact. We have heard of a number of excellent contracts that have gone a-begging because coal owners could not undertake to deliver within a reasonable time. Practically every coal-producing firm in the country has its hands full for a considerable time to come. Pressure is being brought to bear * * * to secure early and regular deliveries. The resources of production in every coal field are being taxed to the utmost. Manufacturing and coking coal is really scarce. * * * This is not a condition of things peculiar to our own country. All over the world there appears to be a remarkably active demand for fuel and an unprecedentedly large consumption. In Germany, France, and Belgium the utmost efforts of coal producers fail to keep the supply abreast of the demand. On all hands there are calls for more coal. The scarcity of home supplies is being to some extent compensated by larger imports from our own country, and hence the fact that for the last ten months our exports have been by far the largest ever recorded.

“The extent to which the coal output of the world has increased within recent years is amazing and phenomenal. This applies * * * to the oldest monarchies of Europe as well as to the United States, Canada, the Australian Colonies, and the Cape. The United States is now running us very close for supremacy as a coal-raising nation, and probably would have left us behind years ago but for the fact that mineral was to a large extent displaced by gaseous and liquid fuel in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. As it is, the United States is likely

to catch us up before it has gone much farther, for its output of coal of all kinds is very near our own. Germany is making greater efforts to increase her output than she has ever before done, and will this year for the first time raise her output of bituminous coal alone to well over 100,000,000 tons. Russia is going ahead with much more activity and enterprise than she has hitherto been capable of, and so with most of the other coal-producing countries of the world, including the ancient monarchies of China and Japan." * * *

In connection with the article is a table giving the total output of coal in 1890 and 1898 and the probable yield in 1899 of the seven principal coal-producing countries of the world. This shows an increase from 454,000,000 tons in 1890 to 565,000,000 tons in 1898 and a possible output of from 610,000,000 tons to 615,000,000 tons in 1899. The several countries are credited with the following amounts:

Country.	1890.	1898.	1899.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Great Britain	181,611,000	202,024,000	220,000,000
United States.....	140,883,000	196,000,000	208,000,000
Germany.....	70,238,000	99,280,000	110,000,000
France.....	25,591,000	27,000,000	30,000,000
Belgium.....	20,366,000	20,075,000	22,000,000
Russia.....	5,998,000	10,000,000	12,000,000
Austria-Hungary.....	9,926,000	11,200,000	12,500,000

The production of other countries is given as 13,104,000 tons in 1890, 4,700,000 (incomplete) in 1898, and 18,000,000 (incomplete) in 1899.

THE PAN-AMERICAN RAILWAY.

In the "Cosmopolitan Magazine" for December, Mr. WALTER C. HAMM contributes an article entitled "Great Engineering Projects," in which he gives an interesting account of the achievements of engineering and its victories over nature during the nineteenth century. He says that the two great material conquests have been the construction of the Pacific Railroad and the building of the Suez Canal. Among the grand and feasible projects which have been presented he enumerates the International American Railway, of which he says: "The Pan-American Railway, which is intended to connect North, Central, and South America, is a much greater enterprise than either the Siberian or the African Railway. In length it will almost equal the combined length of the Asiatic and African roads."

As now surveyed, from New York City to Buenos Ayres, it will be 10,221 miles long, and to finish and equip it will cost at least \$200,000,000. This length and cost will also be increased when the line is extended through Patagonia to the southern limits of South America.

The complete surveys made by a commission appointed by Congress prove that a practicable route can be found and the road built within

a reasonable time. The route of this road can be traced on the map, while the following table shows the distances, the miles built, and the gaps to be filled:

	Built.	Proposed.	Total.
United States	2,094		2,094
Mexico	1,183	461	1,644
Total North America.....	3,277	461	3,738
Guatemala	43	126	169
San Salvador	64	166	230
Honduras		71	71
Nicaragua.....	103	196	299
Costa Rica.....		360	360
Total Central America	210	829	1,039
Colombia		1,254	1,351
Ecuador		638	638
Peru	151	1,633	1,784
Bolivia	195	392	587
Argentina.....	936	125	1,061
Total South America.....	1,282	4,769	5,444
Grand total.....	4,769	5,452	10,221

The demands of trade may compel early construction of this railroad. It is doubtful if a remunerative commerce can be built up between North and South America by ship. The conformation of the eastern coast of South America compels a long detour to the east, and brings a ship almost as near to the ports of Europe as to the ports of the United States. The exports of South America, being mainly agricultural, will find a readier sale in Europe than in this country, and when they are exchanged for the cheap manufactured goods of that continent the conditions for trade are supplied. If, for these reasons, this country can not build up a commerce with South America by water, a quicker means of transit must be had, such as the Pan-American Railway would provide.

The obstacles to be overcome are great. They surpass the difficulties in the way of the Siberian or the "Cape to Cairo" road, but the results will be correspondingly greater.

South America has greater undeveloped resources than any other continent. Its agricultural possibilities are boundless. It has the greatest rivers in the world; its soil can produce any crop grown on the earth, and its mines of gold, silver, and coal have been scarcely touched.

A railroad which would traverse the coffee lands of the Central American States, pass through the mines of Peru, and penetrate the rich pampas of Brazil and Argentina, must have great possibilities before it.

The products of the three great valleys of the Orinoco, the Amazon, and the Paraguay rivers would find a market by means of it, and the riches of the mines of the Incas be shown to surpass those of California and South Africa.

PAN-AMERICAN COMMERCE, 1889-98.

Value of the principal imports of the United States from Central and South American countries and the West Indies for the period of ten years, from 1889 to 1898, inclusive.

Countries.	Chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc.	Cocoa and leaves and shells.	Coffee.	Fruits, including nuts.	Hides and skins other than fur skins.	India rubber.
Costa Rica.....			\$20,988,185	\$3,614,469	\$557,564	\$175,632
Guatemala.....			21,260,639	993,522	520,201	442,615
Honduras.....	\$479,532		832,493	6,336,581	429,158	761,607
Nicaragua.....			3,797,301	4,242,084	1,075,567	4,263,571
Salvador.....	360,770		16,936,588		141,204	113,750
Mexico.....	14,284,185		45,936,234		15,438,287	
Haiti.....	7,497,332		12,161,228		225,648	
Santo Domingo.....	750,292		532,236		658,941	
Cuba.....	1,356,769			14,224,079	2,560,484	
Porto Rico.....			442,873	257,095		
Argentina.....					35,207,690	
Bolivia.....						
Brazil.....	827,365	\$3,858,063	574,093,473	2,410,280	20,700,676	115,284,434
Chile.....	33,720,749				277,415	
Colombia.....	422,798	620,328	21,613,377	6,301,117	4,698,758	2,563,601
Ecuador.....		2,691,785	1,192,934		916,218	2,470,718
British Guiana.....						
Dutch Guiana.....		5,579,429				
French Guiana.....						
Peru.....	569,234				2,240,660	
Uruguay.....					14,480,132	
Venezuela.....	707,860	1,256,407	71,334,084		8,439,659	470,133
Total.....	60,916,886	14,006,012	790,221,345	38,379,227	108,538,292	126,546,081

Countries.	Sugar and molasses.	Tobacco, unmanufactured.	Wood, unmanufactured.	Wool.	Total.
Costa Rica.....			\$137,705		\$25,473,555
Guatemala.....					23,216,977
Honduras.....					8,839,371
Nicaragua.....			1,043,201		14,421,724
Salvador.....					17,552,312
Mexico.....			5,016,063		79,774,769
Haiti.....					19,824,268
Santo Domingo.....	\$7,889,075				9,824,268
Cuba.....	401,238,584	\$91,847,716	5,042,350		516,269,962
Porto Rico.....	28,631,762				29,331,730
Argentina.....				\$18,880,552	54,088,242
Bolivia.....					
Brazil.....	35,691,188				752,865,479
Chile.....				1,807,070	35,805,234
Colombia.....			1,404,566		37,624,545
Ecuador.....					7,270,755
British Guiana.....	39,926,514				39,926,514
Dutch Guiana.....	2,860,890				8,440,319
French Guiana.....					
Peru.....					
Uruguay.....				5,344,851	13,824,983
Venezuela.....					82,178,763
Total.....	516,238,013	91,847,716	12,643,865	26,032,473	1,785,369,916

Value of the principal exports of the United States to Central and South American countries and the West Indies for the period of ten years, from 1889 to 1898, inclusive.

Countries.	Agricultural imple-ments.	Animals.	Books, maps, engrav-ings, etc.	Breadstuffs.	Carriages, cars, etc.
Costa Rica				\$2, 140, 319	\$174, 045
Guatemala		\$382, 254	\$239, 517	4, 682, 855	603, 147
Honduras				699, 334	
Nicaragua				1, 533, 909	
Salvador			97, 403	2, 858, 828	
Mexico		4, 855, 199		12, 983, 281	4, 350, 531
Haiti				8, 572, 835	336, 567
Santo Domingo				1, 825, 091	
Cuba	\$676, 025		642, 024	17, 626, 590	2, 967, 995
Porto Rico					
Argentina	8, 489, 528		438, 342		3, 189, 276
Bolivia					
Brazil			1, 884, 473	40, 095, 274	5, 246, 612
Chile	1, 149, 716		260, 397		
Colombia			765, 500	4, 450, 146	320, 770
Ecuador					
British Guiana		368, 880		981, 801	
Dutch Guiana				7, 289, 853	
French Guiana				860, 539	
Peru				229, 486	
Uruguay	1, 231, 069				
Venezuela				10, 159, 890	
Total	11, 546, 338	5, 606, 333	4, 377, 656	116, 990, 052	17, 188, 973

Countries.	Chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc.	Coal.	Cotton, manu-factures of.	Fish.	Gunpowder and other ex-plosives.
Costa Rica	\$399, 895		\$16, 261, 968	\$234, 564	
Guatemala	577, 188		1, 112, 915		\$327, 118
Honduras	293, 961		1, 264, 369		214, 959
Nicaragua	605, 062	\$163, 259	928, 329	127, 270	167, 738
Salvador	557, 279		1, 557, 688		231, 248
Mexico	4, 166, 046	5, 741, 162	22, 219, 122		5, 081, 303
Haiti			5, 722, 187	5, 233, 617	
Santo Domingo			1, 183, 018	595, 974	
Cuba	2, 530, 228	7, 772, 605	973, 375		
Porto Rico		445, 027	200, 185		
Argentina	1, 336, 513		3, 059, 616		
Bolivia			39, 432		
Brazil	2, 416, 708	691, 277	9, 704, 629		404, 218
Chile	891, 060		5, 825, 515	396, 364	
Colombia	1, 639, 850	816, 393	2, 963, 944	419, 678	331, 337
Ecuador	325, 873		695, 893		
British Guiana	277, 759		300, 876		
Dutch Guiana				366, 273	
French Guiana				175, 600	
Peru	478, 747				
Uruguay	471, 693		1, 071, 451		
Venezuela	1, 521, 792		4, 814, 241		
Total	18, 489, 654	15, 631, 723	79, 898, 753	7, 549, 340	6, 757, 921

Value of the principal exports of the United States to Central and South American countries and the West Indies for the period of ten years, etc.—Continued.

Countries.	Iron and steel, manufactures of.	Leather, and manufactures of.	Oils, mineral.	Provisional.	Sugar and molasses.
Costa Rica.....	\$1,795,730	\$214,193	\$156,940	\$1,576,467	\$155,697
Guatemala.....	401,731	226,052	335,281	1,053,302	
Honduras.....	962,696	108,862	95,259	303,839	132,626
Nicaragua.....	1,833,017	423,516	351,758	961,624	233,337
Salvador.....	2,299,393		231,953	136,511	
Mexico.....	41,981,037		4,990,779	4,402,473	
Haiti.....	1,448,797	451,087	437,290	13,215,446	892,311
Santo Domingo.....	2,605,653		306,221	1,327,915	
Cuba.....	27,944,542	1,380,964	4,286,479	34,505,068	
Porto Rico.....	1,277,363		475,045	6,568,831	
Argentina.....	7,681,669		6,709,830	276,591	
Bolivia.....	31,209				
Brazil.....	17,867,323		12,586,885	18,733,414	
Chile.....	6,377,530		3,233,811	542,323	
Colombia.....	5,731,496	478,675	813,533	2,389,124	988,256
Ecuador.....	1,406,232		218,205	2,049,774	
British Guiana.....			538,880	4,750,356	
Dutch Guiana.....			177,223	1,285,419	
French Guiana.....				3,424,929	
Peru.....	2,271,551		528,612	847,885	
Uruguay.....	1,084,786		3,232,520	236,801	18,816
Venezuela.....	3,862,677		1,170,825	7,149,590	
Total.....	128,846,435	3,285,349	40,879,321	102,736,673	2,441,103

Countries.	Tobacco, and manufactures of.	Vegetables.	Wines and liquors.	Woods, and manufactures of.	Total
Costa Rica.....	\$464,830	\$179,311	\$297,594	\$492,503	\$24,544,056
Guatemala.....			661,211	1,822,466	12,425,039
Honduras.....			152,770	224,432	4,473,107
Nicaragua.....	165,798	294,315	393,100	539,920	8,726,952
Salvador.....			448,384	749,740	9,168,427
Mexico.....	1,182,716	245,992	1,614,744	13,982,053	127,796,438
Haiti.....	1,005,656	203,331		2,822,418	40,342,532
Santo Domingo.....		103,114		1,131,835	9,078,821
Cuba.....	646,472	5,519,458	306,120	10,528,897	118,300,642
Porto Rico.....		326,763		3,987,929	12,361,143
Argentina.....	444,690			11,803,092	43,479,156
Bolivia.....					72,641
Brazil.....				7,056,642	116,686,485
Chile.....				3,737,740	22,414,456
Colombia.....	526,528	384,101	418,201	1,677,411	25,114,956
Ecuador.....				451,874	6,129,652
British Guiana.....	492,795	164,869		1,992,175	16,176,445
Dutch Guiana.....	94,789			174,836	2,959,099
French Guiana.....	44,742			161,114	1,034,862
Peru.....	198,736			1,606,296	5,793,091
Uruguay.....	624,397	470,823		2,909,263	10,455,183
Venezuela.....				2,909,263	32,683,498
Total.....	5,892,158	7,886,077	4,292,124	69,921,699	650,217,683

BOOK NOTICES.

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

"Exotische Werte" (Exotic Values) is the title of a series of publications by OTTO SCHMITZ, "presenting a clear statement of the financial situation, as well as of the commerce and economic conditions of those foreign States whose obligations are dealt in on the German Exchanges." The first volume, upon the "Finances of Mexico," appeared in 1894. (DUNCKER & HUMBLAT, Leipzig.)

The author states that during the period 1882-1892 the bonds of a number of foreign States had been offered for subscription in Germany to the extent of 20,700,000,000 marks, of which 5,300,000,000 were taken in that country. Among others were the following:

Country.	Offered.	Accepted.
	Marks.	Marks.
Argentine Republic	201,396,618	180,119,538
Brazil	520,000,000	14,461,000
Chile	30,927,840	12,550,700
China	5,000,000	5,000,000
Greece	583,288,000	210,267,920
Mexico	474,293,200	200,112,436
Roumania	560,667,455	284,778,925
Servia	147,816,000	57,541,538
Portugal	487,807,200	298,337,060

The object of Mr. SCHMITZ'S work is to furnish German investors with such facts about the countries, whose obligations are held by them, as will enable them to rapidly and easily inform themselves in the premises to the end that they will be in position to form their own opinions of values and prospects. In addition to the statistics taken from official and other authorities bearing upon the various phases of the subject, the author gives a review of the several sources of revenue of the Mexican Republic and, further, has a chapter upon the "Silver Crisis and its Effect upon Mexican Finance."

In 1895 Mr. SCHMITZ published his second work—this one upon the "Finances of the Argentine." The same general plan of investigation has been adhered to as in the first book, and all the facts are presented clearly and with an evident disposition to do full justice to the country. In his conclusions in regard to Mexico he spoke relatively in an encouraging manner of the future, and the correctness of his opinions, so far, has been well borne out. In speaking of the Argentine Republic, while the author does not allow himself to be too optimistic, he still advances the belief that the financial and economic situation in the La Plata States is fast getting to a healthy basis, even faster than was the case with Mexico. The opening of the new sources of riches in the Argentine Republic, such as grain and cattle raising, will naturally proceed faster than did the culture of tobacco and coffee in Mexico, and while Mexico may always suffer through a further decrease in the value of silver, upon which her currency is based, the Argentine Republic has it in her own hands, through careful banking and monetary laws, to increase the value of her money.

"McClure's Magazine" for December, 1899, contains an illustrated article by RAY STANNARD BAKER, entitled "The Movement of Wheat," referring particularly to the sources and volume of production, the machinery and methods of distribution, and the rapidity of consumption. The writer says there are now about 517,000,000 bread eaters in the world, and that each of these—man, woman, and child—consumes on an average a barrel of flour (4½ bushels of wheat) every year. The French, the English, and the citizens of the United States eat more

than the average. On the basis of this average, the bread-eating world requires more than 2,300,000,000 bushels of wheat each year. "If the wheat fields of the world produce as much as this, then there is plenty and prosperity the world over; if the production is less, there is suffering and starvation. Great Britain eats her entire wheat crop in thirteen weeks. If the United Kingdom could be completely blocked * * * her population would probably be totally extinguished by starvation within three months. The like is true of every country in Western Europe." The vast tides of wheat, generally speaking, set to the east and north—to the cities of the Old World from the United States, the Argentine Republic, and Chile—with lesser tides from the west and south.

China, which heretofore has been satisfied with a diet of rice, has of late acquired a taste for wheat flour, and, with all its inhabitants eating wheat bread, could consume the present world's crop and still go hungry. Europe, even including the crops from the vast fields of Russia, never produces enough wheat for her needs. If an open conflict between the United States and all of Europe should ever come to pass, the former might go far toward winning a victory by a mere stoppage of the tide of food supplies. Only five European countries produce more wheat than they use—Russia, Hungary, Servia, Bulgaria, and Roumania—but their surplus would only be sufficient for Holland, Belgium, Scandinavia, and Switzerland. The United States, with its enormous crops, has become naturally the greatest of all traders. Some idea of the requirements of the United States alone may be seen from the following statistics: For feeding 74,000,000 of people (the estimated population in 1899), at $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels each, 333,000,000 bushels are required; for seeding 47,000,000 acres in wheat farms, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre, the requirements are 70,500,000 bushels, or a grand total of 403,500,000 bushels. Mr. BAKER's article abounds in facts and figures, which are arranged in a manner calculated to instruct as well as entertain the reader, if, indeed, he is not at times startled at the vastness of the subject.

The "Revista del Instituto Paraguayo" (Review of the Paraguayan Institute) for July contains three extremely interesting papers on Paraguayan fauna, as follows: I, by ALBERTO PERUGIA; some fish taken in the Upper Paraguay by the Cav. GUIDO BOGGIANI. Specimens of these fish were sent to the Museum of Natural History of Genoa, and the article states that as two of the species are new to ichthyologists they are of great interest to scientists. All these fish were taken at Puerto 14 de Mayo, Department of Bahía Negra, in the Chaco Boreal, and a minute description of them is incorporated in the paper. In No. II, G. A. BOULLENGER, F. R. S., writes on a list of reptiles, batrachia, and fish taken by the same Italian scientist in the northern Chaco, and No. III is by MARTIN JACOBY, on new species of phytophagous coleopters of Paraguay. The papers can not fail to claim the attention of all who care for natural history.

In the same number of the "Revista" the initial chapters of a collection of documents relating to the history of America, and more particularly to that of Paragnay, appear under the title, "Colección de Documentos Relativos á la Historia de América y Particularmente á la Historia del Paragnay" (Documents Relative to the History of America in General and Paragnay in Particular). This work, although published by Don BLAS GARAY as separate from the "Revista," is nevertheless bound in with it. In the preliminary note to the opening chapters the author says that the collection of historical documents which is to be published was taken principally from the General Archives of the Indies of Seville; that the documents have not heretofore been published, and that they will all be inserted without any change of orthography, punctuation, etc., and without notes or comments, so as to leave each person who shall appeal to them at liberty to interpret them according to his own judgment. The documents as far as published contain historical, geographical, and ethnological notes of great importance, and, without doubt, when the entire work shall have been brought to light, it will be sought with avidity by historians and others taking an interest in the great southern half of the New World. The sixth chapter is a description of the River Plate, and chapter 7 is a narrative concerning the same, the former being from an undated document and the latter from one dated in 1545, both of which will be extremely pleasant reading to persons acquainted with the Spanish language and to whom historical researches appeal.

"Industrial Cuba;" being a study of present commercial and industrial conditions, with suggestions as to the opportunity presented in the island for American capital, enterprise, and labor. By ROBERT P. PORTER. (G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York and London, 1899). The author is one of the most indefatigable workers in the realm of investigation in this country, and, as Special Commissioner of the United States to Cuba and Porto Rico, has had abundant opportunity to inform himself at first hand upon all the varied conditions, so that his present work will serve as a guidebook of the highest order. He deals with living questions in Cuba, those which confront the United States in the reconstruction of the island. The measures inaugurated for the government of the island, which were based upon the author's reports to President MCKINLEY, were formed scrupulously in the interest of Cuba and not with a view of benefiting by discrimination the United States. The outlook for labor, the sanitary conditions of the cities—with special reference to the valuable report of the late Col. GEORGE E. WARING—the revenue, tobacco, sugar, and other topics are all brought under careful review. The author deprecates any wild speculative plunge, but suggests the following as some of the enterprises likely to be taken up by American and English capitalists:

Sanitary improvements and waterworks; street railways and light railway transportation in suburban districts; gasworks and electric

lighting; unifying and extension of railway systems; establishment of better facilities for coastwise transportation; navigation between Cuba and the United States; wharfage, lighterage, and public warehouses; telegraphic and telephone service; public roads and highways; savings banks and financial institutions to aid commerce and industry; places of amusement, tropical gardens, and hotels. The book of 415 pages contains a number of maps and is profusely illustrated. In the preface Mr. PORTER pays tribute to Mr. W. J. LAMPTON for his assistance in the preparation of the work.

A new and valuable work upon Brazil from the press of FERDINAND HIRT & SOHN, Leipzig (1899), is entitled "Das Republikanische Brasilien in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart" (The Past and Present of the Brazilian Republic), by OSKAR CANSTATT. Mr. CANSTATT formerly held the position of Director of Colonies under the Empire, and this book, composed of some 650 pages, is the result of his observations for a series of years, supplemented from official sources. It is certainly one of the most comprehensive treatises upon the Brazilian Republic that has lately appeared, and contains 62 half-tone pictures, 2 colored maps, and 1 panorama of Rio de Janeiro. The geographical position, boundaries, and the history of the discovery of the country make up the introduction, which is followed by a chapter upon the geology, climate, health conditions, flora and fauna (with many interesting illustrations), and population. Agriculture, mining, cattle raising, forestry, and industrial activity are fully treated, and most interesting is a chapter upon the various colonies. The exports and imports, coinage, and customs are given careful consideration, and a striking chapter is the one upon the shipping interests. The public highways, railroads, postal affairs, telegraphs, and telephones close that part of the book which is devoted to the commercial affairs of the country. The church, schools, art, literature, the press, charitable institutions, and customs of the country are graphically described, and reference is made to the constitution and government, justice, governmental finances, the army and navy. The history of the country is treated in thirteen sections, commencing with the year 1500, at the time of the seizure of Brazil by the Portuguese and ending with the present Republican era. This is followed by a minute description of the different States of the Republic, and as addenda are statistical tables giving immigration, prices of the chief commodities, railroads, and other matters of public interest. An elaborate index enhances the value of the work as a book of reference.

"Harper's Magazine" for December has a further article by Sir MARTIN CONWAY (see November, 1899, MONTHLY BULLETIN) upon mountain climbing in the Andes. The present article is entitled "Aconagua and the Volcanic Andes," and is a continuation of the author's experiences in the Cordilleras. In the climbing of the mountains Sor-

rata and Illimani, he had really accomplished the main objects of his journey to South America.

"I received," says Sir MARTIN, "more kindness in half a day in Valparaiso than I could return thanks for in a column, for I arrived there without introductions, but desirous of ascending the Aconcagua." The road was at once made easy and everything arranged so that he was able to start in three days. It was not the first ascent of the mountain, this having been previously accomplished in 1897 by Mr. VINES, accompanied by the Himalayan guide ZURBRIGGEN. The ascent of Sir MARTIN CONWAY was a sporting and not a scientific expedition. The mountain had been measured by FITZGERALD with greater care and accuracy than any other high mountain in the world had ever been measured, and the author says that when FITZGERALD'S book appears the world will then know how valuable has been his work. The author makes this statement because, as he says, when he returned to Valparaiso, after a ten days' absence, the opinion seemed to obtain among uninformed persons that he had in some fashion surpassed the exploit of his predecessors.

The Aconcagua is not situated in Chile any more than Mount Blanc is in Switzerland. The Aconcagua is wholly in the Argentine Republic, according to Sir MARTIN. The description of the ascent in detail is given by a master hand, who must have thoroughly enjoyed the work as a true sportsman. Sir MARTIN took but one native Chilean with him, to whom he gave his ice axe, tent, and other paraphernalia to enable him to establish himself as a guide—and whom he states is abundantly capable to take anyone to the summit of the Aconcagua.

In an editorial note to this article it is stated that Mr. BANDELIER, who had been referred to in an article on Mount Illimani as excavating for the National Museum at Washington, was not so engaged. Since 1894 this gentleman has been employed by the trustees of the American Museum of Natural History of New York, which has in process of publication a great work on the people and antiquities of the Highlands of Bolivia.

"Hawaiian America: Something of Its History, Resources, and Prospects," by CASPAR WHITNEY. (HARPER & BROTHERS, 1899.) Mr. WHITNEY has furnished the reading public with a most interesting and valuable work in the above volume, which his publishers have brought out in a very artistic style, profusely illustrated with scenes of the natives, their industries, homes, diversions, etc., on the several islands, and with five maps. The author in his preface says: "It has not been my purpose to produce either a history of or a tourists' guide to the Hawaiian Islands, but rather to give a fair idea of the islands and their people, their character and their industries, their resources and their prospects." And Mr. WHITNEY has carried out his ideas in a crisp and entertaining manner, his style being a great departure from the dry and arid one followed by the average writer upon subjects of this kind.

The book contains seventeen chapters relating to the labor question,

industrial prospects, sugar growing, coffee planting, educating the natives, etc., which are followed by statistical tables relating to distances, population, leprosy, real estate, public lands, education, industries, railroads, commerce, etc. From these latter it appears that on December 31, 1897, the number of lepers on the islands was 1,100 out of a total population of 109,000. Speaking of education, the author informs us that in seventy years the people of the islands have been raised from the "lowest degradation to a condition of average literacy higher than that of all other countries save the United States, Prussia, and Switzerland, and to a wealth per capita averaging greater than any other country in the world." The wealth per capita is given at \$60; that of the United States, on a basis of 72,000,000 population, is \$23.70. In 1884 the percentage of the population of school age in attendance at educational institutions was 70.73; in 1890 it was 81.59, and in 1896 it reached the remarkable figure of 96.20.

"*Indice del Comercio Americano; Directorio Descriptivo y Clasificado de los Miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de los Estados Unidos*" (American Commercial Index; Descriptive and Classified Directory of the Members of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States), is the title of a work just issued by the National Association of Manufacturers of Philadelphia, the object of which is to furnish merchants interested in United States commodities a comprehensive manual of the principal manufactures of the United States. The book contains the names of those members of the National Association who manufacture articles for export to other countries, and is divided into four parts. Part I is an alphabetical list of the members, with a brief enumeration of the articles they manufacture, and other useful information for purchasers. Part II is a classified list of the members; Part III, the registered cable addresses of the same, and Part IV, advertisements of members. The first volume issued by the association appeared in January, 1899, being an edition of 5,000 copies printed in English. The book under review is a Spanish edition for circulation in countries using the Spanish language. Early in 1900 another edition in English and French will be published for distribution at the Paris Exposition. The Index leaves nothing to be desired, and fully meets the purposes which brought it forth. The book is for free distribution, and copies may be secured from the Bureau of the American Republics or at the office of the National Association of Manufacturers in Philadelphia.

The "*Bollettino del Ministero degli Affari Esteri*" (Report of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy) is a monthly publication issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, devoted to the reports of the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Kingdom abroad, and contains much valuable information in regard to the countries where they are stationed, as well as all the latest administrative measures issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Italy. The Bureau of the American Republics is in receipt of several of these

pamphlets, mostly devoted to immigration and colonization in all parts of the world as affecting Italians. Another important publication from the same source is a volume of 660 pages, bearing the title of "Emigracion e Colonie," published in 1893, containing the reports of the royal diplomatic and consular agents in reply to a circular of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of February 24, 1891, asking for information concerning Italian immigration and immigration laws, resources, etc., of the countries to which they were accredited in both continents. This work, besides the reports from all parts of the world, contains an appendix with tabulated statements prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce relating to the immigration of Italians by provinces in 1891-92 and from 1876 to 1892, besides other important data in reference to Italian schools, eleemosynary institutions, chambers of commerce, etc., abroad, and the royal laws governing emigration.

"El Catorce de Noviembre ó las Lluvias de Leonidas y los Cielos Astronómicos" (November 14, Meteoric Showers and Astronomical Cycles) is the title of a pamphlet by Don MANUEL M. MIRANDA Y MARRÓN (HIJAS DE J. F. JENS, Mexico, 1899). It is a comparative study of the periods of maximum shooting stars in the middle of November in relation with the comet of 1866, the astronomic cycles, the precession of the equinoxes and the solar spots; the influence of the latter and, in general, of the sun over meteorological phenomena. The author of the work modestly disclaims any deep insight into the science of the heavens, stating that he has been only attracted to their study and to take up the matter of star showers through his deep interest in the Bible and history. He adds that having made the discovery of the fluvio-stellar cycle in the pursuit of his astronomical investigations, and of the intimate connection of this cycle with all the others in the known science, it seemed to him that he ought to communicate this discovery to the learned in the science of the stars and of nature, so that they may study this point and confirm him in what he claims to have sufficiently demonstrated through the force of figures, or convince him of the error into which, perhaps, he may have fallen. To the scientist and to the amateur who pursue investigations of the celestial dome this pamphlet will furnish much mental pabulum. The title of the work was due to the much-heralded end of the world on November 14 last.

The American Book Company (New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago) has favored the Bureau with a set of text-books which has just been published by them for use in the teaching of English and Spanish in the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico. The books consist of a First, Second, and Third Reader in Spanish, lessons in the English language, printed in English and Spanish, Appleton's First Reader in Spanish, and several arithmetical pads with printed questions and blank spaces for the answers in Spanish. The books are nicely bound in heavy board covers, and are all that could be desired typographically. They appear

to be in every way well suited to fulfill the object for which they are intended, i. e., to teach the youth of the new American possessions their own as well as the English language. The "Natural Advanced Geography," published by the same company in English, furnishes a very complete and rational school course in the study of geography, and contains the very latest geographical and statistical data regarding the various countries of the earth. An innovation in the work, and one that will be greatly appreciated by the student, is that the maps throughout the book are drawn on the same scale, thus preventing the usual misconceptions regarding the comparative size of countries which pupils and students of the older geographies were prone to form. The illustrations, which abound in the work, have been generally engraved directly from photographs.

The "Century Company" has just issued a most readable book by SARA YORKE STEVENSON, Sc. D, entitled "Maximilian in Mexico; a Woman's Reminiscences of the French Intervention, 1862-1867." The book is dedicated to the late Señor MATÍAS ROMERO, Minister of Mexico to Washington, 1862-1898, in the following language:

"One of the latest survivors of the drama, some episodes of which are herein related: His approval of five articles on the French Intervention and the reign of Maximilian, which appeared in the 'Century Magazine' in 1897, and his earnest request that they be published in a more permanent form led to the presentation of this volume to the public. With the deepest appreciation of the important part played by this Mexican patriot in checking the aggressive policy of Europe upon this continent the author here inscribes his name."

The story of the ill-fated MAXIMILIAN has always been one of peculiar and pathetic interest to Americans. It is so closely connected with the evolution caused by the civil war in the United States that it may be regarded as a part of its history. The various incidents described came within the personal observation of the author, and for this reason the book must form a part of the permanent record of the tragic period of which she tells, giving much of the interesting detail surrounding the effort to establish an empire in the New World after all of the former European colonies save Brazil had gained their independence.

"La Escuela Cubana" (The Cuban School) is the title of a new illustrated weekly review published in the city of Havana under the direction of Dr. MANUEL VALDÉS RODRÍGUEZ, the first four numbers of which have been received. In the initial number, bearing date November 11, 1899, the editor states that the programme of the publication is to work earnestly in behalf of the following purposes: (1) To closer bind the relations of comradeship among those devoted to teaching in the Island of Cuba; (2) to set forth the progress realized in the science and art of education, omitting entirely political and religious opinions; (3) to stimulate and uphold public opinion in favor of education, considered as a patriotic labor; (4) to make known the efforts of our forbears in this direction; (5) to publish the laws and other official

measures that may affect the profession; (6) to aid in the work of the boards of education; (7) to make public the merits and labors of the persons most distinguished in teaching, and (8) to offer its columns to the profession that it may assist in the better success of the publication. In make-up and contents this new publication is worthy of the excellent profession to which it is devoted.

"The Territorial Acquisitions of the United States," an historical review, by EDWARD BICKNELL (SMALL, MAYNARD & Co., Boston, 1899), is the title of a very timely book of reference. The preface states: "Because all the world is discussing the results of the war of 1898, this historical review, which recites in detail all the precedents established by the United States since the beginning of its Government, should aid very greatly the intelligent comprehension of the subject. It is evidently the author's intention to avoid partisanship or controversy. He has told the whole truth, in simple graphic language, concerning every event that has occurred which has any relation to the gradual growth of a small, scattered group of States into the magnificent domain which is now the United States of America; and he has left the reader to his own conclusions as to the propriety and wisdom of extending the national control to lands beyond the sea."

The several chapters are devoted to the Northwestern Territory, Louisiana, Florida, Oregon, Texas, The Mexican Cession, Alaska, Hawaii, and a concluding one, referring briefly to the most recent acquisition of territory. As an appendix, a number of comparative schedules bearing upon the subject are given.

"Enciclopedia Biográfica de Contemporáneos" (Contemporary Biographical Encyclopedia), compiled and written by JOSÉ F. GODOY. (TIOS. W. CADICK, Washington, 1898.) In this encyclopedic biography of contemporary men, Mr. GODOY, the efficient First Secretary of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, has given the public what he states to be something new of its kind in so far as the Castilian tongue is concerned. The purpose of the author upon undertaking the work was to furnish biographical data of persons who are at present prominent in any way throughout the world in public administration, ecclesiasties, the army, the arts and sciences, commerce, industry, etc., and it may be considered as a compendium of contemporary history of all nations. Especial care has been taken to give preference to notable figures in the countries of the New World, and which for this reason are not included in European publications. The work contains on every page photogravures of the subjects treated, and is invaluable to those interested in seeking information regarding the prominent men of the countries south of the Rio Grande.

"Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos; Sus progresos en veinte años de paz, 1877-1897" (United States of Mexico; Its Progress During Twenty Years of Peace). (H. A. ROST, New York, 1899.) Lic. RAFAEL DE ZAYAS ENRÍQUEZ, the author of this able and interesting volume, is a member of the Mexican Geographical and Statistical Society and of

other scientific and literary societies, and his work shows that he was properly chosen to lay before the world the advancements made by the United Mexican States during the twenty years of peace which have blessed the country from 1877 to 1897. The work is a large quarto, printed on calendar paper, and embellished with full-page portraits of the President of the Republic and the members of his Cabinet, and is an historical and statistical study, founded on the most recent and complete official data. The author takes up each separate department of government and shows by figures taken from official sources the great strides Mexico has made during the fifth of a century closing with the year 1897. An appendix to the volume contains full biographical notes of the President and his Cabinet.

"The Anglo-American Magazine" for December contains an article on "Cape Nome's Gold Fields," by JAMES F. WARDNER, which is descriptive of the new El Dorado in Alaska. The author says: "I have seen most of the gold-mining regions on this mundane sphere, and can truthfully say that none compares with Nome. It is the most remarkable gold-mining region at present in the world, if not in the entire history of gold mining. It is about 225 miles north and west of the mouth of the Yukon River, or 133 miles from Healy, St. Michael Island." Mr. WARDNER relates that on August 14 last seven men took out \$18,000 in gold in eighteen hours, and some other instances of gold findings border on the marvelous. The article is well worth the perusal of persons who believe that truth is stranger than fiction. The author closes with advice as to how to prepare for the gold fields of the Northwest and the best way to get there. The same number of the "Anglo-American" contains the completed pages on "The Alaskan Boundary Line," by the Hon. DAVID GLASS, Q. C., referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October.

"The Empire of the South: Its Resources, Industries, and Resorts," by FRANK PRESBREY, published by the Southern Railway Company, is the title of perhaps the best volume in the way of artistic illustration, letter press, and subject-matter ever issued by a railroad corporation. The company states that its aim in the preparation of the book was to present in a frank and forceful manner an unbiased and interestingly written statement of the development of the Southern States in manufacturing, commerce, and agriculture. The task assumed has been performed in a strikingly thorough manner, which reflects great credit upon the well-known student of and writer on the South, whose name is given above. To one unacquainted with the vast strides that certain sections of the South have made within the past twenty years, this book will be a revelation. The text is embellished on every page by reproductions of photographs of picturesque bits of scenery, monuments, public and private buildings, and home-life scenes in the South, and will be an ornament to and an instructive feature in any library.

"English Directory and John Grant's Argentine Commercial Guide, 1899-1900." (Buenos Ayres, 1899.) This volume is the second issue

of the work and treats many new subjects of interest, containing in a compact and attractive form much instructive and varied information about the Argentine Republic which has not appeared heretofore in print. Part II of the Directory contains specially prepared articles by writers who are well informed on their respective subjects. This part, among other interesting matters, contains an English translation of the Argentine Constitution, accounts of the last three civil wars, the National Lottery, the epidemic of 1871, the trade-mark and patent laws, statistics of the exportation of live stock, educational establishments, railways, etc. Part III is a revised translation of the Argentine Customs Tariff for 1899, alphabetically arranged and of easy reference. Messrs. JOHN GRANT & SONS, the publishers of the book, are to be congratulated upon having put so much valuable information within a compass so easily handled.

"Two Women in the Klondike" (G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, New York, 1899) is a story of a journey to the gold fields of Alaska made by two American women. The book is really a diary of the happenings to two adventurous spirits reared in luxury and refinement and who did not leave the latter behind them even if forced to forego the former in distant Alaska. Its authors, Mrs. ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK, widow of the late Commander HITCHCOCK, U. S. N., and Miss EDITH VAN BUREN, a grandniece of President MARTIN VAN BUREN, in addition to having had a veritable "good time" themselves, have done the world a service, and a perusal of the book demonstrates that even amid the hardships and rough surroundings incident to life in a mining camp a good and true woman is as welcome as in the drawing-room of the metropolis. One hundred and five half-tone illustrations add interest to the book, and give a vivid idea of the life and conditions in the far-away territory, thereby enriching the word pictures of the text. The preface is written by Governor ELISHA DYER, of Rhode Island.

"Quer durch Süd America" (Trip through South America), contains sketches of a journey across the Andes in the year 1890, by MORITZ SCHANZ (Hamburg, W. MAUKE SÖHNE 1891), and is a most entertainingly written little volume. The author gives many facts gathered in the course of his travels in Rio Grande do Sul, Montevideo, the Argentine Republic, Paraguay, Chile, etc., weaving around them a special interest through his often trenchant remarks.

"Das heutige Brasilien" (Brazil of To-day), by the same author and publishers, which appeared in 1893, is a more ambitious work of much the same style as his former effort, but confined exclusively to the one country, as its title implies. A chapter upon the social life in Brazil, dress, manners, and customs is presented in a way indicating that the author has enjoyed good opportunities for observation, of which he has not neglected to make use.

Although these books have been in print for some time, it is only recently that the Bureau has been fortunate enough to receive them, and it is thought proper, therefore, to call attention to them.

Mr. A. JONIN has given the result of an extended residence in South America in the form of a large work, printed in the Russian language. A German translation of this has been made by M. VON PEZOLD, which is entitled "Durch Süd Amerika, Reise und Kulturhistorische bilder." (Through South America; Sketches of Travel and History.) The first volume contains some 950 pages and is devoted to the land of the pampas. Volume II, containing 740 pages, treats of the Straits of Magellan and the Republic of Chile. The author states that the object of his writings is to give a lifelike picture of the South American Continent, its nature, customs of the people, their dependence upon and relations to one another. Each of the numerous features taken up by the author has been subjected to a most critical review, and of particular interest are the interviews which he records as having taken place with many different people with whom he came in contact. The German publication has appeared in Berlin, Seigfried, Cronbach, 1895.

"Rathschläge für Auswanderer nach Südbrasilien" (Advice to Emigrants going to Southern Brazil), published in 1897 by the Central Society for Commercial Geography. (Berlin, Allgemeine Verlags—Argentin.)

This little work has been prepared by Dr. R. JANNASCH, with the assistance of CARL VON KOSERITZ, of Porto Allegre, and O. DÖRFFEL, German Consul in Joinville. It contains many practical hints for emigrants.

The history of the several colonies is given with the following maps:

1. Santa Catharina and Parauá. Scale 1:1,000,000. By Dr. R. JANNASCH.
2. Rio Grande do Sul. Scale 1:500,000. By Dr. R. JANNASCH.
3. Southern Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catharina, and Parana. Scale 1:2,000,000. By Dr. R. JANNASCH.
(LEOPOLD KRAATZ, Berlin, lithographer.)

"Breves Indicaciones para el Inmigrante y el Viagero á Bolivia" (Instructive Notes for Immigrants and Travellers in Bolivia), by MANUEL V. BALLIVIÁN. (La Paz, 1898.) The author of this pamphlet is the Director of the National Bureau of Immigration, Statistics, and Geographical Propaganda, President of the Geographical Society of La Paz, etc., and the Bureau is indebted to him for the copy of his work just received, which has been annotated, corrected, and brought down to date by him. Between its two covers it contains about all the information that an immigrant or a tourist could possibly desire regarding the great inland country to which it refers, from a full description of the geography, orography, hydrography, and other physical features of the Republic to the different routes leading from the ocean and contiguous States to its territory, with passenger rates by land and sea. Attached to the pamphlet is a map of Bolivia, containing all data down to the date of publication.

Dr. JUAN VILARÓ DÍAZ, of Havana, Cuba, sends a pamphlet entitled "Proyecto de Ley de Caza" (Draft of a Game Law), formulated by him and approved by the scientific faculty of the University of Havana on July 29, 1899. As its name indicates, it is the draft of a game law for the Island of Cuba, though differing in some essential particulars from similar laws in the United States, since it refers not only to wild animals and birds but also to the tame and domesticated species, though it is intended, like our own, to prevent the extermination of the fauna of the island. An appendix gives the close season in all States in the United States and in Canada, and contains data regarding the animals and birds of Cuba, which will be found valuable to those interested in sportsmanship.

"La República Argentina en 1900" (The Argentine Republic in 1900) is the title of a work which is to be published by the South American Bank Note Company for the Paris Exposition of next year. The prospectus announcing the forthcoming volume shows that it will contain nineteen chapters devoted to a general physical description of the Republic, its situation, boundaries and area, principal mountains and rivers, climate, geological data, mineral, vegetable, and animal products, political organization, government, and administration; immigration and colonization laws, means of communication, statistical data regarding population, agriculture, cattle, trade and manufactures, the army and the navy, etc.

"A Descriptive Catalogue of Useful Fiber Plants of the World, including the Structural and Economic Classifications of Fibers," by CHARLES RICHARDS DODGE. (Washington, 1897.) The author of this work is the Special Agent in Charge of Fiber Investigations of the United States Department of Agriculture, and he has embodied in the volume his observations and researches covering a period of more than twenty-five years. In the preparation of his work, Mr. DODGE has had the assistance of fiber experts, botanists, and others in many lands, and the result is a most valuable contribution to the literature of economic industry and ethnobotany. The text is a descriptive catalogue of 1,018 species of useful fibers of the world, many of which are illustrated.

The Audit Publishing Company, of New York, has just issued the second number of its "Directory of Directors," a 700-page volume, which contains a complete list of the corporations of New York and the directors who control them. The information furnished by this publication is interesting, as well as valuable, and many curious phases appear of the manner in which great corporations are managed. The name of one prominent gentleman figures in the directories of eighty-eight chartered concerns, while the name of Mr. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, who is reputed to be the richest man in America, is found in the directories of but three companies.

According to the "New York Herald" a bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies of France for a vote of 50,000 francs a year

as subvention to French schools in South American countries. The author of this measure, who is one of the Deputies for the Department of the Seine, says that a big effort is necessary to combat and arrest the tendency toward "Teutonization" in that part of the Western Continent in order to preserve a clientèle for commercial France. This can best be accomplished, he thinks, by educating and developing French characteristics among the children.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN welcomes as an exchange the "Revista Económica y Financiera" (Economic and Financial Review), a monthly publication of La Paz, Bolivia, the first number of which appeared on August 28, 1899. The new Review is devoted to political economy, finance, political and social sciences, commerce, industry, and statistics, and has on its staff prominent foreign and native writers on the subjects embraced within its programme. Judging from the first two numbers, this publication will occupy an enviable place among the South American publications.

A very instructive and interesting bulletin is that just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, on "Practical Forestry in the Adirondacks," by HENRY S. GRAVES, Superintendent of Working Plans. The work contains several maps and half-tone reproductions of photographs of scenes in the Adirondack woods.

"Petermann's Mittheilungen," No. 10, 1899, contains a map of the new boundary line established between Venezuela and British Guiana, together with a short history of the controversy and the result of the Commission of Arbitration, by Mr. H. WICHMAN, the well-known German writer upon geographical subjects.

"Diccionario Biográfico de Chile" (Biographical Dictionary of Chile) (Vol. II, Part 39), by PEDRO PABLO FIGUEROA. (Santiago de Chile, 1899.) This work has now reached the letters "Pin," and part 39 contains the same full biographical data regarding the prominent men in all the walks of life in Chile as the former parts.

The "South American Journal" (London) for December 2, 1899, as a supplement, presents its readers a very useful and admirably executed map of the Argentine Republic, showing the location of the several railroad lines. This map was originally drawn especially for the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company.

Among the subjects discussed editorially and otherwise in the "Banker's Magazine" for November are: "The Treasury Surplus and the Money Market;" "Refunding the Public Debt of the United States;" "Financial Dangers of Redundant and Deficient Revenues," etc.

The "Exporters and Importers' Journal" in its issue of November 11, 1899, contains an interesting article on "Cocoa and Chocolate; Their Origin and Manufacture."

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING NOVEMBER, 1899.

During the past month the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics has received the following publications:

BY GIFT.

- Calcaño, Eduardo. Right of Venezuela in boundary question with England. Caracas, Imp. Bruzual, 1895.
- Jennings, Albert Gould. The Cuban question. Brooklyn, 1896.
- King, Clarence. Shall Cuba be Free? (1896). Reprint from "Forum," September, 1895.
- Moreno, Dr. F. P. Explorations in Patagonia. London, R. G. S., 1899.
- Moses, Bernard. Constitution of the United States of Mexico. Philadelphia, Academy of P. and S. Science.
- Moses, Bernard. Constitution of the Republic of Colombia. Philadelphia, Academy of P. and S. Science, 1893.
- Miranda, M. M. y Marrón. El Catoreo de Noviembre. * * * Mexico, J. S. Jens, 1899.
- National Association of Manufacturers. Indice del Comercio Americano. Philadelphia, 1899.
- Romero, Matías. Coffee and India Rubber Culture in Mexico. * * * New York, Putnam's Sons, 1898.
- Wharton, Francis. Digest of the International Law of the United States. 3 vols. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1887.
- Wiener, Charles. La République Argentine. Paris, Librairie Cerf, 1899.
- Cuban Question in its True Light. New York, 1895.
- Spanish Rule in Cuba. (Trans.) New York, 1896.
- Caldwell, Chas. S. (Trans.) Mining Laws of the Republic of Costa Rica. Topeka, Kans., 1897.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

- Correspondence between the United States and Great Britain respecting Arbitration between British Guiana and Venezuela. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.
- Documents relating to Boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.
- . Further documents relating to boundary. No. 3. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.
- . Further documents relating to boundary question. No. 4. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.
- . Further documents relating to boundary. No. 5. London, Harrison & Sons, 1896.
- Maps (9) to accompany boundary documents.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

- Cuerpos diplomáticos y consulares. Buenos Ayres, Taller Tip., 1899.
- Memoria de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto. Buenos Ayres, 1899.
- Proyecto de ley orgánica municipal. Buenos Ayres, Imp. de la Volicía, 1899.

BELGIUM.

- Tableau Général du commerce avec les pays étrangers. Brussels, Ad. Mertens, 1899.
- . Annuaire statistique de la Belgique. 1898. Brussels, J. B. Stevens, 1899.

BRAZIL.

- Brazilian-Argentine Boundary Question. Statement of Brazil. (Eng.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1891.
 ———. Original Statement. (Port.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1891.
 ———. Documents. (Eng.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1891.
 ———. Documentos. (Orig. text.) New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1891.
 ———. Appendices with maps. (1) and (2). New York, Knickerbocker Press, 1891.

COSTA RICA.

Documentos relativos a la Independencia. San José, Tip. Nac., 1899.

CUBA.

Leyes, etc., de la Republica de Cuba. Imp. del Gobierno, 1896.

ECUADOR.

Informe del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores. Quito, Imp. de Espejo, 1899.

MEXICO.

Boletín de estadística fiscal. Núm. 192. Mexico, Tip. Oficial, 1899.

UNITED STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Descriptive Catalogue of Useful Fiber Plants. * * * Washington, Government Printing Office, 1897.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

Statistics of Railways in the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Report of Boundary Commission. United States and Mexico. 1891-1896. Washington Government Printing Office, 1898.

Views of the Monuments, etc., on the Boundary Line.

Boundary between the United States and Mexico. (Atlas.)

Commercial Relations of the United States for 1898. Vols. 1 and 2. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Summary of Commerce and Finance. Sept., 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

Thirty-first Annual List of Merchant Vessels of the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Translation of the Code of Commerce of Cuba and Porto Rico. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

VENEZUELA.

Arancel de Derechos de Importación. Caracas, Tip. Moderna, 1897.

Constitución de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela (1893). Caracas, Tip. Universal, 1898.

Leyes y Decretos del Ministerio de Fomento. Caracas, Imp. Nacional, 1896.

Código de Minas. Caracas, Imp. Nacional.

Yearly Statistics of the United States of Venezuela. Caracas, 1896.

BY PURCHASE.

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BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII.

DICIEMBRE, 1899.

No. 6.

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA DE LA UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

Una sesión de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas se efectuó en el Salón de Recepciones Diplomáticas del Departamento de Estado el jueves, 23 de noviembre de 1899.

El Honorable Señor Secretario de Estado, Mr. JOHN HAY, en su carácter de Presidente de la Comisión, declaró abierta la sesión.

Los otros miembros de la Comisión que estuvieron presentes fueron:

El Señor Dr. DON MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Ministro de la República Argentina.

El Señor DON JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministro de Costa Rica.

Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Director de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, también asistió á la sesión.

El Señor Secretario de Estado manifestó que el objeto de la reunión era oír leer el Informe Anual del Director, quien lo leyó en seguida. Dicho informe, que lleva la fecha de 23 de noviembre de 1899, se publica á continuación.

El informe fué declarado enteramente satisfactorio y aprobado por los miembros de la Comisión. Acto continuo y, á moción del Señor MÉROU, se presentaron á Mr. ROCKHILL las gracias de la Comisión por los buenos servicios que ha prestado á la Oficina.

La Comisión declaró maníamente que en cuanto á las recomendaciones contenidas en el informe, se dejase eso al juicio del Señor Director, y, á petición de éste, se resolvió que se adopte el sistema métrico para calcular el valor de las monedas, así como para los pesos y medidas.

Después de esto el Señor MÉROU se expresó como sigue:

“Desgraciadamente para mí, ésta es la última sesión de la Comisión Ejecutiva á la que tengo la honra de asistir como miembro de la misma,

porque, como sabéis, voy á partir para mi país. Aprovecho esta ocasión para rendiros las gracias por la cortesía con que siempre me habéis tratado, y para despedirme de vosotros, mis colegas de la Comisión Ejecutiva, asegurándoos que en el nuevo puesto que voy á ocupar en mi patria, seguiré tomando vivo interés en esta Oficina, de cuya Comisión Ejecutiva he tenido la honra de formar parte. Puedo asegurar al Señor ROCKHILL que siempre me encontrará dispuesto á prestarle mi cooperación; y expondré á mi Gobierno la importancia y utilidad de esta Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas. Estoy convencido de que la Oficina no podría estar á cargo de persona más competente, y no dudo que el Señor Director continuará introduciendo mejoras en lo futuro que tenderán á hacer más estrechas las relaciones entre nuestros países."

El Señor Secretario de Estado contestó con las siguientes palabras:

"Seguro estoy de que todos sentimos separarnos del Señor MÉROU, que, como miembro de esta Comisión, ha mostrado siempre tanta capacidad como diligencia. Sin embargo, aunque sentimos su partida, no podemos menos de congratularle al ser elevado en su país á una posición altamente honrosa y de gran responsabilidad. Nos complace especialmente el saber que no dejará de tomar interés en los trabajos de esta Oficina, sino que en el distinguido puesto que en lo de adelante ocupará en su patria, nos prestará valiosos servicios en la obra á que estamos dedicados, que es la de dar incremento á las relaciones comerciales entre todos los países de este continente y hacer más estrechos los lazos de amistad y simpatía que felizmente nos unen."

A moción del Señor CALVO, se dieron instrucciones al Señor Director de la Oficina para que comunicase al Señor Ministro MÉROU los sentimientos expresados, con motivo de su partida, por el Presidente de la Comisión.

Se levantó la sesión.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 23 de noviembre de 1899.

INFORME ANUAL DEL DIRECTOR.

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Washington, 23 de noviembre de 1899.

Al Señor Secretario de Estado, Presidente de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas, y á los otros miembros de la misma.

SEÑORES: El Señor Don FEDERICO EMORY, mi predecesor en esta Oficina, os sometió el 29 de marzo su informe final acerca de los trabajos de la misma, como un suplemento á su informe anual que lleva la fecha de 17 de diciembre de 1898, trabajo aquél en el cual expone la condición

en que dicha Oficina se encontraba un mes antes de que yo entrara á hacerme cargo de ella.

Las cuentas de la Oficina durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, son como sigue:

Ingresos y egresos durante el año económico que terminó el 29 de junio de 1899.

INGRESOS.

Cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, 1899	\$36,000.00
Saldo proveniente de ventas, alquileres, etc., 1º de julio de 1898	\$649.82
Cuota de las Repúblicas Latino-Americanas	\$5,762.78
Entradas por anuncios	\$27,005.98
Entradas por venta de publicaciones	2,622.45
	<u>29,628.43</u>
	<u>35,391.21</u>
	<u>36,041.03</u>
Entradas totales	72,041.03

EGRESOS.

De la cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos 1899	36,000.00
De las entradas proveniente de ventas, alquileres, etc.	34,409.73
	<u>70,409.73</u>
Saldo el 1º de julio de 1899	1,631.30

Cuadro detallado de los gastos en el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899.

	De la cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, 1899.	De las entradas provenientes de ventas, alquileres, etc.	Totales.
Salarios	\$30,783.08	\$9,069.55	\$39,852.63
Artículos de escritorio	100.25	877.55	977.80
Alquiler	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Biblioteca	37.28	116.75	154.03
Sellos de correo	46.11	915.65	961.76
Muebles	22.65	149.75	172.40
Impresiones	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Comisiones por contratos para anuncios hechos antes de 1º de marzo de 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Gastos diversos	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

Por lo que antecede se ve que el 1º de julio de 1899, al comenzar el presente año económico, había un saldo á favor de la Oficina de \$1,631.30. En la cuenta atrás mencionada no está incluida la cantidad que se adeuda á la Tipografía Nacional por trabajos hechos para la Oficina durante el año económico que terminó en la fecha mencionada.

Los datos que vienen á continuación muestran que al comenzar el presente año económico se adeudaba á la Tipografía Nacional, según

cuentas presentadas durante el año económico de 1898-99, un saldo de \$6,388.09:

<i>Cuenta presentada por el Director de la Tipografía Nacional para el año económico de 1899.</i>	
Suma total de las cuentas presentadas para el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899	\$34,870.61
Cantidad á deducir de la suma cobrada por composición y trabajo tipográfico, según arreglos hechos con el Director de la Tipografía Nacional y acreditada á la Oficina	2,982.48
Suma total por pagar	31,888.13
Suma pagada de la cantidad anual votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, 1899	\$3,279.25
Cantidad pagada de las entradas provenientes de ventas, alquileres, etc., durante el año económico de 1899	\$14,707.28
Cantidad pagada durante el actual año económico ..	7,513.51
	22,220.79
Cantidad total pagada	25,500.04
Saldo por pagar	6,388.09

Al hacerme cargo de esta Oficina me pareció que era necesario reducir los gastos, especialmente desde que las entradas por cuenta de anuncios eran cada día menores y había poca esperanza de que aumentaran.

Mediante varios cambios hechos en la impresión del BOLETÍN, sin que éstos hayan afectado la calidad del trabajo tipográfico ni reducido la edición, que sigue siendo de 11,000 ejemplares, se considera que el costo de esta publicación no excederá de \$14,000 durante el año corriente.

Los sneldos que la Oficina paga, aunque los he reducido de modo á obtener una economía neta de \$2,300, ascienden á cerca de \$34,500 anualmente. Creo que aun es posible, si la Comisión Ejecutiva lo aprueba, efectuar mayor reducción en orden á economizar una suma de importancia, sin que por esto sufran los trabajos de la Oficina.

La impresión de los manuales no ocasiona gastos muy considerables á la Oficina, y espero que la preparación de esas obras continuará activa y sin interrupción.

Se observará que en la cuenta que antecede, relativa á los gastos de la Oficina, es insignificante la cantidad que aparece como gastada en la Biblioteca. Se debería dedicar una suma considerable á la compra de publicaciones y mapas referentes á la América Central y del Sur, y es muy sensible que esto no sea posible á causa de los gastos ordinarios de la Oficina.

Os presento á continuación un cómputo de los ingresos y egresos durante el año económico que terminará el 30 de junio de 1900:

Cómputo de los ingresos:	
Cantidad votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos	\$36,000.00
Cuota de las Repúblicas latino-americanas	15,813.53
Anuncios	3,000.00
Venta de publicaciones	1,500.00
Total	56,313.53

Computo de los egresos en la proporción actual:

Sueldos.....	\$34,540	
Alquiler.....	2,000	
Impresiones.....	14,000	
Artículos de escritorio y muebles.....	1,000	
Sellos de correo.....	900	
Gastos diversos.....	2,000	
		\$54,440.00
Saldo.....		1,873.53

En el cómputo anterior figura toda la cantidad que deben pagar las Repúblicas latino-americanas, aunque en años pasados han faltado como \$3,500 para llegar á esa suma. Si se subtrae esta cantidad, resulta que, manteniéndose los gastos como son en la actualidad, habrá un déficit en el año como de \$1,700, sin tomar en consideración lo que se debe á la Tipografía Nacional como saldo de la cuenta del año pasado, y algunas reclamaciones de larga data que aun existen contra la Oficina. Espero que será posible pagar lo que se adeuda mediante la economía que he indicado atrás y la recandación de algunas cantidades que todavia se le deben á la Oficina por cuenta de anuncios, las cuales ascienden á \$3,858.74. Una parte de ellas podría quizá recandarse por medio de los agentes que últimamente han sido empleados con este objeto.

Mis predecesores manifestaron á menudo la opinión de que podía hacerse frente al costo del BOLETÍN con las entradas posibles á cuenta de anuncios. No creo que esta esperanza sea realizable. Con el sistema que ahora se sigue en la Oficina, de conformidad con vuestras instrucciones, sistema al que doy mi más sincera aprobación, las entradas provenientes de tales fuentes no pueden calcularse en más de \$3,000 á \$4,000 al año, porque es un hecho, según estoy bien informado, que para obtener anuncios hay que solicitarlos, y este método ha sido prohibido con mucha razón por la Oficina. En el transcurso de algún tiempo puede ser que aumenten las entradas que provienen de dichas fuentes, pero por el momento no debe esperarse que eso suceda de un modo considerable. Ni tampoco hay razón para contar con la venta del BOLETÍN como fuente de recursos, según se verá por el cuadro siguiente:

Subscripciones al Boletín Mensual.

Año.	Anual.	Semestral.
1897.....	190	6
1898.....	160	12
1899.....	92	15

EL BOLETIN MENSUAL.

Como ya queda dicho, la edición del BOLETÍN MENSUAL asciende á 11,000 ejemplares, de los cuales como 9,000 se envían á la América Central y del Sur y cosa de 1,300 se distribuyen en los Estados Unidos

y otros países del mundo. En la tabla que viene á continuación se expone cuántos números del BOLETÍN han sido remitidos á diversos países en el mes de noviembre de este año:

Distribución del Boletín durante el mes de noviembre.

Alemania	1	Inglaterra	5
Argentina	144	Islas de Cabo Verde	5
Austria	2	Jamaica	60
Bélgica	3	Japón	1
Bolivia	56	Las Antillas Menores	38
Brasil	375	Las Azores	1
Canadá	171	México	5, 101
Chile	162	Nicaragua	97
Colombia	184	Nueva Zelandia	1
Costa Rica	98	Paraguay	27
Cuba	287	Perú	133
Ecuador	113	Puerto Rico	200
Egipto	1	República Dominicana	140
Estados Unidos	1, 307	Salvador	25
Francia	7	Uruguay	143
Guatemala	495	Venezuela	546
Haití	196		
Holanda	1	Total	10, 636
Honduras	207		

De tiempo en tiempo se ha enviado á los representantes diplomáticos acreditados en Washington por las naciones latino-americanas que forman parte de la Unión Internacional, una lista de las personas á quienes se remite en sus respectivos países el BOLETÍN MENSUAL, suplicándoles que hagan aquellas alteraciones y adiciones que estimen oportunas, indicando asimismo los mejores medios de hacer más extensa la circulación de las publicaciones de la Oficina en cada república. De esta manera dicha circulación va en constante aumento, tanto en la América Central como en la del Sur, y en el mes corriente excede á la de octubre próximo pasado en 865 ejemplares. Se piensa que si la franquicia postal para las publicaciones de la Oficina fuese concedida por algunas de las naciones latino-americanas que aun no la han otorgado, la circulación de aquéllas podría aumentar considerablemente.

Es de sentirse que sea tan pequeño el número de ejemplares del BOLETÍN que circula en los Estados Unidos. Aunque nuestro pueblo puede disponer de otras publicaciones en las que se dan informes sobre las repúblicas latino-americanas, abrigo la convicción de que en ninguna otra se encuentran tantos y tan recientes datos de fuente fidedigna como en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL. Estoy enteramente de acuerdo con mi predecesor, el Señor EMORY, en que á fin de extender la circulación de esta revista, sería oportuno solicitar del Congreso de los Estados Unidos que facilitase los medios necesarios para hacer una edición de 5,000 ejemplares mensualmente, durante el próximo año económico, que terminará el 30 de junio de 1901, con la mira de distribuirla en los Estados Unidos, y de esta manera dar á conocer mejor las riquezas

de las repúblicas latino-americanas, y los alicientes que ofrecen al comercio.

Con el objeto de que el BOLETÍN sea de mayor utilidad, la Oficina ha tratado de obtener informes de todas las publicaciones periódicas de Europa, así como de las de la América del Norte y del Sur. Ahora se reciben 1,725, incluyendo los diarios, y todos los informes de importancia que contienen son traducidos, compilados ó debidamente clasificados para conservarlos como obras de consulta en el archivo de la Oficina. En la actualidad se hacen traducciones de español, portugués, francés, alemán, é italiano. Se han dado los pasos necesarios para que la Oficina reciba, en calidad de canjes, mayor número de publicaciones, y acerca de este particular debo expresar mis más sinceras gracias á la Oficina de Canjes Internacionales de la Smithsonian Institution, que ha autorizado á sus agentes en exterior para que nos presten sus servicios con el fin indicado. Es de esperar que dentro de poco tiempo esta Oficina recibirá con regularidad casi todos los periódicos que le son de interés. En el BOLETÍN se publica ahora una lista de todos los que se reciben, y los más valiosos de ellos se conservan en nuestro archivo. Los que no son de particular interés para la Oficina se envían á la Biblioteca del Congreso para su gabinete de lectura.

Como otro medio de obtener informes para la Oficina y de hacer que en el BOLETÍN se refleje la condición actual de todos los países que forman la Unión Internacional, se ha solicitado la cooperación de personas prominentes y fidedignas que, con el carácter de Miembros Correspondientes Honorarios de la Unión Internacional, se sirvan suministrar de tiempo en tiempo á la Oficina informes que tiendan á extender y completar el conocimiento que tenemos de las condiciones económicas y de las riquezas de sus respectivos países.

Todos los Representantes Diplomáticos de los países latino-americanos han prestado de la manera más cortés su cooperación á la Oficina en orden á que obtenga los servicios de los mencionados Miembros Correspondientes, que no dudo contribuirán con su colaboración á dar mayor ensanche á los trabajos de la misma.

Gracias al interés que ha mostrado en los trabajos de la Oficina el Director de la Tipografía Nacional, la impresión del BOLETÍN se ha facilitado mucho, de tal suerte que en la actualidad puede distribuirse dentro de diez días después de haber sido dado á la prensa, lo cual ha aumentado considerablemente su importancia.

MANUALES.

Cuando el Señor EMORY presentó su último informe (diciembre de 1898) el Manual de Venezuela habia sido enviado á la imprenta, y ha sido publicado ya en dos partes, á saber: Parte 1ª en inglés; parte 2ª en español. Debido á no haberse podido obtener el último mapa en que se expone la nueva división de la República en estados, se omitió su publicación, según se manifiesta en la nota que á modo de prólogo aparece en la obra.

Al terminarse este trabajo se comenzo a traducir del ingles al español el Manual de México, que ya estaba en páginas, mientras que se hacia tambien la traducción del Manual del Brasil, escrito en portugués por el ilustrado Señor Secretario de la Legación brasileña en Washington, Senhor MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA.

En esa época dirigí una comunicación á los representantes en Washington de los países que pertenecen á la Unión Internacional, suplicándoles que me prestaran oficialmente su cooperación para obtener de sus respectivos Gobiernos los últimos informes oficiales, á fin de que sirvieran en la preparación de las nuevas ediciones de los manuales, y asimismo les pedí que me ayudaran en dicho trabajo con su personal cooperación y con sus indicaciones. Las respuestas recibidas son altamente satisfactorias, y ya han sido enviados á la Oficina numerosos libros y documentos impresos.

El Manual de México estaria terminado a esta fecha, si no se hubiera creido conveniente hacer la obra más completa de lo que era, introduciendo en ella ciertas materias que antes habian sido tratadas ligeramente ó desateudidas por completo, y dando los últimos datos estadísticos que ha sido posible obtener. También ha ocasionado dilación en este trabajo la necesidad de preparar un nuevo mapa de la República, valiéndose de las cartas geográficas existentes y de otras fuentes de información disponibles. El nuevo mapa contendrá datos de carácter económico, y en él aparecerán señalados los terrenos bajo cultivo, los bosques, minas, ferrocarriles, líneas telegráficas, y otras cosas que puedan ser de interés á los lectores. Se trata de publicar de tiempo en tiempo, tan luego como se hayan obtenido suficientes datos, mapas parecidos de las otras repúblicas, la necesidad de los cuales se hace sentir notablemente. La Oficina cuenta con los servicios de un dibujante experimentado, y se ha dado principio á la preparación del mapa de México. También se están delineando los de las otras repúblicas, todos en una escala grande y uniforme. En ellos se están insertando datos de la naturaleza arriba indicada.

Á fin de que estos manuales sean dignos de confianza, obras modelo, si fuese posible, y que estén á la altura de la importancia que las repúblicas tienen y de la posición que, como representante de ellas, ocupa la Oficina, se han solicitado los servicios de autoridades provenientes de los Estados Unidos y de las otras naciones con el objeto de que preparen aquella parte de dichos manuales que requieren el trabajo de peritos. En algunos casos los referidos servicios han sido obtenidos ya.

Cuando estén terminados los manuales de México y del Brasil, se procederá á preparar los de los otros países, de conformidad con los datos entonces disponibles. Se publicarán ediciones pequeñas, y tan luego como se obtengan más recientes noticias estadísticas y de otra clase, se darán á luz otras.

LA BIBLIOTECA.

No se puede insistir demasiado en la necesidad de que la biblioteca de la Oficina contenga en tantas publicaciones ha menester á fin de responder á satisfacci3n de la Uni3n Internacional á los fines para que fué creada. En ella deberian encontrarse todas las obras, ya sean de carácter oficial ó no, todos los mapas, todos los documentos que se relacionan con cualquiera de las Repúblicas latino-americanas, porque es el único lugar en los Estados Unidos donde naturalmente se buscarán tales publicaciones. Para alcanzar este fin, la Oficina no economiza esfuerzo alguno, y con la bondadosa cooperaci3n de los representantes diplomáticos de las Repúblicas latino-americanas en Wáshington, la de sus Gobiernos, la de las doctas sociedades de sus diferentes países y la de particulares interesados en el buen éxito de dichos esfuerzos, es de esperar que se obtendrá el objeto deseado.

Hay en la actualidad como 5,000 volúmenes en la biblioteca. Muchos de éstos pertenecen á cierto género de literatura que, estrictamente hablando, no es de carácter adecuado á la biblioteca de esta Oficina. Durante los últimos seis años se han recibido pocas obras nuevas en la biblioteca. Sería conveniente disponer de los libros inútiles que tenemos y de los ejemplares de otros que existen por duplicado, ya vendiéndolos ó cambiándolos por otros, á fin de que haya lugar en los estantes para obras que tratan de las repúblicas americanas y de sus intereses. Las obras que deben conservarse como un núcleo para el futuro desarrollo de la biblioteca son las que versan sobre las materias siguientes:

1. Agricultura y riquezas agrícolas.
2. Colonizaci3n y terrenos baldíos.
3. Comercio.
4. Obras geográficas.
5. Historia.
6. Leyes, informes oficiales, proyectos de ley y documentos.
7. Minas, minería y riquezas minerales.
8. Ferrocarriles.
9. Estadísticas.
10. Viajes y descripciones.
11. Obras varias de consulta, diccionarios, etc.

Actualmente se está preparando una serie de tarjetas catalogadas que contendrá los nombres de los libros que existen en la biblioteca, debidamente clasificados según los diferentes países de que tratan. Otro tanto se hará con los que vengan más tarde. Se desea incluir en este catálogo un índice de todos los libros importantes que tratan de la América latina y de sus intereses, y que se encuentren en la Biblioteca del Congreso y en las de los Ministerios, y además, en cuanto sea posible, una lista de los artículos más importantes que han aparecido últimamente en publicaciones periódicas y que versan sobre el mismo asunto.

Hay que completar la colecci3n de leyes, de tratados con potencias

extranjeras y de estadísticas oficiales de cada uno de los países representados en la biblioteca, porque todo eso está muy incompleto.

He dirigido comunicaciones á los representantes diplomáticos de las diversas repúblicas en los Estados Unidos, enviándoles listas de las publicaciones oficiales de sus respectivos países que ahora existen en la Oficina, indicándoles los volúmenes que nos hacen falta y solicitando de ellos que obtengan para nuestra biblioteca los trabajos que sus respectivos Gobiernos publiquen. Por este medio se han obtenido varias publicaciones de importancia, y todos los mencionados representantes han ofrecido á la Oficina que darán los pasos necesarios á fin de suministrarle las obras que necesita.

Se han inscrito en tarjetas los nombres de los mapas y atlas que tenemos, y que son como 85, á fin de catalogar las primeras, con la mira de que los segundos sean más accesibles. Se han visitado otras bibliotecas de Washington y se han hecho listas de los mapas en ellas contenidos, que se refieren á la América Central y del Sur. Los nombres de éstos serán también inscritos en tarjetas, las que se incluirán en el ya citado catálogo.

Antes del 1º de setiembre de 1899, se recibían 1,034 periódicos. De este número la Oficina se subscribía á 19, y 54 le eran enviados en calidad de canjes por el BOLETÍN MENSUAL. Ahora se reciben con regularidad, ya por subscripciones, como canjes ó gratuitamente, 1,725 periódicos, incluyendo los diarios.

En adelante se publicarán listas semestrales de las nuevas obras que se reciban las cuales serán enviadas á las bibliotecas, oficinas públicas y personas que las deseen.

El interés que han mostrado en esta Oficina y la cordial ayuda que le han dado, no solamente los Ministerios del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, sino también todos los Gobiernos de las repúblicas latino-americanas y sus empleados diplomáticos y consulares en este país, son cada día más notables y valiosos, y además de facilitar los trabajos de la Oficina, la hacen más útil, ensanchan su esfera de acción y ponen de manifiesto, de una manera enfática, tanto su carácter esencialmente internacional, como lo estrecho de la Unión.

Si se toman en consideración los servicios que la Oficina ha prestado durante los diez años de su existencia, y los que puede prestar en el futuro á todas las repúblicas de la América del Norte y del Sur que hoy se interesan activamente en sus trabajos, debemos estar seguros de que las esperanzas concebidas por los que proyectaron su fundación se realizarán con ventaja, y de que será un agente poderoso para promover, mediante un conocimiento más perfecto y amplio de los varios países de este continente, sus habitantes, sus labores y sus ideas, no solamente recíprocas relaciones comerciales, benéficas á todos, abriendo nuevos mercados á los productos de cada uno, sino para hacer más fuertes los lazos de amistad y confianza que ligan á todos los países de la Unión Internacional.

Tengo la honra de ser, Señores, vuestro obediente servidor.

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Director.*

MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Al inaugurarse las sesiones del quinquagésimo sexto Congreso de los Estados Unidos, el Presidente MCKINLEY le dirigió el mensaje de costumbre. De dicho documento se toman los siguientes párrafos:

PROSPERIDAD DEL PAÍS.

“El quinquagésimo sexto Congreso, al dar principio á su sesión ordinaria, encuentra al país en condiciones de extraordinaria prosperidad y de armonía entre sus habitantes así como en relaciones de paz y amistad con todos los gobiernos del mundo. Nuestro comercio exterior ha aumentado mucho en volumen y en valor. Las importaciones y exportaciones combinadas de este año son las mayores que se han visto en nuestra historia durante un solo año. Nuestras exportaciones en 1899 solamente excedieron en más de un billón de dollars á nuestras importaciones y exportaciones combinadas en 1870. Las importaciones, por cabeza, son 20 por ciento menos que en 1870, mientras que las exportaciones, por cabeza, son 58 por ciento más que en 1870, lo cual demuestra que los Estados Unidos pueden no sólo satisfacer las necesidades de su creciente población, sino contribuir á las de otras naciones.

“La exportación de productos agrícolas fué por valor de \$784,776,142. La de artículos manufacturados ascendió á \$339,592,146, siendo mayor que en el año precedente. Es digno de notar el hecho de que los únicos años en nuestra historia en que nuestras manufacturas vendidas en el exterior excedieron á las que allá se compraron son 1898 y 1899.

“Los ingresos del Gobierno provenientes de todas fuentes durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, incluyendo \$11,798,314.14 pagados á cuenta de lo que adeuda el Central Pacific Railroad (Ferrocarril Central del Pacífico), arrojan un total de \$610,982,004.35. Las entradas de aduanas montaron á \$206,128,481.75, y las de la renta interior á \$273,437,161.51.

“Los egresos durante el año económico ascendieron á \$700,093,564.02, y dejaron un déficit de \$89,111,559.67.

“La Secretaría de Hacienda calcula que los ingresos durante el presente año económico subirán á \$640,958,112. Tomando como base el presupuesto votado, los egresos montarán á \$600,958,112, lo cual dejará un superávit de \$40,000,000.

“En el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899 los ingresos provenientes de la renta interior aumentaron como en \$100,000,000.

“El estado satisfactorio de la Tesorería se demuestra con el hecho de que el 1º de diciembre de 1899 el balance en caja disponible era de \$278,004,837.72, de los cuales \$239,744,905.36 estaban en oro acuñado y

en barras. La confianza que reina por todo el país ha hecho más general el uso del oro, y los derechos de aduana se pagan ahora casi exclusivamente en dicho metal.

La fuerte posición de la Tesorería en cuanto á dinero en caja, y la favorable condición de las rentas han permitido al Secretario de Hacienda obrar según lo dispuesto en la sección 3694 de los Revised Statutes (Estatutos Revisados), relativamente al fondo de amortización. Los ingresos excedieron á los egresos durante los cinco primeros meses del presente año económico en \$13,413,389.91, y, según dije atrás, la Secretaría de Hacienda calcula que habrá un superávit de cerca de \$40,000,000 al terminar el año. En tales circunstancias se creyó conveniente y propio volver otra vez al cumplimiento de lo dispuesto por la ley sobre fondo de amortización, lo cual, durante ocho años, no se había podido hacer por lo deficiente de los ingresos. La Secretaría de Hacienda, por lo mismo, ofreció comprar en el mes de noviembre, al precio corriente del mercado, bonos del empréstito del 5 por ciento, que vence en 1904, por valor de \$25,000,000, ó igual cantidad en bonos del empréstito amortizable del 4 por ciento, que vence en 1907. La cantidad ofrecida y comprada en noviembre fué de \$18,408,600. El premio pagado por el Gobierno en estas compras ascendió á \$2,263,521 y la economía neta por lo que toca á intereses, fué como de \$2,885,000. El buen éxito de esta operación es bastante para inducir al Gobierno á llevar adelante su ofrecimiento de comprar bonos hasta el 23 de diciembre corriente, inclusive, á no ser que el resto de los \$25,000,000 que se ofreció comprar, sea presentado durante este período para ser redimido.

MANTENIMIENTO DEL PATRÓN DE ORO.

Con urgencia recomiendo que á fin de conservar el actual patrón de oro y de mantener 'la proporción en el valor de las monedas de los dos metales (oro y plata) y el mismo valor siempre en cada dólar, tanto en el mercado como para el pago de deudas,' se den al Secretario de Hacienda facultades adicionales para vender bonos de los Estados Unidos y hacer uso de otros medios eficaces que se consideren necesarios para los fines indicados. Dicha autorización debe abrazar la facultad de vender bonos á largos y á cortos plazos, según las circunstancias lo exijan, y debería fijarse un tipo de interés más bajo que el señalado por la ley de 14 de enero de 1875. No hay en la actualidad pánico comercial que haga retirar el oro de las arcas nacionales, sino que al contrario la confianza es tan general, que dicho metal va á la Tesorería para ser cambiado por papel moneda; pero esta misma situación parece indicar que es éste el momento más oportuno para tomar disposiciones adecuadas á fin de asegurar la continuación del patrón de oro y la confianza pública en la habilidad y propósito del Gobierno de hacer frente á todas sus obligaciones en la moneda que el mundo civil

lizado reconoce como la mejor. Las transacciones económicas del Gobierno se hacen con el oro por base. Recibimos oro cuando vendemos bonos de los Estados Unidos y empleamos oro para pagarlos. Conservamos la proporción entre todas las monedas acuñadas ó emitidas por autoridad del Gobierno, y todo esto lo hacemos con los medios que tenemos á la mano. Felizmente, no nos vemos compelidos en la actualidad á recurrir á empréstitos para proveernos de oro. Sin embargo, esto se ha hecho en lo pasado y puede ser necesario hacerlo en lo futuro. Nos importa, pues, excogitar desde luego los mejores medios de hacer frente á la emergencia cuando se presente, y los mejores medios son aquéllos que al par que son los más ciertos, son también los más económicos. Los de que ahora podemos disponer no tienen la ventaja de la economía ni de la precisión. Ya hemos eliminado una de las causas de nuestras dificultades económicas en los años de 1893, 1894, 1895 y 1896. Nuestros ingresos igualan ahora á nuestros egresos, y ya no es motivo de alarma lo deficiente de nuestras rentas.

LA MARINA MERCANTE

“La importancia de nuestra marina mercante como un medio de dar incremento á nuestro tráfico y de fortalecer nuestra condición de potencia marítima, debe llamar la inmediata atención del Congreso. Nuestro desarrollo nacional no será enteramente satisfactorio mientras nuestras industrias no se vean acompañadas de un progreso equivalente en nuestro tráfico marítimo. Existe suficiente autoridad constitucional para emitir leyes que den al país fuerza marítima proporcionada á sus adelantos industriales y á su puesto entre las naciones de la tierra.

“Durante el año pasado, los buques americanos transportaron menor cantidad de nuestras importaciones que en cualquier otro año de nuestra historia, y nuestro pueblo vió con tristeza hasta donde dependíamos de la marina mercante de otros países. * * *

LÍMITES ENTRE CHILE Y LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

“La antigua cuestión de límites entre la República Argentina y Chile fué resuelta en marzo próximo pasado por el laudo de una comisión arbitral, en la cual el Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Buenos Aires sirvió como tercero en discordia.

TRATADO DE EXTRADICIÓN CON LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

“Se ha adelantado mucho en el sentido de celebrar un tratado de extradición con la República Argentina. Habiendo sido aprobado por el Senado de los Estados Unidos y ratificado por la República Argentina, lo único que se requiere para efectuar el canje es llegar á un convenio relativo á ligeras alteraciones en el texto. * * *

RELACIONES CORDIALES CON EL BRASIL.

“El tratado de extradición celebrado con el Brasil el 14 de mayo de 1897 ha sido ratificado por el congreso brasileño.

“Durante el verano pasado dos buques de guerra de los Estados Unidos visitaron algunos puertos del Brasil en amistosa misión, y fueron cordialmente recibidos. El viaje del *Wilmington* arriba del Amazonas ocasionó una mala inteligencia pasajera, debido á cierta confusión en cuanto á obtener permiso para visitar el interior del país y hacer estudios de interés general á la navegación, pero el incidente se arregló fácilmente de conformidad con las estrechas relaciones de amistad que este Gobierno ha tratado asiduamente de cultivar con las naciones del Continente Occidental.

SENTIMIENTOS AMISTOSOS DE COLOMBIA.

“La reclamación á que dió lugar el embargo por las autoridades de Colombia, del periódico “*The Panama Star and Herald*,” propiedad de ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, ha sido arreglada después de una controversia que duró algunos años, mediante un convenio en el cual se fijó en \$30,000 la indemnización que el Gobierno colombiano debe pagar, en tres plazos de \$10,000 cada uno.

“La buena voluntad de Colombia hacia nuestro país se ha manifestado nuevamente con el hecho de haber ofrecido toda clase de facilidades á la Comisión del Canal de Nicaragua, para los estudios que emprenderá pronto en la ruta de Panamá y en otras proyectadas á través del Istmo de Darién.

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 REVOLUCIÓN EN SANTO DOMINGO.

“Después de un largo período de tranquilidad, la vecina República de Santo Domingo ha sido últimamente teatro de una revolución. Comenzó ésta con el asesinato del Presidente HEUREAUX en el mes de julio próximo pasado, y terminó con haberse rendido á los insurrectos el Vicepresidente que le sucedió. El primer acto del Gobierno provisional fué llamar al país á una elección de presidente y de asamblea constituyente. JUAN ISIDRO JIMÉNEZ fué electo Presidente y tomó posesión de su cargo el 14 de noviembre. Se han establecido relaciones con el nuevo Gobierno.

NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, Y EL SALVADOR.

“La unión, á manera de experimento, entre Nicaragua, Honduras y El Salvador, bajo el nombre de República Mayor de Centro América, fué rota en los últimos días de noviembre de 1898 con la separación de El Salvador, en momentos en que parecía que estaba á punto de efectuarse una organización federal perfecta, mediante la adopción de una constitución y la elección de una legislatura nacional. Con motivo de la

actitud de El Salvador, Nicaragua y Honduras renunciaron al pacto y cada uno de estos estados reasumió su condición de nación independiente y soberana. Después de esto el Ministro MERRY fué recibido por las Repúblicas de Nicaragua y El Salvador, y el Ministro HUNTER, á su vez, presentó sus credenciales al Gobierno de Honduras, volviendo así á establecerse el antiguo sistema de representación diplomática de los Estados Unidos en la América Central, de conformidad con lo que disponen nuestras leyes. Un representante de Nicaragua ha sido acreditado ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

NEGOCIOS DE NICARAGUA.

“Una insurrección encabezada por el General REYES estalló en Bluefields en el mes de febrero próximo pasado, y por algún tiempo estuvo en posesión efectiva del territorio de Mosquitia. Con toda diligencia se envió á aquel puerto el buque de guerra *Detroit* á proteger los intereses americanos. Después de unas pocas semanas, el gobierno de REYES renunció á la lucha y la supremacía de Nicaragua fué restablecida. Durante el interregno, las autoridades que ejercían el poder administrativo recaudaron de los comerciantes americanos algunos derechos que debían conforme á las leyes de Nicaragua. Al restablecerse el gobierno legítimo, se exigió de nuevo el pago de dichos derechos. De aquí se originó una controversia sobre la validez del pago primitivo hecho al gobierno *de facto* del territorio. En abril próximo pasado se efectuó un arreglo entre el Ministro de los Estados Unidos y el Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores de Nicaragua, mediante el cual la cantidad doblemente cobrada fué depositada en manos del Cónsul británico, mientras se llega á una solución de la cuestión por medio de un arreglo directo entre los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y Nicaragua. La controversia aun está pendiente.

EL CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

“El contrato de la Compañía de Canal Marítimo de Nicaragua fué declarado caduco por el Gobierno nicaragüense el 10 de octubre próximo pasado, fundándose dicha declaración en que no se había cumplido con lo estipulado en dicho instrumento dentro del término de diez años, que en el mismo se fija. La Compañía de Canal Marítimo ha protestado contra aquella resolución, alegando que tiene derechos en el asunto, los cuales parecen dignos de ser tomados en consideración. Este Gobierno espera que Nicaragua tratará á los interesados en el caso de una manera justa é imparcial.

“Como la Comisión de Canal de Nicaragua que había estado ocupada en examinar y estudiar la ruta para un canal interoceánico á través de aquel país, terminó sus trabajos y presentó su informe, fué disuelta el 31 de mayo, y el 10 de julio una nueva comisión, con el nombre de Comisión de Canal por el Istmo, fué organizada de conformidad con lo que dispone la ley de 3 de marzo de 1899. El objeto de esta comisión es

examinar el istmo americano con el fin de determinar enál es la ruta por donde un canal es más factible á través del istmo, haciendo un cálculo de lo que probablemente costaria y resolviendo otros puntos esenciales.

“Esta comisión, bajo la presidencia del Contraalmirante JOHN WALKER, de la Marina de los Estados Unidos (retirado), dio sin tardanza principio á sus trabajos, y está actualmente haciendo estudios en Niaragua, en la ruta del Canal de Panamá y en Darién, desde el Atlántico, en la vecindad del río Atrato, hasta la Bahía de Panamá, en el Pacífico. El progreso que se ha hecho es muy satisfactorio, pero la ley exige que el estudio sea perfecto, lo enal va á requerir mucho tiempo y trabajo. El estudio se hará de la manera mas breve posible y, tan pronto como sea practicable, se presentara un informe.

“No se puede llamar con demasiada frecuencia ni con demasiada insistencia la atención del Congreso hacia este importante particular. En el mensaje que os dirigí hace un año manifesté mi modo de ver sobre la necesidad de construir un canal que una los dos grandes océanos, asunto que de nuevo someto ahora á vuestra consideración. Las razones que entonces os dí en apoyo de una resolución inmediata son hoy más poderosas aun.

ACCIÓN GENEROSA DE CHILE.

“La generosa ayuda que el Gobierno de Chile ofreció al barco de guerra *Newark* cuando se hallaba en peligro en aguas chilenas, fué un incidente muy satisfactorio en vuestras relaciones con aquel país; y no es solamente en este caso que Chile ha mostrado sus sentimientos amistosos respecto á nosotros, pues ha adherido á la convención celebrada para el establecimiento de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, de la cual forman parte todas las naciones del continente.

REESTABLECIMIENTO DE LA COMISION DE RECLAMACIONES.

“El canje de las ratificaciones de la convención para el restablecimiento de la Comisión de Reclamaciones entre Chile y los Estados Unidos y para adjudicar las reclamaciones que han sido presentadas hasta hoy, pero sobre las enales nada se resolvió durante la existencia de la comisión anterior, ha sido diferido, porque es necesario que el Senado chileno emita su juicio relativamente á las modificaciones hechas por el de los Estados Unidos al ratificar el tratado. Este requisito se llevará á efecto antes de poco tiempo.

ESTRECHEZ CRECIENTE DE NUESTRAS RELACIONES CON MÉXICO.

“Este año ha sido notable por el constante incremento de nuestras relaciones con México y por la magnitud del intercambio entre las dos naciones para provecho mutuo. Este Gobierno no ha omitido opor-

tunidad alguna para mostrar sus deseos de hacer más fuertes y duraderos los lazos de amistad que felizmente han unido á ambas repúblicas por tan largo tiempo.

“Después de que México declaró terminado, el 20 de enero de 1899, el tratado de extradición celebrado el 11 de diciembre de 1861, se firmó, el 22 de febrero del año corriente, un nuevo tratado, más de acuerdo con las necesidades reconocidas de ambos países, y las ratificaciones del mismo fueron canjeadas en la ciudad de México el 22 de abril próximo pasado. Hasta la fecha dicho tratado ha dado resultados eficaces y satisfactorios. Últimamente se presentó un caso que puso á prueba la aplicación del Artículo IV, en el cual se estipula que ninguna de las partes contratantes está obligada á entregar á sus propios ciudadanos, pero que el Poder Ejecutivo de cada una tiene derecho para resolver lo que estime de justicia sobre el particular.

“Después de madura consideración, ordené la extradición de Mrs. **MATTIE RICH**, ciudadana de los Estados Unidos, acusada en México de homicidio, por creer que servía de esta manera los intereses de la justicia. Actos semejantes por parte del Gobierno mexicano, siempre que se presente una ocasión para ejecutarlos, no solamente tenderán á satisfacer el deseo que ambos países tienen de que graves crímenes no queden impunes, sino que contribuirán á suprimir los desórdenes en las fronteras de ambos países. En el nuevo tratado se estipula que ninguno de los dos Gobiernos se considerará autorizado para castigar crímenes cometidos exclusivamente en el territorio del otro. Esto impedirá que en lo futuro se susciten controversias desagradables, como las que han ocurrido antes, debidas á que México se creía con derecho para juzgar y castigar á ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos por delitos cometidos dentro de la jurisdicción de este país.

“La Comisión Internacional de Límite Fluvial (International Water Boundary Commission), organizada de acuerdo con la convención de 1º de marzo de 1889, para el arreglo de las cuestiones relacionadas con la frontera del Río Grande, no ha terminado sus trabajos todavía. Mediante una convención firmada el 2 de diciembre de 1898 y canjeada y promulgada en febrero próximo pasado, se prorrogó el plazo de dicha Comisión por un año, esto es, hasta el 24 de diciembre del año en curso.

“Con motivo de la colocación de la piedra angular del edificio del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos en Chicago, se dirigió una invitación en el mes de octubre próximo pasado, al Presidente de México para que visitara dicha ciudad, invitación que fué cordialmente aceptada por él, después de haber obtenido el consentimiento del Congreso mexicano, pero la enfermedad de un miembro de su familia no le permitió encontrarse presente en aquella ocasión. Sin embargo, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores vino como representante personal del Presidente Díaz, y en su elevado carácter recibió las atenciones que le eran debidas.

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NEGOCIOS DE CUBA.

— “Mi mensaje anual del año pasado fué dedicado necesariamente, en gran parte, á tratar de la guerra con España, de sus resultados y de las condiciones que crea para lo futuro. Tengo la satisfacción de anunciaros que el tratado de paz ha restablecido las relaciones amistosas entre las dos naciones. Las más importantes estipulaciones de dicho tratado se han llevado ya á efecto. Habiéndose efectuado la evacuación de Puerto Rico el 18 de octubre de 1898, no era necesario hacer otra cosa que mantener provisionalmente la autoridad militar en la isla, hasta que el Congreso no haya resuelto qué clase de gobierno es el más aparente para el territorio cedido. En otra parte de este mensaje hago referencia al carácter y alcance que deben tener las medidas que se dicten acerca de este particular.

“La autoridad de España se retiró de la isla de Cuba el 1º de enero, y al restablecerse la paz, nos encontramos con el territorio á que dicha potencia había renunciado en nuestro poder, á manera de obligación fiduciaria respecto á los habitantes. Teníamos que mantener, bajo la dirección del Ejecutivo, el sistema de gobierno más adecuado á la conservación del orden público y al restablecimiento de las condiciones productoras que la paz acarrea, perturbadas por largo tiempo, á causa de la intranquilidad y el desorden que prevalecieron durante la mayor parte de las últimas tres décadas. Debíamos asimismo establecer la marcha tranquila de los negocios interiores de la isla, mediante lo cual solamente es posible realizar el alto propósito expuesto en la resolución conjunta adoptada por el Congreso el 19 de abril de 1898, en la cual los Estados Unidos declaran que no abrigan intención ó deseo alguno de ejercer soberanía, jurisdicción ó dominio en Cuba, excepto para el efecto de su pacificación, y afirman que cuando esto se haya llevado á cabo, dejarán el gobierno y dominio de la isla á sus habitantes. La promesa contenida en dicha resolución encierra un compromiso de honor, y debe ser cumplida religiosamente.

“Creo que se ha adelantado mucho en el sentido indicado. Todas las medidas administrativas que se han dictado en Cuba han tendido á adaptarla á su condición de pueblo regenerado, estableciendo la supremacía de la ley y la justicia, poniendo la maquinaria administrativa en manos de los habitantes, cuandoquiera que esto ha sido practicable, introduciendo reformas sanitarias que se necesitaban, extendiendo la educación, fomentando la industria y el comercio, inculcando la moral pública, y, en una palabra, dando todos los pasos racionales para ayudar á los cubanos á elevarse á ese nivel de respeto propio y de confianza en su dignificación que hacen á un pueblo culto digno de un gobierno autónomo y le permiten cumplir con sus deberes hacia las otras naciones.

“Este país ha asumido ante el mundo una grave responsabilidad en cuanto al gobierno futuro de la isla de Cuba. Hemos aceptado una obligación cuyo cumplimiento requiere la mayor integridad y el más alto criterio. La Cuba nueva que ha de levantarse de las cenizas del

pasado debe estar ligada á nosotros por fuertes y estrechos lazos, si su bienestar ha de ser duradero. Ya sean estos lazos de carácter orgánico ó convencional, los destinos de Cuba están de cierto modo unidos irrevocablemente á los nuestros, pero hasta dónde alcanzará esta unión, el porvenir lo resolverá, á medida que se desarrollen los acontecimientos. Sea lo que fuere, debemos hacer que Cuba libre sea una realidad, no simplemente un nombre, una entidad perfecta, no un experimento destinado á fracasar. No cumpliríamos con la misión que nos hemos propuesto y la cual nos llevó hasta la guerra, si dejásemos á un pueblo imperfectamente organizado, abandonado y expuesto á las vicisitudes á que á menudo están expuestos los estados débiles cuya riqueza natural y abundantes recursos se ven contrabalanceados por la falta de consistencia en su organización política y por frecuentes luchas intestinas que minan su vitalidad y destruyen su energía. El mayor beneficio que puede venirle á Cuba es el restablecimiento de su prosperidad agrícola ó industrial, que dará empleo á los que no lo tienen y contribuirá á la restauración de la paz. Ésta es su más ingente ó inmediata necesidad.

“El 19 de agosto próximo pasado se expidió una orden para que se levantara el censo de la isla, el cual debía estar terminado el 30 de noviembre. Según el tratado de paz, los españoles residentes en la isla pueden, hasta el 11 de Abril de 1900, resolver si desean permanecer como ciudadanos de España ó de Cuba. Hasta entonces no se podrá decidir definitivamente quienes tienen derecho á participar en la organización del gobierno de Cuba. Cuando esto se verifique el resultado del censo se expondrá en cuadros sinópticos, y procederemos á hacer elecciones que pongan el gobierno municipal de la isla en manos de los elegidos del pueblo. La experiencia que con esto se obtenga será muy valiosa para organizar más tarde una convención representativa del pueblo, que fomente una constitución y establezca un sistema de gobierno independiente para la isla. En el intermedio, y mientras ejerzamos dominio sobre la isla, los productos de Cuba deben entrar á los Estados Unidos en las mismas condiciones y pagando los mismos derechos que los de las otras Antillas, de acuerdo con los tratados de reciprocidad que se celebrarán.

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“De los ingresos producidos por la isla de Cuba durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, se gastaron \$1,712,014.20 en medidas sanitarias; \$293,881.70 en obras de beneficencia y hospitales, y \$88,944.43 en socorrer á los desvalidos.

RELACIONES CON ESPAÑA.

“Tan luego se hubieron canjeado las ratificaciones del tratado de paz, cada gobierno acreditó un representante ante el otro. España envió á Washington al Duke DE ARCOS, distinguido diplomático que antes habia representado á su patria en México, y este país envió á Madrid al

Hon. BELLAMY STORER, que era Ministro en Bruselas. A continuación los respectivos gobiernos nombraron cónsules, y de esta manera se restablecieron por completo las relaciones interrumpidas por la guerra. Además de su representación consular en los Estados Unidos, el gobierno español ha nombrado cónsules para Cuba, que han sido reconocidos provisionalmente mientras dura la administración militar en la isla.

“De conformidad con lo que dispone el tratado de paz, se han establecido relaciones judiciales entre los tribunales de Cuba y Puerto Rico y los de España. España ha puesto y continúa poniendo en libertad á los prisioneros políticos cubanos, de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en el Artículo VI del mismo tratado. Pronto se entablarán negociaciones con el fin de definir las relaciones convencionales entre los dos países, interrumpidas por la guerra. Abrigo la esperanza de que dichas negociaciones abrazarán un convenio favorable de reciprocidad comercial, de conformidad con lo dispuesto en las secciones 3ª y 4ª del Arancel de Aduanas vigente. En esto, como en otros asuntos de interés internacional, no se economizará esfuerzo alguno para corresponder á las buenas disposiciones de España, á fin de cultivar por todos los medios posibles las íntimas relaciones que deben existir entre dos naciones cuya historia atestigua á menudo y de múltiples maneras, amistad sincera y comunidad de intereses.

Os recomiendo que adoptéis las medidas necesarias para llevar á efecto el Artículo VII del tratado de paz con España, por el cual los Estados Unidos se comprometieron á pagar ciertas reclamaciones de sus ciudadanos contra aquella nación.

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LIMITES ENTRE VENEZUELA Y LA GUAYANA INGLESA.

La Comisión Internacional de Arbitraje, nombrada de conformidad con el tratado anglo-venezolano de 1897, emitió su laudo el 3 de octubre último, fijando la línea divisoria entre Venezuela y la Guayana inglesa, con lo cual se pone término á una controversia que ha existido durante la mayor parte del siglo. Aunque el laudo, que fué unánime, no satisface las pretensiones extremas de ninguna de las partes, da á la Gran Bretaña una gran parte de territorio interior en disputa, y á Venezuela toda la boca del Orinoco, incluyendo Punta Barima y el litoral sobre el Mar Caribe, por alguna distancia hacia el oriente. El laudo parece que es satisfactorio para ambas partes.

NEGOCIOS DE VENEZUELA.

“Venezuela ha sido el teatro de otra revolución. Después de una batalla sangrienta en que sufrieron grandes pérdidas, los insurrectos al mando del General CASTRO, se reorganizaron en las montañas y avanzaron con dirección á la capital. Como la mayor parte del ejército se declaró en favor del movimiento revolucionario, el Presidente ANDRADE abandonó á Caracas, y el General CASTRO estableció allí un gobierno

provisional, con el enal nuestro Ministro y los representantes de otras naciones entraron en relaciones diplomáticas el 20 de noviembre próximo pasado.

TRATADOS DE RECIPROCIDAD COMERCIAL.

“La sección cuarta del Arancel de Adnanas, ratificado el 24 de julio de 1897, dispone que solamente se lleven á efecto aquellos tratados comerciales que sean celebrados por el Presidente y ratificados por el Senado dentro de un período de dos años, á partir de la ratificación de dicho arancel. Debido á dilaciones inevitables en asuntos de esta naturaleza, ninguno de los tratados negociados de acuerdo con la citada sección, pudo ser concluido á tiempo de que el Senado lo ratificara, antes de suspender sus sesiones el 4 de marzo próximo pasado. Sin embargo, las negociaciones pendientes estaban per concluirse en aquella época, y de entonces acá los plenipotenciarios han firmado los tratados en referencia. Otros están en consideración, de conformidad con lo que disponen las secciones 3ª y 4ª del mencionado Arancel. Obrando de acuerdo con los poderes constitucionales que el Ejecutivo tiene relativamente á los tratados, creí que era mi deber, manteniéndome dentro de los límites de las concesiones señaladas por la sección cuarta del Arancel, el concluir todas las negociaciones pendientes y someterlas al Senado para su aprobación.

“Mientras que el Congreso no ha estado en sesión, se han celebrado tratados de reciprocidad con la Gran Bretaña relativos á sus colonias de la Guayana, la Barbada, las Bermudas, Jamaica, las islas de Turcos y de Caicos y con la República de Nicaragua.

“También se han concluido importantes tratados de reciprocidad con Francia y con la República Argentina.

UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

“El interés que las naciones que forman la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas toman en los trabajos de su Oficina se evidencia por el hecho de que, por primera vez desde su fundación en 1890, todas las repúblicas de la América Central y del Sur están representadas en ella.

“La recomendación unánime de la Conferencia Internacional Americana relativa á la fundación de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas, dice que esta Unión continuará en vigor durante el término de diez años, contados desde la fecha de su organización, y que ningún país que entre como miembro de dicha Unión dejará de serlo, mientras que no haya transcurrido ese período de diez años, y, á menos que doce meses antes de que espire dicho plazo, una mayoría de los miembros de la Unión haya dado aviso oficial al Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos de sus deseos de terminar la Unión al concluir el primer período, aquélla continuará y será mantenida por otro período

de diez años, y así sucesivamente, bajo las mismas condiciones, por períodos sucesivos de diez años cada uno. El período para dicha notificación terminó el 14 de julio de 1899, sin que ninguno de los miembros de la Unión hubiese dado aviso de que quería separarse de ella.

“Por tanto, su existencia durante diez años más está asegurada. En vista de este hecho y de las numerosas cuestiones de interés general para todas las Repúblicas Americanas, algunas de las cuales fueron tomadas en consideración por la pasada Conferencia Internacional Americana, pero no resueltas definitivamente, y otras han adquirido desde aquella época mayor importancia, parece conveniente que todas las Repúblicas que forman la Unión sean invitadas á celebrar otra conferencia antes de mucho tiempo, en la capital de alguna de ellas, con excepción de los Estados Unidos, que ya tuvieron la honra de ver en Wáshington la antedicha Conferencia.

“El carácter puramente internacional de los trabajos de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, y la importancia que á ellos se da, se manifiestan de una manera enfática con el interés que los gobiernos de la América latina y sus representantes diplomáticos en esta capital manifiestan en los mismos, y con los esfuerzos que hacen para extender la esfera de acción de la mencionada Oficina, á fin promover por medio de ella las relaciones comerciales y fortalecer los lazos de amistad y confianza que unen á las naciones de este Continente.

EXPOSICIÓN PAN AMERICANA.

“La ley relativa á la celebración de una Exposición Pan-Americana el año de 1901 en la frontera de los Estados Unidos bañada por el Niágara, dentro de los límites del condado de Erie ó Niágara, en el Estado de Nueva York, fué ratificada el 3 de marzo de 1899.

“Esta Exposición que se verificará en la ciudad de Búfalo, cerca de la gran catarata del Niágara, á una jornada de la cual residen 40,000,000 de habitantes, se limitará al hemisferio occidental. Se han recibido contestaciones satisfactorias de los representantes diplomáticos de la Gran Bretaña, México, las Repúblicas de la América Central y del Sur, así como de la mayor parte de los Estados de la Unión, prometiéndole que harán exhibiciones especiales, interesantes ó instructivas, con el fin de poner de manifiesto los progresos que han hecho durante el siglo que está para terminar.

“En dicha ley se señala la cantidad de \$500,000 para la exhibición oficial que harán en esa Exposición los Ministerios del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos, la Smithsonian Institution, la Comisión de Piscicultura y Pesquería, el Departamento del Trabajo y la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas. En orden á que la Exhibición del Gobierno sea completa y simétrica, se ha nombrado una Junta Administrativa que está encargada de escoger, comprar, preparar, transportar, arreglar y conservar los objetos que se han de exhibir. Dicha Junta se ha organizada ya y ha dado principio á sus trabajos de conformidad con lo que dispone la ley.

“Tengo razones para creer que esta Exposición tenderá á fortalecer las cordiales relaciones que existen entre las naciones de este Continente.

EXPOSICIÓN DE ARTÍCULOS PARA LA EXPORTACIÓN.

“De acuerdo con una ley del Congreso ratificada el 21 de diciembre de 1898, y bajo los auspicios del Museo Comercial de Filadelfia, se celebró en aquella ciudad, del 14 de setiembre al 1º de diciembre de este año, una Exposición muy interesante de productos y manufacturas que especialmente se adaptan al tráfico de exportación. La naturaleza de los objetos exhibidos y el gran interés manifestado en la Exposición sirven de estímulo á aquéllos que tienen confianza en que la exportación de nuestras manufacturas continuará en aumento, exportación que ha sido el hecho más notable en el desarrollo económico de los Estados Unidos en los últimos años. Uno de los resultados de esta Exposición, que probablemente será permanente y de gran utilidad para nuestras industrias, es la colección de muestras de artículos producidos en diferentes países y destinados á mercados especiales. Dicha colección servirá á los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos como una lección objetiva, en cuanto á la calidad, estilo y precio de los efectos que satisfacen al consumidor y pueden ser exportados con ventaja.

CONGRESO COMERCIAL INTERNACIONAL.

“Junto con la Exposición se verificó la reunión de un Congreso Comercial Internacional, mediante una invitación que, por conducto del Departamento de Estado, dirigió el Museo Comercial de Filadelfia á los gobiernos extranjeros. El objeto de dicho Congreso fué cambiar informaciones y opiniones con el fin de promover el comercio internacional. La invitación fué general y cordialmente aceptada, y el Congreso, que dió principio á sus sesiones en la Exposición el 13 de octubre, demostró ser de gran importancia práctica, pues hizo que se reconociera el hecho de que las naciones dependen unas de otras en cuanto al tráfico, y dió pruebas del más satisfactorio espíritu de conciliación en cuanto á remover gradualmente los obstáculos que en la actualidad existen en las relaciones mercantiles de las naciones, sin que se perjudiquen con esto los intereses de ninguna.

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LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS.

“El 10 de diciembre de 1898 se firmó un tratado de paz entre los Estados Unidos y España. Entre otras cosas, dispone que España debe ceder á los Estados Unidos el archipiélago conocido con el nombre de Islas Filipinas; que los Estados Unidos deben pagar á España la suma de veinte millones de *dollars*, y que los derechos civiles y políticos de los habitantes nativos del territorio cedido á los Estados Unidos, deben ser determinados por el Congreso. El tratado fué ratificado por el Senado el 6 de febrero de este año, y por el Gobierno de España

el 19 de marzo siguiente. Las ratificaciones fueron canjeadas el 11 de abril y el tratado fué debidamente promulgado. El 2 de marzo el Congreso mandó que se pagase la suma fijada en el tratado, la cual fué entregada al Gobierno español el 1º de mayo.

“De esta manera las Filipinas pasaron al dominio de los Estados Unidos. Las Islas fueron cedidas por el Gobierno de España, que había estado en indisputable posesión de ellas durante siglos enteros. La cesión fué aceptada no solamente por nuestros Comisionados en París, debidamente autorizados y bajo la dirección del Ejecutivo, sino también por una resolución constitucional, bien meditada, de los representantes del pueblo de los Estados Unidos en las dos Cámaras del Congreso. Tuve entonces razones para creer y creo todavía, que este traspaso de soberanía fué de acuerdo con los deseos y aspiraciones de la gran masa del pueblo filipino.

“Desde un principio no se perdió oportunidad de asegurar á los habitantes de las islas que nuestro más ardiente deseo era la realización de su bienestar, y que la intención de este Gobierno era hacer todo lo posible en favor de dichas islas. En la orden que dirigí el 19 de mayo de 1898 al comandante de la expedición militar enviada á las Filipinas, le dí instrucciones de que declarase que no íbamos á hacer la guerra al pueblo de aquel país ‘ni á ningún partido ó facción, sino á proteger á los habitantes en sus hogares, en sus ocupaciones y en sus derechos individuales y religiosos.’ En orden á no dejar duda relativamente á la autoridad dominante en aquel país, se ordenó el 17 de agosto que ‘no debía haber ocupación conjunta con los insurrectos;’ que los Estados Unidos debían conservar la paz y proteger á las personas y propiedades dentro del territorio ocupado por sus fuerzas militares y navales, y que los insurrectos y los demás habitantes debían reconocer la ocupación militar y la autoridad de los Estados Unidos. Antes de la sesión de las Islas, y en previsión de ésta, se pidió con urgencia, el 4 de diciembre, al jefe que comandaba en Manila que restableciese la tranquilidad y la paz y que tratase de establecer un gobierno benéfico que ofreciese absoluta seguridad á las vidas y propiedades.

“El 21 de diciembre, cuando el tratado estaba firmado, se dieron instrucciones al Comandante de las fuerzas de ocupación ‘de que proclamase públicamente que habíamos ido, no como invasores y conquistadores, sino como amigos para proteger á los naturales en sus hogares, en sus ocupaciones y en sus derechos individuales y religiosos.’ En la misma fecha, al ordenar al General OTIS que tratase de conservar la paz en Iloilo, se le dijo lo siguiente: ‘es de la mayor importancia que no haya conflicto alguno con los insurrectos.’ El 1º de enero de este año se reiteró con urgencia la orden de que se hiciese saber á los insurrectos, de cualquier manera posible, que las intenciones de este Gobierno eran amistosas.

“El 21 de enero manifesté que pensaba mandar á Manila una Comisión compuesta de tres caballeros distinguidos y de elevado carácter, cono-

cedores del oriente, los que en unión del Almirante DEWEY y del General OTIS, debían, según las instrucciones que les fueron dadas, 'facilitar de la manera más humanitaria y eficaz la extensión de nuestra autoridad sobre las islas, y dar á los habitantes, dentro del término más corto posible, los beneficios que ocasiona una sabia y generosa protección de la vida y de la propiedad.' Los caballeros á que he hecho referencia fueron el Dr. JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN, Presidente de la Universidad de Cornell, el Honorable CHARLES DENBY, que fué durante muchos años Ministro en China, y el Profesor DEAN C. WORCESTER, de la Universidad de Michigan, que había hecho el estudio más completo acerca de la vida en las Filipinas. Mientras el Senado tomaba en consideración el tratado de paz, los Comisionados partieron á desempeñar su misión de conciliación y libertad. Su elevado carácter era suficiente garantía de los buenos propósitos que les animaban, aunque no hubieran llevado instrucciones terminantes de este Gobierno, las cuales daban á su cometido una índole esencialmente amistosa.

"Antes de que los Comisionados llegaran á Manila, la siniestra ambición de unos pocos caudillos filipinos produjo una situación embarazosa para nosotros y muy grave en sus consecuencias para ellos. El informe preliminar de los Comisionados, que ahora os envío, es tan claro como imparcial y contiene una relación completa y lúcida del actual movimiento revolucionario, lo que hace innecesario el repetir aquí la historia del mismo. Basta decir que la aseeración hecha por el jefe revolucionario de que un oficial de los Estados Unidos le había ofrecido, en cambio de su ayuda, independencia absoluta, no tiene fundamento en los hechos y es negada categóricamente por los mismos que han sido citados como testigos para comprobarla. Lo más que el jefe insurrecto esperaba cuando regresó á Manila, era que se libertase á las islas del dominio de España, para obtener lo cual los habitantes habían luchado en vano durante largos años.

"La prontitud con que el ejército y la armada de los Estados Unidos dieron cima á la obra libertadora, inspiró al mencionado caudillo nuevas ideas y estimuló su ambición, al mismo tiempo que indicaciones insidiosas provenientes de diversos puntos, pervirtieron los propósitos é intenciones que lo animaban cuando empuñó las armas. Tan luego hubo nuestro ejército capturado á Manila, las fuerzas filipinas comenzaron á asumir una actitud sospechosa y hostil, que los mayores esfuerzos de nuestros oficiales y soldados fueron incapaces de modificar. Su bondad y tolerancia fueron traicionadas como cobardía. Las agresiones de los filipinos fueron en aumento, hasta que al fin, inmediatamente antes de la fecha fijada por el Senado de los Estados Unidos para emitir su resolución sobre el tratado, un ataque, preparado indudablemente de antemano, se hizo á lo largo de toda la línea americana, lo cual dió por resultado una derrota terrible y sangrienta para los insurrectos. Diez días después el Gobierno insurrecto dirigió á sus partidarios en Manila una orden, de la cual dijo con justicia el General

OTIS que 'por lo bárbaro de sus propósitos nada la iguala en los tiempos modernos.'

"En esa orden se manda que el 15 de febrero, á las ocho de la noche, se reúnan en las calles de San Pedro la milicia territorial, armada de bolos, y, si fuese posible, de fusiles y municiones; que solamente se respete á las familias filipinas, y que todas las otras personas, sin distinción de raza, sean exterminadas sin compasión alguna, después de haber acabado con el ejército de ocupación. Á continuación, la orden se expresa de esta manera: 'Hermanos: debemos vengarnos de los americanos y exterminarlos en castigo de las infamias y traiciones que han cometido con nosotros. No tengáis hacia ellos la menor compasión, y atacad con vigor.' Por fortuna una copia de esta orden llegó á poder de nuestros oficiales y pudieron tomar las medidas necesarias para sofocar el levantamiento que se trató de efectuar en la noche del 22 de febrero, esto es, una semana más tarde de la fecha primitivamente fijada. Numerosos insurrectos armados penetraron en la ciudad por diferentes vías, y en unión de los coreligionarios que tenían en Manila, trataron de incendiar la población. Se les mantuvo á raya durante la noche, y al día siguiente fueron arrojados de la ciudad con grandes pérdidas.

"Ésta era la desgraciada condición que nuestros Comisionados encontraron al llegar á Manila. Habían llegado con la intención y la esperanza de cooperar con el Almirante DEWEY y con el General OTIS á establecer la paz y el orden en el archipiélago y fundar, hasta donde fuera posible, un gobierno autónomo compatible con el bienestar del pueblo. La situación que encontraron no podría describirse mejor que con sus propias palabras. Helas aquí:

"Aunque la guerra es deplorable, no era posible para nosotros evitar la que hemos emprendido. Fuimos acometidos por un ejército entusiasta, atrevido y deseoso de aventuras. La única alternativa que nos quedaba era una retirada vergonzosa.

"No es concebible que exista un americano que hubiera aprobado la rendición de Manila á los insurrectos. Nuestro deber hacia las otras naciones, hacia los filipinos que permanecían á nuestro lado, hacia nosotros mismos y hacia nuestra bandera, exigía que á la fuerza se resistiera con la fuerza. Cualquiera que haya de ser la suerte de las Filipinas, no nos queda otro camino que continuar la guerra mientras los insurrectos no hayan sido vencidos. Opina la Comisión que en ningún tiempo, desde la destrucción de la escuadra española por el Almirante DEWEY, fue posible retirar nuestras fuerzas con honra para nosotros y sin poner en peligro la seguridad de los habitantes."

ISLA DE NEGROS.

"Un buen principio ha sido el establecimiento de un gobierno en la isla de Negros, al cual se presta especial atención. Ésta fue la primera isla que aceptó nuestra soberanía. El pueblo declaró sin reserva su

fidelidad á los Estados Unidos y adoptó una constitución con la mira de establecer un gobierno popular. No era posible prometer á los habitantes de dicha isla que la constitución adoptada sería definitiva. De conformidad con el tratado celebrado con España, así como con nuestra Constitución y leyes, ese asunto es exclusivamente del dominio del Congreso. El gobierno establecido por los habitantes de la isla de Negros vino á ser más tarde poco satisfactorio para ellos mismos. Por orden del General de División que comanda aquel departamento, se fundó un nuevo sistema administrativo cuya organización es la siguiente:

“Se ordenó que el gobierno de la isla de Negros consistiera de un gobernador militar nombrado por el gobernador militar de las Filipinas, de un gobernador civil y de un consejo consultivo electo por el pueblo. Se autorizó al gobernador militar para que nombrara secretarios de hacienda, del interior, de agricultura y de instrucción pública, así como un procurador general y un revisor de cuentas. El gobierno reside en Bacolod. El gobernador militar ejerce el supremo poder ejecutivo. Está obligado á ver que se cumplan las leyes; tiene la facultad de nombrar empleados y de llenar todas las vacantes que no hayan sido provistas de otra manera, pudiendo además, con la aprobación del gobernador militar de las Filipinas, remover á cualquier empleado. El gobernador civil actúa como consejero del gobernador militar en todos los asuntos civiles de interés público, y es presidente del consejo consultivo. En general, á él le corresponden las funciones que desempeñan los secretarios de estado en nuestro sistema de gobierno.

“El consejo consultivo consta de ocho miembros electos por el pueblo dentro de los límites territoriales fijados en la orden del general que comanda aquel departamento.

“La fecha y los lugares en que se han de verificar las elecciones serán fijados por el gobernador de la isla de Negros.

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LAS ISLAS SULÚ.

“Las autoridades de las islas Sulú han aceptado la sustitución de la soberanía de los Estados Unidos por la de España, y nuestra bandera flota sobre aquel territorio. El 10 de agosto de este año el Brigadier J. C. BATES, del ejército de voluntarios de los Estados Unidos, celebró un convenio con el Sultán y sus principales jefes, el cual os remito ahora. En el artículo primero de dicho convenio se reconoce y establece la soberanía de los Estados Unidos sobre todo el archipiélago de Jolo y sus dependencias.

“La bandera de los Estados Unidos será usada en el archipiélago y sus dependencias, tanto en tierra como en agua. Debe suprimirse la piratería, y el Sultán conviene en cooperar activamente con las autoridades de los Estados Unidos para alcanzar ese fin, y en hacer todos los esfuerzos necesarios para reducir á prisión y llevar ante la justicia á

todas las personas culpables de aquel delito. Todo el tráfico en productos domésticos del archipiélago de Jolo, cuando se haga con cualquier punto de las islas Filipinas y bajo la bandera de los Estados Unidos, será libre é ilimitado y no será gravado con derechos. Los Estados Unidos se comprometen á dar amplia protección al Sultán, en caso que se vea amenazado por una nación extranjera. Los Estados Unidos no venderán la isla de Jolo ni ninguna de las del archipiélago del mismo nombre á ninguna nación extranjera, sin el consentimiento del Sultán. Se convino en que el sueldo del Sultán y los de sus asociados en la administración de las islas montarán á la suma de \$760 al mes.

“El Artículo X dispone que todo esclavo en el archipiélago de Jolo tendrá el derecho de comprar su libertad, pagando á su amo una cantidad que equivalga al precio usual del mercado. El convenio celebrado por el Brigadier BATES quedó sujeto á la ratificación del Presidente y á futuras modificaciones, con el consentimiento de las dos partes interesadas. He aprobado dicho convenio, sujeto á la sanción del Congreso y con la reserva, que he ordenado se communique al Sultán de Jolo, de que no se debe entender en manera alguna que por este convenio los Estados Unidos autorizan la existencia de la esclavitud en el archipiélago de Sulú ó consienten en ella. Comunico estos hechos al Congreso para su información y para que dicte lo que estime conveniente.

“Todo indica que cuando la rebelión tagala haya sido sofocada, las condiciones de la vida en el archipiélago volverán á tomar pronto su curso ordinario, bajo la protección de nuestra soberanía, y que el pueblo de aquellas islas, tan favorecidas por la naturaleza, gozará de una prosperidad y libertad de que no ha gozado nunca. Ya se han abierto centenares de escuelas, á las que asisten numerosos niños. La libertad religiosa está plenamente garantizada. Funcionan los tribunales de justicia. Los negocios se hacen como de costumbre. Manila, cuyos habitantes húan á los campos hace pocos meses, es hoy una plaza comercial populosa y próspera. Los esfuerzos sinceros y constantes de la Comisión, del Almirante y del General de División que comanda el Departamento del Pacífico, para demostrar al pueblo que las intenciones de este Gobierno eran amistosas, han dado el benéfico resultado de convencer á la gran masa de los habitantes de que solamente aceptando la autoridad de los Estados Unidos, tendrán seguridad, paz, prosperidad y un gobierno estable.

“El Congreso de los Estados Unidos resolverá enál ha de ser el futuro gobierno de las Filipinas. Pocas veces nos hemos visto con mayor responsabilidad. Si las aceptamos con un espíritu digno de nuestra raza y de nuestras tradiciones, se nos ofrecen grandes oportunidades. Las islas están bajo la protección de nuestra bandera. Son nuestras por todo título de equidad y justicia. No deben ser abandonadas. Si las dejáramos, las entregaríamos á la anarquía y finalmente á la barbarie. Las arrojaríamos como mauzana de discordia entre potencias

rivales, ninguna de las cuales permitiría á otra que las ocupara sin oposición. Sus fértiles valles y planicies serian teatro de eternas y sangrientas luchas. La llegada de la flota de DEWEY á Manila, en vez de haber sido, como esperamos, la aurora de un nuevo día de libertad y progreso, habría sido el principio de una era de miseria y violencia, peor que cuantas se han visto en el obscuro pasado de aquella tierra desgraciada. Se ha sugerido la idea de que renunciemos al dominio de las islas y que, al hacerlas independientes, mantengamos sobre ellas un protectorado. Seguro estoy de que no encontraréis digno de vuestra atención semejante propuesta. Tal arreglo envolvería desde el principio una falta cruel de buena fe, puesto que dejaría á la mayoría leal y pacífica del pueblo, que nada desea tanto como aceptar nuestra autoridad, á merced de una minoría de insurrectos armados. Nos haría responsables de los actos de los caudillos rebeldes sin que tuviésemos el poder de impedirlos. Impondría sobre nosotros la obligación de proteger á los unos contra los otros y de defenderlos contra las naciones extranjeras con que ellos quisiesen provocar un conflicto. En fin, privaría al Congreso de los Estados Unidos de la facultad de declarar la guerra ó invertiría con esta tremenda prerrogativa al caudillo tagalo que tuviera en sus manos el poder.

No creo oportuno recomendar ahora una forma de gobierno especial y definitiva para aquellas islas. Cuando se haya restablecido la paz, el Congreso se verá en el deber de establecer un sistema administrativo que garantice la libertad, el orden, y la paz en las Filipinas. La insurrección existe todavía, y cuando haya terminado, se necesitarán nuevos informes relativamente á las condiciones existentes, antes de establecer un gobierno civil permanente. El informe completo de la Comisión, que en la actualidad se está preparando, contendrá noticias ó indicaciones valiosas para el Congreso, y os lo remitiré tan luego esté terminado. Mientras dure la insurrección el brazo militar debe necesariamente ejercer autoridad absoluta. Pero no hay razón para que no se trate de tiempo en tiempo, y á medida que el territorio es dominado por nuestras tropas, de establecer gobiernos esencialmente populares en su forma. Con este objeto en mira estoy pensando si no sería conveniente volver á mandar á la Comisión ó á algunos de sus miembros, á fin de que ayuden á las autoridades á llevar á cabo en todas las islas el trabajo indicado. Creo que la obra de reconstrucción no debe comenzar con el establecimiento de un gobierno civil central con asiento en Manila, sino que se ha de principiar por los cimientos, fundando gobiernos municipales y después provinciales, dejando para el fin el gobierno central.

En tanto que el Congreso no haya manifestado su voluntad respecto de aquellas islas, continuaré haciendo uso de las facultades que me confieren la Constitución y las leyes á fin de mantener la soberanía de los Estados Unidos en aquella lejana tierra, así como en todos los otros lugares donde legalmente flota nuestro pabellón. Poudré á la disposi-

ción del ejército y de la armada todos los medios que la generosidad del Congreso y del pueblo han facilitado para sofocar esta insurrección destructora é injustificable. Si hubiera sido necesario que expidiese órdenes al efecto de que las operaciones militares y navales se llevasen á cabo de una manera humanitaria, aquéllas no se habrían hecho esperar, pero á cada paso el avance de nuestras tropas ha sido caracterizado por una conducta tan noble, que ha sorprendido á los mismos insurrectos. Lo mejor que se puede hacer en favor de éstos es vencer pronto y por completo al caudillo que ahora los comanda.

No se economizará esfuerzo ninguno para reconstruir lo que la guerra y los largos años de desgobierno han destruido. No esperaremos que la lucha haya concluido para dar principio á esta obra redentora. Continuaremos, como hemos comenzado, abriendo escuelas é iglesias, haciendo funcionar los tribunales de justicia, fomentando la industria, la agricultura y el comercio, y haciendo que aquel pueblo á quien la Providencia puso bajo nuestra jurisdicción, comprenda que lo que deseamos no es dominarlo, sino hacerlo libre, que vamos en busca de su bienestar y no de ventajas para nosotros mismos. Siempre que nuestra bandera ha flotado sobre algún pueblo ha sido para su felicidad.

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PUERTO RICO.

Ya es tiempo de que se adopte alguna forma de gobierno temporal para Puerto Rico. Muchas de las indicaciones que se han hecho respecto de Alaska son aplicables también á aquella isla.

Según la opinión de abogados competentes que conocen el sistema de jurisprudencia civil existente en la isla, es aquél tan moderno como científico, en cuanto se relaciona á los negocios interiores, al tráfico, á la producción y á los derechos sociales é individuales en general. Poco ó ningún cambio se requiere en el gobierno de las ciudades. De suerte que probablemente poco ó nada se necesita disponer tocante á asuntos locales ó que afecten derechos particulares, pero tratándose de la administración pública y de las relaciones de la isla con el Gobierno Federal, hay muchas materias que exigen inmediata atención. La misma necesidad existe de que se dicten leyes referentes al establecimiento de la jurisdicción federal y de tribunales federales que os manifesté existía en el caso de Hawaii.

Además de la administración de justicia, existe el asunto de terrenos baldíos; el del dominio y mejora de los ríos y bahías; el del dominio de las aguas no navegables, que, según las leyes españolas, pertenecían á la corona España, y que por el tratado han pasado al dominio de los Estados Unidos; el de la inmigración; el de la introducción de trabajadores bajo contrato; el de la manera de establecer y recaudar los impuestos interiores; el de la aplicación de las leyes de navegación; el de regularizar el sistema monetario; el del establecimiento de oficinas y rutas postales; el de los derechos que deben pagar las mercancías impor-

tadas en la isla de los Estados Unidos; el de habilitación de puertos; el de patentes y derechos de autor. Estos y otros asuntos que son del exclusivo dominio del Congreso requieren estudio cuidadoso y pronta resolución.

Conviene recordar que desde que Puerto Rico nos fué cedida no enenta ya con los mercados principales de que dispuso por largo tiempo, y que nuestro Arancel de Adnanas grava sus productos como en la época en que era colonia española. Los mercados de España están cerrados para sus productos, excepto mediante condiciones á que se encuentra sujeto el comercio de todas las naciones. La isla de Cuba, que antes le compraba su ganado vacuno y su tabaco, ahora impone sobre estos productos los mismos derechos que pagan cuando llegan de otros países. De suerte que ha perdido sus libres relaciones comerciales con España y Cuba sin compensación alguna por lo que toca á nuestros mercados. Su café, que es uno de sus principales productos, era poco conocido por nuestro pueblo, que no lo usaba, y en consecuencia la demanda no existía. Los mercados de los Estados Unidos deben estar abiertos á sus productos. Nuestro deber es abolir toda clase de derechos de aduana entre los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico y hacer que los productos de la isla tengan acceso á nuestros mercados.

Como resultado del huracán que arrasó á Puerto Rico el 8 de agosto de este año, más de 100,000 personas se vieron reducidas á la más completa miseria, sin hogares y privadas de lo necesario para la vida. El Departamento de la Guerra hizo un llamamiento al pueblo de los Estados Unidos, que respondió á él de una manera pronta y generosa. Además de lo que hizo la caridad privada, el Departamento de la Guerra gastó para aliviar á los necesitados la suma de \$392,342.63, sin inclnr los gastos de transporte.

Es de desear que el gobierno militar que ahora existe en la isla sea sncedido por una administración enteramente civil. Por el momento recomiendo al Congreso que dicte una ley para la organización de un gobierno provisional, y la cual autorice al Presidente á nombrar, con la aprobación del Senado, un gobernador y los otros empleados que se necesitan para la administración general de la isla, al mismo tiempo que establezca un consejo legislativo que emita las disposiciones necesarias en lo tocante á asuntos locales que no se relacionen con los federales. Dicho consejo será compuesto en parte de portorriqueños y en parte de ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. Este consejo será también nombrado por el Presidente, sujeto el nombramiento á la ratificación del Senado. Las resoluciones de dicho consejo deben ser sometidas al Congreso ó al Presidente para su aprobación antes de que tengan fuerza de ley. Recomiendo que en las municipalidades y otras subdivisiones locales se introduzca desde luego el sistema de *self-government*, en orden á que los ciudadanos cultos de la isla tomen participación en la cosa pública y aprenden á conocer por experiencia enales son los deberes y las necesidades de un pueblo autónomo.

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Lo que principalmente ha menester este pueblo, como todos los otros, es educación. La escuela libre es la que forma ciudadanos. Al introducir nuevos métodos de educación, sin embargo, hay que tener cuidado de no operar cambios demasiado bruscos, y al mismo tiempo se deben tomar en consideración las tradiciones y las ideas de los habitantes. Un sistema de educación racional que se adapte á las condiciones existentes y que tienda á levantar el estado moral de los habitantes y á fomentar su progreso industrial hará que estas nuevas posesiones aspiren á disfrutar de los beneficios que trae consigo la libertad política.

CONCLUSIÓN.

Grandes oportunidades no menos que grandes responsabilidades tiene ante sí el Congreso. El poder que se nos ha confiado aumenta el peso de nuestras obligaciones hacia el pueblo, y debemos comprenderlo así al contemplar los nuevos y graves problemas que hemos de resolver. Si tenemos en mira solamente el bienestar nacional, no podemos errar. Si interpretamos como se debe la voluntad popular y nos guiamos por lo que el deber nos dicta, no podremos sino adoptar medidas sabias para la felicidad de las islas que han pasado al dominio de los Estados Unidos, medidas que redundarán en el interés común y en honra duradera para nuestra patria. Nunca como en el último año había tenido esta nación tantos motivos de gratitud hacia la Providencia por las numerosas mercedes y favores que le ha acordado, y ante los cuales nos inclinamos reverentes.

MUERTE DEL VICEPRESIDENTE HOBART.

El Honorable GARRET A. HOBART, Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos, falleció en Paterson, New Jersey, el 21 de noviembre de este año, después de larga enfermedad. Mr. HOBART nació en Long Branch, New Jersey. El 3 de junio de 1863 recibió en el colegio de Rutgers el grado de bachiller en artes. En el mismo año fué profesor en una escuela, y más tarde estudió derecho, para lo cual tenía especiales disposiciones. Fué admitido al foro en 1866, y desde aquella época hasta el día en que fué electo Vicepresidente, ejerció su profesión con notable actividad. Siempre se le vió celoso en el desempeño de sus deberes de ciudadano. En 1871 fué llamado por primera vez á ocupar un puesto público, habiendo sido electo concejal por uno de los distritos de la ciudad de Paterson. En 1873 fué electo miembro de la Legislatura del estado de New Jersey. Fué Presidente de la Cámara de Diputados del mismo Estado en 1874, y senador en 1875. En 1886 fué candidato del partido republicano, entonces en minoría, para el puesto de Senador de los Estados Unidos. En junio de 1896 Mr. HOBART fué

designado por la Convención Nacional Republicana como candidato á la Vicepresidencia de los Estados Unidos, y su eleccion se efectuó en noviembre del mismo año.

Como Presidente del Senado se mostró hábil é imparcial y supo ganarse el respeto de todos los miembros de ese alto cuerpo, sin distinción de partidos políticos. Durante su permanencia en Washington Mr. HOBART se hizo querer de todo el mundo. El Presidente y sus Ministros solicitaban sus consejos, y en varias ocasiones su acendrado tacto prestó valiosos servicios.

No obstante haber dedicado una gran parte de tiempo á la politica y al ejercicio de su profesion, Mr. HOBART tomó importante participacion en los negocios, y su habilidad en este terreno se puso de manifiesto cuando fué elegido como uno de los tres árbitros de lo que se llamó "The Joint Traffic Association" (La Asociación de Tráficós Reunidos), cargo que muy pocos hubieran podido desempeñar de una manera satisfactoria. Era miembro de la junta directiva de varios ferrocarriles y estaba interesado en muchas empresas comerciales en la ciudad de su residencia y en otros puntos del estado de New Jersey.

Los funerales de Mr. HOBART se verificaron el 25 de noviembre próximo pasado. Á ellos asistieron el Presidente MCKINLEY y los miembros de su Gabinete, los Magistrados del Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos, más de la mitad de los miembros del Senado, un gran número de diputados, el Gobernador y otros empleados del estado de New Jersey, el Gobernador del estado de Nueva York, y muchos otros hombres notables del país. La escena fué notable, pues se vieron allí reunidos, con el fin de dar un testimonio de respeto á la memoria del finado, hombres distinguidos en los negocios públicos, así como los que representan las clases profesionales y comerciales, pudiendo decirse que en aquella solemne ocasión figuraron, al lado de estadistas y diplomáticos, los obreros de las fábricas y los cultivadores de la tierra.

Según lo establecido por la ley, el Secretario de Estado ocupa ahora el primer lugar en el orden de sucesión á la Presidencia de la República. El Senador WILLIAM P. FRYE, del Estado de Maine, que había sido previamente electo Presidente provisional del Senado, va ahora á ser Presidente de ese alto cuerpo.

Tan luego se hubo anunciado la muerte de Mr. HOBART, el Presidente MCKINLEY expidió la siguiente proclama:

PROCLAMA AL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos, falleció en su residencia de Paterson, New Jersey, á las ocho y media de la mañana del día de hoy. Con su muerte la nación pierde uno de sus hijos más ilustres y uno de sus más leales servidores. Tanto como hombre de negocios en el estado donde nació, como en su carácter de miembro de la Legislatura del mismo, dió muestra de su honradez á toda prueba, de su gran inteligencia y de su ilustracion.

En su corta carrera de Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos y Presidente del Senado demostró que era un estadista hábil y probo. En el mundo de los negocios, pocos le igualaban entre sus contemporáneos. Como particular era noble y generoso. Por largo tiempo se le recordará como un hombre puro y agradable, cuyo carácter suave atraía todos los corazones, al mismo tiempo que la elevación de sus miras, su integridad y su abnegación en el servicio público le merecieron el respeto y la admiración de todos.

Como una muestra del pesar que esta gran pérdida ha causado al país, ordeno que en el día de sus funerales las oficinas del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos permanezcan cerradas, que en todos los puestos y estaciones del ejército y la armada se enarbole á media asta el pabellón nacional, y que los representantes de los Estados Unidos en países extranjeros ofrezcan adecuado tributo á la memoria del ilustre finado por un período de treinta días.

En fe de lo cual firmo la presente de mi puño y letra y la hago sellar con el sello de los Estados Unidos.

Dada en la ciudad de Wáshington, hoy 21 de noviembre del año de Nuestro Señor mil ochocientos noventa y nueve, y el ciento veinticuatro de la independencia de los Estados Unidos.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Refrendado:

JOHN HAY,

Secretario de Estado.

Á CADA CUAL LO QUE ES SUYO.

Es motivo de congratulación para el BOLETÍN MENSUAL el saber que cuenta con tantos amigos entre los órganos de la prensa de los Estados Unidos y de las jóvenes repúblicas situadas más allá del Río Grande. Dichos amigos, en su mayor parte respetables y serios diarios mercantiles, han ayudado y continúan ayudando al BOLETÍN en sus esfuerzos para diseminar en cada una de las naciones que forman la Unión Internacional, noticias relativas á las otras, y ha sido tal la diligencia con que han estado reproduciendo los artículos que aparecen en nuestra publicación sobre toda clase de asuntos y en diferentes lenguas, que sería dar muestra de excesiva susceptibilidad el mencionar el hecho de que casi nunca, por olvido ó quizá por un exagerado celo, no se ha hablado de la fuente de donde se han obtenido los informes. Cada mes el BOLETÍN contiene artículos sobre asuntos especiales que se relacionan á las repúblicas independientes del Nuevo Mundo, y con acendrado gusto y delicado tacto, en cuanto á favorecer sus intereses, muchos de los periódicos que se publican de un extremo al otro del continente reproducen dichos trabajos sin cambiarles una línea y sin manifestar siquiera, por medio de comillas, que son citas.

El BOLETÍN vuelve á recibir aquellos artículos sin alteracion ninguna, en la forma de editoriales, de materias especiales, de noticias diversas y aun de informes consulares dirigidos á los gobiernos del Viejo Mundo; todo lo cual es muy satisfactorio para la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que está desempeñando con tanta eficacia su cometido. El BOLETÍN rinde las gracias á sus colegas por esta señalada muestra de confianza, y se toma la libertad de agregar que, como él no publica nada, con excepcion de algunas notas misceláneas, sin mencionar la fuente de donde se derivan sus informes, sería de desear que sus colegas en los varios países que forman la Unión Internacional, de la cual él es órgano, manifestaran á sus lectores cómo es que obtienen sus noticias, con el doble objeto de cooperar en la grande obra para que fué fundada la Oficina y de dar á sus reproducciones un carácter oficial y fidedigno.

EL CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

El Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Nicaragua, pronunció ante el Congreso Comercial Internacional de Filadelfia un discurso que no pudo publicarse en el número del BOLETÍN correspondiente al mes de noviembre, por haberse recibido demasiado tarde una copia de él en esta Oficina. Dicho discurso, que se leerá á continuación, versó sobre el siguiente tema:

CENTRO AMÉRICA SERÁ UN MERCADO IMPORTANTÍSIMO PARA EL MUNDO CON EL CANAL INTEROCEÁNICO POR EL TERRITORIO NICARAGÜENSE.

Señor Presidente, Señoras, Caballeros: Hoy es el día señalado por este Congreso para la disension del importante asunto "Canal Inter-oceánico."

La historia del proyecto por el territorio de Nicaragua es bien conocida: se ha escrito en volúmenes de importancia y reproducido en publicaciones diarias y de toda clase, y no seré yo quien venga á cansar á tan respetable auditorio repitiendo cómo desde 1550 se afirmó por GALVAO y se ha venido confirmando hasta hoy por ingenieros competentísimos, que la vía de Nicaragua es la única posible, la que presta más garantías y ofrece más ventajas á la navegacion y al comercio. No entraré tampoco á estudiar el interés que la obra ha despertado á poderes europeos, como Francia y Holanda, y más que á éstos á los Estados Unidos de Norte América, por su peculiar posición en este continente; ni todos los trabajos empeñados y facilidades ofrecidas por Centro América primero y Nicaragua después, para atraer al capital extranjero y realizar empresa tan monumental y de tan indisputable utilidad para el mundo en su incesante desarrollo.

Todos más ó menos sabéis la multitud de liberales concesiones que Nicaragua como seccion centro-americana y como república indepen-

diente ha otorgado desde 1826, y cómo todas las compañías concesionarias han venido fracasando por falta de capital suficiente para terminar el trabajo, hasta traer la convicción de que sólo un Gobierno, y un Gobierno interesado grandemente como el de los Estados Unidos, es el único capaz de llevarlo á cabo.

Como hablo ante un Congreso Comercial Internacional, me referiré únicamente á una de las consecuencias inmediatas de la construcción de dicha vía marítima por territorio nicaragüense—la transformación de Centro América en un mercado importantísimo.

Una de las razones que se alega constantemente en favor del canal por Nicaragua—en tratándose de los Estados Unidos, por ejemplo—es el acortamiento de la distancia á los mercados del Oriente y Europa. En ninguna de las publicaciones hechas sobre el particular he visto que se haya tomado en cuenta el mercado de Centro América, considerándose muy á la ligera los de la América del Sur. Se han empeñado los interesados en el asunto en averiguar cuanto menores serán las distancias de Nueva York y Nueva Orleans á San Francisco, á Yokohama, Melbourne, Hongkong, Singapore, etc., y cuanto de California y demás Estados del Oeste á los países de Europa. Se trata de los mercados del Oriente que consumen gran parte de lo que produce la industria del mundo y se busca cómo atraerse aquéllos que á tan lejana distancia podrán llegar á ser más tarde buenos consumidores. Mas se omiten casi siempre hasta los países de la América del Sur que ya hoy figuran en primera línea, y se descuida por completo el tomar en cuenta lo que será Centro América.

Ni podría alegarse para esto la diferencia de idioma á que muchos atribuyen el que siendo el Canadá y México colindantes de los Estados Unidos, el primero importe el 59 por ciento de lo que consume, mientras el otro sólo el 49 por ciento; pues Europa y los Estados Unidos buscan ávidos adonde mandar más tarde los productos de su industria en lugares lejanos y en donde lo que menos se habla son los idiomas europeos. Yo encuentro que si se analiza un poco la posición topográfica y condiciones excepcionales de Centro América en general y Nicaragua en particular, se llegará necesariamente á la conclusión de que aquella parte del mundo vendrá á ser uno de los centros comerciales más importantes.

El canal principiará por el Este cortando la región de Nicaragua más rica en minas de oro, plata y otros metales y piedras preciosas, como el ópalo. Al Norte del extremo oriental de esa vía marítima hay actualmente americanos ó ingleses que poseen minas de oro de valor inapreciable. Varias compañías se han formado para su explotación y ya han empezado á recoger ópimos frutos á pesar de las dificultades que encuentran para proveerse de maquinaria.

Si continuamos sobre la línea del canal, que sigue el Río San Juan hasta llegar al gran Lago de Nicaragua, encontraremos bosques cerrados de maderas preciosas y de construcción que la mano del hombre

no ha osado tocar aun. Árboles gigantescos y vegetación de toda especie en las extensas llanuras que los rodean revelan también la feracidad de aquellos terrenos que aun pueden llamarse vírgenes.

Llegando al lago hallamos que esa inmensa masa de agua es riquísima en peces de todas clases, y que, teniendo profundidad más que suficiente para que pasen los buques de mayor calado en el mundo conocidos, posee puertos naturales en la mayor parte de sus costas, en donde podrían anclar los buques mercantes para depositar y coger carga de los departamentos del interior. En todos esos departamentos que rodean el lago y principalmente los del Norte y del Este, se encuentran terrenos propios para la siembras de café, cacao, vainilla, caña de azúcar, toda clase de cereales y variedad inmensa de frutas propias de los trópicos. Así también los hay espléndidos para la crianza de ganado; y las grandes haciendas formadas allí de cientos de miles de animales, lo demuestra.

Gran parte de esos terrenos son nacionales, y el Gobierno, para atraer la inmigración de hombres de trabajo, ha dictado leyes que hacen fácil el obtenerlos á aquéllos que demuestran deseos de radicarse en el país para seguir una vida de labor honrada.

Al otro lado del lago y en la parte que habrá de canalizarse para que éste se una con el Pacífico, hay también vastos terrenos fértiles y de fácil acceso.

Nicaragua cuenta hoy apenas 650,000 habitantes en una extensión de territorio de 45,000 á 46,000 millas cuadradas, que puede contener fácilmente tantos millones de individuos como los estados de Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut y Delaware juntos, y que indudablemente contendrá tan pronto como se facilite, por la baratura del pasaje, su transporte al inmigrante.

Y si Nicaragua sola tendría bastantes recursos para alimentar tantos millones, Honduras y Guatemala por el Norte, que cada una tiene poco más ó menos la misma área y los mismos elementos de vitalidad, y el Salvador y Costa Rica, que aunque menores en extensión son ricos también y con pueblos activos y laboriosos, aprovecharían toda ventaja que esa nueva vía marítima les trajera, principalmente Costa Rica, que en varias millas de longitud colindará con ella.

Los ferrocarriles, que ya se cuentan por un considerable número de millas en las diferentes secciones preapuntadas, las unirán en el acto en que se vea la facilidad de poder embarcar sus productos en cualquiera de los puertos de aquel gran lago, para ser conducidos rápidamente hasta á los países más lejanos.

Y las comunicaciones por correos, telégrafos y teléfonos, que hoy son muy buenas, se mejorarán cuando se dediquen al servicio más constante y productivo de un comercio mayor.

Los Estados Unidos en Norte América y ya Chile y la Argentina en el Sur, al estilo de los países industriales de Europa, como Inglaterra, Alemania, Francia, etc., no sólo procuran retener aquellos mercados en

que se han sabido insinuar, sino que se empeñan por hacerse de simpatías ante aquellos que podrán serlo mañana. Hoy los europeos tienen demasiado que exportar; pero la industria aumenta en todas partes y dentro de pocos años ya no podrán mandar á los Estados Unidos, por ejemplo, muchos de los artículos que éstos hoy importan, pero que mañana ellos mismos fabricarán; y este país, que ahora tiene un consumo tan grande dentro de él mismo—que casi no necesita exportar—al paso que va, llegará el momento del sobrante enorme y habrá necesidad de mercados que lo consuman. Aquél que esté más próximo será el mejor.

Centro América, preparada como está, con el grado de cultura que ha alcanzado y los elementos con que cuenta, al sólo iniciarse el trabajo del Canal por Nicaragua, recibirá de todo el mundo una inmigración incalculable, que vendá á ser un poderoso elemento de consumo, haciendo de aquella sección uno de los mercados más apetecidos del mundo; mercado adonde se podrá mandar los productos de la industria más adelantada de los Estados Unidos y Europa y de donde se recibirá en cambio grandes cantidades de oro, plata y demás metales preciosos; de maderas de superior calidad, de que el mundo no se beneficia hoy por el difícil y caro transporte; de todos los productos de su riquísimo suelo, y hasta de los de la industria indígena, tan enriosa y tan apreciada en el extranjero, y que además de revelar el adelanto de aquellos aborígenes, ofrece artefactos de suma utilidad que no podrían fabricarse con la misma baratura en ninguna otra parte.

El Canal de Nicaragua, pues, Señores, fuera de evitar al mundo el gasto de muchos millones de dollars y de ser él, en sí mismo, un gran negocio, hará también que no sólo se aproximen los centros de comercio hasta hoy conocidos como buenos, sino que ensanchará inmensamente el mercado de Centro América, que, con elementos nuevos y con grandes riquezas acumuladas, contribuirá á que venga otra edad de oro, de sorprendentes empresas y maravilloso desenvolvimiento comercial.

MARCAS DE FÁBRICA EXTRANJERAS.

En la reunión del Congreso Comercial Internacional que tuvo lugar en Filadelfia recientemente, el Comisionado del Ramo de Patentes en los Estados Unidos, Hon. CHARLES H. DUELL, avanzó algunas ideas dignas de consideración sobre las marcas de fábrica en el extranjero. Hizo notar que, cuando se ha establecido el comercio extranjero basado en la calidad de un producto, sólo puede conservarse aquél siempre que los efectos que se sigan mandando sean de calidad igual al primero que se exportó; y de aquí que, con el objeto de impedir que otros introduzcan mercancías de inferior calidad ó imitaciones, es de importancia esencial que los exportadores adopten el empleo de marcas de fábrica.

Por lo que hace á la selecci3n de marcas de fábrika, dijo el Comisionado que se debia tener el mayor cuidado al hacerla, ajustándose á la ley, de suerte que se pueda mantener contra todos el derecho adquirido; aconsejó á los exportadores que al adoptar una marca cuidaran de no usar nombres de personas, porque como todo hombre tiene el derecho de usar su nombre propio, resulta que si hay veinte personas, por ejemplo, que lleven igual nombre y apellido, á cada una de ellas le asiste el perfecto derecho de usarlo. Recomendó también á los exportadores que no emplearan términos de geografía, ni palabras descriptivas ó nombres para expresar calidad ó excelencia peculiar á algo, pues ninguna de las marcas de fábrika mencionadas pueden defenderse como invistiendo de un derecho exclusivo é incontestable á ninguno.

El Comisionado aconsejó, también, á todos los fabricantes que adoptasen marcas de fábrika no tan sólo para su comercio interior sino también para el extranjero, explicando que era fácil escoger una divisa ó un símbolo, ó idear una palabra. Muchas de las pretendidas marcas de fábrika que se han presentado para ser registradas en la Oficina de Patentes de los Estados Unidos han sido reensadas por no estar ajustadas á la ley. El Comisionado añadió que á causa de las invenciones economizadoras del trabajo empleadas por los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos, el país podía producir artículos tan baratos como es posible fabricarlos en muchos otros países donde los salarios son más bajos. Si en estas condiciones los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos exportan productos que satisfagan los gustos y las necesidades de otros países, se ensanchará inmensamente el comercio de exportación en artículos manufacturados, y una vez establecido éste y conocidas las marcas de fábrika legales de los Estados Unidos que indican su propietario, no hay por qué el comercio que se ha ganado así no pueda conservarse por tiempo indefinido.

LA PRODUCCIÓN DE CARBÓN EN EL MUNDO.

Con el título de "Another look at the coal question" (Otra mirada á la cuestión de carbón), el periódico de Londres "The Iron and Coal Trades Review," correspondiente al 3 de noviembre de este año, contiene un artículo sobre la producción de carbón en el mundo. En él se lee lo siguiente: "hace algún tiempo ciertos escritores llamaron la atención al hecho de que estamos amenazados de una escasez de carbón en algunos de nuestros principales distritos productores de dicho artículo, especialmente en aquéllos que parecían incapaces de mayor desarrollo. Esa escasez casi existe ya. Hemos oído hablar de contratos, propuestos sobre bases excelentes, que no ha sido posible llevar á efecto, debido á que los traficantes en carbón no podían comprometerse á entregarlo dentro de un término razonable.

"Prácticamente, todas las casas que comercian en carbón tienen pedi-

dos por llenar, que las mantendrán ocupadas durante mucho tiempo, y se les exige que entreguen pronto y con regularidad el artículo. Se extraen de todas las minas cuanto son capaces de producir. El carbón para fábricas y para cocinar se ha vuelto realmente escaso. Esto no solamente acontece en nuestro propio país. En todo el mundo parece haber gran necesidad de combustible y un consumo sin precedente. En Alemania, Francia y Bélgica los productores hacen esfuerzos supremos por mantener la oferta á la altura de la demanda. Por todas partes se hacen pedidos de carbón. La escasez del artículo en los mencionados países hace que haya aumentado la cantidad que del nuestro importan, y por esto es que muestra exportación de carbón durante los últimos diez meses ha sido la más grande de que hay recuerdo.

“El aumento que se ha verificado en la producción de carbón en el mundo durante los últimos años es sorprendente y fenomenal. Esto se refiere tanto á los países de Europa como á los Estados Unidos, el Canadá, Australia y la colonia del Cabo. Los Estados Unidos casi nos igualan como país productor de carbón, y probablemente nos habrían dejado atrás desde hace muchos años, á no haber sido porque en los Estados de Ohio, Pennsylvania ó Indiana el carbón fué sustituido en gran escala por combustibles líquidos y gaseosos. Con todo, los Estados Unidos se pondrán á la altura de nosotros antes de largo tiempo, pues su producción de carbón es ya casi igual á la nuestra. Alemania hace mayores esfuerzos que antes para aumentar su producción de carbón bituminoso, que este año será por primera vez de más de 100,000,000 de toneladas. Rusia muestra más actividad y energía que nunca, y otro tanto hacen los otros países productores de carbón en el mundo entero, incluyendo la China y el Japón.”

Anexa á este artículo aparece una tabla en que se muestra lo que fué la producción total de carbón en 1890 y en 1898, y lo que probablemente será en 1899 en todos los países del mundo que producen dicho artículo. Según se ve por dicha tabla, la producción que en 1890 fué de 454,000,000 toneladas, ascendió en 1898 á 570,000,000 toneladas, y es posible que ascienda en 1899 á 610,000,000 toneladas ó algo más.

La producción de los diferentes países del mundo es como sigue:

Países.	1890.	1898.	1899.
	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>
Gran Bretaña	181,611,000	202,024,000	220,000,000
Estados Unidos	140,883,100	196,000,000	208,000,000
Alemania	70,238,000	99,280,000	110,000,000
Francia	25,591,000	27,000,000	30,000,000
Belgica	20,366,000	20,075,000	22,000,000
Rusia	5,998,000	10,000,000	12,000,000
Austria-Hungria	9,926,000	11,200,000	12,500,000

La producción de otros países se calcula en 13,104,000 durante el año de 1890, en 4,700,000 toneladas (datos incompletos) en 1898, y en 18,000,000 (datos incompletos) en 1899.

PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR EN EUROPA.

Mr. W. P. ATWELL, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Roubaix, Francia, dirigió al Departamento de Estado, con fecha 17 de octubre de 1899, un informe sobre la producción de azúcar en Europa durante los últimos dos años. Según los datos estadísticos suministrados al Cónsul por Mr. GIESECHER, autoridad reconocida en la materia, la extensión de terreno cultivado en cada país y la cantidad de azúcar producida fueron como sigue:

Países.	Extensión cultivada.		Azúcar sin purgar producida.	
			1899-1900.	1898-9.
			Hectáreas.	Aceros. ¹	Toneladas.	Toneladas.
Francia.....	255,542	631,000	910,000	830,000
Bélgica.....	58,136	143,000	230,000	200,000
Holanda.....	46,909	115,000	170,000	150,000
Alemania.....	428,142	1,057,000	1,830,000	1,722,000
Austria.....	322,200	795,000	1,015,000	1,039,000
Rusia.....	482,295	1,191,000	880,000	795,000
Suecia.....	26,413	65,000	100,000	60,000
Dinamarca.....	14,000	29,000	55,000	35,000
Otros países.....	17,000	42,000	60,000	45,000
Toda Europa.....	1,650,633	4,068,000	5,250,000	4,885,000
1889-1899.....	1,558,918	3,850,527	.....	.....

¹ En números redondos.

Estos guarismos muestran que ha habido un aumento de 5.88 por ciento en la extensión cultivada este año, comparada con la del año pasado. El aumento en la producción de remolacha para la industria de azúcar ascenderá probablemente á 18.18 por ciento. Aunque el aumento en la producción de azúcar puede calcularse en 7.5 por ciento, la producción media para fines industriales puede considerarse que será solamente de 12.5 por ciento, contra 13.75 por ciento durante el año pasado.

Las condiciones climatológicas pueden alterar los cálculos que preceden, tanto en lo relativo á la cosecha, como en cuanto á la producción industrial, y, por lo mismo, los anteriores guarismos deben mirarse como provisionales.

Mr. CZARNIKOW, en su circular sobre la producción de remolacha y sobre la industria azucarera, se expresa así:

“Aunque es demasiado temprano para hacer un cálculo de la producción, la opinión general es que habrá un sobrante de cosa de 500,000 toneladas, si el tiempo sigue siendo favorable.

“El aspecto general del mercado, á pesar de ligeras fluctuaciones, indica confianza, y los precios actuales se consideran normales, aun para una buena cosecha.”

El informe oficial del 13 de octubre contiene la siguiente tabla relativa á esta región:

Descripción.	1899-1900.	1898-99.
Fábricas funcionando..... número.....	290	84
Remolachas beneficiadas..... toneladas..	257, 152	76, 711
Producción..... id.....	24, 205	7, 168
Admisión temporal..... id.....	9, 773	1, 821
Exportación..... id.....	4, 428	3, 793
Cantidad existente á fines de setiembre..... id.....	175, 618	85, 516
Diminución respecto al mes de agosto..... id.....	32, 657	44, 754

EL FERROCARRIL PAN-AMERICANO.

En el número de diciembre de la publicación mensual llamada "Cosmopolitan," aparece un artículo de Mr. WALTER C. HAMM, con el título de "Grandes Proyectos de Ingeniería," en el cual hace una interesante revista de los triunfos alcanzados por aquella ciencia durante el siglo XIX. Las dos mayores conquistas, según el autor en referencia, son la construcción del ferrocarril del Pacífico y la perforación del Canal de Suez. Entre los grandes proyectos que pueden llevarse á cabo cuenta el Ferrocarril Internacional Americano, al cual se refiere en estos términos: "El Ferrocarril Pan-Americano que habrá de unir á las Américas del Norte, del Centro y del Sur es una empresa más grande que la de la construcción del ferrocarril de Siberia ó el del Africa. Su extensión es casi igual á la de ambos reunidos." Según los estudios hechos ya, de la ciudad de Nueva York á la de Buenos Aires, cubrirá una distancia de 10,221 millas, costando cuando esté terminado y equipado \$200,000, por lo menos. Tanto la extensión cuanto el costo aumenta rán tan luego como se extienda la línea por Patagonia hasta el extremo meridional de Sud América.

El estudio hecho por la Comisión nombrada por el Congreso demuestra que se puede encontrar una ruta practicable y que se puede construir el ferrocarril en un corto espacio de tiempo. En el mapa se puede trazar la línea que ha de seguir el ferrocarril, cuyas distancias aparecen en el siguiente cuadro, al propio tiempo que el número de millas ya construidas y las que aún no lo están.

	Constru- das.	Por cons- truir.	Total.
Estados Unidos.....	2, 094	—	2, 094
México.....	1, 183	461	1, 644
Total, América del Norte.....	3, 277	461	3, 738
Guatemala.....	43	126	169
Salvador.....	64	166	230
Honduras.....	—	71	71
Nicaragua.....	103	106	209
Costa Rica.....	—	360	360
Total, Centro América.....	210	829	1, 039
Colombia.....	—	1, 354	1, 354
Ecuador.....	—	658	658
Perú.....	151	1, 633	1, 784
Bolivia.....	195	392	587
Argentina.....	936	125	1, 061
Total, Sud América.....	1, 282	4, 769	5, 444
Totales generales.....	4, 769	5, 452	10, 221

Las necesidades del comercio pueden obligar á que se haga pronto la construcción del ferrocarril. Es dudoso que entre la América del Norte y del Sur se pueda establecer un comercio lucrativo por mar. La conformación de la Costa oriental de Sud América obliga á hacer un gran viaje hacia el este, de modo que los buques quedan tan cerca de los puertos de Europa como de los Estados Unidos. Como las exportaciones de Sud América son en su mayor parte productos agrícolas, en Europa hallarán buenos mercados, y una vez hecho el cambio por los productos baratos manufacturados en el Continente, el comercio queda establecido. Si, por estas razones, este país no puede establecer y fomentar un comercio por mar con Sud América, los medios rápidos de comunicación que se necesitan los proveerá el ferrocarril Pan-Americano.

Grandes son los obstáculos que hay que vencer; superiores á las dificultades del ferrocarril de la Siberia ó el del "Cabo al Cairo." Los resultados, empero, serán tan grandes como la empresa. Las riquezas que yacen inexploradas en Sud América son mayores que las de cualquier otro continente. Sus posibilidades agrícolas son ilimitadas; tiene los ríos más grandes del mundo; su suelo puede producir cualquier fruto de la tierra y sus minas de oro, plata y carbón apenas han sido tocadas.

Un ferrocarril que atravesase los terrenos cafetaleros de los países de Centro América, pase por los ricos yacimientos metalíferos del Perú y penetre á las ricas pampas del Brasil y la Argentina debe tener un inmenso porvenir. Los productos de los tres grandes valles del Orinoco, el Amazonas y el Paraguay hallarían mercados por medio de este ferrocarril, y las minas de los Andes probarían ser más ricas que las de California y las del Sur de África.

MADERA INCOMBUSTIBLE.

Por medio de un procedimiento nuevo, se ha logrado producir madera á prueba de fuego, lo cual se considera, con mucha razón, un descubrimiento notable, pues no es dudoso que en lo futuro, si no logra hacer imposibles los incendios, hará mucho menores sus estragos. Á este respecto se ha citado la destrucción por el fuego del Hotel Windsor, en Nueva York, acontecimiento aciago que ocasionó la muerte de numerosas personas.

En la fabricación de madera incombustible, tal como se efectúa ahora en los talleres que tiene en la ciudad de Newark, Estado de New Jersey, la American Wood Fireproofing Company, el método que se emplea consiste en introducir la madera dentro de un receptáculo de acero de forma cilíndrica y capaz de resistir una presión de 400 libras por pulgada cuadrada. Lo primero que se hace es someter la madera á un baño de vapor. La duración de este baño depende de la calidad y del

espesor de la madera, y así puede ser de una hora como de cincuenta. Terminado este procedimiento, se hace el vacío en el receptáculo por medio de una bomba. Esta operación extrae de la madera todo la savia, jugos, etc. A continuación se introduce en el receptáculo un líquido alcalino, teniendo cuidado de evitar la entrada del aire. La madera absorbe este líquido hasta quedar casi completamente saturada. A fin de facilitar la absorción, se hace uso de una presión considerable. La parte del líquido que no ha sido absorbida se extrae por medio de una bomba. Después de esto se saca la madera del receptáculo á fin de searla, ya al aire libre, ya en hornos construidos con este fin.

Este último procedimiento hace que, una vez evaporada el agua, quede la madera completamente curada, sin que su apariencia haya sido alterada en manera alguna, y contiene las mismas propiedades que antes, aunque ya exenta de los jugos capaces de producir fermentación. El procedimiento es hasta cierto punto antiséptico, y al dar mayor solidez á la madera, hace que, cuando se la pinta, se consuma menor cantidad de aceite que en la madera que no ha pasado por el mencionado procedimiento. La madera incombustible puede pulirse mejor que la que no lo es, aun tratándose de las suaves, como el pino blanco y el álamo. No es posible encender la madera incombustible, como se ha demostrado con diversos experimentos, ni aun sometiéndola á la llama de un soplete. Puede ser carbonizada hasta cierto grado, pero es incapaz de producir conflagración.

Es evidente que la madera incombustible está destinada á representar papel muy importante en la construcción de buques, tanto de guerra como mercantes, y es probable que su uso se hará extensivo á todo género de edificios.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

RELACION DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 859 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de octubre de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los diez meses que terminaron en octubre de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesiéndose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de octubre, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en diciembre.

INGRESOS Y EGRESOS EN NOVIEMBRE.

Por el informe de la Tesorería, publicado el 1° de diciembre, se ve que los ingresos durante el mes de noviembre ascendieron á \$46,945,572, y que los egresos montaron á \$40,769,847, ó sea un excedente en favor de los ingresos de más de \$6,000,000. En el mes de noviembre de 1898 los ingresos totales fueron solamente de \$38,900,915. Esto da una idea de la creciente riqueza del país. Los egresos en noviembre de 1898 ascendieron á \$49,090,980, pero en dicho mes los gastos ocasionados por la guerra montaron á \$20,391,876, mientras que en noviembre de 1899 fueron solamente de \$11,455,102. Esto es, sin embargo, muchos millones más de lo que eran los egresos normales antes de la guerra con España.

Los ingresos durante el mes provinieron de las fuentes siguientes: Aduanas, \$19,204,417; renta interior, \$23,693,254; fuentes diversas, \$4,047,900. En números redondos, el aumento sobre el mismo mes en 1898 fué de \$4,000,000, de cuya cantidad cerca de la mitad se debe á la renta interior.

Los ingresos durante los primeros cinco meses del presente año económico han montado á la suma de \$238,034,390, y los egresos han sido por valor de \$224,621,000, lo cual muestra un excedente en favor de los primeros de \$13,413,390.

INFORME DEL COMISIONADO DE LA NAVEGACIÓN.

El informe anual de EUGENE T. CHAMBERLAIN, Comisionado de la Navegación de los Estados Unidos, demuestra que la industria de cuyo ramo está encargado participó de la prosperidad general del año pasado. El tonelaje total registrado en 30 de junio de 1899 se componía de 22,728 buques, con 4,864,238 toneladas brutas, que es el mayor tonelaje de que se tiene noticia desde 1865. El número de buques empleados en el comercio costanero alcanzó á 21,397 buques, con 4,015,992 toneladas brutas, ó sea el mayor de que hay constancia en la historia de la república al mismo tiempo que es también más grande que el tonelaje del tráfico costanero de cualquier otro país. Por la primera vez el tonelaje de vapor excede al de cualquier otra clase de buques, y alcanza á 2,476,011 toneladas. El tonelaje registrado de las embarcaciones que hacen el tráfico con el extranjero continúa muy pequeño. Durante el último año fiscal correspondió á los buques de los Estados Unidos algo menos de 9 por ciento del tráfico de importación y exportación, lo que representa la proporción más pequeña de que se tiene noticia en la historia del país.

Según los datos recojidos por el "Bureau Veritas," el tonelaje de los veleros de mar en todo el mundo ha disminuido en veinticinco años de 14,185,836 á 8,693,769 toneladas, ó sea una diferencia de 40 por ciento, que ha sido el promedio de la disminución en los Estados Unidos. Durante el mismo periodo, el tonelaje de la marina de alto bordo en general ha

aumentado de 4,328,193 toneladas á 18,887,132, ó sea 336 por ciento. La marina noruega ha aumentado en más de 1,400 por ciento y la alemana en cerca de 700 por ciento, mientras que la de los Estados Unidos aumentó en 68 por ciento. El aumento del tonelaje registrado en este país para el comercio extranjero en las costas del Atlántico y del Golfo ha sido solamente 38 por ciento. El desarrollo de Alaska durante los últimos años ha producido un aumento rápido en el tonelaje de la costa del Pacífico.

Durante los últimos veinte años los Estados Unidos, por lo que se refiere al tonelaje de naves de mar, han bajado del segundo al cuarto lugar, y si sólo se toman en cuenta los vapores que hacen el comercio de exportación, la posición que ocupan hoy corresponde al sexto lugar. El informe en referencia hace una ligera reseña de la legislación de otros países á favor de la marina mercante, demostrando que durante el último año fiscal los naciones de Europa y el Japón gastaron más de \$26,000,000 en fomentarla de varios modos, mientras que los Estados Unidos sólo gastaron \$998,211 para el mismo objeto.

Hace notar el Comisionado que las mismas razones que guían á otras naciones á desarrollar su marina mercante se aplican igualmente á los Estados Unidos, y que entre otras son: primero, la relación entre la marina de guerra y la mercante como elemento de defensa nacional; segundo, las relaciones de la marina mercante y las posesiones insulares; tercero, las relaciones de esta marina con los nuevos mercados del Asia, África, Australia y Sud América; cuarto, la necesidad de tener el mejor servicio de correos marítimo bajo el pabellón del país; quinto, la relación de la marina mercante con las importaciones y exportaciones y el valor del transporte, y por último, el fomento de la industria de construcciones navales y otras anexas.

El valor anual del tráfico marítimo de los Estados Unidos se calcula en \$175,000,000, inclusive boletas de pasajero é inmigrantes, y subvención por el transporte del correo. El argumento de que los derechos arancelarios sirven de obstáculo al desarrollo de la marina mercante americana en el comercio extranjero queda desvirtuado al considerar las disposiciones dictadas en 1872, según las cuales, y durante los últimos cinco años, todos los materiales empleados en los Estados Unidos para la construcción de buques para el comercio extranjero, así como todos los accesorios para ese objeto, han gozado de exención de todo derecho arancelario, y los únicos impuestos federales que pesan sobre la industria de construcción naval en los Estados Unidos son los derechos de tonelaje que afectan por igual manera á los buques extranjeros y del país.

Se hace notar la impracticabilidad del gravamen con derechos de represalias á los cargamentos que vienen en buques extranjeros, ó sobre el tonelaje de dichos buques, por razón de las cláusulas contenidas en los tratados que los Estados Unidos tienen celebrados con casi todas las naciones del mundo. La misma objeción se aplica á la pro-

posición de conceder primas á las exportaciones verificadas en buques propiedad de ciudadanos americanos.

En vista de que la proposición de conceder registro americano á buques construidos en el extranjero que hacen el comercio exterior fué únanimente rechazada hace cuatro años por la Comisión de Comercio del Senado de los Estados Unidos, así como también por la oposición que los dueños y constructores de buques del país hacen á dicha medida, no se considera practicable.

El informe del Comisionado se ocupa en su mayor parte del estudio del "Bill del Senado, número 5590," propuesto por el Senador FRYE durante las últimas sesiones del Congreso, en sustitución de los acuerdos presentados por el Senador HANNA y el Diputado PAYNE.

Hácese notar que el máximo de las erogaciones en cualquier año queda fijado por aquel bill en \$9,000,000, de los cuales hay que deducir \$1,500,000, que es el costo al presente de la conducción por mar del correo de los Estados Unidos en buques de propiedad americana, suma que continuará gastándose sea cual fuere la suerte que corra el bill, lo que reduce á \$7,500,000 el gasto máximo anual. Suponiendo que todos los buques de los Estados Unidos registrados para el comercio extranjero estuviesen completamente ocupados durante todo el año, hoy los nuevos gastos, según el bill, alcanzarían á \$3,000,000. Antes de que se llegue el máximo debe aumentarse la capacidad productora de los astilleros del país, y multiplicarse el tonelaje protegido por el pabellón americano y que hace el comercio extranjero.

Durante la década que terminó en 1898, los astilleros del país produjeron solamente 213,000 toneladas brutas de vapores de alto bordo, mientras que los de Alemania produjeron 850,000 toneladas y los ingleses 9,680,000 toneladas brutas. La diferencia en el costo de la construcción y explotación de los buques americanos e ingleses es materia que ocupa buena parte del informe, que también hace notar que de los 362 buques de vapor que hoy hay, cuyo andar es de 14 ó más nudos, más del 80 por ciento reciben ya de una manera ya de otra ayuda de los Gobiernos respectivos, que se calcula en más de \$20,000,000.

El Comisionado recomienda un aumento moderado en los impuestos de tonelaje vigentes en los Estados Unidos, igualándolos á los que rigen en los principales puertos de Europa, y considera favorable la adopción de medidas que dispongan la aplicación de las leyes de los Estados Unidos sobre comercio, navegación y marina mercante al Hawaii y Puerto Rico, de suerte de extender hasta ellas las disposiciones de cabotaje de los Estados Unidos. Se recomienda que los buques de propiedad de Cubanos se coloquen, por medio de una ley, á la par de aquéllos pertenecientes á la nación más favorecida. Por virtud de una ley existente ha sido necesario imponer un derecho de tonelaje de \$1 por tonelada bruta á aquellas embarcaciones, que es prácticamente un impuesto prohibitivo, y esto sólo se puede remediar por medio de leyes.

IMPUESTOS INTERNOS.

En el informe presentado al Secretario de Hacienda por el Hon. GEORGE W. WILSON, Comisionado del ramo de Impuestos Internos, referente á la marcha de la oficina de su cargo durante el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, aparece que los ingresos provenientes de todos los ramos que lo componen alcanzaron en aquel período de tiempo á \$273,484,573, ó sea un aumento de \$102,617,000 sobre el año anterior y de \$3,484,573 sobre el presupuesto del Comisionado en diciembre de 1898. Los ingresos producidos por los diferentes ramos fueron durante el año pasado como sigue:

Alcoholes, \$99,283,534; aumento, \$6,736,534; tabaco, \$52,493,207; aumento, \$16,262,685; licores fermentados, \$68,644,558; aumento, \$29,129,137; oleomargarina, \$1,956,618; aumento, \$640,838; queso (imitación), \$18,098; aumento, \$1,799; harina mezclada, \$7,840. La ley no estaba en vigor el año pasado.

Impuestos especiales no enumerados, \$4,921,593; la ley sólo estuvo en vigor poco tiempo. Herencias y particiones de bienes personales, \$1,235,435; derecho del timbre, según la cláusula A de la ley sobre impuestos de guerra, \$38,618,081; medicinas y artículos patentados, etc., gravados por la cláusula B de dicha ley, \$5,210,737.

Entre los ingresos arriba mencionados se cuentan los siguientes: Impuestos sobre el capital en los bancos, \$3,750,834; billares, \$367,074; corredores de bolsa, etc., \$357,010; corredores de comercio, \$181,919; corredores de aduana, \$50,522; juegos de bolos, \$61,349; circo, \$18,233; otros espectáculos, \$126,540; varios, \$1,085,968.

Los artículos retirados para el consumo durante el año fueron los siguientes:

Alcoholes destilados de frutas, 1,306,218 galones; alcoholes destilados de granos, 83,819,314 galones; licores fermentados, 36,581,114 barriles; cigarros de todas clases y pesos, 1,077,387,824; cigarrillos de todas clases y pesos, 2,805,130,737; rapé, 14,627,066 libras; tabaco de mascar y para fumar, 237,132,410 libras; oleomargarina, 80,495, 628 libras; queso (imitación), 1,688,641 libras.

Los gastos ocasionados por la recaudación de las rentas durante el año alcanzaron á \$4,591,754, ó sea 1.68 por ciento del total recaudado, cantidad que es la menor de que se tenga noticia en la historia de la Oficina de Rentas Internas. Durante el año económico anterior el costo de la recaudación alcanzó á 2.29 por ciento del total recaudado. El presupuesto de gastos por este concepto para el año económico venidero se ha calculado en \$4,877,340 más.

El Comisionado calcula que para el año fiscal que termina el 30 de junio de 1900 los ingresos por todos conceptos se estiman al rededor de \$285,000,000, ó sea más de \$11,500,000 en exceso del producto de 1899. Este cálculo está basado en los ingresos percibidos en los cuatro meses ya conocidos.

Durante el año los empleados de las rentas embargaron 2,190

alambiques clandestinos, y en el cumplimiento de sus deberes uno fué muerto y tres heridos. Se aprehendieron 711 personas relacionadas con la explotación clandestina de alambiques.

Entre las recomendaciones hechas por el Comisionado se cuentan las siguientes: que los bienes raíces ubicados en los Estados Unidos pertenecientes á personas que residen en el extranjero y que allí fallezcan deben gravarse de la misma manera que los bienes raíces de los que residen en el país; que se conceda un descuento de 2 por ciento á los compradores de sellos ó timbres de la renta interna (proprietary stamps) siempre que los compren en cantidades que no bajen de \$100; que las ferias ó exposiciones agrícolas queden exentas del pago de impuestos internos; que las "ganancias indivisas" se consideren como excedente al calcular los impuestos que afectan los bancos; que se derogue el impuesto que pesa sobre los corredores de comercio, ó que se grave con un impuesto especial otros ramos, tales como los comisionistas y agentes de bienes raíces; que se introduzcan en las leyes vigentes reformas que permitan la exportación, con beneficio de prima (drawback), de los alcoholes destilados, en los envases provenientes de los rectificadores y vendedores al por mayor cuando se han recibido en dichos envases ó han sido trasegados á ellos á la vista de un empleado del Gobierno; que se imponga un impuesto especial que no baje de \$480 por año á los destiladores que produzcan productos destilados de otros materiales que no sean manzanas, melocotones, uvas, peras, piñas, naranjas, albaricoques, bayas y ciruelas.

PROGRESOS ALCANZADOS POR LA DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA.

Durante los últimos años los importantísimos trabajos encomendados al Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos han venido extendiendo cada vez más su radio de acción, y durante el año pasado se introdujeron innovaciones en que hasta ahora nunca se había pensado. El informe anual presentado por el Hon. JAMES WILSON, Secretario de Agricultura, es un compendio del inmenso trabajo ejecutado en su Departamento durante el período que abarca. El Secretario hace hincapié en el éxito alcanzado en la extensión del servicio de la Oficina Meteorológica por el mar Caribe, que da oportunamente á los buques de la marina mercante y de guerra áviso de las tempestades que se forman allí. El rasgo característico principal del trabajo del año ha sido la introducción de nueva semillas y plantas, pues el Departamento tiene agentes suyos por todo el mundo recolectando semillas y estudiando árboles y plantas diversas. Por ejemplo, en Argelia se han encontrado especies de yerbas y de plantas que han demostrado ser de valor inmenso para la sección del sudoeste de los Estados Unidos, donde el clima y el terreno son iguales á los del país árido de donde son indígenas. Se ha descubierto una nueva especie de arroz que no se quiebra al desecarlo y que, según se cree, economizará grandes sumas de dinero á los cultivadores de este grano en los Estados del Sur.

Abundantes informes se han recogido acerca de las plantas que dan el caucho y la gutapercha, y se espera, durante el año venidero, que en las nuevas posesiones insulares del país se encontrarán zonas á propósito para el cultivo de estas plantas. Los Estados Unidos hoy importan como \$30,000,000 en caucho por año, pero la producción del mundo apenas basta para satisfacer la demanda y los precios van en alza. Así, pues, si merced á los esfuerzos del Departamento se lograra producir en sus territorios una parte del caucho que necesita para su consumo, los beneficios que de ello se derivarían serían incalculables.

Los Estados Unidos pagan anualmente \$5,000,000 por algodón egipcio, y es la opinión del Secretario que en las mencionadas islas podría producirse esta fibra. Muchas de las frutas tropicales importadas se pueden dar en Puerto Rico, el Hawai y las Filipinas.

Se ha adelantado mucho en los trabajos de cruzamiento de granos para conseguir variedades que resistan á la sequía, el tizón y el frío. Se están empleando los mismos métodos para producir naranjos y algodoneros que sean inmunes contra las enfermedades parasitarias.

La materia de bosques ocupa un gran espacio en el informe. El trabajo del nuevo Guarda-Bosques del Departamento demuestra que los cortadores de madera pueden seguir haciendo el corte como de costumbre, pero al mismo tiempo que pueden verificarlo más barato pueden dejar también los bosques en condición tal que puedan servir más adelante, y no como hasta ahora se ha venido practicando con el sistema en voga, que sólo causaba desperdicios y hacía grandes daños en ciertos lugares del país.

El trabajo de irrigación en el Oeste ha continuado, rehabilitando así ó reclamando muchos terrenos antes cubiertos de áleali. Las recomendaciones del Secretario en este respecto se extienden á experimentos en las regiones orientales y meridionales contiguas á las regiones áridas, y cree que el Congreso debe dictar medidas relativas á derechos de agua y lugares para estanques en el Oeste.

El trabajo de las Estaciones Experimentales se ha extendido hasta Alaska, y se recomienda que se implante en el Hawai, en Puerto Rico y en las Filipinas, de modo que estos lugares puedan abastecer de frutas tropicales á los Estados Unidos.

El informe en referencia también se ocupa de la cuestión de expansión comercial. Se están haciendo embarques regulares de mantequilla y de otros productos de lechería conservados en hielo, los cuales están dando resultados y haciendo conocer en los mercados del mundo aquellos productos de la industria americana.

También se están haciendo experimentos en la construcción de caminos, con la cooperación de las autoridades locales de algunos estados, entre otros la de caminos de prueba con los materiales que se encuentran en los diversos lugares y la de caminos carreteros con vías de acero.

Llámanse la atención acerca de las nuevas posesiones insulares de los Estados Unidos, y el Secretario indica que se debería crear y hacer

cumplir una ley de inspección, pues tan luego como los americanos comiencen á establecerse en dichas islas, importarán sin duda muchas semillas y plantas nuevas de todas partes del mundo, y entonces pueden introducir también, sin pensarlo, enfermedades y plagas que arruinen las cosechas. Esto ha sucedido ya en otras partes. La actitud del Departamento en lo que se refiere á las nuevas posesiones del país es de cordial cooperación.

DERECHOS DE IMPORTACIÓN SOBRE LAS PIELES DE CARNERO.

Con fecha 15 de noviembre de 1899, Mr. O. L. SPAULDING, Subsecretario de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, emitió una resolución relativa al método que se debe emplear á fin de averiguar qué cantidad de lana contienen las pieles de carnero que se importan del Canadá. Este asunto puede ser de importancia para los países del Río de la Plata. "Parece que á ciertos cargamentos de pieles de carneros con su lana * * * se les impuso el derecho sobre el peso, ó sea el tanto por ciento de lana calculado, de conformidad con las decisiones emitidas por este Departamento el 1º de febrero de 1873 y el 1º de febrero de 1898, en las cuales se fijó dicho tanto por ciento en 54." El abogado del consignatario "manifiesta que, á pesar de esto, se ha demostrado prácticamente por los importadores y otras personas que dichas pieles rinden aproximadamente como la mitad del tanto por ciento atrás mencionado, ó sea de 25 á 30 por ciento del peso de las pieles con la lana, y sugiere que se determine la cantidad de lana en la citadas pieles, según el tanto por ciento que resulte después de arrancar la lana. * * *

"En vista de lo que antecede, y habiendo sido informado este Departamento de que en algunos casos los cambios hechos en el método de eriar los carneros y de preparar sus pieles han alterado la proporción del peso de la lana respecto del peso de las pieles, ordeno á usted (el Administrador de Aduanas de Eastport, Maine) que en aquellos casos en que el importador pretenda que hay considerable diferencia entre el peso de la lana en las pieles por él importadas, y el fijado en los cuadros en que se da el tanto por ciento del peso de la lana adherida á las pieles, que fueron publicados con la resolución del Departamento de Hacienda fechada á 1º de febrero de 1898, el peso neto de la lana se establezca por medio de una demostración práctica. Estas instrucciones, sin embargo, no son aplicables á los cargamentos importados por los reclamantes y que ya no están bajo la custodia de la aduana."

CONDICIÓN DE LAS PRINCIPALES COSECHAS.

El informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos correspondiente al mes de noviembre, completa prácticamente el trabajo del año y muestra que 1899 es probablemente el año en que se ha producido mayor cantidad de maíz en este país. Según los datos obtenidos, ha habido un promedio de pro-

ducción de 25.2 *bushels* por acre, contra 24.8 *bushels* que fué la cantidad primeramente calculada en noviembre de 1898. El promedio en cuanto á la calidad es de 87.2 por ciento, contra 82.7 por ciento en noviembre de 1898. Se considera que 5.9 por ciento de la cosecha de maíz de 1898 se encontraba en poder de los agricultores el 1º de noviembre de 1899, mientras que la cantidad de la cosecha de 1897 que aquéllos tenían en sus manos el 1º de noviembre de 1898 ascendía á 7.25 por ciento.

Se calcula que la producción de maíz por acre en los principales Estados donde se cultiva este grano, es como sigue: Indiana, 37 *bushels*; Illinois, 35; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvania, 31; Iowa, 31; Kansas, 29; Nebraska, 27, y Missouri 25. Este cálculo no parece muy claro. El año pasado un cálculo semejante indicó, según datos oficiales, que la cosecha sería de 1,958,588,881 *bushels*. Sin embargo, el estadista HYDE opina que la extensión de terreno sembrado de trigo en 1899 tendrá varios millones de acres más que la de 1898. La cosecha total de 1898 fué de 1,924,184,660 *bushels*, mientras que la de 1896 ascendió á 2,283,875,000. Se cree que la producción en 1899 excederá en mucho á la de 1896 y que será de cerca de 2,400,000,000 *bushels*.

El promedio de la producción de trigo sarraceno es de 17.2 *bushels* por acre, contra 17.3 en noviembre de 1898, y 16.5 el promedio medio en el mismo mes durante diez años. El promedio en cuanto á la calidad es de 88.4 por ciento, contra 85.2 por ciento en 1898. Mientras que la producción por acre de este grano es algo mayor que lo fué en el año anterior, la extensión de terreno cultivada fué menos de la mitad. Se calcula que la cosecha será de 5,897,000 *bushels*, contra 11,722,000 en 1898.

La producción de patatas se calcula por término medio en 88.7 *bushels* por acre, lo cual es un gran aumento del promedio medio durante los último diez años. El promedio el 1º de noviembre de 1898 era de 75.2 *bushels*, que fué también el término medio durante diez años. La calidad fué de 91.4 por ciento, contra 84.7 en noviembre de 1898. Calculada sobre una extensión de 2,534,577 acres, la producción de patatas será de 224,816,979 *bushels*.

La producción media de heno será, según se calcula, de 1.35 toneladas por acre, contra 1.55 toneladas en 1898, y contra 1.27 toneladas, que fué el promedio medio durante diez años. Se cree que la producción de heno ascenderá á 57,382,820 toneladas, contra 66,377,000 toneladas en 1898, lo cual muestra una disminución de 9,000,000 toneladas.

En cuanto á las frutas, la producción, calculando las cosechas enteras, fué como sigue: manzanas, 47 por ciento; peras, 47; nvas, 68.

Según las indicaciones actuales, la producción de caña de azúcar será una cuarta parte menor que en 1898. En Louisiana, que es el estado que más produce, la disminución ha sido de 30 por ciento, y en otros estados ha llegado á 15 y hasta 30 por ciento.

El hecho de que los cálculos preliminares oficiales relativos á la cosecha de algodón han sido inferiores á la cantidad producida, se ha debido en cada caso á falta de conocimiento de la rapidez con que

aumenta la extensión de terreno dedicado á este cultivo. Es por esto que cuando la gran cosecha del año pasado demostró que dicha extensión había aumentado más allá de los cálculos oficiales y comerciales, se resolvió hacer una investigación especial respecto de la condición del referido cultivo durante este año. El año pasado el área productora media cerea de 25,000,000 acres, y este año es de cerca de 23,500,000 acres, aunque probablemente los últimos datos demostrarán que es todavía menor. Según la investigación que se ha hecho, el promedio de producción por acre es uno de los más pequeños de que hay recuerdo en muchos años, y al calcular la cosecha máxima en 9,500,000 pacas se ha querido tomar la cifra más elevada posible, á fin de evitar un modo de ver demasiado pesimista respecto de la situación. En la actualidad todo indica que la cosecha será de menos de 9,000,000 pacas.

Según el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, la cosecha de trigo en este país durante el año de 1899 asciende á 547,300,000 *bushels*, ó sean 12.3 *bushels* por acre. La producción de trigo de invierno se calcula en 291,700,000 *bushels*, y la de trigo de primavera en 255,600,000 *bushels*. Agentes especiales del Departamento de Agricultura visitaron los principales Estados productores de trigo, y el cambio que se nota en los informes relativos á la extensión cultivada es el resultado de sus investigaciones. Se calcula en 30,150,000 acres la extensión de terreno últimamente sembrada de trigo de invierno, lo cual es un aumento de cerca de 200,000 acres sobre la extensión cultivada en el otoño de 1898. Todavía se está sembrando trigo en California y en algunos de los Estados del Sur, de manera que los datos dados atrás quedan sujetos á corrección. El promedio de la condición de la cosecha es 97.1.

LÍNEA DE VAPORES Á RIO JANEIRO.

El 15 de noviembre se verificó en la ciudad de Filadelfia una reunión del Club de Maanufactureros con el fin de tratar del establecimiento de una línea de vapores entre aquel puerto y Río Janeiro. El Capitán CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, representante del Brasil en el Congreso Internacional, pronunció un discurso en favor del proyecto. Manifestó que el Presidente, el Congreso y el pueblo de su país estaban deseosos de hacer más estrechas las relaciones entre el Brasil y los Estados Unidos, porque creían que esto sería benéfico por ambas naciones. Al hablar de la gran cantidad de café brasileño que se importa en los Estados Unidos, se expresó así:

“Imposible parece que á pesar de este inmenso tráfico no existe un solo buque de los Estados Unidos que haga la carrera entre los dos países. Si este comercio ha de continuar ó ir en aumento, algo debe de hacerse inmediatamente á fin de colocar á los Estados Unidos en las condiciones que les corresponden. Me refiero al establecimiento de líneas de navegación, al aumento de facilidades bancarias y á mayor diligencia por parte de los comerciantes de los Estados Unidos. Vuestra exportación no es menos importante que vuestra importación, y no habeis fomentado aquélla en vuestros negocios con el Brasil, aunque

sólo se necesita echar una ojeada para ver que grandes cantidades de vuestros productos podría ser enviadas al Brasil, si hubiera embarcaciones para conducir las y existiera un sistema mejor de cambio internacional. El Brasil puede consumir grandes cantidades de vuestros productos, y entre ellos puedo mencionar la harina, los aceites minerales, el hierro, el acero, el carbón, los artículos de lencería, maquinaria y artefactos en general."

También hablaron sobre el mismo asunto los Señores JOHN G. GORDAN, ALBERT LUCAS y WILLIAM C. BULLITT. Como ciudadanos de Filadelfia, se manifestaron en favor del pronto establecimiento de la citada línea de vapores, y de que la compañía tuviese su residencia en dicha ciudad ó hiciese sus operaciones con capital de los Estados Unidos. Se han nombrado comisiones para que estudien el punto y traten de llevar el proyecto activamente á su realización.

FACTURAS DE MERCANCÍAS DE MÉXICO.

El 18 de noviembre de 1899 el Secretario de Hacienda dirigió al Secretario de Estado la siguiente comunicación, que se refiere á las mercancías importadas de México á fin de que sean embareadas para Europa: * * * "Debomanifestar que ninguna mercancía proveniente de México puede ser transportada como de tránsito á través de los Estados Unidos. Los efectos que no pagan derechos deben ser declarados para consumo al llegar á la frontera. Aquéllos que pagan derechos y que llegan de México para ser exportados, pueden ser declarados para ser depositados en almacenes y para su transportación al puerto de embarque, donde serán nuevamente declarados para ser otra vez depositados en almacenes y para la exportación. Pero en todo caso se debe presentar una factura consular." * * *

EXPORTACIÓN DE RELOJES DE PARED, DE MESA Y DE BOLSILLO, ASÍ COMO DE JOYAS.

La publicación denominada "Jewelers' Circular," correspondiente al 22 de noviembre de 1899, llama la atención á la creciente popularidad en los mercados extranjeros de los relojes de pared, de mesa y bolsillo, así como de las joyas, que se fabrican en los Estados Unidos. Esto se demuestra con evidencia en las tablas que se dieron á luz últimamente y en las cuales se expone la cantidad de estos artículos que ha sido exportada en los últimos dos años económicos. Durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899 la exportación total de relojes de toda clase ascendió á \$1,043,621, contra un total de \$953,557 en el año económico anterior. Relojes de bolsillo por valor de \$819,810 fueron exportados durante el año económico de 1899, lo cual muestra un aumento de \$47,898 sobre el año precedente. La exportación de joyas ascendió á \$729,194 en 1889, contra \$555,719 en 1898. En cuanto á otros efectos de oro y plata hubo también aumento, pues de \$192,061 en 1898, ascendió á \$233,962 en 1899. Hace muy pocos años que los Estados Unidos importaban gran cantidad de relojes de todas clases y de joyas.

UN ARADO AUTOMÓBIL.

El Dr. R. J. GATLING, inventor del cañón que lleva su nombre, acaba de inventar un arado automóvil. Esta máquina es construida como un automóvil ordinario, con arados de disco arreglados de tal manera que hacen el trabajo del instrumento que ahora se usa. El objeto que se tiene en mira es que la máquina pueda ser manejada por una sola persona, y se pretende que hará tanto trabajo como ocho hombres y doce caballos. Como fuerza motriz se puede usar gasolina ó petróleo. También puede usarse la máquina para hacer funcionar una trilladora ó una descascaradora de maíz y para otros fines. Hay otra máquina para uso en las plantaciones de algodón y que servirá para entresacar los plantíos cuando las plantas comienzan á crecer.

REFRIGERADORES FLOTANTES.

El General T. H. STANTON, Comisario General del Ejército de los Estados Unidos, hace mención en su informe de los buques refrigeradores, y dice que dieron resultados muy satisfactorios en cuanto á suplir de carne fresca á los barcos de guerra en Manila. Los tres buques refrigeradores empleados por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos no solamente pudieron proveer á las necesidades de la armada, sino que también llevaron grandes cantidades de víveres para el ejército que se halla en campaña en las Islas Filipinas.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del BOLETÍN MENSUAL se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas. El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Washington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países y que son las siguientes:

- Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.
- Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.
- Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.
- Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.
- Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional. San José.
- Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.
- Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.
- México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.
- Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.
- Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

El "McClure's Magazine." en el número correspondiente á diciembre de 1899, trae un artículo ilustrado de Mr. RAY STANNARD BAKER, con el título de "El movimiento del Trigo," en el cual se hace particular referencia al origen y la cantidad del producto, la maquinaria y los métodos empleados para la distribución y el consumo rápido del cereal. Según el autor, hoy existen en el mundo cerca de 517,000,000 de consumidores de pan, y cada uno de ellos—hombre, mujer ó niño—consume por término medio un barril de harina ($4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels de trigo) por año. Los franceses, los ingleses, y los norte-americanos consumen más de este promedio, y tomando como base dicha proporción resulta que los consumidores de pan necesitan más de 2,300,000,000 de bushels de trigo por año.

"Si los campos de trigo del mundo producen tanto cuanto se necesita, la abundancia y la prosperidad existirán por todas partes, pero si la producción es menor entonces vendrá la miseria y el hambre. La Gran Bretaña consume en trece semanas toda su cosecha de trigo, y si los Estados Unidos llegaran á encontrarse completamente cortados del resto del mundo * * * entonces probablemente su población quedaría completamente extinguida por el hambre en tres meses. Lo mismo se aplica á cada uno de los países del occidente de Europa." La gran ola, por decirlo así, de trigo se mueve hacia el este y hacia el norte, hacia las ciudades del Viejo Mundo, desde los Estados Unidos, la República Argentina y Chile—y las olas más pequeñas van de oeste á sur. La China, que hasta ahora ha vivido del arroz, ha comenzado á gustar de la harina de trigo, y si todos sus habitantes comieren pan de trigo, podrían acabar con la actual cosecha del mundo y pasar hambre. La Europa, aun comprendiendo las cosechas de los grandes trigales de Rusia, nunca produce trigo suficiente para satisfacer sus necesidades. Si hubiera un conflicto entre los Estados Unidos y toda la Europa, con sólo suspender aquellos el envío de comestibles la victoria estaría á medio ganar.

Sólo hay en Europa cinco países cuya producción de trigo es mayor que su consumo—Rusia, Hungría, Servia, Bulgaria y Rumania—pero el excedente apenas sería suficiente para Holanda, Bélgica, Escandinavia y Suiza. Los Estados Unidos con su enorme producción han venido naturalmente á ser el mayor comerciante. Las estadísticas siguientes dan una idea de las necesidades de los Estados Unidos: Para alimentar á 74,000,000 de personas (población calculada en 1899) á razón de $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels cada una, se necesitan 333,000,000 de bushels; para sembrar 47,000,000 de acres de trigo, que es el tamaño de los trigales, á razón de $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels por acre, son necesarios 70,500,000 bushels de trigo, ó sea por todo 403,500,000 bushels. El artículo de Mr. BAKER abunda

en hechos y gnrismos presentados de modo que instruyen y distraen al lector, cuando no queda sorprendido del inmenso alcance de la materia.

"Hawaiian America: Something of Its History, Resources and Prospects" (América Hawaiana: Algo sobre su historia, su riqueza y sus esperanzas), por CASPAR WHITNEY (Harper & Brothers, 1899). Con esta obra, que los editores han publicado en forma muy artística, Mr. WHITNEY ha dado al público un trabajo valioso é interesante. El libro contiene numerosas ilustraciones que representan á los naturales del país, sus industrias, sus habitaciones, diversiones, etc., en las diferentes islas. Contiene además cinco mapas. El autor en su prefacio se expresa así: "No ha sido mi propósito escribir ni una historia ni una guía de viajeros para los que visiten las islas de Hawai, sino solamente dar una buena idea de las islas y de sus habitantes, su carácter, industrias, riquezas y esperanzas." Mr. WHITNEY ha realizado lo que se proponía de una manera agradable é interesante, pues su estilo difiere mucho del seco y árido que emplean generalmente los que escriben sobre asuntos de esta clase. El libro contiene diez y siete capítulos, dedicados á la cuestión del trabajo, á la industrial, al cultivo de la caña de azúcar y del café, á la educación de los naturales, etc. Á continuación de estos capítulos hay cuadros estadísticos relativos á las distancias, la población, la lepra, los bienes raíces, los terrenos baldíos, la educación, las industrias, los ferrocarriles, el comercio, etc.

Por dichos cuadros se ve que el 31 de diciembre de 1897 había en las islas, cuya población es de 109,000 habitantes, 1,100 leprosos. Al hablar de la educación, el autor nos dice que durante los últimos setenta años el pueblo de las islas se ha levantado "del más bajo estado de degradación á un nivel intelectual que, por término medio, es más elevado que el de todos los otros países, con excepción de los Estados Unidos, Prusia y Suiza, y que la riqueza por cabeza alcanza un promedio mayor que en cualquier otra parte del mundo." La riqueza por cabeza se calcula en \$60. En los Estados Unidos, tomando como base una población de 72,000,000 de habitantes, la riqueza por cabeza es de \$23.70. En 1884 el 70.73 por ciento de los habitantes que habían llegado á la edad de recibir educación, asistía á las escuelas. En 1890 la proporción era de 81.59 por ciento, y en 1896 alcanzó á la notable cifra de 96.20 por ciento.

"Índice del Comercio Americano; Directorio Descriptivo y Clasificado de los Miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de los Estados Unidos," es el título de una obra que acaba de publicar la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros de Filadelfia. Es un manual en que se dan á conocer á los comerciantes interesados en los productos de los Estados Unidos, las principales manufacturas de este país. El libro contiene los nombres de todos los miembros de la Asociación Nacional que fabrican artículos para la exportación, y está dividido en

cuatro partes, á saber: la parte primera contiene una lista alfabética de los miembros y una ligera relación de los artículos que fabrican, así como otras noticias útiles á los compradores. La parte segunda es una lista clasificada de los miembros. La parte tercera contiene las direcciones cablegráficas registradas de los mismos. La parte cuarta contiene los anuncios de los miembros.

El primer tomo publicado por la Asociación salió á luz en enero de 1899, y la edición en inglés fué de 5,000 ejemplares. El libro de que ahora se trata está impreso en español, y es destinado á circular en los países donde se habla dicho idioma. Á principios de 1900 se hará otra edición en inglés y en francés para ser distribuida en la Exposición de París. El índice no deja nada que desear y responde en todo á los fines para que fué publicado. La obra se distribuye gratis y se pueden obtener ejemplares en la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ó en la de la Asociación Nacional de Maanufactureros de Filadelfia.

La casa editorial de Nueva York, "The Audit Publishing Co.," acaba de publicar el segundo número del "Directory of Directors," que contiene 700 páginas, en donde aparece una lista completa de las corporaciones de Nueva York y sus respectivos directores. Es interesante la materia de que trata la obra, á la par que de valor, por los informes curiosos que da referente al manejo de las grandes corporaciones. El nombre de un personaje notable figura en la dirección de 88 compañías, mientras que el de Mr. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, reputado como el hombre más rico de América, aparece sólo en la dirección de tres compañías.

Con el título de "Maximilian in Mexico" la casa editorial llamada "Century Company," de Nueva York, acaba de publicar una obra de SARAH YORK STEVENSON, que contiene las reminiscencias de la autora de la invasión francesa de México en 1862-1867. La autora pasó varios años de su primera juventud en relaciones con la Corte Imperial de México, cuando Napoleón III hizo el desastroso experimento de establecer en territorio de América una forma de gobierno europea. El libro está dedicado á la memoria del malogrado Señor Don MATÍAS ROMERO, Embajador que fué de México en los Estados Unidos.

Entre las materias de que trata el "Bankers' Magazine" correspondiente á noviembre, se encuentran las siguientes: "El Excedente del Tesoro y el Mercado Monetario," "Refundición de la Deuda Pública de los Estados Unidos," "Peligros Económicos de las Rentas Delicuentes y Excedentes," etc.

El "Importers and Exporters' Journal" contiene en su número de 11 de noviembre de 1899, un interesante artículo sobre "El cacao y el chocolate, su origen y preparación."

BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VII.

DEZEMBRO DE 1899.

No. 6.

ACTA DA SESSÃO DA COMMISSÃO EXECUTIVA DA UNIÃO INTERNACIONAL DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.

A Comissão Executiva da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas reuniu-se na sala de recepção da Secretaria de Estado, Quinta-Feira, 23 de Novembro de 1899.

A reunião foi presidida pelo Honrado JOHN HAY, Secretario de Estado.

Os outros membros que estiveram presentes foram:

O Sr. Dr. MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Ministro da Republica Argentina.

O Sr. JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministro de Costa Rica.

O Sr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Director da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas, tambem esteve presente.

Tendo manifestado o Secretario de Estado que o objecto da reunião era ouvir ler o relatorio annual do director, o Senhor Director o len em seguida. O dito relatorio, que leva a data de 23 de Novembro de 1899, se publica á continuação.

O relatorio foi declarado inteiramente satisfactorio e approved pelos membros da commissão. Á moção do Sr. MÉROU, apresentaram-se ao Sr. ROCKHILL os agradecimentos da commissão pelos bons serviços que tem prestado á Secretaria.

Á commissão declaram unanimemente que em quanto ás recommendações contidas no relatorio, isso se deixasse ao juizo do Senhor Director, e, ao pedido deste, se resolveu que se adopte o systema metrico para calcular o valor das moedas, assim como para os pesos e medidas.

Depois disto o Sr. MÉROU disse como segue:

“Infelizmente para mim, esta é a ultima sessão da Commissão Executiva á que tenho a honra de assistir como membro da mesma, porque,

como sabeis, vou partir para o meu paiz. Aproveito esta occasião para dar-vos meus agradecimentos pela cortezia com que sempre me tendes tratado, e para despedir-me de vos, meus collegas da Commissão Executiva, assegurando-vos que no novo posto que vou a occupar na minha patria, seguirei tomando vivo interesse nesta Secretaria, de cuja Commissão Executiva tenho tido a honra de formar parte. Posso assegurar ao Sr. ROCKHILL que sempre me encontrará disposto a prestar-lhe minha cooperação, e exporei ao meu Governo a importancia e utilidade desta União Internacional das Republicas Americanas. Estou convencido de que a Secretaria não podia estar a cargo de pessoa mais competente e não duvido que o Senhor Director continuará introduzindo melhoras no futuro que tenderão a fazer mais estreitas as relações entre os nossos paizes.”

O Senhor Secretario de Estado replicou com as seguintes palavras:

“Estou seguro de que todos sentimos separar-nos do Sr. MÉROU que, como membro desta Commissão, tem mostrado sempre tanta capacidade como diligencia. Entretanto, ainda que sentimos sua partida, não podemos menos que felicitalo ao ser elevado em seu paiz a um posto altamente honroso e de grande responsabilidade. Nos agrada especialmente saber que não deixará de tomar interesse nos trabalhos desta Secretaria, mas que no elevado posto que vai occupar em sua patria, nos prestará valiosos serviços na obra a que estamos dedicados, que é a de dar incremento ás relações commerciaes entre todos os paizes deste continente e fazer mais estreitos os laços de amizade e sympathia que felizmente nos unem.”

Á moção do Sr. CALVO, deram-se instrucções ao Senhor Director da Secretaria para que communicasse ao Senhor Ministro MÉROU os sentimentos expressos, com motivo de sua partida, pelo Presidente da Commissão.

Levantou-se a sessão.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 23 de Novembro de 1899.

RELATORIO ANNUAL DO DIRECTOR.

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Washington, 23 de Novembro de 1899.

Ao Senhor Secretario de Estado, Presidente da Commissão Executiva da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas, e aos membros da mesma.

SENHORES: O Sr. FREDERICO EMORY, meu predecessor nesta Secretaria, vos submetten no dia 29 de Março seu relatorio final sobre os trabalhos da mesma, como supplemento ao seu relatorio annual de data de 17 de Dezembro de 1898, o qual mostra a condição em que se encontrava a Secretaria um mez antes de que eu entrara a fazer-me cargo d'ella.

As contas da Secretaria para o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899 são como segue:

Receita e despeza durante o exercicio que terminou em 30 de Junho de 1899.

RECEITA.

Verba votada		\$36,000.00
Balanço da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc., 1° de Julho de 1898		\$649.82
Quotas das Republicas Americanas	\$5,762.78	
Receita proveniente de anuncios	\$27,005.98	
De vendas de publicações	2,622.45	
	<u>29,628.43</u>	
		<u>35,391.21</u>
		<u>36,041.03</u>
Total		72,041.03

DESPEZA.

Da verba votada, 1899		36,000.00
Da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc		34,409.73
		<u>70,409.73</u>
Balanço, 1° de Julho de 1899		1,631.30

Quadro detalhado dos gastos durante o exercicio que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899.

	Da verba votada 1899.	Da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc.	Totals.
Ordenados dos empregados	\$30,783.08	\$9,069.55	\$39,852.63
Artigos de escritorio	100.25	877.35	977.60
Aluguel da casa da Secretaria	1,509.00	333.32	1,842.32
Bibliotecas	37.28	116.75	154.03
Sellos de correio	46.11	915.65	961.76
Movéis	22.65	149.75	172.40
Impressões	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Commissões por contractos para anuncios feitos antes do dia 1° de Março de 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Gastos varios	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total	<u>36,000.00</u>	<u>34,409.73</u>	<u>70,409.73</u>

Pelo que precede se vê que no dia 1° de Julho de 1899, ao começar o presente exercicio, havia um saldo a favor da Secretaria de \$1,631.30. Nesta conta não está incluída a quantia que se deve a Typographia Nacional por trabalhos feitos para a Secretaria durante o anno economico que terminou na data mencionada.

O quadro seguinte mostra que ao começar o presente anno economico se devia á Typographia Nacional, segundo contas apresentadas durante o exercicio de 1897-98, um saldo de \$6,388.09:

Conta apresentada pelo Director da Typographia Nacional para o anno economico de 1899.

Total das contas apresentadas para o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899	\$34,870.61
Quantia a deduzir da somma cobrada por composição e trabalhos typographicos, segundo arranjos feitos com o Director da Typographia Nacional, acreditada á Secretaria	2,982.48
Summa total por pagar	<u>31,888.13</u>

Somma paga da quantia annual votada pelo Congresso, 1899...	\$3, 279. 25
Somma paga da receita proveniente de vendas, aluguel, etc., durante o exercicio de 1899.....	\$14, 707. 28
Quantia paga durante o actual anno economico	7, 513. 51
	22, 220. 79
Quantia total paga.....	25, 500. 04
Saldo por pagar.....	6, 388. 09

Ao encarregar-me desta Secretaria, pareceu-me que era necessario reduzir os gastos, especialmente visto que a receita proveniente de annuncios era cada dia menor e havia pouca esperança de que augmentasse.

Mediaute varias mudanças feitas na impressão do BOLETIM, sem que estas tenham affectado a qualidade do trabalho typographico nem reduzido a edição, que continua sendo de 11,000 exemplares, calcula-se que o custo desta publicação não excederá de \$14,000 durante o anno corrente.

Os ordenados que a Secretaria paga, ainda que os tenho reduzido de modo a obter uma economia de \$2,300, ascendem a cerca de \$34,500 annualmente. É possivel effectuar maior economia ainda, si a Commissão Executiva o approva, sem que sofram os trabalhos da Secretaria.

A impressão dos manuaes não occasiona gastos muito consideraveis á Secretaria, e espero que a preparação dessas obras continue activamente e sem interrupção.

Observar-se-ha que na conta que antecede relativa aos gastos da Secretaria, é insignificante a quantia expendida pela bibliotheca. Uma somma consideravel deve ser dedicada á compra de publicações e mappas referentes á America Central e do Sul, mas é de lamentar que isto não seja possivel por causa dos gastos ordinarios da Secretaria.

Submetto-vos em seguida o orçamento da receita e despeza para o anno fiscal que terminará no dia 30 de Junho de 1900:

Orçamento da receita:	
Verba votada	\$36, 000. 00
Quotas das Republicas Americanas	15, 813. 53
Annuncios	3, 000. 00
Venda de publicações	1, 500. 00
Total	56, 313. 53
Orçamento da despeza na proporção actual:	
Ordenados	\$34, 510. 00
Aluguel.....	2, 000. 00
Impressões	14, 000. 00
Artigos de escriptorio e moveis	1, 000. 00
Sellos	900. 00
Gastos diversos	2, 000. 00
	54, 440. 00
Balanço	1, 873. 53

Neste orçamento figura toda a quantia que devem pagar as Republicas Latino-Americanas, ainda que em annos passados tem faltado como \$3,500 para chegar a esta somma. Si se subtrahir esta quantia, haverá

um deficit durante o anno de \$1,700, mantendo-se os gastos como são na actualidade, e isto sem tomar em consideração o que se deve á Typographia Nacional como balanço da conta do anno passado, e algumas reclamações de larga data que ainda existem contra a Secretaria. Espero que seja possivel pagar o que se deve pelas economias que tenho indicado e a collecção de algumas quantias que ainda se devem á Secretaria por conta de annuncios, as quaes montam a \$3,858.74. Uma parte dellas pode talvez ser arrecadada por meio dos agentes que ultimamente tem sido empregados com este objecto.

Mens predecessores manifestaram muitas vezes a opinião de que podia fazer-se frente ao custo do BOLETIM com a renda proveniente de annuncios. Não creio que esta esperanza seja realizada. Com o systema que agora se segue na Secretaria em conformidade com vossas instrucções, systema ao que dou minha mais sincera approvação, a receita proveniente de taes fontes não pode ser calculada em mais de \$3,000 a \$4,000 por anno, porque é um facto, segundo eston bem informado, que para obter annuncios ha que solicial-os, e este methodo tem sido prohibido com muita razão pela Secretaria. No transcurso de algum tempo pode ser que augmente a receita que provem das ditas fontes, mas pelo momento não deve ser esperado que isso succeda de um modo consideravel. Tambem não se pode contar com a venda do BOLETIM como fonte de recursos, como se verá pelo quadro seguinte:

Subscrições ao Boletim Mensal.

Anno.	Annual.	Somestral.
1897	190	6
1898	160	12
1899	92	15

O BOLETIM MENSAL.

Como já fica dito, a edição do BOLETIM MENSAL ascende a 11,000 exemplares, dos quaes como 9,000 são enviados para a America Central e a America do Sul, e uns 1,300 são distribuidos nos Estados Unidos e outros paizes do mundo. O seguinte quadro mostra o numero de exemplares do BOLETIM que tem sido remettidos a diversos paizes no mez de Novembro deste anno:

Distribuição do Boletim durante o mez de Novembro.

Republica Argentina	444	Colombia	184
Austria	2	Costa Rica	98
As Azores	1	Cuba	287
Belgica	3	Republica Dominicana	140
Bolivia	56	Equador	113
Brazil	375	Egypto	1
Canadá	171	Inglaterra	5
As Ilhas de Cabo Verde	5	França	7
Chile	162	Allemanha	4

Distribuição do Boletim durante o mez de Novembro—Continúa.

Guatemala	495	Peru	133
Haiti	196	Porto Rico	200
Hollanda	1	Salvador	25
Honduras	207	Estados Unidos	1,307
Jamaica	60	Uruguay	143
Japão	1	Venezuela	546
Mexico	5,101	As Antilhas menores	38
Nova Zelandia	1		
Nicaragua	97	Total	10,636
Paraguay	27		

De tempo em tempo tem-se enviado aos representantes diplomaticos acreditados em Washington pelas Republicas latino-americanas que formam parte da União Internacional, uma lista das pessoas a quem se remette em seus respectivos paizes o BOLETIM MENSAL, pedindo os que façam as alterações ou additamentos de nomes que lhes pareçam opportunos, indicando assim mesmo os melhores meios de fazer mais extensa a circulação das publicações da Secretaria em cada Republica. Desta maneira a circulação do BOLETIM na America Central e na do Sul vai augmentando constantemente, a do mez corrente excedendo á de Outubro proximo passado em 865 exemplares. Si a franquia postal fosse concedida por algumas das nações latino-americanas que ainda não a têm outorgado, a circulação destes poderia augmentar consideravelmente.

É de sentir-se que seja tão pequeno o numero de exemplares do BOLETIM que circula nos Estados Unidos. Ainda que o nosso povo pode dispor de outras publicações nas quaes se dão informações sobre as Republicas latino-americanas, tenho a convicção de que em nenhuma outra se encontram tantos e tão recentes dados de fonte fidedigna como no BOLETIM MENSAL. Estou inteiramente de accordo com o meu predecessor, o Sr. EMORY, em que affirm de estender a circulação desta revista, seria opportuno solicitar do Congresso dos Estados Unidos que facilitasse os meios necessarios para fazer uma edição de 5,000 exemplares mensalmente durante o proximo anno economico que terminará o 30 de Junho de 1901, para ser distribuida nos Estados Unidos, e desta maneira fará conhecer melhor as riquezas das Republicas latino-americanas e as opportunidades que offerecem ao commercio.

Para que o BOLETIM seja de maior utilidade, a Secretaria tem tratado de obter de todas as publicações periodicas da Europa, assim como das da America do Norte e do Sul. Actualmente se recebem 1,725 periodicos, incluindo os diarios, e todas as informações de importancia que contém são traduzidas, compiladas e devidamente classificadas para conserval-as como obras de consulta no archivo da Secretaria. Na actualidade se fazem traducções do hespanhol, portuguez, francez, allemão, e italiano. Têm-se dado os passos necessarios para que a Secretaria receba, em qualidade de permutas, maior numero de publicações e acerca deste particular devo dar meus mais sinceros agradecimentos á

Repertição de Permutas Internacionaes da "Smithsonian Institution," que tem autorisado aos seus agentes no exterior para que nos prestem seus serviços com o fim indicado. É de esperar que dentro de pouco tempo esta Secretaria receberá com regularidade quasi todos os periodicos que lhe são de interesse. Publica-se agora no BOLETIM uma lista de todos os periodicos que se recebem e os mais valiosos delles são conservados em nosso archivo. Os que não são de interesse particular para a Secretaria são enviados á Bibliotheca do Congresso para o seu gabinete de leitura.

Como outro meio de obter informações para a Secretaria e de fazer que no BOLETIM se reflecta a condição actual de todos os paizes que formam a União Internacional, tem-se solicitado a cooperação de pessoas proeminentes e fidedignas que, com o character de Membros Correspondentes Honorarios da União Internacional, se servam subministrar de tempo em tempo á Secretaria informações que tendam a estender e completar o conhecimento que temos das condições economicas e das riquezas de seus respectivos paizes.

Todos os representantes diplomaticos dos paizes latino-americanos tem prestado da maneira mais cortez sua cooperação á Secretaria para que obtenha os serviços dos mencionados Membros Correspondentes, que não duvido contribuirão para dar maior ampliação aos trabalhos da mesina.

Graças ao interesse que tem mostrado nos trabalhos da Secretaria o Director da Typographia Nacional, a impressão do BOLETIM tem sido muito facilitado, de tal sorte que na actualidade pode ser distribuido dentro de dez dias depois de haver sido dado á imprensa, o qual tem augmentado consideravelmente sua importancia.

MANUAES.

Quando o Sr. EMOBY apresentou seu ultimo relatório (Dezembro de 1898) o Manual de Venezuela tinha sido enviado á imprensa, e tem sido publicado já em duas partes, a saber: Parte 1^a em inglez; parte 2^a em hespanhol. Devido a não haver-se podido obter o ultimo mappa em que se expõe a nova divisão da Republica em Estados, omittiu-se sua publicação, segundo se explica na nota que apparece na obra.

Ao terminar-se este trabalho, começou-se a traduzir do inglez para o hespanhol o Manual do México, que já estava em paginas, e ao mesmo tempo se fazia a tradução do Manual do Brazil, escripto em portuguez pelo distincto Senhor Secretario da Legação brasileira em Washington, Sr. MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA.

Nessa epocha dirigi uma comunicação aos representantes em Washington dos paizes que pertencem á União Internacional, pedindo-os que me prestassem officialmente sua cooperação para obter de seus respectivos Governos as ultimas informações officiaes afim de que servissem na preparação das novas edições dos manuaes, e assim mesmo os pedi que me ajudassem no dito trabalho com sua cooperação pessoal e com suas indi-

cações. As respostas recebidas são altamente satisfactorias, e já tem sido enviados á Secretaria numerosos livros e documentos impressos.

O Manna do Mexico estaria terminade a esta data, si não se tivesse considerado conveniente fazer a obra mais completa do que era, introduzindo nella certas materias que antes tinham sido tratadas ligeiramente ou desattendidas por completo, e dando os ultimos dados estatisticos que tem sido possivel obter. Tambem tem ocasionado demora neste trabalho a necessidade de preparar um novo mappa da Republica das cartas geographicas e de outras fontes de informação disponiveis. O novo mappa conterà dados de caracter economico e nelle serão indicados os terrenos sob cultivo, as florestas, minas, estradas de ferro, linhas telegraphicas e outras cousas que possam ser de interesse aos leitores. Trata-se de publicar de tempo em tempo, tão logo como se tenham obtido sufficientes dados, mappas semelhantes das outras Republicas, a necessidade dos quaes faz-se sentir notavelmente. A Secretaria conta com os serviços de um debuxador experimentado e se tem dado principio á preparação do mappa do Mexico. Tambem estão-se delineando os das ontras Republicas, todos em uma escala grande e uniforme.

Afim de que estes manuaes sejam dignos de confiança, obras modelo, si fosse possivel, e que estejam á altura da importancia que as Republicas tem e da posição que, como representante dellas, occupa a Secretaria, tem-se solicitado os serviços de auctoridades proeminentes dos Estados Unidos e das ontras nações com o objecto de que preparem aquella parte dos ditos manuaes que exige o trabalho de peritos. Em alguns casos os referidos serviços tem sido obtidos já.

Quando estiverem terminados os manuaes do Mexico e do Brazil, proceder-se-há a preparar os dos outros paizes, de conformidade com os dados então disponiveis. Publicar-se-lhão edições pequenas e tão logo como se obtenham mais recentes dados estatisticos, se darão a luz outras.

A BIBLIOTHECA.

Não se pode insistir demasiado na importancia de que a bibliotheca da Secretaria contenha todas as publicações de que tem necessidade para satisfazer aos fins para que foi estabelecida. Deveriam ser encontrados nella todas as obras, já sejam de caracter official ou não, todos os mappas, e documentas que se relacionam com qualquer das Republicas latino-americanas, porque é o unico lugar nos Estados Unidos onde naturalmente se buscarão taes publicações. A Secretaria fará todos os esforços para alcançar este fim e com a bondosa cooperação dos representantes diplomaticos das Republicas latino-americanas em Washington, a dos seus Governos, e das dontas sociedades de seus diferentes paizes e de particulares interessados no bom exito da Secretaria, é de esperar que se obtenha o objecto desejado.

A bibliotheca contem na actualidade cerca de 5,000 volumes. Muitos destes pertencem a certo genero de litteratura que, estritamente

fallando, não é de caracter apropriado á bibliotheca desta Secretaria. Durante os ultimos seis annos tem-se recebido poucas obras novas na bibliotheca. Seria conveniente dispor dos livros inuteis que temos e dos exemplares de outros que existem por duplicata, vendendo-os ou trocando-os por outros, afim de que haja lugar nos estantes para obras que tratam das Republicas americanas e de seus interesses. As obras que devem ser conservadas como um núcleo para o futuro desenvolvimento da bibliotheca são as que versam sobre as materias seguintes:

- (1) Agricultura e riquezas agricolas.
- (2) Colonisação e terras publicas.
- (3) Commercio.
- (4) Obras geographicas.
- (5) Historia.
- (6) Leis, relatorios officiaes, projectos de lei e documentos.
- (7) Minas, mineração e riquezas mineraes.
- (8) Estradas de ferro.
- (9) Estatisticas.
- (10) Viagens e descripções.
- (11) Obras varias de consulta, dictionarios, etc.

Actualmente está-se fazendo um catalogo dos livros da bibliotheca e classificando-os segundo os diferentes paizes de que tratam. Incluir-se-ha neste catalogo um indice de todos os livros importantes que tratam da America latina e de seus interesses, e que se encontrem na Bibliotheca do Congresso e nas dos Ministerios, assim como uma lista dos artigos mais importantes que tem apparecido ultimamente em publicações periodicas e que versam sobre o mesmo assumpto.

Desejo completar a collecção de leis, de tratados com potencias estrangeiras e de estatisticas officiaes de cada um dos paizes representados na bibliotheca porque todo isto está muito incompleto.

Tenho dirigido communicações aos representantes diplomaticos das diversas Republicas nos Estados Unidos, enviando-lhes listas das publicações officiaes de seus respectivos paizes que agora existem na Secretaria, indicando-lhes os volumes que nos fazem falta, e solicitando delles que obtenham para nossa bibliotheca os trabalhos que seus respectivos Governos publiquem. Por este meio se tem obtido varias publicações de importancia, e todos os mencionados representantes tem offercido á Secretaria que darão os passos necessarios afim de subministrar-lhe as obras que necessita.

Tem-se inscripto em tarjetas os nomes dos mappas e atlas que temos e que são como 85, afim de que sejam mais accessiveis. Tem-se visitado outras bibliothecas de Washington e se tem feito listas dos mappas que contem referentes á America Central e do Sul. Os nomes destes serão tambem inscriptos em tarjetas, as quaes serão incluidas no já citado catalogo.

Antes do 1º de Setembro de 1899 se recebiam 1,034 periodicos. Deste numero a Secretaria subscrevia a 19 e 54 lhe eram enviados em

qualidade de permutas pelo BOLETIM MENSAL. Agora se recebem com regularidade, por assignatura, permuta ou gratuitamente, 1,725 periodicos, incluindo os diarios.

D'aqui em diante serão publicados listas semestraes das novas obras que se receberem, as quaes serão enviadas ás bibliothecas, repartições publicas e ás pessoas que as desejarem.

O interesse que tem mostrado nesta Secretaria e o cordial apoio que lhe tem dado não sómente os Ministerios do Governo dos Estados Unidos, mas tambem todos os Governos das Republicas latino-americanas e seus empregados diplomaticos e consulares neste paiz, são cada dia mais notaveis e valiosos, e além de facilitar os trabalhos da Secretaria, a fazem mais util, ampliam sua esphera de acção e põem de manifesto, de uma maneira emphatica, tanto seu character essencialmente internacional, como a estreiteza da União.

Si se tomam em consideração os serviços que a Sécetaria tem prestado durante os dez annos de sua existencia e os que pode prestar no futuro a todas as Republicas da America do Norte e do Sul que hoje se interessam activamente em seus trabalhos, devemos estar seguros de que as esperanças dos que projectaram sua fundação serão realizadas, e de que será um agente poderoso para promover, mediante um conhecimento mais perfeito e amplo dos varios paizes deste continente, seus habitantes e suas ideas, não sómente reciprocas relações commerciaes, beneficas para todos, abrindo novos mercados aos productos de cada um, mas para fazer mais fortes os laços de amizade e confiança que ligam todos os paizes da União Internacional.

Tenho a honra de ser, Senhores, vosso obediente servidor,

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Director.*

MENSAGEM DO PRESIDENTE MCKINLEY.

O Senhor Presidente MCKINLEY dirigiu ao quinquagesimo-sexto Congresso dos Estados Unidos, em sua sessão de 5 de dezembro de 1899, sua terceira mensagem annual. A relação dos acontecimentos que tem occorrido nos mezes decorridos desde que se encerraram as sessões do quinquagesimo-quinto Congresso, os quaes são tratados minuciosamente, assim como a recommendação das medidas importantes que o Congresso anterior deixou de resolver, fazem muito extensa a presente mensagem.

Naturalmente occupa o primeiro lugar na mensagem do Presidente a grande perda que o Presidente e a nação tem sustido ultimamente na morte do Vice-Presidente HOBART.

Dão-se em seguida os paragraphos sobre o commercio e as finanças assim como os com relação ás Republicas latino-americanas, Cuba e as novas possessões dos Estados Unidos:

PROSPERIDADE DO PAIZ.

O quinquagesimo-sexto Congresso, ao dar principio á sua sessão ordinaria, encontra o paiz em condições de extraordinaria prosperidade, de boa vontade entre seus habitantes e em relações de paz e amizade com todos os Governos do mundo. Nosso commercio exterior tem augmentado muito em volume e em valor. As importações e exportações combinadas deste anno são as maiores que se teem visto em nossa historia durante um só anno. Só nossas exportações em 1899 excederam em mais de um bilhão de dollares as nossas importações e exportações combinadas em 1870. As importações, por cabeça, são 20 por cento menos que em 1870, enquanto que as exportações, por cabeça, são 58 por cento mais que em 1870, o qual mostra que os Estados Unidos podem não só satisfazer as necessidades da sua crescente população, mas contribuir a prover as de outras nações.

A exportação de productos agricolas foi por valor de \$784,776,142. A de artigos manufacturados ascendeu a \$339,592,146, sendo maior que no anno precedente. É digno de notar o facto de que os unicos annos em nossa historia em que os productos de nossas fabricas, vendidos no exterior, excederam os que se compraram no exterior são 1898 e 1899.

A receita do Governo proveniente de todas as fontes durante o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899, faz um total de \$610,982,004.35. A receita aduaneira montou a \$206,128,481.75, e a renda interior a \$273,437,161.51.

As despesas durante o exercicio aseenderam a \$700,093,564.02, deixando um deficit de \$89,111,559.67.

O Secretario da Fazenda calcula que as receitas durante o presente anno economico subirão a \$640,958,112, e as despesas a \$600,958,112, o qual deixará um excedente de \$40,000,000.

No exercicio findo a 30 de Junho de 1899, a receita proveniente da renda interior augmentou como \$100,000,000.

O estado satisfactorio do Thesouro é indicado pelo facto de que no dia 1º de Dezembro de 1899, o balanço em caixa disponivel era de \$278,004,837.72, dos quaes \$239,744,905.36 eram em ouro acunhado e em barras. A confiança que reina em todo o paiz tem feito mais geral o uso do ouro e os direitos aduaneiros são pagos agora quasi exclusivamente no dito metal.

MANUTENÇÃO DO PADRÃO DE OURO.

Com urgencia recommendo que para conservar o actual padrão de ouro e de manter "a proporção no valor das moedas dos dous metaes (ouro e prata) e o mesmo valor sempre em cada dollar tanto no mercado como no pagamento de dividas" se dêem ao Secretario da Fazenda facultades addicionaes para vender titulos dos Estados Unidos e fazer uso de outros meios efficazes que se considerem necessarios para os fins indicados. A dita autorisação deve abranger a facultade de vender

titulos a largos e a curtos prazos, segundo as circumstaneias o exijam, e deveria ser fixado um typo de interesse mais baixo que o fixado pela lei de 14 de Janeiro de 1875.

Ainda que não ha na actualidade panico commercial que faça retirar o ouro da caixa do Governo, mas que ao contrario a confiança é tão geral que o dito metal vai ao Thésouro para ser trocado por papel moeda, todavia, esta mesma situação parece indicar que é este o momento mais opportuno para tomar disposições adequadas afim de assegurar a continuação do padrão de ouro e da confiança publica na habilidade e proposito do Governo de fazer frente a todas suas obrigações ua moeda que o muodo civilizado reconhece como a melhor. As transacções economicas do Governo fazem-se com o ouro por base. Recebemos ouro quando vendemos titulos dos Estados Unidos e empregamos ouro para pagal-os. Conservamos a proporção de todas as moedas cunhadas ou emittidas por auctoridade do Governo e fazemos todo isto com os meios que temos á mão.

Felizmente, não nós vemos obrigados na actualidade a reoerir a emprestimos para prover-nos de ouro. Isto se tem feito no passado e pode ser uecessario fazel-o no futuro. E necessario, pois, ponderar desde logo os melhores meios de fazer frente á emergencia quando se apresentar, e os melhores meios são aquelles que são os mais certos e os mais economicos. Os de que agora podemos dispor não teem a vantagem da economia nem da precisão. Já temos eliminado una das causas de nossas difficuldades economicas uos annos de 1893, 1894, 1895 e 1896. Nossas receitas igualam agora a uossas despezas, e já não é motivo de alarma a deficiencia de nossas rendas.

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A MARINHA MERCANTE.

A inportancia de nossa marinha mercante como um meio de dar incremento ao nosso trafico e de fortalecer nossa condição de potencia maritima deve chamar a immediata attenção do Congresso. Nosso desenvolvimento nacional não será inteiramente satisfactorio enquanto uossas industrias não sejam acompanhadas de um progresso equivalente em nosso trafico maritimo. Existe sufficiente auctoridade constitucional para emittir leis que deem ao paiz força maritima proporcionada ao seu progresso industrial e ao seu posto entre as nações da terra. * * *

Durante o anno passado, os navios americanos transportaram menor quantidade de uossas importações que em qualquer outro anno de nossa historia, e nosso povo viu com tristeza até onde dependiamos da marinha mercante de outros paizes. * * *

QUESTÃO DE LIMITES ENTRE O CHILE E A ARGENTINA.

A antiga questão de limites entre a Republica Argentina e o Chile foi resolvida em Março proximo passado pelo laudo de uma Commissão de arbitramento, no qual o Ministro dos Estados Unidos em Buenos Ayres se viu como terceiro em discordia.

Tem-se feito muito progresso no sentido de celebrar um tratado de extradição com a Republica Argentina. Tendo sido approved pelo Congresso dos Estados Unidos e ratificado pela Argentina, o unico que se requer para effectuar a troea é chegar a um convenio relativo a ligeiras alterações.

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RELAÇÕES CORDIAES COM O BRAZIL.

O tratado de extradição celebrado com o Brazil no dia 14 de Maio de 1897 tem sido ratificado pelo Congresso brasileiro.

Durante o verão passado dous navios de guerra dos Estados Unidos visitaram alguns portos do Brazil em amistosos missão e foram cordialmente recebidos. A viagem do *Wilmington* arriba do Amazonas occasionou uma desintelligeneia passageira, devida a certa confusão em quanto a obter permissão para visitar o interior do paiz e fazer estudos de interesse geral da navegação, mas o ineidente arranjou-se faeilmente de conformidade com as estreitas relações de amizade que este Governo tem tratado assiduamente de cultivar com as nações do Continente Occidental.

BOA VONTADE DA COLOMBIA.

A reelamação a que den lugar o embargo pelas auctoridades de Colombia do periodico "The Panama Star and Herald," propriedade de cidadãos dos Estados Unidos, tem sido arranjada depois de uma controversia que durou alguns annos, mediante um convenio no qual se fixou em \$30,000 a indemnização que o Governo colombiano deve pagar em tres prestações de \$10,000 cada uma.

A boa vontade de Colombia para com o nosso paiz tem-se manifestado novamente com o facto de haver offerecido toda a classe de faeilidades á Commissão do Canal de Nicaragua para os estudos que emprehen-derá prompto no Canal de Panama e em outros projectados atravez do Isthmo de Darien.

* * * * *

Depois de um largo periodo de tranquillidade, a vizinha Republica de Santo Domingo tem sido ultimamente theatro de uma revolução. Começou esta com o assassinato do Presidente HEUREAUX no mez de Julho proximo passado e terminou depois que o Vice-Presidente que lhe succedeu, rendeu-se aos insurgentes. O primeiro acto do Governo provisorio foi chamar o paiz a uma eleição de Presidente e de assem-blea constituinte. JOÃO ISIDRO JIMENEZ foi eleito Presidente e tomou posse do seu cargo no dia 14 de Novembro. Teem-se estabelecido rela-ções com o novo Governo.

NICARAGUA, HONDURAS E SALVADOR.

A união experimental de Nicaragua, Honduras e o Salvador, sob o nome da Republica Maior da America Central, foi rota nos ultimos dias de Novembro de 1898 com a separação do Salvador em momentos em que

parecia que estava a ponto de effectuar-se uma organização federal perfeita mediante a adopção de uma constituição e a eleição de uma legislatura nacional. Em consequencia disto Nicaragua e Honduras renunciaram ao pacto e cada um destes estados reassumiu sua condição de nação independente e soberano. Depois disto o Ministro MERRY foi recebido pelas Republicas de Nicaragua e o Salvador, e o Ministro HUNTER a sua vez apresentou suas credenciaes ao Governo de Honduras, volvendo assim a estabelecer-se o antigo systema de representação diplomatica dos Estados Unidos na America Central, de conformidade com o que dispõem as nossas leis. Um representante de Nicaragua tem sido acreditado ao Governo dos Estados Unidos.

NEGOCIOS DE NICARAGUA.

Uma insurreição chefiada pelo General REYES, deu-se em Bluefields no mez de Fevereiro proximo passado e por algum tempo esteve em posse effectiva do territorio de Mosquito. Com toda diligencia foi enviado áquelle porto o navio de guerra *Detroit* para proteger os interesses americanos. Depois de poucas semanas o Governo de REYES renunciou a lucta e a supremacia de Nicaragua foi reestabelecida. Durante o interregno as auctoridades que exerciam o poder administrativo cobraram dos commerciantes americanos alguns direitos que deviam conforme ás leis de Nicaragua.

Ao reestabelecer-se o Governo legitimo, exigiu-se de novo o pagamento dosditos direitos. D'aqui originou-se uma controversia sobre a validade do pagamento primitivo feito ao Governo *de facto* do territorio. Em Abril proximo passado se effectnou um arranjo entre o Ministro dos Estados Unidos e o Secretario de Relações Exteriores de Nicaragua mediante o qual uma quantia no dobro da cobrada foi depositada em mãos do consul britannico até que se chegar a uma solução da questão por meio de um arranjo directo entre os Governos dos Estados Unidos e o Nicaragua. A controversia ainda está pendente.

O CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

Como a Comissão do Canal de Nicaragua, que tinha estado occupada em examinar e estudar o caminho para um canal interoceânico atravez daquelle paiz, terminou seus trabalhos e apresentou seu relatório, foi dissolvida no dia 31 de Maio e no dia 10 de Junho uma nova comissão, conhecida com o nome de Comissão de Canal pelo Isthmo, foi organizada de conformidade com o que dispõe a lei de 3 de Março de 1899. O objecto desta comissão é examinar o Isthmo americano com o fim de determinar qual é o caminho por onde um canal é mais praticavel atravez do Isthmo, fazendo um calculo do que provavelmente custaria e resolvendo outros pontos essenciaes.

Esta comissão, sob a presidencia do Contra-Almirante JOHN G. WALKER, da Marinha dos Estados Unidos (retirado), entrou prompta-

mente nos seus trabalhos e está actualmente fazendo estudos em Nicaragua no caminho do Canal de Panama e em Darien desde o Atlantico, na vizinhança do Rio Atrato, até a Bahía de Panama no Pacifico. * * *

Não se pode chamar com demasiada frequencia nem com demasiada insistencia a attenção do Congresso para a grande importancia desta obra. Na mensagem que dirigi-vós no anno passado exprimi meu modo de ver sobre a necessidade de construir um canal que una os dous grandes oceanos, assumpto que de novo submetto á vossa consideração. As razões que dei-vós então em favor de uma resolução immediata são hoje mais poderosas ainda.

A ACÇÃO GENEROSA DO CHILE.

A generosa ajuda que ó Governo do Chile offereceu ao navio de guerra *Newark* quando se achava em perigo em aguas chilenas foi um incidente muito satisfactorio em nossas relações com aquelle paiz; e não é sómente neste caso que o Chile tem mostrado seus sentimentos amistosos respeito a nos, pois tem adherido ao convenio celebrado para o estabelecimento da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas, da qual formam parte todas as nações do Continente.

A troca das ratificações do convenio para o restabelecimento da Comissão de Reclamações entre o Chile e os Estados Unidos e para adjudicar as reclamações que teem sido apresentadas até hoje, mas sobre as quaes nada se resolveu durante a existencia da commissão anterior, tem sido deferido porque é necessario que o Senado chileno resolva sobre as modificações feitas pelo dos Estados Unidos ao ratificar o tratado. Este requisito se levará a effeito antes de pouco tempo.

INCREMENTO DE NOSSAS RELAÇÕES COM O MEXICO.

Este anno tem sido notavel pelo constante augmento de nossas relações com o Mexico e pela magnitude do intercambio entre as duas nações para proveito mutuo. Este Governo não tem omittido oportunidade alguma para mostrar seus desejos de fazer mais fortes e duradouros os laços de amizade que felizmente teem unido ambas as Republicas por tão largo tempo.

Depois de que o Mexico declarou terminado no dia 20 de Janeiro de 1899 o tratado de extradição celebrado no dia 11 de Dezembro de 1861, foi firmado no dia 22 de Fevereiro do anno corrente um novo tratado mais de accordo com as necessidades reconhecidas de ambos os paizes, e as ratificações do mesmo foram trocadas na cidade de Mexico no dia 22 de Abril proximo passado. Até a data o dito tratado tem dado resultados efficazes e satisfactorios. Um caso que se apresentou ultimamente poz a prova a applicação do Artigo IV, no qual se estipula que nenhuma das partes contractantes está obrigada a entregar os seus proprios cidadãos, mas que o Poder Executivo de cada uma tem direito para resolver o que estimar de justiça sobre o particular.

Depois de madura consideração, ordenei a extradição de um cidadão dos Estados Unidos, acensado no Mexico de homicídio, por creer que servia desta maneira os interesses da justiça. Actos semelhantes por parte do Governo mexicano, sempre que se apresentar uma occasião para executal-os, não sómente tenderão a satisfazer o desejo que ambos os paizes tem de que graves crimes não fiquem impunes, mas tambem contribuirão a supprimir as desordens na fronteira dos dous paizes. No novo tratado se estipula que nenhum dos dons Governos deverá ser auctorizado para castigar crimes commettidos exclusivamente no territorio do outro. Isto impedirá que no futuro se suscitem controversias desagradaveis como as que tem occorrido no passado devidas a que o Mexico se creia com o direito de julgar e castigar cidadãos dos Estados Unidos por delictos commettidos dentro da jurisdicção deste paiz.

A Commissão Internacional de Limite Fluvial, organizada de accordo com o convenio de 1º de Março de 1889, para o arranjo das questões relacionadas com a fronteira do Rio Grande, não tem terminado seus trabalhos ainda. Mediante um convenio firmado no dia 2 de Dezembro de 1898 e trocado e promulgado em Fevereiro proximo passado se prorogou o prazo deste convenio por um anno, isto é, até o dia 24 de Dezembro do anno corrente.

Com motivo da collocação da pedra angular do edificio do Governo dos Estados Unidos em Chicago, se dirigiu um convite no mez de Outubro proximo passado ao Presidente do Mexico para que visitasse a dita cidade, convite que foi cordialmente aceito por elle, depois de haver obtido a permissão do Congresso mexicano, mas a enfermidade de um membro de sua familia impediu que estivesse presente n'aquella occasião. O Ministro de Relações Exteriores, contudo, veio como representante pessoal do Presidente DIAZ, e em sen elevado character receberam as attentões que lhe eram devidas.

* * * * *

CUBA.

A auctoridade de Hespanha retirou-se da ilha de Cuba no dia 1º de Janeiro, e ao restabelecer-se a paz, nos encontrámos com o territorio que a dita potencia tinha renunciado, em nosso poder, á maneira de obrigação fiduciaria respeito aos habitantes. Tivamos que manter, sob a direcção do Exeentivo, o systema de Governo mais adequado á conservação da ordem publica e ao restabelecimento das condições productoras que a paz traz, perturbadas por largo tempo por causa da instabilidade e a desordem que prevaleceram durante a maior parte das ultimas tres decadas. Deviamos estabelecer a marcha tranquilla dos negocios interiores da ilha mediante o qual sómente é possivel realizar o alto proposito exposto na resolução conjuncta adoptada pelo Congresso no dia 19 de Abril de 1898, na qual os Estados Unidos declaram que não abrigam intenção ou desejo algum de exercer soberania, jurisdicção ou dominio em Cuba, excepto para o effeito de sua pacificação,

e afirmam que quando isto se tenha levado a cabo, deixarão o governo e dominio da ilha a seus habitantes. A promessa contida na dita resolução encerra um compromisso de honor e deve ser cumprida religiosamente.

Creio que se tem feito muito progresso neste sentido. Todas as medidas administrativas que se tem dictado em Cuba tem tendido a adaptal-a á sua condição de povo regenerado, estabelecendo a supremacia da lei e da justiça, pondo o machinismo administrativo nas mãos dos habitantes quando isto tem sido practiceavel, introduzindo reformas sanitarias que se necessitavam, extendendo a educação, fomentando a industria e o commercio, inculcando a moral publica, e, em uma palavra, dando todos os passos racionais para ajudar os cubanos a elevarem-se a esse nivel de respeito proprio e de confiança em sua unificação que fazem um povo culto, digno de um governo autonomo e o habilitam cumprir com seus deveres para com as outras nações.

Este paiz tem assumido perante o mundo uma grave responsabilidade em quanto ao governo futuro da ilha de Cuba. Temos aceito uma obrigação cujo cumprimento requer a maior integridade e o mais alto criterio. A nova Cuba que tem de levantar-se das cinzas do passado deve estar ligada a nós por fortes e estreitos laços si seu bem estar ha de ser duradouro. Qualquer que seja a natureza desses laços, os destinos de Cuba estão de certo modo ligados irrevogavelmente aos nossos, mas até onde alcançará esta união o porvir o resolverá á medida que se desenvolvem os acontecimentos. Seja o que for, devemos fazer que Cuba livre seja uma realidade, não simplesmente um nome, uma entidade perfeita, não uma experiencia destinada a fracassar. * * * O maior beneficio que pode vir a Cuba é o restabelecimento de sua prosperidade agricola e industrial que dará emprego aos que o não tem e contribuirá á restauração da paz. Esta é sua mais ingente e immediata necessidade.

No dia 19 de Agosto proximo passado se expediu uma ordem para que se fizesse o recenseamento da ilha, o qual devia estar terminado a 30 de Novembro. Segundo o tratado de paz, os hespanhóes residentes na ilha podem, até o dia 11 de Abril de 1900, resolver si desejam permanecer como cidadãos de Hespanha ou de Cuba. Até então não se pode decidir definitivamente quem tem direito a participar na organização do Governo de Cuba. Quando este se verifique o resultado do recenseamento será exposto em quadros synopticos e procederemos a fazer eleições que confiem o governo municipal da ilha aos eleitos do povo. A experiencia que com isto se obtenha será muito valiosa para organisar mais tarde uma representação representativa do povo que formule uma constituição e estabeleça um systema de governo independente para a ilha. No intermedio, e enquanto que exercermos dominio sobre a ilha, os productos de Cuba devem entrar nos Estados Unidos nas mesmas condições e pagando os mesmos direitos que os das outras Antilhas, de accordo com os tratados de reciprocidade que se celebrarão.

Da renda produzida pela ilha de Cuba durante os seis mezes que termináram no dia 30 de Junho de 1899 se gastaram \$1,712,014.20 em medidas sanitarias, \$293,881.70 em obras de beneficencia e hospitaes, e \$88,944.03 em soccorrer aos desvalidos.

RELAÇÕES COM A HESPAÑHA.

Depois de trocadas as ratificações do tratado de paz cada Governo acreditou um representante perante o outro. A Hespanha enviou a Washington o Duque D'ARCOS, distincto diplomata que antes tinha representado sua patria no Mexico, e este paiz enviou a Madrid o Honrado BELLAMY STORER, que era Ministro em Bruxellas. Em seguida, se nomeáram os consules respectivos e desta maneira se restabeleceram por completo as relações interrompidas pela guerra. Além de sua representação consular nos Estados Unidos, o Governo hespauhol tem nomeado consules para Cuba, que tem sido reconhecidos provisoriamente durante a administração militar na ilha.

De accordo com o tratado de paz, tem-se estabelecido relações judiciaes entre os tribunaes de Cuba e Porto Rico e os da Hespanha. A Hespanha tem posto e continúa ponde em liberdade os prisioneiros politicos cubanos de accordo com o disposto no Artigo VI do mesmo tratado. Prompto se encetarão negociações com o fim de definir as relações convencionaes entre os dous paizes, interrompidas pela guerra. Abrigo a esperanza de que as ditas negociações abrangerão um convenio favoravel de reciprocidade commereial, de conformidade com o disposto nas secções 3ª e 4ª da lei de tarifa vigente. * * *

TRATADO ANGLO-VENEZUELANO.

A Comissão Internacional de Arbitramento, nomeada de conformidade com o tratado anglo-venezuelano de 1897, emittiu sen laudo no dia 3 de Outubro ultimo, fixando a linha divisoria entre Venezuela e a Guyana ingleza, e desta maneira pondo termo a uma controversia que tem existido durante a maior parte do seculo. Ainda que o laudo, que foi unanime, não satisfaz as pretensões extremas de nenhuma das partes, dá á Grã Bretanha uma grande parte do territorio interior em disputa, e a Venezuela toda a bocca do Orinoco, incluindo Punta Barima e o littoral sobre o Mar das Antilhas por alguma distancia para leste. O laudo parece ser satisfactorio a ambas as partes.

Venezuela tem sido theatro de outra revolução. Depois de uma batalha sanguinaria, em que soffreram grandes perdas, os insurrectos, sob o commando do General CASTRO, se reorganizaram nas montanhas e avançaram na direcção da capital. Como a maior parte do exercito declarou-se em favor do movimento revolucionario, o Presidente ANDRADE abandonou Caracas, e o General CASTRO estabeleceu alli um governo provisorio, com o qual nosso Ministro e os representantes de outras nações entraram em relações diplomaticas no dia 20 de Novembro proximo passado.

UNIÃO INTERNACIONAL DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.

O interesse que as nações que formam a União Internacional de Republicas Americanas tomam nos trabalhos de sua Secretaria se evidencia pelo facto de que agora, pela primeira vez desde sua fundação em 1890, todas as Republicas da America Central e do Sul estão representadas nella.

A recommendação unanime da Conferencia Internacional Americana relativa ao estabelecimento da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas, diz que esta União deverá continuar em vigor durante o prazo de dez annos contados desde a data de sua organização, e que nenhum paiz que entrar como membro da dita União deixará de selo emquanto que não tenha decorrido esse periodo de dez annos, e a menos que doze mezes antes de que vença-se esse prazo, uma maioria dos membros da União tenha dado aviso official ao Secretario de Estado dos Estados Unidos de seus desejos de terminar a União ao concluir o primeiro periodo, aquella continuará e será mantida por outro periodo de dez annos, e assim successivamente, sob as mesmas condições por periodos successivos de dez annos cada um.

O periodo para a dita notificação terminou no dia 14 de Julho de 1899 sem que nenhum dos membros da União houvesse dado aviso de que queria retirar-se della. Portanto, sua existencia durante dez annos mais está assegurada. Em vista deste facto e das numerosas questões de interesse geral para todas as Republicas americanas, algumas das quaes foram tomadas em consideração pela passada Conferencia Internacional Americana, mas não resolvidas definitivamente, e outras que têm adquirido desde aquella epocha maior importancia, parece conveniente que todas as Republicas que formam a União sejam convidadas a celebrar outra conferencia antes de muito tempo na capital de alguma dellas, com excepção dos Estados Unidos, que já tiveram a honra de ver em Washington a ultima confereneia.

O caracter puramente internacional dos trabalhos da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas e a importancia que a elles se dá manifestam-se de uma maneira emphatica com o interesse que os Governos da America latina e seus representantes diplomaticos nesta capital manifestam nos mesmos, e com os esforços que fazem para estender a esphera de acção da mencionada Secretaria, para promover por meio della as relações commerciaes e para fortalecer os laços de amizade e confiança que unem as nações deste continente.

AS FILIPPINAS.

Depois de dar um resumo comprehensivo da revolta nas Filippinas e dos esforços feitos pelas tropas e officiaes dos Estados Unidos para supprimil-a, o Presidente diz:

O Congresso dos Estados Unidos resolverá qual ha de ser o futuro governo das Filippinas. Poneas vezes nos temos visto com maior

responsabilidade. Si as aceitamos com um espirito digno de nossa raça e de nossas tradições, se nós offerecem grandes opportunidades. As ilhas estão sob a protecção de nossa bandeira. São nossas por todo titulo de equidade e justiça. Não devem ser abandonadas. Si as abandonassemos, as entregariamos á anarchia e finalmente á barbaria. As atirariamos como maça de discordia entre potencias rivaes, nenhuma das quaes permittiria a outra que as occupasse sem opposição. Seus fertis valles e planicies seriam theatro de eternas e sanguinarias luetas. A chegada da frota de DEWEY a Manilha, em vez de haver sido, como esperamos, a aurora de um novo dia de liberdade e progresso, teria sido o principio de uma era de miseria e violeneia, peor que quantas se teem visto no obscuro passado d'aquella terra desgraçada.

Tem-se suggerido a idea de que renunciemos o dominio das ilhas e que, ao fazel-as independentes, mantenhamos sobre ellas um protectorado. Estou seguro de que não encontrareis digna de vossa attenção essa proposta. Um tal arraujo envolveria desde o principio uma falta cruel de boa fé, posto que deixaria á maioria leal e pacifica do povo, que nada deseja tanto como aceitar nossa auctoridade, á mercê de uma minoria de insurrectos armados. Nos faria responsaveis dos actos dos insurgentes sem que tivessesmos o poder de impedil-os. Imporia sobre nos a obrigação de protegel-os, uns contra os outros, e de defendel-os contra as nações estrangeiras que com elles quizessem provocar um conflicto. Emfim, privaria o Congresso dos Estados Unidos da fauldade de declarar a guerra e investiria com esta tremenda prerogativa ao chefe tagalo que tivesse em suas mãos o poder.

Não creio opportuno recomendar agora uma forma de governo especial e definitiva para aquellas ilhas. Quando se tiver restabelecido a paz, o Congresso se verá na obrigação de estabelecer um systema administrativo que garanta a liberdade, a ordem e a paz nas Filippinas. A insurreição existe todavia e quando tiver terminado haverá mister de novos relatorios relativamente ás condições existentes, antes de estabelecer um governo civil permanente. O relatorio completo da Commissão, que na actualidade se está preparando, conterà noticias e indicações valiosas para o Congresso, e os remittirei tão logo que esteja terminado. Enquanto dure a insurreição o braço militar deve necessariamente exercer auctoridade absoluta. Mas não ha razão para que não se trate de tempo em tempo e á medida que o territorio é dominado por nossas tropas, de estabelecer governos essencialmente populares em sua forma. Com este objecto em vista estou pensando si não seria conveniente volver a mandar a Commissão, affin de que ajude as auctoridades a levar a cabo em todas as ilhas o trabalho indicado. Creio que a obra de reconstrução deve começar com o estabelecimento de governos municipais e depois provinciaes, deixando para o fim o governo central.

Até que o Congresso tiver manifestado sua vontade respeito áquellas ilhas, continuarei fazendo uso das fauldades que me conferem a Constituição e as leis affin de manter a soberania dos Estados Unidos

naquella remota terra, assim como em todos os outros lugares onde legalmente se levanta o nosso pavilhão. Porei á disposição do Exercito e da Armada todos os meios que a generosidade do Congresso e do povo tem facilitado para soffocar esta insurreição destructora e injustificavel.

Não se economisaré esforço nenhum para reconstruir o que a guerra e os longos annos de máo governo tem destruido. Não esperaremos que a lucta tenha concluido para dar principio a esta obra benefica. Continuaremos, como temos começado, abrindo escolas e igrejas, fazendo funcionar os tribunaes de justiça, fomentando a industria, a agricultura e o commercio, e fazendo que aquelle povo comprehenda que o que desejamos não é dominal-o, mas fazel-o livre, que vamos em busca de seu bemestar e não de vantagens para nós mesmos. Sempre que a nossa bandeira tem-se levantado sobre algum povo, tem sido para sua felicidade.

LEGISLAÇÃO PARA PORTO RICO.

Já é tempo que se adopte alguma forma de governo temporal para Porto Rico.

O systema de jurisprudeucia civil existente na ilha é tão moderno como scientifico, enquanto se relaciona aos negocios interiores, ao trafico, á produção e aos direitos sociaes e individuaes em geral. Exigem-se poucas ou nenhumaes mudanças no governo das cidades, de sorte que provavelmente pouco ou nada se necessita dispor tocante a assumptos locaes ou que affectem direitos particulares, mas tratando-se da administração publica e das relações da ilha com o Governo Federal, ha muitas materias que exigem attenção immediata. A mesma necessidade existe de que se dictem leis referentes ao estabelecimento da jurisdicção federal e de tribunaes federaes que os manifestei existia no caso de Hawaii.

Além da administração de justiça, existe o assumpto de terras publicas; o do dominio e do melhoraumento dos rios e portos; o do dominio das aguas não navegaveis, que, segundo as leis hespanholas, pertenciam á coróa de Hespanha, e que pelo tratado tem passado aõ dominio dos Estados Unidos; o da immigração; o da introdução de trabalhadores sob contracto; o da maneira de estabelecer e arrecadar os impostos interiores; o da applicação das leis de navegação; o de regular o systema monetario; o do estabelecimento de estações e rutas postaes; o dos direitos que devem pagar as mercadorias importadas na ilha dos Estados Unidos; o do estabelecimento de portos; o de patentes e direitos de auctor. Estes e outros assumptos que são do exclusivo dominio do Congresso requerem estudo enidadoso e prompta resolução.

Deve-se recordar que desde que Porto Rico nos foi eedido não conta já com os mercados principaes de que dispoz por largo tempo, e que nossa tarifa grava seus productos como na epocha em que era colonia hespanhola. Os mercados de Hespanha estão cerrados para seus productos, excepto mediante condições a que se encontra sujeito o commercio de todas as nações. A ilha de Cuba, que antes comprava seu

gado e seu tabaco, agora impõe sobre estes productos os mesmos direitos que pagam quando chegam de outros paizes. Tem perdido suas livres relações commerciaes com a Hespanha e Cuba sem compensação alguma pelo que toea a nossos mercados. Seu café era pouco conhecido por nosso povo, que não o usava, e em consequencia a demanda não existia. Os mercados dos Estados Unidos devem estar abertos a seus productos. Nosso dever é abolir toda a classe de direitos adaneiros entre os Estados Unidos e Porto Rico e fazer que os productos da ilha tenham accesso aos nossos mercados.

Como resultado da tempestade que devastou Porto Rico a 8 de Agosto de 1899, mais de 100,000 pessoas se viram reduzidas a mais completa miseria. O Ministerio da Guerra appellou ao povo dos Estados Unidos, que respondeu de uma maneira prompta e generosa. O Ministerio da Guerra gastou para alliviar os necessitados a somma de \$392,342.63, sem incluir os gastos de transporte.

É de desejar que o governo militar que agora existe na ilha seja substituido por uma administração inteiramente civil. Pelo momento recommendo ao Congresso que dicte uma lei para a organização de um governo provisorio, e a qual autorise o Presidente a nomear, com a approvação do Senado, um governador e outros empregados que se necessitem para a administração geral da ilha, ao mesmo tempo que estabeleça um conselho legislativo que emitta as disposições necessarias no tocante a assumptos locais que não se relacionem com os federaes. O dito conselho será composto em parte de porto ricanos e em parte de cidadãos dos Estados Unidos. Será nomeado pelo Presidente, sendo sujeita a nomeação á ratificação do Senado. As resoluções do dito conselho devem ser submettidas ao Congresso ou ao Presidente para sua approvação antes de que tenham força de lei. Recommendo que nas municipalidades e outras subdivisões locais se introduza desde logo o systema de *self-government* para que os cidadãos cultos da ilha tomem participação no governo e aprendam a conhecer por experiencia quaes são os deveres e as necessidades de um povo autonomo. * * *

O que principalmente requer este povo, como todos os outros, é educação. A escola livre é a que forma cidadãos. Ao introduzir novos methodos de educação, comtudo, deve-se ter cuidado de não operar mudanças demasiado bruscas e ao mesmo tempo se devem tomar em consideração as tradições e as ideas dos habitantes. Um systema de educação racional que se adapte ás condições existentes e que tenda a levantar o nivel moral dos habitantes e a fomentar seu progresso industrial fará que estas novas possessões aspirem a desfructar dos beneficios que trae consigo a liberdade politica.

FALLECIMENTO DO VICE-PRESIDENTE DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Na manhã do dia 21 de Novembro do anno corrente falleceu na cidade de Paterson, Estado de Nova Jersey, o Sr. GARRET A. HOBART, Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos. Com este motivo o Presidente dos Estados Unidos dirigiu a seguinte

PROCLAMAÇÃO.

Ao Povo dos Estados Unidos:

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos, falleceu em sua residencia de Paterson, Nova Jersey, ás oito e meia da manhã do dia de hoje. Com sua morte a nação perde um dos seus filhos mais illustres e um dos seus mais leaes servidores. Tanto como homem de negocios no Estado onde nasceu como no seu character de membro da legislatura do mesmo, deu mostra da sua honradez, de sua grande intelligencia e de sua illustração. Em sua curta carreira de Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos e Presidente do Senado demonstrou que era um estadista habil e probo.

No mundo dos negocios, poucos o igualavam entre seus contemporaneos. Como particular era nobre e generoso. Por largo tempo será recordado como um homem puro e agradável, cujo character suave attrahia todos os corações, ao mesmo tempo que a elevação de suas miras, sua integridade e sua abnegação no serviço publico lhe mereceram o respeito e a admiração de todos.

Como nma mostra do pezar que sente todo o paiz, ordeno que no dia das ceremonias funeraes as Repartições publicas dos Estados Unidos permaneçam cerradas, que em todos os postos e estações do Exercito e a Armada se arvore a meia hasta a bandeira nacional, e que os representantes dos Estados Unidos em paizes estrangeiros offereçam adequado tributo á memoria do illustre finado por um periodo de trinta dias.

Em fé do qual firmo a presente e lhe faço affixar os sellos dos Estados Unidos.

Dada na cidade de Washington, hoje, o dia 21 de Novembro do anno do nosso Senhor mil oitocentos e noventa e nove e o cento vigesimo-quarto da independencia dos Estados Unidos.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Assignada:

JOHN HAY,
Secretario de Estado.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

LINHA DE VAPORES PARA O RIO DE JANEIRO.

Em uma reunião do Club de Manufactureiros celebrada em Philadelphia no dia 15 de Novembro, se tratou de estabelecer uma linha de vapores entre aquelle porto e Rio de Janeiro. O Capitão CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, representante do Brazil no Congresso Internacional, pronunciou um discurso em favor do projecto. Declarou que o Presidente, o Congresso e o povo do Brazil estavam desejosos de fazer mais estreitas as relações entre o Brazil e os Estados Unidos, porque creiam que isto seria benefico para ambas as nações. Referindo-se á grande quantidade de café brasileiro que se importa nos Estados Unidos, exprimiu-se assim:

“É impossivel acreditar que neste euorme trafico não se emprega um só navio americano. Si este commercio ha de continuar e ir em augmento, deve-se fazer alguma cousa immediatamente afim de collocar os Estados Unidos nas condições que lhes correspondem. Necessitam-se linhas de transporte, facilidades bancarias e maior vigilancia por parte dos commerciautes dos Estados Unidos. Vossa exportação não é menos importante que vossa importação. Não tendes fomentado aquelle ramo do vosso commercio com o Brazil, ainda que só se necessita um olhar para este para ver que grandes quantidades de vossos productos poderiam ser enviadas para o Brazil, si houvesse embarcações para transportal-as e existisse um melhor systema de cambio internacional. O Brazil pode consumir grandes quantidades de vossos productos, e entre elles posso mencionar a farinha, os oleos mineraes, o ferro, o aço, o carvão, os tecidos, machinas e artefactos em geral.”

Outros que fallaram sobre o mesmo assumpto foram os Senhores JOHN G. GORDAN, ALBERT LUCAS, e WILLIAM C. BULLITT. Como cidadãos de Philadelphia, manifestaram-se em favor do prompto estabelecimento da citada linha de vapores, e de que a companhia tivesse sua residencia na dita cidade e fizesse suas operações com capital dos Estados Unidos. Teem-se nomeado commissões para que estudem o projecto e tratem dos meios de levar-o ao cabo.

FACTURAS DE MERCADORIAS DO MEXICO.

No dia 18 de Novembro de 1899, o Secretario da Fazenda dirigiu ao Secretario de Estado a seguinte communicação que se refere ás mercadorias importadas do Mexico afim de que sejam embarcadas para a Europa: * * * “Devo manifestar que nenhuma mercadoria proveniente do Mexico pode ser transportada de transitio atravez dos Estados Unidos. Os artigos livres de direitos devem ser declarados para consumo ao chegarem á fronteira. Os artigos que pagam direitos e

que chegam do Mexico para serem exportados podem ser declarados para serem depositados em armazens e para sua transportaçãõ para o porto de embarque, onde deverão ser novamente declarados para serem outra vez depositados em armazens e para a exportaçãõ. Mas em todo caso deve-se apresentar uma factura consular." * * *

EXPORTAÇÃO DE RELOGIOS DE PAREDE E DE BOLSO, E DE JOIAS.

A publicaçãõ denominada "Jewelers' Circular," correspondente a 22 de Novembro de 1899, chama a atençaõ para a crescente popularidade nos mercados estrangeiros dos relógios de parede e de bolso, assim como das joias que se fabricam nos Estados Unidos. Isto é bem demonstrado nas tabellas recentemente publicadas, nas quaes se expõe a quantidade destes artigos que tem sido exportada nos ultimos dous annos.

Durante o exercicio findo em 30 de Junho de 1899, a exportaçãõ total de relógios de toda a classe ascendeu a \$1,043,621, contra um total de \$953,557 no exercicio anterior. Relógios de bolso no valor de \$819,810 foram exportados durante o anno economico de 1899, o qual mostra um augmento de \$47,898 sobre o anno precedente. A exportaçãõ de joias ascendeu a \$729,194 em 1899, contra \$555,719 em 1898. Quanto a outros effectos de ouro e prata houve tambem um augmento, pois de \$192,061 em 1898, ascendeu a \$233,962 em 1899. Ha muito poucos annos que os Estados Unidos importavam grande quantidade de relógios de todas as classes e de joias.

UM ARADO AUTOMOVEL.

O Dr. R. J. GATLING, inventor da espingarda que leva seu nome, acaba de inventar um arado automovel. Esta machina é construida como um automovel ordinario, com arados de disco arranjados de tal maneira que fazem o trabalho do instrumento que agora se usa. A machina pode ser funciõnada por uma só pessoa e se pretende que fará tanto trabalho como oito homens e doze cavallos. Como força motriz se pode usar gasolina ou petroleo. A machina pode ser usada tambem para fazer funciõnar um debulhador ou uma machina de descascar o milho e para outros fins. Ha outra machina para uso nas plantações de algodão, e que servirá para entresachar os plantios quando as plantas começam a crescer.

REFRIGERADORES FLUCTUANTES.

O General T. H. STANTON, Thesoureiro-Geral do Exercicio dos Estados Unidos, faz mençãõ no seu relatorio dos navios refrigeradores, e diz que deram resultados muito satisfactorios em quanto a supprir de carne fresca os navios de guerra em Manila. Os tres navios refrigeradores que se empregam actualmente no serviço dos Estados Unidos não

sómente podem supprir ás necessidades da armada, mas tambem podem levar grandes quantidades de viveres para o exercito que se acha em campanha nas Filipinas.

CONDIÇÃO DAS PRINCIPAES COLHEITAS.

O relatório da Repartição de Estatística do Ministerio da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos correspondente ao mez de Novembro completa practicamente o trabalho do anno e mostra que 1899 é provavelmente o anno em que se tem produzido maior quantidade de milho neste paiz. As estatísticas mostram uma produção média de 25.2 alqueires por geira, contra 24.8 alqueires, que foi a quantidade primeiramente calculada em Novembro de 1898. A média em quanto á qualidade é de 87.2 por cento, contra 82.7 por cento em Novembro de 1898. Calcula-se que 5.9 por cento da colheita de milho de 1898 estava em poder dos agricultores no dia 1º de Novembro de 1899, enquanto que a quantidade da colheita de 1897 que aquelles tinham em suas mãos no dia 1º de Novembro de 1898 ascendia a 7.25 por cento.

Calcula-se que a produção de milho por geira nos principaes estados cultivadores de milho é como segue: Indiana, 37 alqueires; Illinois, 35; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvania, 31; Iowa, 31; Kansas, 29; Nebraska, 27, e Missonri, 25. A extensão do terreno em cultivo não tem sido determinada. Tomando como base o numero de geiras semeadas de milho no anno passado, segundo dados officiaes, a produção seria de 1,958,588,881 alqueires. O estatístico HYDE, porém, crê que a extensão de terreno semeado de milho em 1899 terá varios milhões de geiras mais que a de 1898. A colheita total de 1898 foi de 1,924,184,660 alqueires, enquanto que a de 1896 foi de 2,283,875,000. Crê-se que a produção em 1899 excederá por muito á de 1896 e que será de cerca de 2,400,000,000 alqueires.

A produção média de trigo mourisco é de 17.2 alqueires por geira, contra 17.3 em Novembro de 1898, e 16.5, a média no mesmo mez durante dez annos. A média em quanto á qualidade é de 88.4 por cento, contra 85.2 por cento em 1898. Enquanto que a produção por geira deste grão é um pouco maior que a do anno anterior, a extensão de terreno cultivada foi menos que a metade. Calcula-se que a colheita será de 5,897,000 alqueires, contra 11,722,000 em 1898.

A produção média de batatas é calculada em 88.7 alqueires por geira, o qual é um grande augmento da média durante os ultimos dez annos. A média no dia 1º de Novembro de 1898 era de 75.2 alqueires, que foi tambem a média durante dez annos. A qualidade foi de 91.4, contra 84.7 em Novembro de 1898. Calculada sobre nna extensão de 2,534,577 geiras, a produção de batatas será de 224,816,979 alqueires.

A produção média de feno será, segundo se calcula, de 1.35 toneladas por geira, contra 1.55 toneladas em 1898, e contra 1.27 toneladas, que foi a média durante os ultimos dez annos. Calcula-se que a produção de

feno será de 57,382,820 toneladas, contra 66,377,000 toneladas em 1898, o qual mostra uma diminuição de 9,000,000 toneladas.

Em quanto ás fructas, a producção, calculando as colheitas inteiras, foi como segue: Maçãs, 47; peras, 47, e nvas, 68.

Segundo as indicações actuaes, a producção de canna de assucar será uma quarta parte menor que em 1898. Na Louisiana, que é o Estado que mais produz, a diminuição tem sido de 30 por cento, e em outros Estados tem chegado a 15 e até 30 por cento.

O facto de que os calculos preliminares officiaes relativos á colheita de algodão tem sido inferiores á quantidade produzida, tem sido devido em cada caso á falta de conhecimento da rapidez com que augmenta a extensão de terreno dedicado a este cultivo. É por isto que quando a grande colheita do anno passado demonstrou que a dita extensão tinha augmentado mais além dos calculos officiaes e commerciaes, resolveu-se fazer uma investigação especial a respeito da condição do referido cultivo durante este anno. A area de cultivo no anno passado tinha cerca de 25,000,000 geiras, e este anno é de cerca de 23,500,000 geiras, ainda que é provavel que os ultimos dados mostrarão que é todavia menor. Segundo a investigação que se tem feito, a producção média por geira é a mais pequena que se tem recordado em muitos annos, e ao calcular a colheita maxima em 9,500,000 fardos, tem-se querido tomar a cifra mais elevada possivel afim de evitar um modo de ver demasiado pessimista a respeito da situação. Na actualidade tudo indica que a colheita será de menos de 9,000,000 fardos.

Segundo o relatório da Repartição de Estatisticas da Secretaria da Agricultura, correspondente a 15 de Dezembro de 1899, a producção de trigo dos Estados Unidos em 1899 é de 547,300,000, ou de 12.3 alqueires por geira. A producção de trigo de inverno é calculada em 291,700,000 alqueires e a de trigo de primavera em 255,600,000 alqueires. Os principaes Estados productores de trigo foram visitados por agentes especiaes da Repartição, os quaes tem feito uma investigação cuidadosa relativamente á extensão do terreno semeado. O numero de geiras semeadas de trigo de inverno é calculado em 30,150,000, ou 200,000 geiras mais do que as semeadas em 1898. Como todo o trigo não está ainda semeado na California e em alguns Estados do Sul, o calculo anterior está sujeito á modificação.

BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

“Indice do Commercio Americano; Directorio Descriptivo e Classificado dos Membros da Associação Nacional de Manufactureiros dos Estados Unidos,” é o titulo de uma obra que acaba de publicar a Associação Nacional de Manufactureiros de Philadelphia. O objecto deste manual é dar a conhecer aos commerciantes interessados nos productos

dos Estados Unidos, as principaes manufacturas deste paiz. O livro contem os nomes de todos os membros da Associação Nacional que fabricam artigos para a exportação, e está dividido em quatro partes, a saber: A parte primeira contem uma lista alphabetica dos membros e uma ligeira relação dos artigos que fabricam, assim como outras noticias uteis aos compradores. A parte segunda contem uma lista classificada dos membros. A parte terceira contem os endereços cabographicos registrados dos mesmos. A parte quarta contem os annuncios dos membros.

O primeiro volume publicado pela associação sahi a luz em Janeiro de 1899, e a edição em inglez foi de 5,000 exemplares. O livro de que agora se trata está impresso em hespanhol, e é destinado a circular nos paizes onde se falla este idioma. Em principios de 1900 far-se-há outra edição em inglez e em francez para ser distribuída na Exposição de Paris. O índice não deixa nada que desejar e responde em todo aos fins para que foi publicado. A obra se distribue gratis e se podem obter exemplares na Secretaria das Republicas Americanas ou na da Associação Nacional de Manufactureiros de Philadelphia.

BULLETIN MENSUEL

DE

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

VOL. VII.

DÉCEMBRE 1899.

No. 6.

PROCÈS-VERBAL DU COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF DE L'UNION INTERNATIONALE DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

Le Comité Exécutif de l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines s'est réuni le 23 novembre 1899 dans la salle diplomatique du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

La réunion a eu lieu sur la demande de l'Honorable JOHN HAY, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Président du Comité.

Les noms des membres qui assistaient à cette réunion étaient :

Señor Dr. Don MARTIN GARCIA MÉROU, Ministre de la République Argentine; Señor Don JOAQUIN BERNARDO CALVO, Ministre de Costa-Rica.

Mr. W. W. ROCKHILL, Directeur du Bureau des Républiques Américaines, était aussi présent.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ayant expliqué que le but de cette réunion était d'entendre la lecture du rapport annuel du Directeur, ce rapport fut lu par ce fonctionnaire. Il portait la date du 23 novembre 1899 et est annexé au procès-verbal.

Le rapport ayant été trouvé entièrement satisfaisant et approuvé à l'unanimité par les membres du Comité, ces derniers, sur la proposition de Mr. MÉROU, adressèrent leurs remerciements à Mr. ROCKHILL pour son intelligente et bonne direction du Bureau.

D'un commun accord, tous les membres présents furent d'avis que le Directeur pourrait exercer son propre jugement en ce qui concerne les recommandations du rapport. A la requête de ce fonctionnaire, il fut décidé que le système métrique serait employé comme étalon pour évaluer la monnaie, les poids et mesures dans les publications du Bureau.

Mr. MÉROU prit ensuite la parole et s'exprima ainsi :

“Malheureusement pour moi, cette réunion est la dernière à laquelle j’aurai l’honneur d’assister comme Membre du Comité Exécutif, parce que, comme vous le savez, je vais retourner dans ma patrie. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous remercier pour votre courtoisie et pour prendre congé de mes collègues du Comité Exécutif. Soyez persuadé que dans la nouvelle position que je vais occuper dans mon pays, je continuerai à m’intéresser au Bureau et au Comité Exécutif dont j’ai eu l’honneur d’être un des membres. Je puis assurer Mr. ROCKHILL qu’il me trouvera toujours prêt à lui donner mon appui, et que je ferai valoir auprès de mon Gouvernement l’utilité et l’importance de cette Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines. Je suis sûr que le Bureau ne peut pas être en meilleures mains, et je suis confiant que dans l’avenir il continuera à se développer, ce qui aidera à resserrer les relations commerciales qui existent entre nos pays.”

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a répondu en ces termes :

“Je suis sûr que nous regrettons tous infiniment d’être obligés de nous séparer de Mr. MÉROU, qui a été un membre si intelligent et si dévoué du Comité Exécutif. Néanmoins, quoique nous déplorions son départ, nous ne pouvons que le féliciter pour la distinction remarquable dont il vient d’être l’objet et les honneurs et responsabilités que son pays vient de lui décerner. Nous sommes particulièrement heureux d’apprendre que non seulement il ne cessera pas de prendre un vif intérêt dans le travail de ce Bureau, mais encore que dans la position élevée qu’il occupera désormais dans les affaires publiques de son pays natal, il sera capable de nous être à tous d’une très grande assistance et nous aidera à atteindre le but auquel nous consacrons tous nos efforts; d’étendre les relations commerciales entre tous les pays de ce continent et de resserrer les liens de sympathie et d’amitié qui existent maintenant si heureusement parmi eux.”

Sur la proposition de Mr. CALVO, le Directeur du Bureau fut prié de transmettre à M. le Ministre MÉROU, à l’occasion de son départ, une copie des paroles d’adieu du Président du Comité.

Le Comité s’est alors ajourné.

WASHINGTON, D. C., le 23 novembre 1899.

RAPPORT ANNUEL DU DIRECTEUR DU BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

WASHINGTON, le 23 novembre 1899.

Le Secrétaire d’Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères, Président, et Messieurs les Membres du Comité Exécutif de l’Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

MESSIEURS: Mr. FRÉDÉRIC EMORY, mon prédécesseur, vous soumettait, le 29 mars dernier, un rapport final des opérations de ce Bureau qui était un supplément à son rapport annuel du 17 décembre 1898 et

qui montrait les conditions dans lesquelles se trouvait le Bureau des Républiques Américaines un mois environ avant que j'en prisse la direction.

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter ci-dessous le compte-rendu des finances du Bureau pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899 :

Recettes et dépenses pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899.

RECETTES.

Allocation annuelle des Etats-Unis, 1899.....	\$36,000.00
Balance provenant des recettes de ventes, loyers, etc., 1 ^{er} juillet 1898	\$649.82
Des allocations des Républiques Latines Américaines. \$5,762.78	
Des annonces	\$27,005.98
Des ventes de publications	2,622.45
	<u>29,628.43</u>
	<u>35,391.21</u>
	<u>36,041.03</u>
Total des recettes.....	72,041.03

DÉPENSES.

Allocation annuelle, 1899	36,000.00
Recettes provenant des ventes, loyers, etc	34,409.73
	<u>70,409.73</u>
Balance au 1 ^{er} juillet 1899.....	1,631.30

Bordereau détaillé des dépenses pendant l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899.

	Provenant de l'allocation annuelle de 1899.	Provenant de recettes des ventes, loyers, etc.	Totaux.
Compensation	\$30,783.08	\$9,069.55	\$39,852.63
Fournitures de bureaux	100.25	877.55	977.80
Loyer	1,500.00	333.32	1,833.32
Bibliothèque	37.28	116.75	154.03
Affranchissement	46.11	915.65	961.76
Ameublement	22.65	149.75	172.40
Frais d'impression	3,279.25	17,825.06	21,104.31
Commissions payées sur les contrats d'annonces faits antérieurement au 1 ^{er} mars 1899		3,057.46	3,057.46
Dépenses diverses	231.38	2,064.64	2,296.02
Total.....	36,000.00	34,409.73	70,409.73

D'après les chiffres précédents, il paraîtrait qu'une balance de \$1,631.30 existait au crédit du Bureau le 1^{er} juillet 1899, le commencement de la présente année fiscale. Ce compte, cependant, n'inclut pas le montant des sommes dues à l'Imprimeur Public pour travaux d'impression exécutés pour le Bureau pendant l'année fiscale alors terminée.

L'exposé suivant montre qu'au commencement de la présente année fiscale, une balance de \$6,388.09 restait due à l'Imprimeur Public sur ses mémoires remis pendant l'année fiscale 1897-98 :

Mémoire de l'Imprimeur Public pour l'année fiscale 1899.

Total des mémoires remis pour l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 ...	\$34,870.61
Réduction faite pour travaux de composition et d'impression qui, d'après l'arrangement fait avec l'Imprimeur Public, sont portés au crédit du Bureau	2,982.48
Somme totale à payer	31,888.13
Paiements provenant de l'allocation annuelle, 1899.....	\$3,279.25
Paiements provenant des recettes des ventes, loyers, etc., pendant l'année fiscale, 1899	\$14,707.28
Paiements faits pendant l'année fiscale courante... ..	7,513.51
	22,220.79
Total des paiements.....	25,500.04
Balance restant à payer.....	6,388.09

En prenant la Direction du Bureau j'ai trouvé qu'il fallait absolument que l'on réduisit ses dépenses, les revenus provenant des annonces diminuant constamment sans espoir de les voir augmenter.

Au moyen de divers changements faits dans l'impression du BULLETIN, sans toutefois porter atteinte à la qualité du travail exécuté dans l'Imprimerie ou diminuer la dimension de l'édition dont le nombre est resté à 11,000 copies, on peut estimer que cette publication peut être tirée pendant la présente année moyennant une somme ne dépassant pas \$14,000.

La feuille d'épargement du Bureau, quoique réduite par moi de façon à réaliser un bénéfice net annuel de \$2,300, se monte nonobstant à \$31,500 par an; il serait possible de la réduire encore, avec l'approbation du Comité, afin de réaliser une économie sensible sans affecter toutefois le bon fonctionnement du Bureau.

L'impression des manuels n'occasionne aucune dépense considérable au Bureau et il faut espérer que ce travail pourra être continué sans interruption et rapidement.

On peut remarquer, si on examine les derniers comptes des dépenses du Bureau, que presque rien n'a été dépensé pour la Bibliothèque. Une somme considérable devrait être mise de côté pour l'achat de publications et de cartes géographiques concernant l'Amérique Centrale et l'Amérique du Sud, mais c'est une source de regrets profonds de constater que les dépenses courantes actuelles absorbent toutes les recettes.

J'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre ci-dessous une estimation de recettes et des dépenses pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1900:

Estimation des recettes:

Allocation des Etats-Unis	\$36,000.00
Allocation des Républiques Latino-Américaines	15,813.50
Annonces	3,000.00
Vente des publications.....	1,500.00
Total	56,313.50

Estimation des dépenses sur la base actuelle:

Fenille d'emargement.....	\$34,540.00	
Loyer	2,000.00	
Imprimerie	14,000.00	
Fournitures de bureaux et ameublement.....	1,000.00	
Affranchissement	900.00	
Dépenses diverses	2,000.00	
		\$54,440 00
Balance		1,873.53

Dans le tableau ci-dessus, toutes les sommes dues comme allocations par les Républiques Latines Américaines ont été estimées, quoique cependant, pendant les dernières années, elles n'ont pas atteint ce chiffre par environ \$3,500.

Étant données les dépenses actuelles, la déduction de cette somme (\$3,500) laissera un déficit d'environ \$1,700 pour l'année sans prendre en ligne de compte le montant des sommes dues à l'Imprimeur Public pour l'année dernière, et sans compter aussi quelques comptes arriérés contre le Bureau. Ce déficit peut, il faut l'espérer, être couvert au moyen des réductions suggérées ci-dessus et par le recouvrement de quelques sommes dues au Bureau pour annonces; car il y a encore des contrats montant à la somme de \$3,858.74 qui sont restés impayés et dont une partie peut probablement être recouvrée par l'emploi d'agents qui ont déjà été engagés pour cela.

Mes prédécesseurs ont souvent exprimé leur conviction que les frais de publication du BULLETIN pourraient être couverts par les recettes provenant des annonces. Je ne crois pas que cet espoir puisse se réaliser. Sous le système actuellement employé par le Bureau, d'après les instructions de votre Comité et que j'approuve cordialement, les recettes provenant de cette source ne peuvent pas se monter à plus de \$3,000 ou \$4,000 par an; car il est un fait complètement avéré, et je le tiens de bonne source, que les annonces ne peuvent être obtenues que quand on les sollicite, moyen qui est sagement défendu dans ce Bureau. Après quelques temps les sommes qui proviendront de cette source peuvent devenir plus fortes, mais pour le moment on ne peut espérer aucune augmentation sensible. Les ventes des BULLETINS ne peuvent pas non plus être considérées comme une source de revenus, comme le démontrera l'exposé suivant:

Subscriptions pour le Bulletin Mensuel.

Année.	Annuelles.	Semestrielles.
1897.....	190	6
1898.....	160	12
1899.....	92	15

BULLETIN MENSUEL.

Le tirage du BULLETIN MENSUEL, comme il a été dit précédemment se monte à 11,000 exemplaires, dont 9,000 sont envoyés aux différents pays de l'Amérique Centrale et de l'Amérique du Sud et environ 1,300 distribués aux Etats-Unis et dans les autres parties du monde. Le tableau suivant montre le nombre de copies du BULLETIN envoyées dans les différentes contrées pendant le mois de novembre de l'année 1899:

Distribution du Bulletin pendant le mois de novembre 1899.

	Nombre.		Nombre.
République Argentine.....	444	Haïti	196
Autriche.....	2	Hollande.....	1
Les Açores.....	1	Honduras.....	207
Belgique.....	3	Jamaïque.....	60
Bolivie.....	56	Japan.....	1
Brésil.....	375	Mexique.....	5,101
Canada.....	171	Nouvelle-Zélande.....	1
Iles du Cap Vert.....	5	Nicaragua.....	97
Chili.....	162	Paraguay.....	27
Colombie.....	184	Péron.....	133
Costa-Rica.....	98	Porto-Rico.....	200
Cuba.....	287	Salvador.....	25
République Dominicaine.....	140	Etats-Unis.....	1,307
Equateur.....	113	Uruguay.....	143
Egypte.....	1	Vénézuéla.....	546
Angleterre.....	5	Antilles (Petites Antilles).....	38
France.....	7		
Allemagne.....	4	Total.....	10,636
Guatemala.....	495		

Des listes d'adresses de leurs pays respectifs ont été soumises de temps en temps aux Représentants Diplomatiques des Etats de l'Union Internationale à Washington avec prière de changer ou d'ajouter celles qu'ils jugeraient à propos, et d'indiquer aussi les moyens à employer pour donner une plus grande extension à la distribution des publications du Bureau dans leurs pays. Par ce moyen la circulation du BULLETIN dans l'Amérique Centrale et l'Amérique du Sud augmente constamment, ayant atteint pour le mois courant 865 copies de plus que pour le mois d'octobre. Si la franchise postale pour les publications du Bureau était étendue par quelques-unes des Républiques Latines Américaines qui ne l'ont pas encore accordée, la distribution pourrait augmenter considérablement.

Il est à regretter qu'un si petit nombre de copies du BULLETIN soit distribué dans les Etats-Unis. Quoique votre peuple ait d'autres publications où il peut trouver des renseignements sur les Républiques Latines Américaines, on peut être certain qu'aucune publication paraissant dans ce pays peut donner un nombre de renseignements aussi récents et aussi exacts que ceux que contient le BULLETIN MENSUEL. Pour augmenter la distribution de cette publication, je partage entière-

ment la suggestion de mon prédécesseur, Mr. EMORY, que le Congrès des Etats-Unis soit prié d'allouer les fonds nécessaires pour 5,000 copies de plus par mois pour la nouvelle année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1901, pour être distribuées dans les Etats-Unis, afin de faire mieux connaître les ressources et les possibilités commerciales des Républiques Latines Américaines.

Pour rendre le BULLETIN plus utile, le Bureau s'est efforcé de se procurer toutes les publications périodiques paraissant en Europe ainsi que celles de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique du Nord. Actuellement, 1,725 publications périodiques, y compris les journaux quotidiens, sont reçues au Bureau, et tous les renseignements importants qu'elles contiennent sont traduits, compilés et classés pour être consultés. Les langues traduites aujourd'hui sont l'espagnol, le portugais, le français, l'allemand et l'italien. Des mesures ont été prises pour augmenter davantage les échanges du Bureau et on doit les plus sincères remerciements au Bureau des échanges internationaux de la "Smithsonian Institution" pour la gracieuseté avec laquelle il a bien voulu autoriser ses agents à l'étranger à agir pour ce Bureau. On espère que dans un avenir peu éloigné, presque tous les ouvrages littéraires et périodiques qui intéressent ce Bureau seront régulièrement reçus. La liste des publications périodiques qui parviennent actuellement au Bureau est publiée dans le BULLETIN et une collection spéciale permanente est faite des plus importantes. Quant à celles qui n'ont pas une valeur spéciale, elles sont envoyées à la Bibliothèque du Congrès pour sa Salle de Lecture.

Un autre moyen pour accroître les sources de renseignements du Bureau et afin que le BULLETIN puisse présenter une image digne de foi des conditions existantes dans tous les pays de l'Union Internationale, la coopération d'hommes éminents et dignes de confiance a été sollicitée dans les différentes capitales des Républiques Latines Américaines ou dans leurs principaux ports de mer, en les priant de vouloir bien consentir à agir en qualité de Membres Correspondants Honoraires de l'Union Internationale et de collaborer avec le Bureau en lui transmettant, toutes les fois que cela leur semblerait nécessaire, les renseignements qui pourraient étendre et compléter notre connaissance des conditions économiques et des ressources de leurs pays respectifs.

Les Représentants Diplomatiques des Républiques Latines Américaines à Washington ont tous, avec la plus grande courtoisie, prêté leur concours au Bureau en lui fournissant les noms des personnes qui pourraient consentir à agir comme membres correspondants, et on ne peut douter que leur collaboration aidera puissamment nos travaux.

L'impression du BULLETIN, grâce à l'intérêt qu'a pris l'Imprimeur du Gouvernement pour les travaux du Bureau, a été expédiée considérablement; aussi le BULLETIN peut-il être distribué 10 jours environ après qu'il a été envoyé à l'Imprimerie, l'utilité du BULLETIN étant, pour cette raison, devenue considérablement plus grande.

MANUELS.

Au mois de Décembre 1898, époque à laquelle Mr. EMORY a soumis son dernier rapport, le Manuel du Venezuela se trouvait entre les mains de l'Imprimeur Public et a été depuis publié en deux parties: la 1^{ère} en Anglais et la 2^{ème} en espagnol. Etant donnée l'impossibilité de se procurer les dernières cartes géographiques comprenant la nouvelle division des Etats de la République, cette partie du travail a été omise comme il a été expliqué dans une note au commencement de cette publication.

Ce travail terminé, la traduction d'anglais en espagnol du Manuel du Mexique, déjà en feuilles d'impression, fut entreprise en même temps que celle en anglais du manuscrit portugais du Manuel du Brésil, écrit par le savant Secrétaire de la Légation Brésilienne à Washington, Mr. MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA.

Une communication fut alors envoyée à tous les représentants des pays de l'Union Internationale à Washington, les priant de vouloir bien coopérer officiellement en fournissant au Bureau les dernières données officielles provenant de leurs pays respectifs pour les nouvelles éditions des différents manuels, aussi bien que leurs avis et concours personnels. Les réponses reçues furent toutes ou ne pent plus favorables et une quantité d'ouvrages et autres documents imprimés ont déjà été adressés au Bureau par les soins de ces hauts fonctionnaires.

Le Manuel du Mexique aurait pu déjà être terminé si on n'avait pas cru plus convenable d'en faire une œuvre plus complète embrassant certaines matières qui jusqu'à présent n'avaient été traitées que très superficiellement ou complètement mises de côté et de donner des chiffres statistiques absolument nouveaux et exacts. Le retard apporté dans la préparation de ce manuel est dû aussi à la nécessité de compiler les cartes, les chartes et autres documents indispensables pour faire une nouvelle carte de la République sur laquelle seront indiqués tous les renseignements ayant un caractère économique, l'étendue des cultures, les forêts, les mines, les chemins de fer, les lignes télégraphiques, etc., etc., qui peuvent être utiles aux lecteurs. On se propose de publier de temps en temps, aussitôt que les données pour la préparation seront suffisamment abondantes, d'autres cartes semblables des autres Républiques et dont le besoin se fait vivement sentir. Un dessinateur expérimenté est employé à cet effet, et la carte du Mexique a été commencée; les cartes des autres Républiques sont en voie de préparation (toutes faites sur une même et large échelle) et comprendront tous les renseignements indiqués plus haut.

Afin de faire de ces manuels des ouvrages dignes de foi et, si possible, des œuvres modèles, comme il convient à l'importance des Républiques et à la position du Bureau comme leur représentant, les services d'autorités éminentes dans les Etats-Unis aussi bien que dans les diverses Républiques ont été sollicités; quelques-unes ont déjà répondu à notre

appel, pour la préparation des chapitres de ces ouvrages dont la rédaction réclame des experts.

Aussitôt que le Manuel du Mexique sera terminé, ceux des autres pays seront commencés à fur et à mesure que les données nécessaires seront obtenues. De petites éditions seront publiées et de nouvelles paraîtront aussitôt que des statistiques plus récentes et d'autres documents nous parviendront.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE.

On ne saurait donner trop d'importance à la Bibliothèque du Bureau qui devrait être maintenue aussi complète que possible dans tous ses départements afin qu'il puisse remplir sa mission à l'entière satisfaction de l'Union Internationale. Chaque ouvrage, officiel ou privé, chaque carte, chaque document concernant les différentes Républiques Américaines devrait s'y trouver, car c'est le seul endroit aux Etats Unis où on comptera naturellement trouver ces ouvrages. Le Bureau consacrera tous ses efforts pour atteindre ce but et, avec l'obligeante collaboration des Représentants Diplomatiques des Républiques Latines Américaines à Washington et de leurs gouvernements, des sociétés savantes de leurs différents pays et des particuliers intéressés dans son succès, il faut espérer, que l'on atteindra à la fin le but désiré.

Le nombre de volumes actuellement dans la Bibliothèque atteint le chiffre approximatif de 5,000. Parmi eux se trouvent des ouvrages de littérature de toute espèce et qui ne sont pas appropriés au caractère de la Bibliothèque de ce Bureau. Peu d'additions ont été faites pendant les six dernières années. Il serait à désirer que l'on échangeât ou que l'on vendit tous ces livres inutiles ainsi que tous les duplicatas et qu'on les remplaçât sur les rayons par des ouvrages ayant seulement trait aux Républiques Américaines. Les ouvrages qui ont été conservés et qui serviront de base à la collection sont ceux qui traitent des questions suivantes :

- (1) Agriculture et ressources agricoles.
- (2) Colonisation et terrains publics.
- (3) Commerce.
- (4) Etudes géographiques.
- (5) Histoire.
- (6) Lois, rapports du Gouvernement, projets de loi et documents.
- (7) Mines, ressources minières et minérales.
- (8) Chemins de fer.
- (9) Statistiques.
- (10) Voyage et description.
- (11) Divers livres de renseignements, dictionnaires, etc.

Un catalogue est en voie de préparation de tous les ouvrages qui composent maintenant la Bibliothèque. Leurs titres ainsi que ceux de tous les nouveaux livres sont classés par ordre sur des cartes-cataloguées sous le nom des différents pays qu'ils traitent. On se propose de com-

prendre dans ce catalogue une table des matières de tous les ouvrages importants qui intéressent les Républiques Latines Américaines et qui peuvent être trouvés dans la Bibliothèque du Congrès et des Ministères, comprenant même, autant que possible, les articles les plus importants qui ont paru dans les récentes publications périodiques.

C'est aussi le désir du Bureau de compléter la collection des lois, traités avec les puissances étrangères et statistiques officielles de chacun des pays qui sont représentés dans la Bibliothèque; travail qui a été considérablement négligé.

Des lettres ont été adressées à tous les Représentants Diplomatiques des différentes Républiques aux Etats-Unis contenant une liste détaillée des publications officielles de leurs pays qui se trouvent actuellement dans la Bibliothèque, indiquant les livraisons qui manquent pour compléter ces ouvrages et les priant de vouloir bien faire parvenir, pour la Bibliothèque du Bureau, les publications courantes de leurs Gouvernements. Un nombre considérable de publications d'une grande valeur a, par ce moyen, déjà été obtenu et tous ces fonctionnaires ont bien voulu donner leurs assurances au Bureau qu'ils avaient déjà fait les démarches nécessaires pour compléter la collection.

Les atlas et les cartes géographiques, dont le nombre s'élève à 85 environ, ont été rassemblés et catalogués sur des cartes et seront rangés de façon qu'ils puissent être consultés facilement. Les autres Bibliothèques de Washington ont été visitées; des listes ont été faites de toutes les cartes géographiques qui se rapportent à l'Amérique Centrale et à l'Amérique du Sud qui se trouvent dans ces différents établissements. Ces diverses cartes seront enregistrées, à titre de renseignements, dans le catalogue de la Bibliothèque.

Le nombre des publications périodiques reçues antérieurement au 1^{er} septembre 1899 se montait à 1,034, dont 19 provenaient de souscriptions et 54 envoyées en échange du BULLETIN MENSUEL. Le Bureau reçoit maintenant régulièrement, soit par souscriptions, dons ou échanges, 1,725 publications périodiques, y compris les journaux quotidiens.

A l'avenir, les listes des nouveaux ouvrages seront publiées tous les six mois et adressées aux différentes Bibliothèques et mises aussi à la disposition des personnes qui seraient désireuses de les posséder.

Le vif intérêt témoigné et l'appui cordial accordé au Bureau, non seulement par les différents Ministères des Etats-Unis, mais encore par tous les Gouvernements des Républiques Latines Américaines, leurs Représentants Diplomatiques et Consulaires dans ce pays, ont facilité le travail du Bureau, l'ont rendu plus utile, plus étendu, tout en accentuant son caractère international et la force de l'Union.

Si l'on examine les services que le Bureau a déjà rendu pendant les dix années de son existence et que l'on considère ceux qu'il pourra rendre dans le futur avec chacune des Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique du Nord prenant une part active à son développement, nous pouvons être confiants qu'il plus que réalisera les espérances de

ceux qui l'ont créé et qu'il sera un agent puissant, non seulement en étendant encore davantage une connaissance plus ample, plus claire, plus correcte des divers pays de ce continent, de leurs habitants, leurs travaux, de leurs pensées, des relations commerciales profitables à tous, et pour ouvrir des marchés plus larges pour les produits de chacun d'eux, mais aussi qu'il aidera à resserrer les liens de confiance et d'amitié entre chacun et tous les pays de l'Union.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, Messieurs, votre obéissant serviteur,

W. W. ROCKHILL, *Directeur.*

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT MCKINLEY.

Le troisième message annuel du Président MCKINLEY fut envoyé au 56^{me} Congrès des Etats-Unis le 5 décembre 1899, le deuxième jour de la réouverture des Chambres. Les nombreux événements qui se sont succédés pendant les mois qui se sont écoulés depuis l'ajournement du 55^{me} Congrès sont racontés en détail, et les nombreuses recommandations importantes dont le Congrès précédent n'a pu tenir compte sont de nouveau répétées et font de ce présent message un document très volumineux.

Naturellement, la grande perte que vient d'éprouver le Président et la Nation par la mort récente du Vice-Président HOBART occupe la première place dans les pensées du Président. Sans ce malheur, le premier paragraphe du message aurait certainement commencé en attirant l'attention du Congrès sur les conditions prospères du pays.

Les paragraphes qui traitent des questions commerciales et financières, ainsi que ceux concernant les Républiques Latines Américaines, Cuba et les nouvelles îles conquises par les Etats-Unis, sont ici réimprimés et seront lus avec très grand intérêt.

MORT DU VICE-PRÉSIDENT HOBART.

Avant de commencer vos délibérations, pleurons avec nos compatriotes la mort du Vice-Président HOBART qui est passé de vie à trépas dans la matinée du 21 novembre dernier. Sa grande âme repose maintenant dans la paix de la vie éternelle. Sa vie privée fut pure et noble, pendant que dans sa carrière publique il s'est toujours fait distinguer par ses hautes capacités, sa probité incorruptible et ses idées élevées. La mort vient de le ravir au poste important qu'il occupait avec tant d'honneur et de dignité, mais la noblesse de son caractère, le dévouement absolu avec lequel il remplissait tous ses devoirs, sa droiture en affaires et ses nobles vertus nous serviront toujours d'exemple sans égal et son souvenir restera gravé au fond de nos cœurs.

PROSPÉRITÉ DU PAYS.

Le 56^{me} Congrès vient de s'assembler et a ouvert sa première session régulière dans un moment où le pays est dans des conditions de prospérité extraordinaire, où le peuple jouit d'un bonheur universel et où la paix et l'amitié règnent entre nous et tous les Gouvernements du monde. Notre commerce extérieur a augmenté en volume et en valeur. Les importations et les exportations réunies pour l'année sont les plus considérables qui aient jamais été constatées dans une seule année dans toute notre histoire. Nos exportations pour 1899 seules dépassent de plus de un milliard de dollars le total général de nos importations et exportations en 1870. Les importations per capita sont 20 pour cent moindres que celles de 1870, pendant que les exportations per capita sont 58 pour cent de plus que celles de 1870, ce qui prouve que les États-Unis sont capables aujourd'hui, non seulement de satisfaire aux besoins de sa propre population qui augmente constamment, mais encore de contribuer à ceux des autres nations.

Les exportations des produits agricoles étaient \$784,776,142. Quant aux produits manufacturés nous en avons exporté pour une valeur de \$339,592,146, la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été exportée dans n'importe quelle année précédente. C'est un fait digne de remarque que les seules années dans toute notre histoire pendant lesquelles les produits de nos manufactures vendus à l'étranger dépassaient ceux achetés à l'étranger, étaient les années 1898 et 1899.

Les recettes du Gouvernement provenant de toutes les sources pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899 se sont montées à \$610,982,004.35. Dans cette somme est comprise celle de \$11,798,314.14, paiement d'une partie de la dette due au "Central Pacific Railroad." Les recettes provenant des droits de Douane se sont élevées à \$206,128,481.75 et celles provenant des impôts intérieurs se sont montées à \$273,437,161.51.

Pour l'année fiscale les dépenses se sont chiffrées à \$700,093,564.02, laissant un déficit de \$89,111,559.67.

Le Ministre des Finances estime que les recettes pour l'année fiscale courante monteront à \$640,958,112, et en prenant pour base les sommes allouées pour l'année courante, les dépenses atteindront le chiffre de \$600,958,112, laissant un surplus de \$40,000,000.

Pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899, les recettes des impôts intérieurs ont augmenté d'environ \$100,000,000.

L'excellente condition dans laquelle se trouvent les finances du Trésor est montrée par le fait qu'il existait en caisse, le 1 décembre 1899, une balance comptable disponible de \$278,004,837.72, dont \$239,744,905.56 en monnaie d'or et en lingots. La confiance qui règne dans le pays a porté le peuple à faire davantage usage de la monnaie d'or, et les droits de douane sont maintenant presque entièrement payés avec ce métal.

L'activité qui s'est déployée dans l'industrie, ainsi que les conséquences qui s'en ont déconclées, c'est-à-dire un plus grand nombre d'emplois pour

les travailleurs aussi bien qu'un salaire plus grand, donne au peuple un plus grand pouvoir d'absorber le médium en circulation. Il est vrai aussi que d'année en année, avec une plus grande superficie de terrain cultivé, l'augmentation constante des produits agricoles, tels que: le coton, le maïs et le blé, demandera une somme d'argent plus considérable. Ceci se fait spécialement remarquer à l'époque de la moisson et celle où l'on transporte la récolte.

MAINTIEN DE L'ETALON D'OR.

Je recommande instamment que, pour maintenir l'existence de l'étalon d'or, pour conserver la parité en valeur des monnaies des deux métaux (or et argent) et la même valeur, tout le temps, à chaque dollar, sur les marchés et dans le paiement des dettes, le Ministre des Finances soit autorisé à vendre les obligations des Etats-Unis et à employer tels autres moyens efficaces nécessaires pour atteindre ce but. L'autorité devrait aussi lui être donnée, suivant que les conditions l'exigeraient, de vendre les obligations à longue ou brève échéance, et devrait garantir un taux d'intérêt plus bas que celui fixé par le décret du 14 janvier 1875. Quoiqu'il n'y ait aucune crainte commerciale qui fasse retirer l'or d'entre les mains du Gouvernement, mais au contraire une confiance si générale que l'or vient au Trésor pour y être échangé contre du papier; néanmoins cette condition même indique le présent comme le temps le plus propice pour adopter des mesures capables d'assurer la continuation de l'étalon d'or, et en même temps de la confiance publique dans la capacité et l'intention du Gouvernement de faire face à toutes ses obligations avec la monnaie que le monde civilisé reconnaît comme la meilleure. Les transactions financières du Gouvernement sont faites d'après l'étalon d'or. Nous recevons de l'or quand nous vendons les obligations des Etats-Unis, et nous les payons en or. Nous conservons la même valeur à toute la monnaie mise en circulation ou frappée avec l'autorisation du Gouvernement. Nous obtenons ce résultat avec les moyens que nous avons en mains.

Heureusement en ce moment nous ne sommes pas obligés de recourir aux emprunts pour nous approvisionner d'or. Cependant cela s'est déjà fait dans le passé, et peut-être serons-nous obligés de le faire dans l'avenir. C'est pourquoi il importe que nous trouvions immédiatement les meilleurs moyens pour faire face à cet événement fortuit quand il se présentera et les meilleurs à employer sont ceux qui sont les plus sûrs et les plus économiques. Ceux actuellement autorisés ont un caractère ni direct ni économique. Nous nous sommes déjà débarrassés d'une des causes de notre embarras financier pendant les années 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896. Nos recettes maintenant égales nos dépenses; un déficit dans les revenus ne nous alarme plus. Débarrassons nous donc de la seule cause qui reste en conférant au Ministre des Finances tout le pouvoir nécessaire et en lui imposant le devoir de maintenir le présent étalon d'or, et de conserver à la monnaie d'or et d'argent une valeur égale qui est la politique maintes fois déclarée des Etats-Unis.

À ce sujet, je recommande de nouveau qu'une portion de l'or en réserve soit placée en dépôt, et qu'avec cette somme la monnaie fiduciaire (greenbacks), soit payable à vue par le Gouvernement; mais qu'après qu'elle aura été une fois rachetée, elle ne soit plus renisée en circulation que contre de l'or.

LA MARINE MARCHANDE.

L'importance d'une marine marchande américaine afin d'étendre notre commerce et d'affermir notre pouvoir sur mer invite l'action immédiate du Congrès. Notre développement national restera imparfait et insuffisant aussi longtemps que l'accroissement remarquable de notre commerce intérieur ne sera pas accompagné par les progrès maritimes. Il ne manque pas d'autorité constitutionnelle pour une législation qui puisse donner au pays une force maritime proportionnée aux accomplissements industriels et au rang qu'il occupe parmi les nations du monde.

L'année passée s'est fait remarquer par une activité exceptionnelle dans nos chantiers de constructions navales, et les promesses d'une prospérité continue dans la construction de navires sont abondantes. Une amélioration dans les lois concernant la protection de nos marins a déjà été faite. Notre commerce des côtes, conformément aux lois sagement promulguées au commencement de ce Gouvernement et depuis son existence, a donné, pendant l'année fiscale terminée, des résultats sans pareils dans nos annales ou dans celles de n'importe quelle autre puissance. Nous manquons, cependant, de saisir les avantages qui nous sont offerts si nous nous contentons de considérer seulement les affaires chez nous et fermons les yeux à la nécessité d'assurer notre part dans le commerce important de transport qui existe dans le monde.

L'année dernière les vaisseaux américains ont transporté une part plus petite de nos importations et exportations que pendant n'importe quelle année précédente dans toute notre histoire, et la mesure de notre dépendance sur les vaisseaux étrangers fut manifestée douloureusement à notre peuple. Sans aucun autre choix, mais forcés par la nécessité, les Départements du Gouvernement chargés des opérations militaires et navales dans les Indes Orientales et Occidentales furent obligés d'avoir recours à la marine marchande des nations étrangères indispensables pour ces opérations.

Les autres grandes nations n'ont pas hésité à adopter les mesures nécessaires pour augmenter le nombre de leurs navires comme un facteur dans la défense nationale et comme un des moyens les plus sûrs et des plus rapides d'obtenir, sur les marchés étrangers, une place à leurs producteurs. La même vigilance et les mêmes efforts de notre part ne peuvent pas manquer de remédier à notre situation, qui est considérée comme une humiliation parmi nous et une surprise à l'étranger.

Même les sacrifices apparents qui dans le commencement peuvent

nous être imposés seront plus tard plus que compensés par les gains qui en résulteront.

La dépense n'est rien si on la compare aux avantages qu'on obtiendra. Le rétablissement de notre marine marchande entrainera dans une large mesure nos progrès industriels continnels et l'extension de nos triomphes commerciaux. Je suis certain que le jugement du pays favorise la politique d'aider notre marine marchande qui étendra notre commerce et nos marchés et augmentera notre tonnage sur mer pour les produits agricoles et manufacturés; lesquels, avec l'augmentation de notre marine de l'Etat, entrainera un accroissement de travail et de salaire pour nos compatriotes, aussi bien qu'une sauvegarde pour les intérêts américains dans toutes les parties du monde.

LA FRONTIÈRE ARGENTINE-CHILIENNE.

Le différend qui a existé pendant longtemps entre la République Argentine et le Chili, au sujet de la délimitation des frontières entre ces deux pays, a été tranché au mois de mars dernier par l'arrêt d'un Tribunal d'Arbitration dont le Ministre Pléipotentiaire des Etats-Unis à Buenos-Ayres servait d'arbitre.

Des progrès ont été faits avec la République Argentine dans le but de conclure une convention d'extradition. Ayant été avisée et approuvée par le Sénat et ratifiée par la République Argentine, cette convention n'attend plus que quelques légers changements dans le texte avant d'être échangée.

AFFAIRES BOLIVIENNES.

Au commencement de l'année, la paix de la République Bolivienne fut troublée par une insurrection victorienne. Le Ministre des Etats-Unis est resté à son poste, protégeant dans ce pays les intérêts américains ainsi que ceux des sujets anglais, en l'absence de leur Représentant national. Aussitôt que le nouveau Gouvernement fut installé, notre Ministre reçut les instructions nécessaires pour entrer en relations avec lui.

Le 23 octobre 1899, le Général PANDO fut élu Président de la République Bolivienne.

Des instructions ont été envoyées à notre Représentant Diplomatique afin qu'il fasse tous les efforts permis pour obtenir du Gouvernement qu'il réforme ses lois relatives aux mariages afin de donner tous les bénéfices de la loi aux mariages civils et non-catholiques des étrangers dans sa juridiction, et on espère sincèrement que la loi bolivienne sera rapportée à ce sujet comme celle du Pérou, depuis quelques années, pour être en harmonie avec la coutume générale des Etats modernes.

RELATIONS CORDIALES AVEC LE BRÉSIL.

Une Convention d'Extradition avec le Brésil, signée le 14 mai 1897, a été ratifiée par le Pouvoir Législatif du Brésil.

Pendant l'été dernier, deux vaisseaux de guerre des Etats-Unis fi-

rent envoyés en mission amicale dans les ports brésiliens et reçurent un accueil des plus cordiaux. Le voyage du *Wilmington* dans le fleuve des Amazones a donné lieu à un malentendu passager dû à une confusion au sujet des démarches à faire pour obtenir la permission de visiter l'intérieur et de faire des levées hydrographiques dans l'intérêt général de la navigation, mais l'incident n'eut aucune suite, et un prompt ajustement harmonisant avec les relations d'amitié étroites que ce Gouvernement a toujours essayé de cultiver soigneusement avec les Républiques du Continent Occidental fut trouvé.

AFFAIRES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE COLOMBIENNE.

La demande en dommages résultant de la saisie des journaux américains, "The Panama Star" et "The Herald" par les autorités colombiennes, a été réglée après une controverse de plusieurs années, le Gouvernement Colombien s'étant engagé à payer une indemnité de \$30,000 en trois termes de \$10,000 dollars chacun.

L'amitié de la Colombie pour notre pays s'est manifestée de nouveau par la manière cordiale avec laquelle elle a augmenté de nouveau les facilités à la Commission du Canal de Nicaragua, les investigations que cette dernière doit faire sur le Canal de Panama et les autres routes projetées à travers l'Isthme de Darien.

Vers la fin d'octobre, un mouvement insurrectionnel a commencé dans la République Colombienne. Cette insurrection n'a jusqu'ici produit aucun résultat décisif et est encore en progrès.

RÉVOLUTION À SAINT-DOMINGUE.

Notre voisine, la République de Saint-Domingue, a été dernièrement le théâtre d'une révolution après une longue période de tranquillité. Elle commença au mois de juillet dernier par l'assassinat du Président HEUREAUX et prit fin par l'abandon, par le Vice-Président successeur, des rênes du Gouvernement aux insurgés. Le premier acte du Gouvernement Provisoire fut de convoquer une élection présidentielle et constitutionnelle. JUAN ISIDRO JIMENEZ ayant été élu, fut installé au Pouvoir le 14 novembre 1899. Les Relations Diplomatiques ont été établies avec le nouveau Gouvernement.

NICARAGUA, HONDURAS ET SALVADOR.

L'association tentative de Nicaragua, Honduras et Salvador, sous le nom de la Grande République de l'Amérique Centrale * * * fut rompue pendant les derniers jours du mois de Novembre 1898 par le retrait de la République de Salvador. En conséquence, les Républiques de Nicaragua et de Honduras annulèrent leur pacte, chacune reprenant sa première souveraineté indépendante. Ceci fut suivi par la réception du Ministre MERRY par les Républiques de Nicaragua et de Salvador, pendant que le Ministre Hunter à son tour remettait ses lettres de

créance au Gouvernement de Honduras, revenant ainsi à l'ancienne distribution des agences diplomatiques des Etats-Unis dans l'Amérique Centrale, en conformité avec nos lois existantes. Un Envoyé Extraordinaire de Nicaragua a été accrédité auprès du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis.

AFFAIRES DE NICARAGUA.

Un mouvement insurrectionnel, à la tête duquel se trouvait le Général REYES, éclata à Bluefields au mois de février dernier, et pendant quelques temps exerça un contrôle actuel dans le territoire de Mosquito. Le vaisseau le *Detroit* fut immédiatement envoyé là pour protéger les intérêts américains. Au bout de quelques semaines, le Gouvernement du Général REYES abandonna la lutte et restauva la suprématie du Gouvernement de Nicaragua. Pendant l'inter règne, certains impôts publics dus sous la loi du Nicaragua furent levés sur des négociants américains par les autorités qui se trouvaient pour le moment avoir en mains le contrôle administratif effectif. Mais quand le Gouvernement titulaire fut restauré, un paiement de ces droits fut réclamé de rechef. Cela donna lieu à un conflit au sujet de la validité du paiement original de la dette au Pouvoir "de facto" du territoire. Une entente eut lieu, cependant, au mois d'avril dernier entre le Ministre des Etats-Unis et le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Nicaragua, qui décidèrent que les montants des paiements (duplicata) seraient déposés entre les mains du Consul de la Grande-Bretagne en attendant que le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis et celui de Nicaragua décidassent la question par un arrangement direct. Le différend n'a pas encore été réglé.

LE CANAL DE NICARAGUA.

La Commission du Canal de Nicaragua, nommée à l'effet d'étudier le projet d'un canal à travers le Nicaragua, ayant terminé ses travaux et fait son rapport, a été dissoute le 31 mai 1899, et le 10 juin une nouvelle commission, connue sous le nom de Commission du Canal Isthmien, fut organisée conformément aux termes de la loi votée le 3 mars 1899, dans le but d'examiner l'Isthme Américain, de décider qu'elle serait la route la plus praticable pour le percement d'une voie thviale à travers l'Isthme, de faire une estimation de la dépense et de donner aussi d'autres détails essentiels.

Cette commission, sous la présidence du Contre-Amiral JOHN G. WALKER de la Marine des Etats-Unis (en retraite), se mit immédiatement à l'œuvre et est en train de faire des études élaborées dans la République de Nicaragua, tout le long de la route du Canal de Panama; et dans le Darien, depuis l'Atlantique, dans le voisinage de la Rivière Atrato, jusqu'à la Baie du Panama, sur la côte du Pacifique. * * *

Les travaux seront poursuivis avec la plus grande activité. * * *

On ne saurait trop ni trop souvent insister auprès du Congrès sur la grande importance de cette entreprise. Dans mon message de l'année

dernière, j'ai exprimé mes idées sur la nécessité d'une voie thiviale reliant les deux grands Océans, et sur laquelle j'invite de nouveau votre considération. Les raisons données alors pour une action immédiate sont encore bien plus sérieuses aujourd'hui.

ACTION GÉNÉREUSE DU CHILI

Un agréable incident dans les relations de ce Gouvernement avec celui du Chili s'est produit dans le secours généreux porté au vaisseau de guerre *Newark*, en détresse dans les eaux Chiliennes. Ce n'est pas seulement dans cette circonstance que le Chili nous a témoigné ses sentiments d'amitié. Cette République a accepté la convention pour la création du Bureau des Républiques Américaines dont font maintenant partie tous les Etats Indépendants de ce Continent.

L'échange des ratifications d'une convention pour organiser à nouveau la Commission des Etats-Unis et du Chili (*United States and Chilean Claims Commission*) et pour prendre une décision au sujet des demandes en dommages, jadis présentées, mais que l'on ne put pas considérer pendant les travaux de la première commission, a été retardé en attendant la décision du Sénat Chilien sur les amendements incorporés à la ratification du traité par le Sénat des Etats-Unis. Cette formalité sera bientôt remplie.

PLUS GRANDE INTIMITÉ AVEC LE MEXIQUE.

L'année s'est fait remarquer par le développement constant de nos relations amicales avec le Mexique et par la grandeur des échanges mutuels avantageux. Ce Gouvernement n'a perdu aucune occasion de témoigner son grand désir de reserrer et perpétuer les liens de cordialité qui depuis si longtemps n'ont jamais, heureusement, été rompus.

Le 20 juin 1899 le Mexique ayant mis fin à la Convention d'extradition, un nouveau traité plus en rapport avec les besoins communs des deux pays fut signé le 22 février 1899 et échangé dans la ville du Mexique le 22 avril dernier. Jusqu'à présent les résultats obtenus ont été efficaces et satisfaisants. Un cas récent a servi pour faire l'essai de l'application de son article IV qui prescrit qu'aucune des deux parties sera tenue de livrer ses propres citoyens, mais que le Gouvernement Exécutif de chaque pays aura le droit de les livrer si, dans son jugement, il croit devoir le faire.

L'extradition de Mme. Mattie Rich, une citoyenne des Etats-Unis, accusée d'homicide commis au Mexique, fut, après mûre considération, ordonnée, par moi, convaincu que les fins de la justice seraient par ce moyen atteintes. Une action semblable de la part du Pouvoir Exécutif Mexicain aidera, le cas échéant, non seulement à accomplir le désir des deux Gouvernements pour que les crimes graves ne restent pas impunis, mais réprimera en même temps les violences et les illégalités commises sur la frontière des deux pays. Le nouveau traité prescrit qu'aucun des deux Gouvernements n'assumera le droit de punir les crimes commis

exclusivement sur le territoire de l'autre. Ceci évitera, dans l'avenir, les controverses embarrassantes qui jusqu'ici se sont présentées, le Mexique soutenant avoir le droit de juger et punir un citoyen américain pour une offense commise dans la juridiction des Etats-Unis.

La Commission Internationale des Limites Fluviales, organisée conformément à la Convention du 1 mars 1889, pour régler les questions relatives à la frontière du Rio Grande, n'a pas encore complété ses travaux. Au moyen d'une convention signée le 2 décembre 1898, échangée et proclamée au mois de février dernier, un délai d'un an, jusqu'au 24 décembre 1899, a été accordé à cette commission.

Une invitation fut adressée au Président du Mexique pour visiter Chicago au mois d'octobre à l'occasion de la pose de la première pierre de l'édifice du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis dans cette ville: l'invitation fut cordialement acceptée par lui avec le consentement nécessaire du Congrès Mexicain, mais la maladie d'un des membres de sa famille l'empêcha de s'y rendre. Toutefois, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères y vint comme le représentant personnel du Président DIAZ et à ce titre reçut tous les honneurs dus à son rang.

LES AFFAIRES DE CUBA.

Cette nation a assumé devant le monde une très grave responsabilité pour le bon gouvernement de Cuba dans le futur. Nous avons pris un engagement qui demande, pour bien être rempli, une grande intégrité et une haute sagesse. Le nouveau Cuba qui renaitra des cendres du passé doit nous être attaché par des liens d'une force et d'une étroitesse singulières si son bonheur permanent doit être assuré. Que ces liens soient organiques ou conventionnels, les destinées de Cuba sont d'une manière directe et irrévocable enchaînées aux nôtres, mais comment et jusqu'à quel point, l'avenir le déterminera suivant les événements. Quelque soit le résultat, nous devons avoir soin que le Cuba libre soit une réalité, pas un nom, une entité parfaite, non une expérience hâtive contenant dans son sein tous les éléments de ruine. Notre mission, pour l'accomplissement de laquelle nous avons accepté les chances du combat, ne serait pas remplie si nous tournions à la dérive une communauté encore mal affermie pour faire face aux vicissitudes qui trop souvent poursuivent les Etats faibles dont la richesse naturelle et les ressources abondantes se balancent avec les défauts de leurs organisations politiques et les fréquentes occasions de rivalités internes qui sapent leurs forces et dissipent leurs énergies. Le plus grand bonheur qui puisse arriver à Cuba est la restauration de sa prospérité agricole et industrielle qui donnera des emplois aux bras inactifs et rétablira les poursuites de la paix. Voilà son principal et son plus pressant besoin.

Un ordre fut donné le 19 août dernier de faire le recensement de l'île pour être achevé le 30 du mois de novembre. D'après le traité de paix, les Espagnols qui habitent l'île ont jusqu'au 11 avril 1900 pour décider s'ils désirent rester sujets Espagnols ou devenir citoyens de Cuba.

Jusqu'à cette époque on ne pourra pas s'assurer définitivement quels seront ceux qui auront le droit de participer à la formation du Gouvernement de Cuba. À ce moment-là les tableaux des résultats du recensement auront été dressés et nous procéderons aux élections qui remettront entre les mains des fonctionnaires élus par le peuple des gouvernements municipaux de l'île. L'expérience ainsi acquise sera d'une grande valeur pour la formation d'une convention représentative du peuple pour rédiger une constitution et établir un système général de gouvernement indépendant pour l'île. En attendant, et aussi longtemps que nous exercerons un contrôle dans l'île, les produits de Cuba devraient avoir un marché aux États-Unis dans des conditions aussi bonnes et des droits d'entrée aussi favorables que ceux qui sont accordés aux Antilles, conformément aux traités de réciprocité qui seront passés.

Dans le but de soulager les souffrances de l'île de Cuba, le Département de la Guerre a fait parvenir, par l'intermédiaire des officiers de l'armée, des vivres aux indigents montant à 5,493,000 rations, coûtant \$1,417,554.07.

Afin de faciliter le désarmement de l'Armée des Volontaires Cubains, dans l'intérêt de la paix publique aussi bien que pour le bien-être du peuple, une somme de \$75 a été payée à chaque soldat cubain dont le nom se trouvait inscrit sur les listes authentiques de l'armée, à la condition de déposer leurs armes entre les mains des autorités désignées par les États-Unis. La somme déboursée pour cela s'est élevée à \$2,547,750, qui fut payée sur les fonds d'urgence accordés par l'acte du 5 janvier 1899 pour cette fin.

Des recettes perçues dans l'île de Cuba pendant le semestre finissant le 30 juin 1899, \$1,712,014.20 furent dépensées pour mesures sanitaires; \$293,881.70 pour charités et les hôpitaux, et \$88,944.03 pour secours aux indigents.

RELATIONS AVEC L'ESPAGNE.

Après l'échange des ratifications du traité de paix, les deux Gouvernements accréditèrent réciproquement des Ministres; l'Espagne ayant envoyé le Duc d'ARCOS, Diplomate éminent qui occupait précédemment un poste au Mexique, et les États-Unis transférant à Madrid, l'Honorable BELLAMY STORER, son Ministre à Bruxelles. Ceci fut suivi par les nominations respectives de consuls; renouant complètement ainsi les relations qui avaient été interrompues par la guerre. En sus de sa représentation consulaire aux États-Unis, le Gouvernement espagnol a nommé des consuls à Cuba qui ont été provisoirement reconnus pendant l'administration militaire des affaires dans l'île.

En conformité avec les stipulations du traité de paix, les relations judiciaires entre les tribunaux de Cuba, de Porto Rico et d'Espagne ont été renouvelées. Les prisonniers politiques Cubains qui ont été détenus dans les stations pénales d'Espagne ont été et sont encore mis en liberté et renvoyés dans leur patrie, en conformité de l'Article VI

du traité. On est en train de renouer les négociations pour défaire les relations conventionnelles entre les deux pays, lesquelles ont été suspendues par suite de la guerre. J'espère qu'elles y incluront un arrangement favorable pour la réciprocité commerciale, d'après les termes des sections 3 et 4 du tarif en vigueur. En ceci, comme dans toutes les affaires internationales, on épargnera aucun effort pour répondre à la bonne disposition de l'Espagne et pour cultiver, par tous les moyens praticables, l'intimité qui doit prévaloir entre deux nations dont l'histoire passée s'est si souvent fait remarquer par une sincère amitié et par une communauté d'intérêts.

TRAITÉ ANGLO-VENEZUELIEN.

La Commission Internationale d'Arbitration, nommée conformément au Traité Anglo-Vénézuélien de 1897, pronouça son arrêt le 3 octobre dernier par lequel la ligne frontière entre le Vénézuéla et la Guyane Anglaise est délimitée, tranchant ainsi le différend qui a existé durant la plus grande partie de ce siècle. La sentence arbitrale, prononcée à l'unanimité par les arbitres, quoique n'ayant pas rencontré l'extrême contention de chaque parti, donne à la Grande-Bretagne une grande portion du territoire intérieur en dispute, et au Vénézuéla l'embonchure toute entière de l'Orinoco, y compris le point Barima et le littoral de la Mer des Antilles jusqu'à une certaine distance dans la direction est.

La décision paraît satisfaire également les deux partis.

AFFAIRES DE VENEZUELA.

Une révolution vient encore une fois d'éclater au Vénézuéla. Les insurgés, sous les ordres du Général CASTRO, après une lutte sanglante dans laquelle ils ont subi des pertes considérables, se sont ralliés dans les régions montagneuses de l'intérieur et se sont avancés vers la capitale. Le gros de l'armée ayant pris part au mouvement, le Président ANDRADE quitta Caracas où le Général CASTRO établit un Gouvernement Provisoire avec lequel notre Ministre et les Représentants des autres puissances sont entrés en relations diplomatiques le 20 novembre 1899.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

L'intérêt qu'ont pris les divers Etats formant l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines dans le travail de son Bureau organique est démontré par le fait que pour la première fois depuis sa création en 1890, toutes les Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et de l'Amérique Centrale y sont maintenant représentées.

La recommandation unanime de la Conférence Internationale Américaine, pourvoyant pour l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines, décida qu'elle continuerait à être en vigueur pour un terme de 10 années depuis la date de son organisation, et qu'aucun pays devenant un membre de l'Union cesserait d'en faire partie avant la fin de

la dite période de 10 années; et à moins que 12 mois avant l'expiration de la dite période une majorité des membres de l'Union donnât au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères des États-Unis un avis officiel de leur désir de dissoudre l'Union à la fin de la première période, l'Union continuerait à être maintenue pour une autre période de 10 années et après cela, dans les mêmes conditions, pour des périodes successives de dix années chacune.

Le temps de la notification expira le 14 juillet 1899 sans qu'aucun des membres eût notifié officiellement son désir de se retirer. En conséquence son maintien est assuré pour les 10 années prochaines. En vue de ce fait et des nombreuses questions d'intérêt général et de profit commun pour toutes les Républiques d'Amérique, dont quelques-unes ont été considérées par la première Conférence Internationale Américaine, mais pas finalement résolues, et d'autres qui ont depuis lors acquis plus d'importance, il semblerait désirable que les diverses Républiques constituant l'Union fussent invitées à se réunir, dans un futur très rapproché, pour une autre conférence dans une des capitales d'un de ces pays, autre que les États-Unis qui ont déjà en cet honneur.

Le caractère purement international du travail exécuté par le Bureau et l'appréciation de sa valeur sont encore accentués par la coopération active des divers gouvernements des Républiques Latines Américaines et leurs représentants diplomatiques dans cette capitale, et par les efforts zélés qu'ils font pour augmenter sa sphère d'activité, étendre par son entremise les relations commerciales, resserrer les liens d'amitié et de confiance entre ses divers membres et les nations de ce continent.

AFFAIRES DES PHILIPPINES.

Après avoir passé en revue dans tous ses détails l'insurrection dans les Iles Philippines et montrer les efforts que les autorités des États-Unis ont fait pour la supprimer, le Président s'exprime ainsi :

Le Congrès des États-Unis décidera quel sera le Gouvernement futur des Philippines. Nous n'avons jamais eu de plus graves responsabilités. Si nous les acceptons avec un esprit digne de notre race et de nos traditions, une grande occasion se produira avec elles. Les Iles sont sous la protection de notre drapeau. Elles nous appartiennent par tous les droits que nous donnent la loi et l'équité. Elles ne peuvent pas être abandonnées. Si nous les désertons, nous les livrons immédiatement à l'anarchie et finalement au barbarisme. Nous les jetons comme la pomme d'or de la discorde parmi les pouvoirs rivaux dont aucun ne pourrait permettre à l'autre de s'en emparer sans contestation. Leurs riches plaines et leurs belles vallées deviendront un théâtre de discorde et d'effusion de sang interminables. L'arrivée de la flotte de l'Amiral DEWEY dans la Baie de Manille au lieu d'être, comme nous l'espérons, l'aurore d'un nouveau jour de liberté et de progrès, sera devenue le commencement d'une ère de misère et de violence plus terrible qu'aucune de celles qui ont obscurci leur passé malheureux.

On a suggéré que nous pourrions renoncer à notre autorité sur ces Iles et, en leur donnant leur indépendance, que nous pourrions conserver un protectorat. Cette proposition ne sera pas trouvée, j'en suis certain, digne de votre attention sérieuse. Un pareil arrangement entraînerait dès le début un cruel abus de confiance. Il plâçerait la paisible et loyale majorité, qui ne demande rien de mieux que d'accepter notre autorité, à la merci de la minorité des insurgés armés. Cela nous rendrait responsable des actes des chefs insurgents et nous empêcherait de les contrôler. Ils nous imposeraient l'obligation de les protéger les uns contre les autres et de les défendre contre n'importe quelle puissance étrangère avec laquelle ils leur plairaient de chercher querelle. En un mot, cela ôterait au Congrès des Etats-Unis le pouvoir de déclarer la guerre et donnerait au Chef Tagal du moment cette énorme prérogative.

Je ne crois pas devoir recommander en ce moment une forme spécifique et finale de gouvernement pour ces Iles. Quand la paix sera rétablie, ce sera le devoir du Congrès de déterminer un plan de Gouvernement qui établira et maintiendra la paix, l'ordre et la liberté dans les Philippines. L'insurrection n'est pas encore terminée, et quand elle sera complètement calmée, de plus amples renseignements seront nécessaires, concernant la condition actuelle des affaires, avant d'inaugurer un système permanent de gouvernement civil. Le rapport complet de la Commission, actuellement en préparation, contiendra des renseignements et des suggestions qui seront d'une très grande valeur pour le Congrès, auquel je le transmettrai aussitôt qu'il sera complété. Tant que durera l'insurrection, le pouvoir militaire doit nécessairement être suprême. Mais il n'y a aucune raison qui empêche de prendre de temps en temps des mesures pour inaugurer des gouvernements essentiellement populaires dans leurs formes au fur et à mesure que nos troupes possèdent et contrôlent un territoire. Dans ce but, je considère s'il ne serait pas sage de faire retourner la Commission ou tels membres de cette Commission que l'on pourrait obtenir pour aider les autorités existantes et leur faciliter cette organisation à travers les Iles. J'ai cru que la reconstruction ne devrait pas commencer par l'établissement d'un gouvernement civil pour toutes les Iles, avec son siège à Manille, mais plutôt que le travail devrait commencer par reconstruire de fond en comble; établissant d'abord des gouvernements municipaux, ensuite des gouvernements des provinces, et finalement un gouvernement central.

Jusqu'à ce que le Congrès ait fait connaître l'expression formelle de sa volonté, j'emploierai les pouvoirs qui m'ont été conférés par la Constitution et les Statuts pour maintenir la souveraineté des Etats-Unis dans ces Iles éloignées et dans tous les autres endroits où notre drapeau flotte légitimement. Je mettrai à la disposition de l'armée et de la marine tous les moyens que la libéralité du Congrès et du peuple ont accordé pour réprimer cette insurrection destructive et qui n'a pas été provoquée. S'il fallait que je donnasse les ordres nécessaires pour assurer la conduite élémentaire des opérations militaires et navales, je

ne foudrais pas de les donner; mais chaque progrès de nos troupes a été marqué par une humanité qui a surpris même les insurgents égarés. Le plus grand bien qui pourrait arriver aux insurgents serait la défaite prompte et définitive de leur présent chef. L'heure de la victoire sera celle du pardon et de la reconstruction.

Aucun effort ne sera épargné pour reconstruire les places qui ont été ravagées par la guerre et par de longues années de mauvaises administrations. Nous n'attendrons pas la fin de la querelle pour commencer le travail bienfaisant. Nous devons continuer comme nous avons commencé, c'est-à-dire construire des églises et des écoles, mettre les tribunaux en fonctions, faire prospérer les industries, le commerce et l'agriculture, et faire tout ce qui est en notre pouvoir pour faire sentir à ce peuple, que la Providence a placé sous notre juridiction, que c'est sa liberté et non notre pouvoir, son bonheur et non notre intérêt que nous cherchons à augmenter. Notre drapeau n'a jamais flotté dans aucun pays sans y apporter le bonheur, et j'ai la certitude que les habitants des Philippines reconnaîtront bientôt qu'il n'a pas perdu ce don bienfaisant dans le voyage à travers le monde jusqu'à leurs rivages.

AFFAIRES D'HAWAÏ.

On a éprouvé quelques embarras dans l'administration des Iles, en raison de la situation particulière dans laquelle elles se trouvent actuellement par suite de la résolution jointe d'annexion (joint resolution) approuvée le 7 juillet 1898. Tandis que par cette résolution la République d'Hawaï comme nation indépendante fut abolie, sa souveraineté individuelle détruite, et ses biens et ses possessions passés aux Etats-Unis, on a pas encore établi complètement son Gouvernement d'après notre système * * * *.

D'après la résolution d'annexion, le Président devait nommer cinq commissaires pour recommander au Congrès telle législation concernant les Iles qu'il jugerait nécessaire ou convenable. Ces commissionnaires furent régulièrement nommés et, après de sérieuses investigations et des études approfondies sur le système des lois et gouvernement prévalant dans les Iles et des conditions générales existantes, préparèrent un projet de loi pour l'établissement d'un gouvernement ayant pour titre "Le Territoire d'Hawaï." Le rapport de la commission ainsi que le projet de loi qu'ils avaient préparé furent transmis par moi au Congrès le 6 décembre 1898, mais le projet attend encore sa décision finale.

Le peuple de ces Iles a droit aux bénéfices et privilèges de notre Constitution, mais en l'absence d'aucun acte du Congrès créant des cours Fédérales dans les Iles et une procédure par laquelle les appels, les ordres en erreur (writs of error) et les autres actes judiciaires nécessaires pour le maintien des droits civils peuvent être poursuivis, se trouve impuissant de les faire respecter par le jugement des cours des Etats-Unis. En conséquence, il est évidemment important qu'un acte

soit passé le plus vite possible pour que ces Iles soient établies en district judiciaire, pourvoyant à la nomination d'un juge et d'autres magistrats nécessaires, ainsi que des méthodes de procédure dans les tribunaux d'appel, et que le gouvernement de ce territoire nouvellement acquis sous la Constitution Fédérale soit entièrement défini et établi.

LÉGISLATION POUR PORTO-RICO.

Je recommande qu'une législation aboutissant au même résultat, en ce qui concerne le Gouvernement de Porto-Rico, soit établie. Le moment est propice pour l'adoption d'une forme de gouvernement temporaire pour cette Ile.

Le système de la jurisprudence adopté actuellement par le peuple de cette Ile est décrit * * * comme tout à fait moderne et scientifique, en ce qu'il concerne les affaires intérieures, le commerce, la production et le droit social et privé en général. Les villes de l'Ile sont gouvernées d'après des chartres qui probablement demandent très peu ou aucun changement. De sorte que, en ce qui concerne les affaires d'intérêt local et de droit privé, il n'est pas probable que beaucoup ou presque pas de législation soit désirable; mais relativement à l'administration publique et aux relations de l'Ile avec le Gouvernement Fédéral, il y a beaucoup d'affaires qui sont d'une urgence pressante. Il est de toute nécessité que le Congrès fasse une législation pour établir des cours fédérales et une juridiction fédérale dans l'Ile. * * *

En dehors de l'administration judiciaire, il y a les sujets traitant des terrains publics; le contrôle et les travaux d'amélioration des rivières et des ports; le contrôle des eaux ou des courants non navigables qui, d'après la loi espagnole, appartenaient à la Couronne d'Espagne et sont, par le traité de cession, passés aux Etats-Unis; l'immigration du peuple des pays étrangers; l'importation des ouvriers sous contrat; l'imposition et la perception des impôts intérieurs; l'application des lois de navigation; le règlement de la monnaie courante; la création de bureaux de poste et de routes postales; le règlement d'un tarif de douane sur les marchandises importées de l'Ile dans les Etats-Unis; l'établissement de ports d'entrée et de livraison; le règlement des patentes et des droits d'auteur. Ces sujets avec beaucoup d'autres qui dépendent entièrement du pouvoir du Congrès, demandent une considération soigneuse et une action immédiate.

Il faut bien se mettre dans l'esprit que depuis la cession, l'Ile de Porto-Rico a été exclue des principaux marchés dont elle a eu longtemps la jouissance, et nos tarifs ont été continuellement contre leurs produits comme quand elle était sous la domination espagnole. Les marchés d'Espagne sont fermés à ses produits, excepté en se soumettant aux mêmes termes que le commerce de toutes les nations.

L'Ile de Cuba qui jadis achetait son bétail et son tabac sans exiger de droits de douane, impose maintenant sur ces produits les mêmes droits que ceux demandés pour les produits de n'importe quelle autre

contre entrant dans ses ports. Elle a donc perdu son libre échange avec l'Espagne et Cuba sans aucun bénéfice équivalent dans le marché des États-Unis. Son café était peu connu et non consommé par notre peuple, et en conséquence il n'y avait aucune demande ici pour lui, ni de leurs principaux produits. Les marchés des États-Unis devraient être ouverts à ses produits. Notre simple devoir est d'abolir tous les tarifs de douane entre les États-Unis et Porto-Rico et de donner à ses produits l'entrée libre de nos marchés.

Par suite de l'ouragan qui a ravagé Porto-Rico le 8 août 1899, plus de 100,000 personnes furent réduites à la misère la plus profonde, sans abris et dépourvues de tous moyens d'existence. Le peuple des États-Unis a répondu promptement et généreusement à l'appel du Département de la Guerre. En dehors de la charité individuelle de notre peuple, le Département de la Guerre a dépensé pour le soulagement des malheureux \$392,342.63, laquelle somme n'inclue pas les frais de transport. Il est désirable que le Gouvernement de l'Île, d'après la loi du droit belligérant actuellement en vigueur à travers le Département Exécutif, soit remplacé par une administration entièrement civile dans sa nature. Pour les besoins du moment, je recommande que le Congrès passe une loi pour l'organisation d'un gouvernement temporaire qui devra pourvoir à la nomination, par le Président et sujette à l'approbation du sénat, d'un gouverneur et tels autres fonctionnaires, comme peut l'exiger l'administration générale de l'Île, et que dans un but législatif sur les sujets de nature locale n'ayant pas un caractère fédéral, un conseil législatif, composé en partie de Porto-Ricains et de citoyens des États-Unis, soit choisi et nommé par le Président, avec l'approbation du sénat, leurs actes devant être soumis à l'approbation du Congrès ou du Président avant d'entrer en vigueur.

Dans les municipalités et dans les autres subdivisions locales, je recommande que le principe d'un gouvernement autonome local soit appliqué immédiatement, afin de permettre aux citoyens intelligents de l'Île de participer dans leur propre gouvernement et d'apprendre par l'expérience pratique les devoirs et les besoins d'un gouvernement du pays par le peuple. Je n'ai pas jugé bon de confier le gouvernement entier de l'Île à des fonctionnaires choisis par la peuple, parce que je doute si par leurs mœurs, leur éducation et leur expérience ils sont en état d'exercer tout d'un coup une autonomie de gouvernement aussi étendue, mais je pense et j'espère qu'ils arriveront bientôt à acquérir l'expérience, la sagesse et le sang-froid qui justifiera qu'on leur accorde une plus grande participation dans le choix de leurs fonctionnaires insulaires.

Le besoin fondamental pour ce peuple, comme pour tous les peuples, est l'éducation. L'école libre est le meilleur précepteur pour les citoyens. Dans l'introduction des méthodes d'éducation modernes, il faut cependant avoir soin que les changements ne soient pas faits trop brusquement et que l'histoire et les particularités de race des habitants soient prises en considération. Les systèmes d'éducation dans ces nou-

velles possessions, basés sur les méthodes de sens commun, adaptés aux conditions existantes et ayant en vue l'avancement moral et industriel futur du peuple, leur fera réaliser d'une manière toute particulière les bienfaits d'un gouvernement libre. Le Congrès a devant lui de grandes opportunités pour accomplir de grandes choses; avec elles il y a aussi de graves responsabilités. Le pouvoir qui nous est confié augmente le poids de nos obligations envers le peuple, et nous devons en être profondément pénétré quand nous contemplons les nouveaux problèmes graves que nous avons à résoudre. Aspirant seulement au bien public, nous ne pouvons pas nous tromper. Une interprétation correcte de la volonté du peuple et du devoir ne peut pas manquer d'assurer des mesures sages pour la prospérité des Iles qui sont tombées sous la domination des Etats-Unis et de contribuer à l'intérêt commun et à l'honneur permanent de notre pays. Jamais cette nation n'a eu d'aussi abondantes raisons que pendant l'année passée pour remercier Dieu pour les nombreuses bénédictions et bienfaits qu'il a versés sur nous, et pour lesquelles nous lui adressons notre reconnaissance révérencieuse.

MORT DU VICE-PRÉSIDENT HOBART.

L'Honorable GARRET A. HOBART, Vice-Président des Etats-Unis, est mort à Paterson (New-Jersey), sa ville natale, le 21 novembre 1899 après une longue maladie. Mr. HOBART naquit le 3 juin 1844 à Long Branch, New-Jersey. En 1863 il fut gradué du collège Rutgers. La même année il commença à enseigner dans une école, et plus tard fit son droit et choisit la profession d'avocat vers laquelle il se sentait attiré. Il entra dans le barreau en 1866 et pratiqua diligemment sa profession depuis cette époque jusqu'au jour où il devint Vice-Président, remplissant avec zèle et habileté ses devoirs de citoyen. En 1871 Mr. HOBART fut nommé Conseiller d'un des arrondissements de la ville de Paterson, sa première fonction publique. En 1873 il fut choisi comme Membre du Corps Législatif de l'Etat de New-Jersey. Il était Président de la Chambre des Députés en 1874 et Membre du Sénat dans son Etat en 1875. En 1880 il devint le candidat du parti républicain, alors en minorité, pour Sénateur des Etats-Unis. En juin 1896 Mr. HOBART fut choisi par la Convention Nationale Républicaine comme candidat de ce parti pour la Vice-Présidence des Etats-Unis, et fut élu le mois de novembre suivant.

Mr. HOBART fut un Président capable et impartial, et mérite le respect que les Sénateurs de tous les partis lui ont témoigné. Pendant son séjour dans la ville de Washington, Mr. HOBART a su s'attirer l'estime et l'affection de toutes les personnes qui l'ont approché. Il était consulté par le Président et ses Ministres, et dans diverses occasions importantes il a fait preuve de tact et ses avis ont été précieux.

Quoiqu'une grande partie de son temps fût dévouée à sa profession d'avocat et à la politique, il prit aussi une part active dans la direction d'affaires commerciales. Son habileté comme homme d'affaires est démontrée par le fait qu'il fut choisi comme un des trois arbitres de la "Joint Traffic Association," un poste que peu de personnes aurait pu remplir avec autant de succès. Il était membre du conseil d'administration de plusieurs chemins de fer et était intéressé dans de nombreuses entreprises industrielles dans la ville et dans l'Etat où il habitait.

Les obsèques de M. HOBART eurent lieu le 25 novembre 1899. Le Président MCKINLEY, entouré de ses Ministres, des Juges de la Cour de Cassation, d'une majorité des Sénateurs des Etats-Unis, d'un grand nombre de Députés, du Gouverneur et autres fonctionnaires de l'Etat de New-Jersey, du Gouverneur de l'Etat de New-York, de nombreux personnages éminents dans l'Etat et la nation, ont assisté à cette cérémonie funèbre. La scène fut mémorable, attendu que des hommes d'Etat célèbres aussi bien que des hommes inconnus dans les affaires publiques, représentant toutes les professions, tous les métiers, depuis les maîtres en politique et en diplomatie jusqu'au plus humble des ouvriers et des artisans, s'étaient assemblés autour du cercueil de ce mort illustre pour lui rendre un dernier hommage.

D'après la loi de ce pays, le Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, succède de droit au Chef de l'Etat. Le Sénateur WILLIAM P. FRYE, de l'Etat du Maine, qui a été nommé préalablement Président par intérim de ce corps, est devenu le Président du Sénat.

En apprenant la mort du Vice-Président, le Président MCKINLEY publia la proclamation suivante, dont les clauses ont été fidèlement observées.

PROCLAMATION DU PRÉSIDENT DES ETATS-UNIS.

Au peuple des Etats-Unis:

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vice-Président des Etats-Unis, est mort ce matin à 8 heures et demie à Paterson, New-Jersey, sa ville natale. La nation perd en lui un de ses citoyens les plus illustres et un de ses serviteurs les plus fidèles. Dans sa participation aux affaires aussi bien que dans la part qu'il a prise dans le Corps Législatif de son Etat natal, il fit preuve d'une fidélité constante, de talents remarquables et de grandes connaissances. Dans sa carrière trop courte comme Vice-Président des Etats-Unis et Président du Sénat, il montra les qualités élevées d'un homme intègre et judicieux. Dans le monde des affaires il avait peu d'égaux parmi ses contemporains. C'était un homme d'un caractère doux et noble. Il sera longtemps regretté par ses amis comme un homme d'une pureté d'âme et d'attraits particuliers dont la douceur de disposition gagnait tous les cœurs; pendant que ses vues élevées, son intégrité inflexible et son cœur entièrement dévoué au bien public lui ont acquis le respect et l'estime universels.

En mémoire de la perte douloureuse qui vient d'affliger le pays, j'ordonne que le jour des obsèques tous les Ministères des Etats-Unis soient fermés; que le pavillon national de tous les postes et établissements militaires et navals soient mis en berne et que les Représentants Diplomatiques et Consulaires des Etats-Unis à l'étranger rendent à cet illustre mort les honneurs qui lui sont dus, pendant une période de 30 jours.

En foi de quoi j'ai signé la présente et causé le sceau des Etats-Unis d'y être apposé.

Fait dans la ville de Washington, le vingt et unième jour de novembre, dans l'année de Notre Seigneur mil huit cent quatre-vingt-dix-neuf de la cent vingt-quatrième année de l'Indépendance des Etats-Unis.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Par le Président de la République:

JOHN HAY,
Secrétaire d'Etat.

MARCHÉ POUR LE CAFÉ AUX ETATS-UNIS.

L'article suivant indiquant les conditions et les demandes de café dans les marchés des Etats-Unis a été soumis récemment au Congrès commercial international de Philadelphie qui l'a publié dans son rapport du 14 octobre 1899. L'auteur, Monsieur A. M. WOOLSON, de l'Etat de l'Ohio, donne les avis précieux qui suivent aux producteurs désireux de vendre leurs cafés:

« Le meilleur marché du monde pour le café est sans aucun doute celui des Etats-Unis, par la raison bien simple que nous buyons plus de café que les autres nations.

« D'après les statistiques qui ont été publiées cette année par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis, il a été importé pendant l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1898, 6,451,000 sacs de café, ou 870,514,455 livres, montant à la somme de \$65,067,631, soit un prix moyen de 7.4 cents par livre et environ 11.45 livres par tête. Ces chiffres montrent que nous consommons presque autant de café que l'Allemagne, la France, l'Autriche, la Belgique, la Hollande, la Russie, l'Angleterre, et tous les autres pays réunis. On peut affirmer sans crainte que les marchés des Etats-Unis sont les plus importants pour le café. On présume que les délégués étrangers aimeraient à savoir comment les marchands d'Amérique s'y prennent pour vendre et acheter autant de café. A ce sujet, je ferai remarquer qu'autérieurement à l'année 1860, chaque marchand en détail achetait son café vert et les maîtres de maison le faisaient brûler chez eux, mais le génie inventif et l'habileté de l'ouvrier américain ont perfectionné les méthodes anciennes de grillage, ce qui est d'un avantage manifeste pour les consommateurs, et le résultat a été la création de grands et nombreux établissements où l'on brûle le café.

Le peuple prit alors l'habitude d'acheter le café brûlé au lieu du vert, préférant naturellement éviter la responsabilité de griller lui-même son café.

"Cette industrie a pris une telle extension, qu'aujourd'hui 90 pour cent de tout le café importé aux Etats-Unis est vendu par les marchands aux consommateurs après qu'il a été grillé. Le café acheté dans ces conditions est d'une grande économie pour le consommateur, car il est brûlé par des hommes habiles et initiés au métier, qui sont pourvus de toutes les machines et facilités nécessaires et qui fournissent un produit des plus uniformes et des plus désirables. Un petit nombre de places dans la partie méridionale des Etats-Unis semblent avoir une grande préférence pour le café vert, mais dans tout le Nord, l'Est et l'Ouest, l'article brûlé a le monopole. Il est regrettable que tant de café importé soit mélangé de petites pierres, ou comme nous les appelons de "diamants brésiliens;" cela oblige l'ouvrier qui le brûle à séparer, au moyen de machines spéciales, les substances étrangères qu'il contient. La moyenne est presque une livre par sac.

"Le planteur qui nous envoie le café le plus pur est récompensé en voyant son produit préféré et par conséquent coté un prix plus élevé. Nous avons employé des centaines de tonnes de ces pierres à paver les trottoirs et les allées qui entourent nos maisons. Un grand nombre de planteurs croient sans doute qu'ils obtiendront un plus grand prix de leur café en y mélangeant le plus de pierres possible, mais c'est une grave erreur qu'ils commettent parce que le café vert est examiné par des experts qui estiment le café qui contient des pierres inférieur au café sans mélange."

LA RÉCOLTE DE BLÉ DU MONDE PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1899.

D'après les chiffres qui ont été fournis par M. BROOMHALL, le statisticien anglais, la récolte du blé dans toutes les parties du monde, pendant l'année 1899, a été moins abondante que celles des autres années. Cette diminution s'est fait remarquer non seulement dans la production du blé, mais aussi dans toutes les autres classes de céréales. D'après ce statisticien, le total de la récolte du monde s'est élevé en 1899 à 2,496,000,000 boisseaux, soit 390,000,000 boisseaux de moins que pendant l'année 1898, mais 226,000,000 boisseaux de plus que pendant l'année 1897. La plus grande diminution a été constatée dans toute l'Amérique où une baisse de 18.6 pour cent (une différence de 168,000,000 boisseaux) s'est produite. La diminution en Europe est presque aussi grande et se chiffre à 163,000,000 boisseaux, mais la proportion montre seulement un faible excédent de 10 pour cent. La diminution constatée en Asie est de 11 pour cent; en Afrique, 30 pour cent; en Australie, 16 pour cent.

La quantité de blé en réserve, connue et inconnue, et qui représente le surplus de la récolte de l'année dernière (la plus riche que l'on ait jamais faite), a été plus forte que toutes celles des années récentes, et ce sont ces réserves qui fixeront, dans l'avenir, les prix. M. BROOMHALL estime que le blé en réserve peut être évalué à 240,000,000 boisseaux de plus que l'année dernière, mais étant donnée une diminution de 390,000,000 boisseaux dans le rendement, la perspective semble certainement indiquer que tout l'approvisionnement disponible sera requis.

Un autre point sur lequel le journal hebdomadaire "Bradstreets" a attiré l'attention, en commentant sur la situation de la récolte du blé, est la grande augmentation du fret occasionnée par le Gouvernement de la Grande-Bretagne qui emploie de nombreux vaisseaux comme transports de guerre. Cette augmentation a été considérable et équivalant à une hausse indépendante de plusieurs centimes dans le prix du blé dont les embarquements pour l'Europe sont très difficiles à cause de la rareté des navires. Les exportateurs sont donc obligés d'entrer en concurrence avec le commerce d'exportation en général s'ils veulent obtenir une place sur les bateaux pour leurs marchandises.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

COMMERCE AVEC LA BELGIQUE.

Les échanges de la Belgique avec la République Argentine ont, dit le "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" du 9 novembre 1899, progressé l'année dernière; c'est ainsi qu'on relève aux importations un total de 100 millions contre 68 millions en 1897. Cette plus-value porte surtout sur les grains 38 millions contre 13 millions et les graines oléagineuses 10,700,000 fr. contre 4,800,000 fr. En ce qui concerne les exportations belges, elles se sont chiffrées par 20,600,000 fr., soit près de 4 millions de plus que l'année antérieure. Augmentation principale: tissus de coton, 2,180,000 fr. contre 1,638,000 fr.

BOLIVIE.

LE COMMERCE D'IMPORTATION À POTOSI.

Potosi est un centre d'importation fort important lorsqu'on tient compte de sa population peu dense. Son commerce est encore appelé à augmenter dans des proportions considérables à mesure que le chemin de fer viendra desservir les mines de la région. L'absence de moyen de communications, le caractère accidenté du terrain, les crues des rivières pendant la saison des pluies et les grandes distances entre les diverses zones de production rendent les produits du pays

plus chers que ceux de l'étranger. A l'exception des bois de construction et des fourrages secs, qu'on ne peut importer avec bénéfice que dans les villes rapprochées du chemin de fer, les produits manufacturés de l'étranger pénétrèrent jusque dans les endroits les plus reculés de la Bolivie. Le sucre venait autrefois de Santa-Cruz et se vendait à 32 boliviens le quintal de 46 kilos. Aujourd'hui il vient d'Allemagne et de Belgique et coûte 20 boliviens. Les eaux-de-vie ont été remplacées par l'alcool de 40°. Les Indiens, pour le boire, le mélange avec de l'eau. Autrefois cette fourniture était monopolisée par le Pérou. Aujourd'hui le Chili et l'Allemagne en ont accaparé la majeure partie.

Les principaux articles d'importation sont : des cotonnades, tissus de lin et de coton, des soieries et des meubles de toute classe. Il y a environ dix ans les meubles étaient importés de France, d'Angleterre et des Etats-Unis. A mesure que cette branche de commerce a pris de l'extension, la concurrence s'est établie et l'Allemagne et la Belgique fournissent aujourd'hui des meubles de qualité inférieure, mais de belle apparence et d'un bon marché que n'offrent pas les fabricants français.

Le principal importateur en Bolivie est l'Angleterre. L'Allemagne vient ensuite. La France ne vient qu'en troisième ligne.

NOUVEAU CABINET.

Le 26 octobre dernier, le Général Don JOSÉ MANUEL PANDO a pris possession de la présidence, aux acclamations enthousiastes du peuple et des membres du Congrès.

Le Général PANDO a composé ainsi son nouveau Ministère :

MM. FERNANDO GUADIANA, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères; Carlos Romero, Ministre de l'Intérieur; Demetrio Calbinsonte, Ministre des Finances; Samuel Oropeza, Ministre la Justice et de l'Instruction Publique; Colonel Ismael Montes, Ministre de la Guerre.

BRÉSIL (AMAZONAS).

NOUVEAU CONTRAT.

D'après le nouveau contrat survenu entre le gouvernement de l'Etat et MM. FIORITA & CIE, les paquebots de ces armateurs feront deux voyages mensuels à Manaus, avec escales à Marseille, Barcelone, Tanger, Lisbonne, Leixoes, Ponta Delgada, Bélem, Parintins et Itacoatiara. De plus, la société établira à Rome, à Milan, à Turin et à Gênes quatre bureaux de propagande et de renseignements sur l'Etat d'Amazonas, où seront exposés les principaux produits naturels et de l'industrie amazonienne.

CHILI.

IMMENSES RICHESSES NON EXPLOITÉES DANS LE NORD DU CHILI.

L'ex-intendant de la province chilienne de Coquimbo, dans un rapport qu'il a adressé au Président de la République du Chili, a émis quelques considérations sur le conditionnement et les ressources des provinces chiliennes du Nord. Il commence par dire que, déjà depuis des années, il a lutté pour le développement des voies de communication qu'il a toujours considéré comme indispensable à la prospérité du pays. Entre Higuera et Vallemar, dit-il, il y a de riches gisements sans nombre de manganèse, de cuivre, d'argent et d'or, lesquels, s'ils pouvaient être ouverts à l'exploitation, amélioreraient de suite la situation financière du pays. Il y a du manganèse assez pour alimenter le monde entier; des filons de cuivre de telles dimensions, de telle abondance et de tel pourcentage que leur exploitation permettrait, au Chili, de recouvrer son ancien rang de fournisseur des 75 pour cent de la consommation du monde. Il n'insiste pas au sujet des mines d'argent de Coquimbo et d'Atacama, leur importance dit-il, étant universellement connue; mais ce qui n'est pas aussi généralement connu, ajoute l'ex-Intendant, c'est qu'il existe de l'or en si grande quantité que, si des moyens de communication étaient établis dans des conditions d'exploitation favorables, la production d'or serait égale en poids à la production actuelle d'argent.

D'après un ingénieur-expert qui a entendu en Europe et au Chili des rapports au sujet de la richesse des gisements compris entre Vallemar et Higuera, toutes les données seraient beaucoup en dessous de la vérité. Une exploration personnelle lui aurait prouvé que les filons s'étendent sur des longueurs de plusieurs kilomètres, que leur largeur varie entre 6 et 20 mètres, avec des profondeurs de 50, 100, 150 mètres, et même parfois d'avantage. La qualité de minerai est bonne et 10 à 15 pour cent de cuivre constituent le rendement moyen. Le même expert a exploré quelques collines, et il est convaincu qu'un beau jour elles produiront d'immenses quantités d'or. Le rendement moyen est estimé à 70 piastres or par tonne de minerai.

Par suite de la configuration géologique des collines et de l'absence de végétation, le travail d'exploitation est comparativement facile et sûr; mais, écrit l'ex-Intendant, rien ne peut être tenté avant qu'il n'y ait des moyens suffisants de communication. Par suite du manque de ces moyens, on voit des mines qui pourraient fournir du travail à plus de cinq cents ouvriers et dont le rendement pourrait être journalièrement de cent tonnes de minerai de cuivre de 8 à 9 pour cent, et qui n'emploient que douze ou quatorze ouvriers, extrayant par mois seulement quelques tonnes de minerai à rendement élevé, qui est la seule espèce de minerai qui puissent supporter les frais exorbitants de transport. Ces frais,

dit-il, peuvent être évalués à 20 piastres par tonne pour une distance de 60 kilomètres, prix qui se trouverait facilement réduit au dixième, soit à 2 piastres.

Il est vraiment déplorable, ajoute-t-il, d'entendre cette région, si richement douée par la nature, appelée un désert, alors qu'un chemin de fer qui pourrait être facilement construit, transformerait la contrée en une région des plus prospères du globe. Comme preuve de l'existence d'une pareille prospérité, il cite le cas d'une mine qui pourrait être prise comme spécimen de plusieurs autres, et dont les filons s'étendent sur 2 kilomètres avec une largeur de 6 mètres, une profondeur de 200 mètres, le rendement moyen étant de 5 pour cent. Ces chiffres représentent sept millions de tonnes de minerai, qui, sur la base de 5 pour cent, donneraient trois cent cinquante mille tonnes de cuivre d'une valeur totale de 300 millions de piastres. Il conclut en disant qu'on peut considérer que la contrée située entre Vallemar et Higuera est une des plus riches régions métallifères du monde, et que pour son développement il ne faut que des voies de communication.

MAISONS DE COMMERCE.

Les maisons s'occupant du commerce des tissus au Chili sont les suivantes :

Nom.	Localité.	Nom.	Localité.
Aguilar et Lohrinos ...	Valparaiso, Santiago et Concepcion.	Gleisner et Cie	Concepcion.
Bettely et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Francisco Garcia et Cie.	Iquique.
Miguel 2 ^e Cariola et Cie	Valparaiso.	Prudencela Dehoo et Cie.	Do.
Commauz et Metz	Do.	A. Brenner et Cie	Do.
Pra et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Alejandro Visscher et Cie.	Antofagasta, Arica et Molleuco.
James Goodie	Valparaiso.	Dauelsberg, Schuberling et Cie.	Do.
Ciriaco Sauz	Do.	Aramayo, Francke et Cie.	Do.
Simon et Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Virgilio, Baron y Haddada.	Coquimbo.
Mr. R. Curphey	Valparaiso.	Palassié et Lesté	Do.
Gunther, Vehrenset Cie	Valparaiso et Santiago.	Devés et Cie	Valparaiso.
Felimer et Cie	Do.		
Jouve et Gorlier	Do.		
Ernesto Muzae	Do.		
Biant Hermanos	Santiago.		
John Melrose et Cie ...	Do.		

Les grandes maisons d'importation sont en général des maisons étrangères, ayant en Europe des associés ou correspondants qui font leurs achats. Les affaires avec ces maisons se traitent donc par l'entremise de commissionnaires de Paris et d'autres places européennes. Le fabricant n'a pas à entrer en relations directes avec la maison d'importation au Chili.

Quand l'affaire est traitée sur place par l'entremise d'un agent ou représentant, c'est avec des maisons de moindre importance. Le fabricant peut faire traite sur ces maisons et faire accepter ces traites. Mais il faut remarquer qu'au Chili les maisons de détail sont obligées de faire des crédits excessivement longs et, par conséquent, de demander elles-mêmes aux fabricants des délais de paiement fort étendus. Pour

les affaires traitées sur place, il n'est donc pas toujours pratique de faire traite: l'acheteur signe le plus souvent de simples "pajares" (billets à ordre) renouvelables.

MEXIQUE.

UN SYNDICAT.

Les producteurs de tabac de l'Etat de Vera-Cruz se plaignent de ce que les negociants et speculateurs qui traitent spécialement sur cet article, se sont entendus à l'effet de ne plus se faire concurrence, dans le but de provoquer une baisse des prix. C'est ce qui explique pourquoi d'importants envois de tabacs sont faits en ce moment, à l'étranger et dans l'intérieur, à des prix bien au dessous des cours les plus bas enregistrés jusqu'à présent.

LE PAVAGE DE LA VILLE—ADJUDICATION IMPORTANTE.

Le Conseil Municipal de Mexico vient de lancer un avis, annonçant qu'il met en adjudication les travaux de pavage de toutes les rues de la ville. Après que ces travaux seront achevés l'adjudicataire devra s'engager à entretenir le pavage en bon état durant une période de dix ans. Les demandes d'adjudication doivent être adressées à M. le Secrétaire de la Municipalité dans les quatre mois qui suivent la publication de l'avis daté du 14 octobre 1899. Les soumissions doivent être présentées sous pli cacheté.

L'entrepreneur auquel seront adjugés les travaux devra effectuer un dépôt en garantie, dans l'une des formes suivantes:

- 1°. Cent mille piastres, en effectif, à la Banque Nationale.
- 2°. Ou deux cent mille piastres, en bons de la Dette Consolidée à la Banque Nationale;
- 3°. Ou cent mille piastres, souscrits à l'ordre du Conseil Municipal.
- 4°. Ou donner une hypothèque, sur une propriété quelconque, représentant la somme de \$100,000.

LE NOUVEAU QUAI DE PROGRESO.

Par suite de l'augmentation croissante du trafic des navires et du mouvement commercial dans le port de Progreso, il a été nécessaire d'y construire un nouveau quai. Celui-ci est maintenant terminé et sera inauguré dès que le Ministère des communications et travaux publics en aura approuvé la construction. Le nouveau quai appartient à la Compagnie du chemin de fer à voie étroite qui relie Progreso à Merida.

FONDATION D'UNE COLONIE ALLEMANDE À MEXICO.

Le "Nouveau Monde" du 11 novembre 1899 annonce qu'il est question de fonder une colonie allemande dans l'Etat de Tamaulipas, avec

les nombreuses familles de cette nationalité résidant dans les parties centrale et sud-ouest de l'Etat du Texas (Etats-Unis). Les chefs de ces colons se dédient de préférence à la culture du coton en employant les meilleures méthodes connues.

LE COMMERCE ENTRE MEXICO ET L'ESPAGNE.

Une grande augmentation a été constatée dans l'importation des produits mexicains à destination de l'Espagne. En août dernier, la valeur des marchandises expédiées s'élevait à \$143,170, tandis que durant le mois d'août de l'année précédente cette valeur n'atteignait que \$95,102. Les importations de marchandises espagnoles dans la République pour le même mois d'août 1899 ont été de \$170,808 (valeur de facture), soit en or, un excédent de \$114,313 sur les importations de la même provenance en août 1898. Dans les deux mois de juillet et d'août de cette année les importations d'Espagne ont atteint \$467,864.

ETATS-UNIS.

REVENUS INTÉRIEURS.

Dans son rapport au Ministre des Finances, sur les opérations de son bureau pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899, l'Honorable GEORGE W. WILSON, directeur des contributions indirectes, montre que les recettes de toutes sortes se montaient à \$273,484,573. Ces recettes dépassaient celles de l'année précédente de \$102,617,000 et surpassaient l'estimation du Directeur du mois de décembre 1898 de \$3,484,573. Les recettes provenant des différentes sources de revenus pendant l'année dernière étaient les suivantes :

Articles.	Recettes.	Augmen- tion.
Alcools	\$90,283,534	\$6,736,534
Tabac.....	52,493,297	16,262,665
Liqueurs fermentées.....	68,644,558	29,129,137
Oléomargarine.....	1,956,618	640,838
Fromage lait avec le lait crême.....	18,098	1,579
Farine mélangée.....	7,840	.....

¹ La loi n'étant pas en vigueur l'année dernière.

Taxes spéciales non énumérées ailleurs, \$4,941,541, la loi n'ayant été en vigueur que pendant une petite partie de l'année dernière; legs et part distributive de propriété personnelle, \$1,235,435; droits de timbre d'après la cédule A de la loi sur les revenus de la guerre, \$38,618,081; articles médicaux patentés et préparations de médecine qui, d'après la cédule B de la loi, doivent être sujets au timbre, \$5,219,737.

Parmi les collections énumérées ci-dessus sont compris:

Impôts sur les capitaux des banques, \$3,750,834; salles de billard, 367,074; agents de change, \$50,522; jeux de quille, \$61,349; cirques, \$18,233; toutes les autres représentations, \$126,540; divers, \$1,085,968.

Les articles retirés pour la consommation pendant l'année étaient les suivants avec les quantités pour chacune :

Aleools distillés provenant des fruits, 1,306,218 gallons; liqueurs fermentées, 36,518,114 barils; nombre de cigares de toutes sortes et poids, 1,077,387,824; nombre de cigarettes de toutes sortes et poids, 2,805,130,737; tabac à priser, 14,627,966 livres; tabac à chiquer et à fumer, 237,132,410 livres; oléomargarine, 80,495,628 livres; fromage fabriqué avec le lait stérémé, 1,688,641 livres.

Le montant de la somme totale dépensée pour faire rentrer les impôts pendant l'année s'élevait à \$4,591,754 ou 1.68 pour cent des reconvrements. Ce droit de commission est le plus petit qui ait jamais été atteint dans les annales du Bureau de Contributions Indirectes. Pour la dernière année fiscale, les frais atteignaient 2.29 pour cent des reconvrements. La dépense pour la prochaine année fiscale sera plus forte et est estimée à \$4,877,340. Quant à l'année terminant le 30 juin 1900, le Directeur estime que les recettes de toutes sortes approcheront la somme de \$285,000,000, soit un gain de plus de \$11,000,000 sur celles de 1899. Cette estimation est basée sur les recettes de 4 mois déjà connues.

Pendant l'année il y a eu 2,190 alambics illicites qui ont été saisis par les agents des contributions, et, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, un de ces receveurs fut tué et trois furent blessés; 711 personnes compromises dans cette affaire de distillation illicite furent arrêtées.

Parmi les recommandations du Directeur étaient les suivantes: Tous les bien-fonds aux Etats-Unis des personnes habitant à l'étranger au moment de leur mort doivent être taxés de la même façon que les propriétés des personnes résidant dans le pays; qu'il sera alloué aux acquéreurs d'estampilles particulières un escompte de 2 pour cent, pourvu que la quantité de timbres qu'ils achèteront ne soit pas au-dessous de 100 dollars; que les foires agricoles soient exemptes d'impôts; que les "profits qui n'ont point été partagés" doivent être considérés comme surplus en estimant la taxe que les banques doivent au Gouvernement; que la taxe sur les courtiers de commerce soit abolie ou que les autres genres d'affaires tels que: les marchands commissionnaires et les agents chargés de la vente et de la location des biens immeubles soient aussi requis de payer une taxe spéciale; que l'on fasse les changements nécessaires dans les lois existantes afin de permettre l'exportation avec les bénéfices d'une remise faite à l'exportateur des droits qu'il a payés pour les aleools distillés pourvu qu'ils soient mis dans les mêmes récipients où ils ont été placés par les rectificateurs et les marchands en gros, quand ils ont été reçus ou transférés sous les yeux d'un agent du Gouvernement; qu'une taxe spéciale qui ne devra pas être moindre de \$480 par an soit imposée aux distillateurs produisant des aleools distillés provenant de matières autres que les pommes, les pêches, les raisins, les poires, les ananas, les oranges, les abricots, les framboises et les prunes.

CONCURRENCE COMMERCIALE AVEC LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE.

Les plus hautes autorités commerciales de la Grande-Bretagne reconnaissent aujourd'hui la concurrence américaine comme le problème le plus sérieux demandant leur attention. Dans aucune autre branche d'industrie cette concurrence est aussi apparente que dans les manufactures de machines de toutes sortes aussi bien que dans certaines fabriques d'outils destinés à économiser la main-d'œuvre. Cette condition des affaires a conduit le "London Engineering" à publier une série d'articles, écrits par des citoyens des Etats-Unis et des écrivains anglais, qui ont étudié cette question d'une façon toute spéciale.

Dans une note préliminaire aux séries, l'éditeur du "Engineering" s'exprime ainsi: "Aucune question industrielle, en ce moment, n'a préoccupé aussi vivement les manufactures anglaises que celles qui se rapportent à la concurrence américaine. Quelques personnes disent encore que cette concurrence n'est pas naturelle, que pour empêcher nos pratiques d'acheter les marchandises anglaises, les Américains vendent à perte celles fabriquées aux Etats-Unis; que les articles imposés sur les marchés du monde, de préférence aux nôtres, sont de qualité inférieure et d'un moins bon usage; que cette phase sérieuse de manufacture et de commerce n'est que passagère, mais que ceux qui sont capables d'envisager la chose à un point de vue plus large, savent que de tels rapports sont faux; ils connaissent parfaitement que dans beaucoup de produits manufacturés, les Etats-Unis peuvent nous battre par rapport aux prix et nous égaler, au moins, quant à la qualité; ils savent qu'actuellement et aussi dans un futur très rapproché, la lutte pour la concurrence deviendra plus ardente et que les avantages qui en résulteront ne seront pas pour nous."

CONDITION DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES.

Le rapport du statisticien du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, pour le mois de novembre 1899, qui complète en pratique les statistiques de l'année, montre que l'année 1899 a été probablement celle qui a produit la plus grande quantité de maïs qui ait jamais été obtenue dans les annales du pays. Les rapports reçus indiquent une récolte moyenne de 25.2 boisseaux par acre, comparée avec l'estimation préliminaire de novembre 1898 qui était de 24.8 boisseaux. Quant à la qualité, la moyenne est 87.2 pour cent au lieu de 82.7 pour cent en novembre 1898. On estime que 5.9 pour cent de la récolte du maïs de 1898 était dans les mains des fermiers le 1^{er} novembre 1899, tandis que 7.25 pour cent de la récolte de 1897 y était le 1^{er} novembre 1898. Le rendement indiqué par acre dans les principaux Etats qui produisent le maïs était comme suit: Indiana, 37; Illinois, 35; Ohio, 34; Pennsylvanie, 31; Iowa, 31; Kansas, 29; Nebraska, 27, et Missouri 25 boisseaux. On ne connaît pas le nombre exact d'acres. En prenant pour base l'arpentage de l'année dernière, les chiffres du Gouvernement

indiquent une récolte de 1,958,588,881 boisseaux. Mr. HYDE, le statisticien, donne cependant à entendre que la superficie ensemencée en 1899 est plusieurs millions de fois plus grande que celle de 1898. La récolte totale en 1898 était de 1,924,184,660, tandis que celle de 1896 était de 2,283,875,000 boisseaux. On croit que le rendement pour 1899 dépassera les derniers chiffres d'environ 2,400,000,000 boisseaux, quand toutes les statistiques seront connues.

Le rendement moyen du blé-sarrasin avoise 17.2 boisseaux par acre au lieu de 17.3 en novembre 1898, et 16.5 boisseaux, la moyenne des moyennes du mois de novembre pendant 10 années. Quant à la qualité, la moyenne est 88.4 pour cent au lieu de 85.2 pour cent en 1898. Quoique le rendement de ce grain soit un tant soit peu plus grand que celui de l'année dernière, la contenance a diminué de plus de la moitié. La récolte est estimée à 5,897,000 boisseaux au lieu de 11,722,000 boisseaux en 1899.

Le rendement moyen des pommes de terre est évalué à 88.7 boisseaux par acre, qui surpasse de beaucoup la moyenne des moyennes préliminaires pendant les 10 dernières années. La moyenne au 1^{er} novembre 1898 était 75.2 boisseaux qui était aussi la moyenne pendant 10 années. Quant à la qualité, la moyenne était 91.4 comparée avec celle de novembre 1898 qui était 84.7. D'après l'estimation d'une moyenne de 2,534,577 acres, la récolte totale des pommes de terre sera de 224,816,979 boisseaux.

Le rendement moyen du foin, d'après les indications, est de 1.35 tonnes par acre, comparé avec celui de 1898 qui était de 1.55 tonnes, et 1.27 tonnes la moyenne des moyennes préliminaires pendant 10 années. La récolte du foin est estimée à 57,382,830 tonnes comparée avec celle de 1898 qui était de 66,377,000 tonnes, soit une diminution de 9,000,000 tonnes.

Quant aux fruits, la production, en ce qui concerne la récolte entière, était comme suit: Pommes, 47; poires, 47; raisins, 68.

La production de la canne à sucre, d'après les indications présentes, sera entièrement un quart moindre que celle de 1898.

Dans la Louisiane, l'Etat de la principale production, la diminution est de 30 pour cent, et dans les autres Etats qui produisent la canne à sucre il y a une réduction de 15 à 30 pour cent.

Le fait que l'estimation officielle préliminaire de la récolte du coton a été plusieurs fois au-dessous de l'estimation, c'est que, dans chaque cas, elle n'a pas été en rapport avec l'expansion rapide de l'aire productive. C'est pourquoi la très grande récolte de l'année dernière démontre clairement que la contenance a augmenté au delà des estimations commerciales et officielles; aussi était-on décidé cette année à faire une investigation toute spéciale sur l'entière situation du coton. L'année dernière on a trouvé que l'aire productive a été à peu près de 25,000,000 acres, et que pour la présente année elle est d'environ 23,500,000 acres; et il est probable que les statistiques finales montreront

rout que la contenance actuelle a été au-dessous plutôt qu'au-dessus des chiffres mentionnés.

Les investigations démontrent un des plus petits rendements moyens par acre dans beaucoup d'années, et en calculant la récolte à un maximum de 9,500,000 balles, on a tenu compte de la tendance qu'ont les pessimistes à regarder la situation à un mauvais point de vue, les indications actuelles indiquant une récolte de moins de 9,000,000 balles.

D'après le rapport du Statisticien du Département de l'Agriculture, du 15 décembre 1899, la récolte du blé des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 s'est montée à 547,300,000 boisseaux, ou 12.3 boisseaux par acre. La production du blé d'hiver est estimée à 291,700,000 boisseaux et celle du blé du printemps à 255,600,000 boisseaux. Chaque Etat important qui produit du blé a été visité par des agents spéciaux du Département, et les changements dans la contenance qui ont été opérés sont le résultat de leurs investigations.

La nouvelle aire ensemencée du blé d'hiver est estimée à 30,150,000 acres, qui est environ 200,000 acres de plus que celle ensemencée pendant l'automne de 1898. L'ensemencement du blé continue encore en Californie et quelques Etats du Sud, et leur estimation précédente est sujette à correction. La moyenne de la condition est 97.1.

RÉFRIGÉRATEURS FLOTTANTS.

Le rapport du Général F. H. STANTON, Payeur-Général de l'Armée des Etats-Unis, contient une note au sujet des bateaux réfrigérateurs de la Marine. Il dit que l'emploi de bateaux réfrigérateurs pour fournir de la viande fraîche aux vaisseaux à Manille a donné les résultats les plus satisfaisants. Par suite de la manière dont ils sont aménagés, ces trois vapeurs en service suppléent, non seulement aux besoins de la Marine, mais ils transportent encore de grandes quantités de provisions destinées à l'Armée dans les Iles Philippines.

EXPORTATION D'HORLOGES, DE MONTRES ET DE BIJOUTERIES.

Le "Jewelers' Circular" du 22 novembre 1899 attire l'attention sur la popularité toujours croissante dont jouissent sur les marchés étrangers les horloges, les montres et la bijouterie fabriquées dans les Etats-Unis. Les statistiques sur les exportations, compilées dernièrement, pendant les deux derniers exercices en fournissent la preuve.

Pendant l'exercice finissant le 30 juin 1899, les exportations de pendules se sont élevées à \$1,043,621 au lieu de \$953,557 pour l'exercice précédent. Pendant l'exercice 1899 on a exporté des montres pour une valeur de \$819,810, soit une augmentation de \$47,898 sur l'année antérieure. En 1899 les exportations de bijouterie ont atteint le chiffre de \$729,194 au lieu de \$555,719 en 1898. Quant aux autres articles en or et en argent, le chiffre s'est élevé de la différence entre \$192,061 en 1898 à \$233,962 en 1899. Il y a quelques années seulement les Etats-Unis importaient la plus grande partie d'horloges, montres et bijoux en usage.

CHARRUE AUTOMOBILE.

Le Dr. R. J. GATLING, inventeur de l'arme à feu qui porte son nom, vient d'inventer une charrue automobile. Cette machine est construite sur le plan de l'automobile ordinaire avec des disques arrangés de façon à faire le travail des outils dont on se sert actuellement. La machine doit être manœuvrée par une personne. On assure que la machine peut produire le même travail que huit hommes et douze chevaux. On peut se servir de gasoline ou d'huile de pétrole, comme force motrice. On peut aussi l'employer pour mettre en mouvement une batteuse mécanique ou un égrenoir de maïs. Il y a une autre machine destinée à être employée dans les champs de coton pour élaguer les plantes quand elles commencent à pousser.

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M. J. FRITS, l'intelligent éditeur français qui a publié tant d'ouvrages scientifiques et industriels, vient de faire paraître un nouvel ouvrage de M. F. HERBET qui a pour titre: "Manuel de culture pratique et commerciale du caoutchouc." Nul livre jusqu'ici n'avait, sous un format aussi commode, disposé de façon plus claire, plus méthodique, plus rationnelle, traité les questions de production, de culture, de récolte et d'appropriation de la gomme, dès à présent indispensable aux industriels.

L'ouvrage se divise en trois parties, dont la première a pour objet la revue des diverses espèces d'arbres producteurs et la désignation de l'espèce la plus pratique à cultiver selon la situation géographique des terrains de culture.

La deuxième partie traite des divers modes d'entailler les arbres pour en recueillir le latex.

Le Chapitre IV surtout, par sa nouveauté, en est intéressant; l'auteur s'y étend longuement sur les diverses façons de coaguler et d'aseptiser les latex; il énumère les diverses substances à employer pour obtenir un résultat satisfaisant.

Sous le titre "Résumé pratique," le Chapitre V donne tous les renseignements nécessaires pour l'installation et l'exploitation rationnelle d'une culture d'arbres à caoutchouc.

La troisième partie a pour objet l'étude des pays producteurs et de leur commerce.

L'auteur termine ce volume en donnant des indications précieuses et pratiques pour l'analyse rapide des latex et des caoutchoucs, des formules de colles caoutchoutées, notamment celles employées pour les pneumatiques des vélocipèdes.

La "Magazine McChure" contient dans son numéro du mois de décembre un article illustré par "RAY STANNARD BAKER," intitulé: "Le Mou-

vement du blé." Ce sujet s'occupe d'une manière toute particulière des lieux de production, de la quantité des grains récoltés, des machines, des méthodes de distribution et de la rapidité de la consommation. L'auteur dit qu'il y a à présent environ 517,000,000 consommateurs de pain dans le monde entier et que chacun d'eux—hommes, femmes et enfants—consomme en moyenne un baril de farine ($4\frac{1}{2}$ boisseaux de blé) tous les ans. Les Français, les Anglais et les habitants des Etats-Unis consomment plus que la moyenne. En prenant cette moyenne comme base, 2,300,000,000 boisseaux de blé sont nécessaires chaque année pour faire face à cette consommation. "Quand les champs de blé du monde entier produisent cette quantité, il y a partout de l'abondance et de la prospérité; quand la production est moindre, il y a de la souffrance et de la disette." La Grande-Bretagne consomme toute sa récolte de blé en 13 semaines. Si on pouvait faire un blocus complet du Royaume-Uni, sa population serait à coup sûr complètement détruite par la famine dans l'espace de trois mois. Il en est de même pour tous les pays de l'Europe occidentale.

Le grand mouvement d'exportation des blés provient des Etats-Unis, de la République Argentine et du Chili, tout en étant un peu moindre pour ces deux dernières contrées. Tout ce blé se dirige à l'est et au nord dans les grandes villes du Vieux Monde. La Chine, qui jusqu'ici s'était contentée d'un régime de riz, a éprouvé dernièrement le besoin de goûter la farine de blé, et si tous ses habitants mangeaient le pain de farine, elle pourrait, à elle seule, consommer toute la récolte actuelle du monde, et malgré cela serait encore affamée. Pour faire face à ses besoins, l'Europe ne produit jamais assez de blé, même en comptant les récoltés des vastes plaines de la Russie. Si, par hasard, un conflit venait à éclater entre les Etats-Unis et l'Europe coalisée, le premier pays pourrait, par la simple cessation du mouvement d'exportation des blés, contribuer en grande partie à remporter la victoire.

Il n'y a que cinq pays en Europe dont la production de blé dépasse la consommation. Ce sont la Russie, la Hongrie, la Serbie, la Bulgarie et la Roumanie, mais l'excédent de leur production ne pourrait suffire qu'à la Hollande, la Belgique, la Scandinavie et la Suisse. Les Etats-Unis avec leurs énormes récoltes sont devenus, par conséquent, le pays le plus commerçant du monde. Les statistiques suivantes peuvent donner une idée de ce qu'on exige des Etats-Unis: Pour nourrir 74,000,000 personnes (population estimée en 1899) à $4\frac{1}{2}$ boisseaux chacune, il faut 333,000,000 boisseaux; pour l'ensemencement de 47,000,000 acres en blé, à $1\frac{1}{2}$ boisseaux l'acre, 70,500,000 boisseaux sont nécessaires, soit un grand total de 403,500,000 boisseaux. L'article de M. BAKER renferme une grande quantité de faits et de chiffres arrangés de façon à instruire le lecteur tout en l'intéressant, même s'il n'est pas captivé par l'importance du sujet.

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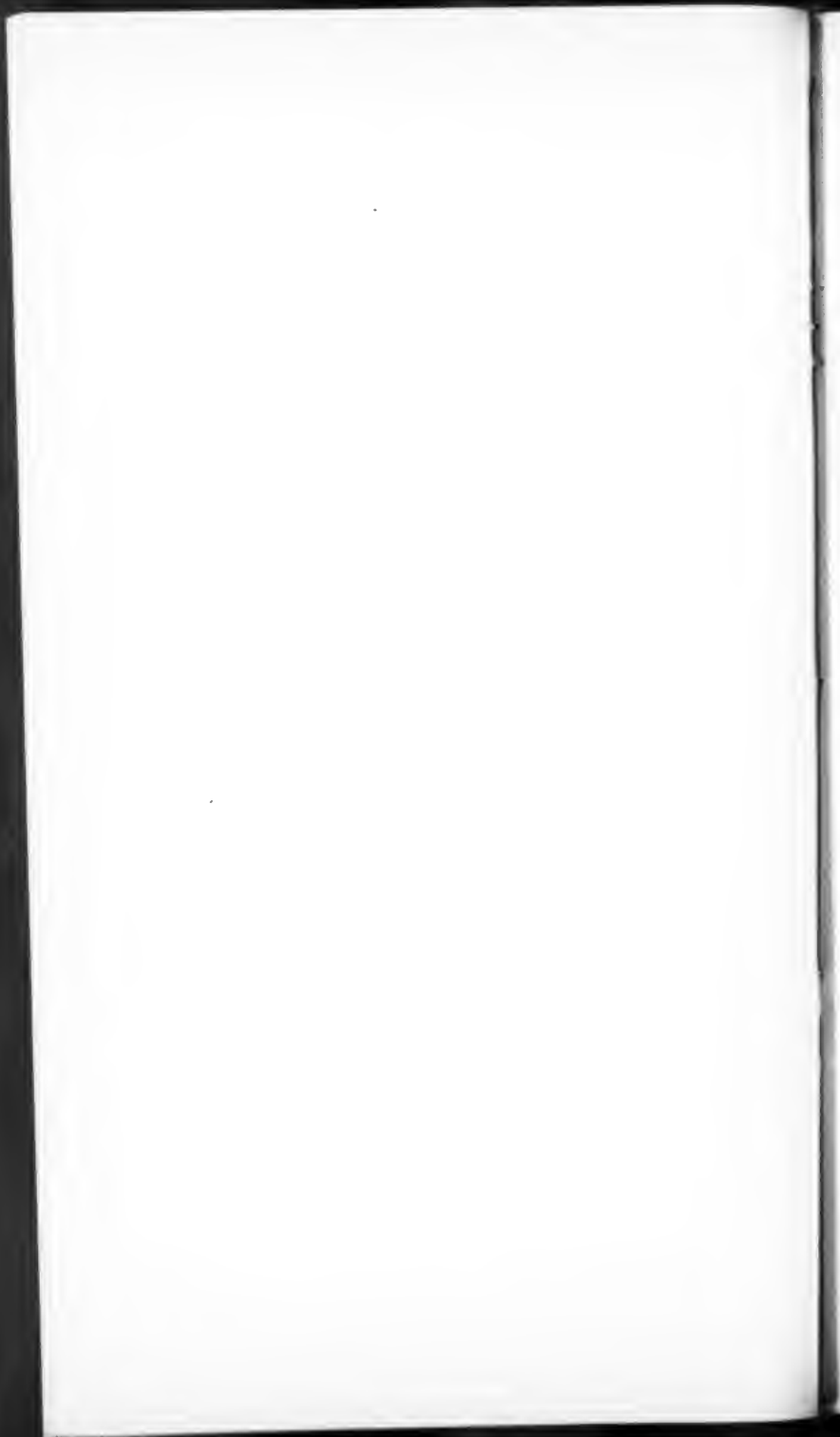
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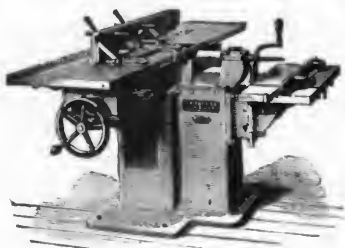
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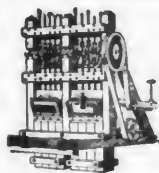
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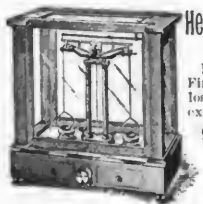
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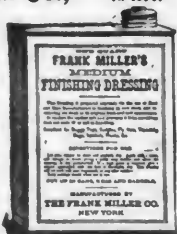
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