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1900.

A

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per
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1930

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33.	Apollo, esmaltados, la superficie aluminosa	10.20
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144.	Tennis, tamaño español, esmaltados	21.60
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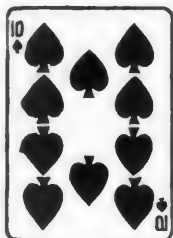
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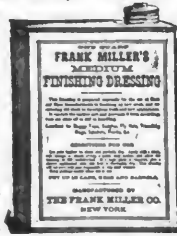
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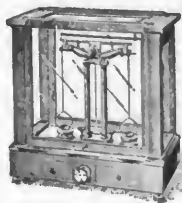
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UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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.

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Buenos Ayres.
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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.
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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—

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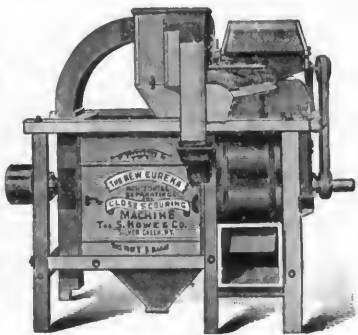
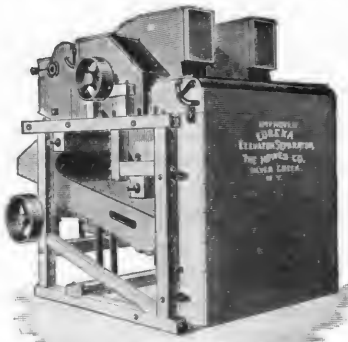
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MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VIII.

APRIL, 1900.

No. 4.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

FOREIGN TRADE IN 1899.

According to recent statistics in the "La Plata Post." the foreign trade of the Argentine Republic in 1899, the imports as well as the exports, especially the latter, shows a large increase as compared with 1898. The imports in 1899 (exclusive of gold and silver specie, which was \$2,371,777, as against \$7,298,901 in 1898) were as follows:

Dutiable goods, \$102,080,738, and nondutiable goods, \$14,769,933, against the following in 1898: Dutiable goods, \$93,988,545, and nondutiable goods, \$13,440,355.

The total value of the importations during the year 1899—\$116,850,671—was \$9,421,771 higher than the total for the year 1898, when the amount was \$107,428,900.

The exports during the year 1899 (exclusive of gold and silver specie, which amounted to \$231,575, as against \$1,572,772 in 1898) were as follows:

Dutiable goods, \$100,868,723, and nondutiable goods, \$84,049,108, against the following exportations in 1898: Dutiable goods, \$71,472,647, and nondutiable goods, \$62,356,811.

The total value of the exports was \$184,917,531, as against \$133,829,458 for 1898, an increase over the latter year of \$51,088,073. This increase is due chiefly to the exportation of live stock and live stock products, which appear in the report as amounting to \$115,549,906 in 1899, an increase over 1898 of \$28,165,281. The exports of agricultural products also show a remarkable increase, namely, \$22,463,073. The several countries with which the Argentine Republic maintains trade relations are as follows, with the extent of the trade with each in the

year 1899 as compared with the year 1898, the values being expressed in Argentine gold:

	1899.		1898.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
Great Britain	\$43,671,421	\$21,721,591	\$39,012,600	\$19,205,366
United States	15,466,846	7,667,523	11,129,075	5,874,295
Italy	13,780,072	4,926,612	13,695,211	5,256,054
Germany	12,979,937	29,433,663	12,571,116	20,286,338
France	10,979,690	41,446,747	10,596,725	29,981,056
Belgium	9,410,479	21,478,370	9,444,981	13,949,751
Brazil	4,806,116	7,011,668	5,012,115	7,916,301
Spain	3,197,882	1,765,391	3,315,470	387,998
Paraguay	1,371,619	177,974	1,757,439	144,168
Uruguay	606,967	3,481,348	470,901	3,683,275
The Netherlands	143,056	1,481,526	109,881	391,232
Chile	142,309	659,924	82,772	1,354,494
Portugal	98,063	72,184	71,984	11,597
Bolivia	78,385	332,129	57,208	408,313
Antilles	44,098	265,939	27,643	162,397
Other countries	173,761	11,421,567	70,749	7,100,100
Orders		28,543,375		9,939,048

EFFECTS OF THE HEAT IN BUENOS AYRES.

With regard to the period of excessive heat, which had occurred just previous to February 16, 1900, the "Southern Cross" of that date says: "The heat wave stayed long enough in Buenos Ayres to kill about 200 people. The exact details of mortality have not yet been published, and probably will never be fully known, but approximate figures have been compiled by persons who have had the means of knowing what took place, and their tale is certainly a tragic one. It seems that there were about 1,200 cases of sun sickness—that is, cases of heat prostration and sunstroke—and of these over 200 proved fatal. A committee of doctors specially named for the purpose have carried out an inquiry into the nature of the fatal sickness which in the space of a few days prostrated so many hundreds of people. They have unanimously arrived at the conclusion that the trouble was not any plague or mischievous contagion, as so many panic-stricken people supposed, but the effect of excessive and humid heat. They point out that important factors in the virulent development of the sickness were the unhealthy conditions of life in portions of the city and the bad quality of stimulants consumed by the poorer classes."

POLICY OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

"La Nación," of Buenos Ayres, for January 24, 1900, contains an article regarding the arrival of the new Minister of Agriculture, Señor MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, formerly Argentine Minister in Washington, in which article that gentleman expresses his intention of giving preferred attention, in the conduct of the business of the Department over which he is to preside, to the pastoral and agricultural interests. With respect to the former he is reported as saying that his best efforts will

be directed toward the adoption of better transportation facilities for cattle on the hoof. Regarding the latter, especially cereals, the new Minister is a decided partisan of elevators, regretting that the country should be still deprived of the great benefits to be derived from their use. He will also take a deep interest in arboriculture and the preservation of forests. The ex-diplomat manifested his kindly feelings for the Government of the United States and the people of Washington, where, he said, attentions and courtesies were lavished upon him during the four years of his residence there, as well as at the time of his departure.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR.

The general appropriation act to cover the expenses of the Argentine Government for the present fiscal year shows totals of expenditures amounting to \$94,271,309.80 national currency and \$23,819,978.61 gold. The Executive Power promises to reduce the grand total by \$5,000,000 through the operations of a decree the Treasury Department has now under examination.

ELECTRIC PLANT FOR BUENOS AYRES.

The "Review of the River Plate," in its issue of February 3, 1900, published an extract of a decree, dated December 29, 1899 (referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900), calling for tenders for the establishment of an electric plant for the city of Buenos Ayres, which is as follows:

"The Buenos Ayres Municipality is now calling for tenders for the establishment of an electric light and power station for supplying the whole of the city with public electric lighting and power. The following are the conditions:

"Tenders to state the price per unit in the generating station, in the transformer stations, and in the houses. A price also to be given for the public lighting, to include the price of the current, the installation of lamps, etc., and the working and preservation. Prices to be on a sliding scale. Full particulars to be given as to tension, etc. The tenders, which include the conditions on which the company will work the station, will be given preference. The tenders in this form can include the cost of erecting a municipal station with three-phase high-tension plant, the proposers working the station during the period of amortization of the capital with a minimum price per kilowatt hour based on an output of 6,000 horsepower, in units of 2,000 horsepower, more or less, public lighting for all night, etc. In this case the municipality will provide the necessary land. The public lighting, according to the Director of Public Lighting, will require from 8,000 to 10,000 arc lamps, of 10 amperes, and the mains are to spread over

the entire municipality and suburbs. The scheme resolves itself into the following: The municipality will give preference to those tenders which agree to the transfer of the entire undertaking to the municipality at a certain period, the system to be high tension, with a regular system of rotary converters, etc., and all the public lighting to be by means of continuous-current arc lamps. The situation of the station to be at the South Dock."

EXPORTS OF LIVE STOCK.

According to the figures compiled by the statistical section of the Department of Agriculture, the exports of live stock through the ports of La Plata and Buenos Ayres during January last were as follows: Cattle, 13,682; sheep, 61,933; horses, 1,565. Of the horses 1,047 were destined for South African ports. During the second half of 1899 the largest shipment of cattle was during the month of November, when 4,812 head were sent to foreign countries.

FATE OF THE IBARRETA EXPEDITION.

The newspapers of the Argentine Republic have printed all the known details of the tragic fate of the expedition led by ENRIQUE IBARRETA, a civil engineer who set out on May 8, 1898, to descend the Pilcomayo River from its source in the mountains of Bolivia through the plain of the Gran Chaco to the Paraguay. Two of the party reached Asunción on December 21, seeking relief for the expedition, which had surveyed the river for 400 miles and had reached the swamps of Patino, 200 miles above the Paraguay. Their supplies of provisions gave out, and game was not sufficiently abundant to support the party. The leader sent eight men down the river to procure relief, while he and two companions remained with the boats. For a number of days the eight men had no food and six of them perished, the two who reached Paraguay being in a terrible condition.

Dr. JOSÉ MONTERO was sent up to Pilcomayo with food supplies and found abundant evidence that IBARRETA and his two companions had been massacred and their two small boats destroyed by Indians. Thus nine out of eleven members of the party perished, and the records of the expedition were all destroyed.

TELEGRAPHY IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AYRES.

The Department of Telegraphs in the Province of Buenos Ayres has published its report for 1899. The length of telegraph lines is 4,771 kilometers, while the total length of wires employed is 6,941 kilometers, valued at \$1,366,350 national currency. There are 104 offices in the service, of which 76 work until 8 p. m., 25 till midnight, and 3 are open continuously, day and night. The instruments employed include

163 Morse, 23 transmitting, and 58 commutators, making a total of 244. The number of employees was 479. The total amount of working expenses was \$594,380 national currency, and the number of telegrams sent was 1,412,991. The revenues amounted to \$505,787.53, a decrease of \$88,705 as compared with 1898.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT AT SAN BOROMBON.

The "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, in its issue of March 22, 1900, states that the law voted by the Argentine Congress for the construction of a commercial port in the bay of San Borombon, near the thirty-sixth parallel of south latitude, on the coast of the Argentine Republic, was promulgated on the 18th of January.

According to this law the concessioners will obtain possession of 1,500 meters along the Atlantic coast for the construction of the port, which will embrace a series of quays, with truck lines, hydraulic cranes, warehouses, etc., and they will become owners of all the land which they will need to occupy on the ocean in the execution of the work.

The harbor must be constructed so as to receive vessels of a draft of 30 feet, and the entrance, harbor, warehouse, and other duties which will be collected on vessels making use of this port will be submitted for the approval of the National Government, and can not in any case exceed those collected for the same services in the Buenos Ayres harbor. At the expiration of the concession, which is for ninety-nine years, the port and its annexes will become the property of the State.

REPORT OF BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

On March 30, 1900, the Great Southern Railway Company announced an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent per annum, with £76,000 carried forward. In the corresponding half of 1898 the net profit was £319,000, the dividend was 6 per cent, and the balance carried forward was £38,000. The increase in net earnings of this railway for the half year was apparently £112,000, the gross earnings having increased about £180,000. For 1898-99 the company paid a 7 per cent dividend, having distributed 6 per cent for the first half and 8 per cent for the second half of the year.

REPORT OF BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY.

The report of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Limited, for the half year closing with December 31, 1899, states that the increase in the gross receipts was £74,543, equal to 21.51 per cent, and the increase in the net profit was £48,888, or 29.46 per cent. The number of miles now open for traffic is 569, exclusive of the 33 miles worked as part of the Ensenada section. The working expenses amount to 48.98 per cent, as compared with 52.11 per cent in 1898. The results of the

half year's working of the railway show an increase of £74,543 in the gross receipts and, after making adequate provision for the various renewal funds, an increase in the working expenses of £25,655, leaving an increase in the net profit of £48,888. There is an improvement in almost every branch of traffic with the exception of the number of passengers carried, and the decrease in this is accounted for by the fact that the Temperley-La Plata line is now incorporated in the Ensenada section. After providing for the fixed charges, there remains an available balance of £154,878, out of which the board has decided to pay an interim dividend for the half year of 6s. per share, equal to a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent per annum on the ordinary share capital, carrying forward a balance of £49,878.

THE BUENOS AYRES ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

According to the "New York Journal of Commerce," the Buenos Ayres Electric Tramways Company, Limited, was formed in London in March to take over the concession for a system of electric tramways granted to Mr. Charles Bright, an American engineer, by the municipality of Buenos Ayres. The company has a capital of £350,000, divided into equal proportions of 6 per cent cumulative preferred and common shares, at £5 each. The preferred shares are now offered for subscription, together with an issue of £175,000 five per cent first mortgage debentures, repayable at £105 in 1935, or before that date on six months' notice.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A correspondent of the "London Times," under date of March 20, 1900, writes from Buenos Ayres, that it is semiofficially admitted that the foot-and-mouth disease in cattle prevails in the southern districts of that Province. The information was added that the Government had adopted strict measures tending to prevent the propagation of the disease by isolating infected districts and by sacrificing all animals affected. An additional message, dated March 27, stated that the disease was fast disappearing, and that it was believed to have been a simple distemper, as sheep and pigs were not affected.

"La Nación," of Buenos Ayres, says, under date of February 6, that there had been organized in that city a syndicate of Peruvian capitalists, of which the vice-president of the Republic, Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA, is the president, to extend the Oroya railroad to the Pasco mountains, and operate the mines there.

Señor MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU, the new Minister of Agriculture, after conferring with the Governor of the Territory of Misiones, promised to visit the said Territory during the coming winter, and that an agricultural college should be established in the city of Cordoba.

According to the "Rio News" there are five canvas factories in Buenos Ayres, with a capital of \$2,500,000, the yearly output being 4,500,000 yards. The number of persons employed is 2,000, of whom 1,800 are women and children.

Mr. E. L. CORNELL, an engineer of the United States, has been appointed as Chief of the Hydraulic Department of the Ministry of Public Buildings, at a salary of £3,000 per annum, as reported by the "La Plata Post."

DRS. ANTONIO GAUDOLFO and BALDOMEN SOMMER have been appointed as representatives of the Argentine Republic at the International Medical Congress to be held at Paris, France, in August, 1900.

Reports received by the newspapers of Europe state that for five days previous to March 30 continuous rain caused much damage in the Argentine Republic. Many villages were reported to be under water.

The official report of the Stock Exchange of Buenos Ayres for 1899 shows that there were 4,627 members. The speculation during the year amounted to \$548,947,690 gold.

The "Argentinisches Wogenblatt" states that it is proposed to build a canal connecting the Bay of Talcahuano with that of San Vicente. The cost of the project is estimated at 10,000,000 *pesos*.

The University of Zurich has conferred the honorary degree of doctor upon Señor SANTIAGO ROTH, a well-known South American author.

BOLIVIA.

THE LEADING EXPORTS.

A correspondent of the "South American Journal," writing from Sucre, on February 4, 1900, calculates the annual value of exports from Bolivia at about £5,000,000 and the imports at about £3,000,000. The revenue received from all sources by the Government in 1899 was estimated by the Minister of Finance at £7,000,000, an increase of £2,500,000 over the receipts for the year 1898. The correspondent states that the silver production of Bolivia for the years 1893-1897 averaged 10,000 standard ounces. Tin, he says, is now a more important export than silver, and in 1899 must have reached 14,000 or 15,000 tons. The exports of rubber amounted to about 3,000,000 kilos. The other exports were copper, antimony, gold, bismuth, alpaca wool, furs, hides, cacao, coffee, and quinia bark.

REMOVAL OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Hon. GEORGE H. BRIDGMAN, United States Minister to Bolivia, reports that the governmental departments of that Republic were removed from Sucre to La Paz on February 1, 1900. By a Presidential decree, the latter city has been declared to be the seat of Government for Bolivia.

COLLEGE OF MINES.

An item in the budget for the present fiscal year carries an appropriation of 50,000 *bolivars* for the establishment of a college of mines to be located in the city of Oruro.

BRAZIL.

VALUE OF IMPORTS AT RIO DURING 1899.

The custom-house has published the following statement of the official value of dutiable imports at Rio de Janeiro during the year 1899:

Country of shipment.	Milreis.	Country of shipment.	Milreis.
British Empire	88,812,415.426	Chile	1,076,740.851
Germany	23,580,818.871	Austria	422,647.774
France	23,217,128.872	Holland	197,195.783
Argentine Republic	20,964,903.025	Sweden	168,194.400
United States	17,866,616.185	Switzerland	162,845.316
Uruguay	14,467,711.765	Japan	10,839.166
Portugal	12,883,110.420	Other countries	32,362.010
Belgium	8,893,784.355		
Italy	5,896,769.865	Total	220,686,984.492
Spain	2,058,900.408		

The nondutiable imports for 1899 were subsequently reported to have been valued as follows:

Country of shipment.	Milreis.	Country of shipment.	Milreis.
British Empire	5,394,560.228	Italy	24,350.866
Germany	1,513,537.615	Spain	320.000
France	329,342.954	Chile	1,600.000
Argentine Republic	328,417.000	Austria	44,269.600
United States	306,327.040	Holland	62.500
Uruguay	4,410.000		
Portugal	41,422.085	Total	8,675.072
Belgium	687,251.184		

REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CAMPOS SALLES.

The "New York Tribune" of April 2, 1900, contains a reported interview, on February 22, between a representative of the Associated Press and Dr. CAMPOS SALLES, President of the Republic of Brazil. In this it is stated that the President said: "The great need of Brazil is to furnish new markets and to enlarge the former ones for her

coffee. Of course you will understand that I can not speak of all the diplomatic measures taken to advance this cause in Europe, but 'Centro da Lavoura do Café' has taken charge of the propoganda in Europe. I am informed that in Germany, Italy, and especially in Spain, everything is progressing wonderfully. It is almost certain that commercial conventions will be made by which Belgium will take all the coffee, if not far more than has been heretofore taken by Havre, while shipments to Hamburg, Genoa, Trieste, Fiume, Barcelona, and Spanish ports will be increased more than double what has been sent to other French ports. Already arrangements have been made with the German, Austrian, Italian, and other lines of steamers to open direct lines with Santos, Rio de Janeiro, and Bahia on the Brazilian end, and Cadiz, Valencia, and Barcelona at the Spanish end.

"I am sure that I am not unduly sanguine when I say that should France continue to insist on her present policy she alone will lose by her want of foresight. From Belgium, Spain, Italy, and other countries the French consumers of coffee will receive their usual, if not far larger, quantities of our coffee at a price far below what they now pay, while all the trade between France and Brazil in articles bought at present in Paris can be furnished us just as well by London, Berlin, and other European markets.

"The present policy of Spain, after losing all her coffee and sugar producing colonies, is highly profitable, not only to her different markets, but also to ours. The policy of Italy is also favorable to the growth of our trade and likewise to all the ports of the Mediterranean. We have already powerful aids in the Lloyds of Austria and the Royal Hungarian Schir, which are already making voyages between Brazil and the ports of the Levant, where we expect to extend the sale of our coffee to Constantinople as well as to other cities. Early in May, and perhaps in April, we hope to be able to show a great improvement in our foreign trade."

The correspondent continues, saying that he had received a telegram from Paris on the day of writing, stating that M. CAILLAUX, the Minister of Finance in France, had resolved to double the duty on Brazilian coffee, and requesting Dr. CAMPOS SALLES to state what would be the policy of the Brazilian Government in such an event, and what would be the results financially and commercially to Brazil and France. His excellency stated that the two Governments were still in the act of negotiating in regard to the question of coffee; in fact, the Brazilian Government required a decrease of at least 30 per cent on the actual tariff to begin with. The system of maximum and minimum tariff was adopted in France in 1892, and Brazil, in adopting the same system, had no intention of making reprisals, but meant simply to oblige those countries that employed a prohibitive duty to modify the practice or suffer the consequences.

If the facts stated in the telegram are true, then the series of articles published in the "Siecle" and the act, called by M. YVES GUYOT an "act of madness" on the part of the Minister of Finance, would cause the ruin of French trade with Brazil, without in any way affecting Brazil. The only sufferer would be France, which would be compelled to procure new customers for about 7,000,000 *frances* worth of cloths and trimmings, the same amount for toys, brushes, etc.; 6,000,000 *frances* worth of prepared skins, the same amount for butter, the same amount, respectively, for cotton goods and ready-made clothes; 3,000,000 *frances* worth of wine; 2,500,000 *frances* worth of paper, cards, etc.; over 2,000,000 *frances* worth, respectively, of metal products and of drugs and medicines; 1,000,000 *frances* worth of machinery, and for many millions of *frances* worth of silks, glassware, hardware, saddles, perfumery, etc. Dr. CAMPOS SALLES refused to believe that France would adopt so suicidal a policy toward a country that is, if possible, more French in its habits, policy, and manners than Portuguese, having even adopted July 14 as a national festival.

The President exhibited statistics proving that the policy supposed to have been adopted to protect the coffee-growing colonies of France does not even benefit her colonies, and that out of about 1,500,000 bags of coffee used in France no more than 15,000 bags are produced by those colonies; the President affirmed that in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, there are hundreds of *fazendas* that produce over 20,000 bags of coffee each.

CONSEQUENCES OF A FRANCO-BRAZILIAN TARIFF CONFLICT.

The "Revue du Commerce Extérieur," of Paris, in commenting upon the consequences of a commercial conflict between France and Brazil, says in part as follows:

"At a time when the duty on coffee threatens to bring on a tariff war between France and the Republic of Brazil, it is interesting to show the respective importance of the commercial traffic between the two countries.

"During the year 1899 the coffee received directly from Brazil and consumed by France amounted to about 11,900,000 *frances*, crude rubber to 11,900,000 *frances*, raw ox hides to 8,620,000 *frances*, cacao to 7,631,000 *frances*, and leaf tobacco to 3,781,000 *frances*. Brazil also sent to France cabinet woods, cattle horns, rock crystal, tapioca, *piassova* fibers, and some other articles, which, considered separately, do not represent a value of one-half million *frances*. The Brazilian imports into France amounted to 70,199,000 *frances*, an apparent increase of 2,365,000 *frances*, without taking into consideration the variations in the prices which occurred in 1899.

"Coffee, cacao, and tapioca are the only articles submitted to customs duties, or rather fiscal taxes, collected at the frontier. Tapioca,

taxed at the rate of 8 *francs* the quintal, was the only one to pay a regular duty equivalent to 8 to 9 per cent of its value. The imports of this article are unimportant (39,000 kilograms).

"In 1898 Brazilian products to the value of 26,000,000 *francs* entered free of duty. French exportation to Brazil is less affected by the variations in prices, due to the fact that it embraces a greater variety of merchandise and because these articles are for the most part made up; that is to say, less dependent upon the fluctuations in prices.

"In 1889 the French exportations to Brazil amounted to 70,000,000 *francs*, in 1891 to 103,000,000, and in 1894 to 80,000,000. Since that time the value of Brazil as a market for French products has steadily decreased. In 1895 the trade amounted to 76,000,000 *francs*, in 1896 to 68,500,000, in 1897 to 61,000,000, and in 1898 to 55,337,000.

"The year 1899 was a little better, the shipments of French products to Brazil amounting to 56,588,000 *francs*. These products were, in the order of their importance, wearing apparel and underwear, woolen goods, Paris articles, salted butter, prepared skins, tissues, trimmings, and cotton ribbons, wines, cardboard, paper, books and engravings, medicinal preparations, tools and objects in metal, pottery, glass, and crystal, gold and silver jewelry, machinery and potatoes.

"The greater part of these articles found a much smaller demand in 1899 than in the year before, but a large increase in favor of ready-made articles balanced the losses. Cotton goods, medicinal preparations, and jewelry have also profited by an increase in trade."

The article terminates by saying that French commerce would profit particularly by the conclusion of a reciprocity treaty granting simultaneous reductions of the customs duties in Brazil and of the coffee duties in France.

REDUCTION OF FREIGHT RATES ON COFFEE.

The Central Commission of Brazilian Coffee Growers (Centro da Lavoura do Café do Brazil) has announced that the Austrian Lloyd and Royal Hungarian Adriatic Steamship companies trading regularly between Brazilian ports and the ports of Fiume and Trieste, had agreed to make a special reduction of 50 per cent on the freight rates of all coffee shipped by the above-named commission to the ports indicated, and also to the ports of the Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Black seas.

At a meeting of this association held at Rio de Janeiro on the 14th of February, 1900, it was resolved to adopt a special mark or stamp to be placed on coffee destined for the propaganda abroad. The stamp is to be in the form of a star. On the points of the star are to be engraved the names of those States of Brazil which are the largest producers of coffee—São Paulo, Rio, Minas Geraes, Espirito Santo, and Bahia. The center contains the word "Brazil," and just below is

reserved a space to affix the name of the particular State in which the coffee in the respective receptacles was produced.

DEATH OF MINISTER CORREA.

The Brazilian Minister at the Court of St. James, *Conselheiro DE SOUZA CORREA*, was found dead at his residence in London on the morning of March 23, 1900. The Minister was in seemingly good health when he retired to his apartments the previous night.

Conselheiro JOÃO ARTHUR DE SOUZA CORREA was descended from an old and distinguished Portuguese family. He was born in Brazil in 1836 and was educated in France. After his graduation he entered the Brazilian Navy, serving for one year, when he obtained permission to serve as a volunteer with the French fleet. During this service he was on the corvette *Chaptal* and took part in the Crimean war.

His first experience in diplomatic life was his appointment to an humble position in the Brazilian Legation at London in 1859. Four years later he was attached to the Legation in Paris. In 1867 he was again sent to London, remaining as First Secretary until 1885. In that year he was appointed *Chargé d'Affaires* in Paraguay, but did not proceed to that Republic because of his advancement to the position of Minister Resident in Spain. Afterwards *Senhor CORREA* was sent on a special mission to the Holy See, and in 1888 was appointed *Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary* to Washington. He did not, however, proceed to the United States, but was again dispatched to Rome for the Papal Jubilee. Early in 1890 he was appointed as *Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary* to the Court of Saint James, where he has since remained, though, in 1899, he was also accredited as Brazilian Minister to The Hague.

THE TOCANTINS RIVER.

In a recent number of the "*Mouvement Géographique*," published at Brussels, Belgium, attention is called to a remarkable blunder in most of the geographies of the world in regard to one of the principal rivers and river systems in Brazil. This is the Tocantins River, which most geographers, especially those of Europe, have regarded as merely a tributary of the Amazon instead of being, as it is, an independent river basin. A geography just published in England, for instance, says that "the Tocantins forms a part of the Amazon system, being only divided from it by some islands." Another British school geography, published last year, gives the area of the Amazon basin and includes the Tocantins in it. The French geographies likewise make the Tocantins a part of the Amazon system.

The "*Hand Book of Brazil*" and the "*Commercial Directory*," issued by the Bureau of the American Republics, both contain com-

prehensive maps of the great Southern Republic, and both give the Tocantins system as distinct from the Amazon.

European writers are only just beginning to treat the Tocantins as an independent hydrographic basin. This river rises in about the sixteenth degree of south latitude, and aside from its windings its course is almost due north. It has as a tributary the Araguaya, which is even larger than the Tocantins. The joint streams form one of the great rivers of the continent, with a width for a long distance of two or three miles; but the river is so impeded by rapids that it is not available for navigation until it widens into the great estuary on which the city of Pará stands. Not a drop of water from the Tocantins River mingles with the Amazon until both rivers are lost in the ocean. The Tocantins reaches the Atlantic about 40 miles east of the nearest delta branch of the Amazon. The chief reason why the erroneous identification of the Tocantins system with the Amazon basin has so long been perpetuated seems to be that the Tocantins basin is closely related with that of the first Amazon tributary to the west, inasmuch as both flow from the same slope and in the same direction.

While, however, no water from the Tocantins enters the Amazon, a little water from the Amazon does enter the Tocantins through several narrow arms of the Amazon delta. This phenomenon, however, does not make the two rivers belong to the same system. It is uncommon for water channels to connect two distinct river systems with one another, but geographers do not say because the Casiquiare unites the Orinoco and the Rio Negro tributary of the Amazon and the waters of Lake Dilolo flow both to the Congo and the Zambesi that the Orinoco and the Amazon and the Congo and the Zambesi belong to the same systems. It is therefore not correct to say that the Tocantins is a part of the Amazon system because it has a water connection through the little Breves River and smaller streams with the Amazon. Naturalist BATES and the other explorers declared that very little water from the Amazon River entered the Tocantins through the Breves, but BATES told of a larger water junction between the two river systems a little farther south. This was a blunder due to the small progress exploration had made, for the river of which BATES spoke is a long trough filled with Tocantins water, with a few little tributaries of its own.

DECLINE OF IMPORTS FROM THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The "Review of the River Plate," of Buenos Ayres, for March 3, 1900, says that the trade of Brazil with the Argentine Republic is declining. The statistics published by the "Review" have special reference to hay, bran, flour, wheat, maize, jerked beef, and live stock. According to this authority imports of Argentine hay by Brazil

amounted in 1896 to 351,633 bales, with a decline for each successive year until 1899, when 208,014 bales were imported.

The number of bags of bran received from the Argentine Republic in 1898 was 9,335, while in 1899 there were no imports. In 1899 the Rio flour mills manufactured 767,010 bags of bran, against 633,417 in 1898, and the total bran imports at Brazilian ports in 1898 were 12,204 bags, against 62,374 in 1897.

Flour imports at Rio de Janeiro in 1899 were 300,862 barrels, as compared with 273,137 barrels in 1898. During 1899 the Rio Flour Mills Company received 70,312 tons of wheat from the Argentine Republic and turned out 537,687 barrels of flour; as against 413,065 barrels in 1898. The Fluminensis Mill received 32,531 tons of Argentine wheat and turned out 265,026 barrels of flour, as against 230,185 barrels in 1898. The general movement of flour in barrels during 1899 was as follows:

Stock on hand January 1, 37,000; arrivals, 300,862; sales, 317,862; stock, January 1, 1900, 20,000. The imports, in barrels, were as follows: From the United States, 142,589; the River Plate, 156,309; all other, 1,964. In previous years the totals of imports were as follows: 1895, 341,609 barrels; 1896, 375,935 barrels; 1897, 336,533 barrels; 1898, 273,137 barrels.

With regard to maize, there has been a large decrease in the imports from the River Plate. In 1899 these amounted to 275,914 bags. In 1896 the imports amounted to 1,496,556 bags and there was a decline each year thereafter. The number of bags received during 1898 was 422,286.

The imports of jerked beef also show a heavy falling off in 1899 when 41,886,910 kilos were received against 47,095,040 kilos in 1898. The imports were, from Uruguay, 27,012,610 kilos; the Argentine Republic, 12,368,700 kilos; and from the Rio Grande, 2,485,000 kilos.

Live-stock importations likewise showed a remarkable decline. In 1899 the arrivals at Rio de Janeiro were 9,887 head of cattle and 12,037 wethers, as compared with 19,230 cattle and 14,096 wethers in 1898.

EDUCATION, COLONIZATION, AND FINANCES OF PARÁ.

The Legislature of the State of Pará, which convened on February 1, 1900, was addressed by the Governor, DR. PAES DE CARVALHO, from whose message the following facts are taken:

The Government has spared no efforts in developing and perfecting public instruction in the State. The Lauro Sodré Institute is now prepared to give advanced primary instruction, together with complete industrial and agricultural courses. The most competent professors have been engaged and the Institute can now be considered as one of the most important establishments of professional learning in South America. The institutions for primary instruction, according to a deci-

sion of Congress, have been divided into elementary and secondary schools. The women graduates of the normal schools have been chosen to temporarily direct the boys' schools, to supply the lack of male professors, and the results have been most satisfactory. There are at present in Pará 580 primary schools, 290 of which are for boys, 159 for girls, and 131 for both boys and girls; 538 are elementary and 42 are secondary schools.

As to colonization in the State, it can be said that it is now an accomplished fact, the national colonists are coming in large numbers, while foreign immigration would be much larger had not the Government judged it prudent to restrict expenses in this quarter. The Governor is in favor of a change in this system.

Agriculture is progressing, although it does not as yet respond to the needs of the State. The export statistics show an increase in the production of tobacco, mandioca flour, brandy, corn, rice, and beans. The "Paraense Agricultural Company," in spite of the relative indifference of the agricultural classes, is exerting every effort to realize the object for which it was formed. Seeds are being imported from Europe and the United States and distributed to the farmers. The results are beginning to be observed.

Regarding the finances, the Governor says that the revenues are constantly increasing. The receipts for 1898-99 were 30 per cent larger than those of the former financial year, exceeding by 1,700 *contos* (gold) the budget estimates. Although at the close of the year there was a considerable surplus, this has been partly used up in the immigration and colonization service and in payment for labor and new material for the Bragança Railroad.

A NEW WARSHIP.

The new ironclad, *Marechal Deodoro*, is reported by the "Rio News" to have arrived in the port of Rio de Janeiro on the morning of February 18, 1900. This new war vessel has the following dimensions: Length, 267.3 feet; breadth, 47.9 feet; maximum draft, 13½ feet (4 meters); displacement, 3,162 tons. The engines are capable of developing 3,400 horsepower, and the speed is said to be 14 miles an hour. The armor varies from 3.9 inches to 11.8 inches in thickness.

The vessel's armament consists of two 9-inch Armstrong guns mounted in fore and aft turrets, four 4½-inch Armstrong guns mounted at the angles of the citadel; six Nordenfeldts (37 mm.) on the upper deck, two Maxims, fore and aft, and two torpedo tubes.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONGRESS.

A National Congress of Education is to be held at Rio de Janeiro during the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil. This promises to be one of the most useful and

important of the ceremonies in commemoration of that great event. The principal object of the Congress will be to ascertain the present condition of education in Brazil and to point out the fundamental principles of education. There will be discussions on physical, moral, civil, scientific, and literary education.

AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS.

The National Society of Agriculture of Brazil will hold an Agricultural Congress at Rio de Janeiro on the 14th of July, 1900. At the same time there will be inaugurated a Museum of National Products. The committee appointed by the association to have charge of the Congress has invited the various commercial organizations to give their assistance to the end that the Congress may be a complete success. The Department of Public Works has published the regulations governing this assemblage.

REPORT OF THE BAHIA AND SÃO FRANCISCO RAILWAY.

The report of the Bahia and São Francisco Railway, Limited, for the half year ending with December 31, 1899, states that the receipts of the general undertaking show a decrease of £2,351, being chiefly under the head of passengers, of whom 25,085 fewer were carried than in the corresponding period of 1898. The expenditure was higher by £4,674, caused principally by the laying of 17,919 yards of the new steel rails, the purchase of which was announced in a previous report. Acting on the advice of the superintendent, the board has sold the Riachuelo warehouse in Bahia, which, in consequence of fresh transport arrangements, had ceased to be of service to the company. The amount realized by the sale—viz., £3,733—has been credited to the working capital account. The funding bonds paid to the company as guaranteed interest realized £52,601, as compared with £54,264 on the previous occasion. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, carrying forward £203. The district served by the Timbo branch undertaking continues to feel the effects of the drought, and the receipts for the half year are less by £1,836 than those of the corresponding six months of 1898. The expenditure has been kept as low as possible, and shows a decrease of £2,164. The funding bonds received as guaranteed interest realized £7,467, being £236 less than on the previous occasion, and the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

EXPORT TRADE FROM HAMBURG.

The outlook of the Hamburg export trade to Brazil at the turn of the year is, according to the "Hamburger Boersenhalle" of February 2, 1900, not very bright. From 111,000,000 *marks* in 1895, the exports

declined to 88,000,000 in 1896, 70,000,000 in 1897, and 68,000,000 in 1898, and it is to be assumed that the official statistics will show a further decline in 1899.

LACK OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. HENRY W. FURNISS, United States Consul at Bahia, in response to inquiries on the subject, writes to the Department of State at Washington, telling of the lack of modern agricultural implements in his consular district in Brazil. He says that the spade and a crude sort of a hoe are the only implements used in cultivating the soil in that fertile section. In many parts of the country the plow is almost wholly unknown. The Consul adds that he can not advise as to the chances for trade in agricultural implements in Brazil as a whole, but that they are not good in his district. He believes, however, that more attention is paid to agriculture and the cultivation of the soil in other parts of the country.

DEMAND FOR COAL.

The United States Minister, Hon. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, writing to the Department of State at Washington regarding the demand for coal in Brazil, states that Dr. ARGOLLA, the President of the São Francisco Railroad, in the State of Bahia, will make an experiment with 5,000 tons of Virginia coal, to be followed by regular yearly orders if the trial proves satisfactory.

NO DEMAND FOR BEER FROM THE UNITED STATES.

The United States Consul at Bahia says that attempts to introduce beer manufactured in the United States into Brazil have been complete failures so far. It is only within recent years that there has been much of a demand for beer in the Republic. At first all that was used was imported, but later, when beer began to be manufactured in Brazil, so high a duty was placed on it that the foreign article could not compete with it. Meanwhile the native beer has so improved that, even with lower duties, it would be able to hold its own with the foreign beers. The Consul says further that British and German beers can be delivered in Brazil more cheaply than the United States article on account of the higher freight charges from the latter country.

TRADE IN SHOES.

A consular report to the Department of State at Washington states that the import shoe trade of Brazil is controlled by England, France, and Germany, in the order named. No attempt has been made by firms from the United States to enter the markets of Bahia with either shoes or leather, though most of the hides shipped from that section.

of the Republic are sold in the United States. For the year ending December 31, 1899, the value of hides shipped to the United States from Bahia was \$440,885.86, and of goat and other skins, \$389,919.64. The report suggests that United States firms can obtain trade if they will give the same terms as European houses, i. e., sixty and ninety day sight drafts, the goods to be delivered against acceptance of drafts.

EXHIBITION AT PORTO ALLEGRE.

An exhibition of the products of the State of Rio Grande do Sul is to be held at Porto Allegre, beginning on November 15, 1900, that being the eleventh anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic. The exhibits will be divided into the following sections: (1) Pastoral and agricultural products, machinery and appliances; (2) industrial products; (3) applications of science and art. For the cost of this exhibition, the sum of \$168,916 has been appropriated.

NEW BELGIAN-BRAZILIAN BANKING COMPANY.

The "London Financial News," under date of January 23, 1900, says that the "Banque Belge des Prêts Fonciers," a new credit establishment, has been called into existence at Antwerp with the assistance of the "Banque d'Anvers and Compagnie Anversoise d'Entreprises Coloniales," and the "Brazilian Bank of Germany," at Hamburg, together with some private banking firms.

The capital of the new concern, which is to last for a period of thirty years, amounts to 12,000,000 *francs* in ordinary and preferred shares, but can eventually be raised to 25,000,000 *francs*. Its object is to carry out all kinds of mortgage business, at home as well as abroad. The establishment of a foreign branch office is projected, and a foreign subsidiary concern is to be a bank at Rio de Janeiro with a capital of 5,000,000 *francs*, and the field of operation in the Brazilian Provinces of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Geraes, and Rio Grande do Sul.

According to the statutes, no mortgage to be contracted in these countries can exceed 50 per cent of the taxation value as to rural sites and 75 per cent of such value if the property is located within a town.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Dr. LANKASTER, Director of the Natural Science Section of the British Museum, recently addressed a letter to Señor CARLOS MOREIRA, of the National Museum at Rio de Janeiro, thanking him for the gift of a collection of Brazilian flies and mosquitoes, forwarded at the request of the British Consul. The object of the collection is a study of the best methods of preventing the propagation of certain diseases by the agency of the dipterous or two-winged insects.

According to the "Rio News" the exportations of maté from the State of Parana during the last four years have been as follows: In 1896, 22,167,925 kilos; 1897, 18,078,868 kilos; 1898, 22,882,662 kilos; 1899, 21,912,899 kilos. Of the quantity exported in 1899 the Argentine Republic took 14,141,458 kilos; Uruguay, 7,373,883 kilos, and Chile, 498,784 kilos.

At Jahú, São Paulo, the municipal council has resolved to take 25,000 *milreis* worth of shares in the new electric-light company, and four individuals have each engaged to take shares to the amount of 25,000 *milreis*. This is one-fourth of the capital required for the enterprise, the remainder of which is to be raised by public subscription.

Dr. O. A. DERBY, Chief of the São Paulo Geographical and Geological Commission, has been authorized to procure fruit trees from the United States, suitable for the climate of São Paulo. Experimental cultivation is to be tried in that State and good results are expected.

The "Jornal do Commercio," of Juiz de Fôra, states that rice was very generally planted through the forest-producing zone in that part of the Republic during the past year with good results. The planters are said to be greatly encouraged by their efforts to produce this cereal.

On March 30, 1900, the United States Senate confirmed the nomination of Mr. J. J. GIRIMONDI, of California, to be Consul at Santos, Brazil. Mr. GIRIMONDI is an Italian by birth, but is a naturalized citizen and for many years has resided in the United States.

The "Revista Agricola" is publishing a catalogue of the flora of the State of São Paulo. In this is shown what kind of vegetables are flowering or giving fruit in each month.

During the year 1898 the State of Bahia exported 6,553 packages of pigtail tobacco, 4,198 packages of plug tobacco, and 426,498 bales of leaf tobacco.

A French engineer has brought to Rio de Janeiro some samples of most excellent turf, which he secured in Frecheiras in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. MAX J. BAHER, United States Consul at Santos, has been transferred by President McKINLEY to the Consulate at Magdeburg, Germany.

It is reported that the firm of Messrs. SWIFT & Co., of Chicago, U. S. A., is about to erect a large cold-storage plant at Pará.

CHILE.

THE COPPER MINES OF CHUQUICAMATA.

A correspondent of the "Chilean Times" sends a description of a famous copper mine of Chile, of which the following is a part :

"This extraordinary mining field, which has recently awakened so much interest through the abundance of its output of copper ore, is situated 15 miles from the town of Calama [Province of Antofagasta] and about 2,500 feet above it. And its output is not its only attraction; the character of its product is peculiar, perhaps unique.

"*Llamperos* is the native term given to this class of mine, and has a comprehensiveness to those initiated in Chilean mining parlance which would be difficult to convey to the English-speaking miner in so concise a term. The general aspect is more that of a quarry than a mine, but a quarry of small, loose material, where no blasting is required, being easily disintegrated by pick and shovel, a thick *manto* or layer extending over several hillocks, in length about 3 miles, in width three-quarters of a mile, while the thickness is not as yet known, as there are numerous workings, some reaching as far as 40 feet, failing to reveal any indication that would warrant a conclusion in this respect. In one of the deepest a lode of pyrites has been struck measuring 53 feet across, and yielding 50 per cent of copper, which would point to a future for the whole of the district even more brilliant than the one it can count upon with the *Llamperos* just now in view.

"The layer is formed of shattered feldspar and *atacamita*, with which it is impregnated, the interstices being packed with dust of the same mineral, a sort of greenish powder containing about 12 per cent of copper. The workings, which are carried on in the most primitive manner, while on no insignificant scale, are out of all proportion with the vast scope for future enterprise. They take the form of immense caves or tunnels, having the advantage of affording shelter from the sun and wind, while forming a most efficient means of separating the squads of miners and their allotted tasks.

"The mode of operating these mines is a pretty fair indication of the abundance of the ore and the extreme ease with which it is obtained. Each squad having charge of a working consists of three men. One with a pick and a shovel dislodges a quantity of the naturally loose material from the walls of the cave, the second screens it in a hand sieve of about 30 mesh, forming a heap of fine stuff, which is afterwards sacked for transport, throwing aside the coarse, stony portion, while the third wheels this latter to the mouth of the cave and dumps it down the hillside. This discarded material carries with it a considerable amount of ore which (in layers sometimes a quarter of an inch

thick) adheres to it. There being no ready means of separating it, little attention is paid to this wealth daily wasted in the rush for the finer and more readily handled material. Each man earns from \$5 to \$15, national currency, per day.

"The sudden development of this region and the scarcity of carts explain the crudeness of the present working and excuse to some extent the present waste of this valuable *desmonte*. The 40 or 50 mule carts which to-day make two trips each are quite insufficient to cope with the present production, and it is to be hoped that the branch line now under construction from the Antofagasta Railway—which outside of Calama passes within 7 miles of the mines—will soon reach Chuquicamata. On the termination of this, the development of this rich district will assume vast proportions, and the cheap and rapid carriage will bring about the establishment of the necessary reduction works on the banks of the neighboring river Loa, whose water supply will not only suffice for washing and for precipitate operations, but will also generate a large amount of power. Even the production of sulphuric acid for the treatment of these ores, which are extremely favorable to the acid process, is made easy by the presence of large quantities of pure sulphur in the vicinity.

"At present the fine or powdery production, which contains from 12 to 18 per cent of copper as it comes from the crude implements used by the miners, is exported to Europe in its virgin state at the rate of 2,000 to 3,000 tons per month. When it is realized that even now it can profitably bear the expenses of railway freight from Calama to Antofagasta, storage and shipping expenses at that port, and the steamer freight to Europe, some idea may be formed of the facility with which it is mined, and the results to be expected from its being converted into a metallic state at Calama or at the mines."

NEW TRAINING SHIP.

The new training ship built for the Chilean Government arrived at Valparaiso on February 28, 1900. This vessel was built in the yards of Messrs. ARMSTRONG & Co., at Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, and was launched and christened *General Baquedano* on July 5, 1899, and was entered on the list of the Chilean Navy on August 22, 1900.

In the construction of this ship comfort rather than beauty has evidently been aimed at. The displacement of the hull is 2,500 tons. The dimensions of this vessel are: Length, 240 feet; breadth, 49 feet 9 inches; depth, 25 feet 2 inches; mean draft of water, 18 feet. The hull is steel, carrying a covering of timber 3½ inches in thickness above the floating line. Her armament is composed of four Armstrong guns of 12 centimeters, two of 76 millimeters, two of 57 millimeters, and two Maxims. She also carries on board 100 rifles, 100 revolvers, 60

swords, 15 boarding hatchets, 30 boarding pikes, and a torpedo tube. The 12-centimeter guns are protected by a shield of steel. The engines are triple expansion (system Slathorn and Leslie) vertical, with direct action, having a force of 1,500 horsepower, capable of developing a speed of 12 miles an hour. The boilers are four in number, of the Belleville pattern, constructed to work with a pressure of 300 pounds. The bunkers have a capacity for 330 tons. The ship appears to be very lightly sparred, the mainmasts being iron with topmasts of timber. The crew, all told, numbers 289 persons.

The *General Baquedano* left the Tyne on August 22, 1899, and, after testing her guns, continued her voyage to Gravesend, where she completed her outfit. On the 15th of October she left Gravesend, calling at Brest, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, Plymouth, Las Palmas (Canary Islands), Bahia Blanca, Puerto Madryn, Puerto Zenteno, and Punta Arenas. From Brest to Valparaiso her voyage extended to 103 days.

PORCELAIN WARE MANUFACTORY.

A petition has been presented to Congress by Don CARLOS LAMAS GARCÍA for a guaranty of 5 per cent interest on a capital of \$20,000 for the installation of a factory for the production of white crockery. This is an article of prime necessity, the consumption of which is very great. The imports in a year average \$589,931. The greater part of this ware comes from Germany and England, though small quantities are received from France, Belgium, and the United States. It is claimed that as an industry the manufacture of crockery ware can prosper in Chile, since the material from which it is to be made is to be found in abundance in various parts of the country. It is almost certain that if it is fostered in its initiative stage this industry will become an extensive one.

PRODUCTION OF NITRATE IN 1899.

The "Chilean Times" for March 3, 1900, publishes the report of the "Association for the Promotion of the Use of Nitrate." The production of nitrate in 1899, according to this report, amounted to 30,759,775 Spanish quintals, the world's consumption in the same period amounting to 30,712,192 quintals, while the exportations, according to the custom-house returns of Chile, were 30,360,239 quintals. If there be deducted from the production given above 2 per cent for nitrate used by the powder works, the net quantity produced amounted to 30,144,580 quintals, or an excess of consumption over production of 567,612 quintals. The advantages of combination are dwelt upon in the report, which show that the exports in 1893 amounted to 20,612,732 quintals, valued at £6,123,564; that in 1894, after three years of combination, an increased exportation of 3,267,000 quintals produced

£1,009,000 more, while in 1899 an excess of 6,480,000 over 1894 yielded but £332,500 more when there was no combination. In view of this state of affairs the combination idea is again making headway.

It is believed that in the current year the production, exportation, and consumption will be between 32,000,000 and 33,000,000 Spanish quintals. The sum provided for the purposes of propaganda, including the Government subvention of £20,000, amounted in 1899 to a few shillings over £32,250,000. The estimated expenditure for the present year is £37,420, toward which the Government will contribute £20,000. The Government has also placed at the disposal of the Association, toward defraying expenses in connection with the Paris Exposition, the sum of £5,000.

SHIPMENTS FROM NEW YORK.

The regular shipments to Chile from the port of New York have been increased in certain branches, according to the "Journal of Commerce." Two locomotives were taken recently by the steamer *Asphodel* to Valparaiso, which were valued at \$23,500. Extra large consignments of cut nails are going forward by every vessel, and hardware shipments are on the increase. "Yet," the "Journal" remarks, "with the prospects of steam and electric railroad construction and some improvement in the manufacturing interests of Chile, claims are made by merchants in touch with that country that if American manufacturers would cater more to the business there in less than a year the volume of trade would be double what it is at present. It is well known that frequently financial arrangements will turn orders toward European houses which would otherwise come here. But even such advantages should not prevent the original purchasers of the merchandise from saying whose goods they prefer, and this can be realized by the manufacturers sending their representatives abroad to create a demand for their wares."

SALE OF THE TRANSANDINE RAILWAY.

A dispatch to the "London Times," dated Valparaiso, March 19, 1900, contains the information that there has been a judicial sale of the Chilean section of the uncompleted railway known as "Clark's Transandine Railway" to the Chilean hypothecary creditors for \$1,600,000 Chilean currency. It is further stated that the Government has agreed to take over the property for the same amount and proposes to continue the construction of the line at once to a point in the pass where a tunnel of about 6 miles in length is required to make connection with the line on the Argentine side, now in progress of completion.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, March 24, 1900, says it is cabled from Valparaiso that the elections of Representatives and Senators which have just taken place have given a considerable majority to the Government party upholding the system of metallic circulation conformable to the law of 1895.

The results of the last financial move have been most satisfactory, leaving a surplus of \$8,000,000, which is destined for public works.

The rise in the price of copper has also contributed to the improvement of the economic situation of the country, where many mines are being exploited.

The harvest of cereals, which is now taking place, promises to be very good, and a large export movement is expected.

PROPOSED MILITARY SERVICE.

The New York "Tribune" says that the famous Chilean, General KÖRNER, who distinguished himself at the time of the revolution in 1890, has been sent to Europe to there study the organization of compulsory military service, which it is proposed to apply in Chile. On the eve of his departure a banquet was tendered the General, and on that occasion the Minister of War declared that the Government would continue its peaceful policy, though believing in the necessity of an obligatory military service in order to be better able to enforce the execution of the laws. The same authority says that Chile intends to keep permanently in each European country a commission of three officers, who will study all military improvements and indicate those which might be beneficially applied in the Republic.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE PLAGUE.

The New York "Herald" of March 31, 1900, contained a telegram dated at Valparaiso the day previous, which stated that the Government had issued a decree declaring the cities of Santa Fé, Buenos Ayres, all Australian ports, Calcutta, and Bombay infected with the bubonic plague. Sanitary stations were ordered to be established at the following places in Chile: Respallata, Juncal, Arica, and Sandy Point.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A dispatch from Valparaiso dated March 28, 1900, says the "agreement between the United States and Chile for the revival of the convention of August was promulgated yesterday as the law of the Republic." It is supposed that the agreement referred to in this message is the convention for the arbitration of claims held by citizens of

each country against the Government of the other, the ratification of which was recently completed and noted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900.

The death of Mr. JOSEPH W. MERRIAM, United States Consul at Iquique, was reported to the Department of State at Washington on March 29, 1900, in a telegram from Minister WILSON at Santiago. Mr. MERRIAM was appointed to the consular service from the State of Massachusetts in November, 1885.

The exports of nitrate from Chile, during January, amounted to 2,019,371 Spanish quintals, as compared with 2,665,801 Spanish quintals in the corresponding month of 1899. Lack of transportation facilities was the cause of most of the decrease.

The Chilean Government, according to a correspondent of the "Chicago Record," has conceded to the Richmond Gold and Silver Cigarette Company the exclusive right to a patent for the covering (wrappers) of cigarettes.

The customs receipts at Valparaiso for January, 1900, amounted to \$1,200,000 gold, and \$100,000 paper. At Iquique they amounted to \$2,500,000 gold during the same period.

The first electric tram car ever operated in the city of Santiago made a successful trip over the line on April 1, 1900. Popular interest in the incident was very keen.

COLOMBIA.

THE FAMOUS EMERALD MINES.

A French journal publishes an interesting article on the emerald mines of Colombia, from which the following facts are taken:

The lease of the emerald mines of Muzo and Coscuez, which was granted in 1894 to Mr. MACINI, formerly French Chargé d'Affaires in Colombia, expires July 15, 1901. Mr. MACINI transferred his rights to an English Mining Syndicate of London, in consideration of \$80,000 per year, and an additional premium of \$400,000, which was paid two days after the consummation of the trade. The Government will receive new proposals up to December 2, 1900, which date may eventually be postponed. These mines are owned by the Colombian Government, which will concede the right of exploitation, as well as the use of the buildings, material, etc., for a term of fifteen years. The former lease was for seven years only.

According to the terms of the contract all bids—which may be transmitted by cable—should be accompanied by a deposit of \$100,000 at the State Treasury or by \$40,000 in gold deposited with one of the Ministers or Consuls-General of the Republic abroad. This sum represents the guarantee to be paid to the Republic by the bidder, who will be reimbursed if the offer is not accepted. As in former contracts, the concessioner must pay to the Government a premium of not less than \$200,000 in gold and an annuity, the amount of which must be indicated in the bid. These mines are the most important producers of emeralds in the world, their products being universally noted for their beauty.

The mines of Muzo, about 75 miles from Bogotá, were discovered by LANCHEROS in 1555. Mining was begun in 1568, and so great was the output of fine stones that they ceased to be rare. The mines have been worked continuously since then, and although no record exists of the quantity or value of the stones produced, they have made fortunes for generations of leaseholders. The gems are found either in isolated crystals or in lodes with calcite and parisiite in a bituminous limestone, said to be of Lower Cretaceous age, which lies upon a Triassic sandstone. The method of obtaining the stones is thus described by STREETER:

“The mine has the form of a tunnel 100 yards wide, with very inclined walls. Near the mouth are several very large reservoirs, the water of which is controlled by a system of gates. The overlying barren rock is cut out in benches and falls to the bottom. When this begins to fill the water is turned on and the rock swept away. This operation is repeated until the limestone is laid bare, when the gems are carefully broken out.”

The mines of Coscuez are perhaps the most important as regards the quality of the stones. Moreover, they offer the advantages of easy exploitation and of a healthy climate. One of the mines, the “Don Marcos,” is a sharp and isolated peak resting upon a granite base. The veins of the point are vertical and, freed from their calcareous envelope, have a greenish tint.

The number of miners employed varies from 50 to 500, according to the needs of the market. In spite of the strict watch which is kept over them, they manage to hide such quantities of the gems that a former director estimated that 25 per cent of the stones were lost through theft.

REPORTS OF GOLD MINES.

The Santa Barbara Gold Placer Company, a New York concern, owns a tract of gold placer ground extending 3 miles along the Nechi River, in the Department of Antioquia. The pay dirt, according to a correspondent of the “Engineering and Mining Journal,” in some places is as much as 35 or 40 feet deep. The native Colombians

in the rainy season work such gravels by a crude form of ground sluicing, and get out enough gold to last them until the next season.

On the property of the Santa Barbara Company a boiler and pump are in operation, the gravel is washed in a revolving cylinder, and the values are saved in a sluice 7 feet in width.

The Frontino and Bolivian Gold Mining Company is employing a few hundred men, and is obtaining a small amount of gold above that which is necessary for expenses. The work has been much interrupted by recent revolutionary movements. The French Gold Mining Company is also running to a limited extent. At the Sucre gold mines the tailings are being worked over, and enough gold is obtained to more than pay expenses.

THE CUENTA AND MAGDALENA RAILWAY.

Messrs. TEAL GONZALES & Co., of Barranquilla, it is reported, are soon to commence work on a railroad between Cuenta and Magdalena, for which they hold a concession. The terms grant a subvention of \$15,000 for each kilometer built. Upon the completion of every 6 miles of road the contractors will receive \$150,000 in bonds redeemable in thirty years, with the proceeds of 4 per cent of the import duties collected by the custom-houses on the Atlantic coast and at Cuenta during the period stated. The bonds will bear interest at 6 per cent.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN COLON AND GENOA.

The Italian Steamship Company *La Veloce*, by reason of the Paris Exposition, will increase the number of its steamers plying between Colon, Isthmus of Panama, and Genoa, Italy. Recently this company was reported to have purchased two splendid new vessels, the *Piedmont* and *Etruria*. Thus travelers to Europe from Central America, as well as those from the western coast of the Pacific, will enjoy increased facilities for reaching European countries. The French and British lines have already increased their service to the Isthmus.

COSTA RICA.

CONSULATE-GENERAL AT NEW YORK.

Señor Don JUAN J. ULLOA G, Consul-General of Costa Rica in New York, has informed the Bureau of the American Republics that during his temporary absence in Costa Rica the affairs of the Consulate will be administered by Mr. JOHN T. BAKER, and in case the latter should be called away, Señor FRANCISCO GARCÍA CISNEROS, the Secretary of the Consulate, will fulfill the functions of Consul-General.

CONSUL AT NORFOLK, VA.

Mr. CHARLES M. BARNETT, in a communication dated April 3, 1900, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that he has been named by the Costa Rican Government as its Consul at Norfolk, Virginia.

PATENT FOR CAN OPENER.

On March 13, 1900, Mr. AUGUSTIN T. BEEKLY, of Iroquois Farm, Costa Rica, was granted a patent by the United States Patent Office on his device of a can opener.

ECUADOR.**PRINTING AND JOURNALISM, AND THEIR STATUS.**

To the courtesy of Señor DON FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, one of the Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union of American Republics, the MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted for the following brief notes on the art of printing and journalism and the actual status of the same in the Republic of Ecuador:

“The art of printing was first known in Ecuador in the year 1750, when the Jesuits founded a printing office in Ambato (capital of Province) to meet their domestic requirements. Ten years later the same religious order established another printing office in Quito, capital of the Republic. The work of these offices during the earlier years was limited to the publication of sermons, exhortations, funeral orations, panegyrics of saints, novenaries, and small prayer books, as is evidenced by the exhaustive bibliographical studies of Dr. PABLO HERRERA, Bishop FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ, and the young Chilean, DON NICOLAS ANRIQUE. From the studies of these gentlemen it also appears that in 1785 the printing press likewise served for bringing to light medical treatises relating to the method of curing measles, and that in 1792 the Bishop of Quito, DON JOSÉ PÉREZ CALAMA, utilized it to publish pastorals as to the advisability of constructing the road from Pailón to Malbueho, and regarding a plan of studies for the University of Quito.

“On January 5, 1792, it may be said, with all propriety, that the first political newspaper was founded in Quito, for on that date the illustrious DON FRANCISCO EUGENIO DE SANTA CRUZ Y ESPEJO published the first number of the journal called ‘Primitias de la Cultura de Quito,’ which continued to be issued fortnightly until the month of March of that year.

“From this time down to 1809 (date of the first efforts for political emancipation) and to 1830, when Ecuador definitely constituted itself

into a Republic, independent of Spain and dismembered from that of Colombia, the press continued to serve, in a slow and little fruitful way, the religious and political interests and the scientific hardly at all, for there were no steps of any moment in this direction. Subsequently the printing office became the official organ for the publication of everything concerning the conduct of the public administration by the publication of the constitution, laws, decrees, and resolutions emanating from the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities, respectively. A little later several political and literary journals appeared, until finally, subsequent to 1861, the rights of the press being fairly respected, it has become a free and efficient medium for the diffusion of ideas. Religion (in the first degree), politics (in great part), literature (to a considerable extent), art, commerce, and science (in the lowest degree) have gradually come under its dominion, more or less beneficial, and without limitation other than the responsibility to which, under the law, publications of the press are subject.

"The serious scientific, literary, and commercial works which have been published up to this time in Ecuador have not been many. Perhaps 30 or 40 works will cover all those that have been issued, but the number of loose sheets and pamphlets on various subjects of political and social interest has been very considerable.

"The works deserving special mention are the 'Resumen de la Historia del Ecuador,' by Dr. PEDRO FERMÍN CEVALLOS; the 'Historia General de la República del Ecuador,' by the very illustrious Bishop of Ibarra, Dr. DON FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ; the 'Geografía y Geología,' by Dr. TEODORO WOLF; the works of Father SOLANO; the 'Curso de Filosofía Escolástica' of the Jesuit MANUEL DE J. PROAÑO; the 'Química,' of Father DRESEL, also a Jesuit, and several other works unnecessary to enumerate here. It can be asserted that at present there is not a Province without a printing press, and that several of them issue publications of varied importance.

"In the year 1893, for example, this was the status of journalism and of printing offices: There were 57 printing offices and 43 newspapers, according to official data exhaustively collected by the Ministry of Promotion. They were distributed as follows: At the capital, 13 printing offices and 13 newspapers; Guayaquil, 13 offices and 12 newspapers; Azuay (Cuenca), 9 offices and 3 newspapers; Manabí, 3 offices and 3 newspapers; Los Ríos (Babahoyo), 2 offices and 3 newspapers; Chimborazo (Riobamba), 3 offices and 3 newspapers; Loja, 2 offices and 2 newspapers; El Oro, 2 offices and 1 newspaper; Bolívar (Guaranda y San Miguel), 2 offices and 1 newspaper; Imbabura (Ibarra), 2 offices and 1 newspaper; Tungurahua (Ambato), 2 offices and 1 newspaper, and finally, Carchí, León, Cañar, and Esmeraldas, 1 office in each of the Provinces with occasional publications.

"Guayaquil, the richest city, with the greatest commerce, and which in many ways disputes the supremacy with the capital, has

heretofore occupied and now occupies unquestionably the front rank in the journalistic field."

In this connection it might be well to state that it is the purpose of the Bureau of the American Republics to issue within a short time a BULLETIN devoted to a newspaper directory of all the countries forming the International Union. Considerable of the data to be incorporated is on hand and is being collated and put into shape, while the representatives of the Bureau abroad are engaged in collecting other necessary information.

THE PRODUCTION OF CACAO.

Through the courtesy of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Department of State, the Bureau of the American Republics has received the following report regarding cacao in Ecuador, prepared by Mr. PERRY M. DE LEON, United States Consul-General at Guayaquil, and forwarded by him under date of February 14, 1900:

"Cacao, which is the industrial base upon which this country is built and to which she owes her prosperity, continues to show a gratifying increase both in production and consumption. The calendar year ended December 31, 1899, shows an increase of 75,000 quintals over 1898, equal to about 3,750 tons, while the receipts for January, 1900, exceed the corresponding month of 1899 by about 20 per cent.

"Prices also are very remunerative and the demand is steadily increasing, and to such an extent that no decline is likely. New groves are constantly coming into bearing, so that if political quiet continues the future of this country seems to be very promising, especially when the railroad to Quito, which is now being vigorously prosecuted, is completed. Export duties enacted by the last Congress are the cause of complaint to the *hacendados*, but the immense profits they realize do not, in my opinion, justify their dissatisfaction.

"The duties now are as follows:

"Exportation duty, 0.04 *sucres* per kilo.

"Special duty for railroad, 0.10 *sucres* per 100 kilos.

"Special duty, municipal improvements, 0.05 *sucres* per kilo.

"Municipal sewerage tax, 0.80 *sucres* per 46 kilos.

"The bulk of the crop continues to go to France, but the United States trade is increasing, and San Francisco is now taking quite a quantity and will take more, the 'Kosmos Line' giving that city good freight advantages."

EXPORTS OF RUBBER.

A correspondent of the Bureau of the American Republics in Guayaquil, under date of February 14, 1900, takes issue with a statement made in a report of the British Consul at the port named, excerpts from which were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October, 1899, page 460. The statement was to the effect "that a large pro-

portion of the rubber which was formerly sent to the United States now goes to London and other European ports." The correspondent referred to expresses himself as follows:

"The United States formerly received about 90 per cent of the rubber Ecuador produced, but now gets only from 60 to 70 per cent. The figures given in the Consul's report are also erroneous. In 1897 the total exports were about \$390,000, of which the United States received about \$350,000, say 90 per cent. In 1898 exports were about \$775,000, not \$454,192, as stated; of this the United States received about \$460,000, say 60 per cent. In 1899 the exports were about \$600,000, of which the United States received, say 75 per cent, or about \$450,000. The causes of this diversion of the trade are principally cheaper freights to Europe and losses from shipments via the Isthmus. The establishment by the Kosmos Line (Germau) of a regular and more frequent itinerary, is bound to increase both the export and import trade of Germany with this coast, and no relief is to be expected from the second cause until an Isthmian Canal is built. Merchants assert that they frequently have from 5 to 10 per cent of their rubber consignments disappear en route, and have no recourse, as they go over three lines. Steamers sign only for number of packages which, it is asserted, are frequently opened on the way and rubber extracted. It is believed this is done on the Isthmus, but the charge has not been proven.

"The high price of rubber, as the British Consul states, is causing new fields to be exploited. A company has recently been formed to systematically operate rubber fields in the Oriente. I am told by one of the leading members of the company that they expect to export through Peru, using river instead of costly mule transportation; if so Ecuador will not get the credit of such exportation. This informant says further that the barbarous and destructive habit of cutting down the trees, practiced by the ignorant among the natives, will not be permitted. The efforts to create rubber plantations near the coast are also, I am told, meeting with success."

The company mentioned in the foregoing as having been formed to operate in the forests of the Oriente is composed of several prominent capitalists of Quito, where the principal office of the same is situated. The capital of the company is 150,000 *suces*, which may be increased to 300,000. The company is not limited in its action to the exploitation of the rubber industry, but may engage in other industries and in the purchase of public lands.

RAILWAY FROM QUITO TO THE SEACOAST.

A recent number of "El Grito del Pueblo," of Guayaquil, published an interview with Mr. HARMAN, of New York, who is connected with the company possessing the concession from the Ecuadorian Govern-

ment for the building of a railway from the seashore to the capital, Quito, located in the Andes Mountains. The published interview, according to the custom of many Latin-American papers, consists of a series of short and precise questions, with replies thereto. The impression is left that while the easiest work on the road in low grounds is being actively pushed, the construction of bridges, tunnels, etc., in the mountainous region was to be undertaken immediately after the arrival at Guayaquil of the corps of engineers then en route from New York.

The contractor for this railroad was recently in Panama, and gave a press representative considerable information regarding this link between the coast and the capital. He stated that the railroad company had made a contract with London parties who were to provide all the money necessary for construction. Negroes to the number of 1,200 had been contracted for in Jamaica and contiguous islands, and it is expected that 200 of these will be on the ground before this number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN has been issued. The company has ordered 30,000 tons of steel rails and 15,000 tons of bridge material, all of which is to be delivered by November 1, 1900. Col. WILLIAM F. SHUNK, who had charge of one of the South American engineering parties engaged on making the preliminary surveys for the Inter-Continental Railway, is reported to be now engaged with a corps of engineers in making the surveys on the new railroad.

According to "El Progreso de Quito," work on this road will not be carried on very actively during the rainy season owing to the lack of hands, the large majority of native workmen objecting to engaging in outdoor labor during the winter in the cold temperature of the Cordilleras and exposed to the torrential rains which prevail during that season. It had been thought to bring Jamaican negroes from Panama; but the news of the renewal of work on the Panama Canal, which presented to laborers hopes of long years of employment and high wages, operated against the scheme. The paper named trusts that the lost time may be made up in the summer, and that the work on the railroad may then make substantial progress.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

The following are the figures of the exports of the principal products of Ecuador through the port of Guayaquil for the year 1899: Cacao, 276,404 sacks; coffee, 12,076 sacks; rubber, 400 tons; vegetable ivory, 4,295 tons; hides, 58,902. The value of these shipments is estimated at £1,500,000.

GUATEMALA.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

The "Herald," of Guatemala City, says that the mineral resources of Guatemala, now almost entirely neglected, were very considerable in colonial days, and under the present conditions of peace and progress capital could perhaps well afford to test the value of such interests in the Republic.

All the mining of former days, so it is stated, was done directly or indirectly in the interests of the church. The canonical archives show that between 1627 and 1820 there were 1,332 mines in exploitation, some of them exceedingly productive. The location of most of these mines was a secret jealously guarded. Thus the archives of the Department of Escuintla give positive evidence of mines of gold and silver that were worked there in former times, notably of a rich silver mine near the town of Guanagazapa. In the same manner there are traditions of a gold mine of fabulous richness in the Department of Quiché.

In Huehuetenango, on the south slope of the Chuchumatanes Mountains, the appearance of auriferous copper ores would justify exploration, while on the southern bank of the same range near Chiantla there are silver-lead mines which have been worked in a desultory manner by the natives for the past century for the sake of the lead alone. These ores being of a simple combination, and possessing all the necessary fluxes to be smelted at ordinary fuel heat, are, according to indications, deposited in large, permanent bodies, which probably improve in percentage of silver as they dip downward. The same formation, in bolder croppings, comes out on the high table-lands of the same range about 16 leagues north of Huehuetenango. There is another group of silver-lead mines in the municipality of Salamá, at Santa Cruz de Mushtli, and the same ores are found along the whole range of the Chuchumatanes to where they are lost in the wilds of the Lacandon country.

In the Department of Baja Verapaz, along the banks of the Rio Grande, there are well-defined gravel beds showing a fair average prospect of coarse gold. The natives wash it with *bateas*, or large wooden bowls, and they obtain about \$5 worth of pure gold from 75 *bateas* of gravel. The gravel beds are covered to a considerable depth by alluvial deposits, and "drifting" would be the most feasible method of extracting the gold. The placer area is as extensive as the flats and runs back a considerable distance from the river toward the hills or bluffs. Good croppings or sulphurets of silver and carbonates of copper are found in the adjacent foothills above the Pana high placers.

There is a mica belt also of considerable length which runs along the south slope of the mountain range parallel to the Rio Grande. The line of this mineral is clearly defined, and where exposed to gulch erosions shows deposits ranging from 6 to 10 feet in width. Parallel with this belt there are veins of asbestos and deposits of plumbago.

In the vicinity of Rabinal and Coblenco there are undeveloped silver and copper ledges, together with loadstone and immense deposits of magnetic iron; gypsum also abounds. In La Alta Verapaz, near San Cristobal, a group of lead mines supplies the ordnance department with material for balls and bullets, which contain a percentage of silver. The chalk beds near Cobán supply nearly all of the schools of the Republic with crayons. Native mercury has been discovered in the mountains north of Cobán. Quantities of bitumen are found in beds in the eastern part of this Department strongly impregnated with petroleum, encouraging a proper exploration of these beds. The salt springs at Seven Sierras could be easily made to supply all Central America with salt.

In the Department of Izabal, along the Motagua and Polochic rivers, there are, in the vicinity of Libertad and Quebradas, some extensive gold placers, which have been worked for years in a quiet way by private parties. One of these claims is said to produce as much as 500 ounces of fine gold per month. There is reason to believe that on the headwaters of these rivers and their tributaries rich gold-bearing quartz veins will some day be discovered. In the foothills west of Livingston good anthracite coal exists, but the veins have not yet been opened up.

The Department of Chiquimula produced in former days large quantities of silver, but the mines caved in, and have never been formally opened again. These are located in the Alotepeque Mountains.

Thus, then, the mineral wealth of Guatemala, like its agricultural wealth, may be said to still lay dormant. Besides the little gold washed along the Montagua and Polochic rivers there is but one mine in active exploitation of the 1,332 worked in colonial days, viz, the Rosario quartz silver mine in the Department of Santa Rosa, the rest await the advent of labor and capital.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Generally speaking, says the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, Guatemala has no national industries and will be dependent for a long time upon foreign countries for its manufactured articles. "There are, of course, some industrial establishments, but these are comparatively unimportant." Mention is made of cotton factories at Guezaltenango, while there are in the country two or three furniture factories, some brickyards, foundries, breweries, etc. "The Indians make the goods

which they use, and their only industry consists in the weaving of mats, baskets, and hats from straw."

"Guatemala is essentially an agricultural country. A great part of the population is composed of Indians who have few needs. They all own a patch of ground, and this land produces abundantly, being of extraordinary fertility. For example, corn gives four crops a year. The principal agricultural products are coffee, sugar cane, cacao, bananas, and corn.

"Germany comes first in the Guatemalan trade, the United States, England, and France following in the order named. The trade of Mexico and the Central and South American countries with Guatemala only amounts to a few thousand dollars for each one. Germany's place in this commerce is due on the one hand to the fact that a regular steamship line, the *Kosmos*, connects Hamburg with the Guatemalan ports, and on the other to the enormous sums which have been invested in the country by German capitalists. Many commission houses, deceived by prospects of great profits from the cultivation of coffee, advanced large sums of money to the Guatemalan farmers, and in consequence of the great decrease in the price of this article their losses have been enormous.

"Guatemala being, from an industrial point of view, an entirely new country, it necessarily follows that almost all the manufactured articles come from abroad—from Europe and the United States. The principal articles of import are woolen and cotton goods, linen and silks, wines and liquors, alimentary conserves, and machinery in general.

"The total importation in 1898 reached \$3,880,668.12. In comparing the total of the imports of 1898 (\$3,880,668.12) with those of 1897 (\$6,867,857.20) the enormous decrease of \$2,987,189.02 is noted. This decrease is due to the economic crisis which still weighs upon the country.

"The different importing countries can be classified in the following order, according to the importance of their trade with Guatemala: United States, \$1,773,309.52; Germany, \$853,110.81; England, \$538,763.80; France, \$205,849.79."

DEVICE FOR PREVENTING SHIPS FROM SINKING.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, contains an item stating that a patent had been granted in the United States to FRANCISCO L. DE VILLA, of Guatemala City, for a device for preventing ships from sinking. This invention is thus described by the "Scientific American" for March 10, 1900:

"It consists of a series of cubical rubber compartments distributed through the vessel, the accordion-like construction of which permits their folding up. When brought into action, they are distended with

air kept compressed in suitable metal receptacles. When not in service they are closely folded against the under surface of the decks and held in this position partly by atmospheric pressure and by electro-mechanical means, the sudden removal of which insures their instantaneous release. The moment a dangerous leak is sprung the stopcock guarding the compressed-air receptacle is opened and the required amount of air is allowed to rush in and distend the compartments. When fully distended the compartments buoy up the vessel."

HAITI.

NEW AGRICULTURAL EXPLOITATIONS.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to M. GEORGES SYLVAIN, of Port au Prince, Haiti, Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics, for the following interesting letter relative to the establishment of new agricultural enterprises in the island of Gonâve.

Mr. SYLVAIN says that the island of Gonâve is situated in the gulf of the same name at the entrance of the bay of Port au Prince, and is a part of the territory of the Republic. Its dimensions are, length 50 miles, width $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This island, which is as large as Martinique, is much more mountainous. The Spanish, after its occupation by them, found it sterile and lacking water, and so neglected it to such an extent that for a long time it served as a refuge to aboriginal Indians driven from their homes by those insatiable gold seekers. Under the French rule there were several establishments on the island, among others cotton plantations, which in 1787 were quite prosperous. But what, then as now, gave to Gonâve a special importance and maintained it as Crown property was its great forest wealth. The exploitation, begun in 1787, was interrupted by war in 1791 and has never been resumed since, except on the coast from 1859 to 1865.

An agricultural and industrial company has obtained from the Government the lease of Gonâve for sixty years, at a rental of 10 per cent of the proceeds of the enterprise. This company is a stock company with a capital of \$600,000. Each share is \$100, which will be gradually subscribed by calls of \$10. The concessioners have reserved 3,000 paid-up shares without interest. The 3,000 shares in money will alone yield an annual interest of 6 per cent.

A United States association, represented by Mr. KENNETH MACLEOD and managed by Col. J. C. CAMPBELL, has already entered into a contract with this company for the cutting of a part of the valuable wood which covers this land. In fact, mahogany, ebony, cedar, rosewood,

marble-wood, ironwood, mountain almond, maple, oak, *candelon*, and native elm (*Guazuma ulmifolia*) are found here in great abundance. One of the best varieties of henequén (*Agave rigida*, var. *Sisalana*) grows here spontaneously. Almost all of the Haitian woods which were exhibited at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 were taken from Gonâve.

But, whatever may be the profits coming from forest exploitation, it is not to this industry that our attention is directed, but rather to the agricultural and industrial enterprises which the company is engaged in establishing, and which, if successful, can not fail to modify in a short time the economic situation of the entire country. The soil of Gonâve is a mixture of decayed lava, sand, clay, limestone, and of a secular humus. It lends itself advantageously to the culture of bananas, "figue-bananas," pineapples, limes and lemons, India wood, vanilla, ginger, and other spices, tropical and European fruit trees, rubber, mandioca, etc. The textile industry could be developed by the exploitation of the agave and of cotton, the abundance of timber allowing the erection of buildings on the island at little expense.

The raising of pork and, in general, of cattle, sheep, horses, asses, and mules, besides turtle catching, sponge gathering, cultivation of sugar cane and of mandioca, with kindred industries, are all elements of prosperity, and which, if intelligently directed, would increase the capital invested tenfold. The island of Gonâve possesses a healthy climate. It has at the present time a population of a few hundred farmers. Most all of the planters of the Archaie plain, who are famous workers, own banana plantations. The principal port, Anse à Golets, could shelter a large number of steamers of heavy tonnage. According to the contract, the company has reserved to it the right of organizing the police force under the control of the Government. Another one of the neighboring islands, Ile à Vache, has for twenty years furnished the food and milk for the district of Cayes.

The island of Torue, under a management similar to that of Gonâve, is also going to inaugurate a new forest and agricultural exploitation, as to the results of which Mr. SYLVAIN says he will keep the Bureau informed.

NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

HON. WILLIAM F. POWELL, United States Minister to Port-au-Prince, has notified his Government of the appointment of Mr. P. FAME as Haitian Minister of Finance and Commerce.

PATENT FOR AIR SHIP.

The United States Patent Office, on February 20, 1900, granted JOHN F. PICKERING, of Gonaives, a patent on an air ship.

MEXICO.

FOREIGN COMMERCE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1899.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, 1899-1900, the total trade of Mexico was as follows: Imports, \$28,003,742 gold; exports, \$70,806,959 silver.

The valuation of the imports in silver, as given by the Bureau of Statistics of Mexico, is equivalent to \$58,934,254, thus making a difference of \$11,872,705 in favor of the exports.

Imports during the six months in reference show a gain of \$10,505,434 silver over those of the same period in 1898-99, while the exports indicate a decrease of \$6,009,434. The increase in imports ranges from \$80,000 for liquors up to \$1,058,227 for machinery and apparatus and \$1,767,561 for mineral substances.

The decrease in exports for the periods under comparison, calculated upon the difference between the export price of gold (\$675.416 per kilo) and its commercial value, is represented as follows:

	July to December—		Decrease.
	1899.	1898.	
Mineral products.....	\$40,293,696	\$48,502,072	\$8,208,376
Vegetable products.....	19,775,244	17,650,061	a 2,125,183
Animal products.....	5,700,500	4,232,273	a 1,468,227
Manufactured products.....	854,656	1,301,736	447,080
Miscellaneous products.....	325,355	9,958	a 315,397
Total.....	66,949,451	71,696,100	4,746,649

a Increase.

The imports (gold valuation) by grand divisions were as follows:

	1899.	1898.	Increase.
Europe.....	\$13,877,205	\$11,855,710	\$2,021,495
Asia.....	60,353	57,528	2,825
Africa.....	12,335	3,525	11,810
America.....	14,050,819	10,681,596	3,369,253
Total.....	28,003,742	22,601,359	5,402,383

In the total gain for Europe, France (exclusive of her colonies) was represented by \$552,936; Germany, \$435,994, and England by \$594,006, while in the \$3,366,253 for America, the share of the United States was \$3,345,517, leaving a balance of \$20,736 for the seventeen Latin-American countries, of which Cuba's quota was \$13,000.

The exports by grand divisions for the periods under review were as follows:

	1899.	1898.	Decrease.
Europe	\$10,942,532	\$17,496,527	\$6,553,995
Asia	2,000		a 2,000
Africa			
America	56,001,919	54,229,573	a 1,773,346
Total	66,949,451	71,696,100	4,746,649

a Increase.

In this division of exports, Germany's decrease is represented by \$569,336; France, \$657,959, and England, \$5,002,107, while out of a total increase for America of \$1,773,346 the share of the United States is represented by \$1,227,901, leaving a balance of \$547,445 for the other countries of the continent.

The imports by customs districts during the same periods amounted to \$28,003,742 in 1899 against \$22,601,359 in 1898, or a net gain of \$5,402,383, while exports, through the same channels were \$66,949,451 for 1899 and \$71,696,100 for 1898, a net loss of \$4,746,649.

CENSUS REGULATIONS.

The President of the Republic on January 1, 1900, signed the regulations for the taking of the new census of the Republic, which were published in "The Diario Oficial" of March 16, 1900. The regulations are quite long, and cover nearly every conceivable matter cognate to the subject. Chapter I treats of the division of the statistics which are to cover the following matter: General census of the inhabitants; movement of the population; entries and departures of passengers; territory of the Republic; the agricultural census; the manufacturing census; public instruction and education; fine arts and creeds; civil and criminal courts; foreign and internal commerce; navigation in general and the national marine; taxes and all elements constituting public revenues; administrative matters coming under the several executive departments; and the governments of the States, the Federal District and Territories. Chapter II embraces matters relating to the general census of the Republic, and provides for the taking of one every ten years, beginning with the year 1900. The Department of Promotion is to designate the date upon which the census is to be taken, and will assume entire charge of its various branches and workings. Chapters III and IV relate to the census blanks and the manner of filling them in. Chapter V refers to the collection of the blanks and their transmission to the Census Bureau. Chapter VI has reference to the movement of the population; Chapter VII to the entry and

departure of passengers; Chapter VIII to the territory; Chapter IX to the property census; and Chapters X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, and XVII to the other matters mentioned above as covered by the census. Chapter XVIII covers general provisions and manner of executing the law, and Chapter XIX deals with the penalties for the violation of the same. There is no doubt that this census of the Mexican Republic, which is to be taken in October, 1900, will be the most complete in every possible detail that has ever been undertaken by Mexico, and when the statistics are published there will be unmistakable evidence of the great strides the country has made in the last quarter of the century.

INAUGURATION OF THE DRAINAGE CANAL.

On the 17th of March, 1900, President DÍAZ, together with a distinguished party of prominent officials and leading men of the country, formally inaugurated the great canal that is to drain the valley of Mexico and carry off the sewage of the capital. This great work is the fitting consummation to centuries of unavailing effort. The canal is some 50 kilometers long, with an expensive tunnel through the mountains. The inauguration party followed the canal along its entire length, and saw the flood gates opened and the refuse of the city flowing through them. The work of building the canal was done by Sir WEETMAN PEARSON, and is a monument to British skill. The address of the occasion was made by President DÍAZ, who, after referring to the importance of the work and the many efforts during the past century to bring it to a successful issue, spoke as follows:

"If it should occur to the human race at some more or less remote epoch in the future to compare the great works executed by the nations during the closing thirty-three years of the Nineteenth Century, our descendants will be able to say, with legitimate pride, in regard to this drainage canal, 'This is one of the works achieved by Mexico.' Their pride would be legitimate if, in addition to the magnitude, the grandeur, and engineering excellence of this great work, it be considered that it was courageously undertaken during a period of financial depression so marked that the commercial world had not only never experienced, but never even imagined anything approaching it. In order to estimate its gravity it must be remembered that while curtailing the Treasury's revenue, it doubled the volume of its debts and the amounts appropriated for their service, at the same time dealing a blow to the coin which was our only medium for meeting those obligations, while defraying punctually the ordinary expenses of the Administration."

The President also spoke kind and congratulatory words, referring to Sir WEETMAN PEARSON and to the technical Director of the work, the

engineer, **LUCAS ESPINOSA**, "whose name will be perpetuated in the work, will be known by it to future generations, and thus will be held in veneration by our latest posterity."

PRESIDENT DÍAZ A DOCTOR OF LAWS.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, stated that the University of Pennsylvania had conferred an honorary degree on General **PORFIRIO DÍAZ**, President of the Republic of Mexico. On April 4 the President was presented with a diploma and hood indicative of the title of "Doctor of Laws," which the educational institution named had bestowed upon him. The presentation was made by Mr. **MALLET-PREVOST**, a prominent New York jurist, who was accompanied and introduced by General **POWELL CLAYTON**, United States Ambassador, the ceremony taking place in the national palace. Replying to the speech of presentation, the President said:

"The honorable demonstration with which the University of Pennsylvania has distinguished me is very gratifying to me, for in addition to its spontaneity it comes from an illustrious corporation of savants belonging to a great nation friendly to Mexico. Everything that tends to strengthen the friendly relations which happily exist between the two Republics of North America, when initiated, will always be cordially seconded by this Government, and everything which, while affecting me in particular, reveals a sentiment of friendship and good will toward the Mexican people, arouses in my heart the liveliest gratitude, filling me with pleasure for my country's sake. The lively interest with which this occasion inspires me is heightened by the circumstances of special moment, and is enhanced by the presence of the Ambassador of the United States of America. All this serves to render your delivery to me of this insignia, of which a high and special significance is patent, an impression which is as deep as it is agreeable."

STEEL RAILWAY TIES.

The use of steel ties on the Mexican Southern Railway has given so much satisfaction that they will be adopted for the entire line (228 miles), according to information furnished to the "Railway Review" by Mr. **T. A. CONRY**, of the City of Mexico. These ties have been used on 141 miles of this Mexican line for eight years. The tie at present in use is of pressed steel, 5 feet 5 inches long, the gauge of the track being 3 feet and the weight of the rail 50 pounds per yard. The tie has an inverted trough, with flaring sides, the section at the rail seat being 10 inches wide across the bottom and 3 inches deep, the dimensions at the middle being 9 inches wide and $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches deep. The top table of the tie is 4 inches wide and seven-sixteenths of an inch thick, and the sides are one-fourth of an inch in thickness, the

extreme width at the end being 11 inches. The top of the tie is not exactly straight, the metal portion being depressed nine-sixteenths of an inch below the ends, which gives the rail an inward cant of 1 in 24.

Experience with these ties has shown thier weakest point to be at the rail seat, owing to the large amount of matter stamped out of the top table to form the lugs, and to correct this trouble a new tie has been designed. This is 6 feet long and 5 inches deep at both ends and middle. The width of the tie at the ends will be 13 inches and the width across the bottom at the middle $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, while the width of the top table will be $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The rail fastening will consist of a U plate passed up through the tie from the underneath and clips. According to the practice of the Mexican Southern Railway, steel ties are not used on bridges or in and around shops or roundhouses, because it is found in such localities that metal ties corrode very rapidly. Before laying the ties it is the practice to coat them heavily with coal tar to prevent oxidation.

BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS IN THE CITY OF MEXICO.

During the month of January, 1900, the records of business operations in the city of Mexico give a very good showing. The books of the registration office show that there were 56 mercantile operations entered, amounting to \$2,889,635.85; transfers of property, 136 entries, amount represented, \$1,440,855.59; mortgages, 140 entries, amount, \$4,989,841.99; leases, 6, value, \$295,019.77; fines, 75, amount, \$787,789.81; transfers of property (private contracts), 56, amount involved, \$14,286.92, making a total for the month of 472 entries, representing \$10,417,429.93.

INFLUX OF PEOPLE INTO TEHUANTEPEC.

Ever since the Federal Government has determined upon the reconstruction of the Tehuantepec Railroad there has been noticeable a considerable increase in the influx of families to the city of Tehuantepec, coming principally from Suchil and other neighboring towns, most of whom are in search of work. Several families who had gone to Oaxaca owing to the earthquakes of last year have begun to return. To give an idea of the conditions prevailing in Tehuantepec, it may be said that by the census of 1895 the town had a population of 10,000, and in 1898 less than half of this number remained; but with a continuation of the influx of the present time it will not be long before the old number will be exceeded. In the neighborhood of Tehuantepec there is considerable movement, and the small United States colonies interested in rubber, coffee, vanilla, and tropical-fruit culture, all of which articles are exported to the United States, are gradually growing.

CONCESSION FOR THE MIXING OF WINES.

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, in a recent number says that the Mexican Government has just granted to two Spaniards, Messrs. BARRIOS and MURGA, an important concession for the creation of an establishment in which the mixing of wines will be practiced on a large scale. The capital will be \$200,000.

"The complete text of the concession * * * offers a certain interest on account of the originality of the business. It is the first time, in fact, that the mixing of wine, which is every day done by the wine merchants in their own cellars, and which has given rise in France to parliamentary discussions and quite severe regulations, has been elevated to the dignity of a large industry."

TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS.

The British Consular Officer in the City of Mexico reports the following decisions affecting the classification of goods under the Mexican customs tariff. (See "Board of Trade Journal," February 15, 1900.)

Muskets for military exercises in public schools (provided that the muskets are of the kind and fulfill the conditions laid down by the Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, and are imported in the manner and in the quantities determined on by that Minister through the Department of Finance) are admitted free of duty.

Rubber in sheets, with a core of cotton or linen cloth and covered on one or both sides with such cloth, is dutiable under article 920 of the customs tariff, at the rate of 30 *centimes* per kilo, gross weight.

SUBSTITUTE FOR INDIA RUBBER.

Capt. WILLIAM PRAMPOLINI, of San Luis Potosí, has been granted a patent by the United States Government for a composition to be used as a substitute for india rubber. This consists of the gummy matter of a shrub called *Symantherwas Mexicanas* by the botanists, but which is known to the Indians by the names *youle*, *copalin*, and *jiguhite*. The gummy matter is obtained by using benzine, gasoline, or other hydrocarbons. According to the "Scientific American" of March 31, from which this description is taken, the composition may be vulcanized perfectly, and is better than most india rubber because it is free from all mechanical impurities and needs no preliminary cracking, grinding, and washing. It is cheap, easily obtained, and saves machinery in manufacture.

CERRO DEL MERCADO IRON ORE.

An engineer who recently visited the famous Cerro del Mercado, in Durango, to which reference has often been made in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, calculates that the iron in sight on this mountain is sufficient to furnish all the smelters in England with ore for a period of 330 years. The engineer referred to, according to "El Correo de Sonora," made the investigation of the mountain at the instance and expense of a United States company, and he has reported that the iron which may be obtained without excavating one inch exceeds 100,000,000 tons, and that the value of the ore that may be taken out runs up to the astounding figure of 9,900,000,000 *pesos*, at the price of this product when the investigation was made. The newspaper cited asserts that the German engineer, FREDERICK WEIDNER, who has made a more careful study of the wealth of the Cerro del Mercado than anyone else, avers that it contains 1,046,004,200 cubic feet of metal, which is sufficient to supply the smelters now in existence, or which may come into existence, for centuries to come. Mexican engineers agree that the iron mountain referred to is the greatest in the world, and are of opinion that there are similar masses of iron in the country, which will be discovered little by little.

CUSTOM-HOUSE FINES.

A recent decree has been promulgated by the Mexican Government abolishing the payment to customs officials of a share in fines that are levied upon importers for infringement of the customs laws. Mr. FENTON R. MCCREERY, Secretary of the Legation of the United States in the City of Mexico, sends the following translation of this decree of the President:

"Whereas, first, the fact that custom-house collectors and accountants are entitled to a share in the proceeds of fines which they themselves impose for certain infractions of the custom-house laws is liable to cause importers at the large commercial centers, where the aggregate of fines is greater than at other custom-house points, to harbor doubts as to the impartiality of the functionaries in question and the justness of the fines imposed by them, and although the decisions of said functionaries are subject to revision by the higher bureaus of the Department of Finance or by the tribunals of the federation, constituting a positive safeguard for the rights of private persons, it is nevertheless desirable, from the point of view of the public service and the self-respect of the functionaries themselves, that their action should not be hampered by the fear that their imposing of the penalties provided by the custom-house laws may be supposed to be influenced by personal or unworthy motives:

"And whereas, secondly, only the employees of custom-houses of

the first and second rank are thus situated, and not those who render their services in the smaller custom-houses, in which the importations are very unimportant, as are also, in consequence, the amounts received by the employees entitled to a share in the pecuniary penalties imposed by them on offenders, on which account the share system is not attended with the same drawbacks as have just been spoken of and can be retained in part as a reasonable stimulus in behalf of employees to whom the Government has intrusted duties of which the remuneration is small, so that they may gain experience and in time deserve to be promoted to more important custom-houses;

“I have seen fit to decree the following:

“ARTICLE 1. On and after the 1st of April next (1900), the collectors and accountants of custom-houses of the first and second rank will cease to have a share in the proceeds of any kind of pecuniary penalty for infringements of the custom-house laws that may be discovered on and after the date in question, with the exception of penalties imposed in cases of contraband, in which they shall continue to enjoy the share granted to them by law.

“ART. 2. On and after the same date (April 1, 1900) the 5 per cent of the proceeds of fines for false declarations, covered by article 633 of the *ordenanza*, shall cease to be set aside in said custom-houses of the first and second rank.

“ART. 3. The collectors and cashiers of all the other custom-houses of the Republic shall only cease to have a share in the proceeds of fines imposed on and after said 1st of April for any of the infringements which the *ordenanza* considers as deficiencies (*faltas*), including all the fines that are imposed under article 545 of said *ordenanza*, and for the infringements discovered in the comparison and collation of manifests and applications for clearance, as also in the classification of additions; saving the cases wherein these additions or the rectifications made in the consular invoices are not allowed to pass, on account of their being considered to constitute an abuse, as provided by article 158 of said *ordenanza*, amended by decree of March 22, 1898.

“ART. 4. The collectors and accountants of custom-houses of the first and second rank, in addition to the salaries assigned to them by the budget, shall, after July 1 of the present year, receive an annual gratuity which can not exceed, for the collector and accountant of the port of Veracruz, 150 per cent of their respective salaries; for the collector and accountant of the port of Tampico, 100 per cent; for the collectors and accountants of the other first-class ports, 50 per cent; and for the collectors and accountants of all the second-class custom-houses, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

“ART. 5. The gratuities alluded to in the foregoing article shall be paid each month in proportion to the salary earned by the respective employees, on the basis of the maximum fixed by this decree, saving

orders to the contrary from the Department of Finance suspending the payment of the gratuity or reducing its amount.

"ART. 6. The amount of the share in fines and confiscations which the collectors and accountants of custom-houses are no longer to receive, as well as the proceeds of the 5 per cent divisible for false declarations and alluded to in article 2 of this decree, shall be applied to a special account to be known as deposits, and in keeping this account the custom-houses shall conform to the instructions to be issued by the general custom-house bureau. The gratuities paid out under article 4 shall be charged to the same account. The balance of said account at the end of each fiscal year shall either be credited under the head of incidental receipts or debited under such item of the budget of expenditure as the Department of Finance may determine.

"ART. 7. [Provides that the annual gratuity of the Director-General of Customs shall be paid from the same fund.]"

PRODUCTION OF VALUABLE WOOD IN VERACRUZ.

According to a report of the Department of Statistics of the State of Veracruz, Mexico, the production of wood for the year 1898 was as follows:

Fine woods, weight, 18,463,668 kilos, valued at \$478,974.49 (Mexican currency); all other woods, weight, 47,939,478 kilos, valued at \$603,099.42 (Mexican currency).

INSULAR POSSESSIONS.

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, states that the "Bulletin Officiel du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères" (Monthly Collection of Official Documents) has been publishing for several months an alphabetical list of all the islands belonging to Mexico. Some idea can be gained of the extent of the Republic's possessions from the fact that under the letter "C" alone the names of fifty islands are to be found.

Besides the name of each one of the islands and their geographical situation the list gives very interesting descriptions. For example, it says regarding Caballos Island that "it is situated in the Laguna Grande, off the district of Tavares, on the coast of Guerrero. It is mountainous and scorpions are abundant, as well as serpents and many venomous insects; but, on the other hand, all kinds of birds are found here—such as, for instance, song birds and others with magnificent plumage, especially white herons with red, black, or pearl-gray spots and with blue crests. The waters which surround this island are very dangerous on account of the abundance of sharks."

CULTIVATION OF RUBBER IN TEHUANTEPEC.

An American company has just bought a large tract of land suitable to the cultivation of rubber in the suburbs of Coatzacoalecos, near the Tehuantepec railroad.

The principal difficulty which will confront the company, says "La Nouveau Monde," of Paris, is the scarcity of workmen, for unfortunately hand labor is lacking in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Each workman who will consent to go and work for the company is offered \$1.50 (Mexican) per day and land upon which to build a house.

EXPORTS OF ORANGES.

The exports of oranges to the United States during the last season have been about 20 per cent less than those of the previous season, according to "El Economista Mexicana." This falling off has been due to several causes, principally to the advantageous rivalry of the Jamaica oranges, which are imported into the United States with a tariff difference in their favor as regards the Mexican product and at lower freight rates. Notwithstanding this the business has not been a bad one, for each box has been sold at \$1.11 gold, net. One firm alone in St. Louis, Missouri, estimated that during the season 104 cars, or 31,200 boxes, each 2 cubic feet in dimensions, were sold there, giving a gross profit of \$100,000 gold. These oranges came mostly from Guadalajara, La Barca, Atotonilco el Alto, Yautepec, Yurécuaro and Hermosillo. The publication named expresses surprise that the States of Veracruz and Tabasco, where the oranges are very abundant and can be cultivated at slight cost, should have made no effort to ship them to the United States, as the transportation, being by sea, would naturally be lower.

MANUFACTURE OF SILK.

At the recent fair held at Irapuato, Guanajuato, the silk goods of domestic manufacture, made from silk raised in the country, were much admired. These goods came from the "Santa Maria de la Riveira" mills, belonging to Señor HIPÓLITO CHAMBÓN, who has recently imported from the United States a very complete plant of silk-weaving machinery. Señor CHAMBÓN has been for a number of years very deeply interested in the sericultural industry and has devoted most of his attention to creating a demand for goods of domestic manufacture. "El Progreso de Mexico" states that, although the industry is a nascent one in the Republic, the goods exhibited at the fair could compare favorably with many of the better grades from abroad.

NEW ENTERPRISES PROJECTED, IN PROGRESS, OR COMPLETED.

The Standing Committee of the State Legislature of Coahuila, under date of March 7, passed a resolution exempting from all State and municipal taxes for the period of eight years the capital, of from 150,000 to 200,000 *pesos*, that Señores Dr. DANIEL RÍOS ZERTUCHE and Lic. MARIANA GONZÁLEZ, or the companies they may organize, may invest in a manufactory of chemical and pharmaceutical products at Torreon. This exemption does not apply to the sale of products and the business will be in operation within a year, the concessionaries having deposited in the State Treasury a bond of 1,000 *pesos*.

French capitalists have recently organized the Panuco Sugar Company, with a view to the manufacture of sugar on a very large scale in the northern part of the State of Veracruz, near the Panuco River. The capital is said to be \$1,300,000, silver. The company has bought the Huasteca Navigating Company's steamers running on the Panuco River, and purposes building 40 kilometers of railroad from their plantation to connect with the steamboat line, thus controlling its own transportation to the port of Panuco.

A new company recently organized at Chihuahua, with a capital of \$1,000,000, is styled the *Compañía Internacional Exportadora Sud-Americana*. It is organized for the purpose of building and operating a large packing house and canning factory at Chihuahua and similar establishments at two other points in the Republic. The machinery for the plant at Chihuahua will be furnished by a Kansas City firm.

The report that the crew of the Mexican transport *Oaxaca* had recently discovered immense deposits of guano on the Clipperton Islands has created much enthusiasm among the capitalists of New Mexico and Kansas City. As these islands belong to Mexico, some interested parties propose negotiating with the Mexican Government with a view to securing the right to exploit the deposits, and to that end a commission will be sent to the city of Mexico.

A new stock company has just been organized at Guadalajara under the name of "Compañía Industrial de Guadalajara." This company's object is to exploit the Atemajac and La Experiencia factories and the adjoining land, the baths of Los Colomitos, the Rancho Nuevo, and the Salvador mill. The Board of Directors is composed of Messrs. L. FORTOUL, president; ANTOINE GAS, vice-president; AG. BRUN, secretary; J. BELLOX and J. LÈBRE, directors, and JUAN PAILLAUD, manager.

The Government of Nuevo Leon has just granted a concession for the establishment of a manufactory of pasteboard, with a capital of \$25,000, Mexican. Negotiations have also been begun with this same Government for the granting of concessions for a new brickyard, which is to be established with a capital of \$300,000, Mexican, and also for a factory of wooden forms.

The tunnel, 2 kilometers in length, and the canal, 30 kilometers in length, which serve to carry the water to the vast arid region in the vicinity of San Diego, State of Coahuila, has been finished. It is expected that by irrigation the land will be converted into a most productive domain, and it will be planted on a very large scale in cotton and wheat.

The Compañía M. y F. DESCRIBIDORA, owning copper mines near Matimi, Durango, has recently closed a contract with the Guggenheim Smelter for 50,000 tons of copper matte. The company is planning to build a railroad to the mines from Conejos stations on the Mexican Central Railroad and to put in two new furnaces.

Mr. R. MOLA has asked permission to establish a manufactory of fiber-extracting machinery, steam engines, boilers, and all kinds of industrial and agricultural articles in Mexico. A capital of \$200,000 will be invested in this enterprise, and Mr. MOLA asks to profit by the law of December 14, 1898, on new industries.

The "Moniteur Officiel" reports that several French merchants, aided by a few Mexican capitalists, are going to establish three large factories in the suburbs of the City of Mexico for the manufacture of cloth, shoes, and paper. The motor force will be furnished by the waterfalls and electrically transmitted to each factory.

The town of Magdalena, district of the same name, State of Sonora, is soon to have a factory of gaseous waters to supply the trade, not only in Sonora, but also the Territory of Lower California.

The Cuauhtemoc Brewery, at Monterey, is putting in a new ice plant and making ready to increase its output of beer.

Guanajuato is to have a large carriage factory and brickyard, both to use steam power and the latest improved machinery.

The building for the new tin and iron stamping works at Monterey is nearing completion.

Mexican capitalists at Linares, State of Nuevo León, are getting estimates for a brick plant.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY NOTES.

Reports from Merida, Yucatan, are to the effect that the plans and specifications presented by Don PORFIRIO DÍAZ, jr., son of the President of the Republic, for the construction of the Southwestern Railroad, have been approved by the Government. The company having the construction of this railroad in hand has a capital of \$5,000,000. The railroad is to be about 400 miles in length, equipped with electric motive power. Among the stockholders are numbered some of the wealthiest henequén planters and business men in the State of Yucatan. The undertaking is to be equipped throughout with United States material.

The Secretary of Communications and Public Works recently signed a contract with Judge IGNACIO SEPÚLVEDA, representing Mr. JAMES H. HOLMES, for the construction of a railroad in the State of Sonora, to run from some convenient point of Sierra Pinta, District of Altar, and San Jorge Bay. The same Secretary has also made a contract with the representatives of the Peninsula Railroad Company for the building of a railway line in the State of Yucatan.

Construction on the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railroad is being rapidly pushed forward, and there are now employed more than 2,000 men in the grading and other camps. It is stated that the Pacific port of the road will be at some place other than Acapulco.

The new steel bridge over the Balsas River on the line of the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railroad has just been completed. It has a length of 350 feet and cost \$200,000.

The Mexican Government has issued an order that all the railroads in the Republic must adopt automatic couplers of a uniform pattern on all freight cars.

The Mexican Central Railway Company has sent an agent to the Bahama Islands to secure negro laborers for construction work on its line.

The Empresa street-car line of Monterey is discussing an addition to its tracks and an increase in its capital stock.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

"La Gaceta Comercial," of the city of Mexico, on March 14 announced that several German capitalists had arrived in the city of Mexico, accompanied by an engineer, for the purpose of looking over the State of Mexico and studying the business possibilities it might present. These capitalists represent, as is stated, strong German syndicates who purpose, in case of favorable reports, to invest large sums in developing hitherto undeveloped resources.

In a communication dated April 2, 1900, Mr. AGUSTIN PIÑA informs the Bureau of the American Republics that, by order of the Mexican Government, the Consulate for Mexico at Deming, New Mexico, has been closed. Also, that a new Mexican Consulate has been established in the city of Tucson, Arizona, to which Mr. PIÑA has been appointed Consul.

The Department of Promotion recently distributed 150,000 grapevine cuttings from the *hacienda* of Noé, in the State of Durango, where vine growing is making very rapid strides. These cuttings are from vines introduced by the late General PACHECO when Minister of Public Works, and came from the best Spanish variety.

Late dispatches from the city of Mexico are to the effect that the Mexican Secretary of the Treasury is seriously contemplating the early abolishment of the Free Zone of Mexico, which extends along the whole length of the Rio Grande border, and has served to build up the cities and towns along the frontier of late years.

No Governor has as yet been appointed in the place of General BERNARDO REYES as the Chief Executive of the State of Nuevo León. The Licentiate PEDRO BENÍTEZ y LEAL is the acting Governor. General REYES, it will be recalled, recently assumed the Portfolio of War.

The "Diario Oficial" has published a list of the 138 cotton mills in the Republic, giving the internal-revenue tax each must pay for the half year from January to June, 1900. The total amount of the tax thus to be raised is \$923,017.40.

According to a report of WELLS, FARGO & Co., of San Francisco, California, the product of gold and silver in Mexico in 1898-99 was valued (upon the mint basis) as follows: Gold, \$10,112,000; silver, \$65,310,000; or a total of \$75,422,000.

In one of its recent meetings, the Mexican Agricultural Society discussed a report on experiments for making alcohol from Barbary figs. These experiments were made by Mr. GOROZPE, a rich farmer of the State of Jalisco, and were most satisfactory.

The Pacific Council of Chihuahua has resolved to completely change the nomenclature and numbering of the streets of the city, and to affix in suitable localities on durable metal the names of the different streets.

The Mexican Government has nominated two commissions of astronomers to observe the solar eclipse of May 1, 1900, in Japan and Jamaica.

"Modern Mexico" is authority for the statement that the ROTHSCHILDS have about \$14,000,000 invested in copper mines in the Republic of Mexico.

On April 3, 1900, the United States Patent Office granted FAUSTINO ESCALANTE, of Merida, a patent on a fiber-cleaning machine.

NICARAGUA.

PARCELS-POST CONVENTION.

On March 27, 1900, Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua, and Postmaster-General CHARLES EMORY SMITH, of the United States, signed the parcels-post convention into which Nicaragua and the United States entered several months ago. The convention will go into effect on June 1, 1900. The second article of the document defines what shall be admitted to the mails, and is as follows:

“There shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this convention articles of merchandise and mail matter (except letters, post cards, and written matter) of all kinds that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that no package may exceed 11 pounds (or 5 kilograms) in weight nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction, 3 feet 6 inches (or 105 centimeters); greatest length and girth combined, 6 feet (or 180 centimeters); and must be so wrapped or inclosed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by postmasters and customs officers, and except that the following articles are prohibited admission to the mails exchanged under this convention:

“Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination, poisons and explosive or inflammable substances, fatty substances, liquids and those which easily liquefy, confections and pastes, live and dead animals, except dead insects and reptiles thoroughly dried, fruits and vegetables which will easily decompose and substances which exhale a bad odor, lottery tickets, lottery advertisements or circulars, all obscene or immoral articles, articles which may destroy or in any way damage the mails or injure the persons handling them. All admissible articles of merchandise mailed in one country for the other or received in one country from the other shall be free from any detention or inspection whatever, except such as is required for collection of customs duties, and shall be forwarded by the most speedy means to their destination, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.”

No letter or communication or personal correspondence can accompany, be written on, or inclosed with any parcel. Rates of postage must be prepaid with postage stamps of the country of origin. The rates are: In the United States, for a parcel not exceeding 1 pound, 12 cents, and 12 cents for each fraction of a pound additional. In the Republic of Nicaragua, each pound or fraction thereof 25 *centavos*. The convention contains the usual customs declaration, and its ninth article provides that no exchanges of mails shall, until otherwise

mutually agreed upon, be effected through the exchange post-offices at New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Bluefields, San Juan del Norte, and Corinto.

STATE EDUCATION OF NATIVE YOUTH.

The National Government has determined to send three poor, though intelligent youths, now attending the colleges of Managua, to the capital of Belgium for educational purposes. The expenses for their maintenance and tuition will be defrayed from the surplus funds collected in the way of consular fees after deducting the salaries of the Consuls. The young men selected to enjoy the privileges mentioned have already entered into a contract with the Ministry of Public Instruction relating to their course of studies, which, it is provided, shall be such as will be of practical utility for Nicaragua. A decree of the President, dated February 28, 1900, provides for sending abroad every two years six young men to take a course in the sciences, industries, or arts. These youths must be 15 years of age or over, with the degrees of B. S. or LL. B., or prove their capacity to study any art or industry; must be persons, who would otherwise be imperfectly educated because of a lack of financial assistance, be of irreproachable reputation, and possess recognized capacity. The Ministry of Public Instruction is to name a board of examiners who will test the capabilities of the applicants and select one young man from each Department. Six young men shall be chosen from these by lot every two years, until the whole number shall have enjoyed the privileges afforded by the decree, when a new examination will be held.

NEW WHARF AT BLUEFIELDS.

"The New Orleans Picayune" for April 4, 1900, says that recently the Nicaraguan Government entered into a contract with Mr. T. M. SOLOMON, President of the Bluefields Lumber Company, for the construction of a new wharf and other large and modern Government buildings at Bluefields to replace those now in use. General GUERRERO, Governor of the district, is reported to have decided to expend on these improvements sums of money approximating \$50,000 United States currency, the plans having been approved by President ZELAYA.

A new wharf and modern conveniences have been greatly needed for several years. Under existing conditions, only one ship at a time can land at the Government dock and there is only sufficient room to charge one hatch at a time. What is wanted is a dock which will accommodate at least two ships at full length. These improvements are included in Mr. SOLOMON's contracts.

The outside edge of the wharf comes within the limits of the channel, which has some 20 or 30 feet of water, and the turn of the tides

creates a current there which runs like a mill race through the narrow opening. This is one of the greatest impediments which the contractor will have to encounter and this, together with the difficulty of securing suitable piles, necessitates a large expenditure of funds.

PROPOSED LIGHT-HOUSE.

A movement has been inaugurated by the ship captains and merchants of Bluefields to have the Government of Nicaragua establish a light-house at the entrance of the Bluefields harbor. At present there is no light-house south of Cape Gracias á Dios, 180 miles north of Bluefields, and the light from this can, at the best, be seen only 5 or 6 miles. What the people are petitioning for is a modern structure to be operated at the top of the bluff. This bluff is some 60 or 70 feet high and a good burner located upon a simple iron frame would give passing vessels the signal some 10 or 15 miles offshore. In clear weather it would be possible to see such a light at a much greater distance.

THE GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY.

A correspondent of the "New York Engineering and Mining Journal," writing from Nicaragua, says that the work of developing the gold-mining industry of the Rama District has been of a slow nature, owing to the limited number of Americans or Englishmen in the district who were acquainted with quartz formation. It is asserted, however, that the work has advanced to a stage where there can be no doubt that the mineral belt of Rama is very extensive, and will cover a strip of territory from 7 to 12 miles in width and not less than 25 miles in length, with the probability of its covering a far larger area. It is also stated that the quartz will run from \$3 to \$450 gold per ton (according to recent assays), with a general average of about \$22.50 to the ton.

The territory is large and situated conveniently as regards Rama. The Bluefields Steamship Company of New Orleans averages a service of two steamers a week, and the United Fruit Company of the same city runs one steamer, on an average, each week. The mining district extends from the river bank back into the mountains, making it only necessary to convey provisions from one-half mile to 3 miles into the interior. Indian, negro, and native labor can be obtained, it is said, for from \$10 to \$15 per month, board included.

EMPLOYMENT FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS.

In reply to inquiries from United States citizens in regard to business openings and the possibilities of obtaining employment in Nicaragua, Consul DONALDSON, of Managua, writes that engineers,

physicians, surgeons, and dentists may find remunerative employment in that country. There are no chances, the Consul says, for young graduates of colleges as teachers in Nicaragua, as the customs are so different that Americans rarely prove successful, besides the salaries are smaller than those paid in the United States. There are very few engineers and this field affords probably the best opportunity, although dentists are very scarce and their services are in demand.

OWNERSHIP OF RAILWAYS.

The Consul of the United States at Managua has made a report regarding the ownership of railways in the Republic of Nicaragua. He says that all the roads belong to the Government and are directly under the charge of the Minister of Fomento, Señor S. RANUREZ, who also has charge of all the steamboat lines, with one exception. The latter is managed by Mr. E. NICOL, Agent, whose address is Greytown. There are also two tramways managed, respectively, by F. H. DAVIS, at Rivas, and the "Granada Tramway Company," at Granada.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

A commercial museum has been established by the Nicaraguan Government at Managua, where samples of cotton cloth, leather articles, laces, prints, etc., would meet with special favor.

PARAGUAY.

IMPORTS OF WEARING APPAREL.

The imports of cotton socks and stockings into Paraguay have averaged yearly 6,300 kilos, while, according to "Das Deutsche Wollengewerbe," other articles of haberdashery are imported in minor quantities only. Socks and stockings are placed in cardboard boxes containing 1 dozen each and then packed in cases of 100, 150, and 200 dozen. The prices range between 60 cents and \$1.10, Argentine currency, f.o.b. at Buenos Ayres, with terms of six or eight months. Cream-colored, black, and striped stockings are most in demand but white ones are rarely sold. Paraguay is an excellent market for light shawls, with which the women cover their heads and shoulders during the hot weather. These shawls are mostly in black, the better qualities being ornamented with silk fringes and used as mantillas and *rebozos*. They range in price from \$2 to \$2.40, Argentine currency, f.o.b. at Buenos Ayres, and are packed in cases containing 5 to 6 dozen each.

CONSUL AT PHILADELPHIA.

Mr. ALFONSO ARNOLDO RUTIS informs the Bureau of the American Republics that by a decree of January 5, 1900, President ACEVAL has appointed him as Consul of Paraguay for the city of Philadelphia. His name appears among the list of Consuls recently recognized by the Department of State at Washington.

PERU.

THE MINING INDUSTRY.

In a report published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, the French Minister at Lima says that the statistics published by the customs administration furnish interesting information on the development of the mining industry in Peru: they show an activity which is increasing with each day, thanks to the use of improved machinery and the application of modern methods in treating the precious metals.

During the war against Chile the exportation was absolutely paralyzed; and it was only in 1883, at the end of the foreign occupation, that it began to revive, representing at this time a value of 2,627,606 *sols*. In 1898 it reached 9,481,213 *sols*, indicating an increase of four times the value during a period of sixteen years. According to the statistics furnished for this period, the total exports amounted to more than 75,000,000 *sols*. As no statistics were given for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895, an average estimate of 5,000,000 *sols* was taken.

The amount of ore exported in 1898 was 17,398,548 kilos, an increase of 3,543,663 kilos over that of 1897.

During the year 1898 the value of the exported products was as follows:

	Sols.
Gold in powder, etc	41,500
Peruvian money	482,365
Silver in bars	1,600,000
Coined silver	120,000
Coined gold, Peruvian pounds	410,000
Gold in bullion	25,926
Exported ores	9,481,213
Total	12,164,004

To this amount must also be added the production of certain mineral substances, such as borax, estimated at 574,226 *sols*, petroleum 1,067,935 *sols*, and salt 5,610 *sols*, raising the value of the total production of the mining industry in Peru during the year 1898 to 13,808,775 *sols*.

The production of petroleum has particularly increased during the last seven years, the production of the crude and refined article amounting to 2,983,430 liters in 1891 and to 17,224,924 liters in 1898, an increase of 14,239,194 liters. All of the petroleum is consumed in Peru.

The exportation of gold is very small. All of the metal is immediately coined and converted into Peruvian *pounds*; but it is to be presumed that the real production is greater than the figures indicated by the official statistics, for, as there is an export duty of 3 per cent on gold, a certain quantity is smuggled out.

According to a statement issued by a professor of the Mining School, the production of gold during the last few years amounted to 767 kilograms of fine gold, combined, for the most part, with silver, copper, etc. However, the production of gold is far from being equal to that of the last years of the colonial period, since from 1761 to 1775 the annual production varied from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 *soles* and even reached, in 1771, a value of 9,160,000 *soles*. England, the United States, and Germany lead in the imports of these products.

The development which is noted in the exploitation of the copper mines is due to the increase in the price of this metal, and if it is decided, by the construction of an indispensable railroad, to utilize the important and rich deposits of the Cerro de Pasco, Peru can hope to become one of the principal copper-producing countries of the world.

NEW TUNNELING ASSOCIATION.

A dispatch to the "Public Ledger" of Philadelphia, from Lima, states that native and foreign mine owners and capitalists have formed a company, known as the "Corrapso Tunneling Association," to drain the celebrated Rumihallana mining district. This work is to be done pursuant to plans approved by the Government in 1877. The company has deposited £10,000 with the Home Debt Bureau as a pledge that the work will begin within four months and be finished within four years. The company is to receive 20 per cent of the product of the drained district from the miners.

FURNACE FOR DESULFURIZING ORES.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, mentioned the fact that Mr. HENRY GUYER, of Casapalea, Peru, had been granted a patent in the United States for a furnace for desulfurizing ores. A description of this furnace is to be found in the "Scientific American" for March. The furnace, as constructed, is intended to take the place of heap or stall roasting of lump ores of a size passing through a 2½-inch ring down to a three-fourths-inch mesh screen. A furnace 24 feet in length is capable of quickly desulfurizing from 7 to 10 tons of ore in about

twenty-four hours, the ores containing over 15 per cent sulphur. Ores can be discharged in about two days, enabling the ore to be drawn from the bottom completely burned out and cold.

LIMA ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCK.

A dispatch from Lima, dated March 27, 1900, says: "Another illustration of the improving conditions in Peru was furnished to-day, when, in the course of a few hours, the public subscribed for 1,000,000 *soles* of capital stock of the Santa Rosa Electric Lighting Company, which had a concession for illuminating Lima. The new company recently purchased the plant at contracts of the Santa Catalina Company for \$350,000."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the "Rio News," an earthquake shock at Avaencho, on February 18, 1900, caused the subsidence of some hills and was the occasion of considerable damage to the surrounding country. The town of Tometampa was inundated and twenty houses collapsed. The shock at Lima is said to have lasted forty-five minutes, and its effects were worse than any earthquake since September 20, 1897. No lives were lost and but few people injured.

On March 16, the Bank of Peru and London, of Lima, announced that all current payments would be made in sterling or Peruvian pounds.

Mr. HWANG CHUNG HUEI, who has been connected with the Chinese diplomatic service in the United States, has been appointed Chinese Consul at Lima.

SALVADOR.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, publishes extracts from the message of the President, General TOMÁS REGALADO, delivered at the opening of the National Congress, February 20, 1900. A summary of this message is as follows:

After dwelling upon the satisfactory condition of the relations of the Republic with the foreign nations, the President discusses the questions relative to the agricultural and mining industries of the country, which are the principal sources of wealth. An agricultural junta, composed of the most able men, has been organized and appropriations voted for its support. The President also says that agricultural and mining products of the best quality have been sent to Paris to the Exposition, to show abroad what Salvador is able to export.

The Legation in Paris is sparing no effort to make known in that market, and as well as in the most important of the other European countries, the superior quality of the coffee produced by Salvador, and is now studying plans which will result, it is hoped, in an increase in the price of this principal article of export.

Every effort is being made by the Government to hasten the completion of the Acajutla Railway to the capital. The State has punctually paid to the constructing company the annual subsidy of £24,000 stipulated by the last contract. On the other hand, in order to avert the total ruin of the Union Railroad, it had been put up for public sale, but as no acceptable offer has yet been received the Government will probably ask a special appropriation for the completion of the said road under Government auspices.

The financial situation has greatly improved. The settlement of the English debt, which at first appeared impossible on account of the difficulties which arose between the Government and the railroad company, has been accomplished.

Regarding telegraphs and telephone lines, the President said the old ones are being put in repair and new ones constructed. A telegraph line of 30 miles has just been established between the cities of San Salvador and Santa Ana. The duplex system will be employed. The Government proposes to cooperate in the construction of an international line destined to connect the five Central American Republics (possibly at some time becoming a part of the intercontinental system), thus seconding the initiative of the Costa Rican Government. There are now 120 telegraph and 40 telephone stations in the Republic.

Important improvements have been introduced in the postal service, notably in the reestablishment of correspondence with Europe by way of Zacapa and Puerto Barrios. Some twenty-three post-offices which were closed at different times have been reopened.

The national roads have also occupied the attention of the Government, and to-day almost all the public highways are in first-class condition. A number of bridges and some new roads have been constructed.

Convinced of the necessity of developing public instruction, the Government has made great efforts to establish educational facilities upon a suitable footing; and, in spite of the economic circumstances of the country, important sums have been spent for the maintenance and development of education. For professional and secondary instruction, important measures have been enacted resulting in the reorganizing of the National University, the creation of an institute in the city of Santa Ana, the reorganization of the Cabinet of Physics of the Central Institute, the reestablishment of the meteorological and astronomical observatory, and in the creation of two new professions—dentistry and scientific agricultural engineering. Reforms have also been introduced in primary instruction, school museums for the exposition of

the natural and manufactured products of the country have been created, etc.

In conclusion the President stated that the Government has followed a conciliatory and peaceful policy, its one aim being to secure the happiness and prosperity of the country.

**ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
TO LONDON.**

Dr. RAFAEL ZALDIVAR, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Salvador to the Court of St. James, was recently recognized in his official capacity. Dr. ZALDIVAR is very well known both in Europe and America. He took his degree in the Medical College of Guatemala, and shortly afterwards was sent on a diplomatic mission as Minister Plenipotentiary to Germany, where he remained a few months. On returning to his native country he occupied high positions in the administration and was a member of the National Congress. In 1893 he was elected President of the Republic, filling that office for nine years. Afterwards he visited foreign countries and was disconnected with politics for fifteen years. On a recent visit to Salvador, President REGALADO prevailed upon him to accept the post of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary not only to England, but also to France and Germany.

While in France Dr. ZALDIVAR was successful in arranging for the entry of Salvadorian products into the Paris Exposition. These will be exhibited in the Mexican Division, according to a special arrangement made with President DÍAZ.

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 February, 1900, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the eight months ending February, 1900, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1899. 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 February, for example, are not published until some time in April.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Chemicals:				
Logwood (<i>Palo campeche; Pau campeche; Campeche</i>)—				
Mexico.....	\$1,053	\$8,778	\$44,939	\$11,234
Coal, bituminous (<i>Carbón bituminoso; Carvão bituminoso; Charbon de terre</i>):				
Mexico.....	20,479	8,800	167,991	97,611
Cocoa (<i>Cacao; Cacaó ou cacao cru; Cacaó</i>):				
Central America.....	6		8,597	4,711
Brazil.....	44,229		513,719	810,899
Other South America.....	75,995	118,069	816,920	994,778
Coffee (<i>Café; Caffé; Caffé</i>):				
Central America.....	551,092	692,608	1,683,121	1,765,981
Mexico.....	322,997	358,614	1,056,444	1,655,840
Brazil.....	4,630,980	4,572,614	23,035,339	23,855,212
Other South America.....	760,677	518,766	4,319,702	2,607,111
Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):				
South America.....	13,577	35,884	82,679	135,613
Fibers:				
Sisal grass (<i>Henequen; Henequen; Henequen</i>)—				
Philippine Islands.....	271,555	11,708	1,649,597	4,865,470
Mexico.....	372,895	1,257,429	5,570,859	6,898,622
Fruits:				
Bananas (<i>Plátanos; Bananas; Bananas</i>)—				
Central America.....	116,532	130,191	1,094,548	1,376,287
South America.....	46,879	86,704	286,281	646,487
Oranges (<i>Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges</i>)—				
Mexico.....	439	247	136,527	184,052
Fur skins (<i>Pielés finas; Pelles; Fourrures</i>):				
South America.....	43,965		107,883	110,101
Hides and skins (<i>Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuir e peaux</i>):				
Central America.....	18,748	53,720	179,681	319,023
Mexico.....	206,742	281,895	1,189,856	1,514,141
South America.....	621,910	891,059	4,177,052	7,312,226
India rubber, crude (<i>Goma clásica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i>):				
Central America.....	51,352	84,268	524,809	522,568
Mexico.....	10,739	18,483	59,222	123,411
Brazil.....	1,726,478	1,532,387	9,451,634	11,847,724
Other South America.....	63,880	80,070	618,365	694,637
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (<i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chuumbo em lingados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i>):				
Mexico.....	88,367	274,780	1,215,921	1,656,008
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (<i>Açúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Açúcar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i>):				
Central America.....	17,084	2,511	55,789	48,826
Mexico.....	3,840	2,105	11,859	52,635
Cuba.....	1,203,299	1,209,303	4,734,447	6,263,054
Brazil.....	121,464	534,986	331,400	833,585
Other South America.....	475,419	407,815	4,176,962	4,148,688
Hawaiian Islands.....	1,190,048	817,262	8,915,496	12,328,547
Philippine Islands.....			969,323	906,801
Tobacco, leaf (<i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i>):				
Mexico.....	4,213	19,242	209,464	68,660
Cuba.....	786,426	1,110,142	2,538,657	5,606,225
Wood, mahogany (<i>Cuoba; Mogno; Acajou</i>):				
Central America.....		85	256,889	195,748
Mexico.....	12,491	26,384	221,364	259,355
Cuba.....	313	12,722	7,513	94,851
South America.....	720	7,079	9,411	22,189

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Wool (<i>Lana; LA; Laine</i>)—				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing).....	\$21,027	\$18,679	\$51,470	\$546,900
Class 2 (combing).....		48,499	97	48,600
Class 3 (carpet).....	13,268	126,220	243,278	449,296

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements (<i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Maquinas agricolas</i>):				
Central America.....	\$222	\$459	\$5,467	\$5,736
Mexico.....	17,619	32,581	109,824	224,305
Santo Domingo.....	5		228	2,881
Cuba.....	3,510	16,128	11,105	103,900
Porto Rico.....	401	281	1,277	4,275
Argentine Republic.....	72,382	113,342	1,231,056	1,602,793
Brazil.....	3,086	1,079	21,992	16,443
Colombia.....			1,271	708
Other South America.....	11,242	19,540	219,743	250,155
Animals:				
Cattle (<i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Betail</i>)—				
Central America.....			3,320	450
Mexico.....	11,400	11,525	70,938	103,472
South America.....			2,943	490
Hogs (<i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i>)—				
Mexico.....	939	2,806	33,690	61,003
Horses (<i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,120		5,500	250
Mexico.....	6,780	8,289	59,034	79,086
South America.....	1,400		3,839	1,830
Sheep (<i>Carneros; Caruceros; Moutons</i>)—				
Mexico.....	688	934	10,053	13,119
South America.....	660	400	5,945	5,382
Books, maps, engravings, etc. (<i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,597	3,965	24,167	43,091
Mexico.....	4,981	9,875	33,232	81,806
Santo Domingo.....	2,000	280	7,044	893
Cuba.....	4,895	1,715	17,849	39,913
Porto Rico.....	2,920	1,166	9,397	9,331
Argentine Republic.....	2,058	2,359	12,677	21,784
Brazil.....	1,449	1,262	33,734	45,394
Colombia.....	7,805	255	32,480	42,750
Other South America.....	1,692	2,273	106,777	35,009
Breadstuffs:				
Corn (<i>Maiz; Milho; Mais</i>)—				
Central America.....	3,693	2,900	22,693	30,883
Mexico.....	2,561	42,193	21,133	149,445
Santo Domingo.....			2	51
Cuba.....	22,661	31,322	122,359	345,761
Porto Rico.....		265		2,374
South America.....	3,416	977	16,589	62,956
Wheat (<i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,838		26,085	5,200
Mexico.....			5,036	2,038
South America.....	115	2,181	111,134	22,612
Wheat flour (<i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de Trigo; Farine de Blé</i>)—				
Central America.....	100,055	77,286	671,799	533,292
Mexico.....	9,935	8,935	86,812	100,428
Santo Domingo.....	11,536	11,236	78,433	77,774
Cuba.....	263,834	152,705	1,114,096	1,416,975
Porto Rico.....	69,207	67,923	279,931	465,215
Brazil.....	179,148	189,644	2,341,041	1,442,369
Colombia.....	18,967	16,420	218,582	193,415
Other South America.....	142,358	113,082	923,761	1,065,086

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (<i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carriages, carros e partes de carros</i>); <i>Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i>:				
Central America.....	\$947	\$1,648	\$30,466	\$15,033
Mexico.....	30,759	101,443	298,148	766,517
Santo Domingo.....	3	354	18,341	17,085
Cuba.....	4,983	7,813	76,516	154,827
Porto Rico.....	637	1,467	2,081	21,185
Argentine Republic.....	9,715	5,097	427,255	231,316
Brazil.....	245	928	61,230	155,545
Colombia.....	884	215	20,028	15,997
Other South America.....	3,732	2,872	40,411	36,764
Cycles and parts of (<i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicycles e accesorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i>):				
Central America.....	240	86	4,004	2,211
Mexico.....	6,944	848	32,679	18,444
Santo Domingo.....		14	221	216
Cuba.....	1,974	11,982	4,340	128,419
Porto Rico.....	296	185	1,881	1,796
Argentine Republic.....	17,115	14,038	117,452	129,078
Brazil.....	3,749	1,469	44,499	21,199
Colombia.....	228	22	4,962	5,881
Other South America.....	1,644	4,186	34,728	48,893
Clocks and watches (<i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relojes de parede y de bolso; Pendules et montres</i>):				
Central America.....	88	80	1,681	1,862
Mexico.....	2,441	1,334	17,725	18,656
Argentine Republic.....	1,442	297	14,762	16,043
Brazil.....	3,137	5,038	49,795	47,155
Other South America.....	2,795	6,044	65,302	47,709
Coal (<i>Carbón; Carrón; Charbon</i>):				
Central America.....	1,135	2,164	8,797	15,655
Mexico.....	113,796	140,433	737,882	943,034
Santo Domingo.....		678	8,150	9,595
Cuba.....	58,394	88,642	413,287	380,365
Porto Rico.....	7,315	8,448	28,552	30,957
Brazil.....	18,843	6,221	125,493	60,325
Colombia.....	18,076	6,200	30,441	26,357
Other South America.....	1,146	8,654	138,242	54,209
Copper (<i>Cobre; Cuba; Cuivre</i>):				
Mexico.....	11,363	77,930	159,262	296,304
Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):				
Mexico.....	24,808	24,773	808,059	421,412
South America.....		5,100		6,880
Cotton cloths (<i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; coton manufacturé</i>):				
Central America.....	31,920	56,173	335,661	471,956
Mexico.....	39,912	29,619	304,512	344,543
Santo Domingo.....	4,849	1,117	96,943	35,795
Cuba.....	43,172	1,761	142,437	351,053
Porto Rico.....	10,215	1,777	21,283	102,943
Argentine Republic.....	1,473	4,038	149,365	82,729
Brazil.....	18,621	16,585	372,031	287,915
Colombia.....	17,971	11,119	238,013	180,924
Other South America.....	144,721	76,436	989,249	646,679
Wearing apparel (<i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i>):				
Central America.....	27,523	41,726	137,604	261,043
Mexico.....	31,358	21,444	244,177	279,927
Santo Domingo.....	888	580	21,079	9,065
Cuba.....	11,613	9,872	41,667	116,962
Porto Rico.....	1,903	777	6,434	22,921
Argentine Republic.....	1,252	293	59,912	13,255
Brazil.....	2,302	1,605	30,139	30,169
Colombia.....	1,060	6,046	30,509	32,820
Other South America.....	3,545	3,022	32,491	48,720

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noixelles</i>):				
Central America	\$2,081	\$2,516	\$18,459	\$21,819
Mexico	4,862	7,834	53,847	58,804
Santo Domingo	4	92	1,591	2,114
Cuba	4,081	3,481	48,195	68,711
Porto Rico	348	685	3,058	10,247
Argentine Republic	768	854	6,267	3,430
Brazil	243	629	13,379	17,036
Colombia	687	1,205	4,929	6,767
Other South America	1,043	1,433	15,958	15,215
Instruments:				
Electric and scientific apparatus (<i>Aparatos electricos y cientificos; Appareils electriques e scientifiques; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i>)—				
Central America	3,216	3,082	62,648	37,058
Mexico	48,614	21,691	292,111	304,854
Argentine Republic	12,556	16,899	139,784	206,881
Brazil	9,787	11,936	80,825	129,999
Other South America	5,204	9,494	68,343	100,601
Iron and steel, manufactures of:				
Steel mills (<i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i>)—				
Central America	6,382	.....	32,522	13,157
Mexico	48,576	59,472	380,550	341,948
South America	7,681	3,780	204,506	154,219
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction fer et acier, scies et outils</i>)—				
Central America	5,953	6,392	52,931	64,872
Mexico	29,426	36,517	201,151	315,462
Santo Domingo	366	830	7,291	6,593
Cuba	22,079	22,175	126,300	245,221
Porto Rico	969	1,399	4,462	19,662
Argentine Republic	7,542	11,291	149,197	196,077
Brazil	12,715	17,245	140,380	182,270
Colombia	6,238	3,635	72,203	70,283
Other South America	21,783	18,857	151,147	190,804
Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accesorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>)—				
Central America	265	2,294	13,869	20,960
Mexico	18,850	44,726	436,709	185,727
Santo Domingo	162	525	1,339	1,589
Cuba	783	5,551	3,521	52,485
Porto Rico	59	58	1,240	1,466
Argentine Republic	35,031	5,546	104,228	111,468
Brazil	10,573	9,478	59,711	88,283
Colombia	3,088	456	43,500	9,963
Other South America	11,135	11,184	88,058	112,314
Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir e accesorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—				
Central America	248	91	1,845	1,809
Mexico	6,496	4,450	23,458	35,661
Santo Domingo	.....	.....	130	106
Cuba	3,860	2,990	10,394	18,114
Porto Rico	404	.....	2,735	1,559
Argentine Republic	1,192	1,675	17,481	26,769
Brazil	1,285	950	3,785	8,017
Colombia	210	295	2,494	1,695
Other South America	4,175	2,685	13,468	17,833
Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de sueto; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):				
Central America	337	2,619	7,509	16,626
Mexico	242	4,206	5,301	28,655
Santo Domingo	80	287	1,237	661
Cuba	1,306	3,434	4,512	25,075
Porto Rico	515	165	3,387	2,624
Argentine Republic	6,226	720	21,056	42,017
Brazil	757	7,970	24,953	59,370
Colombia	252	220	1,378	1,610
Other South America	4,767	4,540	21,369	28,081

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Boots and shoes (Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures):				
Central America.....	\$6,418	\$3,128	\$60,711	\$95,565
Mexico.....	18,915	24,942	93,686	231,773
Colombia.....	1,602	3,618	21,326	36,061
Other South America.....	1,238	2,073	28,338	26,113
Naval stores:				
Rosin, tar, etc. (<i>Resina y alquitran; Resine et alcitrão; Résine et goudron</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,528	806	10,366	9,228
Mexico.....	194	279	5,946	4,739
Santo Domingo.....	21	145	1,947	1,878
Cuba.....	626	269	4,457	10,511
Porto Rico.....	29	32	817	1,287
Argentine Republic.....	1,230	.....	70,285	121,994
Brazil.....	3,794	4,131	121,667	105,908
Colombia.....	291	285	7,885	6,250
Other South America.....	2,811	3,722	58,234	69,797
Turpentine, spirits of (<i>Aguarrás; Aguar-raz; Téré- benthine</i>)—				
Central America.....	325	994	2,200	4,612
Mexico.....	570	163	2,802	2,573
Santo Domingo.....	106	45	431	293
Cuba.....	1,593	3,923	16,941	33,418
Porto Rico.....	421	68	1,829	2,238
Argentine Republic.....	.....	9,252	24,967	99,230
Brazil.....	2,406	6,201	33,357	47,746
Colombia.....	731	744	4,148	3,067
Other South America.....	3,683	3,168	21,283	42,727
Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleas minerales, crás; Huiles minérales, brutes</i>):				
Mexico.....	8,540	41,769	196,410	276,689
Cuba.....	11,044	9,237	125,337	218,331
Porto Rico.....	.....	10,186	.....	19,519
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):				
Central America.....	8,786	18,802	83,351	97,737
Mexico.....	22,838	17,965	109,904	128,175
Santo Domingo.....	111	4,216	23,195	31,277
Cuba.....	9,602	6,350	72,867	52,150
Porto Rico.....	2,715	1,425	45,430	22,618
Argentine Republic.....	69,579	96,542	466,266	1,029,554
Brazil.....	99,200	113,406	1,037,163	1,224,607
Colombia.....	3,353	13,315	72,408	86,632
Other South America.....	57,120	88,969	446,543	771,020
Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleas vegetales; Huiles végétales</i>):				
Central America.....	405	727	2,752	1,835
Mexico.....	35,424	53,115	302,622	599,240
Santo Domingo.....	386	2,972	15,503	20,537
Cuba.....	144	706	5,320	28,604
Argentine Republic.....	2,340	5,839	46,335	26,252
Brazil.....	13,293	13,127	430,567	129,029
Other South America.....	9,815	8,910	55,616	80,770
Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de para- fina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance</i>):				
Central America.....	1,592	4,676	17,894	21,183
Mexico.....	33,969	29,123	157,840	239,067
Brazil.....	338	1,916	8,546	12,584
Other South America.....	100	7,235	3,855	20,221
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned (<i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vaca em latas; Bœuf conservé</i>)—				
Central America.....	1,853	1,556	12,926	19,399
Mexico.....	2,318	1,901	11,634	14,316
Santo Domingo.....	.....	10	43	76
Cuba.....	2,527	166	10,186	4,231
Argentine Republic.....	582	.....	878	365
Brazil.....	3,715	3,710	13,640	28,514
Colombia.....	490	1,315	2,903	7,111
Other South America.....	836	1,384	7,110	15,837

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—				
Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vaca salgada ou em salmoura; Beef, salted ou en saumuré</i>)—				
Central America	\$990	\$3,450	\$19,825	\$27,621
Mexico	230	32	568	1,737
Santo Domingo	111	193	2,242	2,869
Cuba	5,313	356	21,574	6,684
Porto Rico	77	20	653	1,484
Brazil	192	660	2,066	4,082
Colombia	663	2,097	7,845	13,715
Other South America	11,272	14,707	130,385	122,775
Tallow (<i>Sbo; Sbo; Suif</i>)—				
Central America	5,543	6,993	57,252	51,653
Mexico	1,169	1,379	22,318	16,421
Santo Domingo		1,862	5,454	9,094
Cuba	371	190	18,736	2,119
Porto Rico			303	467
Brazil	1,500	17,819	31,831	29,538
Colombia	1,641	181	6,348	7,622
Other South America	4,355	10,138	16,426	40,748
Bacon (<i>Tocino; Tocinho; Lard fumé</i>)—				
Central America	987	1,637	11,871	17,376
Mexico	1,148	2,418	9,517	16,050
Santo Domingo	6	72	951	1,381
Cuba	57,783	52,655	309,424	559,423
Porto Rico	5,704	5,059	42,459	45,463
Brazil	33,929	7,024	365,150	97,656
Colombia	318	469	1,167	1,656
Other South America	968	1,287	10,300	5,296
Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—				
Central America	1,672	1,845	14,885	20,659
Mexico	3,237	2,545	21,749	31,908
Santo Domingo	243	625	4,468	4,077
Cuba	57,267	46,731	326,985	474,745
Porto Rico	1,423	2,251	7,162	27,673
Brazil	164	32	2,719	2,841
Colombia	882	1,709	8,503	12,213
Other South America	6,752	2,752	56,559	52,048
Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i>)—				
Central America	1,111	6,716	41,527	50,961
Santo Domingo	242	291	3,260	4,797
Cuba	6,710	60,389	23,289	267,782
Porto Rico	15,344	16,041	92,519	144,408
Brazil	131	17	5,840	2,556
Colombia	476	1,607	4,672	28,608
Other South America	19,084	18,028	162,567	118,582
Lard (<i>Mantea; Banha; Saindoux</i>)—				
Central America	12,610	17,305	93,549	121,194
Mexico	12,621	41,127	109,559	322,050
Santo Domingo	520	1,457	15,914	13,750
Cuba	125,283	132,928	847,354	1,267,951
Porto Rico	15,975	23,696	151,690	173,993
Argentine Republic		602	1,421	3,511
Brazil	69,675	51,813	837,877	544,911
Colombia	4,297	11,625	50,965	94,384
Other South America	38,070	59,845	376,293	502,779
Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Óleo et oleomargarine</i>)—				
Central America	317	704	1,329	4,831
Mexico	124	240	573	982
Porto Rico	3,249	1,010	12,468	14,179
Colombia	1,170	1,601	6,223	6,983
Other South America	2,075	2,165	12,559	12,106
Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—				
Central America	3,650	3,507	30,792	36,748
Mexico	5,146	3,714	32,531	29,922
Santo Domingo	94	2,622	6,655	6,933
Cuba	21,767	6,161	63,829	36,338
Porto Rico	1,808	271	6,642	1,667
Brazil	10,517	6,147	165,518	138,822
Colombia	521	551	8,267	10,005
Other South America	11,167	2,913	79,149	96,987

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Provisions, comprising meal and dairy products—				
(Continued.)				
Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—				
Central America	\$1,288	\$2,116	\$11,058	\$16,401
Mexico	1,855	2,216	11,699	17,073
Santo Domingo	132	505	2,811	4,855
Cuba	9,506	4,731	52,808	27,378
Porto Rico	2,196	1,455	8,123	19,116
Brazil			568	69
Colombia	359	758	4,961	5,743
Other South America	891	707	9,904	8,719
Seeds (<i>Semillas; Semences; Semence</i>)—				
Central America	495	339	2,335	1,971
Mexico	3,213	3,995	11,617	13,226
Santo Domingo	20	81	98	568
Cuba	71	93	2,904	3,617
Porto Rico	23	47	112	282
Argentine Republic			2,432	1,790
Brazil	123	22	719	262
Colombia	139	100	4,071	648
Other South America	99	414	1,271	2,109
Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>):				
Central America	903	3,421	11,525	23,861
Mexico	1,566	246	12,323	16,919
Santo Domingo	112	78	950	486
Colombia	931	1,079	8,803	8,019
Other South America	135		1,548	1,549
Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tobaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i>):				
Central America	3,208	878	13,806	18,897
Mexico	16,919	2,670	97,719	115,269
Argentine Republic	2,000	720	14,455	6,623
Colombia	148	2,648	3,649	7,285
Other South America	10,395	11,059	65,733	68,395
Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i>):				
Central America	4,559	5,401	36,162	37,909
Mexico	450	1,316	8,282	4,457
Cuba	21,705	19,151	81,158	107,932
Argentine Republic	175	3,192	4,161	21,764
Brazil			500	352
Colombia	492	1,203	3,360	4,566
Other South America	5,330	4,621	55,801	33,111
Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturada; Bois brut</i>):				
Central America	1,749	3,971	22,433	12,837
Mexico	11,609	5,122	214,026	132,510
Cuba	3,860	6,555	22,123	38,219
Argentine Republic	438	827	12,741	14,429
Brazil			4,284	
Colombia	168	177	20,194	6,881
Other South America		4,100	14,100	62,644
Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):				
Central America	1,599	3,718	35,185	32,582
Mexico	74,360	77,695	479,792	604,228
Santo Domingo	3,855	2,702	17,931	17,268
Cuba	105,490	96,917	418,038	607,186
Porto Rico	4,187	22,902	17,133	130,521
Argentine Republic	42,658	225,883	655,145	873,897
Brazil	25,110	5,246	283,887	300,978
Colombia	1,368	3,760	26,371	50,603
Other South America	30,961	40,928	322,399	388,131
Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i>):				
Central America	2,114	5,653	26,094	31,621
Mexico	21,792	26,548	145,723	218,850
Santo Domingo	700	496	4,484	4,148
Cuba	9,223	26,855	27,589	199,183
Porto Rico	1,561		7,198	22,781
Argentine Republic	13,640	2,372	48,259	79,260
Brazil	1,738	2,156	19,979	28,551
Colombia	2,195	790	17,658	11,697
Other South America	4,211	2,122	44,973	42,894

NEW CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM LATIN AMERICA.

The following consular officers from Latin American countries have been recognized by the United States Government, according to the report of the Department of State:

FELICÍSIMO LÓPEZ, Consul-General of Ecuador at New York; JUAN HENRIQUÉZ, Consul-General of the Dominican Republic at San Juan, Porto Rico; ELÍAS GONZÁLES ESTEVES, Consul-General of Venezuela at New York; JOAQUÍN SANSÓN, Consul-General of Nicaragua at New Orleans; AUGUSTÍN PIÑA, Consul of Mexico at Tucson, Arizona; ESCIPCIÓN CANAL, Consul of Colombia at San Francisco, California; AFFONSO ARNOLDO RUTIS, Consul of Paraguay at Philadelphia; OSCAR HÜTLINGER, Consul of the Dominican Republic at New York; WILLIAM HARPER, Consul of Colombia at Philadelphia; M. AVILA BLANCO, Consul of Venezuela at San Juan, Porto Rico; JOSÉ MIGUEL MORALES Y ALVARADO, Honorary Vice-Consul of Venezuela at Ponce, Porto Rico; ALBERTO BRAVO, Vice-Consul of the Dominican Republic at Mayaguez, Porto Rico; JOSÉ BLANCH, Vice-Consul of Haiti at Mayaguez, Porto Rico; AUGUSTO MONTEIRA DE ALVARENGA, Vice-Consul of Brazil at Philadelphia; JOSÉ ANTONIO VELUTINI, Vice-Consul of Venezuela at New York.

THE WESTERN TANNIN PLANT.

The "Deutsch-Amerikanische Gewerbe-Zeitung" publishes the following information on a new tannin plant which grows in great abundance on the banks of the Mississippi and its branches. It is believed, according to this journal, that this plant can replace the oak bark and other substances which are used in tanneries for the preparation of hides. "It is called Western tannin plant, and the quantity which is raised along the great American river is so great that it would suffice to supply the different tanneries of the entire world."

This plant contains 18 per cent of tannin; oak bark contains only from 10 to 12 per cent. It follows that in equal quantity it will tan 50 per cent more hides than the oak bark. The crop is annual and is harvested the same as hay. It is cut, left to dry, and then stacked. The plants when well dried are pressed in an hydraulic machine and then made into bales, to be transported in the ordinary way. This new plant is employed the same as the oak bark, with the difference, however, that the hide treated with this new product is softer and finer, while at the same time being more solid and more brilliant. There has been for some time a factory at Lincoln, Nebraska, for the preparation of this new raw material, which realizes large profits. Large shipments have been sent by this factory to Chicago, where important houses are intending to exploit this new method of tanning.

MONOGRAPH ON PATAGONIAN BIRDS.

Prof. W. E. D. SCOTT, curator of the ornithological department of Princeton University, has gone to England to study the birds collected in the British Museum and compare them with specimens recently procured from Patagonia. The result of his researches will be embodied in a monograph on the birds of Patagonia, which will be the first of a series of publications dealing with the Princeton Patagonian expedition, of which Professor SCOTT will be editor in chief.

MISSOURI FARMERS IN MEXICO.

A special dispatch to the "Chicago Record," dated March 18, 1900, states that a colony of 400 farmers from the State of Missouri in the United States is to be established in the valley of the Concho River, in the State of Chihuahua. The promoters of the colonization scheme are reported to have purchased 200,000 acres of the rich valley land. A few of the colonists are stated to have already arrived, and the remainder will reach Mexico in time to put in crops for the season.

HONOLULU, HAWAII, REPORTED FREE OF PLAGUE.

A message from Honolulu, dated March 24, states that the board of health of that city had practically decided that the bubonic plague had run its course. At that time no cases had developed for more than a week. The members of the board are reported to be convinced that quarantine restrictions regarding the shipments of merchandise from Honolulu, except merchandise from Asiatic ports, will soon be rescinded.

URUGUAY.**MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.**

On February 15, 1900, Señor Don JUAN L. CUESTAS, President of the Republic of Uruguay, addressed his message to the General Assembly of the nation upon the inauguration of the second session of the Twentieth Legislature. The more salient points of the message here follow:

PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"The Government has been intent upon the ever-growing progress of the country. The campaign to develop its resources and increase its industries has required various dispositions tending to bring this about. Manufacturing is gradually spreading in the capital and in the populated centers in proportion to the elements there existing.

railroads, the telegraph, and the telephone, extending themselves, carry their powerful action to all the centers they reach. A true manifestation of the progress achieved in the pastoral campaign have been the expositions which have been held in the cities and towns of some departments. The improvement of the breeds constituting the pastoral wealth gives evidence of the good condition of the principal industry of the country and the advance made therein. The Government has assisted, as far as in its power lay, to encourage these expositions which stimulate the cattle raiser and the introduction of breeds intended for reproduction, to which all those privileges have been granted which are consonant with the laws of the land.

"Agriculture has also assumed proportions worthy of claiming high rank in the general wealth. It is to the farmers and their noble devotion to industry and labor that the improvement in the general interests of the country is due. The farms are the prime factors in the prosperity of the nation. Commerce and industry in general, aided by order and peace, will carry the Republic rapidly forward. The data presented by the customs statistics confirm this assertion. In 1898 and 1899 the imports show a value of about \$24,000,000 per year. The exports, which in 1898 were \$30,000,000, in 1899 grew to \$37,000,000. These figures alone are sufficient to give a most eloquent proof of the progress of the country and its onward march. It is the first time since we began our independent life that the proofs of the national labor have shown themselves in so admirable a way. It may be asserted, without the fear of falling into error, that the Republic has reached the highest point in the material progress of nations in comparison with the density of its population. * * *

* * * "The Executive Power, following the economic principle pursuant to which the proper distribution of the real estate tax should be based upon a full knowledge of the value of property, issued the decree of October 12 last, providing for the establishment of the registration of property, which will at any moment permit the appreciation of and follow all the transfers in real estate. The listing of real property has been confided to a Central Commission of competent citizens, engineers, and public officers, which will limit its trust to the city of Montevideo and its environments, being authorized to appoint the subcommissions it may deem advisable for the better execution of so important a work. The Central Commission has already begun its task with commendable energy, by entering upon the preliminary studies and plans which are indispensable to the taking up of the work itself. The Executive Power entertains the full conviction that in a relatively short time these labors, of vital importance to our national interests and the economic future of the country, will be definitively terminated.

GENERAL CENSUS.

“The compilation of the demographic census of the Republic becomes indispensable in order to provide irrefutable testimony of our vitality and of our progress. For this reason the Executive Power hastened to issue the decree of November 17, last, providing for the taking of the general census of the population of the whole territory of the Republic, with the exception of that of the capital, which will be taken later—an operation to be intrusted to an Executive Committee charged with the preparation, direction, and complete performance of all the labor indispensably necessary thereto. Pursuant to this decree the census will be taken on March 1, 1900, in all the suburban departments. The system which has been adopted for the execution of the work will allow it to be realized with notable rapidity and without large outlays of the public Treasury, as the expenses will be limited to the salaries of clerks and the necessary printing. Upon providing for the taking of the census of the population of the Republic a prescription of the Constitution, forgotten ever since 1860, has been carried into execution. * * *

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

“The institutions of the postal and telegraph systems have merited the preferred attention of my Government. * * *

“The fusion of the national posts and telegraph—analogous services by nature, and by their purposes; identical services, in a word—has brought about the expected results. Operating under the same roof, under the same direction, they can mutually assist each other in the carrying out of their delicate mission; the unequivocal proof of this being the increase of their revenues, the growing business which in the year 1899 was evidenced by the 39 postal-telegraphic offices, sending 131,872 dispatches, bringing in the sum of \$56,498.70, and the handling of 5,090,681 pieces of mail matter more than during the year 1898, or 37,238,356 pieces, representing receipts to the amount of \$240,645.25, to which amount there have contributed, besides the central office, 18 principal offices established in the departmental seats, 52 branch offices, or second-class offices, operating in the more important centers by reason of population and trade, 650 agencies of the third class distributed in the capital and in the interior, 15 perambulating offices, running over our railways, and 6 on the steamships in the Uruguay River service.

“It would be almost unnecessary to state that the economic progress of this institution is wholly satisfying. The general movement of its revenues in the year 1899 reached the amount of \$330,956.49, with a surplus of \$19,194.41 in excess of the receipts for 1898. With its

own receipts it has each month covered the estimates, and has been enabled to effect many and varied improvements which were necessary to its perfect operation. It has acquired in fee an area of 1,384 square meters, 70 decimeters, on Miguelete street, between Yaguarón and Médanos, wherein commodious and hygienic offices for the service and special departments for the storage of telegraphic materials have been constructed. As several of its dependencies are situated away from the Central Office, thus making impossible the constant vigilance which the General Directory should exercise over them, there will be finished in a short time the construction of an addition to the Post-Office, which will permit the centralizing of its offices, regulating of its operations, and economizing of the large sums spent monthly in the way of rent.

“The telegraph lines, the length of which is now 1,655 kilometers, are in greater part in perfect state, and will soon feel the impulse which will be given them by their junction with the Argentine national lines, through the convention submitted to the approval of the General Assembly and will soon also be connected with the Brazilian national telegraph system, to which end important negotiations are now being conducted. I do not think far off the hour when we shall see these unions realized, for I trust in the patriotic spirit of the Senators and Deputies and rely upon their assistance in a work whose magnitude will mark a page of progress in the history of our national telegraphs. In consonance with these ideas, the construction of some kilometers of line from Conchillas to Martín Chico has been authorized, at which latter point our telegraph system will connect with that of the Argentine Republic; and in the desire to obtain perfect working, the line uniting Colonia with the former of the points named has been repaired, and the acquisition in Europe of 600 kilometers of bronze wire to be exclusively devoted to the service, which now only awaits the sanction of the General Assembly is planned. * * *

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

* * * * *

“I have thought, in the first place, that it was expedient for us to encourage our commercial interchange, and to this end, after harkening to the mature opinion of the Chambers of Commerce and of some distinguished members of the upper trade circles, I propose for the consideration of the Governments of France, Germany, England, and Italy the reestablishment of the former commercial convention which had lapsed, limiting them only to the term of one year, within which time we might negotiate other agreements with reciprocal advantages for the respective States. In this way the want of foresight previously manifested of having denounced the treaties without being prepared beforehand for new negotiations might be obviated. The

absolute want of commercial conventions with those countries deprived us of the enjoyment of the benefits of the minimum tariff rates which are applied in Europe only to the products of nations bound to them by international compacts. To this result, then, the conventions lately submitted to the consideration of the General Assembly, of which those with France and Germany have already been ratified, have been directed. There is before you for consideration the general treaty of arbitration concluded with the Argentine Government by the terms of which the manner and form are provided for settling amicably and expediently the questions that may arise between the two countries.

* * * * *

“We have also negotiated with the said Government a convention relating to the importation and exportation of cattle between this Government and that for the purpose of guaranteeing the healthy condition of this article of commerce. This negotiation was urgently demanded by our cattle raisers and exporters, to whose wants we should attend, without prejudice to the measures of an administrative character which it was advisable to adopt to prevent the introduction of cattle attacked with contagious diseases or suspected of having the same. The convention referred to reconciles all interests, and establishes the procedure to be adopted for the introduction of the cattle, without prejudice to either country, equally interested in the encouragement of that important branch of international trade.

“There is before the General Assembly for consideration the telegraphic convention concluded between our Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the Argentine Republic, with the laudable object of establishing a complete telegraphic service with that country, Paraguay, and Bolivia under very advantageous conditions for the public, without any surcharge. The international rates to be charged for telegrams coming from abroad or addressed thereto are also agreed upon.

“* * * The documents of ratification on the part of the Republic of the conventions concluded in the Postal Congress of Washington, wherein all the modifications and improvements counseled by experience and practice subsequent to the Congresses of Lisbon and Vienna, formerly engaged upon this subject, are adopted, have been sent to the United States to be deposited in the Department of State.

PUBLIC WORKS.

* * * * *

“Pursuant to the laws of November 7 last, approving the definitive plan for the execution of the harbor works in the Bay of Montevideo formulated by the engineer, DON ADOLFO GUÉRARD, upon the bases of the previous plans of KÜMMER-GUÉRARD, but limiting the contract letting to what may be deemed indispensable for the present, the Executive Power, on the 16th of said month addressed the said engineer,

GUÉRARD, instructing him to prepare the final plans which are to serve for the letting of the contract. These plans, together with the specifications, will be ready by the end of the month of March. There were also sent to the said engineer the observations prepared by the National Department of Engineers relative to the final location of some of the works, in order that he might take them into account should they, in his judgment, make for economy in the project.

“The Executive Power having been authorized to contract for the construction of the work within the sum of \$12,500,000, gold, calling for bids from first-class firms that may have executed important undertakings of a similar nature, the Government, participating in the general desire which animates the whole population of the Republic that the execution of this great problem be accelerated, deems it expedient to at once exercise the authority conferred without awaiting the forwarding to Montevideo of the definitive plans intrusted to Señor GUÉRARD. To this end it primarily ordered the translation into the French, English, German, and Italian languages of the laws promulgated on November 7 and their publication for their better dissemination. After collecting information it prepared a list of the principal contracting firms of England, France, Germany, United States, Belgium, Italy, and Holland, comprising a total of 26 firms, to which were sent by the end of December all the antecedents, plans, laws, and documents, for the proper study of the subject.

“They were also sent a long explanatory note, calling the special attention of each of them to the subject in order that they might present their bids, the 31st of July of 1900 being fixed as the latest date for the filing of the same. The contracting firms have been informed that as the construction and location of the works which it is intended to undertake at present are determined in the plans and reports that have been sent them, they might enter upon the study on these bases of the general lines of their bids, completing the same when they shall have received the final plans intrusted on November 16, 1899, to Señor GUÉRARD. In thus acting the Executive Power has advanced the work and gained time, so that perhaps the construction of the work may be begun during the current year. Among the antecedents sent out there figures a statement of our foreign commerce, showing the probable amount of revenue available for the construction of the work, which is calculated at \$1,100,000 gold per year, a most important sum, upon which any financial combination may rely without fear. This fact, the ample guaranty provided by the laws, and the seriousness and importance of the studies that have been made, are essential factors which permit entertaining the hope that at last the harbor works of Montevideo will be taken out of the field of great national aspirations and be converted into a fruitful fact for the Republic.

“Aside from the great questions of harbors and public highways,

which are treated under separate headings, because of the importance they involve for the Republic, the Executive Power will also endeavor to give favorable impulse to the following, which are also of undeniable importance and are seriously demanded:

"1. Extension of the Northeastern Railway, now terminating at Nico Pérez, which it is important should be carried at least to Melo.

"2. Rapid and cheap communication between the capital and the Departments of the East, either through the extension of the Eastern Uruguayan Railway, now terminating at Sierra, or by the establishment of a regular line of mail steamers connecting with rural steam tramways, starting from the ports of Maldonado and La Paloma.

"3. Termination of the works at the Almirón Passage, already far advanced, which will transform Paysandú into a port of entry.

"4. Preservation and improvement of the works already executed on the Negro River and the Arroyo de las Vacas.

"5. Construction of the Government Palace.

"6. Construction of school buildings in the capital and in the Departments of the interior, there already being under negotiation an advantageous and well-guaranteed proposition.

RAILWAY LINES.

"Upon the inauguration of the Constitutional Government the State had already complied on its part with nearly all the obligations by it assumed as a contract party with the company then styled the Western Railways Company, pursuant to the terms of the contract of May 30, 1896. By this contract the company undertook the construction of a system of railways, the main line of which starts from the city of San José and runs to that of Mercedes, with a branch line to the port of Sauce, by way of Rosario, and another branch to Colonia; and the construction of the port of Sauce with a capacity for a trade movement of 500,000 tons, susceptible of being increased to 1,000,000, and for vessels of from 18 to 20 feet draft to go alongside wharves, with the warehouses, appurtenances, and other necessary belongings. Every section of railroad, with all rolling stock, tracks, stations, shops, and other appurtenances would revert to the State sixty years after having been placed in the service of the public. On its part the State was to contribute £600,000 in bonds of the consolidated debt, deposited in the house of GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co., of London, for the exclusive purpose of effecting the arrangements with the Western Railways (Article I of the Convention of August 26, 1891), and all the material, lands, personal property, and other chattels that the Uruguayan Company, Limited, should deliver to the State pursuant to the arrangement concluded with it in London on December 2, 1895, under the same conditions on which the Government should receive them according to the said arrangement.

On February 28, 1897, the delivery of money on account to the company began in the way of provisional certificates issued by the Government Engineer in payment of work executed, material acquired, transportation paid, and other elements accumulated by the company. The Provisional Government authorized the last provisional certificate under date of September 3, 1898, for the balance of the subsidy, after the performance of the condition resting upon the company of placing the city of San José and the port of Sauce in communication with temporary train service. There were also delivered opportunely to the company the plans, materials, utensils, tools, and other chattels existing in the warehouses of London, Montevideo, and Colonia, all of which was received through inventory with the interventions of the Government Engineers, after the official declaration that the Government waived any greater or smaller differences that might exist, as it considered them sufficiently compensated for. There was also deeded to the company 9,592.45 square meters of ground, equivalent of 13,000 *varas*, situate in Colonia, with the wharves, buildings, and other existing constructions, which said ground the Government had acquired pursuant to the Convention of December 2, 1895, approved by law of May 26, 1896. As may be noticed, the State has performed, with a spirit of equity, the obligations imposed upon it by that contract by furnishing the company with all those elements and resources when it was in a critical state, which, had it continued, would certainly have wrought its destruction as a commercial entity.

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Subsequently, as the necessity of traffic demanded it, the Government has been temporarily habilitating that part of the railway line which, in the opinion of the experts, possessed sufficient conditions of security for the transportation of freight. Primarily, in January, 1898, there was authorized on the responsibility of the company, and the latter assuming all the risks, the temporary transportation of cereals between Villa del Rosario and the port of Sauce, a provisional tariff being then promulgated, which included the cost of transportation over the line and wharfage and loading charges at the port. This provision assisted the movement of a part of the crop in the Departments of the West. A year later, on January 13, 1899, authority was also granted for the utilizing in the transportation of freight of the railway constructed between Sauce, Rosario, and San José, in view of the fair condition of the work, which was well advanced, and other tariff rates were also provisionally approved, which rates the Government reserved the right to modify whenever it should deem the same advisable, at the same time imposing on the company the improvement in certain important technical details referred to in the reports of the inspecting engineers.

Later, on November 17, 1899, in consideration of the advantages

that would accrue to the defective means of communication in that section of the country through a railroad service for passengers and freight, the San José-Sauce Line was provisionally habilitated, the company being bound under bond and assuming all risks to complete the work on the final project following the suggestion made by the Government engineers. Pursuant to the stipulations of the original contract of May 30, 1896, the Government authorized, under date of August 10, 1899, the assignment of the concession for the Western Railway to the company styled "The Central Uruguay Western Railway (Limited)," incorporated in London for that special purpose, whose charter had been submitted to the approval of the Executive Power in conformity with clause 8 of said contract of concession. In the exercise of the said authority there was executed in London on August 25 of the said year the deed of conveyance and assignment, and, apprised of its terms, the Government approved the same under date of November 10 last, the cessioner being bound to assume all the obligations, liabilities, securities, and guaranties contracted by the grantor pursuant to the laws governing the concession and necessarily incorporated in it, to wit, the law of October 6, 1897, and that of October 12, 1899.

"In view of the high standing of the commercial firm that has assumed charge of the undertaking and the effective guarantees upon which the contract rests, the Government at present entertains the assurance that within the legal term the Western Railway, which will place Montevideo in communication with Rosario, Sauce, Colonia, and Mercedes, will be a positive fact, closely binding important cities which, up to the present time, have lived in almost entire isolation in a fruitful ambient of agricultural and pastoral production. By the month of June, 1901, the railroad will have reached Colonia, and will reach Mercedes in February, 1902. These dates are estimated in view of the extension of twenty-eight months granted by the law, dated October 12, 1899. The assignee company, styled 'The Uruguay Western Railway and Port, Limited,' has undertaken the construction and exploitation of the port of Sauce, which is now independent of the construction and operation of the Western Line, which is all that is ceded to the Central Uruguay Western Railway, although this modification of the original negotiation will not affect the liabilities and guarantees set forth in the contract of May 30, 1896, and the law of October 6, 1897, relating to the execution, realization, and enjoyment of the concessions referred to therein. From the month of February, 1898, when the provisional traffic was authorized, up to the end of 1899, the movement of the port of Sauce has been represented by 20,567 tons of freight, made up of sheepskins, wool, wheat, animals on the hoof, cheese, alfalfa, flour, paper, sand, cut and rough stone, railroad material, etc."

* * * * *

“The railroad movement for the fiscal year 1898-99 was as follows:

	Kilometers.
Total length of railways in operation.....	1,604,831.94
Length of railways under construction.....	1,909,143.43
Total.....	3,513,975.37

“Among the latter the western railways figure with a length of 300 kilometers, 104 of which have been habilitated provisionally. Of the total length of lines in operation 1,149,708.94 kilometers enjoy a Government subsidy, 450,123 kilometers are operated without guarantee, making a total of 1,604,831.94 kilometers. The capital invested up to date in the 1,604,831.94 kilometers of railway in operation amounts to \$46,817,972.70, or an average of \$29,173.13 per kilometer of line. The capital represented by the subsidized line, at the rate of \$33,500 per kilometer, is \$27,018,160.09. The gross revenues of the operated lines during the fiscal year 1898-99 was \$2,401,823.60. The total number of passengers carried was 902,243, the kilometers run having been 27,887,116. The freight traffic was represented by 580,234 tons and the kilometers run were 78,074,788. The increase observable in the said traffic, as compared to the years 1896-97 and 1897-98, is 21.48 and 6.57 per cent, respectively. There were expended in operating expenses \$1,486,605.39, as follows:

On subsidized lines.....	\$720,452.70
On unsubsidized lines.....	766,152.69

“The net profits from the operation of the line amounted to \$946,409.92, including in this total the Central Railroad, as follows: Subsidized sections, \$267,122.86; unsubsidized sections, \$679,287.06. The amount of interest payable annually is as follows: In the way of guaranties \$945,635.59; and the amount paid out on the dates set by the law was \$817,397.13, leaving a profit to the States of \$128,238.46. This profit is derived from the operation of the following lines: Eastern extension of the Central Railway (line to Nico Pérez), \$97,699.13; Northeastern Branch (line to Minas), \$30,539.33. During the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 this profit was \$41,523.81 and \$91,312.75, respectively.

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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

“The educational movement continues advancing slowly. I ought to state as a satisfactory showing that during the past year there were 563 public schools open in the Republic, which shows an increase over the year 1898 of 20 schools. The enrollment of pupils was 51,633, a figure showing an increase of 1,900 over the previous year. The data as to average attendance were still more satisfactory, the figures being 37.685 in the year 1899, which shows an increase of 3,040 over the average attendance in the year 1898. The increase in the average attendance being nearly double that of newly enrolled pupils,

it must be concluded that the habit of school attendance is becoming more prevalent, undoubtedly because the public schools are improving slowly, but surely. The number of teachers was 1,104, which shows that only 35 more teachers were employed than in the year 1898. Private instruction has shown no improvement worthy of note.

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CATTLE.

The Government being deeply interested in the promotion of our principal industry—cattle raising—it submitted to your honors, on May 5, 1899, a bill regulating the importing and exporting of cattle on the hoof, the preparation of which was intrusted to the Rural Association of Uruguay. This method of exploitation interests the country from two fundamental points of view which the bill has not disregarded. One relates to the trade in and reproduction of breeds, and the other to sanitary police as regards the diseases of animals which may be prejudicial to their health and to the food of man. There was also submitted to the consideration of your honors, under date of November 6, 1899, the international convention negotiated and signed in Buenos Ayres on October 26 of that year relative to the importation and exportation of cattle between this Republic and the Argentine, for the purpose of guaranteeing its good sanitary condition. By this convention, which is still pending before you, ports in both countries are habilitated, veterinary inspection is provided for, as also the health certificate in the country of origin of the cattle and the proper formalities to be followed, the prohibition of entry of animals attacked by contagious or suspicious diseases, the rejection of cattle from abroad, and, in a word, all those measures conducive to the carrying out of these prescriptions having in view the public health and the guaranteeing of the immunity of the cattle are provided for. * * * Until a complete service of veterinary inspection, provided with all the necessary elements for prophylactic and efficacious remedies, is organized, the designation for a single point for disembarking and a lazaretto as well as of the service of sanitary inspection has been left to the Administrative and Executive Board of the Capital.

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WOOL AND CEREALS.

“The prices brought by wools in the year just ended were extraordinary; never before known. It was an exceptional year; due also to extraordinary circumstances. The production of wheat, affected at the time of sowing by an excess of rain and by a great drought at harvest time, presents a varied aspect of fair crops in some Departments and of good crops in others, forming an average which exceeds

the total production of the previous year, owing to the greater area of land under cultivation. The exports of this grain, as well as those of flour, have remained rather lax during the year, as the unforeseen necessities abroad which created the great demand of the previous year did not exist. Corn has remained at a low price, and the production would have been abundant during this season—larger areas having been put under it—had not the drought, which threatened a negative result for the crops of this breadstuff, been prolonged in an extraordinary manner. Despite this, it may be said that in general the prices of cereals, although not high, are remunerative, this being a circumstance which encourages the farmers in their labors.

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PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

“The only mines being worked in the country are the gold mines in the Department of Rivera. The exploitation of these mines, after having passed through a violent crisis, is beginning to revive, owing to the laudable efforts of the company styled ‘Établissements Français de l’Uruguay,’ which has acquired several of the most important mines of the auriferous region of Corrales and Cuñapirú. This company proposes now to unite all these mines by a railway connecting with the Usina Central, and thus take advantage, for the traction and working of the ores, of the 360 horsepower furnished by the six turbines located on the left bank of the Cuñapirú. For the complete development of this plan, which doubtless will transform that mining region, the company has laid before the Executive Power a petition for exemption from customs duties on certain materials to be imported, which petition is now being studied by the proper ministry. Undoubtedly the gold mines of the country are not rich, but they contain disseminated a great quantity of gold, which can be taken advantage of partially through judicious working and the employment of perfected metallurgical processes which the experience of other countries will afford.”

The message here contains a table showing the production of gold during the last five years, from which it appears that the yield of 1898 was: Ores worked, 5,235 tons 520 kilograms; product in gold, 74 kilograms 700 grams; product per ton, 14 grams 260 milligrams; value of ore per ton, \$6.35; proceeds of sale of gold, \$33,245.55 in Uruguayan currency.

The most important point to be deduced from the table is the increase in the richness of the ore treated. In the year 1895 each ton of ore only contained gold to the value of \$3.45, while in the years 1897 and 1898 the gold contained in each ton of ore was worth \$6.02 and \$6.35. In the previous years, when the production was greater, quartz was treated which only contained \$2.25 of gold per ton.

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The portion of the message relating to finances is very long and shows the great efforts that the Administration has made and continues to make to reduce the large deficit inherited from previous Administrations. From this portion of the message it appears that the revenues in 1899 were in excess of those of the previous year in the amount of \$616,603.87.

THE PACKING INDUSTRY.

In a report published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, the Attaché of the French Legation in Montevideo gives detailed information on the packing industry in Uruguay, from which the following extracts are taken:

The packing houses of Uruguay can be divided, according to their situation, into four distinct groups—Montevideo, interior, Uruguayan coast, and Brazilian frontier. There are twelve packing houses in Montevideo scattered along the coast for a distance of 20 kilometers. They are of about equal importance, and slaughter the same kinds of animals—oxen, cows, and sometimes mares. In 1898-99 the number of animals slaughtered at these establishments amounted to 365,478. In the interior there are two establishments of minor importance, the number of animals slaughtered amounting in 1898-99 to 37,000 head. On the coast there are eight houses established on the eastern side of the Uruguayan River. These are the most important in the country, the two principal ones being the Fray-Bentos, where the Liebig extract is made, and the Casa Blanca, which is lighted by electricity. Two houses are established on the right bank of the Cuareim River, which forms the northern boundary line with Brazil.

None of the Uruguayan packing houses prepare meat for refrigerators. There are few of these establishments except in the Argentine Republic. The packing season has an average duration of eight months, generally beginning in spring (in November) and ending in July, the beginning of winter. The principal products are dried beef, salted hides, and tallow. The secondary products are horns, hair, bones, tendons, tails, blood, bone ash, etc.

Brazil is the principal market for dried beef or *tasajo*, Cuba being a secondary market. The meat is shipped to Brazil in bales of 90 to 100 kilos. The prices vary greatly there according to the market supply. During the season which has just passed the prices ranged between 800 and 1,000 *reis*. The three great import markets for *tasajo* are Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, and Pernambuco.

There has been an increased tax levy of 1 per cent on the exportation of the products of the packing houses, the proceeds of which are to be used for the construction of the port. This duty was imposed by a decree of November 8, 1899.

Salted hides are generally sold at Montevideo to representatives of European houses. Antwerp is the principal importing market, Havre and Hamburg following. The shipments are usually made by Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish sailing vessels. The other products of the packing houses find good markets in Europe, Brazil, and on the Pacific coast.

In adding to the number of animals slaughtered in the Argentine Republic and in the Province of Rio Grande (Brazil) to those of Uruguay, the only countries producing *tasaajo*, the following figures are obtained: 1,353,100 head in 1897-98 and 1,412,000 head in 1898-99.

Eighty per cent of the cattle in Uruguay, as reported by the United States Minister to that country, is used for the purpose of making *tasaajo* or dried beef for export to Brazil, Cuba, and Porto Rico. Liebig's Extract Company consumes probably 150,000 head of cattle a year. No live cattle are exported as yet to Europe, though it is hoped by the Government that such an enterprise will be soon started. At present there is no port where cattle might be embarked, but a concession has been granted for such a port at Buceo, within the municipality of Montevideo. Until these shipments assume noteworthy proportions the preparation of *tasaajo* will continue to absorb the greater part of the cattle of the country.

IMPORTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

A recent German consular report says that fowling pieces in Uruguay are mostly of Belgian origin, small quantities coming from Great Britain, which are of a better quality. The gunpowder used is of British origin, and the dynamite comes principally from the United States. The shot are made in the country itself. Ball cartridges are imported from the United States, Great Britain, and Belgium, in the order named. Mauser rifles are used by the Government, which obtains its supplies from Europe.

FRENCH REPORT ON THE NAIL TRADE.

The first and only statistics given of the imports of nails into Uruguay were published in 1897. Previous to that time nails were classified under the general head of "various articles."

The total imports of all kinds of nails for that year amounted to 382,065 kilos, the greater part of which were furnished by the following countries:

	Belgium.	Germany.	England.	France.	United States.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Points	138,575	72,731	53,698	32,296	.....
Hobnails	3,190	19,398	670	.....	.....
Brads	14,923	6,366	1,765	210	927
Copper nails .....	.....	30	87	.....	.....
Other kinds	4,883	915	15,827	.....	6,750

According to the figures of the Uruguayan Customs statistics, Belgium occupies the first rank among the competing countries furnishing Paris points and brads. However, it is stated that all articles shipped from Antwerp are invariably classified by the Uruguayan Custom-house as being of Belgian origin, consequently the above figures include not only the total shipments of Belgian nails to this country, but those from other countries shipped through Antwerp as well.

Steel nails with flat, fluted, and square heads are preferred in Uruguay. This country also imports round-headed nails and clamps, but in much smaller quantities. Paris points are especially employed for joinery, carpentry, and flooring work; they are put up in packages of 2 kilos each. Nails are packed in boxes of 50 packages or in barrels of 60 packages each. The manner of packing, as well as the assortment, varies according to the methods of importers. Brads numbered, respectively, 17 and 18, which are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, are employed for flooring.

Paris points are bought free on board by the Uruguayan importers at the port of shipment and the manufacturer have nothing to do in regard to the entrance duties, etc., which are paid by the receivers.

As a general rule, the manner of payment varies with each importer. Some give a ninety days' draft on Paris upon the arrival of the goods, while others give drafts payable in one, two, three, or six months from the date of the arrival of the goods.

The principal importers of Paris points at Montevideo are: MESSRS. TRABUCATI & CO.; LUIS BONOMI; MORELLI & CO.; MR. JUAN SHAW; MESSRS. BERETTA, FRATELLI Y GAGGINI; M. CAPURRO HERMANOS; MR. A. RAPP & CO.

There is a nail manufactory at Montevideo, belonging to Messrs. F. VILARO & Co., but its production is as yet unimportant.

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS.

According to the "South American Journal" a Latin American Scientific Congress is to be held at Montevideo in March, 1901. Representatives from all the Latin American countries will be invited to send accredited delegates. The discussions will be devoted to all branches of science, including matters of a social and political character.

NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE.

By a recent Presidential decree Dr. DUFORT Y ALVAREZ has been named as Minister of Finance. The new Minister is under 50 years of age, and has distinguished himself in the National Congress, in journalism, and at the bar. He is one of the founders of the "Razón," and is regarded as an authority on financial and economic questions.

PROJECTED STEAMSHIP LINE.

"El Comercio," of Lima, Peru, is authority for the statement that a representative of the American Transatlantic Navigation Company was in Montevideo at the end of February for the purpose of negotiating for the establishment of a direct line of steamships between the River Plate and the United States.

RATIFICATION OF POSTAL CONVENTION.

The Uruguayan Government has ratified the Universal Postal Convention, the arrangement concerning the service of postal orders, the arrangement concerning the intervention of the postal office in subscriptions to newspapers and periodical publications, and the convention concerning the exchange of postal parcels, signed at Washington, June 15, 1897.

VENEZUELA.**PARCELS POST TREATY SIGNED.**

A dispatch from Caracas, dated April 6, 1890, says that on that day President CASTRO signed and delivered to the United States Minister, Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, the parcels post treaty between Venezuela and the United States, which has been under negotiation for a number of years.

TARIFF CHANGES.

According to the report of LOUIS GOLDSCHMIDT, United States Consul at La Guayra, the imposition of additional duties upon certain articles of merchandise imported into and exported from Venezuela, which were named in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for February, 1900 (p. 278), has been remitted, except on imported wheat flour and exports of hides, skins, coffee, and cacao.

PAVING AND SEWERAGE IN CARACAS.

Advices from a Caracas, Venezuela, correspondent of the Bureau of the American Republics state that the Council of that city desires to arrange for the paving of the streets and for a modern system of sewerage. The estimated cost of this work is about \$1,800,000. Ample security in the way of municipal taxes is promised.

"This contract can not be secured by means of correspondence, nor can any important details be furnished in that way. The way to secure work of this sort is to send intelligent agents and engineers here to study the situation, armed with power to make business-like propositions to the authorities."

SILK-SPINNING SPIDERS.

Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHIER, United States Consul, writing from Maracaibo, says that large silk-spinning spiders are to be found in some of the palm trees of Venezuela. Some of these insects produce white and others yellow silk, and the Consul has been told that their product has been woven into handkerchiefs. The entomologist of the Department of Agriculture of the United States says that silk produced in this way can not be made valuable commercially, because of the necessity of keeping the spiders separated to prevent their devouring each other. Their food being insects, this also involves considerable labor in supplying them. Attempts to utilize the silk of a Madagascar spider of the same species some years ago resulted in the discovery that the product was more expensive than ordinary silk.

PROSPECTS FOR GOLD.

On March 20, 1900, there was a meeting held at the Hotel Emory, Cincinnati, Ohio, of the Yuruari Developing and Gold Dredging Company of Venezuela. According to the report of the President, Mr. A. C. GORDON, the promoters discussed the best means for the development of the territory. It was reported that agents for the company had found a good grade of gold in paying quantities. Work is to begin on the property during the present year.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The American Laundry Machinery Company, of New York City, is reported to have recently completed the erection of a large laundering establishment in Caracas. It is said to be the first plant of the sort in that part of the world.

"El Tiempo," of Caracas, recently announced the departure from Maracaibo of a mixed commission charged to fix the frontier limit between the Republics of Colombia and Venezuela.

HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

Since the last issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN a new corresponding member has been added to the list.

Señor Don JOSÉ I. SCHIAFFINO will represent the Bureau of the American Republics at Montevideo, the capital of the Republic of Uruguay. Señor SCHIAFFINO is at present the Director of the Office for the International Exchange of Publications at Montevideo.

THE PRODUCTION OF RUBBER IN 1899.

MR. FRANK D. HILL, United States Consul at Amsterdam, has furnished the following article to the Department of Foreign Commerce—through which it was forwarded to this Bureau—with reference to the world's production of rubber in 1899:

A firm in London has issued an annual review of the rubber market, from which the following is culled:

The trade was exceedingly active during the year, the price of fine Pará closing 6d. higher than last January, other clear, hard rubber being dearer, and "negro head" cheap during the year. All European manufacturers have been employed, and American trade has increased to such an extent that imports from Pará direct show an increase of 4,100 tons over 1898.

Shipments to Europe since July show a falling off of 1,350 tons, and the stock of Pará is small, the visible supply of Pará and Peruvian being now 3,332 tons against 2,930 tons (including the United States, 1,417 tons against 680 tons). Brazil is, as ever, the main source of supply. Mollendo has doubled its export, but with this exception "planting" has produced small results. Peruvian is much larger again, and some of good quality has been received from Iquitos. Venezuelan Orinoco supplies were trifling. Ceará supplies small, but a good many "negro-head" scrappy lots of Maniçoba rubber were received and sold at high prices. Pernambuco and Assare sent good lots at high prices. The supply of Mangabeira has been much larger, and nice, clean sheet sold well, especially Santos and Rio. When the writer was in São Paulo last May great hopes were entertained of rubber cultivation as a means of diversification of the industries of the State, which consist at present almost exclusively of coffee raising.

African rubber showed in 1899, as a whole, no increase in supply, and the quality has hardly kept up to former years, but prices show an increase of 3d. for the year. The Congo export has grown with marvelous rapidity, being 3,000 tons for 1899 against 1,800 tons in 1898. This rubber was fine, dry, and in good part clean and of useful quality and brought very high prices. Rangoon sent 20 per cent more of good quality and Penang a supply of 600 tons against 820 tons in 1898; the red and fine lots sold very well. Small imports from Assam sold well—about 2d. advance. Borneo sent as large lots as last year, 590 against 600 tons, prices closing 2d. higher for the year. Pontinac was abundant and irregular—up to £21 and down to £14; now about £20 a ton. The supply from Ceylon was trifling and very high prices were paid, which should encourage planting there. Java sent small lots, which sold well. There was, as usual, considerable fluctuations in the values of Pará rubber during the year, and at the close prices of fine and extra fine show an advance of 6d. per pound since January, 1899. "Negro-

heads" have not participated in this advance, scrappy closing at about the same price; Island and Cometas about ruled 1d. lower.

For the first three months of the year the market in London was active, and a large business was done. The price of fine, after falling in January to 3s. 11d., advanced by the end of the month to 4s. 3d. and with some fluctuations continued to advance until the middle of March up to 4s. 5d., the value of scrappy "negro-heads" being 3s. 7½d.; Matto Grosso, virgin, 3s. 11½d.; "negro-heads," 3s. 3d.; Mollendo, 4s. 2½d. During April and May, prices declined, and in the beginning of June fine was sold down to 4s. and scrappy to 3s. 1½d. Present prices are: Fine, 4s. 7d.; "negro-head," scrappy, 3s. 7d.; Cometas, 2s. 10d.; Island, 2s. 9d. Balata has been largely sold throughout the year, and prices close 8d. per pound dearer on sheet, viz.: 2s. 5d.; block, 7½d. higher, viz.: 1s. 10d. for good Venezuelan. Gutta-percha has been in great demand, and prices of all kinds show a remarkable advance during the year.

RARE PHILIPPINE MINERALS AND CORALS.

The Jesuit fathers of Manila have sent to Washington two collections of minerals and corals found in the Philippine Islands. One of these collections has been on exhibition at Georgetown College for some time; the other, which has been presented to the Government, is now being catalogued according to the scientific classification, and will be given a permanent place in the National Museum.

One of the finest specimens in the college collection is an exceedingly beautiful and rare coral from the island of Mindanao. This coral, known as "Imperialis," is found in no other waters of the world. It is as white as snow, and resembles tiny feathers, its texture being so soft and pliable that it is difficult to believe that it is stone. Another exquisite specimen from the same island, where, the "Jewelers' Circular" says, there is found not only precious stones and minerals, but some of the finest pearls in the world, is light gray in color, with here and there dainty touches or waves of olive. Still another specimen is a large cluster of apparently pure white feathers crested with minute star-shaped flowers of salmon pink, which glisten like gems. An unique variety is that which resembles branches of very small corncobs; so striking is this resemblance that the color of the cobs is not only true to nature, but seemingly particles of husk are also attached. The dark brown and white and the mouse-colored gray specimens are the largest in this collection.

One of the exhibits bears a striking resemblance to a hornet's nest, and to this is attached a petrified sponge, while clinging to its sides are many little flower-shaped particles. Also especially interesting is a petrified miniature tree, gnarled and knotted and only about three

feet in height, though appearing of great age. The daintiest and perhaps the rarest coral in the collection is composed of a white base tipped with pale pink and blue points. One of the most delicate is the *Aspergillum* or "Venus Flower Basket," whose interwoven fibers resemble fine lace. This coral is found only on the coast of the island of Cebu, and is so fragile that its shipment required extreme care.

The minerals in this collection include almost every known variety. Among the precious stones the opals are especially beautiful, reflecting all the rainbow tints peculiar to the finest specimens of these stones.

One of the interesting features of the collection is a large number of beautiful and valuable shells, of which much of the expensive and magnificent pearl mosaic work produced in Vienna and Venice is made. The largest shell is about 2 feet long, and is perfect in detail from tip to tip, and is in the shape of a hunting horn, all of it having a highly polished surface. This is believed to be one of the rarest shells in existence.

BANANA PRODUCTS.

The banana is said to have thirty-four times the nutritive value of the potato and twenty-five times that of bread. In the West Indies the natives cut the fruit into strips called "pegs," dry these in the sun, and grind them into flour, out of which many excellent dishes are made. No cheaper food grows in the Tropics. The plant begins bearing fourteen months after being planted. It requires no cultivation and produces harvests uninterruptedly for eleven years. A few feet of ground nourishes a plant, and the space of a dooryard will grow plants enough to maintain a large family.

Ever since the trouble between Spain and the United States red bananas have ceased to be a factor in this country. For two or three years we have received only the yellow fruit from Jamaica and Central America. Several years ago the tables were turned and the red fruit predominated, and the yellow fruit was as much of a curiosity as the red fruit is now. In another year it is expected that large quantities of the red fruit will come here from Cuba. The plantations there were destroyed during the war, but are now well under cultivation again.

Desiccated bananas are to be a new delicacy in the markets of the United States, according to the "Baltimore Sun." Mr. ARTHUR F. SPAWN, of that city, is said to be the originator of the idea, and after a trip to Jamaica, has sent representatives there to erect a plant for carrying out the plan. As yet the evaporation idea is in its infancy, but there seems to be no doubt that it will be perfected, and bananas that now can not be shipped from Jamaica in the natural state will reach the markets of the United States in another form.

Whatever may be the state of the weather, the prepared bananas can reach the market in an attractive condition without being affected by the summer heat or winter chill, as in the case with fruit when forwarded on its original bunch from the plant.

In a small way the evaporated fruit has been tried in Europe, to which country it is impossible to send it in quantities in the natural state. Confectioners like evaporated bananas as a base for candied fruits, and bakers can use them in a variety of ways.

Bananas have been evaporated to some extent in Nicaragua, and, according to authentic information, if the plan proves successful the industry will be introduced into the banana-producing districts throughout Central America, the West Indies, and probably all other tropical and semitropical regions where the banana is grown.

The general method of evaporation is that pursued with juicy fruits. The thoroughly ripe banana is placed in an oven and subjected to heat for twenty-four to forty-eight hours, as may be required. The sugar crystallizes on the outside. The evaporated product is then packed in boxes for the wholesale trade. It takes 6 pounds of fresh fruit to make 1 pound of the evaporated product, hence the economy in space in transporting is important, to say nothing of the saving in preventing decay in transit.

It appears, from an article published in the "Revue Générale des Sciences," that banana flour is being introduced in the American market, where it is gradually taking the place of wheat flour in the making of alimentary pastes. However, it is only used in a few districts as yet on account of its high price.

Mr. BOUNIN, an agriculturist at Port Louis (Mauritius), writes that he can furnish flour from his bananas for forty-hundredths of a *franc* (7.7 cents) per pound, and he is anxious that importers should give their attention to this new product.

FAILURE OF THE OLIVE CROP.

From all information received up to the present time, says the "Bulletin Commercial," of Paris, it appears that the olive crop has been poor in all the countries of southern Europe, and that the yield will not reach 30 per cent of the average annual production.

In Italy, and also to a certain extent in France and Spain, the failure of the crop is due in large part to the destruction caused by a sort of fly known under the name of *Mosca olearia*. This fly deposits its eggs on the green fruit and the larvæ which are soon hatched out completely destroy the olive or else injure it to such an extent that the oil which is extracted is of such poor quality that it can not be used as table oil.

During the last few years the price of olive oil has considerably decreased, and last year it fell as low as 1 *franc* per kilogram; Tunisian oil was only worth 75 *centimes* per kilogram. Since the news of the poor crops the prices have risen to about 2 *francs* per kilogram for good European oils, and to 1.45 *francs* for Tunisian oil. It is thought that these prices will still increase as soon as the season becomes more favorable to the consumption of table oils, unless there should be a further development of the olive industry in the State of California, United States of America, which is viewed with some apprehension by the olive producers in European countries. It is also reported that attempts are being made to cultivate olives in the Argentine Republic, and this country, with its large Italian population, may become a competitor in the not distant future.

THE WORLD'S OAT CROP.

According to BROOMHALL, the statistician, the world's oat crop during the last three years is accredited to the following countries:

Countries.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
United States.....	785,000,000	781,000,000	699,000,000
Russia.....	740,000,000	580,000,000	560,000,000
Germany.....	226,000,000	336,000,000	280,000,000
France.....	265,000,000	270,000,000	221,000,000
Austria-Hungary.....	182,000,000	180,000,000	150,000,000
Great Britain.....	160,000,000	172,000,000	164,000,000
Canada.....	117,000,000	110,000,000	97,000,000
Sweden.....	65,000,000	68,000,000	56,000,000
Denmark.....	35,000,000	39,000,000	33,900,000
Belgium.....	19,000,000	23,000,000	28,000,000
Italy.....	16,000,000	18,000,000	19,000,000
Netherlands.....	16,000,000	17,000,000	15,000,000
Roumania.....	6,000,000	17,000,000	10,000,000
Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.....	5,000,000	7,000,000	4,000,000
Algeria.....	3,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000
Total.....	2,710,000,000	2,576,000,000	2,340,900,000

TRADE WITH SPANISH AMERICA.

The Consular Agent of Nicaragua at Mobile, Alabama, says that during the month of March, 1900, the exports from Mobile to Nicaragua consisted of 51 packages of dry goods and notions valued at \$3,246.72; 75 packages of hardware valued at \$219.70, and 25 posts valued at \$50.

The Consular Agent of Nicaragua at San Francisco advises that during the month of February, 1900, the exports to Nicaragua through the port of San Francisco were valued at \$29,778.89, and consisted of 6,333 packages of various articles of merchandise. The exports for March were 8,856 packages valued at \$34,076.60.

The Consul-General of Brazil in New York states that 223 vessels cleared for Brazilian ports during the year 1899, carrying 242,467 tons

of freight, with crews consisting of 4,863 men. The number of vessels arriving were 303, carrying 368,855 tons of freight, and manned by 7,272 men. The total exports were valued at \$11,360,931.82, the value of the imports being \$60,108,464. These figures, compared with those for the year 1898, show a decrease of \$2,354,408.10 in the exports and an increase of \$7,995,739 in the imports.

The Consular Agent of Chile at Baltimore, Maryland, writes that the exports, through that port, to Chile for the first three months of the present year consisted of machinery, coal, and coke valued at \$27,210.05.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Pascagoula, Mississippi, reports the exports to Mexico during the month of March as follows: To Tuxpan, lumber valued at \$688; to Progreso, lumber valued at \$1,025; to Coatzacoalcos, lumber valued at \$1,509; to Campeche, lumber valued at \$2,417; to Veraacruz, lumber valued at \$6,218; making a total of \$11,857.

The Consul-General of Nicaragua in Boston writes that during the month of March, 1900, steel-wire rope was exported through that port to Nicaragua to the value of \$1,531.46. The imports consisted of some mahogany logs.

The Consul of the Republic of Haiti at Boston reports that during the months of January, February, and March of the present year, the exports to Haiti consisted of merchandise to the value of \$6,013.43. The imports from Haiti during the same period consisted of logwood, valued at \$47,350.

The Acting Consul of Bolivia at New York writes that during the month of March, 1900, there were exported to Bolivia, 1,719 packages of merchandise, valued at \$32,287.95.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, California, announces the exports to Mexico, through his consulate, during the month of February, 1900, to have been 1,335 packages, valued at \$3,486. The imports through this port destined for the United States for the same month were valued at \$3,891.

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.

In "Die Bevölkerung der Erde" (Population of the Earth), issued by the Perthes Geographical establishment at Gotha, Germany, Dr. SUPAN, estimates the total population of Europe at 381,000,000. In a similar volume issued by the same authorities in 1870, the number

of people living in Europe at that time was estimated at 302,000,000, which indicates an increase of 70,000,000 in thirty years, or an annual average of 2,630,000. This was in addition to the constant outpouring of emigrants to the United States and other countries in America and elsewhere. Dr. SUPAN estimates the mean density of population at 39 inhabitants for every square kilometer (about 250 acres) in Europe. The mean density in the United States in 1890 was 7 to the square kilometer. Belgium remains the most densely populated country, with 224 to the square kilometer, the Netherlands coming next with 152. Great Britain has 128 to the square kilometer; Italy, 111; Germany, 97; Switzerland, 76; France, 71, and Austro-Hungary, 70.

In this connection attention has been called to the rapid increase of urban population. In all the leading countries of Europe, except Russia and Switzerland, from one-fifth to more than one-third of the total population now live in cities of 50,000 or more. The factory system, the railroads, and similar inventions have produced the same result all over the world—the establishment of manufacturing centers. In the United States in 1790 only 3.14 per cent of the people lived in towns of 10,000 or more inhabitants, while in Australia in 1891, with about the same population as the United States had one hundred years previous (3,800,000), 33.20 per cent lived in towns having populations of 10,000 or more. The rearrangement of the European populations on this new basis permits of a population which half a century ago would have resulted in disastrous overcrowding.

The catalogue of Peruvian earthquakes begun in the "Boletin" of the Lima Geographical Society, Tomo VIII, Trimestre Tercera, is concluded in Tomo IX, Trimestre Primera. The catalogue begins with the year 1315 and is brought down to 1878. During this time more than 2,500 earthquakes were noted, 215 of which occurred in the sixteenth century, 27 in the seventeenth, 852 in the eighteenth, and 1,452 in the nineteenth. It was found that there was no attempt at a careful registration of these phenomena before the year 1700, and such records as exist must be sought for, according to Señor POLO, who compiles the catalogue, in rare or even unpublished works on various subjects, in the chronicles of religious bodies, in the lives of holy men, and in theological or literary treatises. With regard to the frequency of the shocks, Señor POLO quotes the statement of Father COBO, in the middle of the sixteenth century, that no year passed without an earthquake shock in Peru or Chile, and the calculation made by Dr. FUENTES, that in the period between 1815 and 1858 there were 8 more or less violent earthquakes every year in Lima. This city and Arequipa seem to be the principal centers of activity, the former with a record of 923 and the latter with one of 1,377 convulsions.

In its issue for April 7, 1900, the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) publishes an article on the "Copper Production of

the World." In the statistical tables printed in this connection on the total copper product of the world for 1899 is given as 473,818 tons as compared with 434,329 tons in 1898. In this calculation the increased production for the year is estimated at about 26,000 tons. The most important gain, outside of the United States, was 3,667 tons for the Republic of Mexico. The figures given for the production of the Latin American Republics are as follows: Argentine Republic, 65 tons in 1899, as against 125 tons in 1898; Brazil, 2,500 tons, an increase from 2,050; Chile, 25,000 tons, an increase from 24,850; Mexico, 19,335 tons, an increase from 15,668; Peru, 5,165 tons, an increase from 3,040. The total of the world's supply for 1899, as compared with that of 1898, indicates an increase of about 10 per cent.

"Notes sur l'Américanisme Quelques-unes de ses lacunes" (Notes on Americanism) is the title to a new work by M. DÉsirÉ PECTOR, who for nineteen years has represented the interests of a number of the Central American Republics at Paris, either as a Consul-General or as a Consul. Mr. PECTOR's new work, which contains a preface by Mr. E. T. HAMY, a member of the Institute of France, is of especial interest to the archæologist and the student of prehistoric conditions in America. The work treats of the different races, the geology, climate, topography, anthropology, ethnology, history of the discoveries and of the regions which are still unexplored or little known; also of the linguistic relations between the different races of America, and kindred subjects. Mr. PECTOR's style is particularly pleasing, his descriptions and deductions being clearly and concisely expressed. The book is published by J. MAISONNEUVE, Paris.

Senhor SALVADOR DE MENDONÇA, formerly Brazilian Minister at Washington, is publishing in the "Jornal do Commercio" a series of articles on coffee. After reviewing the trade of this article in the United States during the past twenty years, he shows the situation of Brazilian coffee at the present time. He attributes the low price of coffee to excessive speculation, and suggests as a remedy the formation of a great Brazilian corporation controlling the principal centers of production in Brazil, and having two great centers for the distribution of coffee, one situated at New York and the other at Lisbon, and thus regulating all shipments of the product. He advocates the establishment of a Brazilian standard of coffee after that adopted in the leading markets of the world.

The two large volumes of annual reports from diplomatic and consular officers, known as "Commercial Relations of the United States," which were transmitted by President MCKINLEY to Congress on March 1, 1900, will be issued this year much earlier than usual. These reports describe the present condition of commerce and industries in all the countries of the world, especially as affecting the trade of the

United States. In the words of the President, the reports show a "marked increase in the practical utility" to the exporters and manufacturers of the country "of the services of official representatives."

A new Parisian journal bears the title "Paris-Buenos Aires," the first number of which appeared at the French capital on January 1, 1900. It is published in French and Spanish, its object being to make known in Europe the social conditions, industry, commerce, and, in a word, the general degree of culture in America, and especially in the Argentine Republic. The first number, among other illustrations, contains several views of Buenos Ayres and ents of General ROCA and the Argentine Minister in Paris, while there are a number of other views. The new journal appears on the 1st and 15th of each month.

A paper presented to the Institute of Mining Engineers, at its session in San Francisco in September, 1899, has been printed in pamphlet form. The subject-matter of this publication—"The Manganese Deposits of Bahia and Minas, Brazil"—has been noted at various times in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. The author is Prof. JOHN C. BRANNER, of Leland Stanford University.

"The Brichte über Handel und Industrie" (Reports of Trade and Industry), published in Berlin by the German Imperial Department of the Interior, in its issue of March 21, 1900, has a very exhaustive article upon the production of cotton throughout the world. Each country is treated separately, and all the latest available statistics are given.

"The Stone Reef at the Mouth of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil," by Messrs. J. C. BRANNER and C. E. GILMAN, is the title of a pamphlet that has recently appeared. The subject-matter, which the title explains, is a reprint of the original publication in "The American Geologist" for December, 1899.

"The Nicaragua Canal" is the title of an illustrated book written by Mr. W. E. SIMMONS and issued by HARPER & BROS., New York. Besides his and other people's views on this great enterprise, Mr. SIMMONS gives much information about Nicaragua, particularly about the people and the natural wealth of the country.

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- Accounts relating to trade and navigation of the United Kingdom. 1900. London, Wyman & Sons (1900). 163 pp. 8°.
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- Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura*. Montevideo. Monthly.
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- Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima*. Lima, Peru.
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BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VIII.

ABRIL, 1900.

No. 4.

DISTINGUIDO VIAJERO.

En la primera quincena de este mes estuvo en Washington por unos pocos días el Señor Doctor Don POLICARPO BONILLA, ex-Presidente de Honduras, que regresa ahora á su patria, después de un viaje de varios meses en los Estados Unidos y Europa. Es el Dr. BONILLA uno de los hombres públicos más notables de la América Central. Durante su período administrativo Honduras realizó grandes progresos, tanto intelectuales como materiales. El gobierno del Dr. BONILLA ha dejado en aquella república los más gratos recuerdos.

LA LEY DEL TALÓN DE ORO.

El objeto de esta ley es fijar el tipo de la moneda y mantener á la par con el mismo toda clase de monedas que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos emita ó acuñe. Declara dicha ley que la unidad de valor es el *dollar*, que debe contener veinticinco y ocho décimos granos de oro, nueve décimos fino. Prescribe la ley que los billetes de los Estados Unidos y los del Tesoro emitidos de conformidad con la ley de 14 de julio, 1890, sean cambiados por moneda de oro del tipo indicado, siempre que sean presentados en la Tesorería para ser redimidos, y con tal fin dispone que el Secretario de Hacienda mantenga en la Tesorería un fondo de reserva de \$150,000,000 en moneda de oro y en oro en pasta. Esta suma se usará solamente para redimir los billetes de los Estados Unidos y los del Tesoro, y cuando hayan sido redimidos, el Secretario de Hacienda deberá cambiarlos por moneda de oro á fin de restablecer y mantener el fondo de reserva.

En caso de que el fondo de reserva llegue á bajar de \$100,000,000, el Secretario de Hacienda deberá restablecerlo hasta la suma máxima de \$150,000,000, mediante la venta de bonos de los Estados Unidos. El oro que se obtenga de esta venta pasará primero á los fondos generales de la Tesorería y después será cambiado por una cantidad igual en billetes redimidos. El Secretario de Hacienda está autorizado para cambiar por oro dichos billetes, ó para comprar ó redimir con ellos bonos de los Estados Unidos, ó para usarlos con cualquier fin legítimo que los intereses públicos exijan; pero no podrá servirse de ellos para llenar ningún déficit en las rentas de la nación. Los billetes de los Estados Unidos, una vez redimidos según lo dispuesto en esta ley, serán emitidos de nuevo, pero se les guardará en el fondo de reserva hasta que no hayan sido cambiados por oro; y el oro acuñado y en pasta existente en dicho fondo de reserva, así como los billetes redimidos que se guarden para ser usados de la manera atrás indicada, no excederán en ningún tiempo de la suma máxima de \$150,000,000.

La ley autoriza al Secretario de Hacienda á recibir depósitos de oro acuñado en cantidades que no bajen de veinte *dollars*, y á emitir certificados de oro por valor de no menos de veinte *dollars*. El oro acuñado que haya sido depositado en la Tesorería se conservará allí para el pago de dichos certificados y no podrá ser usado con otro objeto; pero cuando quiera que el oro acuñado en el fondo de reserva de la Tesorería para la redención de billetes de los Estados Unidos y del Tesoro baje de cien millones de *dollars*, se suspenderá la facultad de emitir los referidos certificados, y el Secretario de Hacienda podrá, si lo tiene á bien, suspender la emisión de los mismos cuando los billetes de los Estados Unidos y los certificados de plata existentes en los fondos generales de la Tesorería pasen de la suma de sesenta millones de *dollars*.

La ley contiene otras disposiciones referentes al retiro y canceladura de los billetes del Tesoro, á los bancos nacionales, moneda subsidiaria, etc., y termina manifestando que ninguna de sus disposiciones debe considerarse como opuesta al establecimiento del bimetalismo internacional, cuando las circunstancias hagan esto práctico y conveniente, mediante una resolución conjunta de las principales naciones comerciales del mundo, y en tal proporción que garantice la permanencia en el valor relativo entre el oro y la plata.

NUEVO PROCEDIMIENTO DE EXTRACCIÓN DEL CAUCHO DE LAS CORTEZAS DE DISTINTAS PLANTAS, PERO ESPECIALMENTE DE LA LANDOLFIA.

El periódico "La América Científica é Industrial," que es la edición española del "Scientific American," publica en el número correspondiente al mes del abril de este año, el interesante artículo que á continuación se verá:

"Las aplicaciones industriales del caucho se multiplican de día en

día, sin que pueda esperarse que la producción aumente, abandonada á los recursos naturales y espontáneos. Por esto los industriales han pensado utilizar el cultivo de ciertas plantas que producen caucho, y entre ellas se presenta en considerable desarrollo el cultivo en la colonia belga del Congo del *Landolfia*, planta que ocupa el primer lugar entre las especies que deben preconizarse, no solo por su rápido crecimiento, sino también porque el caucho que produce es de la mejor calidad.

“Esta especie crece espontáneamente en toda el África, y por el procedimiento bárbaro de la sangría, ó incisiones, produce una gran cantidad de caucho muy apreciado en el comercio. El procedimiento de la sangría, único universalmente empleado, no da buen resultado en la *Landolfia*, porque su jugo, lejos de manar fácilmente en abundancia, como el del *Hevea* del Brasil ó el de la *Castilloa* de la América Central, se coagula casi instantáneamente en el mismo punto de la incisión, quedando la mayor parte del caucho sin salir.

“Desde hace algunos años se ha buscado una solución que sea completamente satisfactoria para extraer de la corteza del *Landolfia* el jugo por disolventes apropiados, como el sulfuro de carbono, la bencina, etc., después de seca y pulverizada; pero no solo ha resultado que es preciso emplear los disolventes en cantidad enorme con relación al caucho extraído, sino que, además, la evaporación le hace perder en parte su tenacidad, desmereciendo su valor. Por esto, aunque el procedimiento es sencillo, no se aplica industrialmente.

“Se ha pensado también en desagregar la celulosa de la corteza por la acción de los álcalis ó de los ácidos para poner en libertad el caucho. El procedimiento preconizado recientemente por DEISS emplea el ácido sulfúrico concentrado; pero aun cuando éste se emplea para el tratamiento de la corteza del *Willughbeia* en la isla de Madagascar, es evidentemente demasiado costoso para aplicarlo de una manera general.

“Los Señores A. ARNAUD y A. VERNEIL han conseguido salvar la dificultad, tratando las cortezas por un procedimiento puramente mecánico, sin intervención alguna de la química.

“Las cortezas frescas ó secas del *Landolfia* (Lianas Toll del Senegal ó Lianas Gohine del Sudán) que el eminente horticultor M. GODEFROY LEBEUF entregó á los citados señores, les dieron un resultado excelente en el tratamiento directo.

“Las cortezas, después de secas, se pulverizan en un bocarte ó en un molino, ó por cualquier otro medio, y se pasan por un tamiz para separar 40 á 50 por ciento de polvo fino, el cual no contiene sino indicios insignificantes de caucho.

“El residuo, en parte aglomerado en placas, se moja con agua caliente, y se le somete á un molino que determina la formación de una pasta espesa y quebradiza, la cual se vuelve á tamizar dentro de un baño de agua caliente. Otro remolido del magna, que queda en el tamiz, deja ver en la masa filamentos vermiculares blanquecinos de caucho, los cuales, por medio de un machaqueo, prolongado lo bastante,

se van aglomerando y acaban por formar masas esponjosas que contienen la totalidad del cancho.

“Para separar el resto de la corteza que queda adherida, se echa todo en agua hirviendo, y como el caucho es más ligero, flota en la superficie y se recoge fácilmente. Por un golpeteo prolongado, se le transforma en una placa de cancho casi puro.

“La purificación completa se efectúa por el paso entre cilindros laminadores de velocidades diferentes, como se hace para purificar el cancho bruto.

“El rendimiento de *Landolfia* es muy bueno; la corteza aérea da de 8 á 9 por ciento de caucho; la de la cepa ó raíz, de 14 á 15 por ciento y aun más; el conjunto, con la mezcla de las ramillas, da de 6 á 8 por ciento. No se obtiene mayor rendimiento por los disolventes, en cuyo caso hay que gastar en resinas y otras materias que se disuelven.

“El procedimiento mecánico, como es de una aplicación sencillísima, puede ejecutarse en cualquier parte, y, además, por efecto del tratamiento mismo, el cancho resulta purificado en parte y bien preparado para la purificación completa, sin que la entorpezcan materias grasas y resinosas.

“En resumen, la pulverización en un medio húmedo, obrando por percusión y aplastamiento, combinado con el empleo del agua caliente, permite lixiviar la masa obtenida en estado semipastoso, consiguiéndose la extracción directa total del caucho contenido en la corteza, sin la necesidad de emplear ningún reactivo químico.

“La industria, auxiliada por las plantaciones coloniales, podrá sacar partido ventajoso de este nuevo modo de extracción.”

PROGRESO CIENTÍFICO EN EL AÑO DE 1899.

Bajo este lema dice el “Public Ledger,” de Filadelfia, en su número correspondiente al 16 de marzo próximo pasado, lo siguiente:

“El año pasado ha sido notable en lo relativo á obras de ingeniería, tanto por las que han sido proyectadas como, por las que se han terminado, y merecen mencionarse, especialmente, el gran canal de desagüe de Chicago, prácticamente concluido ya, y las nuevas esclusas del canal del San Lorenzo, las cuales, al hacer posible que vapores de alta mar, que miden 270 pies de largo, pasen de los grandes lagos al océano Atlántico, pondrán á las ciudades situadas sobre las costas de aquéllos en comunicación directa por agua con el litoral atlántico. El canal de desagüe de Chicago es uno de los más grandes que se han construido. Tiene 35 millas de largo, 22 pies de profundidad y un ancho máximo de 202 pies. La obra ha costado \$33,000,000.”

EL MAÍZ EN LOS MERCADOS DEL MUNDO.

Las estadísticas han demostrado que la cantidad de trigo que se produce cada año no es, ni con mucho, suficiente para el consumo del mundo. Aunque este grano es más nutritivo que todos los otros cereales y posee cualidades que hacen de él un alimento casi universal, su precio en algunos países no permite que sea usado por las clases pobres, y necesariamente hay que buscar algo con que sustituirle. Nada más aparente para esto que el maíz, que se produce en enormes cantidades en toda la América, al extremo de que con frecuencia el precio que por él se paga no basta para costear la transportación. Hace algunos años el maíz se usaba como combustible en algunas haciendas del oeste de los Estados Unidos, porque era más barato que el carbón ó la madera.

La introducción de pan de maíz como artículo de alimentación, ha presentado algunas dificultades, pero gradualmente la exportación de este grano va aumentando, y en 1898 ascendió á 298,744,939 *bushels*, valorados en \$74,196,850. Durante los doce meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, la exportación bajó á 174,089,094 *bushels*, valorados en \$68,977,448. En el año de 1890 solamente se exportaron, en números redondos, 86,000,000 *bushels*, lo cual prueba que en el transcurso de nueve años la exportación aumentó más del ciento por ciento.

En un tratado sobre el maíz publicado últimamente, el Profesor WILEY, químico del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, combate la opinión que se tiene en Europa de que el maíz es menos digerible y nutritivo que el trigo. En el sur de los Estados Unidos, el pan de maíz es el alimento principal, y cuando el grano está verde es muy apreciado en todo el país como alimento agradable y substancioso. La industria de conservar el maíz en latas se ha desarrollado mucho en los Estados Unidos, y el grano, así conservado, es visto como un excelente sustituto del artículo en su estado natural. En todo el país existen establecimientos donde se prepara el maíz en latas, especialmente en los estados de Maine y de Nueva York. En el primero de ellos había en 1899 más de cien establecimientos de esta clase, cuya producción total fué de 11,671,000 latas.

Se obtiene del maíz un aceite muy valioso, así como casi todo el almidón que se fabrica en los Estados Unidos. La glueosa es otro de sus productos. Casi toda la planta se utiliza; las hojas sirven para forraje; la tusa sirve para varios objetos, principalmente para la manufactura de esteras y colchones.

Se trata ahora de dar á los europeos en la Exposición de París lecciones objetivas sobre la manera de convertir la harina de maíz en manjares muy agradables, y se cree que esto hará que aumente mucho la exportación de dicho grano de los Estados Unidos.

LA PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR DE CAÑA Y DE REMOLACHA.

Según los cuadros estadísticos publicados últimamente por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, 95 por ciento del azúcar producido en todo el mundo en 1840 era de caña, que es una planta tropical, y solamente 5 por ciento era de remolacha, que es producto de la zona templada. En 1899 solamente 34 por ciento del azúcar del mundo fué de caña, y 66 por ciento de remolacha.

El consumo de azúcar de remolacha en los Estados Unidos va en aumento, y la importación total de este artículo en el año económico de 1899, subió á 723,336,352 libras. La importación de toda clase de azúcares fué de 3,517,950,689 libras, por la cual se ve que la quinta parte del azúcar importado en los Estados Unidos es de remolacha.

La producción de azúcar de caña en el año 1899-1900 en los principales lugares del mundo donde este artículo se obtiene, fué, en toneladas, como sigue: Java 722,000; Cuba, 400,000; Islas de Hawaii, 275,000; Brasil, 175,000; Islas de Mauritio, 150,000; Anstralia, 140,000; Estados Unidos (Luisiana), 132,000; otros países, 868,000; gran total, 2,862,000.

En el mismo año las toneladas de azúcar de remolacha producidas en el mundo fueron las siguientes:

Año.	Azúcar de caña.	Azúcar de remolacha.	Producción total.	Tanto por ciento correspondiente á la remolacha.
1840	1,100,000	50,000	1,150,000	4.35
1850	1,200,000	200,000	1,400,000	14.29
1860	1,510,000	389,000	1,899,000	20.43
1870	1,585,000	831,000	2,416,000	34.40
1880	1,852,000	1,402,000	3,254,000	43.08
1890	2,069,000	3,683,000	5,752,000	63.70
1900	2,862,000	5,575,000	8,437,000	66.08

ENFERMEDADES REINANTES EN LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS.

La Universidad Johns Hopkins, de Baltimore, envió una comisión á las islas Filipinas á hacer investigaciones respecto de las enfermedades reinantes en aquel archipiélago. La comisión ha regresado á los Estados Unidos y ha presentado su informe, del cual se extracta lo que sigue: Antes de pasar á Manila la comisión permaneció algún tiempo en el Japón, estudiando varias enfermedades propias del Asia, y también se ocupó en hacer observaciones respecto de la peste bubónica, que entonces reinaba en Hongkong. Después de su llegada á Manila, la

comisión hizo sus estudios en los hospitales. En la parte nmrada de la ciudad, llamada San Juan de Dios, hay un hospital que tiene de 250 á 300 camas. En los arrabales de la población se halla el hospital de leprosos, llamado San Lázaro, donde existen como cien enfermos. Además de estas instituciones, hay los hospitales del ejército, en los cuales se da asistencia médica á los soldados americanos y á otras personas de los Estados Unidos.

Las enfermedades reinantes entre los naturales son, principalmente, las del cuero cabelludo. En épocas pasadas la viruela causaba grandes estragos, porque las autoridades españolas no hacían esfuerzo ninguno para impedir el desarrollo de esa epidemia, la cual casi ha desaparecido desde la ocupación de la ciudad por los americanos. La lepra es una de las enfermedades reinantes, y la tuberculosís y las afecciones venéreas son frecuentes. Otra enfermedad de que son víctimas los naturales, especialmente los que están encerrados en las cárceles, es la llamada *beri-beri*. Las enfermedades que reinan principalmente entre los soldados americanos son la fiebre tifoidea y la disentería. La comisión dice que el clima de las islas Filipinas es enervante, pero no especialmente malsano.

CULTIVO DE LA VAINILLA.

La revista quincenal de Buenos Aires, "La Producción Nacional," publica en su número correspondiente al 16 de febrero del año corriente, un interesante artículo del Señor ISMAEL JOSÉ ROMERO, sobre el cultivo de la vainilla, el cual se leerá á continuación:

"Esta planta se produce espontáneamente en casi todas nuestras tierras templadas y calientes, desde 16° centígrado hasta lo más cálido, y se conocen entre nosotros tres clases. Pertenece al género *Epidendrum*.

"La clase primera tiene el tallo de 2 centímetros de grueso, la hoja de 6 á 8 centímetros de ancho, y su flor es amarilla y de unos 8 centímetros de largo. Esta clase es regular.

"La clase segunda, que es la mejor de las especies, es decir, la fina, tiene la hoja lanceolada, y la punta de ésta se enrolla mucho hacia la parte inferior. La flor es de color blanco, verdoso hacia su base, y tiene unos 4 centímetros de largo. Toda la planta tiene un verde que no es intenso. Esta vainilla es la más fragante, y por consiguiente la que da mejor perfume y tiene mayor precio.

"La tercera clase ó especie tiene las hojas casi lineales, es decir, de un mismo ancho en toda su extensión, y por lo regular la punta de la hoja está un poco vuelta hacia abajo. Toda la planta es de un verde intenso como el limón tierno; su flor es perfectamente igual á la ante

rior; su fruto es algo más corto y de poco olor. Éste es más intenso en las otras dos especies.

“En Colombia se conoce la vainilla con el nombre de *Platanillo*.

“El mejor modo de conocer la vainilla es por el perfume; pero como es muy raro encontrar en una mata un fruto bien sazonado, es necesario atenerse cuidadosamente á las señales dadas para no sufrir error en caso de que se quieran escoger las especies para sembrar. En este caso también se pueden preparar algunos frutos de diferentes matas, según el método que más adelante expondremos, para conocer así la más olorosa.

* * * * *

“La siembra de la vainilla se hace del modo siguiente:

“Antes de sembrarla, se quita toda clase de árboles y toda maleza, no dejando sino los arbustos que estén á 4 ó 5 metros de distancia, al pie de los cuales se ha de sembrar.

“Al pie de cada uno de esos arbustos, se siembran dos pedazos de tallo de vainilla de 40 á 50 centímetros de largo, dejando en medio el arbusto.

“Deben sembrarse siempre dos pedazos de tallo y de dos plantas diferentes, aunque de la misma especie, porque las matas no son todas hermafroditas y se necesita que el polen pase con facilidad de una á otra planta para que se fecunden ambas. Por falta de este requisito muchas matas no dan fruto, como ha sucedido en una que otra plantación que se ha querido fundar en Antioquia y algún otro punto.

“Puede sembrarse también la vainilla al pie de árboles grandes que no sean muy frondosos ó arrimada á ellos, ó al pie de las cercas de piedra, en donde prende muy bien, pues esa planta es parásita. Creemos que también sería muy útil hacer una especie de emparrado.

“Las nuevas plantas de vainilla deben conservarse limpias para que prosperen bien, y no debe temerse el manosearlas, aunque estén fructificando, pues se ha visto que mientras más se manosea una planta, más se vigoriza. El cuidado de no manosearlas debe tenerse únicamente cuando están floridas, para que la flor no caiga.

“La vainilla puede dar fruto al año de sembrada, pero esta primera cosecha es muy escasa; la segunda es mejor y la tercera bien abundante. En la primera cosecha da apenas diez á veinte vainillas; en la segunda de quince á treinta y en la tercera de cuarenta á cincuenta, producto que es casi igual de ahí en adelante. Una mata de vainilla puede durar, si se cuida, hasta cincuenta años.

“Los meses en que florece esta planta son los de febrero y marzo.

“Debe tenerse cuidado de que las plantaciones de vainilla queden resguardadas de los fuertes vientos y lluvias del norte, pues éstos hacen caer las flores y, por consiguiente, perder las cosechas. Para evitar eso, debe ponerse la plantación al sur de algún bosque ó arboleda.

“La cosecha de la vainilla se hace en el mes de abril, y dura hasta

junio. Sin embargo, la época precisa de coger el fruto, es cuando las vainillas tienen un color amarillento; antes de que esto suceda no deben cogerse, así como tampoco se debe dejar que se pasen, es decir, que vayan tomando vetas de color negro.

“ En la vainilla, una vez que se desarrolla el fruto, no debe temerse que lo ataque algún insecto, pues la leche acre que contiene no lo permite. Sucede á veces que, aunque el fruto está en sazón, no toma el color amarillento, pero en ese caso se pone redondo, y para saber si está en perfecta madurez, se toma entre los dedos índice y pulgar, se soba apretándolo ligeramente, y si suena como si dentro se le quebrasen como cascarrillas secas, es señal de que está en estado de cortarlo y de que también están así todas las demás. Cuando se seca el fruto y brota del todo la flor que la precede, cosa que pasa regularmente en octubre, es también señal de que puede cortarse. Esta práctica se adquiere en muy poco tiempo.

“ Dice Humboldt que toda la vainilla que entra en el comercio es el producto de una sola especie de *Epilobium*. Sin embargo, el mismo comercio la ha dividido en cuatro clases, así: la fina grande, la fina chica, la zacate y la basura. La fina grande y la fina chica tienen, poco más ó menos, el mismo precio. En la fina grande, el mazo de 50 vainillas pesa (se entiende que seca) diez ó doce onzas, y tiene cada vainilla de 15 á 20 centímetros de largo; la chica fina tiene de diez á quince centímetros y su peso es casi igual á la fina grande; la zacate es una vainilla larga, muy delgada y acuosa, y pesa más que las dos anteriores. Á esta vainilla se le da en Colombia el nombre de vainillón. Y, en fin, la basura se compone de los desperdicios de las clases anteriores.

“ La altura del terreno, su naturaleza, el clima, la humedad, el aire, etc., influyen mucho sobre el tamaño de la vainilla, su aceite y aroma.

“ La vainilla más común en el país es la chica, pero no hay la constancia de que es tan buena como la fina grande.

“ La zacate, ó da que se llama comunmente vainillón, es muy abundante en las orillas de los caminos en nuestras tierras templadas y calientes y en los rastrojos. Á este fruto no se hace caso alguno en el país.

“ El valor actual de la vainilla en Europa es el siguiente:

	Oro.
Fina grande (libra)	\$14.00
Fina chica (libra)	12.00
Zacate (libra)	6.00
Basura (libra)	2.50

“ Y es de notarse que casi ese mismo precio tenía hace cuarenta años.

“ El modo de confeccionar la vainilla para que produzca buen perfume, es el siguiente:

“ Se pone el fruto al sol sobre una especie de barbaoca, que debe

estar cubierta por los lados con telas gruesas ó petates para evitar que le dé viento á la vainilla mientras se está asoleando. Este toldo es necesario en las tierras templadas en donde casi siempre corren vientos fríos, pero inútil en tierras calientes y secas, como Villavieja, Tocaima, Ambalema y otras.

“Nunca se debe poner el fruto á asolear de modo que toque el suelo, y siempre deben estar separados unos de otros.

“El asoleo debe hacerse desde las nueve ó diez de la mañana hasta las tres ó cuatro de la tarde.

“Durante el asoleo deben voltearse para que tomen por los lados.

“Todos los días, al tender las vainillas al sol, se deben registrar y pasarlas entre los dedos índice y pulgar: si hay alguna manchada ó rajada se separa, para que no manche las buenas.

“Cuando se van secando, cosa que se conoce por los pliegues ó arrugas que se forman en ellas, se soban de arriba abajo con mucho cuidado y lo más ligero posible para no romperlas; luego se envuelven en una tela de lana, sin que se toquen unas con otras, y se siguen asoleando y sobando, hasta que tomando una entre los dedos índice y pulgar, dé vuelta con facilidad entre ellos, y ésta será la señal de haberse secado.

“Las que ya estuvieren secas se colocarán en cajoncillos de madera que se tapanán bien, para que no penetre el aire. Cada cuatro días, ó seis á lo más, se destapan para ver el estado en que se encuentran, y si se hallan húmedas ó amenazan podrirse, se ponen otra vez al sol como antes se ha explicado, y luego que se sequen se guardan nuevamente en las cajas.

“No se debe olvidar esta última operación de que hemos hablado.

“Para recogerla cuando se está asoleando, es necesario llevar al lugar en que está tendida, cajones de madera ó petacas de cuero ó de paja y frazadas, para colocarla allí y envolverla, y que comience á producir calor y sudar y formar el perfume ó aroma, que no debe dejarse escapar, evitando, como hemos dicho ya, el contacto de unas con otras y que les dé el aire frío, y, mucho menos, el sereno. De esta manera se debe guardar por la noche en las habitaciones más abrigadas.

“Puede suceder que por el mal tiempo, cuando se ha comenzado á asolear la vainilla, no se pueda obtener en ella los sudores que necesita, y en ese caso los cajones ó petacas donde se guarda deben ponerse en estufas ó colgadas encima de pequeños braseros que den un calor moderado, evitando de todos modos el que le dé el frío cuando está sudando.

“Los sudores en la vainilla, lo mismo que en el tabaco en rama, son los que producen en el artículo su mayor bondad; de manera, pues, que ésa es la parte en que más debe fijarse el agricultor, como lo hace el cosechero de tabaco en lo que llama pilada.”

DEL ACERO AL NÍQUEL.

Con este título publica el "Scientific American," correspondiente al mes de marzo de 1900, el siguiente interesante artículo:

"Durante el año de 1890 el Secretario de Marina de los Estados Unidos tuvo confidencialmente noticias de que los señores SCHNEIDER Y COMPAÑÍA, del Creusot, habían inventado unas nuevas planchas de blindaje que contenían $3\frac{1}{2}$ por ciento de níquel. Con el afán característico americano, de contar con la manera más adelantada de proteger sus buques de guerra, y con el objeto de hacer ensayos completos de las mejores planchas que se producían en otros países, se pidieron á Europa tres planchas de blindaje: una á Inglaterra y dos á Francia. La de Inglaterra era del carácter y composición de las que el Almirantazgo de aquel país emplea en sus buques. De las dos de Francia, la una era de acero solo, y la otra de acero al níquel. Las tres planchas se probaron en Anápolis con un cañon de $6\frac{1}{2}$ pulgadas, disparando á 15 metros. La plancha inglesa se hizo pedazos, la primera de las francesas presentó grandes grietas, y la del acero al níquel sufrió comparativamente poco daño.

"Esta prueba fué concluyente en favor de que la plancha de acero al níquel correspondía á lo que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos deseaba para proteger sus buques. En verdad fué una revelación para todas las naciones civilizadas del globo, produciendo una revolución en la manera de fabricar las planchas de blindaje. El Congreso votó inmediatamente un crédito de \$1,000,000 para compra de blindaje, exigiendo que fueran planchas al níquel. De este modo entramos en 1890 en la era del acero al níquel por iniciativa de Francia. Su desarrollo se combinó con el procedimiento HARVEY para endurecer la parte exterior de las planchas de aquella clase.

"El acero al níquel que se emplea para blindajes, para varas de émbolo, llantas, ejes, ejes de hélices, etc., contiene generalmente de 3 á $3\frac{1}{2}$ por ciento de níquel. Esta pequeña proporción produce un aumento en el límite de elasticidad de 75 por ciento y en la resistencia á la tensión de 30 por ciento sobre la que tiene el acero usual, sin perjudicar al alargamiento ni á la reducción del área.

"Estos hechos han venido á demostrar además que hay en el acero al níquel, para fabricar muchos objetos, un metal de absoluta confianza sin la traidora propiedad saltadiza característica del acero común por la cristalización.

"En la fabricación de acero al níquel en crisoles se han obtenido muchos é interesantes resultados. Según experiencia, por cada 1 por ciento de níquel que se agrega, hay un aumento de dureza correspondiente, y una disminución en su propiedad de prestarse al temple hasta que

se llega al 16 á 18 por ciento de níquel. Al llegar á este punto, el metal resulta excesivamente duro y se hace extremadamente difícil el trabajarle con herramienta alguna en frío, pero en caliente se puede forjar y laminar del modo ordinario, como el acero simple. Si se continúa aumentando la cantidad de níquel después del punto citado, al llegar al acero con 25 por ciento, nos encontramos con un metal excesivamente blando, que no se puede templar en agua, pero que se puede prensar, doblar, laminar ó estirar en la hilera en frío, para formar rayos, para ruedas de bicicletas y otras partes, cucharas, armazones de sillas de montar, arneses, etc.

“A la dureza máxima de 16 á 18 por ciento de níquel, se pueden hacer cuchillos, que solo necesitan darles la forma forjándolos y martillándolos débilmente hasta que se enfrían. Después que llegan á esto, las hojas resultan muy elásticas, sin peligro de que se quiebren al doblarse. Estos cuchillos pulimentados toman un lustre hermoso con un ligero tinte azulado, que tanto estiman los buenos fabricantes de cuchillos de mesa.

“El acero al crisol que sólo contenga 5 por ciento de níquel en combinación con el contenido conveniente en carburos, es un producto extremadamente resistente y á propósito para herramientas de filo, muelles, etc. Las muchas pruebas que se han hecho han enseñado que se debe dar la preferencia para estas aplicaciones al acero que contenga de $2\frac{1}{2}$ á $4\frac{1}{2}$ por ciento, pues se encuentra gran dificultad para conseguir buen temple cuando el contenido de níquel pasa de $4\frac{1}{2}$ por ciento. Mientras se mantiene en los límites antes expresados, y cuando se fabrica cuidadosamente, se obtiene un acero ideal para herramientas de una resistencia admirable, capaz de dar gran resultado después de forjado, endurecido y templado de la manera usual.

“Como el acero al níquel se enfría pronto, es preciso no retirar los crisoles sino cuando están á una buena temperatura y colar inmediatamente. Es conveniente tener en cuenta que el níquel tiene gran afinidad por el oxígeno, y que hay que usar un flujo á propósito para eliminar aquél, evitando que el níquel se oxide durante la fusión, pues de lo contrario, se obtendría una masa esponjosa, inaplicable á ningún fin industrial.”

LOCOMOTORAS AMERICANAS EN EUROPA.

Los Señores CHARLES PEDEZERT y JOSEPH FERRAND, empleados de importancia en los ferrocarriles de Francia, han estado últimamente en Filadelfia. El objeto de su visita es estudiar el sistema ferrocarrilero de los Estados Unidos, y, al mismo tiempo, examinar las diez locomotoras que están en vía de construcción para los ferrocarriles franceses en los talleres de Baldwin.

El ferrocarril que estos señores representan fué el primero que introdujo locomotoras americanas en Francia. Hace como dos años se envió un pedido de diez locomotoras á la Compañía Baldwin, y durante cosa de ocho meses dichas máquinas han estado en uso en Francia. Algún tiempo después se pidió un número igual, y estas locomotoras están ahora en construcción. El trabajo que han hecho las que se hallan funcionando ha demostrado de una manera evidente su eficacia. Á pesar de los dos mil duros que cada locomotora de Baldwin paga en Francia como derechos de introducción, y de los otros gastos indispensables, los fabricantes pueden venderlas allá á un precio menor que el que se cobra por máquinas de esta clase de construcción europea.

Los experimentos hechos con las locomotoras de Baldwin han servido notablemente para desarrollar el interés que hoy se siente en Francia en cuanto se relaciona con el sistema ferrocarrilero de los Estados Unidos. Varios representantes de diferentes vías férreas francesas han visto las locomotoras americanas en operación y se han manifestado muy complacidos con ellas. Además de estas máquinas, se han pedido de Francia á los Estados Unidos vagones de acero para carga.

Una de las razones más poderosas que han inducido á los franceses á pedir locomotoras á este país para sus ferrocarriles, haciendo á un lado la excelente calidad del artículo, es la prontitud con que estas máquinas se fabrican en los Estados Unidos. Entre los países que ofrecen excelente mercado á esta producción americana deben mencionarse Rusia y España. En opinión de los citados señores PEDEZERT y FERRAND, las locomotoras americanas han dado en Europa los resultados más satisfactorios. Un hecho notable á este respecto es que hasta de Bélgica, que se consideraba el gran país constructor de locomotoras, se han pedido máquinas de esta clase á los Estados Unidos.

EL PROGRESO DEL COMERCIO Y LA INDUSTRIA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Dice el periódico francés "Revue du Commerce Exterieur," correspondiente al 3 de marzo de este año, que el comercio de exportación de los Estados Unidos rivaliza ya con el de la Gran Bretaña, y que probablemente lo superará dentro de pocos años. Agrega que esto se sabe ya en Francia, pero que se ignora que no es el aumento en las cosechas lo que constituye una verdadera amenaza para las industrias europeas, sino el crecimiento en la exportación de manufacturas americanas. Asegura el citado periódico que, aunque en 1899 la exportación de productos agrícolas fué mucho menor que en 1898, las exportaciones totales de los Estados Unidos fueron mayores en el primero de estos dos años, lo cual se debe á los productos de las fábricas, cuyo valor en

1898 fué de \$308,000,000, y en 1899 ascendió á cerca de \$381,000,000. La revista menciona las causas que supone han producido este enorme desarrollo comercial é industrial.

EL COBRE EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El artículo que á continuación se verá fué tomado de la "Revista Comercial é Industrial de Minas," importante periódico mensual que sale á luz en Santiago de Chile. Dicho artículo fué publicado en el número correspondiente al 15 de febrero próximo pasado.

"Los Estados Unidos es uno de los países en donde se produce más cobre; se elabora y consume ahí mismo el total de su producción, importando á veces cantidades no despreciables para poder asistir á sus innumerables establecimientos laminadores y abastecer sus industrias cada día más crecientes.

"En los últimos meses del año que acaba de terminar ha aumentado la producción de cobre de una manera notable. Á este respecto dice 'The Financial Times,' de Londres, de diciembre próximo pasado, hablando de la gran combinación cobrera en los Estados Unidos, que cree que el aumento en las explotaciones de este metal durante el tiempo traerá como consecuencia lógica la caída de la manipulación que hacía The American Copper Syndicate.

"La baja en el precio del cobre, últimamente, se ha dejado sentir de una manera notable, y con esto The American Copper Syndicate ha sufrido una depreciación marcada en sus valores. Sólo una pequeña parte de las acciones fué suscrita por el público en Europa y América. Créese á este respecto que la Standard Oil Company y sus amigos poseen de los \$75,000,000 de acciones, un valor más ó menos de \$60,000,000 de esta combinación. Es opinión general que este mismo sindicato es dueño de acciones en muchas otras sociedades cobreras por valor de más de \$40,000,000. Por consiguiente, esta formidable asociación es poseedora de cuantiosos intereses en negocios de cobre que representan un valor de 20,000,000 de libras esterlinas.

"Una sociedad de tanta importancia debe resguardar sus valores y sostener su poder, pues ella está en condición de mantener á su antojo la producción y precios del cobre, y al mismo tiempo forzar á los consumidores á entrar en el mercado.

"Los bancos americanos han principiado á ofrecer en la Bolsa acciones de este sindicato, y se calcula que uno solo de estos bancos es dueño de acciones por valor de \$20,000,000.

"Se considera casi segura una crisis que vendrá pronto, y entonces el precio del cobre será más bajo y su consumo mucho mayor."

LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN EL PACÍFICO.

Este es el lema de un notable artículo publicado en el número 152 del "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, correspondiente al 20 de marzo próximo pasado. Entre otras cosas interesantes, dicho artículo dice lo siguiente:

"Pocos americanos saben cuántas islas poseen los Estados Unidos en el Pacífico y la importancia de las mismas. Son no menos de 1,500 á 1,600 y comprenden todos los climas y zonas, ofreciendo, al mismo tiempo, muchos tipos diferentes de la especie humana en diversos grados de civilización, desde los aleusianos vestidos de pieles, hasta los negros medio desnudos de las Filipinas.

"Estas posesiones varían en cuanto al tamaño, desde las que son simplemente rocas ó bancos de coral, hasta las grandes, como la isla de Luzón, que tiene 41,000 millas cuadradas, ó sea una extensión igual á la de New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut y New Jersey. En esa vasta región se encuentran las pieles del Ártico, las frutas de la zona templada y los productos de los trópicos.

"Las posesiones más importantes de los Estados Unidos en el Pacífico comprenden el grupo de Santa Bárbara, cerca de la costa de California, las islas que forman parte del territorio de Alaska, las de Hawai y el archipiélago de las Filipinas. Las islas de las regiones árticas incluyen un grupo de gran tamaño, cerca de la costa meridional de Alaska, y toda la cadena de las Aleusianas que se extiende de América á Asia. El archipiélago de Hawai consta de doce á quince islas de más ó menos importancia. Hawai es como del tamaño del estado de Connecticut. Estas islas quedan 2,100 millas al sudoeste de San Francisco. Su extensión total es de 6,600 millas cuadradas. El grupo de las Filipinas comprende como 1,400 islas é islotes, con una extensión territorial de 114,326 millas cuadradas.

"También poseen los Estados Unidos la isla de Guam, del grupo de las Marianas ó de los Ladrones, y otras de menor importancia."

EL COMERCIO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN EL ORIENTE.

El "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" ha publicado sobre este particular un notable artículo, en el cual dice, entre otras cosas, lo siguiente:

"Las casas exportadoras de Manila han comenzado de nuevo sus negocios con actividad. El tráfico de exportación ha experimentado varios cambios á causa de la ocupación de las Filipinas por los Estados

Unidos, cambios que todavía no se han realizado por completo. Los comerciantes de aquella colonia se han visto obligados á estudiar las nuevas condiciones bajo las cuales se harán en adelante las importaciones de manufacturas extranjeras. Antes de la guerra hispano-americana se introducían en las Filipinas artículos de toda clase provenientes de Inglaterra, España, Francia, Bélgica, etc. Los Estados Unidos, cuyo comercio con aquellas islas era antes muy pequeño, están ahora abasteciendo á Manila, plaza que cada día tiene más importancia. Los comerciantes de aquella ciudad se han convencido de que para competir con los americanos tienen necesidad de importar mercancías de los Estados Unidos, y por esta razón es que se ven ahora en todas las tiendas de Manila los productos de las fábricas de dicho país."

CUBA.

DESARROLLO DE LA INSTRUCCIÓN PÚBLICA.

Se asegura que en el espacio de tres meses el número de alumnos que asiste á las escuelas públicas se ha elevado de 4,000 á cerca de 80,000, debido al sistema introducido por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Hay ahora como 2,000 maestros, y ninguno puede tener más de 50 alumnos á su cargo. En las ciudades los dos sexos reciben enseñanza en departamentos separados, pero en las pequeñas poblaciones ocupan uno solo. Todos los maestros son cubanos. La lengua inglesa forma parte del curso de estudios.

En la actualidad el tesoro de la isla paga todos los gastos de las escuelas, no habiendo impuestos locales para este fin. Dichos gastos ascenderán en 1900 como á \$4,000,000. Los sueldos de los maestros son altos, comparados con lo que se les paga en otros países, pues el más bajo es de \$600 al año, y en la Habana ningún maestro recibe menos de \$900.

Un hecho digno de notar en cuanto á la educación superior, es el haber sido nombrado para la cátedra de Patología Intertropical, que acaba de ser establecida en la Universidad de la Habana, el Dr. JUAN GUITERAS, que fué profesor en la Universidad de Pennsylvania. El Dr. GUITERAS se encuentra actualmente haciendo estudios en Europa. Se considera como un acto muy patriótico por parte de este distinguido profesor el haber dejado su puesto en la Universidad de Pennsylvania á fin de regresar á Cuba á dedicarse á la enseñanza.

INGRESOS TOTALES.

Según el informe enviado al Senado de los Estados Unidos por el Departamento de la Guerra, los ingresos totales desde el 1° de enero

de 1899 al 1° de enero de 1900 ascendieron á \$18,025,919 y los egresos á \$15,333,250, lo cual muestra un saldo á favor del erario de \$2,692,669.

El 3 de abril el Departamento de la Guerra publicó un informe, en el cual se hace una comparación entre las entradas de aduana en los meses de enero y febrero de 1900 y las de los mismos meses en 1899. Durante los primeros, las entradas fueron de \$2,772,619.81, y durante los segundos de \$2,014,933.66.

FERROCARRILES EN CUBA.

El periódico "Daily Journal of Finance" dice, en su número del 28 de marzo próximo pasado, que Sir WILLIAM VAN HORNE, ex-presidente del ferrocarril Canadian Pacific, y algunos capitalistas de los Estados Unidos tienen la intención de establecer en Cuba un solo sistema ferroviario que ponga en comunicación las principales poblaciones de la isla. De esta manera podrán los agricultores transportar sus productos á todos los mercados. Si se quiere desarrollar la riqueza natural de Cuba, hay que proveerla de buenos medios de transportación, y este resultado se obtendrá si se lleva á efecto el mencionado proyecto.

ECUADOR.

LA IMPRENTA Y EL PERIODISMO EN LA REPÚBLICA.

Con este lema el Señor Don FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, uno de los miembros correspondientes honorarios de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas, se ha servido escribir para el BOLETÍN MENSUAL el artículo que á continuación se leerá:

"El nacimiento de la imprenta en el Ecuador corresponde al año 1750, en que los Jesuitas la fundaron en Ambato (capital de provincia) para atender á sus necesidades domésticas. Diez años después los mismos religiosos establecieron otra imprenta en Quito, capital de la República. Los trabajos de la imprenta, en los primeros años, estuvieron limitados á la publicación de sermones, pláticas, oraciones fúnebres, panegíricos de santos, novenas y pequeños devocionarios, según consta de los prolijos estudios bibliográficos de los Señores Dr. PABLO HERRERA, Ilmo. Obispo FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ y del joven chileno Don NICOLÁS ANRIQUE. De los estudios de estos señores, aparece también que en 1785 la imprenta sirvió ya para algunas apreciaciones médicas, relativas al modo de curar el sarampión, y que en 1792 el Obispo de Quito, Don JOSÉ PÉREZ CALAMA, se sirvió de ella para publicar pastorales acerca de la conveniencia de la apertura del camino del Pailón á Malbucho, y para un plan de estudios de la Universidad de Quito.

"Desde el 5 de enero de 1792 puede decirse, con toda propiedad, que se fundó en Quito el primer periódico político, por cuanto, en esa

fecha, el ilustre Don FRANCISCO EUGENIO DE SANTA CRUZ Y ESPEJO publicó el primer número del periódico titulado 'Principios de la Cultura de Quito,' el cual continuó quincenalmente hasta el mes de marzo del mismo año. Desde entonces hasta 1809, fecha de los primeros esfuerzos de emancipación política, y hasta 1830, en que el Ecuador se constituyó definitivamente en República independiente de España y desmembrada de la de Colombia, la prensa continuó sirviendo de una manera lenta y poco fructuosa á los intereses religiosos y políticos y casi nada á los científicos; pues que no hubo trabajos de mayor significación en tal sentido. Con posterioridad, la imprenta fué ya el órgano oficial para la publicación de todo lo concerniente al servicio de la administración pública, como la publicación de la Constitución, leyes, decretos y resoluciones emanadas, respectivamente, de los poderes legislativo, ejecutivo y judicial. Poco después, comenzaron á publicarse varios periódicos políticos y literarios, hasta que, por fin, desde 1861, respetados medianamente los fueros de la imprenta, ésta ha servido como un medio franco y eficaz para la difusión de ideas. Lo religioso (en primera línea), lo político (en gran parte), lo literario (también en parte considerable), y lo artístico, lo comercial y lo científico (en última escala) han ido cayendo bajo su dominio, más ó menos beneficioso, y sin más limitación que la responsabilidad á que, según la ley, están sujetas las publicaciones por la imprenta.

"No son muchas las obras serias, científicas, literarias y comerciales que hasta aquí se han publicado en el Ecuador. Quizá pudieran enumerarse, por todo, cosa de treinta ó cuarenta obras. Mas el número de hojas sueltas y folletos sobre diversos ramos de interés político y social es ya muy considerable.

"Las obras que merecen especial mención deben ser el Resumen de la Historia del Ecuador, por el Dr. PEDRO FERMÍN CEVALLOS; la Historia General de la República del Ecuador, por el muy Ilustre Obispo de Ibarra, Dr. Don FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ; la Geografía, por el Dr. TEODORO WOLF; las obras del Padre SOLANO; el Curso de Filosofía Escolástica del Jesuita MANUEL DE J. PROAÑO; la Química del Padre DRESEL, también Jesuita, y varias otras que por ahora no es del caso enumerarlas.

"Podemos afirmar que en la actualidad no hay provincia sin imprenta, y que en varias de ellas se hacen publicaciones de diversa significación.

"En el año 1893, por ejemplo, el estado del periodismo y de las imprentas era el siguiente:

"Se contaban cincuenta y siete imprentas y cuarenta y tres periódicos, según datos oficiales prolijamente recogidos por el Ministro de Fomento. Estaban distribuidos de este modo:

"La capital, trece imprentas y trece periódicos.

"Guayaquil, trece imprentas y doce periódicos.

"Azúay (Cuenca), nueve imprentas y tres periódicos.

- “Manabí, tres imprentas y tres periódicos.
- “Los Ríos (Bahahoyo), dos imprentas y tres periódicos.
- “Chimborazo (Riobamba), tres imprentas y tres periódicos.
- “Loja, dos imprentas y dos periódicos.
- “El Oro, dos imprentas y un periódico.
- “Bolívar (Guaranda y San Miguel), dos imprentas y un periódico.
- “Imbabura (Ibarra), dos imprentas y un periódico.
- “Tungurahma (Ambato), dos imprentas y un periódico.
- “Y, por fin, Carchi, León, Cañar y Esmeraldas, una imprenta en cada una de estas provincias, con publicaciones ocasionales.
- “Guayaquil, la ciudad más rica, la más comercial, y que por muchos respectos disputa la primacía á la capital, ha ocupado y ocupa incuestionablemente el primer lugar en el periodismo.”

La Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas tiene la intención de publicar dentro de poco tiempo, en forma de folleto, un directorio de los periódicos que se dan á luz en todos los países que forman la Unión Internacional. Ya la Oficina posee acerca de este particular considerable número de datos que se están poniendo en orden, y los representantes de la Unión Internacional en el exterior se ocupan actualmente en obtener informes relativos al mismo asunto.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 616 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 febrero de 1900, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los ocho meses que terminaron en febrero de 1900, comparados con igual período de 1899. 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, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión; de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de febrero, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en abril.

EL COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN FEBRERO DE 1900.

No registra la historia comercial del país un mes de febrero tan notable como el pasado, durante el cual las exportaciones fueron por término medio, según el informe publicado por la Secretaría de

Hacienda el 24 de marzo, de \$5,000,000 por cada día de trabajo. Además de esto, las exportaciones excedieron á las importaciones en una cantidad que no se había visto antes en ningún mes de febrero.

Siempre son grandes en febrero las importaciones, y á menudo acontece que igualan y aun exceden á las exportaciones, y por esto es de notar el hecho de que las exportaciones en febrero de este año excedieron á las importaciones en más de \$50,000,000.

Según el informe, ya citado, de la Secretaría de Hacienda, las importaciones y exportaciones durante los meses de febrero de 1899 y 1900 fueron como sigue:

IMPORTACIONES.

	1900.	1899.
Artículos de alimentación y animales.....	\$16,254,153	\$17,616,759
Artículos en estado erido para industrias nacionales.....	25,936,601	19,785,058
Artículos en todo ó en parte manufacturados para uso en las artes mecánicas.....	6,732,437	4,091,413
Artículos manufacturados, listos para el consumo.....	10,734,428	9,520,993
Artículos de lujo.....	9,116,531	9,246,229
Total.....	68,774,150	60,258,452

EXPORTACIONES.

Productos de—		
La agricultura.....	\$75,097,746	\$62,378,985
Las manufacturas.....	34,226,128	24,489,860
Las minas.....	3,134,022	1,889,826
Los bosques.....	3,548,209	2,741,927
La pesca.....	389,560	253,089
Productos varios.....	916,779	431,685
Total.....	117,336,444	92,185,372
Reexportación de productos extranjeros—		
Libres de derecho.....	1,422,071	726,368
Gravados con derechos.....	631,387	925,411

De las importaciones en el mes de febrero de este año, 44.66 por ciento fueron libres de derecho, contra 46.58 por ciento en 1899. La cantidad recaudada por las aduanas en el mes de febrero de este año ascendió á \$19,882,253, contra \$16,921,572 en febrero de 1899.

INFORME OFICIAL SOBRE LAS SEMENTERAS.

En la revista mensual de las sementeras en los Estados Unidos, publicada el 1° del corriente, se lee lo que sigue:

Al este del río Misisipi, excepto en los estados del sur, la estación no ha sido desfavorable, habiendo llovido mucho en una parte de los estados del golfo. En la región de los lagos y en Nueva Inglaterra ha nevado mucho. En el declive del Pacífico y en las montañas Roqueñas las condiciones han sido muy favorables.

Se han recibido informes desfavorables acerca del trigo mocho, de los estados de Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania y New Jersey, así como de algunas partes de Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ken-

tucky y Maryland. En la costa del Pacífico el trigo mocho se presenta, generalmente hablando, en excelentes condiciones. Se ha sembrado trigo de primavera en la sección meridional de la región donde crece el trigo mocho, así como en el estado de Montana. Se está sembrando maíz en los estados del sur, y en la parte meridional de Texas casi toda la siembra se hizo en marzo.

Cuando el informe fué publicado se estaba sembrando avena en Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio y Kansas, mientras que en Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Tennessee y Mississippi las plantaciones de avena estaban ya bastante desarrolladas.

Se estaba sembrado algodón en la sección meridional de la parte del país dedicado á este cultivo.

La condición de la cosecha de frutas es favorable, aunque los melocotones han sufrido algo en Missouri, Arkansas y Ohio.

CONDICIÓN DE LOS AGRICULTORES.

El periódico "American Agriculturist" publica, en su número correspondiente al 17 de marzo de este año, un artículo en que se pinta la condición de las clases agrícolas en los Estados Unidos, y prueba que éstas gozan de mayor prosperidad que nunca. Asegura el "Agriculturist" que los productos agrícolas de los Estados Unidos durante este año, excederán en más de \$1,600,000,000 al valor de los mismos en los años de 1894 y 1896, en que la agricultura estuvo muy abatida.

Calcula dicho periódico que el valor de las propiedades agrícolas en este país es, probablemente, en la actualidad como de \$14,500,000,000 y que el valor de los ganados asciende á \$2,558,000,000. Opina el "Agriculturist" que la cantidad de dinero invertido en empresas agrícolas en los Estados Unidos es como de \$17,550,000,000.

El número de propiedades agrícolas ha aumentado en 400,000 durante los últimos diez años.

PRODUCCIÓN DE PIEDRAS PRECIOSAS.

A principios de marzo, Mr. GEORGE F. KUNZ presentó su informe anual á la Oficina de Estudios Geológicos sobre la producción de piedras preciosas en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1899. Entre los puntos de interés á que Mr. KUNZ se refiere, figura el aumento en la producción de zafiros en el condado de Fergus, en Montana. En el condado Granite, del mismo estado, se descubrieron también zafiros de diferentes matices. Ha continuado la producción de turquesas en Nuevo México, y también se encuentra este mineral en los estados de California y Nevada. En cuanto á los precios de las piedras preciosas, dice Mr. KUNZ que ha aumentado mucho el valor de las esmeraldas, perlas y diamantes tallados. Al hablar del arte de tallar diamantes en los Estados Unidos, se asegura en dicho informe que ha llegado á un estado de desarrollo que antes no tenía.

El valor total de las piedras preciosas producidas en 1899 fué de \$185,750, contra \$160,920 en 1898. Por la primera vez en varios años los Estados Unidos han producido diamantes, aunque en pequeña cantidad. De las piedras preciosas producidas en 1899, la que representó mayor valor fué la turquesa. Los zafiros ocuparon el segundo lugar. La producción de piedras preciosas ha venido aumentando en los Estados Unidos desde 1896.

ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS POSESIONES INSULARES.

El 28 de marzo de este año, el Departamento de la Guerra envió al Senado de los Estados Unidos un informe relativo al arancel que actualmente está vigente en Puerto Rico, las Filipinas y la isla de Guam.

Las entradas totales en Puerto Rico, desde que la isla fué ocupada por los Estados Unidos, hasta el 31 de enero del año en curso, ascendieron á \$2,596,768, y los gastos á \$2,049,057, lo cual deja ver un saldo á favor del erario de \$536,711. Estos gastos se dividieron así: para obras públicas \$682,516; para la recaudación de la renta interior \$322,752, y para policía \$141,684.

Las entradas en las Filipinas, hasta el 31 de diciembre de 1899, ascendieron á \$6,696,080, y los gastos á \$5,279,482, lo que dejó un saldo á favor del erario de \$1,416,598.

TRÁNSITO RÁPIDO EN NUEVA YORK.

El día 24 de marzo próximo pasado se inauguró en Nueva York la gran obra del tránsito rápido, que pronto permitirá al público trasladarse á los puntos más remotos de la ciudad en doble menos tiempo del que ahora se necesita. Al hablar de dicha obra, el "New York Herald" se expresa así:

"El túnel tendrá una longitud de 21 millas. Para ello será menester excavar 2,000,000 de carretadas de tierra; quitar y reponer cerca de 16 millas de cloacas; se necesitarán 500,000 varas cúbicas de piedras de granito y de asfalto para recomponer las calles; más de 65,000 toneladas de acero para vigas; 8,000 toneladas de hierro fundido para obras tubulares y construcción de estaciones; cerca de 20,000 varas cúbicas de ladrillo común y esmaltado para arquería y estaciones; se tenderán 500,000 pies de carriles subterráneos y 60,000 de carriles elevados. El túnel costará \$35,000,000, y es el mayor contrato que jamás se adjudicó á una persona sola."

POBLACIÓN INDIA.

En un apéndice á su informe anual, el Comisionado de Asuntos de los Indios de los Estados Unidos incorpora los informes especiales de varias agencias. Por éstos se ve que la población india del país es de 297,905 habitantes. De este número, 42,597 saben leer y 53,314 pueden

hablar inglés. Se han construído para los indios 25,236 casas, de las cuales se construyeron 1,153 durante el año de 1899. El número de nacimientos fué de 4,237 y el de defunciones de 5,253. Había 348 iglesias con 31,656 feligreses. Las cantidades de dinero con que contribuyeron durante el año, para el adelanto de los indios, las sociedades religiosas y otras fueron las siguientes: para gastos de educación, \$277,531, y para obras religiosas \$119,407.

El Gobierno tiene en las diferentes reservas como 250 escuelas, en las que se emplean más de 2,000 maestros. Además de estos establecimientos de enseñanza, hay otros en que se da una educación más elevada, tales como la escuela de Carlisle y los institutos de Haskell y Hampton. Desde que estos planteles fueron fundados, muchos indios se han graduado en ellos. Desgraciadamente, algunos han vuelto á adoptar su antiguo método de vida, pero otros se han dedicado á diversas artes, á la enseñanza, etc.

EL ZACATÓN.

Dice el periódico "Farm Implement News" que las dos terceras partes de la cosecha de zacatón ó millo de escoba, en el mundo entero, es producida por el estado de Illinois. El consumo anual de este artículo es como de 30,000 toneladas, y hace pocos años el referido estado produjo en una sola estación 28,000 toneladas. Según el informe del Director de la Finca de Experimentos Agrícolas de la Universidad de Illinois, el zacatón cuesta, por término medio, \$50 la tonelada, y se vende á \$70. Se ha llegado á vender hasta \$30. Se necesitan tres acres de terreno para producir una tonelada de la parte del tallo que se usa para hacer escobas. Como la cosecha de 1899 parece haber sido insuficiente, lo cual ha hecho que se eleve el precio del zacatón, se ha ensayado, con más ó menos éxito, substituirlo en la manufactura de escobas con otros artículos, tales como fibras, alambres, etc.

PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR DE ARCE.

El azúcar y el jarabe de arce se obtienen de la savia del árbol del mismo nombre, que crece al noreste de los Estados Unidos y al sudeste del Canadá. Existen como treinta especies bien conocidas de esta planta. Este árbol es muy frondoso, y se eleva á una altura de 75 pies, por término medio. El jarabe y el azúcar de arce son producidos principalmente por los estados de Vermont, Massachusetts y Ohio. Hace un cuarto de siglo, la manera de obtener estos productos era muy imperfecta, pero en la actualidad el procedimiento es mucho más expedito. La estación durante la cual se recogen dichos artículos, puede durar desde unos pocos días hasta dos meses.

Cada árbol da como un galón de jarabe, por término medio. Se ha visto á un árbol de 6 pies de diámetro, lo cual es un tamaño extraordinario, producir un barril de savia en veinticuatro horas. El jarabe de

arce se vende de 50 centavos á \$1 por galón. En 1899 el valor del azúcar y jarabe de arce producidos en el estado de Ohio ascendió á \$1,250,000.

ACERO DE BESSEMER.

El Boletín de la American Iron and Steel Association de los Estados Unidos ha recogido datos estadísticos relativos al acero de Bessemer en lingotes y á rieles del mismo metal. La producción total de lingotes en 1899 fué de 7,586,354 toneladas, contra 6,609,017 toneladas en 1898, ó sea un aumento de 977,337 toneladas.

La producción de rieles de acero de Bessemer fué de 2,240,767 toneladas, contra 1,955,427 toneladas en 1898. El periódico "Iron Age" calcula que la producción total de toda clase de rieles en 1899 fué de 2,300,000 toneladas. Muy pocos rieles de hierro se hacen ahora en los Estados Unidos.

FÁBRICAS DE GÉNEROS DE ALGODÓN.

El incremento en la fabricación de toda clase de géneros de algodón en el sur de los Estados Unidos continúa tan activo como siempre. El periódico "The New Orleans Times-Democrat" dice que en un día se fundaron cuatro fábricas en los estados de Georgia y Mississippi, las cuales requieren un capital de \$1,100,000. El censo que se levantará en este año dará á conocer de una manera exacta este extraordinario progreso industrial, y una comparación con el estado de cosas cuando se hizo el censo de 1890, revelará uno de los fenómenos más notables que este país ha visto en su desarrollo fabril, fenómeno calculado, agrega el citado periódico, para dar mucho en que pensar á los fabricantes de la Nueva Inglaterra.

ACUÑACIÓN DE PLATA.

Las casas de moneda de los Estados Unidos van á ocuparse durante muchos meses en acuñar de \$80,000,000 de la plata que fué comprada de conformidad con la ley conocida con el nombre de "Sherman Act." De la mencionada suma, \$20,000,000 serán en moneda menuda, y el resto en *dollars*. Mr. GEORGE E. ROBERTS, Director de Moneda, dice que hay gran necesidad de moneda menuda.

La plata en pasta que va á servir para la acuñación se encuentra ahora en la casa de moneda de Filadelfia, pero también la de Nueva Orleans va á tomar parte en el trabajo mencionado. Cuando la plata en pasta fué comprada, el Gobierno emitió en pago billetes del Tesoro, pagaderos en plata, pero éstos van á ser reemplazados con las nuevas monedas de plata.

ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE GANADERÍA.

La Asociación Internacional de Ganadería va á abrir una exposición en la ciudad de Chicago, que durará del 1° al 8 de diciembre de este año,

y anuncia que la clasificación preliminar y la lista de premios están listas para ser distribuidas. Para obtener estas publicaciones basta dirigirse á la "International Live Stock Exposition, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., U. S. A."

Los directores de la exposición aseguran que México, algunas de las repúblicas sudamericanas y varios países europeos estarán representados en ella. Muchos millares de *dollars* van á ser distribuidos en calidad de premios.

EL TRIGAL MÁS GRANDE DE CALIFORNIA.

El campo de trigo más grande de California cubre, según asegura el periódico "Export Implement Age," 25,000 acres, ó sean 40 millas cuadradas. Este enorme trigal está situado á orillas del río San Joaquín, cerca del pueblo de Clovis, en el condado de Madera. La recolección de la cosecha será un trabajo hercúleo, para el cual se necesitarán más de 200 hombres, 1,000 caballos y gran cantidad de maquinaria.

COLONOS PORTUGUESES EN NUEVA INGLATERRA.

El 27 de marzo próximo pasado, el vapor *Doña María* trajo á Nueva York el mayor número de inmigrantes portugueses que ha llegado jamás al mencionado puerto. Estos inmigrantes se trasladaron á los estados de Nueva Inglaterra, donde van á establecerse.

NUEVO ASTILLERO.

Dice el "Daily Call," de San Francisco, en su número correspondiente al 27 de marzo de este año, que los talleres conocidos con el nombre de Risdon Iron Works han hecho un arreglo, mediante el cual entran en posesión de los Pacific Rolling Mills, establecimiento que cubre 32 acres de tierra. Se asegura que la Risdon Iron Company va á construir un dique seco donde podrán entrar los buques de mayor calado.

CONTRATO DE CARBÓN.

Dice el "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, que un sindicato inglés ha celebrado un contrato por 2,000,000 de toneladas de carbón de piedra de Alabama, que deben serle entregadas en Nueva Orleans, para ser exportadas en el término de dos años. El precio en que se convino fué de 75 centavos por tonelada, entregada en la boca de las minas, debiendo agregarse á esta cantidad 50 centavos más para gastos de transportación al mencionado puerto. El periódico atrás citado, considera esta transacción como una de las más importantes que hanse verificado en el sur de los Estados Unidos en los últimos años.

EXTENSIÓN DE LOS BOSQUES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Se había calculado en 26 por ciento la extensión de los bosques de los Estados Unidos, pero los últimos cálculos hechos por la Sección de Geografía y Silvicultura de la Oficina de Estudios Geológicos la ha

elevado al 37 por ciento. Dicha oficina ha publicado un folleto que contiene informes recientes sobre los bosques del país, y prueba que en cuanto á maderas de construcción, los recursos de los Estados Unidos son mayores de lo que generalmente se cree.

VENTA DE BANANOS.

Por la primera vez en tres años se han vendido en pública subasta bananos de Cuba en la ciudad de Nueva York. La venta se verificó el 28 de marzo próximo pasado. La fruta no era, generalmente hablando, de buena calidad, y los precios que se pagaron, si se exceptúa la clase conocida en este país con el nombre de *red* (roja), fueron bajos. De esta última solamente se introdujeron 400 racimos. La exportación de bananos de Cuba fué prohibida en 1896 por el General WEYLER.

LA ISLA DE GUAM.

El Señor SEATON SCHROEDER, de la Armada de los Estados Unidos, va á ser el sucesor del Capitán LEARY, como Gobernador de la isla de Guam. Esta isla es una estación naval, y se espera que todos los transportes que vayan á Manila ó vengan de aquel puerto hagan escala allí. Servirá también la isla como estación para el proyectado cable del Pacífico, y se establecerá en ella un depósito de carbón para barcos mercantes.

DESCUBRIMIENTO DE UN NUEVO MINERAL.

El "New York Sun," en su número correspondiente al 25 de marzo del año en curso, dice que últimamente se ha descubierto un filón de mineral de cobre en la mina Mohawk, de Houghton, Michigan, y que al principio se creyó que era sulfuro de cobre. Parece, sin embargo, que es un mineral nuevo, que jamás había sido clasificado por los mineralogistas. El Profesor JORGE O. KOENIG, que es una autoridad reconocida en Europa y América, ha hecho, según se dice, varios experimentos con este mineral y ha declarado que es una substancia muy valiosa, compuesta de cobre, níquel y arsénico, á la cual ha llamado "Mohawkite," debido al nombre de la mina donde se descubrió.

LA INDUSTRIA DE LINO.

El periódico "Minneapolis Tribune" asegura que la industria de lino promete mucho en los estados del noroeste. En 1899 se dedicaron á este cultivo unos 600,000 acres en el estado de North Dakota, y la producción de linaza ascendió á cosa de 7,200,000 *bushels*. Como el precio de este artículo se alzó, los agricultores tuvieron buenas ganancias, pero prácticamente no hubo mercado para los tallos. Por recomendación de compañías de Boston y de Londres, se ha erigido en la ciudad de Fargo una fábrica para utilizar la fibra del lino en la manu-

factura de papel de escribir de fina calidad, y, si esto da buen resultado, se podrán fabricar también telas de lino de diversas clases.

CORRESPONDENCIA RELATIVA AL CANAL DE PANAMÁ.

El 21 de marzo de este año el Senado de los Estados Unidos pidió al Presidente MCKINLEY que le remitiera la correspondencia entre los Estados Unidos y Colombia relativa al Canal de Panamá. Dicha correspondencia abraza desde 1879 hasta 1897, y gran parte de ella aun no ha sido publicada.

PAPEL DE BAGAZO.

Durante más de veinte años se han estado haciendo experimentos en Louisiana para la fabricación de papel del bagazo de la caña de azúcar. En la última semana de marzo próximo pasado hubo en Nueva Orleans una reunión de plantadores, en la cual el Coronel JOHN DYMOND manifestó que por primera vez se habían obtenido buenos resultados en dichos experimentos. El papel que se fabrica sirve solamente para envolver, pero se asegura que una tonelada del mismo se hace con poco más de una tonelada de bagazo.

MONOGRAFÍA SOBRE LAS AVES DE PATAGONIA.

El Profesor W. E. D. SCOTT, Conservador del Departamento de Ornitología de la Universidad de Princeton, partió para Inglaterra con el objeto de examinar la colección de aves del Museo Británico y hacer comparaciones entre éstas y las de Patagonia. El resultado de sus investigaciones saldrá á luz en una monografía, que será la primera de una serie de trabajos referentes á la expedición que dicha Universidad envió á Patagonia, y los cuales serán publicados bajo la dirección del Profesor SCOTT, como editor principal.

AGRICULTORES DE MISSOURI EN MÉXICO.

En un telegrama que publica el "Chicago Record" con fecha 18 de marzo de este año, se da la noticia de que una colonia de 400 agricultores del estado de Missouri va á establecerse en el valle del río Concho, en el estado de Chihuahua. Los promotores de la empresa de colonización han comprado, según se asegura, 200,000 acres de terrenos muy ricos.

IMPRESOS EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARIS.

El periódico "Deutsch Export Zeitung" dice que el Director-General de la Exposición de París ha resuelto que todos los impresos destinados á dicho certamen, ya contengan ilustraciones ó no, sean admitidos libres de derechos de aduana, bajo las condiciones siguientes:

1°. Los impresos han de ser enviados al expositor ó á su representante, y no á otra persona.

2ª. Los impresos deben tratar únicamente de lo que exhiba la persona que los importa. Los catálogos y prospectos que traten de toda una sección de objetos no gozarán del mencionado privilegio.

3ª. Los impresos deben ser distribuidos gratuitamente en la Exposición.

NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

En el año corriente la cosecha de limones de California va á ocupar un lugar más prominente que nunca en los mercados, porque, además de que será mayor que las anteriores, la calidad de la fruta ha mejorado. Se prestará especial atención á la manera de empacarla. Hasta hace pocos años casi todas las frutas secas que se consumían en los Estados Unidos eran importadas, pero California las produce ahora de igual calidad y quizá superiores á las extranjeras. El cultivo del limonero está todavía en su infancia, pero se cree que durante este año se establecerá sobre sólidas bases, y que todos los limones que se consumen en los Estados Unidos se producirán en la costa del Pacífico.

La barca de acero *Ancona* llegó á Boston el 29 de marzo de este año, procedente de Manila. La travesía duró ciento cincuenta días. Dicha barca trajo un cargamento de cáñamo, compuesto de 13,300 fardos, que es la cantidad más grande que jamás ha venido de las Filipinas á los Estados Unidos en un solo buque. Desde que la *Ancona* salió de Zebú el valor del cáñamo ha aumentado notablemente, pues su cargamento, que fué valorado en \$400,000 el día que se hizo á la vela, valía \$800,000 á su llegada á Boston.

La Belize "Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company" acaba de ser organizada en Jersey City, con un capital de \$100,000. Se propone esta compañía establecer comunicación, por medio de vapores, entre los puertos de los Estados Unidos, Belize y la América Central.

URUGUAY.

MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE.

Con fecha 15 de febrero de este año, el Presidente CUESTAS dirigió á la Asamblea General, al inaugurar el segundo período de la XX Legislatura, un notable mensaje, del cual se han tomado los siguientes párrafos:

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“Ha estado atento el Gobierno al progreso del país siempre creciente. La campaña que ensancha sus medios de riqueza y de labor ha requerido disposiciones diversas tendentes á consolidar su situación.

La industria toma un vuelo gradual en la Capital y en los centros poblados, en relación con sus elementos.

“Los ferrocarriles, el telégrafo y el teléfono, extendiéndose, llevan su poderosa acción á todos los centros donde alcanzan. Son una verdadera manifestación del progreso de la campaña pastora las exposiciones que han tenido lugar en las ciudades y pueblos de algunos departamentos. El mejoramiento de las razas, que constituye la riqueza pastoril, evidencia el bienestar y adelanto en que se encuentra la industria principal del país. El Gobierno ha coadyuvado en todo lo que le ha sido posible á fomentar esas exposiciones, que estimulan al ganadero y al introductor de ganados destinados á la reproducción, y á las cuales se han concedido todas aquellas franquicias conciliables con lo que determinan las leyes.

“La agricultura ha tomado también proporciones superiores, dignas de atención para la riqueza general. El país debe estar reconocido á la campaña por su noble esfuerzo en dedicarse á la industria y al trabajo con provecho de los intereses generales. La campaña es el primer factor de la prosperidad de la nación. El comercio y la industria en general, anuparados por el orden y la paz, llevarán muy adelante el progreso de la República.

“Los datos que ofrece la estadística de aduana confirman este aserto. En 1898 y 1899 la importación se encuentra representando una suma alrededor de \$24,000,000 cada año.

“La exportación de los productos del país, que en 1898 fué de \$30,000,000, en el año 1899 subió á \$37,000,000. Estas cifras bastan por sí solas para dar la prueba más elocuente del progreso del país y de su marcha ascendente.

“Es la primera vez desde el comienzo de nuestra vida independiente que se manifiesta el trabajo nacional en forma tan admirable.

“Puede afirmarse, sin temor de incurrir en falta, que la República da la nota más alta en el progreso material de los pueblos, en relación con la densidad de su población.

GOBIERNO.

“De acuerdo el Poder Ejecutivo con el principio económico, según el cual la base de una conveniente distribución del impuesto inmobiliario debe buscarse en el conocimiento exacto del valor de la propiedad, dictó el decreto de 12 de octubre último, determinando la formación del Registro de la Propiedad, el que permitirá en cualquier momento apreciar y seguir todas las variaciones de la riqueza inmobiliaria.

“El empadronamiento de la propiedad ha sido confiado á una Comisión Central de ciudadanos competentes, ingenieros y funcionarios públicos, la que limitará su cometido al radio urbano y suburbano de Montevideo, quedando autorizada para nombrar las comisiones auxi-

liares y subcomisiones que repunte convenientes á la mejor realizaci3n de tan prolijo trabajo. La Comisi3n Central ha empezado ya su tarea con encomiable actividad, practicando los estudios preliminares y proyectos previos que es indispensable abordar antes de entrar de lleno á la ejecuci3n de la obra.

“El Poder Ejecutivo abraza la íntima persuasi3n de que en un plazo relativamente corto quedar4 definitivamente terminado ese trabajo, de vital importancia para nuestra riqueza nacional y el porvenir econ3mico del pa3s.

“La formaci3n del censo demogr4fico de la Rep3blica es indispensable para poder ofrecer un testimonio irrecusable de nuestra vitalidad y de nuestro progreso. Por esto, el Poder Ejecutivo se apresur3 á expedir el decreto de 17 de noviembre pr3ximo pasado, disponiendo el levantamiento del censo general de la poblaci3n en todo el territorio de la Rep3blica, con excepci3n de la capital, donde se efectuar4 despu3s; operaci3n que se comete á una Comisi3n Directiva con el encargo de preparar, dirigir y terminar todos los trabajos indispensables para realizarla. Conforme á esa resoluci3n, el censo ser4 levantado el 1º de marzo pr3ximo en todos los departamentos de campaa. El sistema que se ha adoptado para su ejecuci3n permite que 3l se realice con notable rapidez y sin mayores erogaciones para el Tesoro p3blico, pues los gastos se limitarán á sueldos de escribientes 3 impresiones de orden. Al disponer la formaci3n del censo de la poblaci3n de la Rep3blica se ha dado cumplimiento tambi3n á un precepto constitucional olvidado desde el a3o 1860.

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CORREOS Y TEL3GRAFOS.

“La instituci3n de Correos y Tel3grafos ha merecido la m4s preferente atenci3n de mi Gobierno.

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“La fusi3n de los Correos y Tel3grafos nacionales, servicios an3logos por su naturaleza, por su índole, por sus prop3sitos, servicios idénticos en una palabra, ha dado los resultados que eran de esperarse. Funcionando bajo un mismo techo, bajo una misma direcci3n, pueden protegerse mutuamente en el cumplimiento de su delicada misi3n; siendo prueba inequívoca de ello el crecimiento de sus rentas, el movimiento ascendente que ya permite en el a3o 1899 ver trasmitirse por sus 39 oficinas postales-telegr4ficas, 131,752 despachos que importan la suma de \$56,498.70. y manipularse 5,090,681 piezas de correspondencia m4s que en el a3o 1898, ó sea 37,238,356 piezas, que representan una entrada de \$240,645.25, 3 cuyo c3mputo, adem4s de la Oficina Central, han concurrido 18 administraciones principales establecidas en las cabezas de los Departamentos; 52 sucursales 3 oficinas de segundo orden que

funcionan en los centros más importantes por su población y comercio; 650 agencias de tercer orden diseminadas en la capital y en el interior; 15 estafetas ambulantes que corren sobre nuestras vías férreas, y 6 en los vapores de la carrera al Uruguay.

•• Sería casi excusado el manifestaros que la marcha económica de esta institución satisface plenamente. El movimiento general de su renta en el año 1899 ha alcanzado á \$330,956.49, con un excedente de \$19,194.41 sobre el producido de 1898. Con sus propias rentas ha cubierto mensualmente su presupuesto y ha podido efectuar muchas y variadas mejoras que se imponían para su más perfecto funcionamiento. Ha adquirido en propiedad una área de 1,384 metros 70 decímetros cuadrados en la calle Miguelete, entre las de Yaguarón y Médanos, y se han construído en él cómodos é higiénicos locales de servicio y departamentos especiales para depósito de materiales telegráficos. Como varias de sus dependencias se hallan instaladas fuera de la Casa Central, imposibilitando así la vigilancia constante que la Dirección General debe observar sobre ellas, se verá terminada en breve la construcción de un tercer cuerpo en el edificio de correos, el que permitirá centralizar sus oficinas, regularizar su funcionamiento y ahorrar las importantes sumas que se abonan mensualmente, por concepto de alquileres.

•• Las líneas telegráficas, cuya extensión alcanza actualmente á 1,655 kilómetros, se encuentran en su mayoría en perfecto estado, y prontas á recibir el impulso que les ofrecerá su unión á las líneas nacionales argentinas, mediante el convenio sometido á la aprobación de V. H., y prontas también para ligarse al telégrafo nacional brasileño, á cuyo fin se han iniciado ya importantes gestiones. La hora en que veamos realizadas esas uniones no la considero lejana, pues confío en el espíritu patriótico de los señores Senadores y Diputados para contar con su concurso á una obra cuya magnitud será una página de progreso en la historia de nuestros telégrafos nacionales. Consecuente con esas ideas, se ha autorizado la construcción de algunos kilómetros de línea desde Conchillas á Martín Chico, en cuyo punto empalmará nuestro telégrafo con el nacional argentino; y, en el deseo de un perfecto funcionamiento, se ha reparado debidamente la línea que liga á la Colonia con el primero de esos puntos, y se proyecta la adquisición en Europa de 600 kilómetros de alambre de bronce, con el propósito de dedicarlo exclusivamente al servicio que espera sólo la sanción de V. H.

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RELACIONES EXTERIORES.

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•• He creído que, en primer término, nos convenía fomentar nuestro intercambio comercial; y al efecto, después de oír la autorizada opinión de las Cámaras de Comercio y de algunos distinguidos miembros del

alto comercio, propuse á la consideración de los Gobiernos de Francia, Alemania, Inglaterra é Italia, restablecer las antiguas convenciones de comercio que habían caducado, fijándoles sólo el término de un año, dentro del cual podríamos negociar otros acuerdos de recíprocas ventajas para los respectivos Estados. De este modo se salvaba la imprevisión cometida anteriormente, de haber denunciado los tratados, sin estar preparados de antemano para una nueva negociación.

“La carencia absoluta de convenios comerciales con aquellos países nos privaba del goce y de los beneficios de la tarifa mínima, que se aplica en Europa sólo á los productos de los Estados vinculados á ella por pactos internacionales. Á este fin, pues, han respondido los convenios últimamente elevados á la consideración de Vuestra Honorabilidad, de los cuales han sido ya sancionados los de Francia y Alemania.

“Se halla á la consideración de Vuestra Honorabilidad el tratado general de arbitraje celebrado con el Gobierno Argentino, por cuyas cláusulas se establece el modo y forma de dar solución amistosa y conveniente á las cuestiones que pudieran suscitarse entre ambos países. Al celebrar ese acuerdo he creído interpretar fielmente los deseos y sentimientos de la nación, y especialmente los de Vuestra Honorabilidad, cuyo patriotismo está bien evidenciado. El referido convenio nos permite incorporar á nuestro derecho internacional positivo el principio del arbitraje, que es una de las conquistas más preciadas de nuestro siglo, y la última palabra de la diplomacia moderna para evitar los desastres de la guerra.

“Hemos negociado también con el mismo Gobierno un convenio sobre importación y exportación de ganado entre ésta y aquella República, con el propósito de garantizar el buen estado sanitario de este artículo de comercio.

“Esa negociación era urgentemente reclamada por nuestros ganaderos y exportadores, á quienes debíamos atender, sin perjuicio de las medidas de carácter administrativo y reglamentario que convenía adoptar para impedir la introducción de ganados atacados de enfermedades contagiosas ó sospechosos de estarlo. El convenio de la referencia concilia todos los intereses, estableciendo el procedimiento que debe adoptarse para la introducción del ganado, sin perjuicio alguno para ambos países, igualmente interesados en el desarrollo de ese ramo tan importante del comercio internacional.

“Se halla á la consideración de Vuestra Honorabilidad el convenio telegráfico celebrado entre nuestra Administración de Correos y Telégrafos y la Argentina, con el loable propósito de establecer un servicio telegráfico completo con aquel país, el Paraguay y Bolivia, en condiciones muy ventajosas para el público, sin recargo alguno, conviniéndose aduénas las tarifas internacionales que han de aplicarse á los telegramas procedentes del exterior ó á él dirigidos.

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“Fueron ya enviados á los Estados Unidos, para ser depositados en el Ministerio de Estado de aquel país, los instrumentos de ratificación por parte de la República de los convenios celebrados en el Congreso Postal de Washington, en el cual se adoptaron todas las modificaciones y mejoras que la experiencia y la práctica habían aconsejado, después de los Congresos de Lisboa y Viena que se ocuparon anteriormente de esta materia.

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OBRAS PÚBLICAS.

“De acuerdo con las leyes de 7 de noviembre último que aprobaron el proyecto definitivo para la ejecución de las obras del puerto en la bahía de Montevideo, formulado por el señor ingeniero Don ADOLFO GUÉRARD, sobre las bases del anteproyecto KEMMER-GUÉRARD, pero limitando la contratación á lo que se repite indispensable por el momento, el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió con fecha 16 del mismo mes al referido ingeniero GUÉRARD, encomendándole la confección de los planos definitivos que han de servir para contratar dichas obras; estos planos, así como el respectivo pliego de condiciones, podrán hallarse prontos para fines del mes de marzo. Fueron enviadas también al mismo ingeniero las observaciones formuladas por el Departamento Nacional de Ingenieros sobre ubicación definitiva de algunas de las obras, para que quiera tomarlas en cuenta, si con arreglo á su criterio son de positiva utilidad para la mejor economía del proyecto.

“Habiendo quedado autorizado el Poder Ejecutivo para contratar dentro de la suma de 12½ millones de pesos oro la construcción de las obras, llamando á licitación entre firmas de primer orden que hayan realizado empresas de importancia de análoga naturaleza, el Gobierno, participando del deseo general que anima á toda la población de la República de que se acelere la ejecución de este magno problema, creyó conveniente hacer uso inmediato de la facultad conferida, sin aguardar el envío á Montevideo de los planos definitivos encomendados al Señor GUÉRARD.

“Con tal propósito, dispuso ante todo la traducción é impresión, en los idiomas francés, inglés, alemán é italiano, de las leyes promulgadas el 7 de noviembre para el mejor conocimiento de ellas.

“Formuló, previos informes, una nómina de las principales casas constructoras de Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania, Estados Unidos, Bélgica, Italia y Holanda, formando un total de veintiseis casas, á las que á fines de diciembre se enviaron todos los antecedentes, planos, leyes y documentos varios, para el debido estudio del asunto, y se le dirigió una extensa nota explicativa interesando especialmente la atención de cada una de ellas, á fin de que formulen propuestas al respecto, fijándose la fecha del 31 de julio del corriente año como término máximo para la presentación de las mismas.

“Se ha dicho á las casas constructoras que, como la construcción y ubicación de las obras que se proyecta ejecutar por ahora, están determinadas en los planos y memorias que se les ha enviado, pueden desde ya emprender los estudios sobre esa base para formular los lineamientos generales de sus propuestas, complementándolos tan luego se hallen en poder de las mismas los planos definitivos encomendados en 16 de noviembre al Señor GUÉRARD. Procediendo en esta forma, el Poder Ejecutivo ha adelantado trabajo y ganado tiempo, pudiéndose así tal vez comenzarse la construcción del puerto en el transcurso del corriente año.

“Entre los antecedentes que se enviaron, figura un cuadro de nuestro comercio exterior, por el que se demuestra cuál es el monto probable de la renta ajustada á la construcción de las obras, que se calcula en un millón cien mil pesos oro por año; cantidad importantísima en la que puede hacerse reposar sin temores, cualquiera combinación financiera.

“Este dato, las amplias garantías que se acuerdan por las leyes y la seriedad é importancia de los estudios que se han practicado, son factores esenciales que permiten abrigar la esperanza de que por fin la obra del puerto de Montevideo será extraída de la región de las grandes aspiraciones nacionales, para convertirse en un centro de hechos fecundos para la República.

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“Aparte de las magnas cuestiones de puerto y vialidad, que se tratan en capítulos separados, y á las que el Gobierno consagra la más preferente atención, por la vitalidad que entrañan para la República, el Poder Ejecutivo se ocupará asimismo de poner en buen camino las siguientes, que son también de innegable importancia y seriamente reclamadas:

“1°. Prolongación del Ferrocarril del Nordeste, detenido hoy en Nico Pérez, y que es urgente llevar por lo menos á Melo.

“2°. Comunicación rápida y económica entre la Capital y los departamentos del Este, sea por medio de la prolongación del Ferrocarril Uruguayo del Este, detenido en la Sierra, ó por el establecimiento de una línea regular de vapores-correos, en combinación con tranvías rurales de vapor, que arranquen de los puertos de Maldonado y La Paloma.

“3°. Terminación de las obras en el paso de Almirón, ya muy adelantadas, que trasformarán á Paysandú en puerto de ultramar.

“4°. Conservación y mejora de los obras ya realizadas en el Río Negro y en el Arroyo de las Vacas.

“5°. Construcción del palacio de Gobierno.

“6°. Construcción de edificios escolares en la Capital y en los departamentos del interior, hallándose ya en trámite una propuesta ventajosa y debidamente garantida.

FERROCARRILES.

“Al inaugurarse el Gobierno Constitucional, el Estado había cumplido ya por su parte, casi todas las obligaciones que le incumbían como contratante con la empresa entonces denominada de los Ferrocarriles del Oeste, al tenor de las estipulaciones contenidas en el contrato de fecha 30 de mayo de 1896.

“Por ese contrato la Empresa tomaba á su cargo la construcción de un sistema de ferrocarriles, cuya arteria principal parte de la ciudad de San José y termina en la de Mercedes, con un ramal al puerto del Sauce, pasando por el Rosario, y otro á la Colonia; y la construcción del puerto del Sauce con capacidad para un movimiento de 500,000 toneladas, susceptible de ser aumentado á un millón, para buques de 18 á 20 pies de calado, que operarían á plancha, y con los depósitos, útiles y enseres necesarios.

“Cada sección de ferrocarril, con todo su tren rodante, vías, estaciones, galpones, talleres y demás anexos, retrovertirá al Estado á los sesenta años de entregada al tráfico público.

“Por su parte, el Estado debía contribuir con £600,000 nominales, en títulos de la deuda consolidada, depositados en la casa de GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE Y Ca., de Londres, con el exclusivo objeto de practicar los arreglos de los Ferrocarriles del Oeste (art. 1° del Convenio de 26 de agosto de 1891), y con todos los materiales, terrenos, muebles, y demás que la Compañía Uruguay Limitada entregará al Estado, según el arreglo que con ella celebró en Londres el día 2 de diciembre de 1895, en las mismas condiciones en que el Gobierno debe recibirse de todo ello según el referido arreglo.

“Á partir del 28 de febrero de 1897 empiezan las entregas de dinero á la empresa en calidad de á cuenta, mediante certificados provisorios que expide el ingeniero fiscal, en consideración á trabajos hechos, materiales adquiridos, fletes pagados y demás elementos acumulados por la Empresa. El Gobierno provisional autorizó el último certificado provisorio, con fecha 3 de diciembre de 1898, por el saldo de la subvención, después de cumplida la condición impuesta á la empresa de poner en comunicación, con trenes de servicio provisorio, la ciudad de San José con el puerto del Sauce.

“Así mismo fueron entregados en tiempo oportuno á la empresa, los planos, materiales, muebles, útiles y demás enseres existentes en los depósitos de Londres, Montevideo y la Colonia, de todo lo cual ella se recibió con solemnidades de inventario é interviniendo los Ingenieros fiscales, después de declararse oficialmente que el Gobierno descartaba las diferencias en más y en menos, por juzgarlas suficientemente compensadas.

“También le fué escriturado á la empresa el terreno de 9,952.45 metros cuadrados, equivalentes á 13,000 varas, sito en la Colonia, con

los muelles, edificios y demás construcciones existentes, el cual terreno había adquirido el fisco á mérito del convenio de 2 de diciembre de 1895, aprobado por ley fecha 26 de mayo de 1896.

“Como es de notar, el Estado ha cumplido con un espíritu de equidad, rayano en la protección, las obligaciones que le impuso aquel contrato, proporcionando á la Empresa todos esos elementos y recursos en momentos críticos para ella, que, á haberse prolongado, hubieran traído seguramente el aniquilamiento de su entidad comercial.

“Pero mediaba la circunstancia obligante de que el período de iniciación de los trabajos había transcurrido en medio de los trastornos de la guerra civil; y como era necesario, por otra parte, poner término, una vez por todas, á la ya trabajada cuestión del Ferrocarril de la Colonia, y llevarlo á las comarcas del oeste de la República, el Gobierno adoptó el arbitrio de socorrer á la empresa con certificados á cuenta, consiguiendo, de tal suerte, mantenerla en pie para facilitarle el modo de construir y terminar la línea de San José al Sauce, acontecimiento que, como es notorio, vino á hacer posible la transferencia de que se hablará más adelante.

“Sucesivamente, á medida que las necesidades del tráfico de productos lo exigían, el Gobierno ha ido habilitando provisoriamente aquella parte de vía férrea que, en el sentir de los técnicos, reunía condiciones de seguridad suficientes para el transporte de cargas.

“Primeramente, en enero de 1898, se autorizó, bajo la responsabilidad de la empresa y corriendo ésta con todos los riesgos, el tráfico provisorio de cereales entre la Villa del Rosario y el puerto del Sauce, promulgándose entonces una tarifa provisoria que comprendía los gastos de transporte por la vía, y de muellaje y embarque por el puerto.

“Este permiso vino á cooperar al movimiento de parte de la cosecha de la agricultura de los departamentos del Oeste.

“Un año después, el 13 de enero de 1899, se dió igualmente autorización para utilizar en el transporte de cargas la vía férrea construída entre el Sauce, Rosario y San José, visto el estado regular de los trabajos ya bastante adelantados, y se aprobó también como provisoria otra tarifa de carga, la que se reservaba modificar el Gobierno cuando lo entendiese conveniente, imponiendo así mismo á la empresa la regularización de ciertos detalles técnicos de importancia, que se señalaban en los informes de los ingenieros informantes.

“Más tarde, el 17 de noviembre de 1899, en consideración á las ventajas que reportaría la defectuosa vialidad de aquellos parajes, mediante un servicio ferroviario para pasajeros y carga, fué habilitada, en calidad de provisoria, la línea de San José al Sauce, quedando obligada la Empresa, bajo responsabilidad, y con todos los riesgos á su cargo, á completar los trabajos del proyecto definitivo, siguiendo las indicaciones que habían formulado las Oficinas Técnicas.

“De acuerdo con las estipulaciones del contrato originario de 30 de

mayo de 1896, el Gobierno autorizó, con fecha 10 de agosto 1899, la transferencia de la concesión de la vía férrea del Oeste á la compañía "The Central Uruguay Western Railway, Limited," constituida en Londres con ese especial objeto, cuyos estatutos habían sido sometidos á la aprobación del Poder Ejecutivo, conforme á la cláusula 8ª del referido contrato de concesión.

En uso de esa autorización, se labró en Londres, el 25 de agosto del año expresado, la respectiva escritura de cesión y transferencia, y en conocimiento de sus términos, el Gobierno aprobó ese acto con fecha 10 de Noviembre próximo pasado, quedando obligado el cesionario á prestar todas las obligaciones, responsabilidades, seguridades y garantías contraídas por el cedente, según las leyes que rigen la concesión y la integran necesariamente, á saber: la de 6 de octubre de 1897 y la de 12 de octubre de 1899.

Dada la importancia de la firma comercial que se ha hecho cargo de la Empresa, y las garantías efectivas sobre que reposa el contrato, el Gobierno abriga al presente la seguridad de que en el plazo legal será un hecho positivo el Ferrocarril del Oeste, que pondrá á Montevideo en contacto con el Rosario, Sauce, Colonia y Mercedes, vinculando estrechamente poblaciones importantes que vivían hasta ahora casi aisladas, en un medio feraz de producción agrícola y ganadera.

Para el mes de julio de 1901 habrá llegado el ferrocarril á la Colonia y llegará á Mercedes en febrero de 1902. Estas fechas se calculan conforme á la prórroga de veintiocho meses que otorgó la ley de fecha 12 de octubre de 1899.

La compañía cedente denominada The Uruguay Western Railway and Port Company, Limited, se ha reservado la construcción y explotación del puerto del Sauce, negocio que queda ahora independiente del de construcción y explotación de la línea del Oeste, que es lo único cedido á la Compañía Ferrocarril Central Extensión Oeste, sin que esta modificación del negociado primitivo venga á afectar las responsabilidades y garantías establecidas por el contrato fecha 30 de mayo de 1896 y la ley fecha 6 de octubre de 1897, para la efectividad, realización y goce de las concesiones de que allí se trata.

Desde el mes de febrero de 1898, fecha en que se autorizó el tráfico provisorio, el puerto del Sauce ha tenido hasta fines de 1899 un movimiento de 20,557 toneladas de carga efectiva, representada por cueros, lanas, lana, trigo, animales en pie, queso, alfalfa, harina, papel, arena, piedra labrada y bruta, materiales de ferrocarril, etc.

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Hé aquí algunos datos del movimiento ferrocarrilero correspondiente al ejercicio económico 1898-99:

	Kilómetros.
La extensión total de los ferrocarriles en explotación es de	1,604.832
La de los ferrocarriles en construcción y algunos en estudio y proyecto es de	1,909.143
Total.....	3,513.975

Entre estos últimos figuran los Ferrocarriles del Oeste con una extensión de 300 kilómetros, de los cuales 104 han sido habilitados provisionalmente.

	Kilómetros.
Del total de las líneas en explotación gozan de la garantía del Estado....	1, 149, 708
Se explotan sin garantía	455, 123
Total.....	1, 604, 831

El capital invertido hasta la fecha en los 1,604,832 kilómetros de vía en explotación asciende á \$46,817,972.70, ó sea en término medio por 1 kilómetro de vía \$29,173.13.

El capital que representan las líneas garantidas, á razón de pesos 23,500 por kilómetro, asciende á \$27,018,160.09.

Los productos brutos de la explotación ascendieron en el ejercicio 1898-99 á \$2,401,823.60.

El número total de pasajeros trasportados ha sido de 992,243, con un recorrido de kilómetros 27,887.116.

El tráfico de la carga está representado por 580,234 toneladas, con un recorrido, en kilómetros, de 78,074.788.

El aumento que se observa en dicho tráfico, con relación á los años 1896-97 y 1897-98, es de 21.48 y 6.57 por ciento, respectivamente.

Se ha invertido en gastos de explotación la suma de pesos 1,486,605.39, representados como sigue:

Líneas garantidas	\$720, 452. 70
Líneas no garantidas	766, 152. 69
	<u>\$1, 486, 605. 39</u>

El monto de la ganancia líquida obtenida de la explotación de las líneas alcanza á

	946, 409. 92
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Comprendiendo en su totalidad al Ferrocarril Central, como sigue:

Secciones garantidas.....	\$267, 122. 86
Secciones no garantidas.....	679, 287. 06
	<u>946, 409. 92</u>

El monto de interés que hay que servir anualmente por concepto de garantías es de

	\$945, 635. 59
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La cantidad líquida y abonada en las fechas fijadas por la ley

	817, 397. 13
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Utilidad obtenida por el Estado.....	128, 238. 46
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Esta utilidad se deriva de la explotación de las siguientes líneas:

Extensión al Este del Ferrocarril Central (línea á Nico Pérez)	\$97, 699. 13
Ramal Nordeste (línea á Minas)	30, 539. 33
	<u>128, 238. 46</u>

En los años 1896-97 y 1897-98 esta utilidad alcanzó solamente á \$41,523.81 y \$91,312.75 respectivamente.

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INSTRUCCIÓN PÚBLICA.

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“El movimiento escolar sigue avanzando lentamente.

“Debo hacer constar, como dato satisfactorio, que en el año transcurrido funcionaron 563 escuelas públicas en la República, lo que arroja un aumento de veinte escuelas sobre el año 1898.

“La inscripción de alumnos alcanzó á 51,633, cifra que revela un exceso de 1,900 inscriptos sobre el año anterior. Más satisfactorio es el dato relativo á la asistencia media de alumnos. Ella ha sido de 37,685 alumnos en el año 1899, número que señala un aumento de 3,040 alumnos de asistencia media sobre el año 1898.

“Siendo el aumento de la asistencia media casi el doble del incremento de la inscripción, debe concluirse que el hábito de la asistencia á la escuela va extendiéndose cada vez más, indudablemente porque la escuela pública mejora lenta pero sólidamente.

“El número de maestros ha sido de 1,104, lo que significa que han funcionado tan sólo 35 maestros más que en el año 1898. La instrucción privada no ha señalado progresos dignos de mencionarse.

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GANADERÍA Y AGRICULTURA.

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IMPORTACIÓN Y EXPORTACIÓN DE GANADO.

“Preocupándose el Gobierno del fomento de nuestra principal industria, la ganadería, sometió á V. H. en 5 de mayo de 1899 un proyecto de ley reglamentando la importación y exportación del ganado en pie, cuya redacción había encomendado á la Asociación Rural del Uruguay.

“Esta forma de explotación interesa al país bajo dos aspectos fundamentales, que no ha deseuido el proyecto, uno relacionado con el comercio y reproducción de los ganados, y otro con la policía sanitaria, en cuanto las enfermedades de los animales puedan perjudicar á la salud y á la alimentación del hombre.

“También fué sometida á la consideración de V. H., con fecha 6 de noviembre de 1899, el Convenio internacional, negociado y firmado en Buenos Aires el 26 de octubre del mismo año, sobre importación y exportación de ganado entre esta República y la Argentina, con el propósito de garantir su buen estado sanitario.

“Por ese Convenio, que aun pende de la sanción de V. H., se habilitan puertos en uno y otro país, se establecen la previa inspección veterinaria, el certificado de buena salud del país de la procedencia del ganado, con las formalidades consiguientes, la prohibición de entrada para los animales atacados de enfermedades contagiosas ó sospechosas, el rechazo de los que procedan de ultramar, y, en una palabra, se prescriben todas aquellas medidas que son conducentes á la efectividad de

estas disposiciones protectoras de la salud pública, y que concurren á garantir la indemnidad del ganado.

“Entre tanto, la ausencia de legislación positiva á este respecto, cuya importancia demuestra por sí sola la enumeración precedente, colocaba al Gobierno en la necesidad forzosa é imprescindible de no dejar en el abandono tantos intereses públicos, comprometidos en presencia de la introducción que á diario se hacía de animales reproductores, atacados de enfermedades infecto-contagiosas, como la tuberculosis en el ganado vacuno, que es trasmisible por contagio á la especie humana, como es sabido; y fué entonces que el Gobierno, dominando la necesidad y en uso de sus facultades privativas, promulgó el decreto de fecha 21 de octubre de 1899, prohibiendo por las fronteras del territorio la introducción de animales enfermos y sospechosos de estarlo, y declarando á Montevideo único puerto habilitado para la recepción de reproductores de las especies equina, bovina, ovina, caprina y porcina, procedentes de países limítrofes y también para la recepción de todo animal procedente de otro país, al efecto de ser sometidos á una inspección sanitaria.

“Mientras no se organice un servicio completo de inspección veterinaria, dotado de todos los elementos necesarios para una profilaxis y curación eficaz, ha quedado al cuidado de la Junta E. Administrativa de la Capital la designación de un punto único de desembarque y lazareto, lo mismo que el servicio de inspección sanitaria.

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PRODUCCIÓN.

“Los precios alcanzados por las lanas, en la zafra que termina, son extraordinarios, nunca vistos. Ha sido un año especial debido á causas extraordinarias también.

“La producción del trigo, contrariada en los momentos de la siembra por el exceso de lluvias y por una gran sequía en los de recogida, presenta un aspecto variado de cosechas regulares en algunos Departamentos, y de cosechas buenos en otros, formando un término medio que sobrepasará al total de lo cosechado en el año anterior, por la mayor extensión de tierras cultivadas.

“La exportación de este grano, así como la de las harinas, se ha mantenido floja este año, porque no actuaron las necesidades imprevistas en el exterior, que obligaron la gran demanda del año pasado.

“El maíz se ha mantenido á bajo precio, y la producción hubiera sido abundante en la presente estación, por haber aumentado la suma de terreno para su cultivo, á no haberse prolongado de una manera excesiva la sequía, que amenaza un resultado negativo para la cosecha de este cereal. Á pesar de esto, puede decirse que, en general, los precios de los cereales, si bien no son elevados, son remuneradores, circunstancia ésta que alienta en sus tareas á los labradores.

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MINAS.

“Las únicas minas que se explotan en el país son las de oro del Departamento de Rivera.

“La explotación de esas minas, después de haber atravesado una violenta crisis, como lo demuestra el cuadro del último quinquenio que se inserta más adelante, tiende á reaccionar, debido á los laudables esfuerzos de la compañía Établissements Français de l'Uruguay, la que ha adquirido varias de las más importantes minas de la región aurífera de Corrales y Cuiñapirú.

“Esta compañía se propone actualmente unir todas esas minas por una vía férrea con la Usina Central y aprovechar así para la tracción y elaboración de los minerales los 360 caballos de fuerza que le proporcionan las seis turbinas establecidas en la margen izquierda del Cuiñapirú.

“Para el completo desarrollo de ese plan, que sin duda alguna ha de transformar aquella región minera, la empresa ha iniciado ante el Poder Ejecutivo un expediente sobre exoneración de derechos de aduana para la introducción de ciertos materiales, el que se halla actualmente á estudio del Ministerio del ramo.

“Indudablemente, las minas de oro del país no son ricas, pero contienen diseminada mucha cantidad de oro, que en parte puede ser aprovechado, mediante una juiciosa explotación y el empleo de procedimientos metalúrgicos perfeccionados que la experiencia de otros países pone á contribución.

“Hé aquí la producción en los últimos cinco años á que anteriormente he hecho referencia:

Año.	Mineral beneficiado.		Producto en oro.		Gramos por tonelada.		Valor tonelada mineral.	Producto de la venta del oro.
	Toneladas.	Kilogramos.	Kilogramos.	Gramos.	Gramos.	Milligramos.	Pesos.	Pesos.
1891	3,611	500	34	511	9	476	4.21	15,342.39
1895	7,831	.....	61	126	7	803	3.45	27,041.32
1896	4,192	700	55	998	13	356	5.96	25,002.72
1897	6,400	791	87	336	13	645	6.02	38,505.71
1898	5,235	520	71	708	11	269	6.35	33,245.55

“El dato más importante que de este cuadro se desprende es el aumento de la riqueza del mineral beneficiado.

“En el año 1895 cada tonelada de mineral solo contenía oro por valor de \$3.45, mientras que en los años 1897 y 1898 el oro contenido en cada tonelada de mineral valía \$6.02 y \$6.35.

“En los años anteriores en que la producción fué mayor, se beneficiaron cuarzos que solo contenían \$2.25 de oro por tonelada.

HACIENDA.

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“El 28 de marzo el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió á V. H. dándole cuenta de la situación del tesoro público, con el objeto de proponer la

adopción de medidas tendentes á garantir el estricto cumplimiento de todas las obligaciones que pesan sobre el Estado, una vez que habían quedado organizados constitucionalmente los poderes públicos.

“Para el efecto, sometió el Poder Ejecutivo á vuestra consideración un proyecto de ley, por el cual se le autorizaba para la emisión de una tercera serie de títulos del empréstito Extraordinario. La Honorable Asamblea General tuvo á bien conceder esta autorización por \$1,400,000 de los expresados títulos; cuya ley fué promulgada con fecha 22 de mayo y cumplida satisfactoriamente por medio de una negociación con el Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay. El producto de los expresados títulos sólo alcanzó á solventar el saldo que quedó, adeudando á dicho Banco la administración del Señor IRIARTE BORDA.

“Dando cumplimiento al artículo 82 de la Carta Fundamental de la República, el Poder Ejecutivo sometió á la consideración de V. H. el presupuesto general de gastos, que debió regir en el presente año económico, equilibrando del modo más estricto los egresos con los ingresos, suprimiendo erogaciones que el Poder Ejecutivo creyó de todo punto innecesarias unas, y tendentes otras á ajustar los gastos al sano principio económico de concluir con los déficits en contra de la nación que venían recargando las deudas que pesan sobre su crédito.

“El mencionado presupuesto está pendiente de vuestra sanción, habiéndose discutido ya en una de las dos Cámaras del Honorable Cuerpo Legislativo.

“El Poder Ejecutivo dispuso, con fecha 15 de julio, que el Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay acreditase á la cuenta especial que tiene con el Estado la suma de £10,668.83—saldo sobrante de la liquidación del último semestre del empréstito Uruguayo de 5 por ciento de 1896—cuya cantidad le fué pasada por la casa bancaria GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE Y Cia., de Londres.

“Consultando el mejor servicio público, el Poder Ejecutivo expidió el decreto de 25 de julio que centraliza, en la sección Depósitos Judiciales de la Oficina de Crédito Público, la administración de los embargos é interdicciones que pesan sobre los sueldos civiles y militares á cargo de la nación.

El 16 de agosto se promulgó la ley relativa á la liquidación definitiva del Banco Nacional, y en su cumplimiento el Poder Ejecutivo autorizó á la Comisión Liquidadora del mismo para realizar en la Bolsa de Comercio los títulos de la deuda de liquidación que fueren necesarios para atender el pago de los créditos que se reclamaren, debiendo dar cuenta en cada caso de la cantidad de títulos que se emagenen.

Con el objeto de perseguir la más estricta percepción de la renta pública, por decreto de 6 de setiembre el Poder Ejecutivo amplió las disposiciones reglamentarias que regían para el cobro del impuesto interno de consumo á los cigarros, cigarillos y tabacos.

“A fin de dar mayor ampliación y desarrollo á la navegación fluvial,

y de acuerdo con lo informado por la Dirección General de Aduanas y dictamen fiscal, el Poder Ejecutivo accedió al petitorio de la Cámara Nacional de Comercio para que la aduana permita en cualquier tiempo á los buques á vela, que hacen operaciones en los puertos nacionales, sean despachados mediante la garantía de los agentes marítimos que así lo soliciten.

“Velando por la mejor administración de los intereses públicos, el Poder Ejecutivo estableció por decreto de 2 de octubre una nueva organización en la Dirección General de Impuestos Directos, basada en la división del trabajo, deslindando las obligaciones y responsabilidades de los empleados superiores y subalternos; y aplicando á la vez el principio de la fianza caucionada á los recaudadores de fondos del Tesoro.

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“Conforme á las reglas administrativas que el Poder Ejecutivo se ha impuesto, por decreto de 12 de octubre se dispuso la revisión general de la contribución inmobiliaria del interior de la República, por la policía de cada Departamento, debiendo, para el efecto, formularse y remitirse á cada comisario una relación circunstanciada de los contribuyentes de sus respectivas jurisdicciones.

“Estando en descubierto un crédito contra el Estado por \$14,539.33, centésimos procedentes del contrato que con la casa LUTHER DE BRANSCHREIZ se celebró el 30 de abril de 1895, relativo á los estudios del puerto de Montevideo, autorizados por la ley de 14 de julio de 1894, el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió á V. H. con fecha 17 de octubre, para recabar la autorización correspondiente, á objeto de solventar esta deuda. Dicha autorización fué concedida por V. H.

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“Con el propósito de estimular las iniciativas de los elementos productores del país en las industrias agro-pecuarias, que son su riqueza, el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió á V. H. pidiéndole la aprobación del proyecto de ley exonerando de derechos de aduana á los materiales que se introdujesen, destinados á las instalaciones de la Exposición-feria que tuvo lugar en Paysandú, lo que V. H. tuvo á bien concederle ámpliamente.

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“Por decreto de 4 de noviembre, el Poder Ejecutivo amplió las disposiciones reglamentarias del tránsito de los tabacos cosechados en el país; cometiéndose la expedición de guías policiales para ese producto exclusivamente á los jefes políticos departamentales, encargando á la vez al Departamento de Agricultura la comprobación de las cosechas y verificación de la cantidad de tabacos cosechados en las distintas zonas donde se cultiva.”

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," Wáshington, 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.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

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.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

Con el título de "Ensayo acerca de una Mapoteca Chilena," el Señor Don J. I. MEDINA ha publicado un volumen que, según él mismo dice, es una colección de los títulos de los mapas, planos y vistas relativos á Chile, arreglados cronológicamente. La obra está precedida de una introducción en que se da sucintamente noticia de las exploraciones hechas en Chile y con especialidad de aquellas llevadas á cabo con el objeto de estudiar su topografía. Dedicó el autor particular atención á las exploraciones realizadas en la época colonial, que son de las menos conocidas y que tienen, por lo mismo, gran valor histórico. Contiene también la referida introducción una reseña de la historia cartográfica de Chile, que es un trabajo muy interesante, en el que abundan curiosos datos históricos.

Sigue á la introducción una lista ó catálogo de los mapas, planos y vistas referentes á Chile, y bien se comprende que para formar tan extensa colección el autor ha tenido que consagrarse á este trabajo

con asiduidad. La obra del Señor MEDINA es una importante adición á cuanto se ha escrito sobre la geografía de Chile.

En la reunión anual de la Asociación Nacional de Educación el Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER leyó un trabajo sobre la enseñanza en los Estados Unidos, el cual contiene datos interesantes. Dice que la instrucción pública en este país está á cargo de los estados y que la cantidad que en ella se gasta es enorme, pues solamente las escuelas públicas cuestan anualmente \$200,000,000, ó sea, calculando según la población, \$2.67 por cabeza. En la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda se gastan al año en la instrucción pública más de \$88,000,000; en Francia como \$58,000,000, y en Alemania más de \$108,000,000. Se ve, pues, agrega el Dr. BUTLER, que estas cuatro grandes naciones gastan anualmente en la instrucción pública más de \$450,000,000. Los Estados Unidos gastan cada año en sus escuelas públicas más que la Gran Bretaña, Francia y Alemania juntas en sus poderosas armadas. La cantidad que dichas escuelas cuestan casi se ha triplicado de 1870 á esta fecha.

La revista "Guntou's Magazine," correspondiente al mes de marzo de este año, publica un artículo del Honorable CARROLL D. WRIGHT, Director del Departamento del Trabajo, que lleva este título: "El Trabajo Manual y el de Máquina." El escritor dice que el número de caballos de vapor que necesitaron en 1890 todas las fábricas de los Estados Unidos fué de 6,000,000, lo cual equivale al trabajo de 30,000,000 de hombres. Con todo, hubo solamente empleadas 4,476,884 personas. Agrega el Señor WRIGHT que 30,000,000 de operarios representan una población de 180,000,000 de habitantes, ó en otras palabras, que para obtener los productos de las manufacturas de los Estados Unidos en 1890 por medio del trabajo manual se habría necesitado la citada población y que ninguno de los habitantes se dedicara á la agricultura, el comercio, etc.

El periódico "Engineering and Mining Journal," de Nueva York, Y publicó, en su número de 7 del corriente, un artículo sobre la producción de cobre en el mundo, que, según los cuadros estadísticos que contiene, fué en 1899 de 473,818 toneladas, contra 434,329 toneladas en 1898. El aumento más importante, fuera de los Estados Unidos, se verificó en México. La producción en las repúblicas latino-americanas fué como sigue: República Argentina, 65 toneladas en 1899, Brasil, 2,500 toneladas, ó sea un aumento de 2,050; Chile, 25,000 toneladas; México, 19,335 toneladas; el Perú, 5,165 toneladas. La producción total del mundo en 1899, comparada con la de 1898, muestra un aumento de cerca de 10 por ciento.

El "Engineer," de Londres, publica, en su número de 23 de febrero de este año, un artículo sobre la producción de carbón en los Estados
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Unidos, en el cual dice que la cantidad producida el año pasado se calcula en 244,581,275 toneladas de 2,000 libras cada una. Esto equivale á 218,376,000 toneladas de 2,240 libras, que es la tonelada que sirve de base á los cálculos de la producción en Inglaterra. Agrega el mismo periódico que la escasez de carbón en Europa ha dado por resultado que este artículo se introduzca de América, cosa que solamente se había visto antes en épocas extraordinarias, como cuando ocurrían huelgas.

Un escrito que fué presentado al Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas durante la sesión que se verificó en San Francisco en septiembre de 1899, ha sido publicado en forma de folleto. La materia sobre que versa esta publicación, á saber: los depósitos de manganeso en Bahía y Minas, Brasil, ha sido tratado varias veces en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL. El autor de dicho folleto es el Profesor JOHN C. BRANNER, de la Universidad Leland Stanford Junior.

"The stone reef at the mouth of Río Grande do Norte, Brazil" (El arrecife en la boca del Río Grande del Norte) es el título de un folleto que acaba de publicarse, y que es obra de los Señores J. C. BRANNER y C. E. GILMAN. El asunto de que se ocupa había sido tratado ya en el periódico "The American Geologist," correspondiente al mes de diciembre de 1899.

El "International Monthly," correspondiente al mes en curso, contiene un artículo sobre la neutralidad del canal de Nicaragua, obra de Mr. JOHN R. PROCTER, presidente de la comisión denominada del Servicio Civil de los Estados Unidos. Mr. PROCTER trata el asunto bajo tres diferentes aspectos, á saber: el diplomático, el comercial y el militar.

Los "Berichte über Handel und Industrie" (Los informes del comercio y la industria), correspondientes al 21 de marzo de 1900, trabajo que publica en Berlin el Ministerio de lo Interior, contienen un largo artículo sobre la producción de algodón en todo el mundo. Dicho artículo trata de cada país en particular y da los últimos datos estadísticos.

El Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Filadelfia, correspondiente al mes de marzo de este año (Vol. II, No. 3), contiene un artículo sobre el canal de Nicaragua, escrito por el Señor ANGELO HEILBRIN, F. R. G. S., ex-Presidente de la Sociedad Geográfica y profesor de geología en la Academia de Ciencias Naturales de Filadelfia.

El periódico "Current History," en su número correspondiente al mes de marzo de este año, contiene muchas ilustraciones de especial interés para todas las personas que se dedican al estudio de los últimos acontecimientos en los Estados Unidos, Sud América y el África meridional.

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PRODUÇÃO DE ASSUCAR DE CANNA E DE BETER- RABA.

Segundo dados estatísticos fidedignos, a produção universal de assucar nos ultimos 60 annos foi transferida das plauações do tropico para as da zona temperada. Isto é demonstrado pelas estatísticas publicadas ultimamente pela Repartição de Estatística da Secretaria do Thesouro dos Estados Unidos. Estas estatísticas mostram que em 1840, 95 por cento da produção total de assucar provieram da canna de assucar dos tropicos, e 5 por cento foi extrahido da beterraba, que é um producto da zona temperada, ao passo que em 1899, 34 por cento da produção universal foi extrahido da canna e 66 por cento da beterraba.

É para os economistas determinarem quanto esta situação se deve ao desaparecimento dos escravos, que existiam em todo o territorio productor de canna no principio do periodo em consideração; mas é facto que a produção universal de assucar de canna em 1899, apenas bastaria as necessidades do consumo dos Estados Unidos, depois de deduzida a quantidade para o consumo nos paizes de produção.

Uma das principaes casas de Nova York calcula em 2.862,000 toneladas a produção universal de assucar de canna. As estatísticas da Repartição de Estatística mostram que a importação total de assucar nos Estados Unidos no exercicio de 1889, foi de 1,964,170 toneladas. Assim, si se ajuntasse todo o assucar de canna produzido no mundo em 1899, subtrahindo'se a quantidade necessaria para o consumo local no paiz de procedencia, a produção apenas igualaria a quantidade de assucar que os Estados Unidos importaram naquelle anno. Com isso não se deve entender que os Estados Unidos importam todo o excedente de canna de assucar no mundo.

Pelo contrario, o consumo do assucar de beterraba nos Estados Unidos vai augmentando constantemente, e, no anno 1899, a importação deste producto foi maior que em qualquer anno anterior, com a excepção unica de 1897, quando as importações foram excessivamente grandes por motivo das modificações na lei de tarifa. A importação de assucar de beterraba no exercicio de 1899 foi de 723,336,352 libras, e a importação total de assucar foi de 3,517,950,689 libras. Assim, se vê, que o assucar de beterraba, depois de dominar os mercados da Europa, faz agora a quinta parte das importações deste producto nos Estados Unidos, apesar de que está na proximidade dos Estados Unidos grande parte do territorio productor de assucar do mundo.

A quantidade de assucar produzida nos principaes paizes productores de assucar de canna do mundo, no anno 1899-1900, foi como se segue:

	Toneladas.
Java	722,000
Cuba	400,000
Ilhas de Hawai	275,000
Brazil	175,000
Mauricia	150,000
Australia	140,000
Estados Unidos (Estado de Louisiana)	132,000
Outros paizes	868,000
Total	2,862,000

A quantidade de assucar de beterraba produzida no mundo no mesmo anno foi como se segue:

	Toneladas.
Allemanha	1,780,000
Austria	1,120,000
França	960,000
Russia	885,000
Belgica	290,000
Hollanda	170,000
Outros paizes	275,000
Total	5,480,000

O seguinte quadro mostra a produção universal de assucar de canna e de beterraba nos periodos de dez annos de 1840 a 1900:

PRODUCCÃO.

Annos.	Assucar de canna.	Assucar de beterraba.	Total.	Porcentagem fornecida pelo assucar de beterraba.
	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>	
1840	1,100,000	50,000	1,150,000	4.35
1850	1,200,000	200,000	1,400,000	14.29
1860	1,510,000	389,000	1,899,000	20.43
1870	1,585,000	631,000	2,216,000	28.40
1880	1,852,000	1,402,000	3,254,000	43.08
1890	2,069,000	3,633,000	5,702,000	63.70
1900	2,862,000	5,575,000	8,437,000	66.08

PRODUCCÃO DE ASSUCAR DE BORDO.

É muito interessante o processo de fabricação de assucar e de xarope de bordo. Esses productos fabricam-se da seiva da arvore de bordo que se encontra na parte septentrional dos Estados Unidos e no sul do Canadá. Existem mais que trinta especies desta arvore, das quaes dez encontram-se nos Estados Unidos. A especie de bordo de que se obtem o assucar é muito valiosa tambem por sua madeira, vindo immediatamente depois do carvalho na estimação dos marceneiros. Do tronco desta arvore se obtem as madeiras denominadas "curly" e "birdseye maple." A arvore mede, pela média, 75 pés de altura, com ramos espalhados e espessa folhagem.

A produção de xarope e assucar de bordo é limitada principalmente aos Estados de Vermont, Massachusetts, e Ohio, os quaes produzem nesta ordem. Muitos dos terrenos onde se produz o assucar encontram-se na parte occidental do Estado de Ohio. Os methodos empregados na preparação do assucar, ha um quarto de seculo, eram muito imperfeitos. O succo corria das arvores por tubos de madeira e era recebido em celhas feitas de troncos de arvores de tres pés de comprimento, cortados ao meio. Quando estavam cheias, juntava-se o succo em baldes para ser transportado a grandes caldeiras. Assim o producto era mesclado com arêa, folhas, etc.

Hoje, um grande "sugar bush" contem de 800 a 1,000 arvores. No principio da epoca de extracção, que é geralmente no mez de Fevereiro, se faz no tronco da arvore uma incisão de meia pollegada de diametro. Si a arvore tem tres pés de diametro, podem-se fazer com segurança seis incisões, mas, em regra geral, se praticam duas incisões em cada arvore de duas pollegadas de profundidade. Nestas incisões se collocam tubos de metal, das quaes são pendurados baldes de folha de flandres. A rapidez com que esses baldes se enchem depende inteiramente da estação. A epoca em que o succo ou seiva é mais abundante é a das geadas. Essa estação dura ordinariamente seis semanas, terminando em fins de Março.

O succo é transportado á casa onde se fabrica o assucar, em tanques na forma de timas com capacidade de meia pipa ou mais e depois passado a um grande tanque tendo ordinariamente 13 pés de comprimento, 4 pés de largo e 2 pés de fundo. Deste tanque o succo passa por meio de um aparelho automatico para a caldeira de evaporação. Quando o thermometro na caldeira chega a 218° Fah. abre-se uma porta por onde passa o liquido para outro compartimento da caldeira. Quando chega a esse compartimento o liquido torna-se xarope de lei ou pesa 12 libras por gallão. Conforme uma lei do Estado de Ohio, os fabricantes de xarope de bordo tem de pôr rotulos em cada lata de xarope, garantindo sua pureza e levando o nome do fabricante.

Uma arvore produz, em média, um gallão de xarope. Uma arvore de tamanho extraordinario tendo 6 pés de diametro, produziu durante 24 horas um barril de succo. Vende-se o xarope de bordo por 50 centavos a \$1 o gallão, conforme a qualidade e estação. A reuda proveniente da producção de assucar e xarope de bordo no Estado de Ohio em 1899 foi de \$1,250,000.

LOCOMOTIVAS AMERICANAS NA EUROPA.

Os Senhores CHARLES PEDEZERT e JOSEPH FERRAND, empregados de importancia nas estradas de ferro da França, têm estado ultimamente em Philadelphia. O objecto de sua visita é estudar o systema viaferreo dos Estados Unidos, e ao mesmo tempo examinar as dez locomotivas que estão em via de construcção para as estradas de ferro nas officinas de Baldwin.

O caminho de ferro que estes senhores representam foi o primeiro que introduziu locomotivas americanas na França. Ha dous annos se encomendou á Compauhia Baldwin a construcção de dez locomotivas, e durante oito mezes as ditas machinas tem estado em uso em França. Algum tempo depois se pediu um numero igual, e estas locomotivas estão agora em construcção. O trabalho que tem feito as que se acham funcionando tem demonstrado de uma maneira evidente sua efficacia. Apesar dos dous mil dollares que cada locomotiva de Baldwin paga em França como direitos de importação, e dos outros gastos indispensaveis, os fabricantes podem vendel-as allá a um preço dous mil dollares menor que o que se cobra por machinas desta classe de construcção europea.

As experiencias feitas com as locomotivas de Baldwin tem servido notavelmente para desenvolver o interesse que hoje se sente em França em relação ao systema de estradas de ferro dos Estados Unidos. Varios representantes de differentes vias ferreas francezas tem visto as locomotivas americanas em operação e tem-se manifestado muito satisfeitos com ellas. Alem destas machinas, têm-se pedido de França aos Estados Unidos wagões de aço para carga.

Uma das razões mais poderosas que têm influenciado os Francezes a pedir locomotivas a este paiz para suas estradas de ferro, é a promptidão com que estas machinas se fabricam nos Estados Unidos. Entre os paizes que offerecem excellent mercado a esta producção americana devem mencionar-se Russia e Hespauha. Na opinião dos citados Senhores PEDEZERT e FERRAND, as locomotivas americanas tem dado em Europa os resultados mais satisfactorios. Um facto notavel a este respeito é que até de Belgica, que se considerava o grande paiz constructor de locomotivas, se tem pedido machinas desta classe aos Estados Unidos.

SITUAÇÃO DOS LAVRADORES DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

O periodico "American Agriculturist," em seu numero correspondente a 17 de Março 1900, contem um artigo descrevendo a situação das classes agricolas dos Estados Unidos e mostrando que os cultivadores, considerados collectivamente, estão hoje gozando de uma prosperidade nunca até agora conhecida. O "Agriculturist" diz o que segue:

A melhora assombrosa da situação agricola, na actualidade, em comparação com a profunda depressão em 1894-1896, é tão pouco comprehendida pelo publico como foi comprehendida a situação dos lavradores durante a depressão. Pode-se dizer sem exaggero que a produção agricola dos Estados Unidos neste anno dará para os lavradores \$1,600,000,000 mais do que a somma realizada nos annos da depressão, 1894-1896. Isto representa um augmento médio de 31 por cento, comparada com a produção mais baixa.

Estes valóres mostram um augmento de 6 por cento, ou cerca de \$400,000,000, sobre os de 1889, anno que era muito prospero. O valor total dos principaes productos agricolas no anno passado mostra um augmento de 32 por cento sobre o do anno de 1895-96, ou de \$521,000,000. O valor dos outros productos, incluindo as aves domesticas e outros productos de menor importancia que são fontes de renda, mostra um augmento de \$200,000,000, ou de 20 por cento. * * * Aos que não estejam iniciados nesta industria talvez pareçam excessivos esses algarismos, mas quando pensamos que a renda proveniente da venda de aves domesticas e de ovos ascende a mais de \$300,000,000 por anno, comprehende-se melhor que as nossas estatisticas são moderadas. O valor dos productos lacticinios, dos porcos e productos de porco, gado vacuum, carneiros, pelles, etc., attinge cerca da metade do valor dos animaes vivos no principio de cada anno. Essa conclusão baseia-se sob investigações cuidadosas feitas n'uma serie de annos.

O valor de terrenos, easas de residencia, dependencias, etc., que diminuiu enormemente durante a crise, tem sido restabelecido. O valor das fazendas dos Estados Unidos, incluindo obras de melhora-mento, monta hoje a \$14,500,000,000, approximadamente, que, comparado com o valor mais baixo durante a crise, mostra um augmento de \$2,500,000,000, e de \$1,220,000,000, comparado com o valor em Junho 1890.

O valor dos animaes vivos nas fazendas em Janeiro 1900, foi de \$2,558,000,000, o qual mostra um augmento de \$698,000,000, ou de 27 por cento. * * *

Ha actualmente empregada na industria agricola dos Estados Unidos, a quantia de \$17,550,000,000, o que mostra um augmento de \$3,300,000,000, sobre a quantia empregada no periodo de depressão, e um

augmento de cerca de \$1,600,000,000 sobre a correspondente ao anno de 1890, como foi determinada pelo recenseamento federal.

O augmento havido no numero de fazendas nos ultimos dez annos é de 400,000, contra um augmento de 600,000 na decada anterior, ou um augmento de cerca de 1,500,000, de 1870 a 1880. Maior proporção (69 por cento) destas fazendas são occupadas por seus donos do que ha dez annos, occupando os arrendatarios 31 por cento, contra 32 por cento em 1890. * * *

Outro facto notavel é que o numero de fazendas hypothecadas não é maior hoje do que foi ha dez annos. A quantia exacta paga na liquidação das hypothecas não é possível determinar mas parece que é approximadamente \$300,000,000. O valor das fazendas mostra um augmento, ao passo que as hypothecas sobre ellas, pela média, tem diminuido. A taxa de juro tambem tem diminuido. A maior parte das hypothecas existentes foram contrahidas para comprar a fazenda ou fazer nella obras de melhoramento. * * *

A INDUSTRIA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS SOB O PUNTO DE VISTA FRANCEZ.

Segundo um numero recente da "Revue du Commerce," o grande augmento no commercio de exportação dos Estados Unidos já não se deve, como nos annos anteriores, ao seu trigo, productos conservados e petroleo, mas á crescente importancia do seu commercio em artigos manufacturados.

Em 1899, houve uma diminuição de \$70,000,000 na exportação de productos naturaes, mas não obstante isso, o movimento de exportação dos Estados Unidos neste anno foi maior que em 1898, anno em que attingiu uma importancia sem exemplo na historia do paiz, como resultado das mas colheitas na Europa. Este augmento se deve especialmente á exportação de artigos manufacturados que em 1897 foi no valor de \$308,000,000, ao passo que em 1899 attingiu o valor de \$381,000,000.

Hoje os Estados Unidos exportam quasi a mesma quantidade de productos manufacturados que a França. Este facto é tanto mais notavel, pois que até agora a exportação dos Estados Unidos dependia exclusivamente da importancia de sua agricultura.

As diversas circumstancias que têm contribuido para este resultado são: primeiro, o desenvolvimento excepcional de negocios em 1899; segundo, a prosperidade sem exemplo da industria metallurgica e a declaração da guerra do Transvaal que tem limitado a exportação da Grã Bretanha; em terceiro lugar, a manutenção dos preços de 1898 e 1899, e finalmente as importações dos Estados Unidos nas suas novas possessões das Antilhas e das Philippinas.

Os Allemeães, no meio de sua crescente prosperidade, preoccupam-se mais da rivalidade dos Estados Unidos que da resistencia dos manufactureiros britannicos.

Dá-se em seguida a exportação de productos manufacturados americanos durante os ultimos annos e a proporção que tem com a exportação total:

	Valor.	Por cento.
1893-91	\$183,718,000	21.1
1894-95	183,596,000	23.2
1895-96	228,571,000	26.5
1896-97	227,286,000	26.9
1897	279,617,000	25.9
1898	307,925,000	25.9
1899	380,788,000	30.4

OS ESTADOS UNIDOS NO PACIFICO.

Este é o thema de um notavel artigo publicado no numero 152 do "Public Ledger" de Philadelphia, correspondente ao 20 de Março proximo passado. Entre outras cousas interessantes, o dito artigo diz o seguinte:

"Poucos Americanos sabem quantas ilhas possuem os Estados Unidos no Pacifico e a importancia das mesmas. São nada menos de 1,500 a 1,600 e comprehendem todos os climas e zonas, offerecendo, ao mesmo tempo, muitos typos differentes da especie humana em diversos grãos de civilização, desde os aleusianos vestidos de pelles até os negros seminús das Philippinas.

"Essas possessões variam em quanto ao tamanho desde as que são simplesmente rochas ou bancos de coral até as grandes, como a ilha de Luzon, que tem uma extensão de 41,000 milhas quadradas, ou seja uma extensão igual á de New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut e New Jersey. Nessa vasta região se encontram as pelles do Arctico, as fructas da zona temperada e os productos dos tropicos.

"As possessões mais importantes dos Estados Unidos no Pacifico, incluem o grupo de Santa Barbara, cerca da costa da California, as ilhas que formam parte do territorio de Alaska, as de Hawai e o archipelago das Philippinas. As ilhas das regiões arcticas incluem um grupo de grande tamanho, cerca da costa meridional de Alaska, e toda a cadeia das Aleusianas que se estende de America á Asia. O archipelago de Hawai consta de doze a quinze ilhas de mais ou menos importancia. Hawai é como do tamanho do Estado de Connecticut. Estas ilhas ficam 2,100 milhas ao sudueste de San Francisco. Sua extensão total é de 6,600 milhas quadradas. O grupo das Philippinas

compreende como 1,400 ilhas, com uma extensão territorial de 114,326 millas quadradas.

“Tambem possuem os Estados Unidos a ilha de Guam do grupo das Marianas ou dos Ladrões, e outras de menor importancia.”

O COMMERCIO DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS NO ORIENTE.

O “*Moniteur Officiel du Commerce*” publicou sobre este particular um notavel artigo, no qual diz, entre outras cousas, o seguinte:

“As casas exportadoras de Manila começaram de novo seus negocios com actividade. O commercio de exportação tem experimentado varias mudanças por causa da occupação das Filipinas pelos Estados Unidos. Os commerciantes daquela colonia se tem visto obrigados a estudar as novas condições sob as quaes se farão d’aquí em adiante as importações de manufacturas estrangeiras. Antes da guerra hispano-americana se introduziam nas Filipinas artigos de toda classe provenientes de Inglaterra, Hespanha, França, Belgica, etc.

“Os Estados Unidos, cujo commercio com aquellas ilhas era antes muito pequeno, estão agora abastecendo a Manila, praça que cada dia tem mais importancia. Os commerciantes daquela cidade tem-se convencido de que para fazer concorrência com os Americanos necessitam de importar mercadorias dos Estados Unidos, e por isso é que se vêm agora em todas as lojas de Manila os productos das fabricas americanas.”

FABRICAS DE GENEROS DE ALGODÃO.

O augmento na fabricação de toda classe de generos de algodão no sul dos Estados Unidos continúa tão activo como sempre. O periodico, “*The New Orleans Times-Democrat*,” diz que em um dia se estabeleceram quatro fabricas nos Estados de Georgia e Mississippi, as quaes requerem um capital de \$1,100,000. O recenseamento que se verificará neste anno dará a conhecer de uma maneira exacta este extraordinario progresso industrial, e uma comparação com o estado de cousas ha dez annos, quando se fez o recenseamento de 1890, revelará um dos phenomenos mais notaveis que este paiz tem visto em seu desenvolvimento fabril, phenomeno calculado para dar muito que pensar aos fabricantes da Nova Inglaterra.

PROGRESSO SCIENTIFICO NO ANNO DE 1899.

Sob este titulo diz o "Public Ledger," de Philadelphia, em seu numero correspondente a 16 de Março proximo passado o seguinte:

"O anno passado foi notavel no que se refere a obras de engenharia, tanto pelas que foram projectadas como pelas que se teem terminado, e merecem a ser mencionados especialmente o grande canal de desagüe de Chicago, praticamente concluido já, e as novas represas do canal do São Lorenzo, as quaes, ao tomar possivel que vapores de alto mar que medem 270 pés de largura, passem dos grandes lagos ao oceano Atlantico, porão as cidades situadas sobre as costas daquelles em communição directa por agua com o littoral Atlantico. O canal de desagüe de Chicago é um dos mais grandes que se teem construido. Tem 35 milhas de comprimento, 22 pés de profundidade e uma largura maxima de 202 pés. O custo desta obra foi de \$33,000,000.

BRAZIL.

CONGRESSO NACIONAL DE EDUCAÇÃO.

O "Jornal do Commercio," de 5 de Março ultimo, publica o regulamento do Congresso Nacional de Educação que vai reunir-se na Capital Federal em commemoração do Centenario do Descobrimento do Brazil. As disposições do regulamento são as seguintes:

"ART. 1º. Por occasião das festas do Centenario do Descobrimento do Brazil reunir-se-ha na capital da Republica, sob a Presidencia do Ministro e Secretario de Estado dos Negocios Interiores, um Congresso Nacional de Educação para os seguintes fins:

Verificar as actuaes condições da educação nacional. Indicar os principios fundamentaes da educação que, a bem da estabilidade e prosperidade da Republica, devem ser igualmente observados no Districto Federal e nos Estados. Discutir as principaes questões concernentes á educação physica, moral, civica, religiosa, litteraria, scientifica, artistica e professional. Habilitar a Republica Brasileira a dignamente se fazer representar no Congresso Internacional de Educação, que se reúne em Pariz, na época da exposição.

"ART. 2º. São membros do Congresso: O Ministro e Secretario de Estado dos Negocios Interiores e o Director Geral de Instrução da Secretaria do Interior; o Director Geral e mais membros do Conselho Director da Instrução Publica do Districto Federal; os Inspectores Escolares do Districto Federal; os Directores, Directoras e Professores cathedrauticos dos institutos officiaes de ensino literario, scientifico,

artístico e profissional do Districto Federal; sete professores publicos de instrucção primaria do Districto Federal, eleitos pela respectiva classe; sete professoras publicas de instrucção primaria do Districto Federal indicadas pelo Director Geral de Instrucção; os directores e directoras dos institutos particulares de ensino litterario, scientifico, artistico e profissional da Capital Federal, que tenham mais de 50 alumnos; tres delegados que, dentre seus membros, eleger cada um dos referidos institutos particulares; os organisadores do Congresso de Instrucção de 1883 e os autores dos pareceres elaborados para o mesmo Congresso; os membros das commissões de instrucção publica dos Congressos Nacional e Estadocaes e do Conselho Municipal do Districto Federal; o Director Geral de Saude Publica; o Director de Hygiene Municipal; os Directores do Museo e Observatorios Nacionaes e das bibliothecas existentes na Capital Federal; os professores que são membros do Congresso Nacional; os Directores ou Inspectores da instrucção publica dos Estados; dous delegados que eleger cada um dos institutos officiaes e particulares de ensino litterario, scientifico, artistico e profissional existentes nos Estados, e que tenham mais de 50 alumnos; dous delegados que, dentre si, elegerem os professores publicos de instrucção primaria da capital de cada um dos Estados; duas professoras propostas pelo director ou inspector da instrucção publica de cada um dos Estados; os presidentes das associações pedagogicas, litterarias e scientificas da Capital Federal e tres delegados que, dentre seus membros, eleger cada uma das referidas associações; as redacções dos jornaes diarios e das revistas pedagogicas, scientificas e litterarias da Capital Federal e dos Estados; as mais pessoas que o Presidente do Congresso convidar dentre as que se houverem distinguido no magisterio ou por publicações uteis á educação.

“ART. 3º. O Presidente do Congresso pedirá aos Governos Federal e Estadocaes as necessarias licenças para os empregados publicos, membros do referido Congresso, comparecerem ás respectivas sessões, sem perda de seus vencimentos.

“ART. 4º. Serão convidados para as sessões do Congresso os professores, jornalistas e litteratos estrangeiros que se acharem na Capital Federal por occasião das festas do centenario do descobrimento do Brazil.

“ART. 5º. As conferencias do Congresso versarão sobre as questões indicadas no programma annexo.

“ART. 14. Dividir-se-ha o Congresso nas seguintes secções: Jardim da infancia e escolas primarias; escolas normaes; educação da infancia desamparada e culpada; educação dos cegos; educação dos surdos-mudos; bibliothecas e museos escolares e pedagogicos; ensino industrial; ensino agricola; ensino commercial; institutos de ensino secundario; escolas polytechnicas; fauldades de direito; fauldades de medicina; fauldades de lettras; escolas militares; escolas navaes;

escolas de bellas-artes. Para cada uma das mencionadas secções haverá no conselho uma commissão especial.

“ Art. 15. Os assumptos communs a todas as secções serão discutidos e votados por todo o Congresso; os peculiares a cada uma das secções sómente pelos membros dessa secção.

“ Art. 16. As sessões serão publicas.

“ Art. 17. Terminados os trabalhos do Congresso, o Vice-Presidente apresentará ao Governo um relatório contendo não só a apreciação das discussões sobre cada um dos pontos tratados, como a indicação dos meios praticos de levar a effeito as providencias e reformas reputadas necessarias ou convenientes.”

CUBA.

CONSOLIDAÇÃO DAS ESTRADAS DE FERRO.

O “ Daily Journal of Finance,” de New York, em seu numero correspondente a 28 de Março, diz que, si é levado a effeito o projecto do Sr. Sir WILLIAM VAN HORNE, ex-presidente da Canadian Pacific Railroad, e de alguns capitalistas americanos, para a consolidação das estradas de ferro de Cuba, supprirá uma necessidade por muito tempo reclamada na ilha. O que a ilha de Cuba tem necessitado principalmente, tem sido e é um systema de vias ferreas tocando nas principaes cidades e habilitando os cultivadores e homeus de negocio de Cuba a transportarem com facilidade seus productos para os mercados.

As estradas de ferro existentes na ilha, notavelmente as linhas de Havana, Santa Clara e Holguin, foram construidas principalmente para fins militares e nunca offerciam facilidades de transporte ao commercio de Cuba, ao passo que muitos districtos em que se cultivaram os principaes productos da ilha, não eram em communicação com as principaes linhas.

Durante o regimen hespanhol existia um forte sentimento entre os capitalistas de Cuba em favor de um systema, abrangendo as linhas mencionadas e estendendo-as a todas as cidades de importancia na ilha.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

COMMERCIO COM OS PAIZES ESTRANGEIROS EM FEVEREIRO, 1900.

O commercio com os paizes estrangeiros no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 foi o mais notavel de que ha recorde neste mez na historia do paiz. Segundo as estatisticas publicadas pela Secretaria do Thesouro no dia 24 de Março, as exportações neste mez foram, pela média, no valor de \$5,000,000 por cada dia de trabalho durante o mez, e o total da exportação foi 25 por cento maior que o do mesmo mez em qualquer anno anterior. Tambem o excesso das exportações sobre as importações foi muito maior do que no mesmo mez de qualquer anno anterior.

O mez de Fevereiro é o em que, todos os annos, se fazem grandes importações e muitas vezes acontece que o valor das importações é igual ou excede ao das exportações. O facto que no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 as exportações excederam as importações em mais de \$50,000,000 é muito notavel, e isto, não obstante que as importações, que foram no valor de mais de \$68,000,000, foram maiores que as de qualquer anno anterior com excepção do de 1893. Ver-se-ha mais claramente a importancia deste commercio quando se diz que a exportação média correspondente ao mez de Fevereiro nos ultimos dez annos foi no valor de \$76,000,000, ao passo que a exportação total no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 foi no valor de \$119,389,902.

Por outro lado, as importações effectuadas no mez de Fevereiro durante os ultimos dez annos foram no valor médio de \$61,000,000, sendo o excesso das exportações sobre as importações neste mez durante aquelle periodo no valor, pelo termo médio, de \$15,000,000, ao passo que o excesso das exportações sobre as importações no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 foi no valor de mais de \$50,000,000.

O quadro detalhado publicado pela Secretaria do Thesouro é o seguinte:

IMPORTAÇÃO.

	1900.	1899.
Productos alimenticios e animaes.....	\$16,251,153	\$17,616,759
Artigos em estado em para as industrias nacionaes.....	25,936,601	19,783,058
Artigos em todo ou em parte manufacturados para ser empregados nas manufacturas e artes mechanicas.....	6,732,437	4,091,413
Artigos manufacturados para consumo no paiz.....	10,734,428	9,520,993
Artigos de uso voluntario, de luxo, etc.....	9,116,531	9,216,229
Importação total.....	68,771,150	60,258,452

EXPORTAÇÃO.

	1900.	1899.
Productos de agricultura	\$75,097,746	\$62,378,985
Productos de fabricas	34,226,128	24,489,860
Productos de minas	3,134,022	1,889,826
Productos de florestas	3,548,209	2,741,927
Productos de pesca	389,560	253,089
Productos miscelaneos	946,779	431,685
Total	117,336,444	92,185,372
Total da exportação nacional	1,422,071	726,368
Total da exportação estrangeira	631,387	929,411

Das importações correspondentes ao mez de Fevereiro de 1900, 44.66 por cento entram livres de direitos, contra 46.58 por cento em 1899. Os direitos cobrados montaram a \$19,882,253 em Fevereiro de 1900, contra \$16,921,572 em Fevereiro de 1899.

Das exportações, 69.46 por cento foram livres de direitos, contra 43.97 por cento em Fevereiro de 1899.

ESTADO DAS COLHEITAS.

O boletim publicado pelo Departamento de Agricultura o 1º do corrente dá as seguintes informações sobre a condição das colheitas.

Nos estados situados a leste do rio Mississippi, com excepção dos do sul, a estação tem sido geralmente desfavoravel para as sementeiras. Houve grandes chuvas em algumas partes dos estados do Golfo e caliu grande quantidade de neve na região dos Lagos e em Nova Inglaterra. Nos estados da costa do Pacifico e nos districtos das Montanhas de Rocha o tempo tem estado muito favoravel e tem-se feito muito progresso nos trabalhos de preparação do terreno.

Segundo informações recebidas, a estação foi geralmente desfavoravel para o trigo de inverno nos estados de Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania e Nova Jersey. Nos estados de Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky e Maryland o trigo de inverno está em boa condição e muito promettedor. Com excepção de uma zona limitada no sul da California, o trigo de inverno nos estados da costa do Pacifico é bem desenvolvido. Trigo de primavera tem sido semeado na parte meridional dos districtos cultivadores deste trigo e tambem no estado de Montana, onde a estação tem sido extraordinariamente adiantada. Está-se semeando milho nos estados do sul até o de Carolina do Norte. No sul do estado de Texas foi semeada em Março a maior parte desta colheita.

Na data deste relatorio, a aveia estava sendo semeada nos estados de Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, e Kansas, ao passo que em Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, e Mississippi, as plantas já estavam brotando. Segundo informações recebidas de Virginia e Georgia, a aveia foi destruida devido ao rigor do inverno. O algodão estava sendo semeado na parte meridional da região em que se cultiva este producto.

Quanto ás fructas a perspectiva é boa, ainda que os pecegueiros soffreram damnos em Missonri, Arkansas, Illinois, e Ohio.

Fallando em geral, o solo está em boa condição em todo o paiz e uma parte consideravel dos terrenos já teem sido lavrados.

ESTATISTICAS SOBRE A PRODUÇÃO DE AÇO DE BESSEMER.

O boletim da American Iron and Steel Association contem dados estatisticos sobre a produção nos Estados Unidos de linguados e trilhos de aço de Bessemer. A produção total de linguados de aço de Bessemer em 1899 foi de 7,586,354 toneladas brutas, contra 6,609,017 toneladas brutas em 1898, o qual mostra um augmento de 977,337 toneladas, ou mais de 14 por cento. A produção do estado de Pennsylvania foi de 3,968,779 toneladas; a de Ohio, 1,679,237 toneladas; Illinois, 1,211,246 toneladas, e outros estados, 727,092 toneladas. A produção em 1899 foi muito maior que em anno qualquer anterior.

A produção de trilhos de aço de Bessemer em 1899 foi de 2,240,767 toneladas, contra 1,955,427 toneladas em 1898. O "Iron Age" calcula que a produção total de trilhos de todas as classes foi de 2,300,000 toneladas em 1899. A quantidade de trilhos de ferro que se manufactura agora nos Estados Unidos é muito reduzida.

Entre os incidentes que teem acompanhado a recente alta de preços do ferro e aço figuram os altos preços obtidos pelos trilhos estragados. Ha pouco tempo estes foram vendidos por \$10 por tonelada, ao passo que hoje se vendem por \$25 e \$30 por tonelada. Assim se apresenta a anomalia de serem vendidos os trilhos estragados por um preço superior ao por que foram comprados ha dez annos.

EXTENSÃO DA AREA FLORESTAL.

A area das florestas dos Estados Unidos, que foi de 26 por cento, tem attingido a 37 por cento, segundo os ultimos calculos feitos pela Secção de Geographia e Florestas da Repartição Geologica dos Estados Unidos. Aquella repartição tem publicado um boletim contendo novos dados sobre as florestas do paiz, os quaes demonstram que os recursos nacionaes a este respeito são maiores que geralmente se suppõe.

Os ultimos dous estados que teem sido examinados pela Repartição Geologica são os de Oregon e Washington, que estão situados na parte extrema do noroeste do paiz. Calcula-se que aquelle contem 234,653 milhões de pés de madeira ainda em pé, e que este tem 114,778 milhões de pés. Os prejuizos que as florestas do estado de Washington teem soffrido no passado têm sido muito grandes. Sob a hypothese que as areas queimadas continham, pela média, a mesma quantidade de madeira que as areas intactas, 40,000,000,000 pés de madeira teem sido destruidos.

Esta quantidade, segundo os calculos do "Lumber Trade Journal,"

supprimirá todas as fabricas de serrar pelo espaço de dous annos, e ao preço de só 75 centavos por mil pés, importa para o estado de Washington um prejuizo de \$30,000,000. A quantidade de madeira cortada no mesmo periodo foi de 36,000 milhões de pés. As florestas de Oregon foram menos prejudicadas por incendios, e devido ás poucas facilidades de transporte neste estado a quantidade cortada foi muito menor.

A POPULAÇÃO INDIA.

Como annexos ao seu relatório annual, o Commissario de Negocios dos Indios dos Estados Unidos dá os relatórios dos diversos agentes de Indios. Segundo estes relatórios a população india dos Estados Unidos é de 297,905 seres, dos quaes 95,679 trazem vestidos semelhantes aos dos habitantes brancos, 31,923 trazem vestidos que são uma combinação dos de Indios e de gente civilizada e os outros vestem-se em trajes de Indios. O numero dos Indios que podem ler é de 42,597, e o dos que podem fallar em inglez é de 53,314. O numero de casas de residencia construidas para os Indios é de 25,236, das quaes 1,153 foram construidas no anno de 1899. O numero dos nascimentos durante o anno foi de 4,237 e o dos fallecimentos 5,253. Ha 348 igrejas e 31,656 commungantes indios. As sociedades religiosas e outras contribuíram a somma de \$277,531 para a instrucção e a de \$119,407 para as igrejas.

O Governo tem nas diversas reservas cerca de 250 escolas, com mais de 2,000 professores. O ensino comprehende instrucção e trabalhos manuaes. As meninas recebem instrucção em obras domesticas e os meninos são instruidos na arte de cultivar a terra e nas artes ordinarias de industria.

Além das escolas mencionadas, que estão situadas nos lugares onde residem os Indios, ha varias outras em que se dá instrucção superior e scientifica. Estes estabelecimentos são a "Carlisle School," o "Haskell Institute" e o "Hampton Institute." Estes estabelecimentos, desde sua organização ha poucos annos, tem conferido diplomas a grande numero de estudantes. Muitos d'elles, infelizmente, tem voltado aos seus methodos primitivos.

VENDAS DE BANANAS.

Pela primeira vez dentro do periodo de tres annos venderam-se em leilão na cidade de Nova York, no dia 28 de Março, bananas de Cuba. A fructa, em geral, não era de boa qualidade e obteve baixos preços, excepção feita da banana de côr vermelha. Desta última, sómente 400 cachos foram importados. A exportação de bananas de Cuba foi prohibida em 1896 por um decreto expedido pelo General WEYLER, então capitão-general da ilha.

Ha grande procura de bananas vermelhas pelos retalhistas, não obstante não serem em regra geral, tão prezadas pelo publico como as qualidades de côr amarella. É mais difficil conserval-as e o numero em um cacho é menor. Isto é um obstaculo contra a sua venda porque os retalhistas julgam de maior importancia o numero do que tamanho. O BOLETIM MENSAL já fez menção dos altos preços obtidos em Nova York na primavera de 1899 pelas bananas de côr vermelha que foram importadas da ilha de São Domingos.

EXPOSIÇÃO DA ASSOCIAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DA INDUSTRIA ANIMAL.

A Associação Internacional da Industria Animal, que se reunirá na cidade de Chicago de 1 a 8 de Dezembro, 1900, annuncia que o livro de classificação preliminar e lista de premios está prompto para ser distribuido. Exemplares desta publicação serão enviados a quem escrever pedindo-os a "International Live Stock Exposition, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A."

Os directores desta exposição dizem que têm certeza de que o Mexico, algumas das Republicas sul-americanas e varios paizes da Europa se farão representar na exposição. Muitos milhares de dollares serão distribuidos como premios.

O MAIOR TERRENO DE TRIGO NA CALIFORNIA.

Segundo o periodico "Export Implement Age," o maior campo de trigo na California abrange uma area de 25,000 geiras, ou 40 milhas quadradas. Este enorme campo está situado nas margens do rio San Joaquin, na vizinhança da cidade de Clovis, condado de Madera, ainda que está situado em parte no condado de Fresno. O dono deste rancho é o Sr. CLOVIS COLE, e diz-se que a situação do rancho é ideal. A terra é plana, inclinando-se ligeiramente na direcção do rio. O campo tem a forma de quasi um quadro perfeito, cada lado tendo um pouco mais de 6 milhas de comprimento e em bom tempo se pode ver o campo inteiro de qualquer ponto do terreno. Não ha estradas no campo, mas cada pé quadrado de terreno será utilizado no cultivo do trigo. A primeira lavra do terreno realizou-se em Julho, 1899. Para fazer a colheita, que será uma tarefa hereulana, se exigirão mais de 200 homens e 1,000 cavallos, assim como muitas toneladas de machinas.

CRIADORES DE CABRAS DE ANGORA.

No BOLETIM MENSAL correspondente ao mez de Fevereiro de 1900, pagina 291-292, se fez menção dos esforços feitos pela Secretaria de Agricultura dos Estados Unidos com o intuito de animar a industria da criação de cabras de Angora neste paiz. Segundo as indicações,

essa industria tem recebido impulso decisivo em varios dos estados e territorios. A industria tem augmentado tanto na parte sudoeste do paiz que tem dado em resultado a organizaçào da American Angora Goat Breeders' Association, com sede em Kansas City, Missouri. A associaçào terà um livro de registro para garantir a genealogia das cabras. Assim os criadores de cabras de Angora poderão estabelecer modelos de criaçào como criadores de outras classes de animaes de raça pura. O Sr. THOMAS H. MASTIN, de Kansas City, é presidente da nova associaçào.

CONSTRUCÇÃO DE NAVIOS NOS ESTALEIROS DE MAINE.

Diz-se que nos primeiros dous mezes de 1900 se construíram nos estaleiros de Maine navios sommando uma tonelagem total de 10,000, e que se espera que durante os outros mezes do anno a construcção naval attingirá, em termo médio, a 5,000 de toneladas por mez. Não só estão-se construindo grande numero de escunas mas tambem navios de vela redonda, os quaes, devido ao alto preço de carvão, estão agora fazendo concorrência com os chamados "tramp steamers." Segundo o "New York Journal of Commerece," os estaleiros de Bath, Maine, têm contratos de navios sufficientes para manter empregados 1,000 operarios por um periodo de dous annos. Serão construidos nos estaleiros de ARTHUR SEWALL & Co. dous grandes navios de aço, de quatro mastros, e dizem que todas as outras installações de construcção naval trabalham com grande actividade para satisfazer seus contratos.

TRILHOS AMERICANOS PARA UMA COMPANHIA DE LONDRES.

Um telegramma especial de Baltimore, com data de 11 de Março de 1900, informa que a "Maryland Steel Company" tem recebido da "Metropolitan Railway Company," de Londres, Inglaterra, uma encomenda de 1,500 toneladas de trilhos de aço. Essa mesma companhia está supprindo tambem de trilhos a "Trans-Siberian Railway" e fazendo embarques para outras partes da Asia e para Africa.

ESPARTO PARA VASSOURAS.

Segundo o periodico "Farm Implement News," cultiva-se no estado de Illinois dous terços da colheita de esparto do mundo. A colheita é incerta e para ter exito no cultivo deste producto se exige grande cuidado e pericia. O consumo universal é de cerca de 30,000 toneladas por anno e, ha alguns annos, só o estado de Illinois produziu 28,000 toneladas. Segundo o relatorio do Director da Estação Experimental de Agricultura da Universidade de Illinois, o esparto para vassouras custa, pela média, \$50 por tonelada, e se vende por \$70 a tonelada. Porem, ó preço tem baixado ás vezes a \$30 por tonelada. Sob con-

dições ordinarias se necessitam tres geiras de terreno para produzir uma tonelada de esparto proprio para a fabricação de vassouras.

Diz-se que a colheita de 1899 foi muito inferior á colheita ordinaria e por conseguinte o alto preço do producto tem dado animo á procura de outros productos para substituil-o. Já têm-se feito experiencias com grande numero de fibras, mas, enquanto tem sido provadas de utilidade para trabalhos grosseiros, são pesadas de mais para os fins ordinarios. Agora tem-se obtido uma fibra da nogueira americana que promette ser um bom substituto do esparto. Diz-se que uma vassoura fabricada desta fibra e do esparto, em certas proporções, durará mais que tres vassouras ordinarias. Ha uma fabrica em Chicago que manufactura esta classe de vassouras e diz-se que tem recebido grande numero de encommendas.

CUNHAGEM DE PRATA.

As casas de moeda dos Estados Unidos serão muito occupadas por muitos mezes na cunhagem de prata no valor de \$80,000,000, que foi comprada de conformidade com a lei denominada "Sherman Act." A quantia de \$20,000,000 será cunhada em moeda subsidiaria, e o resto em dollares de peso legal. O Sr. GEORGE E. ROBERTS, Director da Casa de Moeda, diz que ha grande procura de prata subsidiaria e que tomará vantagem desta opportunidade para supprir os pedidos de moedas do valor de 10 centavos, 25 centavos e 50 centavos. Ao mesmo tempo será mantida em deposito grande quantidade de moeda subsidiaria para as necessidades do futuro.

A prata é depositada na casa de moeda de Philadelphia, mas parte della será cunhada na casa de moeda de Nova Orleans. Assim a quantidade de dollares de prata em circulação será muito augmentada. Para fazer a compra desta prata o Governo emittiu bilhetes do Thesouro pagaveis em prata, os quaes serão resgatados por estes novos dollares de prata.

GOVERNADOR DE GUAM.

O Capitão LEARY, actual Governador da ilha de Guam no archipelago de Mariana, será substituido pelo Senhor Tenente Commandante SEATON SCHROEDER, Secretario da Secretaria de Inspeção Naval dos Estados Unidos. O Departamento da Marinha tem a expectativa de que a ilha de Guam tenha grande futuro commercial. Além de ser uma estação naval, se espera que d'aqui em diante tocarão na ilha todos os navios em viagem para a Manila, assim como na viagem de volta desta cidade. Será estabelecida nesta ilha uma estação do projectado cabo atravez do Pacifico. Crê-se que será estabelecido la tambem um deposito de carvão, o qual attrahirá os navios mercantes e assim a illa de Guam tornar-se-ha um porto aonde tocarão regularmente todas as embarcações nestes mares.

CONTRATO DE CARVÃO.

Diz o "Public Ledger" de Philadelphia que um syndicato inglez tem celebrado um contrato por 2,000,000 toneladas de carvão de pedra de Alabama, que devem ser-lhe entregues em Nova Orleans para ser exportadas dentro de dous annos. O preço por que se contratou este carvão foi de 75 centavos por tonelada, entregue na bocca das minas, devendo acrescentar-se a esta quantia 50 centavos mais para gastos de transportação ao mencionado porto. O periodico atraz citado considera esta transacção como uma das mais importantes que tem verificado no sul dos Estados Unidos nos ultimos annos.

IMMIGRANTES PORTUGUEZES NA NOVA INGLATERRA.

O maior numero de immigrants Portuguezes que jamais tem chegado nos Estados Unidos foram desembarcados no porto de Nova York, no dia 27 de Março de 1900, tendo sido levados no paquete *Doña Maria*. O numero dos immigrants foi de 556, sendo os dous sexos quasi igualmente representados. Foram descriptos como "de bom aspecto, asseados e sãos." Foram para os estados de Nova Inglaterra, onde serão empregados na agricultura e na industria de pesca.

NOVA EMPREZA PARA A CONSTRUÇÃO DE NAVIOS.

O periodico "Daily Call." de São Francisco, em seu numero correspondente a 27 de Março, diz que os proprietarios das Risdon Iron Works daquela cidade tinham praticamente concluido as negociações pelas quaes tinham obtido as Pacific Rolling Mills, cujas installações abrangem uma area de 32 geiras e fazem frente á Bahia de São Francisco por uma distancia de 1,700 pés. Diz-se que um dique sufficiente para receber os maiores navios será construido e que a Risdon Iron Company despenderá a quantia de \$3,000,000 com a construcção de um grande estaleiro, que empregará, ao menos, 3,000 operarios.

A INDUSTRIA DO LINHO.

Segundo o "Minneapolis Tribune." a condição da industria do linho nos estados do noroeste é muito lisongeira. Em 1899 como 600,000 geiras de terreno foram semeadas de linho no estado de North Dakota, e a producção de sementes de linho foi de cerca de 7,200,000 *bushels*. Devido ao alto preço da semente de linho, os cultivadores foram bem remunerados, mas praticamente não houve mercado para a palha, a qual foi em grande parte queimada.

Sob recommendação de companhias de fibras de Boston, Mass., e Londres, uma fabrica de fibra de linho com uma producção mensal de 100 toneladas foi construida na cidade de Fargo. Com o estabelecimento

desta fabrica os cultivadores receberão grande beneficio porque terão um mercado tanto para a palha como para a semente do linho e o augmento no cultivo do producto é assegurado. A fabrica de Fargo fará experiencias na manufactura de papel de escrever da melhor qualidade e se crê que, si tiverem exito essas experiencias, se poderão produzir tambem tecidos de linho de todas as classes.

NOTAS MISCELLANEAS.

Em 1900 os limões de California terão maior importancia que nunca nos mercados do paiz. Diz-se que a colheita é maior e a qualidade do producto melhor do que nos annos anteriores e que se dará maior attenção este anno ao acondicionamento da fructa. A historia repete-se na industria de limões neste paiz. Até ha poucos annos, as ameixas, passas, figos, e quasi todas as outras fructas seccas que se consumiam nos Estados Unidos eram importadas, mas o estado de California tem podido produzir quasi todas essas fructas, as quaes são tão boas, si não melhores do que as estrangeiras. A industria do limão está apenas em sua infancia. Este anno a industria será estabelecida em base firme e á proporção que a colheita augmente, o mercado dos Estados Unidos será supprido em maior escala de limões da costa do Pacifico.

O barco *Ancona*, de Liverpool, depois de uma viagem de cento cincoenta dias de Manila, chegou a Boston no dia 29 de Março, 1900, com uma carga de canhamo. Esta carga consistia de 18,300 fardos e era a maior que tem sido levada das Philippinas em um navio americano. Desde que o barco sahio de Cebu o valor do canhamo tem augmentado grandemente. Na data da sahida do barco a carga era estimada ser no valor de \$400,000, mas no dia de sua chegada a Boston o seu valor tinha augmentado a \$600,000.

A Belize Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company foi organisada recentemente em Jersey City com um capital de \$100,000. A companhia vai estabelecer uma linha de vapores entre portos dos Estados Unidos e os de Honduras Britannica e outros paizes da America Central.

No intuito de preservar as arvores e arbustos da ilha de Porto Rico, o Governador-General DAVIS tem expedido um decreto que prohibe o corte ou a destruição de arvores ou arbustos nas terras publicas daquella ilha.

BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

O "Engineer" de Londres, em seu numero correspondente ao 23 de Fevereiro, 1900, contem um artigo sobre "American coal production," do qual transcrevemos os seguintes trechos: "Calcula-se que a producção de carvão no anno passado foi de 244,581,275 toneladas, de 2,000 libras cada uma, ou de 218,376,000 toneladas inglezas. Quando a Junta de Commercio achar conveniente publicar os algarismos da producção britannica, ver-se-há provavelmente que a America, pela primeira vez em sua historia, tem nos sobrepujado neste particular. Além d'isso, a escassez de carvão na Europa tem dado em resultado a exportação de carvão americano para este continente, cousa que é sem paralelo no passado, salvo em casos de grande urgencia ocasionados por paredes. É cousa de que se pode duvidar si ha nesta parte do mundo mercado constante para o carvão americano. Porem, como ficam reduzidos os supprimentos de carvão aqui e, por consequente, os preços muito altos, certamente seria proveitoso importar carvão dos Estados Unidos.

Em um artigo publicado em "Gunton's Magazine" em seu numero correspondente ao mez de Março, 1900, e intitulado "Hund and Machine Labor," o Honrado CARROLL D. WRIGHT, Commissario de Trabalho dos Estados Unidos, diz o que segue: "Ajuntando a força motora de todas as fabricas dos Estados Unidos em 1890, com excepção de algumas que deixaram de dar informações n este respeito, se vê que a força total foi, em algarismos redondos, de 6,000,000 cavallos, ou equivalente ao trabalho de 36,000,000 operarios, ao passo que sómente 4,476,884 operarios foram empregados. A força de cavallo equivalente a 36,000,000 trabalhadores representa uma população de 180,000,000; isto quer dizer, si o producto dos estabelecimentos manufactureiros dos Estados Unidos em 1890 tinha sido obtido pelos methodos antigos, sem machinas, teria exigido uma população de 180,000,000 e não teria deixado operarios para as outras industrias."

Na reunião annual da Associação Nacional de Educação, o Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER leu um trabalho sobre o ensino nos Estados Unidos, o qual contem dados interessantes. Diz que a instrucção publica neste paiz está a cargo dos estados e que a quantia que nella se gasta é enorme, pois sómente as escolas publicas custam annualmente \$200,000,000, ou seja, calculando segundo a população, \$2.67 por

cabeça. Na Grã Bretanha e Irlanda se gastam por anno na instrucção publica mais de \$88,000,000; em França, \$58,000,000, e em Allemanha mais de \$108,000,000. Se vê, pois, accrescenta o Dr. BUTLER, que estas quatro grandes nações gastam annualmente na instrucção publica mais de \$450,000,000. Os Estados Unidos gastam cada anno em suas escolas publicas mais que a Grã Bretanha, França e Allemanha juntas em suas poderosas armadas. A quantia que as escolas publicas custam tem-se quasi triplicado desde 1870 a esta data.

O estudo lido perante o Instituto de Engenheiros de Mineração, em sua reunião em São Francisco, no mez de Setembro, 1899, tem sido publicado em forma de folheto com este titulo: "The mangauese deposits of Bahia and Minas, Brazil." O autor deste estudo é o Professor JOHN C. BRANNER, da Universidade Leland Stanford, Jr.

"The stone reef at the mouth of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil," é o titulo de um pamphleto recentemente publicado pelos Srs. J. C. BRANNER e C. E. GILMAN. O assumpto de que trata este pamphleto é indicado pelo titulo. É uma reimpressão do artigo publicado no "American Geologist" de Dezembro, 1899.

O numero do "Current History" correspondente ao mez de Março, 1900, contem grande numero de retratos e illustrações de interesse excepcional a todas as pessoas que estudem os acontecimentos recentes nos Estados Unidos, America do Sul e Africa do Sul.

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LE MAÏS SUR LES MARCHÉS DU MONDE.

Les statistiques relatives aux aliments montrent que la quantité totale de blé récoltée, même dans les années les plus productives, est loin de satisfaire aux demandes des millions d'habitants qui peuplent la terre. En effet, le pain fait avec le blé est ou un luxe ou entièrement inconnu d'un grand nombre de peuples. Quoique le blé contienne plus de substance nutritive que les autres céréales et possède ces qualités qui le font considérer comme l'aliment universel par excellence, son prix empêche les pauvres, dans de nombreux pays, de l'acheter. Même en Allemagne, qui est un des pays qui exportent le blé, on emploie pour faire le pain une grande quantité de seigle. Ceci se fait aussi remarquer en Russie, qui exporte annuellement des milliers de tonnes de blé, mais qui pourrait employer chaque grain cultivé et encore une grande quantité en dehors, si les paysans n'étaient pas obligés de vendre leurs stocks et de vivre d'une substance meilleure marché. La production du blé dépend de la contenance du sol, un acre de terre produisant moins de blé que de seigle, d'orge, d'avoine et de pommes de terre.

Si on pouvait trouver à la place du blé un substitut sain, acceptable, possédant en même temps l'avantage d'être meilleur marché, ce serait un bienfait inestimable pour les peuples mal nourris, et souvent mourant de faim, dans quelques pays européens et d'Asie.

Le maïs, qui pousse en si grande quantité dans toutes les parties de l'Amérique, remplit toutes ces conditions, et est une céréale souvent si abondante, que les prix que l'on reçoit pour elle ne suffisent pas pour payer les frais de transport. Pendant les années passées, dans de

nombreuses fermes de l'Onest des Etats-Unis, le maïs a été employé comme combustible, étant meilleur marché que le bois ou le charbon et ne pouvant être utilisé autrement.

L'introduction du pain fait avec le maïs, comme un aliment sain, a rencontré quelques difficultés, les étrangers n'étant pas familiarisés avec son emploi et ne trouvant pas la façon dont il était préparé entièrement agréable au goût; mais, petit à petit, le marché au maïs s'est étendu, et en 1898 les exportations se sont montées à 208,744,939 boisseaux, évalués à \$74,196,850. Cependant, pendant les 12 mois finissant le 30 juin 1899, les exportations sont tombées à 174,089,094 boisseaux, évalués à \$68,977,448. Toutefois on peut constater que les exportations de blé en 1890, comparées avec celles de 1899, étaient, en chiffres ronds, de 86,000,000 boisseaux, soit encore une augmentation de plus de 100 pour cent en neuf ans. Pendant les 32 années qui viennent de s'écouler, la quantité de maïs produite aux Etats-Unis a augmenté de 868,000,000 à 1,924,000,000 boisseaux, soit un gain de 122 pour cent, pendant que les exportations ont augmenté de 16,000,000 à 174,000,000, ou plus de 1,000 pour cent.

Dans un récent rapport sur le maïs, Mr. le Professeur WILEY, chimiste du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, combat l'opinion qui prévaut en Europe que le maïs est moins digestible et moins nutritif que le blé. Dans les expériences qui ont été faites sur des animaux, la valeur nutritive du maïs a été clairement démontrée. Dans une série d'expériences, un boisseau de blé a produit, en moyenne, 13.7 livres de porc, où un boisseau de maïs a produit 12.3 livres; mais quand on a considéré la différence de poids entre les deux, le gain réel a été environ le même dans chaque cas. Les calculs basés sur le prix courant du blé et du maïs, démontrent que pour qu'un porc nourri de blé atteigne une augmentation de poids de 100 livres, cela coûte \$4.01, tandis qu'en le nourrissant de maïs, cela coûte seulement \$2.85 pour arriver au même résultat.

Au point de vue de la digestibilité pour les êtres humains, que les expériences pratiques ne peuvent déterminer que très difficilement, on est arrivé cependant à la conclusion, basée sur ce qui est connu comme les coefficients de la digestion du blé et des autres céréales, que le maïs n'est pas inférieur sous ce rapport au blé. Le pain fait avec le maïs est l'aliment principal du sud des Etats-Unis, et, mangé avec la graisse de porc, permet à l'ouvrier qui s'en nourrit, d'exécuter les travaux manuels les plus pénibles, sous un climat excessivement fatigant à cause de sa chaleur. Le maïs sert non seulement à nourrir le bétail ou à faire de la farine pour le pain, mais encore une grande quantité de maïs frais est employé comme aliment aux Etats-Unis. Le maïs doux sur la balle est un mets des plus désirables et des plus agréables au goût, pourvu qu'il soit frais et laiteux.

Le maïs conservé, différent de quelques autres conserves alimentaires,

est généralement reconnu être un substitut aussi bon que l'article frais, et on est plus sûr de l'obtenir dans de meilleures conditions quant à la qualité moyenne. Dans les principales fabriques de conserves alimentaires, le soin apporté dans la cueillaison des épis et dans la manipulation qui suit, donne un produit qui égale presque le meilleur maïs servi sur les tables pendant la saison et qui y a été apporté directement des champs où il a été cueilli. La conservation du maïs est devenue une grande industrie aux Etats-Unis. L'année 1899 a été une des plus heureuses sous ce rapport, quant aux prix obtenus et à la qualité mise en boîte. Il y a des fabriques de maïs conservés dans toutes les parties du pays, mais les Etats du Maine et de New-York sont les sources principales d'approvisionnement pour les marchés de l'Est. Le maïs récolté dans l'Etat du Maine est considéré supérieur et tient la tête quant au prix et à la qualité. En 1899, il existait dans l'Etat du Maine plus de 100 fabriques de conserve de maïs qui ont produit plus de 11,671,000 boîtes de maïs. On exprime du germe du maïs une huile précieuse, le résidu étant employé pour nourrir le bétail. En outre, presque tout l'amidon préparé aux Etats-Unis est extrait du maïs et la glucose est un des produits que l'on obtient aussi bien de la tige que du maïs lui-même.

Presque chaque partie de la plante est utilisée; les feuilles servent de fourrage pour les chevaux et le bétail, l'enveloppe des épis est employée à divers usages, particulièrement dans la fabrication des nattes et des paillasses et le bétail mange aussi une partie de la tige du maïs dont les fabriques utilisent la partie spongieuse comme étoupe dans les vaisseaux de guerre, pour fabriquer la poudre sans fumée, la dynamite et autres matières explosives. Elle entre aussi dans la fabrication du papier pour les arts, dans les vernis, les pellicules pour les kodaks, dans la fabrication des boîtes en carton, des étoffes imperméables et de la toile cirée, servant en outre à de nombreux usages. Ces fabriques emploient aussi la partie extérieure de la tige pour préparer un aliuent pour le bétail. La barbe même qui se trouve sur l'épi sert à préparer une sorte de médecine. Il existe aux Etats-Unis trois établissements qui utilisent l'intérieur de la tige du maïs; le premier se trouve à Owensboro, Kentueky; le deuxième à West-Point, Virginia, et le troisième à Rockford, Illinois.

D'après la Commission de "Indiana Corn Growers' Association," un épi de maïs parfait est décrit de la façon suivante: Dans le tiers du nord de l'Etat, un épi parfait devrait avoir 9 pouces de longueur; dans le tiers du centre, 10 pouces, et dans le tiers du sud, 11 pouces de longueur. Le diamètre devrait être en longueur dans la proportion de 1 à 4 et l'épi rapporter 90 pour cent de grain. Quant à la forme elle devrait être cylindrique jusqu'à la pointe où elle deviendrait alors conique. Les rangées de grains devraient être droites et régulières et autant garnies à une extrémité qu'à l'autre.

On se propose, pendant l'Exposition Universelle de Paris, de donner aux Européens des leçons pratiques afin de leur enseigner les diverses manières de préparer des mets exquis avec le maïs. Parmi les choses que les Etats-Unis exposeront à Paris, se trouveront des cuisines pour le maïs, où les visiteurs seront invités à y venir se régaler de gâteaux de maïs avec du syrop d'érable, de "corn pone," espèce de pain fait avec de la farine de maïs, des œufs et du lait, de pudding de maïs, de pain fait avec de la farine de maïs, de maïs en boîte, de "pop corn," espèces de grains de maïs, petits et compacts, qui éclatent spontanément à l'action du feu; et d'autres espèces de mets dont le maïs est le principal ingrédient. On croit, par ces moyens, que beaucoup de personnes viendront étudier les différentes manières d'employer ce produit américain et que les exportations de cette céréale augmenteront considérablement.

PRODUCTION DU SUCRE DE CANNE ET DU SUCRE DE BETTERAVE.

D'après des statistiques dignes de foi, la production du sucre de canne du monde, qui jadis provenait des tropiques a, pendant les 60 ans qui viennent de s'écouler, été transférée aux zones tempérées. Les chiffres publiés récemment par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères des Etats-Unis le démontrent. Ces tableaux de statistique montrent, en effet, qu'en 1840, 95 pour cent de la production du sucre du monde provenait de la canne à sucre qui est un produit tropical, mais que 5 pour cent seulement étaient extraits de la betterave qui est un produit de la zone tempérée, pendant qu'en 1899 seulement 34 pour cent de l'approvisionnement du sucre du monde provenaient de la canne à sucre et 66 pour cent des betteraves. Jusqu'à quel point la disparition des esclaves qui existaient dans tous les territoires produisant la canne à sucre au commencement de la période en revue est la cause de cet état de chose, les Economistes et les personnes qui s'occupent de sociologie peuvent seuls le dire; mais c'est un fait que le sucre de canne du monde produit pendant l'année 1899 suppléerait un petit peu plus que les demandes des Etats-Unis seuls, déduction faite de la consommation intérieure des pays dans lesquels il est produit.

La production totale du sucre de canne du monde, d'après les estimations faites par une des principales maisons de commerce de New-York, qui s'occupe spécialement de cette question, est évaluée à 2,862,000 de tonnes, et, sauf quelques exceptions, comprend la production locale pour la consommation des pays partout où elle est connue, tandis que les chiffres du Bureau des Statistiques montrent que le

total des importations du sucre des États-Unis se montait, pendant l'année 1899, à 1,964,170 tonnes, de sorte que si tout le sucre de canne du monde produit pendant l'année 1899 était mis ensemble et que l'on en déduisît la consommation locale des pays où il est produit, le restant serait un peu plus qu'égal aux importations des États-Unis seuls pendant cette année là. On ne doit pas cependant déduire de cet exposé que les États-Unis importent, en effet, tout le surplus du sucre de canne du monde.

D'autre part, la consommation du sucre de betterave aux États-Unis augmente continuellement et était, pendant l'année fiscale 1899, plus grande que pendant n'importe quelle année précédente dans les annales du pays, à l'exception seulement de l'année 1897, quand les importations furent anormales, par suite des changements survenus dans les tarifs douaniers auxquels cependant on s'attendait. Le total des importations du sucre de betterave pendant l'année fiscale 1899 s'est monté à 723,336,352 livres en dehors d'un total général de 3,517,950,689 livres, de sorte que le sucre de betterave ayant été admis sur les marchés de l'Europe supplée maintenant un cinquième des importations aux États-Unis, malgré la proximité des États-Unis d'une si grande quantité de territoire où le sucre de canne est produit.

Voici, pour chacun des principaux pays producteurs du monde, le montant, en tonnes, du sucre de canne, pendant l'année 1899-1900: Java, 722,000; Cuba, 400,000; Îles Sandwich, 275,000; Brésil, 175,000; Île Maurice, 150,000; Australie, 140,000; Louisiane (États-Unis), 132,000; tous les autres pays, 868,000; total général, 2,862,000.

Pendant la même année, la quantité de tonnes de sucre de betterave produite dans le monde était comme suit: Allemagne, 1,780,000; Australie, 1,120,000; France, 960,000; Russie, 885,000; Belgique, 290,000; Hollande, 170,000; tous les autres pays, 275,000; total général, 5,480,000.

Le tableau suivant donne la production du monde, en tonnes, du sucre de canne et du sucre de betterave pendant les décades de 1840 à 1900 et le pourcentage de la betterave dans la production totale du monde pour chacune des périodes indiquées.

PRODUCTION.

	Sucre de canne.	Sucre de betterave.	Total du sucre.	Pourcent suppléé par la betterave.
1840	1,100,000	50,000	1,500,000	4.35
1850	1,200,000	200,000	1,400,000	14.29
1860	1,510,000	389,000	1,899,000	20.43
1870	1,585,000	831,000	2,416,000	34.40
1880	1,852,000	1,402,000	3,254,000	43.08
1890	2,069,000	3,633,000	5,702,000	63.70
1900	2,862,000	5,575,000	8,437,000	66.08

CONDITION DES AGRICULTEURS DES ETATS-UNIS.

Dans son numéro du 17 mars 1900, le journal, "American Agriculturist," contient un article très intéressant, décrivant les conditions dans lesquelles se trouvent les différentes classes d'agriculteurs aux Etats-Unis et montrant que les fermiers, pris collectivement, n'ont jamais joui d'une aussi grande prospérité. L'"Agriculturist" s'exprime ainsi:

"Le développement merveilleux des conditions agricoles actuelles, comparé à la grande dépression de 1894-1896, est aussi peu apprécié du public en général que ne l'était la condition des agriculteurs pendant la mauvaise saison. Toutefois, on peut dire que les produits des fermes des Etats-Unis rapporteront aux fermiers plus de \$1,600,000,000 en sus de ce qu'ils ont donné pendant les mauvaises années de 1894-1896. Ces chiffres démontrent une hausse moyenne, dans la valeur, de 31 pour cent. Ces valeurs montrent une augmentation de 6 pour cent, ou près de \$400,000,000 sur les chiffres que le recensement a donné en 1889, qui était une période assez prospère. * * *

"Les récoltes des produits de première nécessité montrent une valeur totale, pour la saison passée, d'environ 32 pour cent de plus que pendant les mauvaises années de 1895-1896, ou une augmentation de \$521,000,000. Les autres produits, y compris la grande industrie de la volaille, les récoltes des denrées principales plus petites, ainsi que toutes les autres sources des revenus de la ferme (y compris les produits consommés par la famille, etc.), montrent un gain d'environ 20 pour cent * * * ou un total de \$200,000,000. Ces chiffres peuvent paraître énormes aux personnes non initiées, mais quand on pense qu'un simple produit de volaille (y compris les œufs) donne un revenu de plus de \$300,000,000 par an, ou comprendra beaucoup mieux, que nos statistiques ne sont pas exagérées.

"Les produits provenant du bétail, y compris le lait, le beurre, le fromage, les pores et leurs produits, les bêtes à cornes, les moutons, les brebis et les agneaux, les cuirs et les peaux, l'augmentation des chevaux, des mules, etc., se montent à environ la moitié de la valeur du bétail au commencement de chaque année. Cette conclusion est basée sur des investigations sérieuses faites pendant une série d'années. Les terres des fermes, les bâtiments, etc., qui avaient été si dépréciés pendant les mauvaises années, ont plus que recouvré leurs premières valeurs. Avec les nouvelles fermes et les améliorations qui y ont été faites, la valeur des propriétés agricoles se monte probablement aujourd'hui à \$14,500,000,000, soit, d'après le recensement fédéral, une augmentation de \$2,500,000,000 et de \$1,220,000,000 en juin 1890.

"La valeur du bétail qui se trouvait dans les fermes pendant le mois de janvier 1900 était \$2,558,000,000, soit une augmentation de \$698,000,000 sur 1895-96, ou 27 pour cent. * * *

“ Les fonds placés dans l'agriculture des Etats-Unis représentent actuellement une valeur de \$17,550,000,000, soit environ \$3,300,000,000 de plus que ceux qui étaient engagés pendant la période des plus grandes dépressions ou un gain d'environ \$1,600,000,000 de plus que les hautes bases comparatives des valeurs indiquées par le recensement fédéral.

“ Le nombre des fermes a augmenté d'environ 400,000 pendant les 10 années passées, contre 600,000 dans les décades précédentes, soit une augmentation de près de 1,500,000 de 1870 à 1880. Actuellement, la plupart de ces fermes, 69 pour cent, sont occupées par leurs propriétaires, ce qui n'était pas le cas il y a dix ans, les locataires occupant aujourd'hui 31 pour cent contre 32 pour cent en 1890. Un autre fait remarquable est que le nombre des fermes hypothéquées qui sont occupées par leurs propriétaires n'est certainement pas plus grand qu'il y a 10 ans. Dire exactement combien de dettes hypothécaires ont été payées depuis 1890, cela est presque impossible * * * mais la valeur la plus approximative que nous puissions donner est maintenant de \$300,000,000 moindre qu'il y a 10 ans. Les fermes ont augmenté de valeur pendant que le montant des hypothèques actuelles est moins grand qu'autrefois. Cela démontre que la plupart des hypothèques qui grèvent aujourd'hui les fermes ont été faites dans le but d'acheter la ferme ou d'y apporter des améliorations.”

L'INDUSTRIE AMÉRICAINE AU POINT DE VUE FRANÇAIS.

D'après la “ Revue du Commerce Extérieur ” du 17 mars, c'est un fait absolument établi que l'importance grandissante du commerce d'exportation des Etats-Unis rivalise déjà avec celui de la Grande-Bretagne et le dépassera très probablement dans un petit nombre d'années. On commence à le savoir même en France. Mais ce qu'on ne sait pas encore c'est que l'importance et le succès des récoltes ne constituent qu'un accident dans ce développement menaçant pour les industries européennes. En effet, l'essor des exportations de produits manufacturés aux Etats-Unis devient de plus en plus intense. Ce n'est plus par la masse de ses blés, de ses salaisons, de son coton et de ses pétroles que l'exploitation américaine constitue une masse redoutable pour les grandes puissances commerciales du monde—l'Angleterre, l'Allemagne, la France, etc.—c'est bel et bien par l'importance des produits exportés à l'état de fini par les industriels ou par les négociants yankees.

Les exportations de produits agricoles ont baissé de \$70,000,000, et malgré cette baisse l'exportation américaine a été plus considérable qu'en 1898, où les mauvaises récoltes de l'Europe en 1897 lui avaient permis d'atteindre une hauteur démesurée et sans précédent.

Cette augmentation imprévue est due surtout au mouvement des objets fabriqués. De \$308,000,000 en 1898, ils ont atteint presque \$381,000,000 en 1899.

Les Etat-Unis exportent maintenant à peu près autant de produits manufacturés que l'industrie française. Le fait est autant plus digne d'être noté que jusqu'alors la puissance d'exportation de l'Amérique dépendait exclusivement de l'étendue de son territoire et de l'importance de ses cultures.

Les diverses circonstances qui ont contribué à ce résultat sont: premièrement, le développement exceptionnel des affaires en 1899; deuxièmement, la prospérité sans exemple de l'industrie métallurgique, la déclaration de la guerre du Transvaal qui a limité les forces exportatrices de la Grande-Bretagne; troisièmement, il faut signaler l'emploi probable des prix de 1898 à 1899; enfin, les importations des Etats-Unis dans leurs nouvelles possessions des Antilles et des Philippines.

Au milieu de leur prospérité grandissante, les Allemands se préoccupent plus encore de la rivalité industrielle de l'Amérique que de la résistance des manufacturiers britanniques.

Voici, en effet, la marche successive des exportations de produits manufacturés américains depuis les dernières années, et leur part proportionnelle dans l'ensemble des exportations spéciales:

Année.	Valeur.	Pour cent.
1893-94	\$183,718,000	21.1
1894-95	183,596,000	23.2
1895-96	228,571,000	26.5
1896-97	227,286,000	26.9
1897	273,617,000	25.9
1898	307,925,000	25.9
1899	380,788,000	30.1

MAUVAISE RÉCOLTE DES OLIVES DANS LE SUD DE L'EUROPE.

De tous les avis qui ont été recus jusqu'à présent, dit le "Bulletin Commercial," il résulte que la récolte des olives a été mauvaise dans les pays de l'Europe méridionale et que le rendement n'atteindra pas 30 pour cent d'une récolte moyenne. En Italie, et quelque peu aussi en France et en Espagne, la mauvaise récolte est due en grande partie aux ravages causés par une sorte de mouche, connue sous le nom de *mosca olearia*. Cette mouche dépose ses œufs sur les fruits verts, et les larves, qui ne tardent pas à éclore, détruisent complètement l'olive ou l'abîment au point que l'huile qu'on en extrait devient de mauvaise qualité et ne peut guère servir comme huile de table.

Pendant les dernières années, le prix de l'huile d'olive avait considérablement baissé et était tombé, l'année dernière, à 1 franc et 1 fr.

20 le kilogramme; l'huile de Tunisie ne valait même que 75 centimes le kilogramme.

Depuis l'annonce de la mauvaise récolte, les prix sont remontés à 2 francs le kilogramme environ pour les bonnes huiles européennes et à 1 fr. 45 c. pour l'huile de Tunisie. Quelques uns prétendent même que ces prix subiront encore bientôt une nouvelle hausse, lorsque la saison sera un peu plus favorable à la consommation de l'huile de table.

RÉCOLTE DE L'AVOINE DANS LE MONDE.

Voici, d'après Mr. BROOMHALL, comment s'est répartie la récolte de l'avoine dans le monde pendant les trois dernières années:

Pays.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	<i>Boisseaux.</i>	<i>Boisseaux.</i>	<i>Boisseaux.</i>
Etats-Unis.....	785,000,000	731,000,000	699,000,000
Russie.....	740,000,000	580,000,000	560,000,000
Allemagne.....	296,000,000	336,000,000	280,000,000
France.....	265,000,000	270,000,000	221,000,000
Autriche-Hongrie.....	182,000,000	180,000,000	150,000,000
Grande-Bretagne.....	160,000,000	172,000,000	164,000,000
Canada.....	117,000,000	110,000,000	97,000,000
Suède.....	65,000,000	68,000,000	56,000,000
Danemark.....	35,000,000	39,000,000	33,900,000
Belgique.....	19,000,000	23,000,000	28,000,000
Italie.....	16,000,000	18,000,000	19,000,000
Pays-Bas.....	16,000,000	17,000,000	15,000,000
Roumanie.....	6,000,000	17,000,000	10,000,000
Bulgarie et Roumélie orientale.....	5,000,000	7,000,000	4,000,000
Algérie.....	3,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000
Total.....	2,710,000,000	2,576,000,000	2,340,900,000

ADMISSION DES PUBLICATIONS À L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE PARIS.

Le "Deutsch Export Zeitung" dit que le Directeur Général de l'Exposition Universelle de Paris a décidé, en réponse à la requête qui lui a été adressée, que toutes les publications, avec ou sans illustrations, ayant rapport à l'Exposition seront admises exemptes de tout droit dans les douanes françaises aux conditions suivantes:

1°. L'expédition du pays d'origine devra être faite seulement à l'exposant ou à son représentant.

2°. Les publications devront être strictement d'un caractère individuel, c'est à dire, qu'elles devront se rapporter seulement aux produits exposés par l'importateur. Les catalogues généraux et les prospectus, tel que ceux qui se rapportent à toute une section de l'Exposition, ne jouiront pas des mêmes privilèges.

3°. Ces publications devront être distribuées gratis dans toute l'enceinte de l'Exposition.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

CONSTRUCTION D'UN PORT COMMERCIAL À SAN BOROMBON.

D'après le "Moniteur Officiel" du 22 mars, la loi votée par le Congrès Argentin pour la construction d'un port de commerce dans la baie de San Borombon, près du 36° parallèle de latitude sud, sur la côte de la République Argentine, a été promulguée le 18 janvier dernier.

D'après cette loi, ces concessionnaires pourront disposer de 1,500 mètres courants sur les bords de l'Atlantique, pour l'établissement du port, qui comprendra une série de quais, avec voies ferrées, grues hydrauliques, magasins, etc., et deviendront propriétaires de tous les terrains qu'ils gagneront sur l'Océan par l'exécution des travaux.

Le port devra être construit pour recevoir des navires calant jusqu'à trente pieds, et les droits d'entrée, de séjour, le magasinage, etc., que les concessionnaires percevront sur les navires faisant usage de ce port, seront soumis à l'approbation du gouvernement national, et ne pourront, en aucun cas, être supérieurs à ceux perçus pour les mêmes services dans le port de Buenos Ayres.

A l'expiration du terme de la concession, qui est de 99 ans, le port et ses annexes deviendront la propriété de l'État.

LA PRODUCTION ET L'EXPORTATION DU SUCRE.

Voici un tableau de la production, de l'exportation et de la consommation du sucre dans la République Argentine de 1896 à 1899:

Années.	Production.	Exportation.	Consommation.
	Tonnes.	Tonnes.	Tonnes.
1896.....	170,000	25,000	45,000
1897.....	105,000	42,800	62,200
1898.....	76,000	21,700	51,300
1899.....	80,000	14,290	65,710

BRÉSIL.

EXPOSITION DE PRODUITS.

Le "Brazilian Times" annonce qu'une exposition des produits de l'État de Rio Grande do Sul sera ouverte à Porto-Alepe le 15 novembre prochain, date du onzième anniversaire de la proclamation de la République.

Elle comprendra trois sections:

- I. Produits agricoles, machines agricoles et accessoires.
- II. Produits industriels.
- III. Applications des sciences et des arts.

CHILI.

ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UNE FABRIQUE DE FAÏENCE BLANCHE.

Don CARLOS LAMAS GARCIA a présenté au Congrès une requête à l'effet d'obtenir la garantie de 5 pour cent d'intérêt sur un capital de \$20,000, pour l'installation dans le pays d'une fabrique de faïence blanche. Il s'agit d'un article que l'on peut considérer comme de première nécessité et dont la consommation est énorme, puisque son importation dernière s'est élevée à \$589,931.

La presque totalité de cette importation vient actuellement d'Allemagne et d'Angleterre; la France, la Belgique et les États-Unis en importent aussi, mais en moins grande quantité.

L'industrie de la faïence blanche peut prospérer au Chili, parce que l'on trouve dans le pays du kaolin et des argiles, qui sont les matières premières. Cependant cette industrie ne peut pas réussir sans la protection du gouvernement, soit par l'absence de capitaux, par le manque d'ouvriers, ou parce que les importateurs monopolisent le marché.

ETATS-UNIS.

COMMERCE EXTERIEUR DES ETATS-UNIS PENDANT LE MOIS DE FÉVRIER 1900.

Le mois de février 1900 a été le plus remarquable de tous les mois de février dans les annales du commerce extérieur du pays. Les exportations pendant ce mois, d'après les rapports publiés le 24 mars par le Ministère des Finances, se sont montées journellement à 5,000,000, et dépassaient de plus de 25 pour cent le total de n'importe quel mois de février précédent. Ceci est non seulement exact, mais l'excédent des exportations sur les importations pendant le mois de février 1900 a été le plus fort qui ait jamais été constaté dans n'importe quel mois de février des années précédentes. Février est un mois où les importations généralement sont considérables, et il arrive souvent qu'elles égalent ou excèdent les exportations; conséquemment un excédent de plus de \$50,000,000 d'exportations sur les importations pendant le mois de février 1900 doit être mentionné comme un fait très remarquable, quoique les importations se montant à plus de \$68,000,000 aient été un peu plus grandes que celles de n'importe quelle année précédente, à l'exception de l'année 1893.

On se rendra bien mieux compte de l'importance relative des chiffres du mois de février 1900, quand on constatera que la moyenne des exportations pendant le mois de février pour les dix années qui viennent de s'écouler n'était que de \$76,000,000, tandis que pour le mois de février

1900 les exportations s'élevaient à \$119,389,902. D'un autre côté, la moyenne des importations pendant le mois de février pour les décades précédentes était de \$61,000,000, soit un excédent moyen d'exportations sur les importations pour le mois de février pendant cette période de \$15,000,000, tandis que pour le mois de février 1900 l'excédent dépassait la somme de \$50,000,000.

Voici le sommaire détaillé publié par le Ministère des Finances:

IMPORTATIONS.

	1900.	1899.
Denrées alimentaires et animaux.....	\$16,254,153	\$17,616,759
Articles bruts entrant dans les différents procédés de l'industrie du pays.....	25,936,601	19,783,058
Articles entièrement ou partiellement manufacturés, destinés comme matériaux dans les manufactures et les arts mécaniques.....	6,732,437	4,091,413
Articles manufacturés pour la consommation.....	10,734,428	9,520,933
Articles de luxe, etc.....	9,116,531	9,246,229
Total.....	68,774,150	60,258,452

EXPORTATIONS.

Produits agricoles.....	\$75,097,746	\$62,378,985
Produits des manufactures.....	34,226,128	24,489,860
Produits des mines.....	3,134,022	1,889,826
Produits des forêts.....	3,548,209	2,741,927
Produits des pêches.....	389,560	253,089
Produits divers.....	946,779	431,085
Total des exportations du pays.....	117,336,444	92,185,372
Total des exportations étrangères.....	2,053,458	1,651,779
Total général des exportations.....	119,389,902	93,837,151

Des importations du mois de février 1900, 44.66 pour cent étaient exempts des droits de douane, contre 46.58 pour cent en 1899. Les droits de douane perçus pendant le mois de février 1900 se sont montés à \$19,882,253, contre \$16,921,572 pendant le mois de février 1899.

Des marchandises étrangères exportées, 69.46 pour cent étaient exempts des droits de douane, contre 43.97 pour cent des mêmes exportations pendant le mois de février 1899.

PRODUCTION DU SUCRE D'ÉRABLE.

Le procédé employé pour manufacturer le sucre et le sirop d'érable est très intéressant. Ces produits sont manufacturés de la sève de l'érable à sucre qui se trouve dans le nord des États-Unis et dans le sud du Canada. On connaît plus de 30 espèces de ces arbres, dont 10 variétés différentes se trouvent aux États-Unis. L'érable à sucre qui donne la meilleure sève se recommande aussi par les précieuses qualités de son bois que les ébénistes estiment être de la plus grande valeur après celui du chêne. On obtient de son tronc deux espèces d'érable, "curly and birds-eye," c'est-à-dire, dont les fibres se détour-

nent en forme de boucles et présentent parfois de petits nœuds. L'érable est aussi très apprécié pour l'ombrage qu'il donne, a une tige qui s'élève en moyenne à 75 pieds, sur laquelle poussent des branches très étendues couvertes d'un feuillage touffu. Les Etats qui produisent le sirop et le sucre d'érable sont donnés dans l'ordre suivant: Vermont, Massachusetts, et Ohio.

La plupart des plus grands champs d'érable à sucre, "sugar camp," ou "sugar bushes," se trouvent dans certaines sections de l'ouest de l'Ohio, appelés "Western reserve." Le terme "sugar bush," strictement parlant, s'applique seulement aux érables d'un certain territoire, mais est ordinairement employé comme un synonyme de "sugar camp." Il y a un quart de siècle, le système employé pour extraire le sucre était très primitif. La sève des arbres coulait à travers des tubes en bois et tombait dans des baquets formés de morceaux de bois de 3 pieds de long. Delà, la sève était transportée dans de grandes marmites au moyen de deux seaux en bois suspendus à une gorge que le propriétaire du camp portait sur ses épaules. L'appareil où bouillait la sève consistait en deux chaudières en fer suspendues par des chaînes à une barre en bois, et on employait comme combustible des morceaux de bois ou des branches d'arbres émondées. De cette manière, la sève était convertie en sucre et en sirop au milieu des feuilles, des cendres et de toutes les matières sales.

Actuellement, une grande "sugar bush" contient de 800 à 1,000 érables. Au commencement de la saison, qui a lieu généralement dans le mois de février, on fait dans chaque arbre au moins, un trou qui a une profondeur d'un demi-pouce. Dans un arbre qui a 3 pieds de diamètre, on peut percer jusqu'à six trous sans l'endommager, mais dans chaque arbre d'une grosseur ordinaire on ne peut en percer que deux, de 2 pouces de profondeur. On introduit dans chacune de ces ouvertures un tube en métal, auquel est accroché un seau en fer blanc et dans lequel coule la sève. La rapidité avec laquelle se remplissent ces récipients dépend entièrement de la température et la meilleure est quand les nuits de gelées sont suivies de journées chaudes. La saison peut durer quelques jours ou deux mois, mais généralement sa durée est de six semaines environ, finissant les derniers jours de mars. La sève est alors recueillie et transportée, sur de petits traîneaux, dans des réservoirs pouvant contenir un muid ou plus, et de ces derniers, en arrivant à l'usine, passe par un tube en caoutchouc, dans un réservoir d'accumulation, qui a ordinairement 18 pieds de long, 4 pieds de large et 2 pieds de profondeur.

De ce réservoir, la sève passe, au moyen d'un canal d'alimentation automatique, dans un appareil évaporatoire qui, une fois suffisamment plein, arrête le flot qui recommence à couler au fur et à mesure des progrès de l'évaporation. Le fond de cet évaporatoire est formé d'une succession de rainures, autour desquelles la sève passe pendant

que le feu brûle au dessous, et c'est ainsi que l'évaporation se fait. Quand le thermomètre de l'appareil évaporatoire atteint 218° Fahrenheit, une soupape s'ouvre dans un autre compartiment où le liquide arrive converti en sirop de première qualité, chaque gallon pesant 12 livres. Le sirop est ensuite transvasé dans une cuve où le sucre s'y dépose pendant que, au moyen d'un robinet, un peu éloigné du fond de la cuve, on tire le sirop pur qui est mis alors dans des boîtes de fer blanc étiquetées. Les lois de l'Ohio prescrivent que les fabricants de sirop d'érable doivent coller sur chaque boîte une étiquette garantissant la pureté de l'article et indiquant aussi le nom du fabricant.

Quand on fait le sucre d'érable, on continue l'évaporation jusqu'à ce que le sirop, quand il est placé sur un morceau de glace, ait la consistance de la cire, ce qui est la preuve qu'il est prêt à être mis dans un moule.

Le rendement moyen d'un érable est de un gallon de sirop environ. On a vu un érable ayant six pieds de diamètre, ce qui est une dimension rare, produire un baril de sève en 24 heures. Le sirop d'érable se vend de 50 cents à 1 dollar le gallon, selon la qualité et la saison. La production du sucre et du sirop d'érable dans l'Etat de Ohio s'est élevée, en 1899, à la somme de \$1,250,000.

STATISTIQUES DE L'ACIER BESSEMER.

Le Bulletin de la "American Iron and Steel Association" a fait une collection des statistiques des aciéries des Etats-Unis relatives aux lingots d'acier Bessemer et aux rails d'acier Bessemer. La production totale de ces lingots en 1899 se montait à 7,586,354 grosses tonnes, contre 6,609,017 grosses tonnes en 1898, soit une augmentation de 977,337 tonnes ou plus de 14 pour cent. L'Etat de Pennsylvanie a produit 3,968,779 tonnes; l'Ohio, 1,679,237 tonnes; l'Illinois, 1,211,246 tonnes, et d'autres Etats 727,092 tonnes. Pendant l'année 1899, la production a été plus grande que pendant n'importe quelle année précédente. La production des rails d'acier Bessemer était de 2,240,767 tonnes, contre 1,955,427 tonnes en 1898. Le Journal "Iron Age" estime que la production totale des rails de toutes espèces pendant l'année 1899 était de 2,300,000 tonnes, mais de petites quantités de rails en fer sont maintenant fabriquées aux Etats-Unis.

Parmi les incidents qui ont accompagné les prix élevés récents et continuels du fer et de l'acier, comme l'a fait remarquer le journal "Bradstreet's," sont les prix obtenus pour les rails d'acier usés ou défectueux. Il n'y a pas longtemps, on n'obtenait seulement pour la fonte que \$10 par tonne, tandis que maintenant on obtient pour une tonne \$25 à \$30. Ainsi on peut voir l'anomalie étrange des compagnies de chemin de fer vendant le matériel usé à quelques établissements pour

un prix beaucoup plus élevé la tonne que les mêmes rails ont coûté quand ils furent achetés pour la première fois.

NOUVELLE PLANTE À TANIN.

La "Deutsch-Amerikanische Gewerbe-Zeitung" publie les renseignements suivants sur une nouvelle plante à tanin qui pousse en abondance sur les bords du Mississippi et de ses affluents. Cette plante serait susceptible de remplacer, dans les tanneries, l'écorce de chêne et les autres substances qui servent à la fabrication des cuirs. On l'appelle Western tannin plant (*Polygonium amphibium*). La quantité qu'on récolte le long du grand fleuve américain serait suffisante pour alimenter les différentes tanneries du monde entier. La Western tannin plant renferme 18 pour cent de tanin, tandis que l'écorce de chêne n'en contient que 10 à 12 pour cent; il s'en suit qu'à quantité égale, elle peut servir à tanner 50 pour cent de cuir en plus. La récolte en est annuelle. Elle se fait comme celle du foin; on fauche, on laisse sécher et on tasse ensuite. Les plantes bien sèches sont pressées à la machine hydraulique, puis réunies et serrées en balles de façon à permettre le transport dans les conditions ordinaires. Le mode d'emploi de cette nouvelle plante est le même que celui de l'écorce de chêne, avec cette différence, cependant, que le cuir traité au moyen du nouveau produit américain est plus tendre et plus fin, tout en étant plus solide et plus brillant. A Lincoln, dans l'État de Nebraska, il y a depuis quelque temps une manufacture qui prépare, en réalisant de gros bénéfices, cette nouvelle matière première. Elle en expédie des chargements importants à Chicago où des maisons très considérables se proposent d'exploiter cette nouvelle méthode de tannage.

SORGHO ET SES SUBSTITUTS.

Le Journal "Farm Implement News" dit que les deux tiers de la récolte du sorgho du monde poussent dans les comtés de Douglas, Cates, Moultrie et Egar, dans l'État de l'Illinois. Cette récolte est incertaine, et pour la faire venir avec succès et obtenir une moisson abondante, cela exige une grande habileté et des connaissances approfondies. Il se consomme annuellement 30,000 tonnes de sorgho, et il y a quelques années les comtés ci-dessus mentionnés ont produit dans une saison 28,000 tonnes. D'après le rapport du directeur de la ferme modèle de l'Université de l'Illinois, le sorgho coûte en moyenne \$50 la tonne et se vend au prix moyen de \$70. Il s'est vendu, cependant, à un prix aussi bas que \$30. Trois acres de terre se trouvant dans des conditions avantageuses sont nécessaires pour produire une tonne de cette partie du stock que l'on emploie pour faire les balais et qui est la partie de la plante qui, placée au sommet de la tige, est formée par la réunion des graines et des fleurs disposées en épi comme celui du

maïs. On dit que la récolte de 1899 a été bien au dessous de la moyenne, et que conséquemment le prix élevé du produit a obligé d'en chercher un autre pouvant remplacer avec avantage ce dernier.

Jadis, de nombreuses fibres ont été essayées, en partie à cause de la dépense et en partie parce que le balai ordinaire est rarement employé dans les rudes travaux. On a mis des rejets très coriaces dans des liquides afin d'augmenter leur souplesse en même temps que leur résistance. Quoique ces derniers aient été trouvés assez utiles pour les gros ouvrages, ils ont cependant été jugés trop lourds pour les usages ordinaires. Des fils en métal ont été aussi essayés mais abandonnés, ne pouvant servir que pour les genres de balayage les plus durs. On vient de trouver une fibre de bois qui promet de remplacer avantageusement les brosses faites avec le sorgho. Ce nouveau substitut est fait avec les rejets du noyer auxquels on a fait subir une certaine préparation afin de les rendre plus flexibles. On dit qu'un balai fabriqué en partie avec cette fibre et en partie avec le sorgho, dans les proportions de 1 à 2, durera davantage que trois balais ordinaires et coûtera seulement les deux tiers environ autant. Une fabrique, dans la ville de Chicago, manufacture ce nouveau genre de balai, et on dit que les commandes qu'elle reçoit sont si grandes qu'elle ne peut y faire face.

LA POPULATION INDIENNE.

Dans un supplément à son rapport annuel, le Directeur des Affaires Indiennes des États-Unis encadre les rapports des différentes agences Indiennes. Les documents montrent qu'il y a dans le pays 297,905 Indiens, dont 95,679 sont vêtus comme les blancs et 31,923 portent des vêtements moitié Indiens, moitié civilisés. Ceux capables de lire se chiffrent à 42,597, et ceux qui peuvent converser en anglais à 53,314. Le nombre d'habitations construites pour les résidents Indiens est de 25,236, dont 1,153 furent bâties pendant l'année 1899. Il y a eu pendant l'année 4,237 naissances et 5,253 décès. Il existait 348 églises avec 31,656 membres Indiens. Les sommes d'argent déboursées pendant l'année par les sociétés religieuses et autres pour l'instruction publique et les cultes se montaient respectivement à \$277,531 et \$119,407.

Le Gouvernement a sur le territoire réservé aux Indiens 240 pensionnats et écoles qui emploient plus de 2,000 professeurs. Le travail est divisé, une partie de la journée étant consacrée à l'étude et l'autre aux travaux industriels. On apprend aux jeunes filles à devenir de bonnes maîtresses de maison et on les initie à tous les travaux du ménage, tandis qu'on enseigne aux jeunes gens l'agriculture et les arts industriels.

En dehors des écoles sus-nommées et qui sont situées près des habitations indiennes, il en existe plusieurs autres où ils peuvent acquérir

une instruction supérieure et des connaissances scientifiques. Parmi ces institutions se trouvent: l'Ecole Carlisle, l'Institut Haskell, et l'Institut Hampton. Depuis l'établissement de ces institutions, il y a quelques années, un grand nombre d'élèves ont été sortis diplômés. Quelques Indiens, malheureusement, sont retournés à leurs anciennes manières de vivre, mais, par suite de l'instruction pratique qu'ils y ont reçue, sont employés comme instituteurs, cuisiniers, directrices, couturières, etc., en dehors de quelques-uns qui se sont lancés dans les affaires commerciales.

L'INDUSTRIE DU LIN.

La "Minneapolis Tribune" rapporte que l'industrie du lin dans les Etats du Nord donne les plus grandes espérances. En 1899 on aensemencé dans le Nord-Dakota près de 600,000 acres de lin et récolté environ 7,200,000 boisseaux de graine. Le prix de la graine de lin ayant une tendance à la hausse, les cultivateurs furent bien rémunérés; mais pratiquement, il n'y avait aucun marché pour la paille, ce produit étant presque aussi inutile que la paille du blé, une grande quantité étant brûlée comme rebut.

Sur la recommandation de quelques compagnies de Boston, Mass., et de Londres, Angleterre, qui manufacturent la fibre de cette plante, une filature de lin, ayant une capacité de 100 tonnes par mois, a été érigée dans la ville de Fargo. Cette filature permettra aux agriculteurs de l'Etat d'écouler les produits qui jadis étaient inutiles; de sorte que les graines et la paille pouvant être vendues, les cultivateurs seront grandement récompensés et le développement de la culture de ce produit sera assuré. La filature Fargo va faire des expériences dans la fabrication de papier à écrire de première qualité, et on croit que si elles réussissent, toutes sortes de toilerie seront aussi fabriquées.

LE PLUS GRAND CHAMP DE BLÉ DE LA CALIFORNIE.

Le "Export Implement Age" rapporte que le plus grand champ de blé de la Californie a une superficie de 25,000 acres ou 40 milles carrés. Ce champ immense de blé est situé sur les bords de la rivière San Joaquin, près du bourg Clovis, dans le comté de Madera, quoique une partie de cette terre se trouve dans le comté de Fresno. La personne qui gère cette propriété (ranch) se nomme CLOVIS COLE. On dit que la situation de ce champ est idéale, qu'il est plat, avec une pente douce vers la rivière.

Les contours de ce champ forment presque un carré parfait, chacun des côtés ayant un petit peu plus de 6 milles de longueur, et quand il fait beau on peut le voir de point en point. Aucun chemin ne traverse ce champ dont on va utiliser chaque pied carré pour la culture de cette céréale. Les premiers travaux furent commencés au mois de juillet

1899, mais le labourage des terres ne fut terminé que deux mois plus tard. La moisson sera un travail d'hercule et pour la faire on aura besoin d'employer 200 hommes, 1,000 chevaux et un grand nombre de machines dont le poids sera de plusieurs tonnes.

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'ÉLEVAGE DU BÉTAIL.

L'Association internationale pour l'élevage du bétail (International Live Stock Association), qui ouvrira une exposition dans la ville de Chicago, du 1^{er} au 8 décembre 1900, annonce que la classification préliminaire est faite et que la liste des prix est prête à être distribuée. On peut se procurer des exemplaires de cette publication en s'adressant à l'"International Live Stock Exposition, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., U. S. A."

La direction de cette exposition annonce aussi qu'elle a l'assurance que le Mexique, les Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et plusieurs pays européens y seront représentés. Plusieurs milliers de dollars seront distribués comme prix.

CULTURE DU CAOUTCHOUC DANS LES ILES SANDWICH.

On croit que le sol de l'une ou plusieurs des Iles Sandwich est propre à la culture du caoutchouc, et on va faire des expériences pour établir la réalité de ce fait. On rapporte que le Ministère de l'Agriculture des États-Unis va expédier cette année, à Hawaii une grande quantité d'arbres à caoutchouc.

FAITS DIVERS.

Pendant l'année 1900, on verra sur les marchés beaucoup plus de citrons de Californie qu'autrefois. On rapporte que la récolte est beaucoup plus abondante, que la qualité du fruit est bien meilleure et que l'emballage sera fait avec beaucoup plus de soins. L'histoire est la même pour l'industrie des citrons de ce pays qu'elle l'était pour les autres fruits. Pendant les dernières années, les prunes, les raisins, les figues, etc., provenant de l'étranger, ainsi que presque tous les autres fruits secs, étaient consommés exclusivement aux États-Unis; mais la Californie produit aujourd'hui la plupart de ces articles qui sont si non meilleur, du moins aussi bons que les fruits étrangers. L'industrie du citron est encore à son enfance. Cette année la verra s'établir sur des bases solides, et comme la récolte augmente, les États-Unis s'approvisionneront de citrons sur la côte du Pacifique.

Dans le but de conserver les arbres et les arbrisseaux de l'île de Puerto Rico, le Gouverneur Général DAVIS vient de faire paraître un ordre défendant d'abattre ou de détruire les arbres, les arbrisseaux ou quelque bois vivant que ce soit appartenant au domaine public de cette île.

Le trois-mâts en Acier, "Ancona," de Liverpool, est arrivé à Boston le 29 mars 1900, avec une cargaison de chanvre, 150 jours après son

départ de Manille. Ce chargement consiste en 18.300 balles et est la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été apportée des Iles Philippines sur un navire des Etats-Unis. "Depuis le départ de l'Aucona" de Cebu, le prix du chanvre a haussé énormément. Au moment de son départ, la cargaison valait \$400,000, mais au moment de son arrivée à Boston la valeur avait augmenté et atteignait le chiffre de \$800,000.

La "Belize Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company," au capital de \$100,000, vient de se former dans la ville de Jersey. Ses vapeurs toucheront aux ports des Etats-Unis, Belize et à ceux des autres Républiques de l'Amérique Centrale.

HAÏTI.

EXPLOITATIONS AGRICOLES.

Le Bureau doit à l'amabilité de Monsieur GEORGES SYLVAIN de Port au-Prince, membre honoraire correspondant de l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines, l'intéressant article suivant ayant traité à l'établissement de nouvelles entreprises dans l'île de la Gonâve.

L'île de La Gonâve, dit Mr. SYLVAIN, est située dans le golfe du même nom à l'entrée de la Baie de Port-au-Prince. Elle fait partie du territoire de la République de Haïti. Sa superficie est de 50 milles de longueur environ, sur 15½ de largeur. Aussi grande que la Martinique, elle est plus montagneuse. Les Espagnols qui, après l'occupation, la considéraient comme stérile et dépourvue d'eau, la négligèrent, au point qu'elle servit longtemps de refuge aux Indiens aborigènes, traqués de toutes parts par ces insatiables chercheurs d'or. Sous la domination française, il y eut dans l'île plusieurs établissements, entre autres des cotonneries assez prospères en 1787. Mais ce qui alors, comme aujourd'hui, donnait à la Gonâve une importance exceptionnelle et la faisait maintenir dans les réserves domaniales du roi, c'étaient ses richesses forestières. L'exploitation, entamée en 1787, fut interrompue par la guerre en 1791. Elle n'a jamais été reprise depuis, sauf sur le littoral, de 1859 à 1865. Une société agricole et industrielle a obtenu de l'Etat la ferme de la Gonâve pour 60 ans moyennant une redevance de 10 pour cent sur le produit de ses entreprises. La société est anonyme, au capital de \$600,000. Chaque action est de \$10 qui seront souscrites graduellement par appels de \$10. Les concessionnaires se sont réservés 3,000 actions libérées, sans intérêt. Les 3,000 actions en numéraire produiront seules un intérêt de 6 pour cent.

Déjà une compagnie américaine, représentée par M. KENNETH MACLEOD et dirigée par M. le Colonel J. C. CAMPBELL, a conclu avec cette société un contrat pour la coupe d'une partie des bois précieux dont l'île est couverte. A La Gonâve on trouve, en effet, à profusion, l'acajou, l'ébénier, le cèdre, le bois de rose, le bois warbré, le bois de fer, l'amandier des montagnes, l'érable, le chêne, le candelon, l'orme

indigène (*Guazuma uluifolia*). L'une des plus belles variétés de hennéquin (*agave rigida*, var. *sisilana*) y croît spontanément. Presque tous les bois d'Haïti qui ont figuré à l'Exposition de Chicago ont été tirés de la Gonâve. Mais quelque soient les bénéfices attachés à l'exploitation forestière, ce n'est pas elle qui sollicite notre attention; ce sont les établissements agricoles et industriels que la société s'est engagée à fonder, et qui, si le succès s'en consolidait, ne tarderaient pas à modifier, dans un avenir prochain, la situation économique du pays tout entier. Le sol de la Gonâve, bien arrosé par des sources nombreuses, est un mélange de lave pourrie, de sable, d'argile, de calcaire et d'un humus séculaire. Il se prête avantageusement à la culture des bananes et figues-bananes, des ananas, des limons et citrons, du bois d'Inde, du gingembre, de la vanille et des autres épices, des arbres fruitiers des tropiques et de l'Europe, du caoutchouc, du manioc, etc.

L'industrie textile pourra être développée par l'exploitation de l'agave et du coton. L'abondance des bois de construction permettrait de constituer dans l'île un centre de bâtisses à peu de frais.

L'élevage du porc, et en général du gros et du petit bétail, des chevaux, ânes et mulets, la pêche des grands fonds où foisonnent les tortues de mer, l'exploitation des éponges, la culture de la canne à sucre et du manioc, avec toutes les industries qui s'y rattachent, sont autant d'éléments de prospérité qui, intelligemment mis en valeur, rémunéreront au centuple les capitaux engagés. L'île de La Gonâve jouit d'ailleurs d'un climat sain. Elle est actuellement habitée par une population de quelques centaines de cultivateurs. Les planteurs de la plaine de l'Arcahaie, travailleurs renommés, y ont presque tous des bananeries.

Le port principal, l'Anse-à-Galets, pourrait abriter un grand nombre de navires de fort tonnage. D'après son contrat, la société s'est réservée le droit d'organiser elle-même sa police, sous le contrôle du gouvernement.

Une autre de nos îles adjacentes, l'île à Vache, depuis une vingtaine d'années, alimente de vivres et de laitage le territoire de l'arrondissement de Cayes.

L'île de La Tortue, sous une direction analogue à celle de la Gonâve, va également inaugurer une nouvelle exploitation forestière et agricole. Je ne manquerai pas de vous tenir au courant des résultats obtenus.

MEXIQUE.

LA CULTURE DU CAOUTCHOUC DANS L'ISTHME DE TEHUANTEPEC.

Une riche compagnie américaine vient d'acheter dans les environs de Coatzacoaleos, près de la voie du chemin de fer de Tehuantepec, une vaste étendue de terrains propres à la culture du caoutchouc.

Cette compagnie a fort à faire actuellement pour trouver des travailleurs; les bras manquent malheureusement dans l'isthme de Tehuantepec, aussi offre-t-on \$1.50 par jour et un emplacement pour construire une habitation, à chaque ouvrier qui consentirait à aller travailler sur les terrains de la compagnie.

GRANDE MANUFACTURE DE CHAUSSURES.

Il est question de créer au Mexique une grande manufacture de chaussures, avec un capital de \$250,000. On estime que cet établissement pourra fabriquer, journellement, mille paires de souliers. La plupart des actionnaires sont Mexicains et presque tout le capital a été souscrit en quelques jours. Les machines nécessaires ont été commandées à l'étranger, et l'on pense faire venir des États-Unis un certain nombre d'ouvriers d'élite qui seront les contremaîtres de la nouvelle fabrique.

URUGUAY.

VOYAGEURS DE COMMERCE DANS L'URUGUAY.

La meilleure saison pour les voyageurs de commerce étrangers qui désirent visiter l'Uruguay est, paraît-il, la période hivernale, qui s'étend de mai à septembre.

D'après une communication du Consul des États-Unis à Montévidéo, les échantillons ne sont pas taxés par la douane uruguayenne, mais les voyageurs doivent néanmoins déposer une garantie, qui leur est remboursée à la sortie.

Les voyageurs de commerce doivent payer une taxe de 100 piastres à leur entrée dans l'Uruguay; autant que possible, ils doivent être munis de passeports. Les frais de séjour pour un mois s'élèvent à environ \$300.

Généralement les voyageurs de commerce étrangers font des arrangements avec des maisons locales, qui disposent d'immeubles pour étaler les échantillons.

Peu de voyageurs visitent les localités de l'intérieur, qui sont d'ordinaire approvisionnées par Montévidéo. Il est à remarquer, d'ailleurs, que 90 pour cent des importations totales de la République entrent par ce port, où se trouvent la plupart des maisons de gros et d'où l'on peut facilement obtenir des renseignements sur la solvabilité des clients.

LA CONVENTION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE.

Le Gouvernement de la République de l'Uruguay a ratifié la convention postale universelle, l'arrangement concernant le service des mandats de poste, l'arrangement concernant l'intervention de la poste dans

les abonnements aux journaux et publications périodiques, et la convention concernant l'échange des colis postaux signés à Washington, le 15 juin 1897.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines, et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

Origine botanique des caoutchoucs et gutta-percha par P. GRÉLAT (1 vol. in-8°, 276 pages. Berger-Levrault, Editeur, 1899.)

Dans ce travail, l'auteur a cherché à réunir le plus grand nombre possible de documents concernant non seulement les plantes productrices de caoutchouc et de gutta, mais les diverses sortes commerciales de ces matières.

Les trois premiers chapitres sont consacrés à l'étude des propriétés et de la composition des caoutchoucs, à l'histoire de leur découverte et de leur exploitation, aux divers modes de récolte et de coagulation usités aujourd'hui dans tous les pays de production. L'auteur examine ensuite, en cherchant à préciser leurs caractères distinctifs, toutes les sortes commerciales de caoutchoucs. Il donne une idée du mouvement commercial actuel et des essais de culture tentés dans les divers pays; il continue par l'étude scientifique des laticifères et du latex; enfin, il décrit sommairement toutes les plantes caoutchoutières actuellement connues, ainsi que celles qui restent encore à déterminer botaniquement et à étudier industriellement.

La deuxième partie de l'ouvrage est une étude de la gutta-percha, conçue, à peu de chose près, sur le même plan. L'auteur termine par l'examen de quelques succédanés de la gutta, en particulier de la balata.

A la réunion annuelle de "The National Educational Association" (Association Nationale de l'Instruction Publique), qui eut lieu dans la ville de Chicago, Mr. le Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER lut un rapport contenant les faits intéressants suivants relatifs à l'instruction publique aux Etats-Unis: Pendant le siècle, l'Etat a considéré comme un devoir de prendre définitivement à sa charge l'instruction publique aux Etats-Unis; conséquemment des sommes énormes sont dépensées dans ce but. Aux Etats-Unis ces dépenses se montent annuellement à \$200,000,000 pour les écoles publiques seules, soit \$2.67 par tête de population. Cette somme est d'environ un dixième du total des richesses de l'Etat de l'Indiana ou de l'Etat du Michigan, comme l'a constaté le recensement de 1890. Dans la Grande-Bretagne et l'Irlande, les sommes que coûtent l'instruction publique se montent à plus de \$88,000,000 ou \$2.20 par tête; en France elles s'élèvent à environ \$58,000,000 ou

\$1.60 par tête; dans l'Empire d'Allemagne elles atteignent la somme de \$108,000,000 ou plus de \$2 par tête.

En conséquence, ces quatre grandes nations, qui sont aujourd'hui à la tête de la civilisation du monde, et qui possèdent une population de près de 200,000,000 d'âmes, dépensent annuellement pour l'instruction publique une somme considérablement plus forte que \$450,000,000. Les dépenses annuelles des Etats-Unis pour les écoles publiques égalent presque le total général des sommes que la Grande-Bretagne, la France et l'Allemagne dépensent pour leurs marines puissantes. Elles sont presque les quatre cinquièmes du total des sommes que la France et l'Allemagne réunies dépensent annuellement pour leurs armées formidables. C'est une somme qui dépasse de plusieurs millions les dépenses ordinaires nettes du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis en 1880. Cette dépense pour les écoles publiques a presque triplé depuis 1870, et pendant cette période a augmenté de \$1.75 à \$2.67 par tête de population, et de \$15.20 à \$18.86 pour chaque élève.

Le numéro du "International Monthly" du mois d'avril 1900 contient un article sur la Neutralisation du Canal de Nicaragua Neutralization of the Nicaragua Canal par Mr. JOHN R. PROCTER, Président de la Commission du Service Civil des Etats-Unis. Mr. PROCTER considère le sujet sous trois points de vue différents; d'abord, au point de vue diplomatique; deuxièmement, au point de vue commercial, et enfin au point de vue militaire. Son intention est d'abord de démontrer que la tendance de toutes les négociations nationales ont été constamment dirigées dans un but pacifique et la liberté du commerce du monde. A ce sujet, il discute la Doctrine Monroe qui, dit-il, était d'empêcher que le commerce de cet hémisphère fût circonscrit dans n'importe quelle limite que ce soit par quelque puissance européenne égoïste. Passant à un point de vue commercial, l'auteur fait remarquer que les traités de 1850 et de 1900 avec la Grande-Bretagne sont basés sur la même politique de neutralisation des privilèges commerciaux sur lesquels les Etats-Unis insistent aujourd'hui en Chine.

En ce qui concerne le point de vue militaire de la question, Mr. PROCTER dit que les Etats-Unis n'ont à craindre aucun blocus dans le cas où une guerre éclaterait entre ce gouvernement et n'importe quelle puissance étrangère, depuis que, d'après les clauses du traité de 1900 les Etats-Unis sont pratiquement sans restriction dans l'emploi d'une police militaire et sont protégés par les forces navales les plus puissantes du monde. Mr. PROCTER est certain que si la neutralisation du canal de Suez fut considérée de la plus haute importance pour les intérêts maritimes européens, celle du canal de Nicaragua ou de tout autre isthme sera encore d'un plus grand intérêt pour les mêmes puissances.

L' "Engineer" de Londres, Angleterre, du 23 février 1900, contient un article sur la production du charbon en Amérique (American

Coal Production), dont nous extrayons les passages suivants: On estime le rendement du charbon, l'année dernière (1899), à 244,581,275 tonnes de 2,000 livres, équivalant à 218,376,000 longues tonnes, qui forment la base des calculs de la production anglaise, et on trouvera probablement, quand la chambre de commerce jugera à propos de publier les chiffres du Royaume-Uni, que l'Amérique nous a, pour la première fois, dans ses annales, surpassé dans ce cas. D'autre part, le manque de ce combustible en Europe a contraint ce continent à importer du charbon d'Amérique, ce qui n'était, croit-on, jamais arrivé jusqu'ici, excepté dans des circonstances extraordinaires, comme, par exemple, une grève. On doute qu'il y ait un débouché avantageux pour le charbon américain dans cette partie du monde, mais, étant donné le petit approvisionnement disponible ici, les demandes constantes et les prix élevés actuels, il serait avantageux d'en importer.

On va commencer incessamment la publication d'un nouvel ouvrage qui aura pour titre "El Progreso de México" (Le Progrès du Mexique), auquel collaboreront MM. PORFIRIO PARRA, PEÑA IDIAQUEZ, LARA HARDO, CARLOS DÍAZ, DUFOO, LUIS G. URBINA, AMADO NERVO, CARLOS PEREIRA, JUAN SANCHEZ AZCONA, EUGENIO SANCHEZ, etc., etc., autant de savants et d'écrivains dont la renommée n'est plus à faire et dont les noms suffisent pour en garantir le succès. Cet ouvrage est dédié à Mr. le Président de la République du Mexique. Il sera imprimé à Paris et rédigé en français et en espagnol. De nombreux articles relatifs à toutes les institutions financières, commerciales, industrielles, minières, etc., du pays, le rendront intéressant à tous, aussi bien à l'homme d'affaires, au fonctionnaire public, qu'à l'écrivain ou au publiciste.

Sous le titre "Transmigration d'une Race" (Transplantation of a Race), Mr. le Professeur SHALER a fait paraître dans le "Appleton's Popular Science Monthly" une étude des plus intéressantes sur le nègre en Amérique. Les conclusions auxquelles il arrive sont que les blancs ne peuvent pas, sous les tropics, survivre aux noirs, comme une race, mais que la race des nègres peut s'acclimater dans le nord et y devenir générative, quand elle y est transportée. L'auteur, d'après des connaissances personnelles, fait une analyse du nègre avant l'époque de la guerre civile aux États-Unis et fait remarquer que les anciennes relations intimes qui existaient avant ce conflit ont donné lieu à la formation de bandes dans les plantations de coton, et il est difficile de dire comment la crise aurait pu être retardée ou évitée.

Le magasin littéraire, "Current History," du mois de mars contient un grand nombre de portraits et d'illustrations d'un intérêt exceptionnel pour toutes les personnes qui étudient les événements récents qui ont eu lieu aux États-Unis, dans l'Amérique du Sud et dans l'Afrique du Sud.

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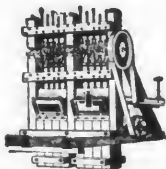
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VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

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

ESTIMATE JANUARY 1, 1900.

Countries.	Standard.	Unit.	Value in U. S. gold or silver.	Coins.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.	Gold and silver.	Peso.....	\$0.965	{ Gold—Argentine (\$4.824) and ½ Argentine. Silver—Peso and divisions.
BOLIVIA.....	Silver....	Boliviano. .	.427	Silver—Boliviano and divisions.
BRAZIL.....	Gold.....	Milreis....	.546	{ Gold—5, 10, and 20 milreis. Silver—½, 1, and 2 milreis.
CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES—				
Costa Rica.....	Gold.....	Colon.....	.465	{ Gold—2, 5, 10, and 20 colons (\$9.307). Silver—5, 10, 25, and 50 cen- timos.
British Honduras.	Gold.....	Dollar....	1.000	
Guatemala.....	} Silver....	Peso.....	.427	Silver—Peso and divisions.
Honduras.....				
Nicaragua.....				
Salvador.....				
CHILE.....	Gold.....	Peso.....	.365	{ Gold—Escudo (\$1.825), doub- loon (\$3.650), and condor (\$7.300). Silver—Peso and divisions.
COLOMBIA.....	Silver....	Peso.....	.427	{ Gold—Condor (\$9.647) and double condor. Silver—Peso and divisions.
CUBA.....	Gold and silver.	Peso.....	.926	{ Gold—Centen (\$5.017). Silver—Peso.
ECUADOR.....	Silver....	Sucre.....	.427	{ Gold—Condor (\$9.647) and divisions. Silver—Sucre and divisions.
HAITI.....	Gold and silver.	Gourde....	.965	Silver—Gourde.
MEXICO.....	Silver....	Dollar....	.464	{ Gold Dollar (\$0.983), 2½, 5, 10, and 20 dollars. Silver—Dollar (or peso) and divisions.
PERU.....	Silver....	Sol.....	.427	Silver—Sol and divisions.
URUGUAY.....	Gold.....	Peso.....	1.034	{ Gold—Peso. Silver—Peso and divisions.
VENEZUELA.....	Gold and silver.	Bolivar....	.193	{ Gold—5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 bolivars. Silver—5 bolivars.

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

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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

Denomination.	Where used.	United States equivalents.
Arc	Metric	0.02471 acre.
Arobe	Paraguay	25 pounds.
Arroba (dry)	Argentine Republic	25.3175 pounds.
Do	Brazil	32.38 pounds.
Do	Cuba	25.3664 pounds.
Do	Venezuela	25.4024 pounds.
Arroba (liquid)	Cuba and Venezuela	4.263 gallons.
Barril	Argentine Republic and Mexico	20.0787 gallons.
Carga	Mexico and Salvador	300 pounds.
Centavo	Central America	4.2631 gallons.
Cuadra	Argentine Republic	4.2 acres.
Do	Paraguay	78.9 yards.
Do	Paraguay (square)	8.077 square feet.
Do	Uruguay	2 acres (nearly).
Cubic meter	Metric	35.3 cubic feet.
Fanega (dry)	Central America	1.5745 bushels.
Do	Chile	2.575 bushels.
Do	Cuba	1.599 bushels.
Do	Mexico	1.54728 bushels.
Do	Uruguay (double)	7.776 bushels.
Do	Uruguay (single)	3.888 bushels.
Do	Venezuela	1.599 bushels.
Frasco	Argentine Republic	2.5096 quarts.
Do	Mexico	2.5 quarts.
Gram	Metric	15.432 grains.
Hectare	do	2.471 acres.
Hectoliter (dry)	do	2.838 bushels.
Hectoliter (liquid)	do	26.417 gallons.
Kilogram (kilo)	do	2.2046 pounds.
Kilometer	do	0.621376 mile.
League (land)	Paraguay	4.633 acres.
Libra	Argentine Republic	1.0127 pounds.
Do	Central America	1.043 pounds.
Do	Chile	1.014 pounds.
Do	Cuba	1.0161 pounds.
Do	Mexico	1.01465 pounds.
Do	Peru	1.0143 pounds.
Do	Uruguay	1.0143 pounds.
Do	Venezuela	1.0161 pounds.
Liter	Metric	1.0567 quarts.
Livre	Guiana	1.0791 pounds.
Manzana	Costa Rica	1.5-6 acres.
Marc	Bolivia	0.507 pound.
Meter	Metric	39.37 inches.
Pie	Argentine Republic	0.9478 foot.
Quintal	do	101.42 pounds.
Do	Brazil	130.06 pounds.
Do	Chile, Mexico, and Peru	101.61 pounds.
Do	Paraguay	100 pounds.
Do. (metric)	Metric	220.46 pounds.
Suerte	Uruguay	2,700 cuabras (<i>see Cuadra</i>).
Vara	Argentine Republic	34.1208 inches.
Do	Central America	38.874 inches.
Do	Chile and Peru	33.367 inches.
Do	Cuba	33.384 inches.
Do	Mexico	33 inches
Do	Paraguay	34 inches.
Do	Venezuela	33.384 inches.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

METRIC WEIGHTS.

Milligram (1/1000 gram) equals 0.0154 grain.
 Centigram (1/100 gram) equals 0.1543 grain.
 Decigram (1/10 gram) equals 1.5432 grains.
 Gram equals 15.432 grains.
 Decagram (10 grams) equals 0.3527 ounce.
 Hectogram (100 grams) equals 3.5274 ounces.
 Kilogram (1,000 grams) equals 2.2046 pounds.
 Myriagram (10,000 grams) equals 22.046 pounds.
 Quintal (100,000 grams) equals 220.46 pounds.
 Millier or tonneau—ton (1,000,000 grams) equals 2,204.6 pounds.

METRIC DRY MEASURE.

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

METRIC LIQUID MEASURE.

Milliliter (1/1000 liter) equals 0.0388 fluid ounce.
 Centiliter (1/100 liter) equals 0.388 fluid ounce.
 Deciliter (1/10 liter) equals 0.845 gill.
 Liter equals 1.0567 quarts.
 Decaliter (10 liters) equals 2.6418 gallons.
 Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 26.418 gallons.
 Kiloliter (1,000 liters) equals 264.18 gallons.

METRIC MEASURES OF LENGTH.

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

METRIC SURFACE MEASURE.

Centare (1 square meter) equals 1,550 square inches.
 Are (100 square meters) equals 119.6 square yards.
 Hectare (10,000 square meters) equals 2.471 acres.

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

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